

Orca Regulations Communications Advisory (ORCA) Group Meeting 1 Objectives and Agenda

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Meeting Details

Date Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Time 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, PDT
Location [Zoom Webinar Registration Link](#)

Meeting Objectives for ORCA Group Members

1. Affirm ORCA Group purpose, desired outcomes, timeline, and working norms.
2. Discuss and identify criteria for effective communication approaches/tactics.
3. Learn more about current target audiences and SRKW/vessel-related communication efforts to date, identify initial gaps and/or information needs, and begin prioritizing communication approaches.

2-hour Agenda

Time	Topic	Lead
2:00 PM 20 minutes	Introductions	Ross Strategic
2:20 PM 30 minutes	ORCA Group Purpose and Process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative mandate• Timeline• Consider and revise initial list of working norms	Ross Strategic
2:50 PM 20 minutes	Effective Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss how and why we need to evaluate communication approaches• Consider and revise initial list of effectiveness criteria	Ross Strategic
3:10 PM 40 minutes	Current Communication Efforts and Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review current SRKW/vessel-related communication efforts by the Department and others, including target audiences and tactics• Identify gaps/needs in current efforts• Identify possible priority audiences and initial communication approaches	WDFW and Ross Strategic
3:50 PM 10 minutes	Public Comment and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public comment period• Upcoming ORCA Group meetings	Ross Strategic
4:00 PM	Adjourn	

Meeting Materials/Resources

- Useful links:
 - [Washington Senate Bill 5371](#)
 - [WDFW ORCA Group website](#)
 - [WDFW Advisory Member Handbook](#)

- Synopsis of vessel regulations going into effect Jan. 1, 2025 (SB 5371 Section 2):
 - A vessel is defined as any watercraft used as transportation, including aircraft and kayaks (does not include innertubes or small flotation devices).
 - Vessels cannot approach or be positioned within 1,000 yards of SRKW. This includes positioning a vessel so that the wind or water current carries the vessel within 1,000 yards of a Southern Resident orca.
 - A vessel within 1,000 yards of SRKW cannot exceed a 7-knot speed limit, and if a vessel is within 400 yards of SRKW, the operator must disengage the vessel's transmission.

- Synopsis of legislative charge to WDFW regarding the ORCA Group (SB 5371 Section 6, which expires in June 2025):
 - The Department "must convene a diverse work group...to inform the development of outreach and education strategies to implement [RCW 77.65.620\(5\)](#) [and] conduct intensive outreach and education in FY 2024 and the first half of FY2025 to implement the work group outreach recommendations."
 - The Department must coordinate with the work group to "conduct education and outreach regarding compliance with the 1000-yard setback from SRKW established in [RCW 77.15.740.](#)"

- Synopsis of additional legislative charges to WDFW regarding outreach and education going into effect Jan. 1, 2025 (SB 5371 Section 2)
 - WDFW must "conduct outreach and education regarding regulations and best practices for recreational boating in waters inhabited by southern resident orcas, including best practices for avoiding or minimizing encounters closer than 1,000 yards from a southern resident orca" consistent with the work group's recommendations.
 - This could include developing and sharing tools for notifying boaters of southern resident orca presence, identifying orca ecotypes, and estimating distance on the water.
 - The Department will post/update signs at public boat launches and marinas regarding the SRKW vessel setbacks.