



Year of the Salish Sea

June 8, 2022 – June 7, 2023

About the Year of the Salish Sea

This initiative is based on the unceded, ancestral territories of the Coast Salish and xʷməθkʷəy̓em, Skwxwú7mesh, and səl̓ílwətaʔɬ Nations. For over 10,000 years, Indigenous peoples have lived on and stewarded their traditional territories on the shores and rivers of the Salish Sea.

The Year of the Salish Sea (June 8, 2022-June 7, 2023) is a youth-led effort that aims to bring together local First Nations, municipalities, organizations, and individuals in the Salish Sea ecosystem region to strengthen existing efforts working towards a healthy Salish Sea through public engagement and the spreading of stewardship and educational opportunities.

The Year of the Salish Sea initiative emerged from the Simon Fraser University's Semester by the Salish Sea cohort in the fall of 2021. It was developed as one response to issues facing the Salish Sea such as fragmented ocean governance, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss caused by climate change.

The Year of the Salish Sea aligns with the work of the Salish Sea [Hope Spot](#), the [UN Ocean Decade](#), the [UN Decade on Restoration](#), and it begins on [World Ocean Day](#).

As of June 12, 2022, nine local governing bodies have passed Year of the Salish Sea motions, proclaiming June 8, 2022-June 7, 2023 as the Year of the Salish Sea: the City of Vancouver, the City of Victoria, the City of Richmond, the City of Olympia, the Town of Gibsons, the City of Powell River, the Municipality of Bowen Island, the District of Squamish, and the Islands Trust Council.

Contact + Social Media

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Year of the Salish Sea in the Media

COAST REPORTER

[Gibsons proclaims year of the Salish Sea: Council briefs](#)

“Town council committed to include public information and education articles on its efforts to protect the marine environment, as well as to explore collaborations with others to raise awareness about the importance of a revitalized and healthy Salish Sea.”

RAINCOAST UPDATES

[The Year of the Salish Sea](#)

“This World Oceans Day, June 8, 2022, will kick off the “Year of the Salish Sea” in many jurisdictions thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of university students.”

FRASER RIVERKEEPER

[The Year of the Salish Sea](#)

“Fraser Riverkeeper is excited to support the Vancouver City Council’s motion to proclaim June 8, 2022 to June 7, 2023 the Year of the Salish Sea. Beginning on World Ocean Day, the Year of the Salish Sea will bring together local First Nations, municipalities, organizations, and individuals across the Lower Mainland.”

JOLT

[Olympia signs proclamation to protect Salish Sea](#)

“By signing the proclamation on Tuesday, June 7, council members expressed commitment with the StehChass people of the Squaxin Island Tribe to strengthen stewardship of the Salish Sea and build a more robust culture in support of water quality and salmon recovery.”

TIMES COLONIST

[Letters June 4: Oak Bay ban favours the few; an upside to a hot real-estate market](#)

“The endangered southern resident orcas might not know it, but a handful of municipalities on the South Coast have helped them out by declaring this the Year of the Salish Sea, an idea led by a group of Simon Fraser University students, that begins on World Oceans Day, June 8, and continues until next June.”

Draft Year of the Salish Sea Motion

MOTION: Year of the Salish Sea

WHEREAS

1. The Salish Sea has been home to and stewarded by the Coast Salish Nations since time immemorial;
2. The Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound are collectively known as the Salish Sea; however, as of 2019, only 15%¹ of British Columbians could identify the waters of the Salish Sea; and
3. The Salish Sea is witnessing devastating biodiversity loss², namely the risk of extinction of over 100 species of birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals, and key species including Salmon and the Southern Resident Killer Whales; and
4. The Salish Sea and its human and nonhuman inhabitants are experiencing unprecedented effects of climate change, felt during the 2021 heat dome, flooding from atmospheric rivers, intensified king tides, prolonged forest fires, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise; and
5. In Canada, the Salish Sea and its watersheds are managed under multiple jurisdictions of government, including the Indigenous, federal, provincial, regional, and municipal with limited coordination; and
6. There is incredible work currently underway to support ocean conservation and ocean-related climate adaptation in the region, including Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Burrard Inlet Action Plan, the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress, and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, among other initiatives; and
7. The Year of the Salish Sea would support collaborative local action between Salish Sea stakeholders, strengthen organizational programming for impact and awareness, educate the public, amplify existing work, and inspire action from individuals, organizations, and governments on the Salish Sea.



¹ [Where On Earth Is the Salish Sea? — SeaDoc Society](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071dde2772cebc1662831/t/5ce6d13c15fcc0884920909e/1558630744171/Salish+Sea+Survey+Final.pdf)
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071dde2772cebc1662831/t/5ce6d13c15fcc0884920909e/1558630744171/Salish+Sea+Survey+Final.pdf>

² <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.310YO>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT [e.g. Council] support the SFU Fall 2021 Semester in Dialogue cohort recommendation to proclaim June 8, 2022 to June 7, 2023 as the “Year of the Salish Sea”, thereby joining other governing bodies, organisations, and community groups in a collective effort to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea; and
 - B. THAT [e.g. Council] direct staff to explore opportunities to collaborate with local organisations, networks, and individuals taking part in the Year of the Salish Sea to raise public awareness about the importance of a revitalized and healthy Salish Sea; and
 - C. THAT [e.g. Council] direct staff to learn from the lived experiences and knowledge of the Indigenous Nations of the Salish Sea on how to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea for the benefit of future generations.
- <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/where-earth-salish-sea>
 - https://cedar.wwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=salish_pubs
 - <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.310>
 - <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/11/26/102-fraser-river-estuary-species-at-risk-of-extinction-researchers-warn.html>
 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071ddea2772cebc1662831/t/5b29e45af950b7e84b8df046/1529472091504/Salish-Sea-Species-of-Concern-2013-Dec-4-2013.pdf>
 - <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/transboundary-trouble/>
 - <https://twnsacredtrust.ca/burrard-inlet-action-plan/>