

Adam Zack

From: Lynda Guernsey
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2018 12:40 PM
To: Linda Ann Kuller
Cc: Erika Shook
Subject: FW: Southern Resident Orca
Attachments: Orca Letter.docx

Hi,

Please see the SMP comment below.

Regards,
Lynda

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579
SAN JUAN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

From: Mike Conner
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 8:55 AM
To: Lynda Guernsey
Subject: Southern Resident Orca

Please read attached document.

Thank You,
Mike Conner
vesselgoodluck@yahoo.com

To Whom it May Concern,

The Southern Resident Orca are in grave danger of extinction. The three major stressors responsible for their decline are:

Lack of Chinook Salmon

Toxins

Vessel Noise

For these whales to survive and thrive, we must quickly and radically change our behavior for the benefit of the whales. Restoring Chinook runs in the Fraser, Columbia, and other local rivers, and greatly reducing toxins in the food chain of the Salish Sea must happen. The effort must be monumental and start yesterday. It will require region wide changes in how we live and work. It will require unprecedented determination and cooperation. Many of these efforts will take many years to bear fruit.

The Southern Resident Orca do not have many years. If the last female of J,K, or L pod enters whale menopause without successfully breeding, then we will watch these pods fade into oblivion.

All of us who spend time on the water know that finding the whales is easy, just scan the horizon for the numerous whale watch boats surrounding and pursuing them all day, every day. Listen to a hydrophone in the vicinity of the whales, and you will not be able to hear the whale's voices over the cacophony of engine noise which overwhelms their acoustic environment. To hunt an alert, high speed and increasingly rare prey (chinook) in this environment using echolocation and voice communications is a challenge that the whales are not succeeding at.

Even if the current laws were obeyed, the 200 yard setback from whales is not enough given how well sound travels underwater. We need to do all that we can, as soon as possible to provide the whales what space and silence we can give them in this noisy Salish Sea. Vessel noise is the stress factor that we the people of San Juan County can do something about today.

I urge you to ban motorized whale watching in the waters of San Juan County. I urge you to support a no-go zone for the West side of San Juan Island extending 3/4 mile or more from shore. I urge you to support any effort to reduce the impact of shipping noise on the Southern Residents.

It is well past time to do all that we can to help J,K, and L pods survive. It will be a mark of shame on all of us if these whales go extinct on our watch. On the other hand, if we are bold, and determined and actually succeed in giving these whales a future, then we will be a model for communities around the world. Our islands and surrounding waters will be richer and healthier. We will be able to tell our children and grandchildren that we fulfilled our moral and ethical responsibility to ensure the survival of our region's iconic species and the web of life that supports them and ourselves.

Thank You,
Mike Conner
Lopez Island