

# Southern Resident Orca Task Force

## Public comment on the Sept. 24 draft report

**Updated 10/15/18**

There were **3,405 responses** to the public comment survey (on the Governor’s website) about the draft report and draft recommendations. (Note: There were 2,948 unique IP addresses and 458 duplicates. Duplicates can be due to multiple people in a household or at a public institution submitting individual comments. There could also be some people who responded to the survey more than once.)

Organizations and coalitions also submitted letters; links and summaries are available in the second section of this document.

### Individual comments

The full set of comments received through the online survey can be found at <https://pspwa.box.com/s/hzq6yings8w8ju8o4cob18k4jj1u5k91>.

### VISION & GOALS

- Many people voiced support for the vision and goals statements.
- Several people (8) said that the vision and goals should have a greater emphasis on speed and include immediate goals for 2018 and 2019.
- A few people expressed concern that the draft recommendations wouldn’t be enough to achieve the vision and goals.
- Some people mentioned specific actions that they wanted to see in the goals statement (e.g., dam removal).

### HABITAT

There were 1089 responses in the habitat comment box; 627 responses were ambiguous or not related to habitat. Themes related to habitat include:

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Restore/acquire habitat	239	21.9%
Protect habitat with regulations	167	15.3%
Fish passage at dams and culverts	25	2.3%

Improve water quality	10	0.9%
No new regulations	7	0.6%
New action ideas (see below)	5	0.5%
Cooperative compliance programs	4	0.4%
Do not invest in habitat	3	0.3%
Study/assess/inventory	2	0.2%

***New, potentially worthwhile habitat ideas to save for the Year 2 list:***

- “We could have a New New Deal, providing high quality green collar jobs while expediting stream and estuary restoration.”
- “Nutrient Enhancement Program statewide would dramatically improve watersheds and fisheries.”
- “A Salish Sea protected zone would be one of the first of its kind.”
- “All state agencies with land ownership or management responsibilities (WSF/WSDOT, WA Parks, WDFW, WDNR) shall inventory and implement pollution control, contamination cleanup, habitat protection and restoration to benefit forage fish, Chinook Salmon and SRKW. Funding for this work will be incorporated in the agency budgeting process.” (2)

## HATCHERIES

842 total comments were tallied below from 534 total individuals that commented on hatcheries.

<b><i>Themes</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>	<b><i>% of total</i></b>
Prioritize wild salmon recovery actions over hatchery fish	211	25.1%
Support increased hatchery production	164	19.5%
Hatcheries can negatively impact wild salmon, take precautions and monitor increased hatchery production	120	14.3%
Do not support increased hatchery production	102	12.1%
Support hatchery production as a temporary measure only	87	10.3%
Habitat, forage fish and ecosystem health actions must go with hatchery production	75	8.9%

Concern that increased hatchery production means more Atlantic salmon or fish farms	32	3.8%
Concern over hatchery fish that may have contaminants or diseases	20	2.4%
Concern about resulting fisheries, including more harvest and who will benefit	18	2.1%
Support only doing pilot hatchery studies now, with increases later	10	1.2%
Support the use of all H approach	3	0.4%

***Hatchery comments:***

- The most common comment received was a statement of support for natural/wild fish recovery (25.1% of comments) over hatchery-produced fish. While some of those people went on to say that they did not support increased hatchery production because of this (12.1%), others supported increased production that was careful to minimize impacts to wild fish stocks (14.3%) and/or was a short-term measure (10.3%) for orcas while wild stocks recover. In particular, some people suggested that careful reviews of hatchery impacts should be conducted and that the increased production would have to be reauthorized with this information in 10 years.
- Several commenters noted that they were concerned that hatchery operations might be funded at the expense of protecting and restoring wild salmon, and many stated that hatchery production must come with investments in habitat, forage fish and ecosystem health (8.9%).
- On the other end of the spectrum, a few commenters expressed their desire for more Chinook fish of any kind (hatchery or wild) and that wild fish genetics and recovery are less or not important.

