



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# VEAT 2020

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*Vessel Entries and Transits  
for Washington Waters*

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## Publication and Contact Information

This document is available on the Department of Ecology's website at:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1908001.html>

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## Overview

This Vessel Entries and Transits (VEAT) data is offered by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) in response to public requests for information about commercial vessel traffic in Washington waters. The data identifies vessels tracked by Ecology. These include:

- Cargo and passenger vessels 300 gross tons and larger; and
- Tank ships and tank barges, transporting oil, of any tonnage.
- Starting in 2007, VEAT data classifies tankers carrying edible oil or tallow as tank ships and not cargo & passenger (C&P) vessels. This change reflects the change in the definition of “oil” under Washington State law. See page 3 tank ship classifications, in VEAT for detailed descriptions of how tank ships are classified and counted for this report.
- Starting in 2011, VEAT lists **Articulated Tug Barge (ATB) transits separately**. See page 2.

VEAT lists data by vessel destination and vessel type, and does not reflect specific products or commodities transported or delivered.

## Terms and Definitions

### C & P

Cargo and passenger vessels 300 gross tons or larger.

### Tank ship (tanker)

A self-propelled tank vessel of any gross tonnage, engaged in the transport of oil, chemicals, tallow, or biologically derived plant oils. See the next section, “Tank Ship Classifications in VEAT,” for detailed description of how tankers are classified and counted for this report.

### Entering transit

The passage of a vessel from sea or from Canadian waters into Washington State waters, regardless of destination. The trip back to sea is not counted. A vessel may be credited with multiple entering transits over a specified period, such as a calendar year. Entering transits on the Columbia River that call at a Washington port and an Oregon port during a single voyage on the Columbia River are counted as an entering transit bound for a Washington port.

### Individual vessel

A unique vessel. Each unique vessel is counted only once in the individual vessel count even if the vessel calls in Washington State waters more than once during the calendar year.

### Articulated tug barge (ATB)

An ATB is a combination vessel consisting of a tank barge and a tug boat with the tug connected in a notch in the stern of the barge by means of connecting pins or other fixed mechanical equipment. ATBs are counted separately from tank barges in this report.

### Tank barge

A barge of any tonnage, engaged in the transport of oil, chemicals, tallows, or biologically derived plant oils.

### Tank barge/ATBs transit

Any significant move between two locations, via Washington State waters, while transporting oil, chemicals, tallows, or biologically derived plant oils.

### Ferry

Any ferry boat 300 gross tons or larger operating in Washington State waters. Ferries with a fuel capacity of fewer than 6,000 gallons are not regulated by Ecology, even if they are 300 gross tons or larger. There were no ferries of 300 gross tons or larger operating on the Columbia River or in Grays Harbor/Aberdeen during calendar year 2020. A ferry transit is defined as any trip from an origination terminal to a destination terminal.

## **Tank Ship Classifications in VEAT**

### **Chemical tankers**

Chemical tankers are counted as petroleum tankers. Prior to 2007, chemical tankers carrying non-petroleum products and edible oil were counted as cargo and passenger vessels. As of 2007, these vessels are counted as tankers to reflect the change in the definition of “oil” under Washington State law. Chemical tankers are included in the tank ship section of VEAT, items 10-18.

### **Oil tankers**

Tankers certified to carry oil are counted as tankers. Prior to 2007, oil tankers carrying tallow or biologically derived plant oils (such as bio-diesel) were counted as cargo and passenger vessels. As of 2007, these vessels are counted as tank ships to reflect the change in the definition of “oil” under Washington State law. Oil tankers are included in the tank ship section of VEAT, items 10-18.

### **LNG, LPG, and LG tankers**

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), and Liquefied Gas (LG) tankers are counted as bulk cargo carriers. These specialized vessels are not certified to transport crude oil, refined petroleum products, or chemicals. Some examples of the products carried by these vessels are: LNG (methane), LPG (propane or butane), and LG (anhydrous ammonia). LNG, LPG, and LG tankers are included in the cargo and passenger section of VEAT, items 1-9.

### **O/B/O vessels (oil/bulk/ore)**

O/B/O vessels are multi-purpose tanker/bulkers that are certified to transport petroleum products and chemicals. O/B/O vessels that transported oil in Washington during the calendar year are included in the tank ship section of VEAT, items 10-18.

