

August Wildlife Report

Boat Harassment of Orcas

Lifeforce has been actively photographing pleasure and commercial boaters that are harassing orcas. Numerous violations of whale watching guideline and legislation were reported to US and Canadian agencies in our campaign to prove that more enforcement is needed to protect endangered orcas. Our petition to Governor Gregoire has increased awareness of the problems and resulted in some WDFW enforcement off Point Roberts. During the BC Day Art and Music Festival in Point Roberts over 100 people signed the petition that is also available on line at:

<http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/newsitem.php?id=72>.



Signing the Petition to Protect Orcas

The new “Get Off My Tail” card and poster was published by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement. Lifeforce has distributed it around Point Roberts to advise boaters of the new Washington State legislation. A boat is not allowed to remain within 100 yards of an orca. Boaters must get out of their way and get off their tail.

A disturbance is when a person interferes with an animal’s ability to hunt, feed, communicate, socialize, rest, breed, or care for their young. It is important that everyone Report Violators in the US to 1-800-853-1964 and in Canada to 1-800-465-4336. If you can take a photo or video that will help stop future violations.

Lifeforce will be preparing a report entitled **“In Pursuit of Orcas”** to lobby government to provide more funding for enforcement by the responsible government agencies. Most Whale Watch Companies harass orcas when they are not monitored. Pleasure boats mimic their illegal operating methods. If approached they say they were just doing what the companies were doing. Non-government organizations, such as Lifeforce’s Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program and Soundwatch, have tried to raise awareness of responsible boating but have not been able to convince the tour companies to always follow the rules. There has been some successes in the San Juan Islands with volunteer No Boat Zones and better enforcement . It is time for major improvements in the whale watching industry. Fines and other penalties are needed so people will get off the orcas’ tails.

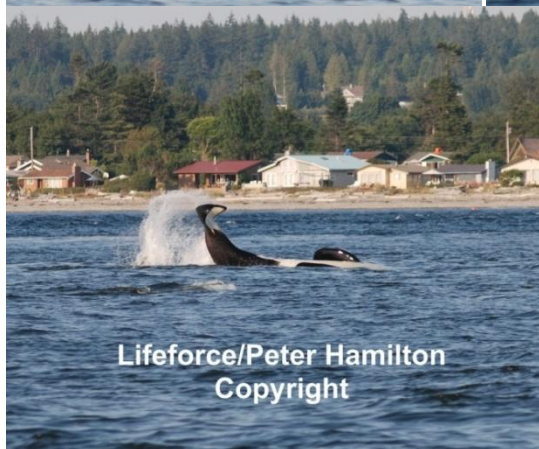
Orca Sightings

On August 12th a less than 24-hour-old L pod orca baby was seen in Haro Strait. The Southern Resident Community is now numbered at 86 with this new birth, one birth in K pod, two probable deaths in L pod and the passing of the oldest K pod orca, Lummi, born in estimated 1910. J pod’s Granny, who was born in estimated 1911, is still alive and still very active. Survival of newborns and deaths are not considered final until the baby survives the first year and any missing orca has not been seen for one year.

In the evening of August 7th there was lots of orca breaches as J pod and some Ls spent a couple of hours off Point Roberts doing some foraging for those tasty salmon.

Note: Also see the Transient Orca Report for August 17th.

http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/files/mwr_aug17.pdf



Wildlife

July 24 to 26



Heron in flight



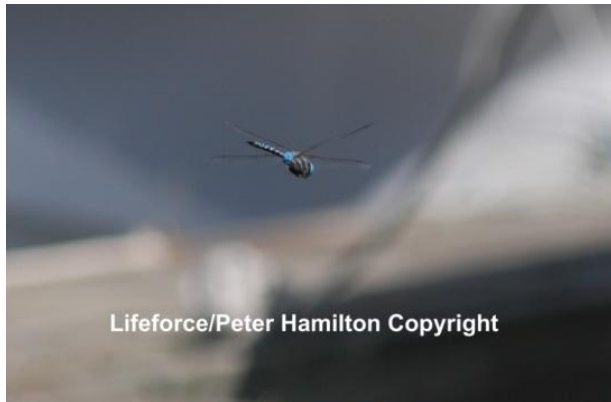
Barn Swallow in flight – head turned 180 degrees to catch insects.



House Finch



Mallards



Dragon fly



Heron eating eel



Male Belted Kingfisher



Merlin

July 27.28



The four newborn Barn Swallows previously reported (see video) huddle together on the Boardwalk during a chilly morning wind. They were waiting for the parents to bring “breakfast” and were joined by some hungry “Sparrows” looking for picnic scraps.



Red Tailed Hawk at Point Roberts Marina



Harbour Seal at park in Point Roberts . Lifeforce spent 6 hours keeping dogs and people away so they didn't get bitten and frighten the seal.

Aug 1 to 3



Seal pup



Lifeforce monitored the pup for 48 hours and he did leave.



Heron Standing not Sitting on the Dock of the Bay but I still thought of the Otis Redding's memorable song.



**BC Day August 4th - Eagle Olympics? Was this eagle waiting to take a swan dive for fish in the marina?
He certainly entertained BC Day visitors to the Point Roberts Marina.**

August 8.10





The new nest Barn Swallows being fed.



Caspian Tern diving for food.



The same seal seen on July 27th seems to like this popular park sight.

August 11.12



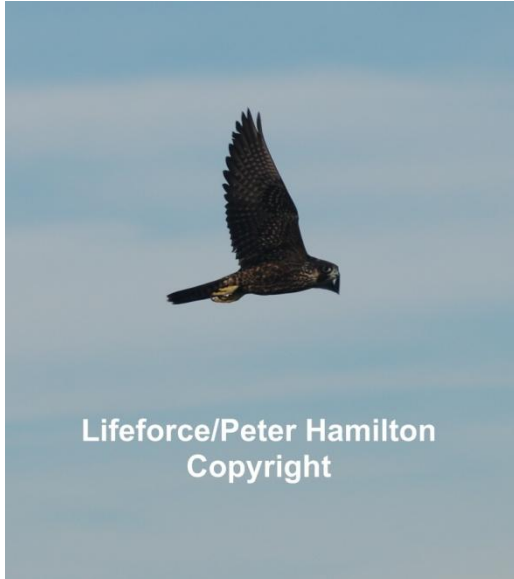


Red Tailed Hawk in marina parking.



Just as I was telling someone that in the morning a couple of Harbour Porpoise frequently pass the park very close to shore they were there at 7:35 AM

August 17.19



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright



Unexpected passenger in the Lifeforce van





Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright

Thousands of Dungeness Crabs



Lifeforce/Peter Hamilton
Copyright



More feedings



Female Belted Kingfisher



Can you identify this creature? A Pipefish.

For Freedom,

Peter Hamilton

Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program

Lifeforce Whale and Dolphin Hotline

604.649.5258

lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com

www.lifeforcefoundation.org

Help Protect Marine Wildlife

Lifeforce is a registered Non-Profit Society Registered under the Society Act of BC since 1981 and Lifeforce Ocean Friends is incorporated in WA since 1997. ***Your important donations and memberships fund these important programs. So please Help Lifeforce Help Wildlife.***