

Introductory Model Development Webinar

JD Ross Leahy

Maritime Risk Modeling Specialist



Today's agenda

1

Introduction

2

Status of Model Development

3

Outreach

4

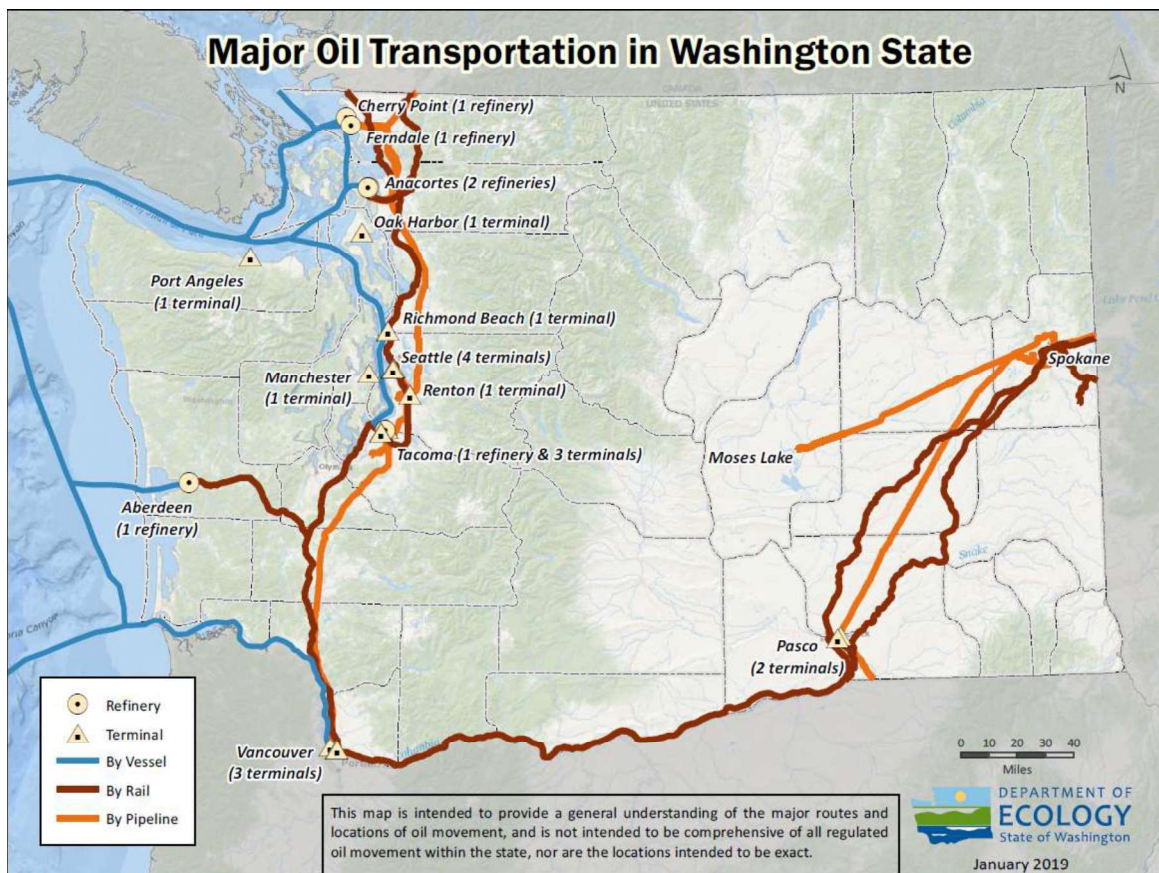
Discussion and Feedback

5

Questions

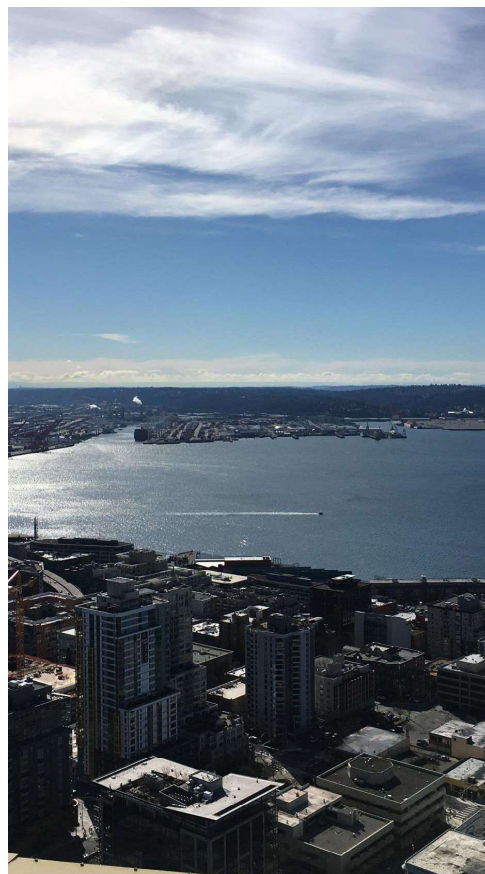
Discussion topics

- What questions would you like the model to shed light on?
- What information should the model include?
- What concerns do you have with oil spill risk modeling?



Selected studies and risk assessments

- Vessel Traffic and Vessel Traffic Safety Report (2019)
- Clear Seas Availability of Tugs of Opportunity (2019)
- Grays Harbor Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment (2018)
- Columbia River Vessel Traffic Safety Assessment (2017)
- Salish Sea Risk Workshop (2015)
- Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment (2015)
- Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment 2010 Update (2013)
- Volpe Scoping Risk Assessment (1997)



6

Legislative background

- ESHB 1578 was passed in 2019 to reduce the risk of oil spills, and protect Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Ecology's Spills Program tasked to undertake or assist with multiple policy initiatives in the bill, including the development of an oil spill risk model



7

What the law requires

“The department must develop and maintain a model to quantitatively assess current and potential future risks of oil spills from covered vessels in Washington waters, as it conducts ongoing oil spill risk assessments” – Section 4 (1)



8

Our project team



- Adam Byrd, PhD
Database administration, Geographic Information Systems
- Alex Suchar, PhD
Statistical and mathematical modeling
- Melba Salazar-Gutierrez, PhD
Statistical and mathematical modeling
- JD Ross Leahy, Licensed Master
Maritime operations



