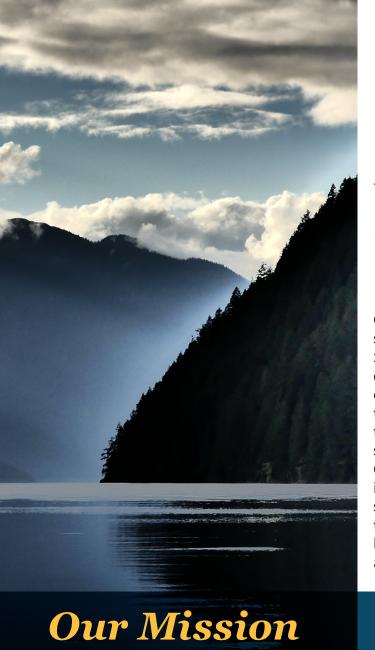




Georgia Strait Alliance

IMPACT REPORT

2019-2020



WORKING FOR A HEALTHY SALISH SEA

These pages reflect the many efforts that Georgia Strait Alliance undertook during the past year to protect this region that we love so much.

Our team's accomplishments include the success of our efforts to protect endangered Southern Resident orcas; our leadership on demands for effective oil spill response in B.C.; engaging volunteers in communities around the region to gain climate accountability from the Carbon Majors; advocating for strong sector targets to give teeth to the province's Clean BC commitments; sharing our stories in new ways and with new communities; and seeing our Clean Marine BC program continue to grow. It was a remarkable year. We have lots to celebrate and your support made these achievements possible.

However, as I write these words, the past year seems like a lifetime ago. The world is still reeling from the blunt impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as we are learning to adapt to an ever-changing normalcy. At GSA, we've had to re-imagine new ways to connect, engage and mobilize supporters to help protect the Salish Sea when we cannot meet with people in person. We've been bringing people together online, and connecting more with our colleagues, allies and governments virtually. Through it all, we are staying focused on our core mission to develop long-term, climateforward solutions to marine threats and habitat protection in this incredible region as our way of supporting coastal communities.

At the same time, the voices of Black, Indigenous and people of colour are making clear that harm is being done by the white supremacist structures in our society, including those in the charitable and environmental non-profit sector. As you know, the work of Georgia Strait Alliance focuses on the

To protect and restore the marine environment and promote the sustainability of Georgia Strait, its adjoining waters, and communities.

connections between the marine environment and healthy, sustainable and resilient coastal communities, but this work is being done by an organization where the staff and board do not reflect the demographics in this region of B.C., and by an organization that has, until now, ignored the reality that environmentalism is intersectional: it builds links between power structures, injustices and harms being done to racialized and marginalized communities.

As we move into our 31st year, our commitment to being strong advocates and stewards of the Salish Sea includes becoming better allies and defenders of the health of all of its communities. We are also committed to looking inside in order to define and implement meaningful changes in the way the organization functions, and to doing the work necessary so that the organization

and its regional advocacy are welcoming, safe and will not continue to cause harm. We are committed to this journey and it's one we would like to undertake and share with you, so you can play an active role in these changes and keep us accountable.

Thank you for all of your generous support. It makes us a stronger and more effective organization every day — and for years to come.

Christianne Wilhelmson

Executive Director





The global pandemic has exposed the fragility of our world, bringing into perspective the responsibility of fighting for and protecting local communities. As the new normal begins to take shape, let's work together for a better and healthier future for the many places that we call home in the Strait of Georgia. We must whole-heartedly commit to the Salish Sea, the marine environment and the people who are being harmed by the degradation of our land, water and oceans."

Lesli Boldt *President, Board of Directors*

THE TEAM

Board of Directors

Lesli Boldt Vancouver, President Rachel S. Forbes Vancouver, Past President Ken Coach Vancouver, Vice-President Aaron Nabata Vancouver, Treasurer Kathy Fletcher Vancouver, Secretary Tess Acton Vancouver (until March 2020) Angharad Davies Vancouver Zoe Greenberg Vancouver Charlotte Fox Vancouver (as of December 2019) Stephanie Schiffmacher Vancouver Kristin Street Vancouver (as of December 2019) Duncan Wlodarczak Vancouver

Advisory Council

John Cashore Coquitlam Dr. Larry Dill Victoria Dr. Robert Elner Delta (Dr.) Chief Robert Joseph North Van/Hopetown Dr. Donald McQueen Nanaimo Suzanne Siemens North Vancouver Mike Waites Vancouver Douglas White III Kwalasultan, Snuneymuxw/Nanaimo