***Confusion about specific hatchery actions or recommendation language:***

- A large number of individuals were concerned that the potential recommendation suggested that increased hatchery production would not occur until 2020, which was too slow to address Southern Resident needs. Two pieces of information need to better be explained around this recommendation: 1) WDFW has already begun increasing hatchery production to some level with state money that was received for fiscal year 2019, and 2) More details are needed to explain that it will be 3-5 years before orcas potentially see adult fish prey increases here in Washington after increased production due to their lifecycle.
- Several people were concerned that increased hatcheries meant that Atlantic salmon would be farmed, or that more fish farms would come to Washington. We need to provide a better explanation of hatcheries for the public that is not familiar with them,

including that only native salmon species are produced and about how hatcheries function differently than fish farms.

***Ideas that the Task Force might consider as a point of clarification in the current draft recommendations:***

- A focus on conservation hatcheries rather than production hatcheries should be first and foremost, with assurances of minimization of genetic weakening of wild stocks.
- There needs to be an increase in hatcheries coordination with Canada.

***New, potentially worthwhile ideas to save for the Year 2 list:***

- We should have hatcheries for the salmon's food source too. (This idea of 'forage fish hatcheries' was discussed by the Prey Working Group but is an action that needs much more research.) Also noted under forage fish below.

***Great new idea! – why didn't we think of that?***

- Include educational programs to increase awareness. Make sure the public is aware of hatchery production and why it's important by encouraging hatchery tours, school tours.
- Offering a license discount to sport fishermen as an incentive to work in a hatchery will benefit everyone.

## HYDROPOWER

There were 994 responses in the hydropower comment box; 189 responses were ambiguous or not related to hydropower. Themes related to hydropower include:

<b><i>Themes</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>	<b><i>% of total</i></b>
Breach the lower Snake River dams	365	36.7%
Do not breach the lower Snake River dams	118	11.9%
Prioritize and remove dams in general Includes comments related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove dams on the American Rivers list</li> <li>• Remove dams like the Pillchuck</li> <li>• Support for recommendation 1 (regions and partners develop a list of dams to remove in agreement with partners)</li> </ul>	103	10.4%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dams that block salmon and degrade habitat need to be addressed</li> </ul>		
Third party facilitator	61	6.1%
Support ongoing NEPA process	50	5%
Reestablish salmon runs above dams	33	3.3%
Restore passage at all dams	33	3.3%
Don't increase spill	23	2.3%
Increase spill	19	1.9%

## HARVEST

531 total comments were tallied below from 442 total individuals that commented on harvest.

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Support closing fishing for one, multiple years or moratorium	115	21.7%
Support harvest reductions	113	21.3%
Support closing important foraging areas	53	10.0%
Support a buyback program for gear or commercial fisheries	38	7.2%
Concern about tribal fishing rights or fishing allocations	35	6.6%
Do not support commercial fishing	30	5.6%
Would like to see an allowance/allocation for orcas specifically in season setting	24	4.5%
Concern that 'real time' closures won't be fast enough to benefit the orcas	22	4.1%
Encourage collaboration with Canada and/or OR on harvest reductions	22	4.1%
Concern about impacts to fishing stakeholders due to foraging area closures	19	3.6%
Support bycatch reduction	18	3.4%
Support getting people to not eat salmon or limit sales of WA-caught salmon	17	3.2%

Do not see harvest reductions as beneficial to orcas	13	2.4%
Do not support buyback programs and want to protect commercial fisheries	9	1.7%
Uncertainty about what a buyback program is	3	0.6%

***Harvest comments:***

- The most common comments received were statements of support for closing fishing for one year, five years, ten years or a moratorium (21.7% of comments) and statements of support for further reductions in harvest to benefit the Southern Residents (21.3%). Many people commented that they did not feel that the potential recommendations were strong or bold enough to make a difference for the orcas.

