

Orca Center – Lighthouse Marine Park







IF YOU SEE THE KILLER WHALES

PLEASE HELP PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS BY:
**Phoning Lifeforce at
 (604) 649 - 5258.
 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

(If you call direct, instead of collect, your additional support will help us continue our educational programs.)

On the research boat we stand by on VHF Channel #16

Lifeforce, the non-profit ecology organization, is studying orcas in local US and BC waters and would appreciate your help in locating the orca families.

Thank you

The Law
 Whales, dolphins, porpoises and manatees are protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is illegal to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any of these animals, or to take any action that may have the potential to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any of these animals.

What is Harassment?
 Harassment is any act that may annoy or disturb a whale, dolphin, porpoise, or manatee. It includes any act that causes the animal to change its behavior or to leave the area. Harassment can be intentional or unintentional.

Enforcement
 The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (DFAS) is responsible for enforcing the MMPA and the ESA. DFAS has a team of inspectors who monitor for violations of the law. If you see a violation, please report it to DFAS immediately.

Report Violators
 Call 1-800-368-5848 or 254-435-4357 for more information.

Be Their Part, Be Whale Wise!



Captivity & Release

Dolphins in Captivity

There have been several successful releases of dolphins who have been in captivity. They have been freed without any harm to the individuals or to wild populations. For example, in 1992, the dolphin "Suzanna Miami" escaped after 14 years of imprisonment and has been observed with a baby. Since orcas are members of the dolphin family it is possible to rehabilitate them and return them to their families in the wild.

The capture and exhibit of orcas started in 1964 when the Vancouver Aquarium harpooned an orca to kill as a model for a sculpture. When the orca did not die he was towed from Saltspring Island to Vancouver Harbour by the tugboat and rope. It took 16 hours to cross the 40 miles of Georgia Strait. "Moby Doll" died after 86 days.

In the late 60s and early 70s the BC and Washington orca population was decimated by aquarium captures when 67 orcas were taken, 11 died during captures, 52 died in aquariums and one died with the US Navy. One escaped from the Navy. As of June 2009 only two had survived. They are Corky (Sea World, San Diego) whose mother is still alive in the Northern Community and Lolita (Miami Seaquarium) from the Southern Community. It will take many decades for the Southern Community to return to their normal age and sex structure. They could become extinct.



Threats To Ecosystems

Threats to Orcas and All Life

The very survival of our world depends on the continued existence and abundance of species whose lives are threatened by human activities. The whales depend on the same resources, but are unable to adapt to the changes in their environment.

Environmental Pollution

Some of the environmental pollution and destruction that we witness the result of our actions on the planet are industrial and agricultural activities that release pollutants into the air, water, and soil. These pollutants include heavy metals, pesticides, and other toxic substances. These pollutants can be carried by wind and water to remote areas, where they can harm or even kill whales and other marine life.

Overpopulation

Throughout the world, the pressure of an ever-increasing population has led to increased demands for resources, which have led to increased environmental pollution and other threats. Despite the national regulations, which require us to reduce, reuse, and recycle, our population continues to grow, and the pressure on our resources continues to increase.

Climate Change

Climate change is changing the planet's temperature and the water cycle. Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels, are the primary cause of climate change. Climate change is causing the oceans to warm and the ice to melt, which is causing sea level rise and other environmental problems.

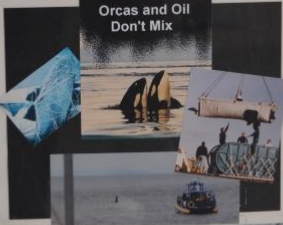
Illegal Whaling and Exploitation

The whaling industry continues to capture marine mammals for consumption and other purposes.

Unethical Whaling

In 1986, the world's whaling fleet was reduced to 20 percent of its original size. Although the number of whaling ships has decreased, the whaling industry continues to exist. Whaling is still a profitable industry, and whaling companies are still active in the industry. Whaling companies are still active in the industry, and whaling companies are still active in the industry.

