

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Washington Environmental Council

Address:
1402 Third Ave, Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98101

Contact:
(206) 631-2600
www.wecprotects.org

Organization's General Goals:
To develop, advocate, and defend policies that ensure environmental progress and justice by centering and amplifying the voices of the most impacted communities.

Date of Award:	Level:
2021 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Washington Environmental Council.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org

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Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions: Q1 2021 14.3

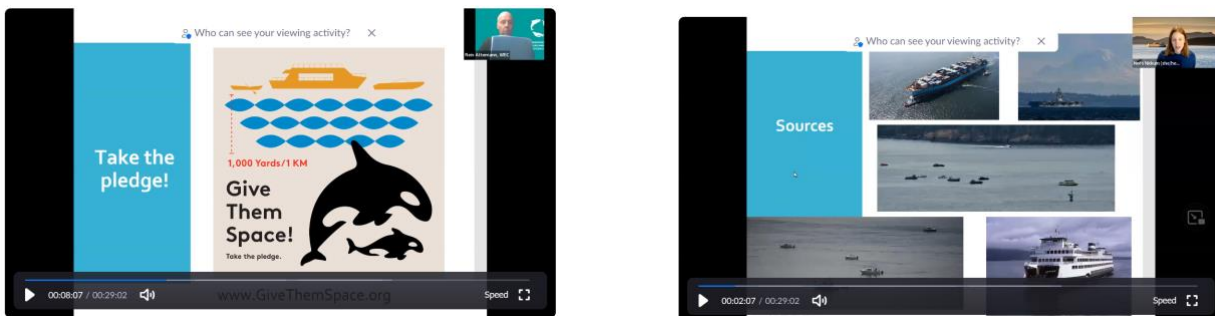
Washington Environmental Council thanks Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions for your support of Give Them Space campaign (www.givethemspace.org).

Boaters have an important role to play in championing the conservation and recovery of these iconic and beloved orcas. Boaters are avid outdoors people and are on water constantly sharing the water and space through which orcas travel, forage, socialize, and raise their calves.

The Give Them Space public outreach campaign seeks to educate and inform boaters about our Southern Resident orca population and other vulnerable marine animals, and how boaters can reduce negative impact, specifically by reducing noise and disturbance and voluntarily keeping a distance of one-half nautical mile (1,000 yards) from orcas in the Salish Sea.

The Give Them Space campaign is a joint effort of Washington Environmental Council, Seattle Aquarium, The Whale Trail, Friends of the San Juans, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic persisting into 2021, we tailored our outreach efforts to virtual platforms, including virtual events, a website, and email communications.



Photos from Give Them Space campaign virtual presentation.

Events

Our virtual presentations were the backbone of this campaign, offering the chance for audience members to learn more about Southern Resident orca biology and family structure, their unique food needs, their seasonal range of habitat, and the science behind the three main threats to their survival. We then spent time providing tangible and important ways boaters can support and be stewards of orca recovery such as:

- **Be Whale Wise:** In the US, all motorized and non-motorized vessels (including kayaks and paddleboards) are required to stay at least 300 yards away from Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) on the sides and 400 yards in front and behind, and 200 yards away from other/transient orcas. Boaters are also required to slow to a max of 7 knots within ½ mile of an orca (or stop all together).
- **Give Them Space pledge:** This campaign asked boaters to go beyond the federal requirements, and pledge to stay a minimum of 1/2 nautical mile (1,000 yards or 1 kilometer) away from the

endangered southern resident orcas and to voluntarily stay out of the No Go Zone off the west side of San Juan Island during the summer months.

- **Whale Warning Flag:** By utilizing whale warning flags when they see any species of whale, boaters can warn other boats that whales are in the vicinity. Participants also learned that when they see a whale warning flag on another vessel, they should slow down to 7 knots or less, turn off fish finders and/or depth sounders as they interfere with orca's ability to echo locate and communicate, and continue to follow Be Whale Wise guidelines and vessel distance rules.
- **Report a real time sighting of a whale:** Participants learned how to use the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS) app to report whale, dolphin, porpoise, and sea turtle sightings. This immediately alerts large ships in the area to the presence of the animals, enabling vessels to undertake adaptive mitigation measures, such as slowing down or altering course, to reduce the risk of collision and disturbance.
- **Anchor out of eelgrass beds:** Eelgrass beds are essential herring spawning habitat, the main food source of the salmon upon which the Southern Resident Orcas rely. Anchoring beyond the eelgrass zone preserves this sensitive ecosystem and helps sustain our resident orca population.
- **Pump Out, Don't Dump Out:** It is illegal for boaters to discharge sewage (treated or untreated) from Type I and II vessels. Knowing pump out facilities within the Puget Sound No Discharge Zone is essential to boaters complying by this rule. We shared the free Pump out Nav app, a handy a tool to help boaters keep the waters in Puget Sound healthy and clean by showing locations of sewage pump out stations, dump stations, and floating restroom.

Event Participation

We presented our Give Them Space campaign to 12 different yacht clubs throughout the Salish sea and reached approximately 425 boaters, including at:

Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham	Bellingham Yacht Club
Duwamish Yacht Club	Seattle Singles Yacht Club
Kingston Cove Yacht Club	Seattle Yacht Club
Port Ludlow Yacht Club	Shelter Bay Yacht Club
Port Townsend Yacht Club	Shilshole Bay Yacht Club
San Juan Island Yacht Club	Three Tree Point Yacht Club

Here is a partial video recording of our [presentation to the Shelter Bay Yacht club](#).

Event Feedback

One of the greatest successes of the campaign was our ability to build connections with the boating community through our virtual presentations. Every group we presented to expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for learning more about the Southern Resident population, the threats they face, and the tangible ways can make the Salish Sea a quieter and cleaner place for orcas.

“Wow. Just wow. Your presentation was outstanding! The graphics were great, the topic was informative, polished, and at the same time moving. I (and my sometimes skeptic of a husband Dave) were as much impressed with the science, as the urgency of the situation. We were also pleased with the attendance and the amount of questions during the Q & A portion. From start to finish, you have both been a pleasure to work with. I can’t thank you enough for not only your presentation, but for the mission behind it.”

--- Lisa McCammon, Port Townsend Yacht Club

“I learned a lot and I thought I know a lot. It was excellent. So thanks for putting this on and we really appreciate it.”—Rod Porter, Shelter Bay Yacht Club



Conclusion

To date, the Give Them Space campaign has generated 162 pledge takers, including Vancouver Island Whale Watching Company, the first (and so far only) commercial operator to do so.

We successfully raised awareness and engaged members of the boating community in learning about the threats to the survival of our Southern Resident orcas and what boaters can do to help protect and recover them. We plan to continue and expand the Give Them Space campaign going forward.