***Confusion about specific harvest actions or recommendation language:***

- While 10% of comments supported closures of foraging areas for orcas, 4.1% of comments expressed concern that closures that occurred within days of detecting orcas would not be fast enough to benefit them. This shows that a better description of how such a real-time mechanism would work is needed in any potential iterations of that recommendation.

***Ideas that the Task Force might consider as a point of clarification in the current draft harvest recommendations:***

- One commenter stated that closures to important foraging areas “should include a stakeholders component in the development AND enforcement. I believe the local community using commercial and residential fisheries should work together with WDFW to police this and without those details I do not support.”

***New, potentially worthwhile ideas to save for the Year 2 list:***

- Slot size limits was suggested by a commenter and was previously on the Prey Working Group list. If the Task Force wishes, more information could be brought forward on the pros and cons of such an approach in year 2.
- Multiple commenters suggested that instead of or in addition to a buyback program, a limited entry commercial fishing permit system could be developed based on longevity in the fishery.
- Several commenters stated that they felt harvest could be changed or curtailed by not buying Chinook. Some wanted a public information campaign and another commenter suggested: “I have heard conflicting messages about whether consumers should buy Chinook salmon, and whether or not this would benefit SRKW. I suggest a factsheet on this issue would help.”

- Similarly, multiple individuals suggested limitations on the sale of WA State commercially caught salmon, limited to markets in the continental United States. They stated that Hawaii recently passed a similar bill limiting the sale of billfish.
- Other individuals wanted a slightly different campaign such as “State government must establish and forcefully communicate the positive economic effects of a robust Orca population and a safe, reasonable and sustainable salmon harvest.”

## PREDATION

856 total comments were tallied below from 551 total individuals that commented on predation.

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Do not support lethal removal of pinnipeds	198	23.2%
Predation of salmon by pinnipeds is not the primary issue for orcas	159	18.6%
Support lethal removal of pinnipeds	148	17.3%
Concern with interfering with Mother Nature's balance/did not want species by species management	80	9.4%
Expressed that not enough information available to support potential recommendations	71	8.3%
Support haul out removal	64	7.5%
Urge the consideration of transient orca needs	52	6.1%
Support lethal removal of predatory fish	47	5.5%
Support lethal removal of salmon-eating birds	23	2.7%
Support protection of pinnipeds	10	1.2%
Support increasing forage fish to aid predation issues	3	0.4%

### **Predation comments:**

- The most common comment received was a lack of support for lethal removal of pinnipeds (23.2% of comments) with many people expressing that predation is not the major threat to address for Southern Resident recovery (18.6%).
- A nearly comparable number of comments (17.3%) expressed their support for lethal removal of pinnipeds. Fewer commenters stated that they supported lethal removal of predatory fish (5.5%) or birds (2.7%).

- Several people noted their concern for transient orcas if lethal management of pinnipeds were to occur (6.1%).

***Confusion about specific predation actions or recommendation language:***

- Several people commented that they did not know what a pinniped was and suggested that either a definition accompany the recommendation or that other terminology be used in the next version of the report.

## FORAGE FISH AND MARINE PRODUCTIVITY

There were 366 responses in the forage fish comment box; 156 responses were ambiguous or not related to forage fish. Themes related to forage fish and marine productivity include:

<b><i>Themes</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>	<b><i>% of total</i></b>
Restore forage fish habitat	100	27.3%
Inventory/monitor/study forage fish	49	13.4%
Protect forage fish habitat	26	7.1%
Stop harvest of forage fish	23	6.3%
No more studies	8	2.2%
New ideas for forage fish actions (see below)	4	1.1%

***New, potentially worthwhile ideas to save for the Year 2 list***

- Using hatcheries to produce forage fish. (2)
- Education to encourage youth to enter the field; perhaps a mentor program for high schoolers.
- Reintroduce herring.

