

Contact:

Matt Phelps
Communications Specialist II
Matt.Phelps@snoco.org
425-388-3126

Fay Lim
Communications Supervisor
Fay.Lim@snoco.org
425-388-6413

Orca Experts to Give Talk – “Southern Resident Killer Whales: Will the Next Generation Survive?”

Event will be held at 6 p.m. in Mukilteo on Oct. 16

EVERETT, Wash., October 4, 2019 – Southern Resident Killer Whales, also known as Orcas, not only hold a critical place in the Puget Sound ecosystem, but also in our culture. A lack of food, increased toxic pollution, and noise levels have led to their current endangered status. The Snohomish County [Marine Resources Committee](#) (MRC), the Northwest Straits Foundation, and the Snohomish Conservation District will host a presentation by a panel of scientists and managers, “Southern Resident Killer Whales: Will the Next Generation Survive?” on Wednesday, Oct. 16 in the Point Elliot Room at the Mukilteo Rosehill Community Center, 304 Lincoln Ave, Mukilteo. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the talk beginning at 6:30 p.m.

“The speakers we have gathered for this event will be sharing the story of what makes the Southern Resident Killer Whales unique,” Snohomish County Surface Water Senior Planner and MRC Lead Kathleen Pozarycki said. “They will be teaching us about these marine mammals life history, how they relate to noise and pollution, and what the Governor’s Orca Task Force has been doing to help recover this iconic species. Speakers will also share how everyone can play a role in their recovery.”

Jacques White is a member of the Governor Inslee’s Orca Recovery Task Force. White has served as the executive director of Long Live the Kings, an organization with a mission to restore wild salmon and steelhead and support sustainable fishing in the Pacific Northwest, since 2010. He has also served as Director of Marine Conservation at the Nature Conservancy of Washington and Director of Science and Habitat Programs at People for Puget Sound.

Dr. Richard Osborne is currently the Aquatic Program Manager for the Olympic Natural Resources Center in Forks, Washington. He is the former director of The Whale Museum, served as the Principal Investigator of the Marine Mammal Pathology Lab at the University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories, and served seven years on the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee. He is also an expert in communication between Orcas.

The talk is presented with co-sponsors including Snohomish County Public Works Surface Water Management, the City of Mukilteo with support from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SeaWorld, Shell Puget Sound Refinery, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

About the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

The Marine Resource Committee's (MRC) goal is to understand, protect, and restore the marine and estuarine ecosystems of the county. Local citizens appointed by Snohomish County Council use science-based information to develop projects and help shape local and regional marine conservation policy. MRC members work to complement ongoing efforts by both government and non-profit agencies. There are seven MRCs in the Northwest Straits region of the Puget Sound. For more information, visit www.snocomrc.org.

About Snohomish County Public Works

The Snohomish County Public Works Department constructs and maintains county roads; controls and manages surface water quantity, quality, and fish habitats; and oversees the recycling and disposal of solid waste. The department's main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201. For more information about Snohomish County Public Works, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks.

###