

From: Sam Gibboney samg@portofpt.com
Subject: FW: Southern Resident Killer Whales/salmon allocation
Date: Aug 7, 2018 at 11:36:55 AM
To: Steve Tucker steve@portofpt.com, Pete Hanke
phanke@portofpt.com, Bill Putney bill@portofpt.com

*****PLEASE DO NOT REPLY ALL*****

Commissioners:

Please see the email below from the Port of Friday Harbor.

I will discuss with Commissioner Tucker as to if/when we put this on an agenda.

Thank you.

Sam Gibboney

Executive Director

Port of Port Townsend

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From: Todd Nicholson <toddn@portfridayharbor.org>
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 3:12 PM
To: Dan Worra <Dan.Worra@portofanacortes.com>; 'Rob Fix'
<robfix@portofbellingham.com>; Karen Goschen <kareng@portofpa.com>; Sam Gibboney
<samg@portofpt.com>; Eric Johnson <ericj@washingtonports.org>
Subject: Southern Resident Killer Whales/salmon allocation

Dear Directors,

The Port of Friday Harbor Commission is considering a resolution to advocate for a fixed allocation of Chinook Salmon, separate from general ocean escapement, to be set aside for the endangered SRKWs. Aside from the moral imperative to take immediate actions to protect our resident whales, The Port of Friday Harbor recognizes the substantial regional economic impact the resident whales have on our local economies. The following is the text of the resolution being considered by the port of Friday Harbor:

The Port of Friday Harbor respectfully requests that the Pacific Fishery Management Council set aside an allocation of 250,000 chinook salmon from the Fraser River for the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW).

Whale population is declining and behaviors are changing due to the shortage of available salmon. Based on estimates of food requirements, a healthy Orca needs 18 to 25 adult salmon daily to meet their energy requirements. If the 75 living SRKW feed for 100 days in local waters, that means that, based on 20 salmon per day, at least 150,000 chinook are needed just to maintain the status quo. If the Orca remain longer, as they have in many years, or if their numbers increase, more fish would be needed.

Currently, the Council allocate salmon for spawning, tribal catch, commercial catch, and sport catch. The fish that the whales need are hidden in what's called "ocean loss". Because Ocean Loss is a percentage of the total run, it

fluctuates with run size, however, the whales need a **fixed number of salmon every season**. The net result of this is in years of low return, the SRKW have to compete even harder with other user groups and spawning escapement may suffer.

The health and presence of the SRKW is vitally important to the economy of the Port of FH and San Juan County. Dozens of whale watch boats employing hundreds of people contribute to the local economy and pump revenue into the state via licensing and sales tax. In 2017, 37,000 discreet sales were recorded from boats based in the Port and 36,000 sales were recorded from the Victoria Clipper. This does not include whale and wildlife watch from kayaks, and other harbors on San Juan Island. Multiply this by the many other marine centers around the Salish Sea and this adjustment to allocation is easily justified by economics alone but beyond that, their endangered status, their iconic presence in the Pacific Northwest, and just because it's the right thing to do, the Orca should be given a seat at the table. The allocation for them should be prioritized right behind spawning escapement but ahead of all other user groups. Unlike other enhancement schemes, this would have an immediate effect and be without much direct cost due to infrastructure construction.

On behalf of the residents of San Juan Island and on behalf of the Residents that swim in the waters surrounding San Juan Island, thank you.

My Commission has requested that I reach out to similarly impacted Ports and the WPPA and ask that your organizations send a request to the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

Todd S. Nicholson

Port of Friday Harbor

Executive Director

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