## VESSELS

Processed 1,881 comments on vessels.

### ***Major themes [hundred(s) of entries]***

- Need to further evaluate and engage with US Navy (and other military and Canada) on training and tests related to sonar and other exercises [>300 entries]
- Improve oil transportation safety, response and accountability [>200]
- Need for vessel noise reduction is urgent [>150]
- Support for a moratorium or marked restriction on commercial (and recreational) whale watching [>110]

### ***Minor Themes [tens of entries]***

- Slow down ships to mitigate noise, ship-strikes and oil spill risk [>80]
- Create permanent exclusion zone for prime feeding areas [>40]
- Amplify enforcement penalties for egregious non-compliance using citations and greater fines [>30]

## CONTAMINANTS

Processed 600 comments related to contaminants.

There was **significant general support for all of the contaminants recommendations**. Some respondents thought that contaminants actions should be prioritized behind other actions—but there was not substantial agreement on that.

### ***Key themes under contaminants:***

- **Human health benefits.** The most common theme from the contaminants comments was concerning the human health benefits of addressing contaminants. 50 commenters highlighted the human health benefits, the general idea being ‘what’s good for the whales is good for us.’
- **Urgency.** The next most frequent response (39 individual comments) was an imploration to act quickly to address contaminants.
- **Action-oriented.** 19 commenters expressed that they would prefer to see actions—not studies or monitoring—however another 14 comments expressed support for science and monitoring
- **Funding.** One major theme related to funding was that polluters should bear the cost of contaminant action (14 individual comments). Another funding theme opposed new funding, some commenters asking that existing funds be reprioritized to address contaminant actions (13 comments).

- **Sewage and wastewater.** A number of commenters expressed concerns with raw sewage from Victoria (7) and sewage generally (8).
- **Additional issues of concern.** Commenters raised a number of issues for the Task Force and Contaminants Work Group to address:
  - International coordination (12 comments)
  - Pesticides (10 comments)
  - Plastics (6 comments)
  - CECs (4 comments)
  - Fish farms (3 comments)
  - Hatchery PCBs (3 comments)

## OVERARCHING COMMENTS

- **Urgency.** More than 120 respondents focused their final comment on the urgency of the situation and the need to take bold action now. This was in addition to respondents who emphasized the need to take a particular action now (e.g., removing dams). Sample quotes:
  - “There is little time left for us to save this community of orcas, and we hope bold, effective actions will happen quickly, to save these Pacific Northwest iconic orcas and salmon from extinction.”
  - “The magnitude of this problem requires bold and swift action. I encourage the task force to aim high and ask for solutions that really will make a difference for the survival of these whales.”
  - “Please do everything in your power to save the orcas now.”
- Several people urged the Task Force to utilize the **best available science**.
- Several people asked for **clearer wording** on the recommendations.
- **Respondents could select the top 5 things that think should be done** (from the Year 1 draft recommendations or the additional potential actions in the appendix). The one with the most votes was Habitat #1 (12%), followed by Hydropower 15 in the appendix (6.3%), Hydropower 13 in the appendix (4.5%), Harvest #1 (4.4%), and Habitat #2 (4.3%). The vessel actions with the most votes were Vessel #13 and Vessel #1. The contaminant actions with the most votes were Contaminant #1 and Contaminant #5. Note that half of respondents chose not to answer this question, as it was long and time-consuming.

## Organization/coalition comments

Organizations and coalitions submitted the following letters commenting on the draft report and recommendations. They can all be found in this Box folder:

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/0xt6ruk2mi1otygoty9frz4iieriw399> and specific links to each letter are also provided below.

**Council of Regions** (representing the 7 regional recovery regions in WA):

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/hmdfsjppmx9wal1hzbhjkq5q9yqdk624> Recommends relying on (and potentially expanding) the existing regional salmon recovery plans and frameworks, fully evaluating proposed actions for unintended consequences and coordinating with recovery regions before hatchery management decisions are made, fully considering the complexity of orca and salmon recovery across different scales, and coupling any short-term actions with those that will produce long-term and sustainable benefits.

