



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 24-031

**RECOGNIZING JUNE 2024 AS ORCA ACTION MONTH
IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY**

***WHEREAS**, in 2005, the Southern Resident orcas were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and*

***WHEREAS**, scientists attribute the depleted Southern Resident orca population to a significant decrease in salmon runs, chemical pollution, noise and disturbance from vessel traffic, and loss of habitat; and*

***WHEREAS**, according to the Marine Mammal Commission, the total number of Southern Resident orcas stands at 74; and*

***WHEREAS**, the capture of orcas in the 1960s and 70s for marine parks is also a major factor. That practice ended after the Marine Mammal Act was enacted in 1972; and*

***WHEREAS**, during the month of June, the Orca Network, the Orca Salmon Alliance, and other organizations collaborate to educate the public about these issues while working to improve conditions for the survival of Southern Resident orcas during a month-long concentrated effort; and*

***WHEREAS**, promoting awareness of the orcas underscores the need to clean up Puget Sound, and restore and conserve important habitats, including those of the Chinook salmon spawning grounds; and*

***WHEREAS**, we are fortunate to have this “urban” community of orcas in our midst, learn about them as individuals and pods, and watch them from our ferries and boats along miles of shoreline; and*

***WHEREAS**, we have only just started to comprehend the amazing intelligence and social capabilities of orcas; and*

***WHEREAS**, Snohomish County supports efforts to recover this endangered population of Southern Resident orcas;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Snohomish County Council does hereby recognize June 2024 as Orca Action Month in Snohomish County. The County Council encourages everyone to prioritize the plight of the fragile Southern Resident orcas, honor their presence in our waters, and help accelerate efforts to recover this important population.*

APPROVED this 29th day of May 2024.

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

ATTEST:

Elena Lao, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Council