

FACT SHEET

Fraser River Tanker Traffic Study

In 2011, Port Metro Vancouver commissioned Det Norske Veritas (DNV) to undertake the Fraser River Tanker Traffic Study.

- The study's objectives included:
 - Estimate the risks associated with introducing liquid bulk shipments in the Fraser River.
 - Evaluate the potential impacts of liquid bulk shipments to human safety, the environment, port business and property.
 - Identify the possible risk reduction options that can improve safety for shipping operations in the study area.
- A panel of local experts with knowledge of day-to-day marine operations provided input throughout the study, including representatives from: Pacific Pilotage Authority, Fraser River pilots, Council of Marine Carriers, Canadian Coast Guard, Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia, Western Canada Marine Response Corporation and Port Metro Vancouver.
- To calculate risk levels, DNV used a combination of data from the Fraser River environment and global marine accident rates. Because of the limited number of accidents involving deep sea vessels on the Fraser River, accident rates based on local data are not statistically significant, so world-wide data was used to calculate risk levels. This conservative method was chosen to generate higher safety margins when developing potential mitigation options.

CONCLUSION

- The review of ship navigation and operation safety along the shipping routes within the study area indicated no concerns or regulatory gaps in terms of compliance to principal ship and port safety statutes or compliance to voluntary safety standards.
- The study concluded that the great majority of the risks identified were acceptable against the defined risk acceptance criteria. None of the risks were assessed as unacceptable.
- The study also recommended additional safety measures – e.g. escort tugs and enhanced emergency response capabilities on the river – which are incorporated into the proposed VAFFC project.