### **Tankers bound for shipyards**

Tankers bound for shipyards for repair and routine maintenance are required to be empty, clean, and gas-free. Since these vessels are not transporting petroleum products or chemicals, they are included in the cargo and passenger section of VEAT, items 1-9.

### **Tankers bound for lay-up**

Tankers bound for lay-up are required to be empty, clean and gas-free. These vessels are included in the cargo and passenger section of VEAT, items 1-9.

## Vessel Entries and Transits: 2020

<b>Table 1: VESSEL TYPE AND DESTINATION</b>	<b>ENTERING TRANSITS</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL VESSELS</b>
1) C & P bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound via Strait of Juan de Fuca	1,402	677
2) C & P bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound via Strait of Georgia & Haro Strait	384	185
3) C & P bound for Washington ports on the Columbia River	764	616
4) C & P bound for Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	68	66
5) C & P bound for Washington ports (sum of 1-4 above)	2,618	1,544
6) C & P bound for Oregon ports on the Columbia River	473	349
7) C & P bound for Canadian ports via Strait of Juan de Fuca	2,472	1,592
8) C & P bound for U.S. ports (sum of 5 & 6 above)	3,091	1,893
9) C & P grand total (sum of 7 & 8 above)	5,563	3,485
10) Tank ships bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound via Juan de Fuca	336	109
11) Tank ships bound for WA ports in Puget Sound via Strait of Georgia & Haro Strait	14	11
12) Tank ships bound for Washington ports on the Columbia River	5	5
13) Tank ships bound for Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	6	6
14) Tank ships bound for Washington ports (sum of 10-13 above)	361	131
15) Tank ships bound for Oregon ports on the Columbia River	57	23
16) Tank ships bound for Canadian ports via Strait of Juan de Fuca	196	129
17) Tank ships bound for U.S. ports (sum of 14 & 15 above)	418	154
18) Tank ship grand total (sum of 16 & 17 above)	614	283
19) Grand totals: all vessels, all destinations (sum of 9 & 18 above)	6,177	3,768

<b>Table 2: TANK BARGES/ATB (OPERATING AREA)</b>	<b>BARGE TRANSITS</b>	<b>ATB TRANSITS</b>
1) Puget Sound	2,881	1,006
2) Entering transits to Puget Sound	151	285
3) Columbia River	770	200
4) Entering transits to Columbia River	27	96
5) Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	0	0
6) Grand total of transits in Washington waters (sum of 1, 3, & 5 above)	3,651	1,206
7) Total number of individual tank barges/ATBs operating in WA State waters in 2017	46	15
<b>Table 2a: TANK BARGES/ATB Companies (OPERATING AREA)</b>	<b>BARGE</b>	<b>ATB</b>
8) Number of barge/ATB companies that operate tank barges in Puget Sound	10	5
9) Number of barge/ATB companies that operate tank barges on the Columbia River	6	5
10) Total number of barge/ATB companies that operate tank barges on WA waters	11	5

Table 3: FERRIES (PUGET SOUND)	TRANSITS	INDIVIDUAL FERRIES
1) Washington State Ferries	143,759	21
2) Alaska Marine Highway System	64	2
3) Black Ball Transport, Inc.	226	1
4) Total (sum of 1-3 above)	144,049	24

Table 4: COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS AND FACTORY FISHING VESSELS/ FISH PROCESSORS	ENTERING TRANSITS	INDIVIDUAL VESSELS
1) Commercial fishing vessels bound for Washington ports via Strait of Juan de Fuca	43	28
2) Commercial fishing vessels bound for WA ports via Strait of Georgia & Haro Strait	12	8
3) Total commercial fishing vessels bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound via Strait of Juan de Fuca, Strait of Georgia, and Haro Strait (sum of 1 & 2 above)	55	36
4) Commercial fishing vessels bound for Canadian ports via Strait of Juan de Fuca	21	7
5) Total commercial fishing vessels bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound or transiting Washington waters enroute to Canada (sum of 3 & 4 above)	76	43
6) Factory fishing vessels/fish processors bound for Washington ports via Strait of Juan de Fuca	96	38
7) Factory fishing vessels/fish processors bound for Washington ports via Strait of Georgia and Haro Strait	9	9
8) Total factory fishing vessels/fish processors bound for WA ports in Puget Sound via Strait of Juan de Fuca, Strait of Georgia, and Haro Strait (sum of 6 & 7 above)	105	47
9) Factory fishing vessels/fish processors bound for Canadian ports via Strait of Juan de Fuca	14	5
10) Total factory fishing vessels/fish processors bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound or transiting Washington waters enroute to Canada (sum of 8 & 9 above)	119	52
11) Grand total any type fishing vessel bound for Washington ports in Puget Sound or transiting Washington waters enroute to Canada (sum of 5 & 10 above)	195	95

NOTE: Fishing vessels and factory fishing vessels/fish processors are also included in cargo and passenger totals.