Staff & Contractors

Rebecca Adams Graphics & Web Development Anna Barford Community Organizer (until January 2020) Cathy Booler Data & Digital Systems Manager Coralie Charland Fundraising Assistant Tessa Danelesko Species Protection Coordinator Gillian Der 謝美華 Community Organizer (as of February 2020) Erin Edwards Volunteer Coordinator Kirsten Mathison Public Engagement Coordinator (as of July 2019) Rebecca McNeil Waterfront Initiative Lead (until November 2019) Allison Murray Communications Associate Anita Noon Member Services Cheryl Onciul Development Manager Andrew Radzik Energy Campaigner Christianne Wilhelmson Executive Director Michelle Young Director of Finance/Clean Marine BC Coordinator

☑ georgiastrait.org/about-us/staff

If we can protect Southern Resident orcas, we'll protect the Salish Sea



Thanks to your support, we're continuing to dialogue with the federal government to press for the implementation of new — and even stronger protections — for Southern Resident orcas.

Photo: (I) skeeze from Pixabay, (r) Cheryl Onciul

During The Year We Focused On:

- Regulations for key contaminants that enter waterways through our work with the federal Contaminants Technical Working Group for Southern Resident orcas.
- Advanced wastewater treatment at Metro Vancouver's largest treatment plant on Iona Island in Richmond, B.C.
- Transitioning open-net pen fish farms to closed-containment facilities on land.
- Plastic pollution plans at national and provincial levels.
- Better management for ship anchorages in the Southern Gulf Islands.
- Advocating for salmon protection, restrictions on fishing and noise reductions to support orca protection and recovery.
- A national stormwater management strategy.

SPECIES PROTECTION

As an umbrella species, Southern Resident orcas benefit the region's entire ecological community in the Salish Sea. Unfortunately, the population is critically endangered. To reverse the Southern Residents' rate of decline, strong and sustained protection measures are necessary to improve Chinook salmon availability, reduce noise in the region, and particularly to address the complex and multifaceted issue of toxic marine contaminants.

At Georgia Strait Alliance, we are advocating for pollution source controls, region-wide advanced wastewater treatment and stormwater management, as well as improved research into the impacts of toxins on the Salish Sea ecosystem.

Solutions for marine contamination require comprehensive and long-term thinking and planning. By meeting with senior government officials and decision makers throughout the year, we made the case for these measures, while in coastal communities we advanced our initiatives to curb pollution in local waterways.







The Iona Treatment plant discharges to the mouth of the Fraser River, British Columbia's most important salmon-bearing habitat. We know that pollution enters the ecosystem in the oceans and goes up the food chains, so one of the reasons Southern Resident orcas are one of the most contaminated mammals on the planet is because of the sewage we put into the ocean."

Christianne Wilhelmson

Georgia Strait Alliance, News 1130









1344 letters

Sent to Metro Vancouver asking for advanced wastewater treatment. Metro Vancouver's largest wastewater treatment plant is scheduled to be upgraded, and we need to make sure that the new treatment methods significantly minimize the flow of contaminants into local waters.

+1000 more

Letters sent to the federal government with input on 2020 protection measures for Southern Resident orcas.

100% more

Vessels must now remain 400 metres from Southern Resident orcas. We advocated for this change because it helps minimize the threat of underwater noise and disturbance to Southern Resident orcas.

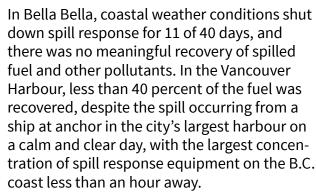


ENERGY

Canada is not prepared to effectively respond to an oil spill.

We saw that in B.C. with response failures during the Nathan E. Stewart sinking in Bella Bella and the Marathassa spill in Vancouver Harbour.

Canada's oil spill response



We're working to change that.

We believe that communities and ecosystems shouldn't have to bear the consequences of someone else's failure. We have an industry-run clean-up system, with low standards, where there are no requirements that polluters or spill response organizations actually remove spilled oil from an ecosystem. And, that industry now includes the federal government, through Ottawa's purchase of Trans Mountain pipeline.

We're focusing on four areas to advocate for effective spill response:

- **Coastal communities.** These have the most to lose from a spill, and they must have a role in overseeing and planning oil spill response.
- Wind, wave, and tide conditions. These pose significant constraints for the effectiveness of containment booms along much of the Trans Mountain's tanker route and, in some cases, make it impossible to respond to a spill effectively. Oil shippers shouldn't be moving products in coastal conditions they can't clean up in a spill.
- Research + Development. Spill response equipment is largely unchanged since the 1970s, and this is one reason that usually only 10-15% of a spill is cleaned up. Significant investments are needed to address the lack of appropriate response equipment for coastal weather and the conditions it creates on the water.
- Clean-up standards. We need to have at least 80% of spilled oil recovered, with escalating fines for instances when this standard isn't met.

