

SALISH SEA CETACEAN BILL OF RIGHTS

RECOGNIZING WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES AS NON-HUMAN PERSONS



1 Every cetacean has the right to life.

2 No cetacean should be held in captivity or servitude; be subject to cruel treatment; or be removed from their natural environment.

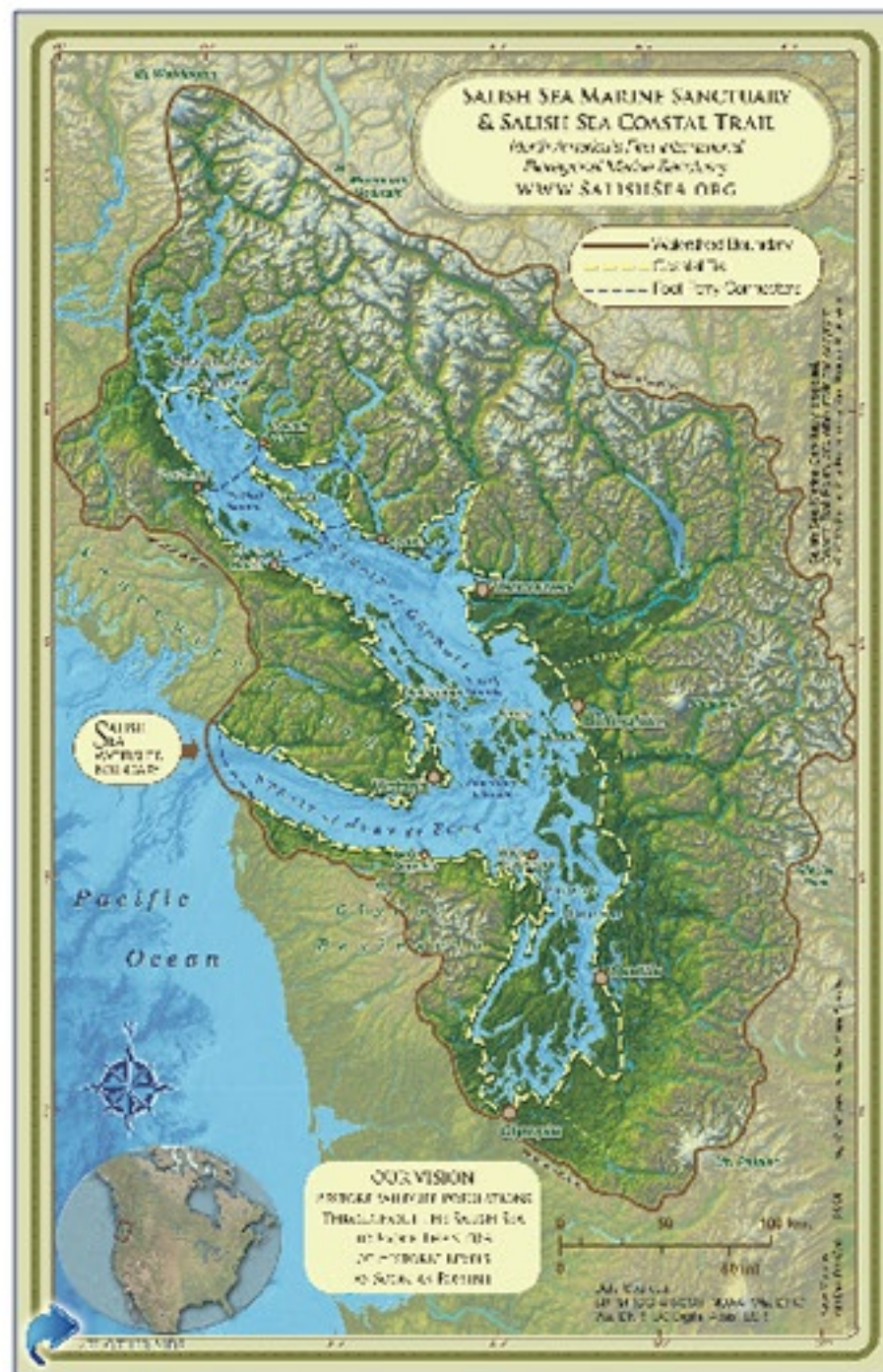


3 All cetaceans have the right to freedom of movement and residence within their natural environment.

4 No cetacean is the property of any State, corporation, human group or individual.



5 Cetaceans have the right to the protection of their natural environment.



6 Cetaceans have the right not to be subject to the disruption of their cultures.



7 The rights, freedoms and norms set forth in this Declaration should be protected under international and domestic law.

8 Cetaceans are entitled to an international order in which these rights, freedoms and norms can be fully realized.



9 No State, corporation, human group or individual should engage in any activity that undermines these rights and freedoms.