**Stand Up to Oil Coalition:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/fc82rmfurt2expod28e8pxord89lmnzc> Strong support for Vessels #8, strong support for Vessels #13, and support for Vessels #5 with recommended changes/new language.

**Toxics-Free Future:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/2urvf7nblfrt1ptxj5xe55utg6zn5ww1> Letter with signatures of 293 people strongly emphasizes support for Contaminants #2 and Contaminants #3.

**Oceana:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/5cobn0fla0yq89xxkab8o2i9misw05vk> Supports Hydro #1, Hydro #2, Hydro #4 (with modification), Hydro #5B (with modification), Habitat #1, Habitat #2, Habitat #3.

**Bonneville Power Administration:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/qieyuxr5siagp74jxfdueri4qkh7wl30> Supports Habitat #1, Habitat #2; provides comments on hatchery and hydropower recommendations; recommends Hydro #5A.

**The Lands Council:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/ez5e72ldry5mds40494ks84rf543xnwn> Supports Habitat #1, Habitat #2, Habitat #3, Habitat #6, Habitat #8, Hydro #2, Hydro #5B, Hydro #4 (in the absence of or prior to removal), Harvest #3, Harvest #5, supports removing barriers and limiting commercial harvest, opposes lethal management of pinnipeds.

**Center for Biological Diversity:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/6j6l951bdlr2lsydb9ooow62dauzw97p> Supports Vessels #4, Vessels #7A and 7B, Vessels #6, and urges that restrictions be in place by May 1, 2019. Also provided comments from 790 people

(<https://pspwa.box.com/s/uj6man5u5zpcpp64s7w1oh9ceunyzvax>), many prioritizing: 1) restoration of wild Chinook salmon populations, 2) limiting allowable catch and avoiding all bycatch, 3) considering dam removal, 4) establishing “no go” zones for vessels and a limited-

entry permit system for commercial whale-watching vessels, 5) improving water quality and reducing toxics. Opposes any changes to the MMPA that would allow killing harbor seals or sea lions.

**3 members of the Senate Republican Caucus:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/tnddh3rhevgecyhg8h87qh7nsjwuop4a> Letter from Sen. Schoesler (9<sup>th</sup> district), Sen. Brown (8<sup>th</sup> district), and Sen. Warnick (13<sup>th</sup> district) adamantly oppose any recommendations that promote dam breaching or removal and provides comments on other potential hydropower recommendations.

**Earthjustice:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/csmolse7ne1vsbenz2rkpxcmhwx9hcb> Supports Hydro #5B, Hydro #4, Hydro #2, Habitat #1, Habitat #2, Habitat #3. Recommends adding a new Habitat action (replacing the “no-net-loss” policy in the GMA and SMA with an “ecological-net-gain” policy) and a new Hydro action (directing state agencies to use SEPA to evaluate the potential impacts of new dam projects on salmon availability for the Southern Residents). Signed by 17,480 individuals; 3,469 of those also submitted personalized comments that are appended to the letter.

**The American Waterways Operators:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/1eqa3256fu9kp65gvbwxqm24g8aki5am> Concerned that Hydro #4, Hydro #5A, Hydro #5B, as well as Hydro Actions 15 and 16 (in the draft report appendix) would be prohibitively costly and would not produce the desired results. Concerned about Vessel #8 and Vessels #13.

**Washington State Association of Counties’ Coastal Caucus:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/aslu7xgszoe10iwcxenpfsh3oow5qrm> Includes comments on Habitat #1 (support), Habitat #3 (needs participation of local governments), Habitat #5 (needs participation of local governments), Habitat #6 (needs participation of local governments), Hydro #2 (support), Forage fish #1 (support), Hydro #5B (if the discussion is to be pursued, counties support a neutral venue), Vessels #13 (support). The Counties do not agree with Contaminants #5 or Contaminants #6 if they come without funding.

