

**Lynne Barre**  
**Seattle Branch Chief**  
**Protected Resources Division**  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Email: [Lynne.Barre@noaa.gov](mailto:Lynne.Barre@noaa.gov)

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Ms. Barre

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society supports the Orca Relief Citizens Alliance (ORCA) submission of a formal regulatory petition to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting that NMFS establish an Orca Protection Zone to provide protection to the endangered Southern Resident Orca population.

The Southern Resident Orca population is threatened by diminishment of wild salmon populations. By habitat degradation, chemical, oil, sewage and noise pollution and by human harassment. These Orcas are seriously threatened and action must be taken now to address the factors contributing to the diminishment of their populations.

The Orca Relief Citizens Alliance are proposing an enforced protection area in Haro Straits. The establishment of this protection zone is something that NMFS could undertake

immediately and at little cost.

We earnestly urge NMFS to do so.

I have lived in the Pacific Northwest for over 40 years and during that time I have monitored the health and numbers of the Orca population. As a resident of Friday Harbor, I am very much aware of how important this resident Orca population is to the people of San Juan County.

It is essential that submarine noise pollution be minimized in an area set aside as an Orca Protection Zone. Such a move will have enormous benefits for the health and survival of this resident population of *Orcinus orca*.

Sincerely

Captain Paul Watson  
Founder and President  
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Cc:

Penny Pritzker Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce: [TheSec@doc.gov](mailto:TheSec@doc.gov)

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans & Atmosphere and NOAA

Administrator:  
[kathryn.sullivan@noaa.gov](mailto:kathryn.sullivan@noaa.gov)

Eileen Sobeck  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries National Marine Fisheries Service  
[eileen.sobeck@noaa.gov](mailto:eileen.sobeck@noaa.gov)

Bruce Stedman, Executive Director Orca Relief Citizens' Alliance  
[bstedman@orcarelief.org](mailto:bstedman@orcarelief.org)

William Stelle Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service  
[Will.Stelle@noaa.gov](mailto:Will.Stelle@noaa.gov)

Captain Paul Watson  
[captain@paulwatson.com](mailto:captain@paulwatson.com)  
Founder of the  
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society  
President of the Board of Directors (USA)  
Executive Director Sea Shepherd USA  
Established (1977)

Sail forth! steer for the deep waters only!  
Reckless, O soul, exploring, I with thee, and thou with me;  
For we are bound where mariner has not yet dared to go,  
And we will risk the ship, ourselves and all.  
- Walt Whitman (Passage to India)