## Fishing vessel classification

### Commercial fishing vessel

Any commercial fishing vessel 300 gross tons or larger, including: trawlers, seiners, purse seiners, longliners, crabbers, ground fishers, scallopers, etc.

### Factory fishing vessel/fish processor

Any commercial factory fishing vessel or fish processor 300 gross tons or larger “that commercially prepares fish or fish products other than by gutting, decapitating, gilling,

skinning, shucking, icing, freezing, or brine chilling.” [USCG definition contained in *Federal Requirements for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels.*]

## Data collection

### Current data

All data in this publication is for calendar year 2020.

### Previous data

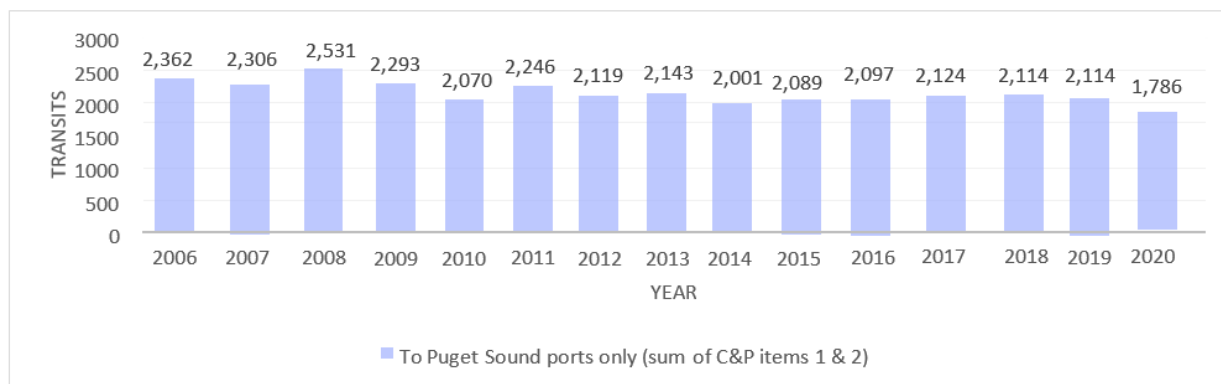
Ecology has collected Vessel Entry And Transit data for Washington waters since 1993. To access VEAT reports, visit:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Spills/Oil-spill-prevention/Preventing-spills>.

## Comparison of VEAT 2006 through VEAT 2020

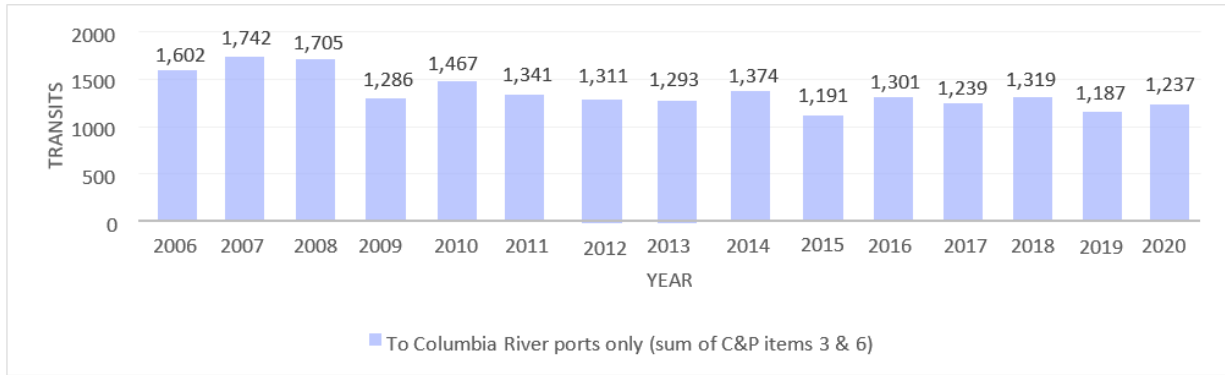
### Cargo and Passenger Vessels: Entering Transits into Washington Waters

