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# Endangered Species Management Plans for Southern Resident Orcas

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# SRO Key Points

- Population size = 73 orcas
  - J pod: 25; K pod: 15; L pod: 33
- Oregon Coast provides important habitat
- Main threats: Lack of prey, vessel & noise disturbance, contaminants







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## Land-owning agencies:

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon Department of State Lands (proprietary)



# Endangered Species Management Plans

- Required elements:
  - State land covered by plan
  - Agency's role
  - Management actions
  - Monitoring & review
  - Description of plan development process
  - Relation to other ESMPs & recovery efforts
- Timeline: 18 – 24 mo
- Implementation subject to funding





# Public Input Process



## Stakeholder Meeting

Virtual - June 18, 2025  
Oregon Orca Coalition



## Public Meeting

Virtual - July 9, 2025  
General public



## Web Site

June 23 & July 23, 2025  
Draft ESMPs



## Communications

Ad-hoc with stakeholders as  
needed

# ESMP Highlights

## Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife

- Role: Contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - *Current actions*
    - Restore salmon habitat
    - Improve fish passage
    - Maintain hatchery production
    - Manage predation on salmonids
    - Fishery management measures
    - Reduce contaminants in waterways
    - Protect SRO from development impacts
    - Oil spill response
    - Continue core outreach & education







# ESMP Highlights

## Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife

- Management actions: (cont'd)
  - *New actions*
    - Evaluate enhanced hatchery production
    - Address potential vessel disturbance
    - Implement new outreach & education activities
    - Partner with researchers to collect SRO data
  - Inter-agency coordination
  - \*Public input into plan

# ESMP Highlights

## Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept

- Role: Take avoidance; contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - *Take avoidance:*
    - Pre-project consultation and scoping as part of Oregon Territorial Sea Plan
    - Habitat and effects assessment
  - *Contributing to conservation:*
    - Beach management
    - Outreach and education





# ESMP Highlights

## Oregon Dept of State Lands (Proprietary)

- Role: Contributing to conservation; take avoidance
- Management actions:
  - Administer leases & authorizations for projects in territorial sea
  - Lead the Joint Agency Review Team (JART)





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## **Non-land-owning agencies:**

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Oregon State Marine Board
- Oregon State Police (Fish and Wildlife Division)
- Oregon Department of State Lands (non-proprietary)





# Conservation Memoranda

- Required elements:
  - Programs covered
  - Agency's role
  - Management actions
  - Monitoring & review
  - Relation to other recovery efforts
- Timeline: None

# Memo Highlights

## Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality

- Role: Contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - Protect water quality for Chinook salmon and other aquatic life
  - Monitor & reduce contaminants; coordinate cleanup
  - Water quality management plans for fish passage improvement projects
  - Emergency response planning & coordination for oil spills





# Memo Highlights

## Oregon Dept of Land Conservation & Development

- Role: Contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - Coordinate state agencies & policies on developments in territorial sea
  - Land use planning in marine & estuary environments
  - Outreach & education



# Memo Highlights

## Oregon State Marine Board

- Role: Contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - Outreach & education to boaters & whale watching charters/guides
  - Implement potential regulatory framework for OR marine waters





# Memo Highlights

## Oregon State Police (Fish & Wildlife Division)

- Role: Take avoidance; contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - Conduct marine patrols & respond to complaints
  - Enforce fishery regulations
  - Enforce environmental laws & regulations
  - Collaborate with state & federal agencies on SRO conservation

# Memo Highlights

## Oregon Dept of State Lands (Non-proprietary)

- Role: Contributing to conservation
- Management actions:
  - Removal-fill permitting





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# Options

**Approve** ESMPs  
submitted by the  
land-owning agencies

**Modify** ODFW ESMP  
and/or request change  
to OPRD/DSL ESMPs



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# Staff Recommendation

Approve ESMPs as submitted by ODFW, OPRD, and DSL





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# Questions?