9

Research Philosophy

Transparent

- Open
- Inclusive

Reproducible

- Well documented
- Methodologically sound

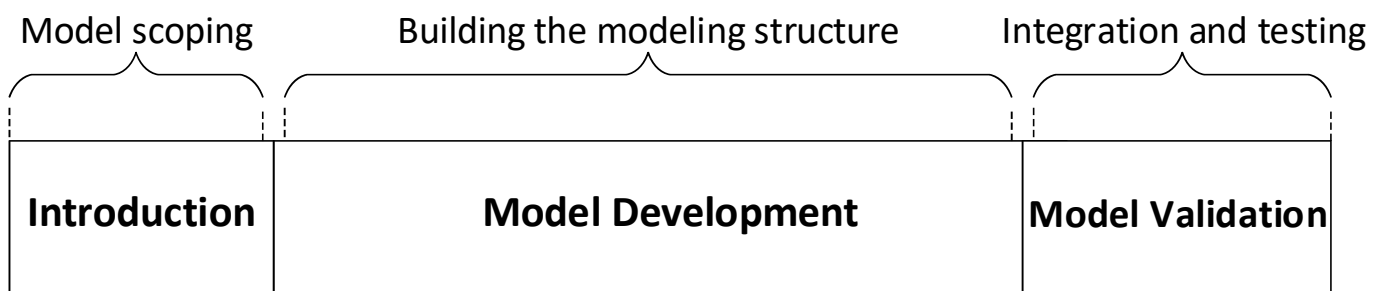
Credible

- Peer reviewed
- Validated



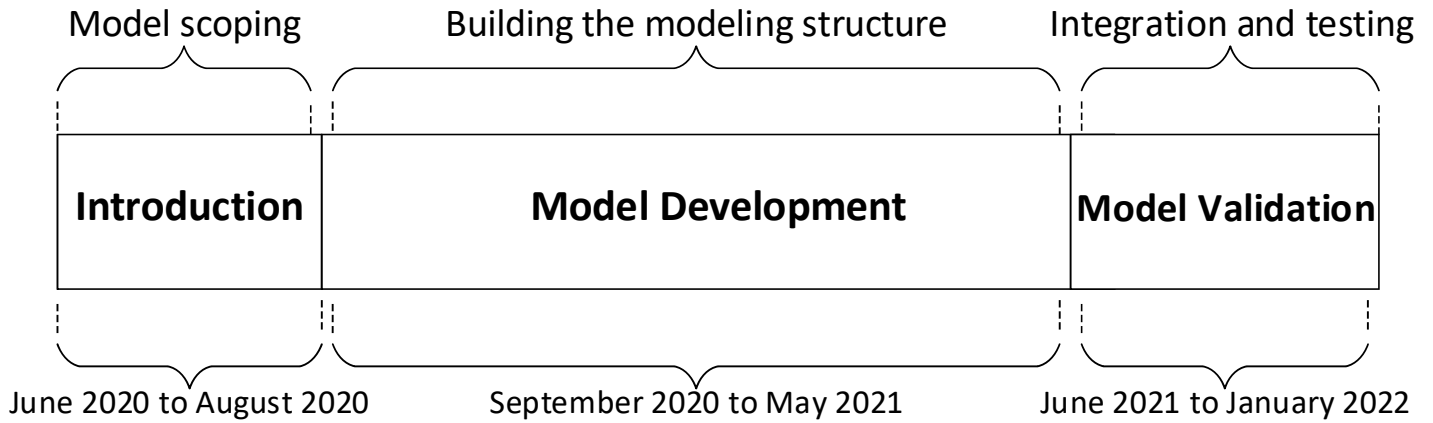
10

Model Development Timeline



11

Model Development Timeline



Requirements for the model

Quantitative

- Measurable and numerical results

Oil Spill Risks

- Probability of a spill
- Size of a spill

From Covered Vessels in Washington Waters

- Over 300 tons & tank vessels
- Salish Sea, coastal waters, Columbia/Snake rivers

What will we model?



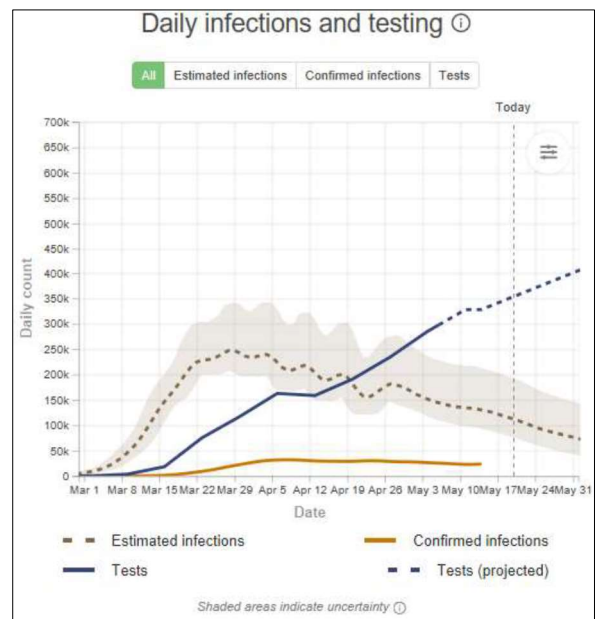
- Likelihood of maritime incidents and accidents that could result in oil spills
- Spill volumes for spill-producing incidents and accidents
- Our initial model will not include the fate, transport, and effect of spilled oil



14

Why are models useful?