The National Energy Board's recommendation relies on oil spill planning that's based on an unscientific hope that diluted bitumen (oil) won't sink into coastal waters."

Christianne Wilhemson



CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

Locally, the consequences of fossil fuels are getting more and more severe.

That's the reason we've taken a grassroots approach to climate justice, finding ways to focus on and support communities, which are on the frontlines of the climate emergency.

This past year, we ramped up our work across the province in coastal communities that are ready to take action on climate initiatives: 25 municipalities in B.C. have sent letters asking the fossil fuel companies to pay for their fair share of the cost of damage to communities caused by climate change. Fossil fuel companies should not make billions while our communities pay to deal with climate change.

Local decision-makers know that the oil industry could lead the way to a green-energy transition, but it doesn't want to. That's the reason that we're working with local governments so we can fight together for the climate-stabilizing economy that our oceans and planet so urgently need.

With your help, Georgia Strait Alliance continues to stand up for coastal communities, their economies, and the ecosystems they exist in. It's time for people and nature to come ahead of Big Oil's profit.

Our hard work is paying off!

CleanBC — the provincial government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — now has a lot more accountability. When we, and a group of allies, first approached the government two years ago about including accountability mechanisms in the plan, these issues weren't being thought about — and now they're part of this important legislation. These include establishing an independent body of experts for oversight, setting an interim target on the way to the 2030 goal, stronger reporting on progress, and setting sectoral targets for different parts of the economy.



[The government subsidizing fossil fuel development] is as though we are revving the engine while we're parked."

Anna Barford,

Georgia Strait Alliance, National Post

At GSA, we're focussed on getting the government to clearly define sectors and their greenhouse gas targets — due to be set by March 2021 — to allow for emissions targets to be shared fairly across the economy and allow us to build the green economy that we need. We know the devil is in the details, so we're watching closely.

Communities for climate justice

With greater accountability, we can see:

- where the province is making climate progress
- where there is more work to do as carbon emissions across the economy are reduced

At GSA, we have been taking action on our deep concern that the Province is undermining climate action goals by providing large subsidies to fossil fuel development, making it easier to build new fossil fuel projects at a time when we need emergency climate action. That's the reason that we're advocating for an end to these subsidies, which take the form of billions of dollars in tax relief, subsidized power, electricity line construction, and cost exemptions to highly profitable major international corporations.

We've made a big difference in how the Province tackles climate change — and our effectiveness is based on your support.





4600

The number of Orca Action Team supporters who are now helping us to achieve the boldest protections Southern Resident orcas have ever had.

We are growing our volunteer outreach teams in Vancouver and Victoria, offering recruitment and training events in both cities, and expanding virtual volunteer opportunities.

Why?

These outreach teams and virtual events allow us to immerse ourselves in communities where we can forge connections by engaging in thoughtful conversations.



Our objective is to increase awareness and understanding about the threats to the Salish Sea, and to show how our campaigns and work are having a positive impact.

☑ Join us: kirsten@georgiastrait.org



CLEAN MARINE BC

We partner with boating facilities and recreational boaters to support them in reducing their impact on the marine environment.

When facilities are more effective at keeping pollutants out of surrounding waterways, conserving energy and water, and minimizing habitat degradation, the region's interconnected and interdependent waterways will he healthier

During the year, we certified salt and freshwater facilities, including the Kelowna Yacht Club, the first in the Interior Region.

Clean Marine BC welcomes these newly certified facilities:

- Lions Gate Marina
- Kelowna Yacht Club
- Victoria International Marina

It helps boating facilities get recognition for the good work they're doing, but it also helps them recognize that there are some things in the way they run their facilities that may be having a negative impact on the local waters."

Christianne Wilhelmson Georgia Strait Alliance, CBC Daybreak South

Beyond Boating

Keeping waterways healthy entails more than preventing pollution from operations. It also includes marine habitat initiatives, including installing artificial reef balls and herring spawning nets, transplanting eelgrass, installing nesting boxes for Purple Martin swallows, expanding an endangered Garry Oak meadow, and supporting local ecotourism — all of these are examples of what some Clean Marine BC facilities are doing to keep the Strait of Georgia healthier and more resilient.

Minimizing the risks of recreational boating



CMBC practices were used — for the first time — in the development and construction of a new facility, the Victoria International Marina.