*To Puget Sound ports only: Sum of Table 1, items 1 & 2*

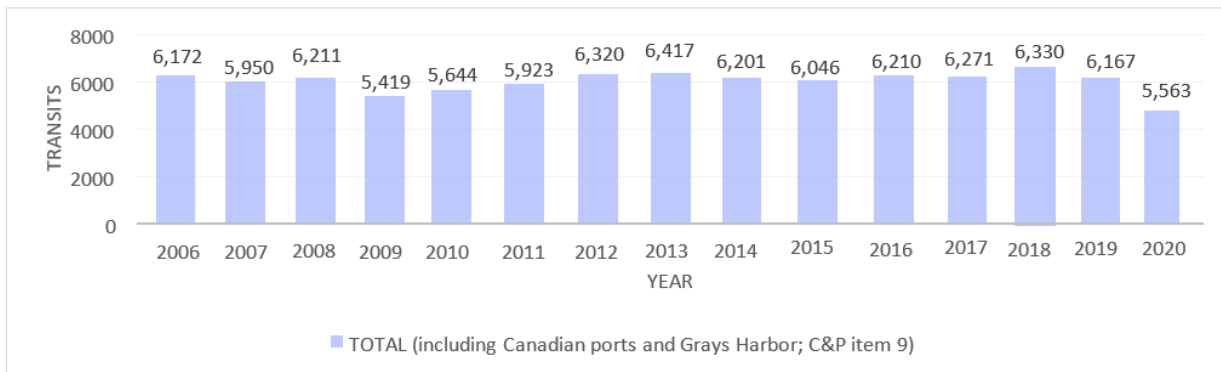




To Columbia River ports only: Sum of Table 1, items 3 & 6

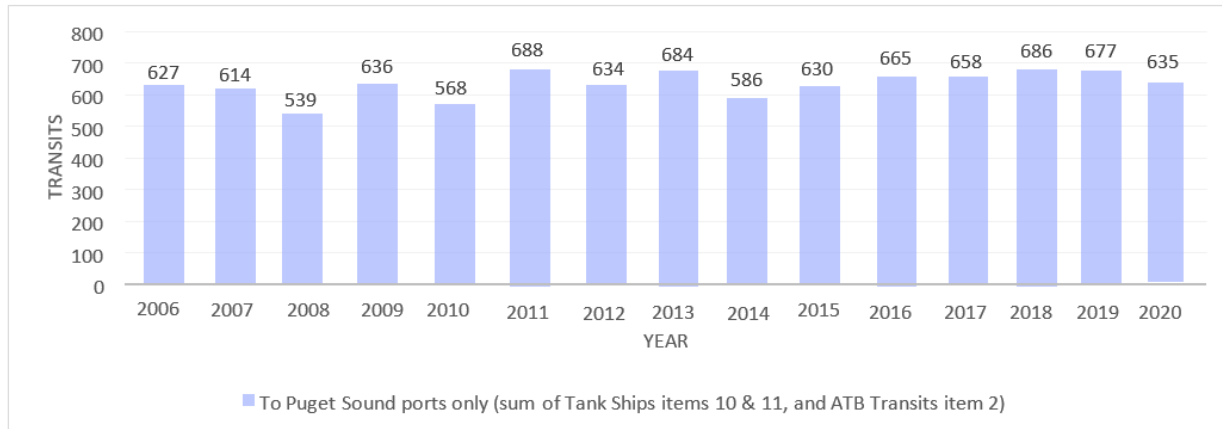


GRAND TOTAL: Table 1, item 9 (includes Canadian and Washington ports)