- Modeling can shed light on an uncertain future
- Allows comparison of different measures
- Can be a shared language for discussion



[Image / IHME / License](#)



15

Using the model: Response tug



- “Quantitatively assess whether an emergency response towing vessel serving Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, Rosario Strait, and connected navigable waterways will reduce oil spill risk” – Section 4(2) of ESHB 1578



16

Using the model: Tug escorts



- “To inform rule making, the Board of Pilotage Commissioners must conduct an analysis of tug escorts using the model developed by the Department of Ecology” – Section 3(5) of ESHB 1578



17

Ecology and BPC coordination on ESHB 1578



BPC Lead

- Rosario Tug Escort Implementation
- Geographic Zone Identification
- Changing Vessel Traffic Trends Synopsis
- Analysis of Tug Escorts Using Risk Model
- Conduct Tug Escort Rulemaking



Ecology Lead

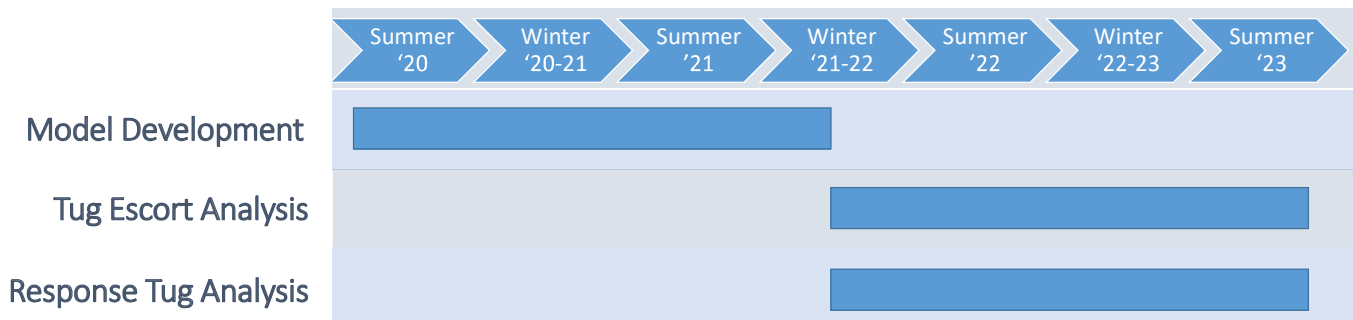
- Develop Vessel Risk Model
- Report to the Legislature Regarding Emergency Response Towing Vessel
- Submission of the Results of the Tug Escort Analysis to the Legislature



18

Schedule Overview

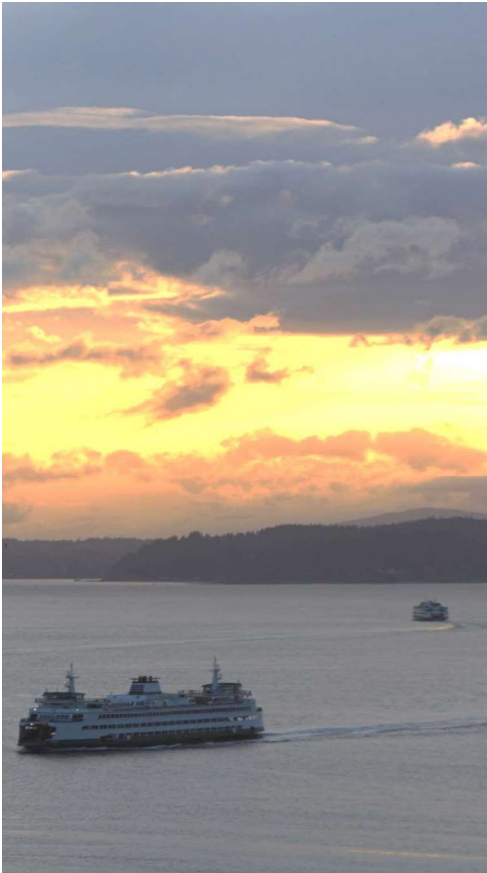
From Model Development to Completed Analysis



