

# Overview: Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force

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# Outline:

- Overview of Years 1 & 2
- Update on 2020 Supplemental Budget Proposal and “Life After Task Force”
- Recent “vessels” measures of relevance to OCNMS
- Q&A: Discussion

GOVERNOR'S  
SOUTHERN RESIDENT

# ORCA

TASK FORCE





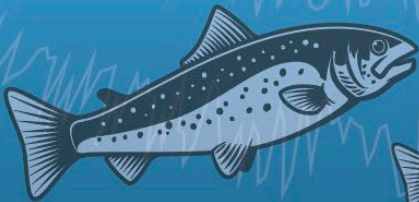
# Why are Southern Resident orca dying?



**Too much noise**



**Too much pollution**



**Too few fish**



# 2018 (Year 1) Task Force Recommendations

36 recommendations addressing:

- ✓ **Prey:** 16 recommendations
- ✓ **Vessel Noise & Disturbance:** 10 recommendations
- ✓ **Contaminants:** 10 recommendations



Associated Press photo



# Legislation passed in 2019

- **ESHB 1578** - oil transportation safety
- **2SHB 1579** - increase Chinook salmon and other orca prey abundance
- **2SSB 5577** - reduce vessel noise and disturbance of orca
- **SSB 5135** - toxic pollution prevention

# Governor's proposed orca budget vs enacted orca budget

Funding by Threat	(Dollars in Millions)		
Budget	Governor	Conference	Enacted
Prey	\$ 783.23	\$ 635.79	\$ 810.79
Vessels	\$ 121.30	\$ 143.55	\$ 143.55
Contaminants	\$ 160.82	\$ 150.51	\$ 150.51
Science and Support	\$ 4.68	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,070.04</b>	<b>\$ 933.40</b>	<b>\$ 1,108.40</b>



A background image of an orca swimming in the water, with its head and dorsal fin visible. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be read.

# Enacted overall budget for orca recovery

Budget	Recommendation
Operating	\$48.7 M
Capital	\$628.5 M
Transportation	\$431.7 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.108 B</b>



A background image of an orca breaching the water, with a blue vertical line on the left side.

# **2019 (Year 2) Task Force focus**

- Review Progress of Year 1 recommendations
- Climate change
- Population growth and land development
- Life after the Task Force
- Double down on 2018 recommendations



# Assessment of Year 1 progress

- Increased hatchery production and capital renovation
- Funding for fish barrier removal and habitat restoration and protection
- Decreased vessel traffic near orcas
- New authority to ban harmful chemicals
- Funding for water quality enforcement
- Funding for contaminant prevention and cleanup

# What still needs to happen

## Prey

- Fully fund salmon recovery plans
- Increase habitat protection
- Address pinniped predation in the Columbia River and Puget Sound
- Prevent Northern Pike Expansion in the Columbia River

## Vessels

- Increase funding for vessel enforcement
- Reduce vessel noise and disturbance from recreational boaters, shipping, and the Navy

A faint, grayscale background image of an orca (killer whale) breaching the water's surface, creating a splash. The orca is positioned on the left side of the frame, with its head and back visible above the water.

# What still needs to happen

## Contaminants

- Maintain MTCA funding to prevent and clean up toxics
- Fund source control inspectors and increase funding for stormwater infrastructure and management
- Provide funding to monitor effectiveness
- Transition one-time investments into ongoing funding



# 2019 (Year 2) Task Force Recommendations

13 recommendations addressing:

- ✓ **Contaminants & Nutrients:** 5 Recommendations
- ✓ **Population Growth:** 2 recommendations
- ✓ **Climate Change:** 5 recommendations
- ✓ **Funding, Monitoring, Accountability:** 1 recommendation





# REDUCE CONTAMINANTS AND HUMAN SOURCES OF NUTRIENTS

5 new recommendations

- **No regulatory rollbacks**
- **Ensure funding for local stormwater programs**
- **Develop NPDES permit framework and advanced wastewater treatment to reduce nutrients**
- **Align non-point program with nutrient reduction activities**
- **Collect data about nutrient discharges**



# **REDUCE THREATS FROM POPULATION GROWTH AND LAND DEVELOPMENT**

2 new recommendations

➤ **Policies, incentives, and regulations for future growth to protect critical habitat and sensitive ecosystems**

➤ **Comprehensive environmental review and actions to minimize whale strikes and underwater noise due to fast ferries and water taxis**

A background image of an orca swimming in the ocean, with its head and dorsal fin visible above the water surface. The water is a light blue-grey color.

