



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

**FACT SHEET**

## **Georgia Strait Alliance Programs**

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Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) operates five programs focused on protecting and restoring the marine environment where 75 percent of British Columbians live, work, and play.

### **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. Some of the ways in which we do this:

- Our *Stewards of the Strait* pledge program gives individuals sets of simple but meaningful tips on ways to make a real difference to the health of the Strait.
- We create educational materials that we distribute in communities around the Strait.
- We visit local organizations and events to speak about the critical issues facing our coastal waters.

### **Energy & Shipping**

We are campaigning for the protection of the Strait from threats posed by fossil fuel export, including oil spills and climate change. Our work includes:

- Actively campaigning against specific fossil fuel transport proposals, including Kinder Morgan's crude oil pipeline, coal export facilities on Texada Island and at the Surrey Fraser Docks, and the Quicksilver LNG facility.
- Developing a manifesto for marine oil spill prevention.
- Creating resources to help citizens raise their voices.
- Initiating a cross-border campaign to highlight the cumulative effects of fossil fuel export on the Salish Sea.

### **Waterfront Initiative**

Our Waterfront Initiative is focused on the revitalization and restoration of Vancouver's waterfront. GSA is bringing together a broad spectrum of organizations and groups that depend on the city's waterfront. Together, we will establish a vision and action plan for creating a waterfront that works for citizens, recreational users, First Nations, and industry, while protecting the marine ecosystem from the effects of urban densification.

The initiative also engages the public, encouraging citizens to view the waterfront as their town square. This is achieved through awareness raising campaigns, opportunities to share ideas, and annual public celebrations.

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### **Clean Marine BC**

Through 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.

- Our *Guide to Green Boating* empowers boaters to adopt the environmentally friendly practices that will help protect their recreational paradise now and for future generations.
- Our Clean Marine certification program helps marinas and boat yards improve their operations to minimize effects on the environment. To date GSA has certified nine marinas through a rigorous independent audit process, with another 13 having joined the program and working towards certification.

### **Habitat & Species Protection**

Georgia Strait Alliance advocates for the Strait's species at risk and for marine habitat protection. We are a source of information and expertise, and we hold governments and industry to account on their obligations to marine life in the Strait and challenge decisions that will negatively affect the Strait.

### **About Georgia Strait Alliance**

Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA) is a charitable organization working to protect and restore the marine environment where 75 percent of British Columbians live, work and play. GSA works with the community and experts to find science-based solutions to the problems and issues that threaten the Georgia Strait. A healthy and protected marine environment is good for the economy, communities, and wildlife. <http://www.georgiastrait.org>

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### **Media Contact:**

Christianne Wilhelmson  
Executive Director  
[christianne@georgiastrait.org](mailto:christianne@georgiastrait.org) / 604 633-0530