10 Nothing in this Declaration shall prevent a State from enacting stricter provisions for the protection of cetacean rights.



CETACEANS AND THE SALISH SEA

The Seattle Times

July 8, 2013

Harbor Porpoises now a Common Sight in Puget Sound

After nearly disappearing from local waters for decades, harbor porpoises are once again a common sight in Puget Sound.

"They are back, big time," says biologist John Calambokidis with the Cascadia Research Collective in Olympia. "They are probably the most common cetacean in Puget Sound."

Common in our inland waters through the 1940s and '50s, harbor



porpoises virtually disappeared in Puget Sound south of Admiralty Inlet and Hood Canal by the early 1970s.

TIMES COLONIST

June 12, 2013

Humpbacks are big hits in Juan De Fuca Strait

It's humpback heaven in Juan De Fuca Strait with massive humpbacks almost taking the spotlight off killer whales.

Humpbacks, which are listed as threatened, were almost wiped out by whaling around the B.C. and Washington coast, but started returning in 2004 after an absence of nearly four decades.

The Washington-based Cascadia Research Collective, a non-profit



organization, estimates about 1,600 humpbacks feed off the West Coast, with about 500 of those off Washington and B.C. south.



May 24, 2013

Dolphins gain unprecedented protection in India

India has officially recognized dolphins as non-human persons, whose rights to life and liberty must be respected. Dolphin parks that were being built across the country will instead be shut down.

In a statement, the government said research had clearly established cetaceans are highly intelligent and sensitive, and that dolphins "should be seen as 'non-human persons' and as such should have their own



specific rights."

India is the fourth country in the world to ban the capture and import of cetaceans for the purpose of commercial entertainment - along with Costa Rica, Hungary, and Chile.

THE VANCOUVER SUN

April 19, 2012

Marine Mammals Coming Back to the Salish Sea

Tides come and go in the Salish Sea. Sometimes entire species vanish almost unnoticed on the ebb of history. And sometimes — to widespread astonishment — those same species ride the currents of conservation back home again.

Humans have exacted a terrible toll on our region's marine life over the past 150 years, through commercial whaling, reckless overfishing, and bounties, culls, and commercial



harvests of harbour seals and sea lions.

But there are also signs that the Salish Sea is stirring and, who knows, may once again approach its former greatness.

NATIONAL POST

February 21, 2012

Dolphins deserve rights, scientists told

Dolphins and whales should be considered non-human "persons" with basic rights such as life, liberty and well-being, the world's largest science conference heard in Vancouver.

"If these animals are self-aware, have specific cultures, stay with the same pod their whole life, and are incredibly intelligent and social, then no tank will ever be able to give [a cetacean] the kind of life it has



in the ocean," said Annelise Sorg, president of the Coalition for No Whales in Captivity.

The Salish Sea Cetacean Bill of Rights

implements, throughout the Salish Sea, the Helsinki Group's 'Declaration of Rights for Cetaceans' as declared in Helsinki, Finland in May 2010 at the conference entitled *Cetacean Rights: Fostering Moral and Legal Change*.

From www.cetaceanrights.org:

"In spite of some forms of conservation measures, cetaceans are currently treated as resources to be harvested. And yet, many elements point in a different direction.

International law manifests a growing sense of duty to whales and dolphins; contemporary ethical reflection brings new theoretical tools to bear on cetacean moral status; and scientific research gives us novel insights into the complexities of cetacean minds and societies.

In light of this, scholars from the relevant disciplines drew together to spell out all the implications of such developments, and to build a collective case for the attribution of basic moral and legal rights to cetaceans, great and small."

Cetaceans are marine mammals of the order *Cetacea*, commonly known as **whales, dolphins** and **porpoises**. The order contains two suborders: *Mysticeti* (baleen whales) and *Odontoceti* (toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises).

Cetacean species living in the Salish Sea include:

Common Minke Whale
Fin Whale
Humpback Whale
Gray Whale
Orca

Pacific White-Sided Dolphin
Short-beaked Common Dolphin
Risso's Dolphin
Harbor Porpoise
Dall's Porpoise

The **Salish Sea**, located in western British Columbia and Washington State, is the second largest inland sea in North America. It is home to thousands of marine wildlife species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

The Salish Sea includes the **Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca** and **Puget Sound**. In 2008, Coast Salish First Nations adopted the Salish Sea name to refer to the entire inland sea, as well as to the Coast Salish People who have lived throughout the region for over 10,000 years. Washington State and British Columbia followed suit and formally adopted the name change in 2009 and 2010.