# REDUCE THREATS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

5 new recommendations

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, net zero by 2050**
- **Understand, reduce, remediate, adapt to ocean acidification**
- **Increase resiliency of salmon populations and habitat**
- **Expand on Maritime Blue to pursue innovations to shipping and maritime business**
- **Identify and mitigate threats due to contaminants**





# **FUNDING, MONITORING, ACCOUNTABILITY & LIFE AFTER THE TASK FORCE**

## **One new recommendation**

**Create one or more entities with authority and funding to recover and advocate for Southern Resident orcas by implementing task force recommendations, creating new recommendations as needed, and reporting to the public, governor and tribal co-managers on status.**

# TASK FORCE REPORT

- The final Taskforce report can be found at

[https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/OrcaTaskForce\\_FinalReportandRecommendations\\_11.07.19.pdf](https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/OrcaTaskForce_FinalReportandRecommendations_11.07.19.pdf)







# GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET & POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

## Natural resources

### Summary of Orca Investments

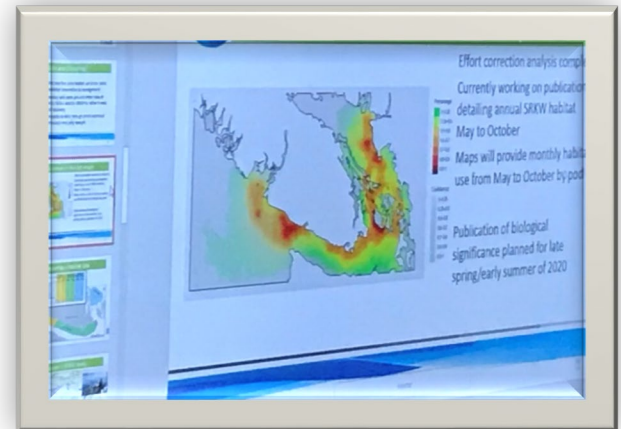
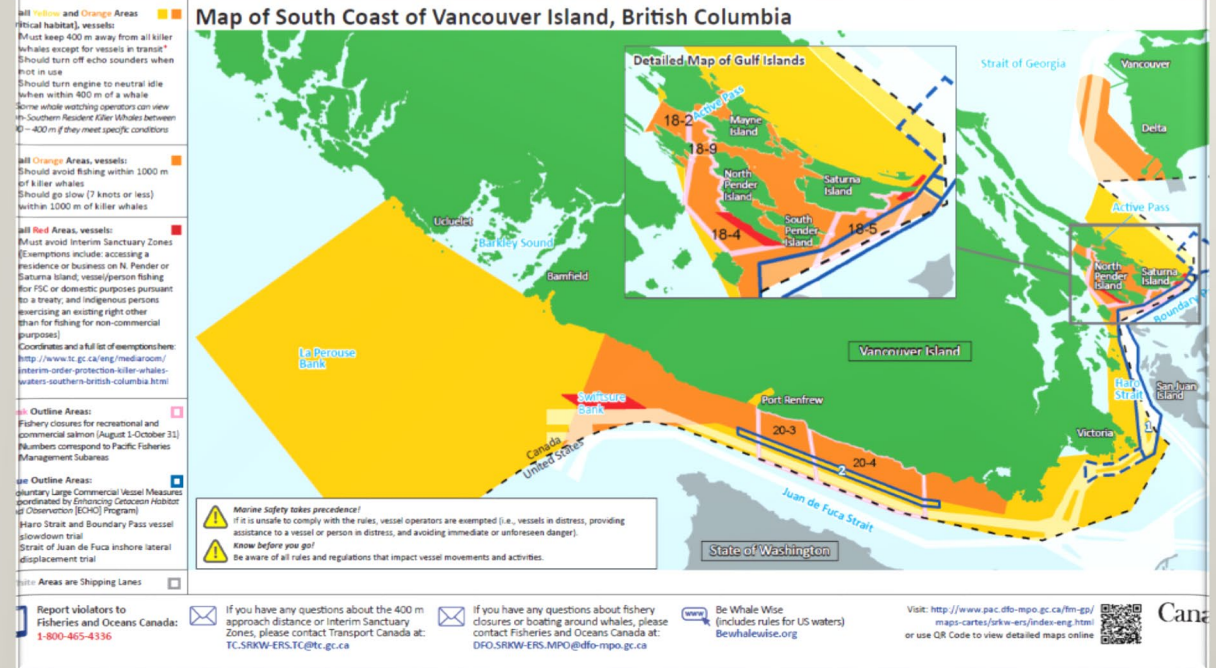
Focus Areas	Items	Agency	Budget	Amount
Contaminants	Nutrient Controls for Puget Sound	Ecology	Operating	\$535,000
	Puget Sound Freshwater Monitoring	Ecology	Operating	\$748,000
	Local Source Control Programs	Ecology	Operating	\$750,000
	Safer Products Washington	Ecology	Operating	\$479,000
	Whitmarsh (March Point) Landfill	Ecology	Capital	\$2,500,000
	Whitmarsh (March Point) Landfill - DNR Match	DNR	Capital	\$3,063,000
	Harris Avenue Shipyard	Ecology	Capital	\$1,248,000
