



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Friends of the San Juans

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Organization's General Goals:
Friends of the San Juans protects and restores the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea for people and nature—since 1979. We restore habitat, protect water, forest, farmland and endangered species, while building thriving communities in the San Juan Islands through education, science, advocacy, and citizen engagement.

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Friends of the San Juans.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulipCares.org



Friends of the San Juans (FSJ) is extremely grateful for this grant from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund and the recognition of our work at your Raising Hands event last fall. We combined your generosity with grants from the Lummi Nation, Lush Cosmetics, and the Bullitt Foundation in order to achieve our objectives. Below is a summary of what has been achieved in the last 18 months:

Objective 1. Support implementation of Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force recommendations

Participate in and support the work of the Governor's Task Force vessel working group.

FSJ staff, Lovel Pratt, Marine Protection Program Director, participated in four Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Governor's Task Force Vessel Working Group and one Orca recovery outreach and education meetings in 2019. FSJ staff also attended all of the full Governor's Task Force meetings, providing public comment at most of them. During the legislative sessions, FSJ staff also provided advocacy and public outreach for all state bills in support of SRKW protection and recovery, and attended weekly field calls and campaign team meetings.

Conduct three presentations and six outreach events for visitors and citizens in the San Juan Islands to educate them on how they can engage and support Southern Resident orca protection and recovery.

FSJ hosted six SRKW Presentations & Discussions on the three most populated San Juan Islands. The featured speakers included Stephanie Buffum, FSJ's Executive Director, Lovel Pratt, FSJ's Marine Protection Program Director, and Dr. Deborah Giles, Research Scientist for the University of Washington Center for Conservation Biology and Research Director for Wild Orca. Three SRKW presentations were open to the public, one given to the League of Women Voters, one at the Whale Museum's Naturalist Training, and another for the Rotary Club. Approximately 250 people were directly reached through these events.



*Stephanie Buffum and Dr. Giles
at SRKW Presentations*

FSJ also supported a citizens group that was proposing a San Juan County ballot initiative that would increase the required distance between small (under 65" long) commercial whale watch and recreational boats and SRKW from 300/400 yards to 650 yards. The initiative language was based on the original bill language in the state legislation concerning the protection of SRKW from vessels ([2SSB 5577](#)). The proposed San Juan County initiative was challenged in court and the leader of the citizen group promoting the initiative was sued by commercial whale watch operators. A Superior Court ruling was issued in favor of the commercial whale watch operators and the ballot initiative was prohibited. It was disappointing that voters were not given the opportunity to vote on increased protections for the critically endangered SRKW.

FSJ staff also conducted electronic outreach for members to engage with legislators, and led a trip to Olympia with six high school students for them to take part in Environment Day and in-person meetings with each of the 40th District representatives where they advocated for SRKW protection and recovery and climate change issues.



High school students in Olympia

Objective 2. Reduce vessel traffic impacts to Southern Resident Orca

Research significant projects in the US and Canada that will increase oil spill risk and vessel noise impacts to Southern Resident orca, update the Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections infographic, and inform policy, advocacy, and education and engagement with the public and decision-makers.

In June 2019, after extensive research on the ever-changing proposed construction projects that will increase vessel traffic and impacts in the Salish Sea, FSJ updated our Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections infographic. Due to new information on two projects at the Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery, we updated it again in July. The Journal of the San Juans covered the June update on June 29, 2019: [Tanker traffic continues to increase through Salish Sea](#). The FSJ [blog post](#) includes the most current SSVTP and associated data.

The Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections infographic was shared electronically via constant contact, social media, and made available on our website. The infographic was also mailed in a printed newsletter to all 10,400 San Juan County addresses. It was directly distributed at the following:

- the Clean Pacific Conference, Vancouver, BC, June 19-20, 2019
- the joint meeting of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee, Pacific Coast Marine Advisory Review Panel, and Navigation Aids & Navigation Services; Vancouver, BC; July 10, 2019
- the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee meeting, Friday Harbor, August 1, 2019
- the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee meeting; Seattle, WA; August 7, 2019
- the Southern Resident Orca Task Force Vessels Working Group Meeting; Seattle, WA; August 14, 2019;
- the Southern Resident Orca Task Force meeting, Port Angeles, WA, Sept 2019; and
- the Geographic Response Plan Update workshop; Friday Harbor, WA; August 19, 2019.



