

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

### 8. The Year of the Salish Sea

Submitted by: Councillor Wiebe

#### WHEREAS

1. "Vancouver" exists on the unceded homelands and waters of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, and səilwətaʔ Peoples;
2. The Strait of Georgia, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Puget Sound are collectively known as the Salish Sea; however, as of 2019, only 15%<sup>1</sup> of British Columbians could identify the waters of the Salish Sea;
3. The Salish Sea is witnessing devastating biodiversity loss<sup>2</sup>, namely the risk of extinction of over 100 species of birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals, and key species including Salmon and the Southern Resident Killer Whales;
4. The Salish Sea and its human and nonhuman inhabitants are experiencing unprecedented effects of climate change, felt during the 2021 heat dome, flooding from atmospheric rivers, intensified king tides, prolonged forest fires, ocean acidification, and sea-level rise;
5. In Canada, the Salish Sea and its watersheds are managed under multiple jurisdictions of government, including the Indigenous, federal, provincial, regional, and municipal with limited coordination;
6. There is incredible work currently underway to support ocean conservation and ocean-related climate adaptation in the region, including Tsleil-Waututh Nation's Burrard Inlet Action Plan, the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress, the Sea2City Design Challenge, and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, among other initiatives;



<sup>1</sup> [Where On Earth Is the Salish Sea? — SeaDoc Society](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071ddea2772cebc1662831/t/5ce6d13c15fcc0884920909e/1558630744171/Salish+Sea+Survey+Final.pdf)

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071ddea2772cebc1662831/t/5ce6d13c15fcc0884920909e/1558630744171/Salish+Sea+Survey+Final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.310>

7. On November 27, 2020, Metro Vancouver approved the establishment of a task force to consider the feasibility of reinstating the Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program – Fraser River Estuary Management Program Partnership, or establishment of an equivalent multi-stakeholder partnership for coordinated environmental management in the region; and
8. The Year of the Salish Sea would support collaborative local action between Salish Sea stakeholders, strengthen organizational programming for impact and awareness, educate the public, amplify existing work, and inspire action from individuals, organizations, and governments on the Salish Sea.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council support the SFU Fall 2021 Semester in Dialogue cohort recommendation to proclaim June 8, 2022 to June 7, 2023 as the “Year of the Salish Sea” in Vancouver, thereby acting as a catalyst for other governing bodies, organizations, and community groups to join a collective effort to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea.
- B. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to educate the public on how ongoing City of Vancouver projects (such as sewer separation, climate adaptation, and other Green Rainwater Infrastructure projects) benefit the Salish Sea and its surrounding ecosystems.
- C. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to explore opportunities to collaborate with local organizations, networks, and individuals taking part in the Year of the Salish Sea to raise public awareness about the importance of a revitalized and healthy Salish Sea.
- D. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to learn from the lived experiences and knowledge of the Indigenous Nations of the Salish Sea on how to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea for the benefit of future generations.

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- <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/where-earth-salish-sea>
- [https://cedar.wvu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=salish\\_pubs](https://cedar.wvu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=salish_pubs)
- <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.310>
- <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/11/26/102-fraser-river-estuary-species-at-risk-of-extinction-researchers-warn.html>
- <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b071ddea2772cebc1662831/t/5b29e45af950b7e84b8df046/1529472091504/Salish-Sea-Species-of-Concern-2013-Dec-4-2013.pdf>
- <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/transboundary-trouble/>
- <https://twnsacredtrust.ca/burrard-inlet-action-plan/>

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