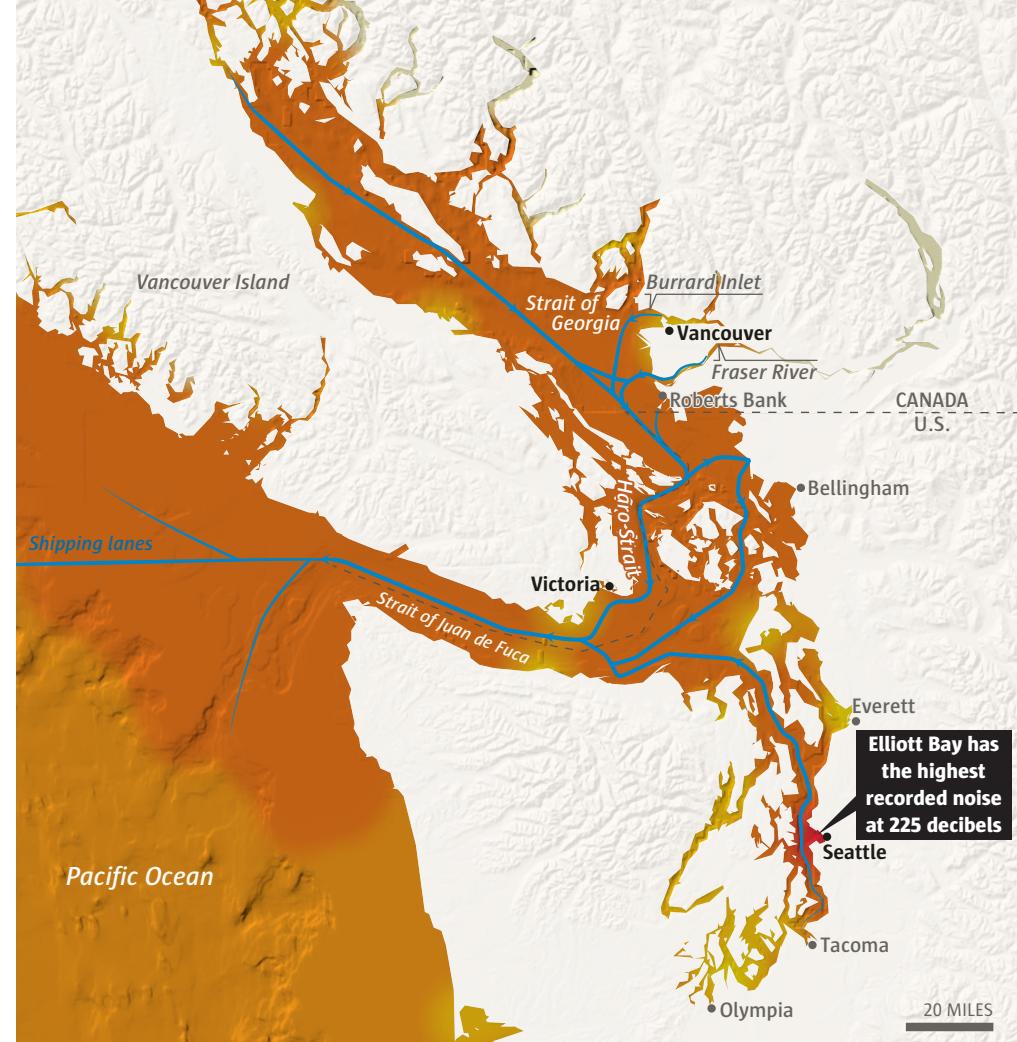
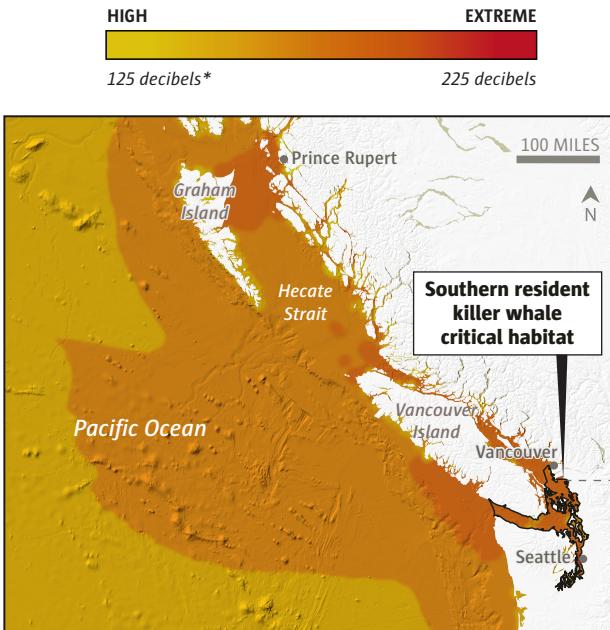


The southern residents' noisy home

The endangered southern resident orcas that visit Puget Sound confront the noisiest waters in their core summer foraging habitat on the west side of San Juan Island, Fraser River Delta and the eastern end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Noise is caused by vessel traffic, especially commercial shipping.

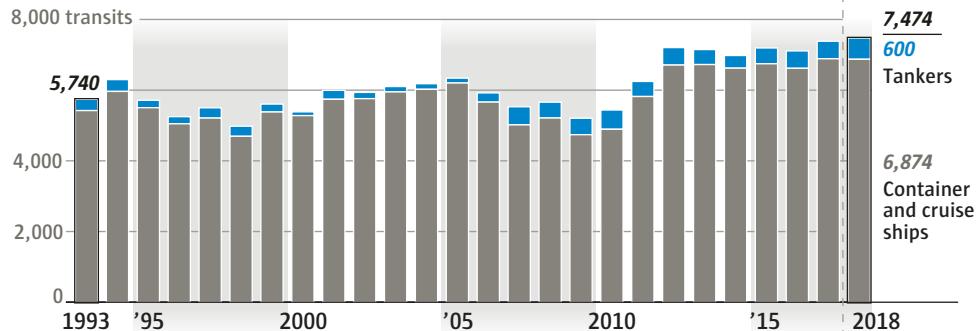
The entire critical habitat and all of the Salish Sea have underwater noise levels that would be out of compliance with noise pollution limits that are recommended by the European Union.

CUMMULATIVE NOISE EXPOSURE FROM VESSEL TRAFFIC IN 2008



A busier Haro Strait

Busier means noisier: More tankers, container ships and cruise ships bring more noise confronting endangered southern resident orcas in their core summer foraging habitat in Haro Strait.



*Calculated with a reference pressure of 1 micropascal.

Sources: Erbe, Christine, et. al, "Mapping cumulative noise from shipping to inform marine spatial planning," The Journal of the Acoustic Society of America, Washington State Department of Ecology

EMILY M. ENG / THE SEATTLE TIMES