**Washington Environmental Council:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/uwllv6o4680uzrt6ddrnbwq079wf74gd> 2,584 comments from WEC members and public that include: thanking the Task Force for their passion, commitment, and leadership; potential Year 1 actions will help but aren’t enough; support for all Contaminants actions; emphasize increasing food in the short-term while investing in long-term ecosystem recovery and making any increases in hatchery production for the benefit of SRKWs only; need to make sure there is funding for the bold actions.

**Orca Salmon Alliance:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/js48xag213dwuauumchr47yqlipuy8l5d> Joint comments on each of the specific draft recommendations as presented by OSA’s 15 members:

*Orca Network, Defenders of Wildlife, Save Our Wild Salmon, Washington Environmental Council, Oceana, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Earthjustice, Endangered Species Coalition, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Puget Soundkeeper, Center for Biological Diversity, Seattle Aquarium, Whale Scout, and Toxic Free Future.*

**Recreational Boating Association of Washington:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/ztxc654pohyrouy2ur9uah01nk5ys6ld> Expresses concerns and opposition to potential Hydro action #13 calling for a removal of a series of hydropower dams, #16 calling for the removal of the Lower Snake River dam, and #12 on developing a list of priority projects for potential removal. Concerns include loss of recreational opportunity and loss of existing paid-for infrastructure.

**Association of Washington Cities:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/g1m0w1ufmy6ckxbhkvnro75zqb7s3f1> Supports removing culverts to provide access to important Chinook habitat. Unsure how Contaminants #5 and #6 would result in any benefit given recently-concluded work by Ecology. Encourages bold thinking on funding for Contaminants #7 and encourages assessment of where retrofits would make a critical difference.

**American Rivers:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/9tkol8kv2mqgrxqibxyaauv773ao8pbd> Supports all of the potential habitat recommendations; suggests amendments to Habitat #1, Habitat #3, Habitat #8; requests an additional habitat recommendation replacing the “no-net-loss” policy in the GMA and SMA with an “ecological-net-gain” policy; supports all potential hydropower recommendations and suggests amendments to Hydro #2 and Hydro #5B.

**Regional Fisheries Coalition:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/63iy7htf9zrz7rit3brt3x5franzdop1> Comments on Habitat #1, Habitat #2, Habitat #7, Forage Fish #1. Encourages increasing funding for the capacity of the organizations that we need to work on implementing salmon recovery, and including a recommendation to streamline the process from a project idea to project completion.

**Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/960xwh55ah6h28fn2b979y2dpo5rfaxa> Provides specific comments on Habitat #1-6, with general support and some suggested edits to #3. Requests an additional habitat recommendation replacing the “no-net-loss” policy in the GMA and SMA with an “ecological-net-gain” policy. Provides comments on Hatchery #1C and requests an additional hatchery recommendation on increasing production of spring Chinook in lower Columbia River SAFE programs. Prioritizes Hydro #4, comments on Hydro #2, and proposes combining #5A and #5B into one action. Supports Harvest #2, Harvest #3, Harvest #5, comments on Harvest #4. Supports Predation #1A, Predation #2A, and Forage Fish #1.

**Environment Washington:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/mt6pdddddj8g7ujb2vww631djsx7gcjl> Has about 280 signatures. Urges strengthening and adopting Hydro #5B, Hydro #4, Hydro #2, Habitat #1-3. Requests an additional Habitat recommendation replacing the “no-net-loss” policy in the GMA and SMA with an “ecological-net-gain” policy. Requests an additional Hydro recommendation (directing state agencies to use SEPA to evaluate the potential impacts of new dam projects on salmon availability for the Southern Residents).

**Skagit Watershed Council:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/b227lk66n95tk2afdj1bnzfg0a1ngt3h> Strongly supports Habitat #1 (with modifications), Habitat #2 (with modifications), Habitat #7 (with modifications), Forage Fish #1. Recommends focusing boldly now on habitat protection and restoration.