These include:

- ✓ A well-documented emergency response plan
- Mandatory sewage holding tanks for moorage customers
- Onsite pump-out facility, with access at all dock areas

- Docks constructed of concrete with encapsulated flotation
- Encapsulated steel pilings installed instead of toxic creosote-treated wood pilings
- Limited boat maintenance activities permitted on site
- Fireplace fueled by bioethanol
- ✓ LED dock lighting with photocells





1st

Interior Region marina certified; 3 new certifications

French

Guide to Green Boating



New five-anchor ratings: Victoria International Marina and West Vancouver Yacht Club

Facilities with top five-anchor rating



Boating facilities in the Clean Marine BC program

Doubled!

Saltspring Island Sailing Club jumped to a four-anchor rating

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

Sustainers (\$25,000 Or More)

Bullitt Foundation, Clif Bar Family Foundation, Gaming Policy and Enforcement
Branch — Licensing and Grants Division,
Global Greengrants Fund, McLean
Foundation, National Energy Board, Sitka
Foundation, Estate of Jo-Anne Thornthwaite,
Vancouver Foundation.

Guardians (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Environmental Careers Organization Canada (ECO Canada), Government of Canada, Patagonia, Estate of Linda Shattuck, Stream of Consciousness.

Restorers (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Boating BC Association, Charles and Julie Bentall Family Foundation, Denman Island Chocolate Ltd, DP World Vancouver, Sustainable Elements, U.S. Consulate General Vancouver, Vancouver Maritime Museum.

Navigators (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Blue Planet Links Foundation, David Charitable Trust, Dennis and Kathy Meakin Family Foundation, Dolphin Insurance Services Inc, Fanny Bay Oyster Bar & Shellfish Market, Joan and Noel Armstrong Legacy Fund held at Vancity Community Foundation, Left Coast Naturals, MakeWay (previously Tides Canada Foundation), Mandell Pinder LLP Barristers & Solicitors, Patagonia Vancouver, Port of Vancouver, Sea Star Vineyards, SunCruiser, Tourism Vancouver, Traction on Demand, Vancity Community Foundation, Vantina Holdings Ltd, Waggoner Cruising Guide.

Mariners (\$500 - \$999)

BC Provincial Employees Community
Services Fund, Boldt Communications Inc,
CloudControl CPA, Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak
Center Ltd, Discovery Coffee, Hairstory,
Harbour Air, Hilliard Family Fund held at
Vancouver Foundation, ILWU Canada,
Lightburn Family Fund held at Vancouver
Foundation, Lighthouse Brewing Company,
Mountain Equipment Co-op.

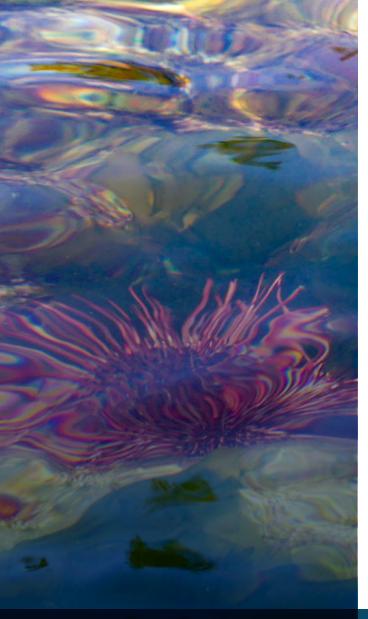
Our complete donor list

☑ georgiastrait.org/about-us/publications/annual-report/2020-donors

Donate to protect the coastal waters you love

☑ georgiastrait.org/donate





2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Year ended March 31, 2020

Financial Position

Long term investment \$40,297

Capital assets \$13,350

Payables and accruals (28,416)

Deferred contributions (544,232)

NET ASSETS \$187,791

This report is a summary only and not intended to reflect the complete financial status of the Georgia Strait Alliance. Members who wish to receive the full financial statements should contact our Nanaimo office at 250-753-3459.

It was a remarkable year

We have so much to celebrate and your support made these achievements possible!

Revenues

Donations

\$348,821 (45%)

Events, investment earnings and other

\$61,874 (8%)

Grants

\$364,969 (47%)



Expenses

Programs \$635,141 (79%)

Administration and Fundraising \$168,192 (21%)

Amortization \$3,795 (0%)



Excess of expenses over revenues for the year (\$31,464)

In-Kind Contributions

In addition to the revenue above, GSA received an estimated value of **\$42,027** in donated goods and services and **\$28,821** in volunteer time during the year ended March 31, 2020 for a total of **\$70,848**.

Photo: Ken Weiner 2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT 13





Impact Report © Georgia Strait Alliance 2020

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