

Southern Resident Killer Whale Executive Order Immediate Action Report May 1, 2018

Executive Order Task
Develop implementation plans for increased enforcement, outreach and education of vessel regulations as well as enforcement of Chinook fisheries regulations in areas frequented by orcas.

Completion Date	April 30, 2018		
Lead Agency	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)		
Agency Contact	Captain Alan Myers Sergeant Russ Mullins	Agency Contact E-mail	Alan.Myers@dfw.wa.gov Russ.Mullins@dfw.wa.gov
Supporting Agencies, if applicable	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC)		

Outcomes/Progress Narrative
<p>The WDFW is dedicated toward affecting positive outcomes for the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Protection Initiative called for under the Governor’s Executive Order. The WDFW Enforcement Program’s efforts toward accomplishing key aspects of this initiative include taking several approaches. Here is a brief synopsis of our efforts undertaken up to this point in time.</p> <p><u>Filling Key Positions:</u></p> <p>WDFW Enforcement is in the process of hiring two Fish and Wildlife Police Officer positions that are funded and dedicated toward SRKW protection. These positions will be filled in the Anacortes and Bellingham stations.</p> <p>The Anacortes position was announced for internal employee lateral transfer on 4/9/18. This position will be filled by a current Officer who is already living in Anacortes. The estimated start time for this position is mid-May, 2018.</p> <p>The Bellingham position was posted and filled by a new-hire candidate. The candidate has marine experience and appears highly motivated. This position’s estimated start time is mid-June, 2018.</p> <p><u>Patrol planning:</u></p> <p>A draft patrol schedule and calendar have been created for the prime SRKW season of the</p>

summer months. This patrol plan accomplishes approximately 80 marine patrols that will be focused on SRKW, habitat, and salmon protection throughout Marine Area 7. These patrols will be staffed by Fish and Wildlife Police Officers from at least four different detachments. All patrols are subject to rescheduling based on weather and other factors. The primary focus of each patrol will be on limiting vessel impacts on SRKWs. This will be accomplished through continuous enforcement of available State and Federal regulations, and through education and outreach. Completed patrols will be documented with noteworthy observations, contacts, violations or other incidents entered into the Enforcement Program's records management system.

Outreach Efforts:

WDFW Enforcement staff met with the Pacific Whale Watch Association (PWWA) members in Anacortes in March 2018. PWWA members were provided with some of the available information about SRKW protection efforts. About 45 owners and operators were present for this meeting.

After receiving input from WDFW Enforcement staff, PWWA shared new industry guidelines that provide requirements for a go-slow zone within a larger perimeter around SRKW pods. In addition, the guidelines seek to limit commercial activity around SRKWs in traditional foraging areas and when there are other non-SRKW viewing options nearby.

WDFW Enforcement staff gave a presentation at an event organized by the Whale Museum in April 2018 that provided outreach materials and input to commercial whale watching naturalists ahead of the 2018 season.