

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2024

## Seas the Day in the San Juan Islands

Celebrate Orca Month in the heart of the Salish Sea

Friday Harbor, WA... What's an orca's favorite TV show? Whale of Fortune! Join us as we celebrate these icons of the Pacific Northwest this June. Orca Month is a time to celebrate the presence of the Southern Resident orcas off our coast and inspire action to address the many threats facing them. Celebrations will be hosted throughout British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington. For the little ones, fun and learning combine at <a href="The Whale Museum">The Whale Museum</a> in Friday Harbor, the first museum on the West Coast dedicated to the stewardship of whales.

- June 15, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Orca Action Month Community Beach Clean-up Event
  Join Orca Network, WildOrca, and Friends of the San Juans at Jackson Beach on San Juan
  Island to learn about toxicants in the environment affecting orcas and help take action with
  a community beach clean-up! Buckets, gloves, and refreshments will be provided. Bring
  layers and your re-usable water bottle.
- June 23, 12 p.m. 2 p.m. Whales in Your Neighborhood: Meet up with expert naturalists at local parks, like Lime Kiln Point State Park on San Juan Island, to search for and learn more about land-based whale watching and the whales who live in the Salish Sea, in particular, our endangered Southern Resident orcas. This event is hosted by Orca Network, Whale Scout and Friends of Lime Kiln Society (FOLKS).

\*Dates and locations subject to change – please check back!

Other <u>volunteer events</u> and community science opportunities are available for anyone interested in habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and other efforts that can have indirect effects on orca recovery. <u>COASST</u> gathers data on marine debris and seabird health, and <u>MyCoast</u> tracks beach changes, creosote, and king tides.

Want to keep the whale love going long after June ends? Check out the <u>After the Breach</u> podcast, hosted by local whale enthusiasts for anyone interested in learning more about orcas and humpbacks. Not only here in the Salish Sea but other whale hotspots around the world as well.

A complete list of Orca Month events can be found at <a href="www.orcamonth.com">www.orcamonth.com</a>. Don't forget to tag us: #orcamonth #sanjuanislands

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