



**Georgia Strait Alliance**  
*Caring for Our Coastal Waters*

## Georgia Strait Alliance About Us

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### Who We Are

Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) is a charitable organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the marine environment where 75 per cent of British Columbians live, work, and play.

GSA works with communities and experts to find science-based solutions to the problems and issues that threaten the Strait of Georgia. A healthy and protected marine environment is good for the economy, communities, and wildlife.

<b>Founded:</b>	1990	
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### About The Strait of Georgia

The Strait of Georgia is part of the Salish Sea and is located between Vancouver Island and the mainland coast of British Columbia. The Strait stretches 220 km from the US border (where it adjoins Puget Sound), north to Campbell River and the Discovery Islands. The Strait is part of a huge estuary system – a place where hundreds of rivers flow into the sea, helping to shape the unique characteristics of the region and making the Strait of Georgia biologically rich.

Rapid population growth, development, and climate change threaten the natural environment and the wildlife that live in the Strait. In fact, Parks Canada has called the Georgia Strait “the most at-risk natural environment in Canada.”

### Our Programs

Ocean Literacy	We educate the public about issues facing the Strait and encourage citizens to make personal changes that will improve the health of the Strait.
Energy & Shipping	We are campaigning for the protection of the Strait from threats posed by fossil fuel export, including oil spills and climate change.
Waterfront Initiative	We are leading a collective approach to the revitalization and restoration of Vancouver’s waterfront. We are bringing together a broad spectrum of organizations to shape a vision and action plan for a waterfront that works for citizens, industry, and the marine ecosystem.

Habitat & Species  
Protection

We advocate for the Strait's species at risk and for marine habitat protection.

Clean Marine BC

We work together with the boating community to protect the marine environment. We educate individual boaters on green boating practices and grant eco-certification to marinas, boatyards, and harbour authorities that are committed to environmentally responsible practices.

**Areas of Expertise**

- **At-risk species** in the Strait
- Marine wildlife **habitat protection**
- Effects of **climate change** on the Strait: ocean acidification; sea level rise; extreme weather events
- **Environmental protection policy**: federal and provincial legislation and funding
- **Local impacts of fossil fuel export**: risk of spills and pollution; climate change effects; local economic impacts
- **Pollution**: contamination; artificial reefs; non-point source pollution
- Effects of **recreational boating** and green boating best practices
- **Urbanization** and the marine environment
- **Salmon farming**
- **Sewage and waste water pollution**
- The **industrial waterfront**

**Recent Achievements**

- 2014 Awarded the False Creek Harbour Authority the first five-anchor rating, the top environmental rating a marina can receive through Clean Marine BC.
- 2013 Helped make tanker traffic in the Salish Sea a key issue in the provincial election.
- Partnered with Raincoast Conservation Foundation on an innovative study that used drift cards to reveal how swiftly oil would disperse following a spill in the Salish Sea.
- Won a moratorium by the Province on new or expanded salmon farm tenures in the Discovery Islands of the northern Georgia Strait.
- 2012 Participated in the *Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River* and helped obtain strong recommendations for action on the part of federal government related to fish farming.
- 2011 With our partners, pressured the provincial and federal governments to come to an agreement on seabed rights, a major obstacle to creating a National Marine Conservation Area in the Southern Strait.
- 2010 Helped win a federal court ruling against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for failing to protect BC's resident killer whale critical habitat.
- 2009 Helped win a federal court ruling against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for failing to identify the habitat of the Nooksack dace.

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