

The State of Washington



Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, major factors in the decline of the Southern Resident orca population include captures for marine parks in the 1960s and 70s, declining salmon runs, toxic pollution, loss of habitat, and increasing vessel traffic and noise levels in Puget Sound and the ocean; and

WHEREAS, during the month of June 2009, the Orca Network and other organizations working on these issues will join together in a month-long focused effort to educate the public and take action to improve conditions for the survival of the Southern Resident Orcas; and

WHEREAS, bringing attention to the orcas will also bring attention to the need to clean up Puget Sound, save our endangered salmon runs, and restore important Puget Sound habitats; and

WHEREAS, we are blessed to have this "urban" community of orcas in our midst, to know them as individuals and pods, and to watch them from our ferries, boats, and many miles of shoreline; and

WHEREAS, we have only begun to learn about the intelligence and social capabilities of orcas; and

WHEREAS, Washington State supports efforts to recover this endangered population of Southern Resident orcas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as

Orca Awareness Month

in Washington State, to focus attention on the plight of the fragile Southern Resident community of orcas, to honor their presence in our waters, and to speed up efforts to recover the population.

Signed this 5th day of February, 2009

Christine Gregoire
Governor Christine O. Gregoire