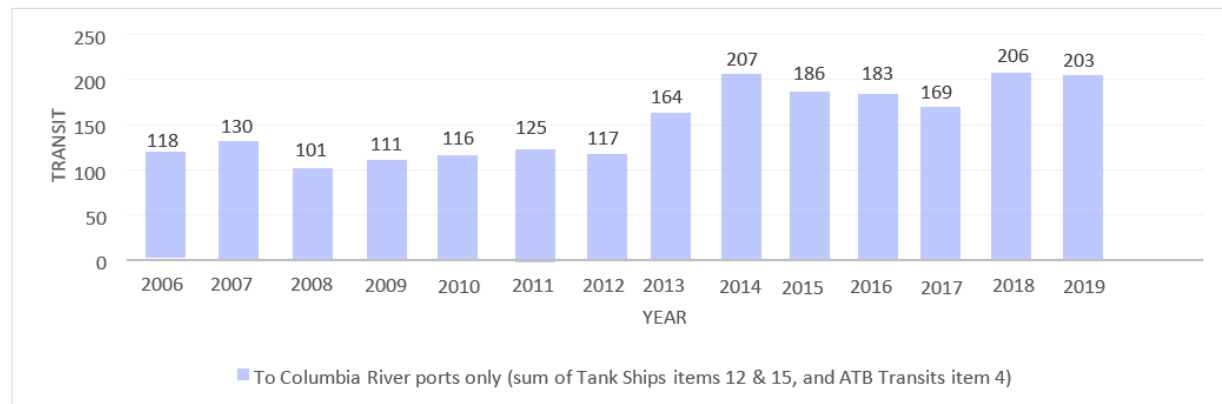


## Tank Ships and ATBs: Entering Transits into Washington Waters

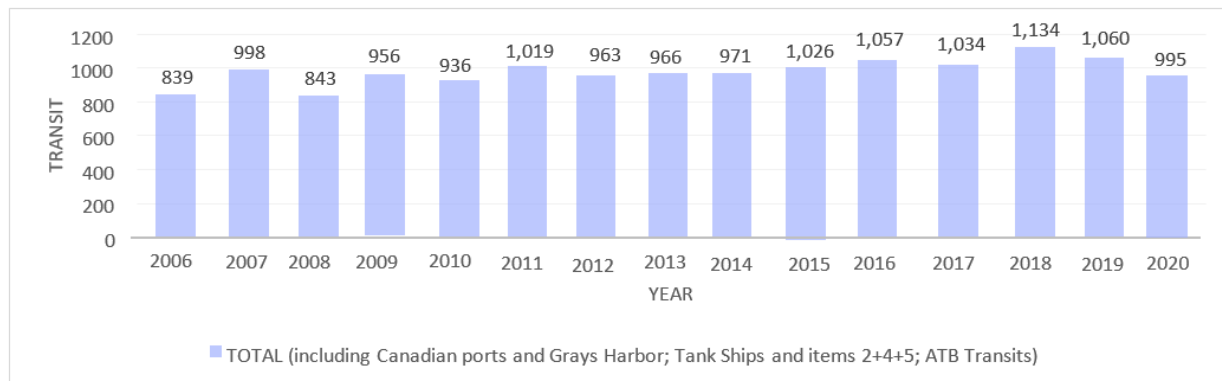
To Puget Sound ports only: Sum of Table 1, items 10 & 11; and Table 2, item 2



To Columbia River ports only: Sum of Table 1, items 12 & 15; and Table 2, item 4



GRAND TOTAL: Table 1, item 18; and Table 2, items 2, 4, & 5



## Data Sources

### **Marine Exchange of Puget Sound**

Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound

### **Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia**

Strait of Georgia, Haro Strait, and Puget Sound

### **Merchants Exchange of Portland**

Columbia, Willamette, and Snake River Systems

### **Washington State Ferries**

Puget Sound ferry traffic

### **Alaska Marine Highway System**

Washington/Alaska ferry traffic

### **Black Ball Transport, Inc.**

Washington/Victoria ferry traffic

### **Columbia River Pilots**

Tankers bound for lay-up on Columbia River

### **Vigor Marine Seattle**

Tankers bound for Vigor Marine, Seattle

### **Vigor Marine Shipyard**

Tankers bound for Vigor Marine, Portland (Swan Island)

### **J.R. Simplot Company – Portland**

LNG/LPG/LG tankers calling at J.R. Simplot – Rivergate

### **Spills Program Integrated Information System**

Vessel data collected by the Department of Ecology

### **Ecology Advance Notice of Transfer Database**

Oil transfer data collected by the Department of Ecology

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS)**

For information on the Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) off the Washington coast, visit the OCNMS website at: <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protect/incidentresponse/atba.html>