



February 22, 2018

Via Email:

The Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON

Dear Honourable Catherine McKenna;

BC Nature (the Federation of BC Naturalists), representing 6,300 members belonging to 53 clubs, joins other organizations in requesting an emergency order under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), to protect and grow the remaining southern resident population of 76 killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) in the Salish Sea. We need to act urgently, and the requested emergency order provides a vehicle to do so.

The emergency order we seek will impose limits on fishing chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and other fish stocks relevant to the bolstering of chinook numbers. At the same time, sensitive areas covered by the proposed emergency order are required so that killer whales can forage safely and effectively during spring and summer. Evidence from Washington State suggests that a reduction in the noise from boat traffic can lead to increased foraging, so we request restrictions on boat traffic, particularly large commercial vessels, along with boat speed reductions in sensitive areas to minimize both acoustic and physical disturbance.

We respectfully request urgent action through an emergency order under SARA in order to prevent the continued decline in the southern resident killer whale population and halt its march towards extinction. We look forward to action from you on this matter given the ongoing endangered status of this population.

Yours truly,

Alan E. Burger, PhD  
President: BC Nature  
(Federation of BC Naturalists)