Orcas and Oil Don't Mix



ORCA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. NATURAL HISTORY
 - a) Killer Whales are members of the dolphin family.
 - b) Killer Whales belong to the genus *Orcinus orca*.
 - c) Orcas possess all human senses except smell.
2. GENEALOGY
 - a) There are residents, transients and "offhorns" orcas.
 - b) There is the Southern Community and the Northern Community. See Orca Travels to see where they live.
 - c) The only natural enemy is humans.
3. POPULATION
 - a) 725 have been identified on the West Coast.
 - b) As of April 2009 there were only 85 orcas in the Southern Community.
 - c) The Southern Community is an endangered species due to aquarium captures and environmental problems (see Threats to Ecosystems).
4. DORSAL FINS
 - a) The orca is a male.
 - b) The orca is older.
 - c) This orca is "Ruffles" - J1. He was born in 1951.
5. TAIL FLUKES
 - a) Tail flukes of males are usually bent downwards while females and juveniles are straight.
 - b) Orcas can dive to depths over 100 metres.
6. PECTORAL FINS
 - a) The pectoral fins of males are much longer and broader.
 - b) The pec slap is done during resting, socializing or when disturbed.
7. MOTHER AND CHILD
 - a) The gestation period is 15 to 17 months.
 - b) Orcas are about 2.5 metres at birth and weigh approximately 200 kg.
 - c) Nursing lasts from six months to three years.
8. FAMILY TIES
 - a) Residents remain with their family pods for their entire lives.
 - b) They communicate through a complex system of clicks, whistles and other sounds.
 - c) Dialects are pod specific.
9. FORAGING
 - a) Orcas use sonar to echolocate during foraging and other activities.
 - b) Orcas will travel up to 160 km a day.
 - c) They can swim up to 38km/h.
10. LIFE FACTS
 - a) Males attain lengths up to 9 metres and weight up to 8200 kg. Females average about 7 metres in length and can weigh up to 5000 kg.
 - b) Males can live to at least 80 years while females can live over 80 years.
 - c) Males reach maturity at 12 to 14 years while females mature at 14 to 15 years.
 - d) Orcas can have four to six babies over a 25 year period.
11. ORCA BEHAVIOUR
 - a) Signs of agitation include escape tactics, evasive swimming patterns and attempts to protect themselves by slapping their tail flukes and other protective movements.
 - b) Stay at least 100 metres away from orcas.
 - c) Report problems to LIFEFORCE, DFO and NMFS. See Whale Watching Guidelines for Southern BC and Washington.

Current Events

2009 Marine Life Programs

The **LIFEFORCE** 2009 Marine Life Programs are a series of educational and conservation programs designed to raise awareness of marine life and the threats it faces. These programs include:

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Lifeforce Image Library

All of these beautiful and unique images are available for purchase from the Lifeforce Image Library. The images are available in a variety of sizes and formats, including:

- Postcards:** A series of postcards featuring beautiful images of marine life.
- Online Postcards:** A series of online postcards featuring beautiful images of marine life.
- Image Library:** A series of images available for purchase from the Lifeforce Image Library.

DO NOT DISTURB

Female pup found alone on a beach is usually not abandoned. The mother is probably still looking for food. Removing it will result in injury and death. Also, the pup's location and information could be transmitted from people to seals and their health is jeopardized.

Keep a distance of at least 300 meters. Always call and return if people are present. Lifeforce will relocate the pup even if the pup has been handled by humans.

Imagine the suffering if you break the bond between the mother and baby.

PLEASE LEAVE THE PUP ALONE.

Seals on the beach should be monitored for 24 to 48 hours unless there is obvious pupping activity. Any attempt to move the pup is illegal and subject to prosecution. Call Lifeforce, a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare organization, to monitor any pups on shore in any other wildlife problem.

Phone (804) 645-6288 or
email lifeforce@earthlink.net



ORCA AWARENESS MONTH

Letting a humpback Orca be our guide

ORCA AWARENESS MONTH

From November 1st to December 31st, we are celebrating the life of a humpback Orca. This month, we will be sharing the story of a humpback Orca that has been rescued and is now living in a sanctuary. We will be sharing the story of a humpback Orca that has been rescued and is now living in a sanctuary. We will be sharing the story of a humpback Orca that has been rescued and is now living in a sanctuary.

50% Less Protection for Orcas

In 2009, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced that it will be reducing the protection for Orcas. This means that Orcas will be given less protection than they currently receive. This is a significant change and it is important that we all be aware of it. We will be sharing the story of a humpback Orca that has been rescued and is now living in a sanctuary. We will be sharing the story of a humpback Orca that has been rescued and is now living in a sanctuary.