**Marine Mammal Commission:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/7ck3sld3hej4zb3ehn2ljmpnb89r43tq> Supports Hatchery #1C, Hydro #2, considering actions to implement local harvest controls at critical times; comments on Predation #1A and #1B and supports inclusion of a cautious pilot; supports Vessels #4 and #13 (both with comments); suggests re-ordering and clarifying Contaminants recommendations. Notes that the Task Force should better describe an integrated program of activities and specify priority and sequencing as well as baselines and targets.

**Save our Wild Salmon:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/k38n7havrvxoctibxlghibupsihieo> Has about 1,300 signatures. Urges strengthening and adopting Hydro #5B, Hydro #4, Hydro #2, Habitat #1-3. Requests an additional Habitat recommendation replacing the “no-net-loss” policy in the GMA and SMA with an “ecological-net-gain” policy. Requests an additional Hydro recommendation (directing state agencies to use SEPA to evaluate the potential impacts of new dam projects on salmon availability for the Southern Residents).

**Roza Irrigation District:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/oegdotgq6zb73c300qns74q7b682xdmj> States that near-term actions which can have meaningful benefit to the SRKWs include continuing/maximizing the downstream barging of out-migrating juvenile salmon, accelerating the removal of the Bateman Island causeway, re-starting production at the Ringold hatchery on the Columbia River, and funding promising research projects. Emphasizes that removing the lower Snake River dams will not result in recovery of the SRKWs and will absorb time and resources that could be better invested elsewhere of the benefit of the whales.

**Friends of the Earth:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/f3j9hmziv9un3r2gda9vqey4l09cek8c> Notes support for specific actions. Top priorities are Harvest #2, Harvest #7, Vessels #22, Forage fish #21, and Habitat #17.

**Pacific Merchant Shipping Association:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/4vc84i9atuphy3e6f0oads52gfj2syev> Expresses concerns about Vessels #1, Vessels #8, Vessels #13, and offers to provide the Task Force with a briefing about the safety system in place today.

**Washington State Academy of Sciences:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/gv213f9pepmh1jkb9pm1agnnrpz5rro> Suggests modifications to Vessel #11 (which referenced the Washington State Academy of Sciences) with wording intended to enable the Academy to remain objective and provide options for policymakers. Also includes a sketch of the process and a budget estimate.

**Sound Action:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/c38bd8yc9irdeuatvielowo92wj8yn14> Sound Action was represented on the Prey Working Group. Letter urges Task Force to restore original language of Habitat #3, Habitat #4, Habitat #8 to reflect actual Working Group recommendations.

**Northwest Straits Commission:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/p5956cojye97lvddw66grcf940qk1x5y> Supports an emphasis on funding programs and projects that address nearshore restoration/protection, forage fish and zooplankton studies; protection and restoration of key marine vegetation habitats; need for increased public awareness about the Southern Residents by prioritizing and expanding Forage Fish #9. *Note: Not on letterhead because this was received through the online comment form.*

**Snoqualmie Watershed Forum:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/68lfw9dlev1kwidy1cqqhe8fba2fhcwo> Supports all 8 habitat recommendations and suggests more specific wording; supports all draft forage fish and all contaminants recommendations; comments on hatchery recommendations. Encourages Task Force to acknowledge climate change is causing species to migrate (related to predation). Would like to see recommendation limiting commercial offshore mixed stock fisheries in waters where adult Chinook are caught before orcas can feed on them.

