



Georgia Strait Alliance

MINI-NEWSLETTER

2025
GeorgiaStrait.org

This year marks 35 years since a group of passionate citizens founded GSA, united by concern for our local waters, the wildlife they sustain, and the coastal communities we call home. **Your support continues to power our work.** From protecting orcas, to advancing Indigenous-led stewardship, to building resilient coastal communities—thank you for standing with us as we work towards a just and thriving future for the Salish Sea. These five focus areas show how we’re advancing our strategic plan by harnessing community power to drive systemic change, while strengthening connections with the Salish Sea.

Orca Action

We’re working our fin off to protect the Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW)—now down to just 73—whose struggle reflects the declining health of the entire Salish

Sea ecosystem. With your support, we’ve employed a range of strategies to give them a fighting chance: advocating for stronger Marine Mammal Regulations, pursuing legal challenges, and launching an Emergency Order petition calling for urgent actions to shield orcas from ocean noise, pollution, and food shortages.

At the same time, we’re doubling down on efforts to shut down open-net fish farms and defend wild salmon habitat—while ensuring a just transition for workers and coastal communities. As new legislation like Bill C-5 removes environmental safeguards and tanker traffic rises dramatically, we’re working with lawyers, coalitions, and Indigenous partners to secure bold, lasting protections for orcas and their home waters.

Marine Contaminants & Governance

With your support, we’ve been tackling everything from ocean noise to marine pollution. At the political level, we’re advancing government initiatives like the Ocean Noise Strategy, and the 20-year Coastal Marine Strategy—a powerful opportunity to develop positive marine governance through actionable policy. We’ve unpacked these strategies at community events, and will be applying pressure on the government to ensure they’re implemented effectively.

On the ground, our Clean Marine BC program has been working with marinas, harbour authorities and boaters to prevent toxins entering waterways, keep marine mammals safe, and deliver oil spill prevention and response training. This important work ties into our

GSA loves being in community!

This past year we’ve met many of you at events like Saltwater Tongues, our first poetry night in Victoria, at film screenings of *Shared Waters*, *Shared Crisis* and *Salmon Secrets*, Culture Days in Qualicum Beach, and impactful workshops on the Gulf Islands.



Donate Today!

Your support matters. Donate today to help build resilient, just, and thriving coastal communities! Beat the postal delays by donating securely online at georgiastrait.org/donate or get your cheque in the mail as soon as you can.



Image: Deborah Freeman

work on derelict vessels which leach chemicals and harm fragile ecosystems. To address this systemic issue we're forming an Advisory Group, uniting community leaders, policy experts, and government to push for stronger regulations and lasting solutions.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty

Building on our partnership with Cowichan Tribes, where we supported a multi-generational Marine Forum celebrating Indigenous governance and ocean stewardship, we were honoured to be invited to the QEN,T Stewardship Gathering, hosted by STÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation. Over three powerful days, we joined more than 100 Indigenous leaders, knowledge holders, and partners to learn about the stewardship of the QEN,T Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) and explore pathways for Indigenous-led governance, marine protection, and community resilience.

Indigenous Food Sovereignty is not only about food; it is about restoring relationships with the ocean, with culture, and with justice. We're in talks with the WSÁNEĆ Hereditary Chiefs and a local partners on a new campaign protecting herring and the rights of WSÁNEĆ to "fish as formerly". Herring play an important

role in the food chain, being the primary food source for Chinook salmon, which, in turn, is a favourite meal of the SRKW!

Resilient Coastal Communities

At GSA, we believe conservation must go beyond traditional protected areas. Our work integrates Indigenous rights, community organizing, urban planning, and climate justice to build resilient, climate-ready communities. Drawing on our past work advocating for stronger shoreline governance in Vancouver, we're helping shape how people and place can thrive together.

This year, we're re-strategizing our climate resilience work for the next chapter—joining forces with local groups to restore waterways like False Creek and launching a new campaign to reduce harmful anchorages near the Gulf Islands. As we deepen this work, we're also exploring what a conservation economy can look like—one that sustains both people and the planet through justice, collaboration, and care.

30 x 30

All of our efforts—from orca advocacy to clean boating, Indigenous food sovereignty, and climate resilience—connect to one shared goal: ensuring

Canada keeps its commitment to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030. We're calling on the federal and provincial governments to turn promises into action through strong policy, meaningful Indigenous partnerships, and community-led conservation. We're actively working to advance Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Marine Conservation Targets (MCT) Team initiatives, including projects related to the Glass Sponge Reef – Rockfish Conservation Area (GSR-RCA) and the Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area. True protection goes beyond maps and numbers—it's about safeguarding the living systems that sustain us all. With your support, we're building the public will, policy pressure, and partnerships needed to make 30x30 a reality for the Salish Sea and beyond.

Get involved

Visit our Get Involved page to see the latest actions you could take to protect the Salish Sea.



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