

# The Salish Sea: In Danger

The Salish Sea is one of the world's largest and biologically rich inland seas. This international water body includes Washington State's Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the San Juan Islands, as well as British Columbia's Gulf Islands and the Strait of Georgia. The name honors the first inhabitants of the region, the Coast Salish. Take a look at the interconnectivity of the Salish Sea and see how increased marine vessel traffic and a major spill could devastate our environment and our economy.

## A Rich, But Vulnerable, Sea

**37** mammals  
**172** birds  
Nearly **300** fish  
More than **3,000** macroinvertebrates

**113** of these species have been listed as threatened, endangered, of concern, or candidates for listing on the US Endangered Species Act or Canada's Species at Risk Act



	Avg. Feet	Avg. Dead-weight Tons	Avg. Gallons of Fuel
Cape Size Dry Bulk Carrier	1,000	180,000	1,600,000
Aframax Oil Tanker	803	110,000	1,300,000
Super Class Ferry	382	2,800	45,000
Adult Southern Resident Orca Whale	23	2.5	0
Sea Kayak	17	0	0



## The Risk of Increased Ship Traffic

**10,000** Large ships transited through the Salish Sea in 2012

**+2,000** Proposed large ships to transit through the Salish Sea

Increased underwater noise, threat of an oil spill, risk of accidents and interference with wildlife

The ships are getting bigger; a single spill from one of these massive ships could devastate the Salish Sea

## An Interconnected Ecosystem

Chinook salmon rely on herring as a food source

**10%** Puget Sound Chinook salmon are less than 10% of their historic numbers.

Herring spawn on eelgrass

Herring populations at Cherry Point have decreased 94% since the construction of the Westshore coal terminal and the Cherry Point oil refinery

**94% decrease**

Eelgrass provides habitat for herring

New terminals and shipping piers will block sunlight from reaching eelgrass



Orcas need an abundant Chinook salmon population as a food source

84: Number of Southern Resident orca in the Salish Sea as of December 2012

Currently listed as endangered

## A Fragile Economy

**\$3.8 billion:** Yearly economic benefit generated by Washington State's commercial fishing industry

**60,250:** Yearly jobs provided by the fishing industry alone

Washington State Tourism is also at risk

**\$1.1 billion:** Boost to the economy from recreational fishing

**\$1.5 billion:** Economic benefit of wildlife viewing

**\$158 million:** Annual income to San Juan County from 700,000 tourists