

May 30 – June 1 Wildlife Report

May 30: Thanks to Jim who called the Lifeforce Whale and Dolphin Hotline to report J pod heading South towards the Tsawassen Coal Port. **At 1215 the orcas were off Point Roberts.**

Some Whale Watch Companies did not adhere to the Whale Watch Guidelines and did not give the orcas a ¼ mile shore passage zone as boaters are supposed to do off San Juan Island.

Commercial boats blocked pathways and one operator even went approx. 100' off the shore in front of approaching orcas and between orcas and the shore.

Later in the day as the orcas were approaching Rosario Strait Whale Watch Companies from Victoria were within 100 metres and cut in front of the orcas.

May 31: I started the day by photographing a Great Blue Heron feasting on the fish buffet in waters off Lighthouse Marine Park in Point Roberts. After the meal the heron flew directly at me giving me some great in flight images.



After getting a call about **Js at the bottom of San Juan Island** I decided to go out to monitor boat traffic around the Harbour Porpoises off the Point. I had hoped that pleasure boaters had read my “Wild at the Point” article in the All Point Bulletin in which I advised folks that driving at these porpoise is harassment – they do not ride the boat wake like other species.

I managed to get a great photo. See the photo below of a mom with her baby’s head poking through the water surface.



Later in the day Lifeforce volunteers put up Orca Awareness Month Posters around Point Roberts and Bellingham. During the month of June people are urged to be “green” and do what they can to lessen their negative impact on orcas and their habitats.

Js were heading up Boundary Pass at 1935 towards Point Roberts so it was a sunrise wakeup to see where they are tomorrow – perhaps they will be in our territory.

June 1: Js had passed Point Roberts in the night and were already heading south in Bellingham Channel in the early morning. So I’m heading back to the office to write this report and to do the Lifeforce office work.

For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program

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