	Parcel 15 Remediation (Portac Inc)	Ecology	Capital	\$1,00,000
	Western Port Angeles Harbor & MTCA Design & Cleanup Construction	Ecology	Capital	\$2,250,000
	Lora Lake Apartments	Ecology	Capital	\$3,340,000
	Alexander Avenue Petroleum Tank Facilities	Ecology	Capital	\$1,294,000
	Dakota Creek Industries Shipyard	Ecology	Capital	\$810,000
	Lower Duwamish Waterway	Ecology	Capital	\$720,000
	Lower Duwamish Superfund	Ecology	Capital	\$3,991,000
	North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant RI/FS	Ecology	Capital	\$175,000
	Earley Business Center	Ecology	Capital	\$1,548,000
<b>Contaminants Total</b>				<b>\$24,451,000</b>
Prey	Columbia River Pinniped Predation	WDFW	Operating	\$924,000
	Northern Pike Suppression	WDFW	Operating	\$357,000
	Orca Vessel Patrols	WDFW	Operating	\$225,000
	Orca Vessels Grant Match	WDFW	Operating	\$278,000
	Soos Creek Hatchery Renovation	WDFW	Capital	\$2,936,000
	Beaver Creek Hatchery - Renovation	WDFW	Capital	\$150,000
	Infrastructure Master Plan for SRKW Recovery	WDFW	Capital	\$1,000,000
<b>Prey Total</b>				<b>\$5,870,000</b>
Habitat	2019-21 Match for Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Conservation Commission	Capital	\$2,249,000
	Forest Riparian Easement Program	DNR	Capital	\$1,000,000
<b>Habitat Total</b>				<b>\$3,249,000</b>
Life after the Task Force	Orca Recovery Coordinator	RCO	Operating	\$140,000
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$33,710,000</b>

Source: OFM, Dec. 2019



# CANADA'S 2019 INTERIM SANCTUARY AT SWIFTSURE BANK

## Boating Around Killer Whales - South Coast of BC · 2019



# NOAA'S PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CRITICAL HABITAT

[HTTPS://WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV/ACTION/CRITICAL-HABITAT-SOUTHERN-RESIDENT-KILLER-WHALE](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/critical-habitat-southern-resident-killer-whale)

