



Green Sanctuary Committee
Quimper Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship



Admiralty Audubon Society
First Presbyterian Church of PT
Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park
Harmony's Way, Eye to I with Whales
Jefferson County Farmers Markets
JLT Natural History Society
Local 20/20
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Olympic Environmental Council
Olympic Forest Coalition
Orca Network

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
PT Friends Peace and Social Concerns
Port Townsend School District (Sciences)
Protect the Peninsula's Future
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Save the Olympic Peninsula
Sierra Club North Olympic Group
Unity Spiritual Enrichment Center
WSU JC Beach Watchers
West Coast Action Alliance

Special Screening of Sonic Sea with Speaker-Cast Members Announced by Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Green Sanctuary Committee, Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship & Participating Sponsors

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We invite you to a special screening of Sonic Sea, which is an important new environmental documentary about harmful ocean noise pollution. It will debut on Monday, May 23, from 7-9 PM at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (QUUF) in Port Townsend, 2333 San Juan Avenue. The eye-opening film reveals how noise from Navy sonar, drilling operations and everyday vessel traffic adversely impacts whales and other sea life. A donation of \$10 is suggested at the door.

"If you see one documentary this year, this is the one," says Sonic Sea Project Team member, Cherri Mann. "Learn about what happens below the surface of our Salish Sea, and you will be changed."

This screening will be of high interest to our Salish Sea community for many compelling reasons.

Human-induced ocean noise is a newly recognized form of pollution that can be a threat to sea mammals and marine life. It is happening now ... and it can be managed.

Second, two world renowned experts and cast members will be at the screening -- Ken Balcomb of the Center for Whale Research and Michael Jasny of the National Resources Defense Council. They will speak and, after the film, lead a Q&A session.

Third, rarely have we witnessed such a groundswell of support from local and regional sponsors of this film, which makes a strong statement. Port Townsend Marine Science Center and the Green Sanctuary Committee of QUUF are Co-Leaders of this event. In addition, a wide range of 21 participating sponsors is united in a show of support for the health of our oceans. They include Port Townsend public schools, churches, tribal nations and many other environmentally minded organizations such as Sierra Club, WSU Jefferson County Beach Watchers and Local 20/20.

Together, they give voice to stand up for the future of our precious Salish Sea.

Kees Kolff, Co-Chair of QUUF's Green Sanctuary Committee, comments, "Our Salish Sea is an invaluable treasure. Only through heartfelt collaboration will we be able to protect it and all oceans for the remarkable creatures they support and for future generations. Sonic Sea provides some of the knowledge and inspiration we desperately need."

Lastly, this award-winning film brings the complex world of human-engineered ocean sound to life in a realistic manner. Audiences get a genuine flavor for what sound is like under water. Many creatures from great whales to small fish and invertebrates depend on their acoustic abilities to survive.

Ocean Noise Pollution

Michael Jasny, a leading expert in the law and policy of ocean noise pollution, has much to say. "The ocean is a world of sound. Whales and other marine life use it to find mates, find food, avoid predators, navigate, maintain their communities, and orient themselves -- in short, for virtually everything they must do to survive. In this world of sound, human noise has emerged as a major environmental threat. Humans are blanketing the ocean with what biologists have called "acoustic smog," degrading the ability of marine life to communicate, to forage, to breed. Shipping and other activities are urbanizing the Salish Sea. Ocean noise has become a major environmental threat, and with this film, we have attempted to make it visible."

Ken Balcomb, a pre-eminent whale researcher and pioneer in whale identification, solved the mystery behind the mass stranding of whales in the Bahamas. The cause was Navy sonar, which created what Balcomb called an "acoustic holocaust." Here in Washington, Balcomb conducts research on the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orca) population that numbers only 83. He says, "Whales are the local fabric, and are a superb indicator of the ecosystem ... It's a big ocean: there is just no reason why whales and the Navy can't coexist."

Barb Laski of Harmony's Way adds, "We are not separate from Ocean. We are part of water, and it is part of us. What happens to Ocean, happens to us."

In a world that is replete with overwhelming challenges, fortunately there are constructive ways to mitigate harmful ocean noise. The first step is to realize that it is here in the Salish Sea and elsewhere. Ken Balcomb encourages us by saying, "Let's find ways to get hooked on a healthy world." The Port Townsend Marine Science Center will offer an exhibit table in the lobby, and sponsors will have informational materials as well.

The Natural Resources Defense Council and Imaginary Forces produced Sonic Sea in association with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Diamond Docs. This event was made possible by the Sonic Sea Project Team: Libby Atkins, Kees Kolff, Barb Laski, Cherri Mann and Alison Riley.