19

Goals for Outreach

- Shared understanding
- Communication of local knowledge
- To improve the model



20

Opportunities for Input

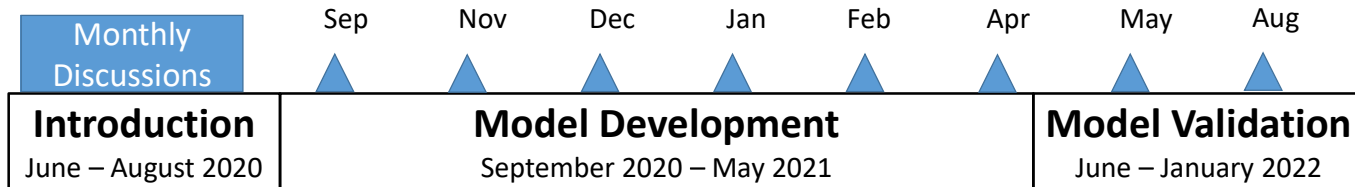
June: Intro July: Model Approach

Introduction June – August 2020	Model Development September 2020 – May 2021	Model Validation June – January 2022
---	---	--



21

Opportunities for Input



Opportunities for Updates



Additional Resources

- Webpage
 - <https://tinyurl.com/EcologyRiskModel>
- Listserv
 - Sign up on Ecology's Spills Program website

The screenshot shows the Department of Ecology website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Home, Air & Climate, Water & Shorelines, Waste & Toxics, and Spills & Cleanup. The main content area is titled 'Risk Modeling' and discusses the development of a quantitative model to assess oil spill risks in Washington waters. It mentions that the model is part of a package of measures passed by the Legislature in 2019 to reduce the risk of oil spills and protect Southern Resident Killer Whales. The page also includes a sub-section 'Modeling' and 'Model components'. A small image of a vessel and state ferry in Puget Sound is visible on the right side of the page.

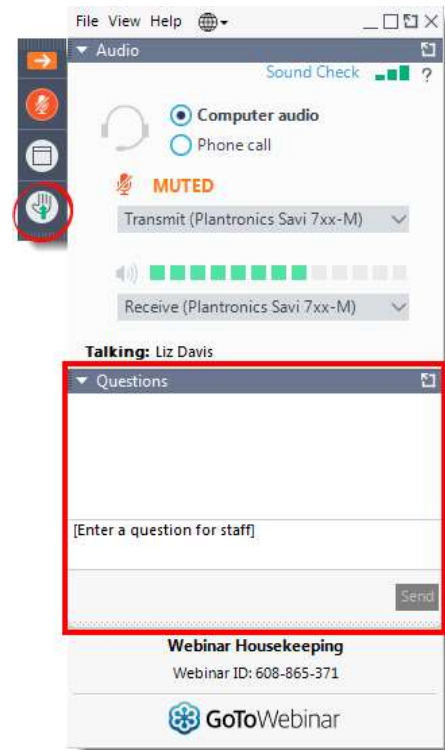
Upcoming event



July 14th 2020 -- 1 pm to 3 pm

- The science of risk modeling
- Ecology's planned modeling approach

Discussion Logistics



Discussion topics

- What questions would you like the model to shed light on?
- What information should the model include?
- What concerns do you have with oil spill risk modeling?

**Additional
questions or
comments**

Contact Info

JD Ross Leahy
Maritime Risk Modeling Specialist
Prevention Section

Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and
Response Program

jd.leahy@ecy.wa.gov
Work Cell: 425-410-9806