

Orca Report September 14th and 15th

Sept 14

At approx. 1620 Js, Ks and most Ls were in the middle of Georgia Strait heading North to the South and North Arms of the Fraser River. Other reports had some Ls at Monarch Head and Haro Strait. There was still a very high activity that is normally seen mostly when leaving Active Pass. There were multiple breaching, tail slaps and head viewing. At one point four orcas were all air borne. The activities decreased but were still active as they reached the other side and sped towards the river. There were a few stops for mating off Sturgeon Banks that may well help increase this endangered population.



Socializing



Breaching



Bubbles



Speed Swimming



Sept 15

Today Lifeforce headed towards the San Juan Islands for my study of boat traffic monitoring that I started in April 2008. I am comparing high boat monitoring areas (SJI) and low monitoring areas (Point Roberts/Southern Georgia Strait). I have developed nonintrusive methods to gather evidence of boaters' harassment in order to get increase enforcement and No Boat Zones as found in the San Juan Island. We started a petition to Governor Gregoire and will be completing a report. It will include any impact of research boat traffic. I am looking at any negative or positive reactions from studied whales/dolphins. Quivering of dorsal fins has been seen in biopsied and non-biopsied orcas when mom was biopsied (Barrett-Leonard et. al.). Lifeforce has sent a Research Boat Traffic Questionnaire to researchers. Anyone who also has information can contact us for the questionnaire lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com .

While on route I heard that all residents were present on the West Side (SJI). This was one of those days where the orcas there were orcas everywhere. They could be seen as far as one could see in every direction. They were taking long dives as they foraged and did some

socializing. They moved off shore and some would move back to the shore. It wasn't easy for boaters to get around them and out of the area. It was good to see the presence of Straitwatch, Soundwatch and the San Juan County Sheriff. At 1740 the trailers were heading to Hein Bank to meet up with others there and further south.



For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

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