FSJ Staff networking to reduce vessel traffic impacts to SRKW

Advocate that all proposed WA permits which would increase commercial vessel traffic be required to address impacts to SRKW and support efforts to ensure that Canadian-based projects do the same.

FSJ staff were instrumental in the adoption of the SRKW Task Force Recommendation 27: *Determine how permit applications in Washington State that could increase traffic and vessel impacts could be required to explicitly address potential impacts to orcas.* FSJ staff continue to work on the implementation of this recommendation.

FSJ also successfully opposed proposed expansions of fossil fuel exports and commercial vessel traffic in the Salish Sea including:

- Cancellation of expansion of the Tesoro (now Marathon) Refinery that would have increased fossil fuel transport and vessel traffic impacts and accident and oil spill risks in the Salish Sea. <https://sanjuans.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Tesoro-Appeal-Settlement-PR-12-30-19.pdf>
- Ongoing engagement in the environmental review process for Roberts Bank Terminal 2 at the Port of Vancouver in B.C. FSJ has been submitting comments since 2015 and in 2019 submitted additional comments and testified before the Review Panel at a public hearing in Victoria.
- Creating and leading a Stand Up To Oil (SUTO) coalition subcommittee on Par Pacific’s purchase and intended change of use of the US Oil and Refinery Co. The SUTO subcommittee collected data and identified strategies to prevent the refinery from transporting crude oil from Tacoma to the Par Pacific refineries in Hawaii, which would increase oil tanker traffic and accident and oil spill risk in the Salish Sea.
- FSJ appealed Whatcom County’s conditional approval of new oil storage tanks at the Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery after the initial environmental checklist did not assess the potential impacts of increased vessel traffic on Southern Resident orcas. The Hearing Examiner’s decision agreed that the concerns were valid and reasonable and required revisions. Phillips 66 has since filed an appeal of the decision in Whatcom County Superior Court, with FSJ and Whatcom County named as co-respondents. The appeal hearing was held on June 4. The Superior Court Judge will issue a written decision. More information is available at: <https://www.protectwhatyou.love/p66>
- Another important result of FSJ’s continual communications and outreach with the USCG and WA State Dept of Ecology led to an update the PSHSC Bunkering Operations Standard of Care. This update ensures that bunkering at all anchorage areas near Vendovi Island East (Vendovi Island South, Jack Island North, Jack Island South, and William Point) will only be allowed on a case-by-case basis depending on current or forecasted weather conditions.



Tesoro Refinery win being celebrated with Crag Law Center and our co-appellants, Stand.earth, Evergreen Islands, RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Friends of the Earth, and Puget Soundkeeper.

Outreach on Vessel Traffic and Impacts to SRKW

FSJ did extensive outreach to the community about vessel traffic impacts to SRKW and opportunities for engagement. Twelve Constant Contact emails were sent directly to members and interested parties to engage them in taking action about marine vessel transits (2,607 people are now on this email list). These same actions were also share on Facebook (2,500 followers) and Instagram (1,050 followers). Five articles were submitted to the print and electronic media.

Coordinate with Canadian and U.S. authorities to support the implementation of shipping noise-reduction initiatives and monitoring programs.

FSJ staff is the environmental representative on the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC), that is participating in the execution of the SRKW Task Force Recommendation 22: *Implement shipping noise reduction initiatives and monitoring programs, coordinating with CA and U.S. authorities.*

FSJ continues to advocate for best practices and navigational strategies to minimize large commercial vessel impacts to SRKW at PSHSC meetings. In addition to attending six PSHSC meetings in 2019, FSJ staff attended two PSHSC joint meetings with Pacific Coast Marine Review Panel and Navigation Aids & Navigation Services (7/10/2019 and 12/16/2019) that have resulted in improved communications and transboundary waterway management. FSJ staff also participated in the SRKW Task Force Recommendation #22 Underwater Noise Workshop (10/3/2019 – in Seattle).



Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee Meeting

- *Total number of recipients impacted by FSJ with the help of Tulalip Charitable contributions = Approximately 15,000 people directly received information from FSJ about these efforts.*
- *www.sanjuans.org*
- *Q1 2016 14.2.*

We greatly appreciate your support of our work and hope that we can partner with you again in the future to further protect and restore the Salish Sea. Thank you!