Land Based Whale Watching

Whale watching is a popular activity in the area. It allows you to see these magnificent creatures from the comfort of your own boat. The best time to see whales is during the summer months, when they are most active. There are many tour operators that offer whale watching excursions. Some of the most popular species to see are humpback whales, gray whales, and orcas. Each species has its own unique behaviors and characteristics. For example, humpback whales are known for their breaching and tail slapping. Gray whales are the largest whales in the world and are known for their long migrations. Orcas are the most intelligent of the whale species and are known for their complex social structures. Whale watching is a great way to learn more about these amazing animals and their habitats. It is also a great way to support the local economy and conservation efforts. So, if you're looking for a unique and educational experience, whale watching is definitely worth considering.

GET OFF MY TAIL!
It's the law.



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Whale Watching

Whale Watching Guidelines for Southern BC & Washington

These guidelines are intended to help you enjoy whale watching responsibly. Please follow these guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

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Respect Nature

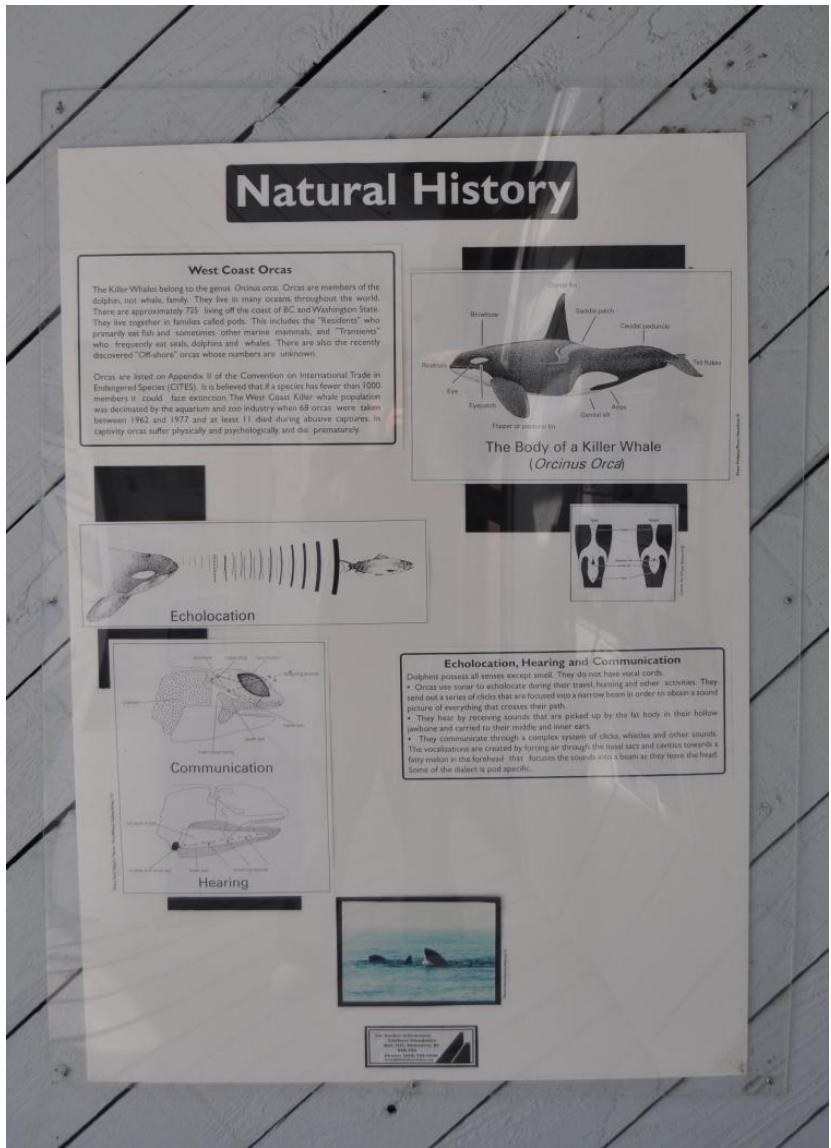
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Orca Travels



As of November 2017, there were 10 orca communities in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and 10 orca communities in the Strait of Georgia. The map shows the travel routes of these orca communities.

For more information, please contact the Orca Center at 1-800-451-7263.



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