

Save Southern Resident Killer Whales

We Must Act Now

Southern Resident killer whales are *critically endangered*. This distinct population of killer whales living in the Pacific Northwest depends on salmon, primarily Chinook, as their most essential food source. Unfortunately, wild salmon populations have drastically declined all over the Pacific Northwest. Lack of salmon is the leading threat to Southern Resident killer whale survival and recovery. The Pacific Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service manage commercial and recreational ocean salmon fishing off the U.S. West Coast, and those fisheries overlap significantly with the killer whales' habitat. Currently, fishery managers do not account for the dietary needs of endangered orcas when setting catch levels for ocean salmon fisheries. Oceana is asking that they adopt new conservation measures that will help ensure these killer whales have enough to eat, especially during periods of low Chinook abundance.



Dams, habitat loss, ocean salmon fishing, excessive harassment from noise and other factors are making the lives of Southern Resident killer whales more difficult every year. If we don't do all we can to save them, including managing salmon fishing to ensure there is enough food for Southern Residents, they may soon go extinct.

We must act now before it is too late.

KEY FACTS

- Current population: **74** - a 24% decline since 1995
- Projected population within 100 years under current conditions: **30** - rendering the population "functionally extinct"
- Number that have died since 2015: **16**
- Number born and still alive since 2015: **9**
- Percentage of new calves that don't survive their first year: **40%**
- Percentage of salmon in the Southern Resident diet: **99%**
- Number of Chinook salmon one adult Southern Resident killer whale needs per day to survive: **12 to 20** on average, but **up to 30** depending on Chinook size and quality
- Number of threatened and endangered Chinook salmon runs off the U.S. West Coast listed under the Endangered Species Act: **9**
- Chinook salmon populations that have already gone extinct along the U.S. West Coast: **159**
- Increase needed in Chinook salmon abundance to begin to meet Southern Resident killer whale recovery goals: **30%**
- Number of management goals or conservation measures in the Federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan designed to conserve salmon for orcas: **0**