**Defenders of Wildlife:** Letter: <https://pspwa.box.com/s/oiwzj36clg4e2d8hp84nx8hkoc8qtrfe> Indicates level of support for all potential recommendations; top 5 actions are Habitat #2, Habitat #3, Hydro #2, Hydro #4, Hydro #5B. Opposes Predation #2A. Recommends adding a new Habitat action (replacing the “no-net-loss” policy in the GMA and SMA with an “ecological-net-gain” policy) and a new Hydro action (directing state agencies to use SEPA to evaluate the potential impacts of new dam projects on salmon availability for the Southern Residents). Petition signed by ~900 people: <https://pspwa.box.com/s/330llix6tfj4wn4s9jqd0hfw2bbijr5d> Consistent with what is noted above and also calls out support for Habitat #1.

**Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/yv2e9xneqrthpz6796pwz140cltzh0y> As a regional transportation planning organization, strongly recommends looking at all possible issues thoroughly before making any decisions towards dam breaching. Presents the transportation perspective (barge transportation throughout the Columbia River System).

**Columbia County Commissioners:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/wbvjvxlxt6x9p8azrg2u1ybjgrreo1t> Supports funding for certain capital projects as long as not in place of other needed projects in the state that have been

vetted and are awaiting action; comments on impacts of out-migrating smelts from birds and non-native fish, and on returning adults by seals and sea lions; says it's time to address untreated sewage; says the Snake River Dams are off-limits to them in any conversation that suggests their removal or compromise, and that there are improvements that could make a huge difference.

**The Nature Conservancy:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/ctf61vxs4xkdrddlyeoqsomfd9b6s9y0>

Expresses support for Habitat #1, Habitat #3-5, Habitat #7, Hydro #2, Vessels #8, Vessels #13, Contaminants #7, and strongly encourages funding goals and habitat recovery targets to be added to the habitat recommendation. Additional suggestions for Year 1 or Year 2 in the letter.

**Swinomish Indian Tribal Community:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/fbjpbx0tfnhn2hsrdoc46ng4y1dmybst> Offers comments in advance of a requested government-to-government consultation. Says we absolutely must take action to set aside and plant riparian buffers that will provide fully functioning habitat for salmon. Provides a response to each of the 8 draft habitat recommendations.

**Okanogan Public Utility District:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/9dg93mdfb632xz0kb2jru7omoxva3wgq> Requests that references to Enloe Dam be removed from the final report (see Hydro #13) and provides the rationale.

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/gp21vlyij8fo0gkfk554wbcs4rxegfwu> Requests inclusion of language on appropriate coordination between ODFW, WDFW, and other entities (e.g., under Habitat #2). Comments on Hatchery, Hydropower, Harvest, Predation recommendations.

Note: Many of these and other organizations also submitted comments using the online survey. All survey responses are available at

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/hzq6yings8w8ju8o4cob18k4jj1u5k91>

If any links to organizations' letters have problems, the letters can all be found in this same Box folder: <https://pspwa.box.com/s/0xt6ruk2mi1otygoty9frz4iieriw399>

*Sent after Sept. 24-Oct. 7 public comment period on draft report:*

**Western States Petroleum Association:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/47b8sjpv6sdjue6wbxwjdxc2kp4u2tcf> Requests that Vessel #13 not be included in the report and instead allow the process created by SB 6269 to complete its work.

**Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board:**

<https://pspwa.box.com/s/kh8i53a1e6fk8pv7oh4fz3km9ercr758> Expresses strong support for Habitat #1 and comments on Habitat #2 and other habitat actions. Supports Hydro #2 and

Hydro #3, with comments; prefers Predation #2A over #2B; supports Predation #3; encourages inclusion of Hydro action #10.

**Letter from 6 orca scientists:** <https://pspwa.box.com/s/cv1juj4hd6zc9d0x9bxbllggiplaebim3>  
Urges the Task Force to recommend: 1) changing Washington's water quality standards to allow increased spill to 125% of saturation and 2) convening a process to recommend steps for lower Snake River dam removal as soon as possible.

**Additional letters** received from organizations and coalitions before the Oct. 17-18 meeting will be added to this Box folder: <https://pspwa.box.com/s/0xt6ruk2mi1otygoty9frz4iieriw399>