



# Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010

## Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2019-133

---

<b>File ID:</b>	AB2019-133	<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Status:</b>	Approved
<b>File Created:</b>	02/11/2019	<b>Entered by:</b>	DBrown@co.whatcom.wa.us		
<b>Department:</b>	Council Office	<b>File Type:</b>	Resolution		

**First Assigned to:** Council Natural Resources Committee

<b>Agenda Date:</b>	02/26/2019	<b>Next Mtg. Date:</b>		<b>Hearing Date:</b>	
---------------------	------------	------------------------	--	----------------------	--

---

### TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution requesting support for Washington State House and Senate bills related to: pollution prevention; increasing habitat and fish abundance; protection of southern resident orca whales from vessels; and improving the safety of oil transportation

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

Resolution requesting support for Washington State House and Senate bills related to: pollution prevention; increasing habitat and fish abundance; protection of southern resident orca whales from vessels; and improving the safety of oil transportation

---

### HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

---

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
02/12/2019	Council	HELD IN COUNCIL	Council
02/26/2019	Council Natural Resources Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	
02/26/2019	Council	APPROVED	

---

**Attachments:** Resolution - Orca Recovery Local Government, Related House and Senate Bills - Orca Recovery Resolution

<b>Final Action:</b>	02/26/2019
<b>Enactment Date:</b>	02/26/2019
<b>Enactment #:</b>	RES 2019-012

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-012**

**REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE AND SENATE  
BILLS RELATED TO: POLLUTION PREVENTION; INCREASING HABITAT AND  
FISH ABUNDANCE; PROTECTION OF SOUTHERN RESIDENT ORCA WHALES  
FROM VESSELS; AND IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF OIL TRANSPORTATION**

**WHEREAS**, in March 2018, Governor Inslee issued Executive Order 18-02 which directed state agencies to take immediate actions to help the endangered southern resident orca population and established the Southern Resident Orca Task Force to develop a long-term plan for recovering orcas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force includes nearly 50 members representing a wide range of sectors including state agencies, the legislature, and state, tribal, federal and local governments, as well as private sector and non-profit organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, southern resident orcas primarily consume Chinook salmon, bioaccumulate toxics in their blubber, and communicate underwater with members of the pod; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently 74 southern resident orcas, down from a healthy population of about 200; and

**WHEREAS**, the orcas are struggling to survive as a result of declining Chinook and other salmon runs, high-mortality rates due to relying upon their toxic blubber reserves to sustain them, and increasing vessel traffic impairing their ability to communicate amongst themselves while they hunt; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southern Resident Orca Task Force focused on addressing the above three key problems: prey availability (through habitat, hydropower, hatcheries, harvest, and forage fish), toxics in the water, and noise disturbance from boats and vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, during the Southern Resident Orca Task Force's deliberations last summer, Tahlequah (J35) carried her dead calf for 17 days around the Salish Sea in mourning and drew attention to the endangered population from around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the declining population of the southern resident orcas is an indication of noise pollution interfering with the Orca's sonar used to find prey, the poor health of our salmon runs and the environment; and

1  
2       **WHEREAS**, on November 16, 2018, the Southern Resident Orca Task Force  
3 released their final 36 recommendations to Governor Inslee; and  
4

5       **WHEREAS**, Governor Inslee and the Legislature have introduced the following  
6 pieces of legislation based on recommendations from the Southern Resident Orca Task  
7 Force:  
8

- 9       • HB 1194 preventing toxic pollution that affects public health or our environment.
- 10       • HB 1579, Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale
- 11       task force related to increasing chinook abundance, and SB 5580, implementing
- 12       recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to
- 13       increasing habitat and forage fish abundance.
- 14       • HB 1580 and SB 5577, concerning the protection of southern resident orca
- 15       whales from vessels.
- 16       • HB 1578 and SB 5578, Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by
- 17       improving the safety of oil transportation.
- 18

19       **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Whatcom County Council will  
20 forward this resolution in support of the above legislation to our 40th and 42nd  
21 Legislators and members of the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks,  
22 Senate Environment, Energy & Technology, House Environment & Energy, and House  
23 Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Committees.  
24

25       **ADOPTED** this 26th day of February, 2019.

26  
27  
28       ATTEST:

29  
30  
31       Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39       Rud Browne, Council Chair

40  
41  
42  
43       WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49       Civil Deputy Prosecutor