

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

PROTECT ENDANGERED SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALES

We, the undersigned residents of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following :

THAT, WHEREAS the survival of endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) in the Salish Sea is threatened by pollution, physical and acoustic disturbance primarily from vessel traffic and the availability of Chinook salmon stocks;

WHEREAS recent peer reviewed studies by DFO conducted on a population of about 85 SRKWs indicates a 50% chance of extinction within 100 years under "status quo" conditions;

WHEREAS the population of SRKWs has been below 100 animals for the past four decades and below 85 animals since 2011, despite its purported protection under Canada's Species at Risk Act;

WHEREAS calf survival is a critical component of population rebuilding and calf mortality rates are high, the birth of new calves in 2015 carries responsibility to facilitate survival.

WHEREAS it is documented that boat presence and engine noise can disrupt communication, behavior patterns and feeding of killer whales,

WHEREAS, despite their endangered status and the known impact of vessel disturbance, approach distances for SRKWs are no different from any other Canadian marine mammal;

WHEREAS existing Canadian guidelines regarding whale watching and approach distances (100m) for SRKWs are not consistent with US regulations (200 yards),

THEREFORE, YOUR PETITIONERS call upon the House of Commons to provide urgently needed protection for Southern Resident Killer Whales by: limiting acoustic and physical disturbance in critical habitat by increasing vessel approach distances to 200 meters, from 100 meters as is the current regulation.

Signature

Street/ City/Province/Postal Code

Email

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Guidelines

1. Petitions must not be altered or have any text added.
2. Petitions can be either double-sided, or have a blank back page.
3. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only.
4. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.
5. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition.
6. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself.
7. A petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it.
8. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.

518 Confederation Building

House of Commons

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Please email elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca or call 613-996-1119 if you have any questions.