

About the Year of the Salish Sea

This initiative is based on the unceded, ancestral territories of the Coast Salish and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səíl̓wətaʔ Nations. For over 10,000 years, Indigenous peoples have lived on and stewarded their traditional territories on the shores and rivers of the Salish Sea.

The Year of the Salish Sea (June 8, 2022-June 7, 2023) is a youth-led effort that aims to bring together local First Nations, municipalities, organizations, and individuals in the Salish Sea ecosystem region to strengthen existing efforts working towards a healthy Salish Sea through public engagement and the spreading of stewardship and educational opportunities.

The Year of the Salish Sea initiative emerged from the Simon Fraser University's Semester by the Salish Sea cohort in the fall of 2021. It was developed as one response to issues facing the Salish Sea such as fragmented ocean governance, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss caused by climate change.

The Year of the Salish Sea aligns with the [UN Ocean Decade](#) and the [UN Decade on Restoration](#), and begins on [World Ocean Day](#).

As of April 19, 2022, three local governing bodies have passed Year of the Salish Sea motions, declaring June 8, 2022-June 7, 2023 as the Year of the Salish Sea: the City of Vancouver, the Town of Gibsons, and the Islands Trust Council.

Contact and Social Media

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Draft Year of the Salish Sea Motion

MOTION: Year of the Salish Sea

WHEREAS

1. The Salish Sea has been home to and stewarded by the Coast Salish Nations since time immemorial;
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%¹ of British Columbians could identify the waters of the Salish Sea; and
3. The Salish Sea is witnessing devastating biodiversity loss², 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; and
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; and
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; and
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, and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, among other initiatives; and
7. 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.



¹ [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>

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT [e.g. 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”, thereby joining other governing bodies, organisations, and community groups in a collective effort to improve the health and management of the Salish Sea; and
- B. THAT [e.g. Council] direct staff to explore opportunities to collaborate with local organisations, 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; and
- C. THAT [e.g. 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.

- <https://www.seadocsociety.org/blog/where-earth-salish-sea>
- 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/>

Year of the Salish Sea in the Media



Photo Credits: Tasha Romeyn

COAST REPORTER

[Gibsons proclaims year of the Salish Sea: Council briefs](#)

"Town council committed to include public information and education articles on its efforts to protect the marine environment, as well as to explore collaborations with others to raise awareness about the importance of a revitalized and healthy Salish Sea."

RAINCOAST UPDATES

[The Year of the Salish Sea](#)

"This World Oceans Day, June 8, 2022, will kick off the "Year of the Salish Sea" in many jurisdictions thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of university students."

FRASER RIVERKEEPER

[The Year of the Salish Sea](#)

"Fraser Riverkeeper is excited to support the Vancouver City Council's motion to proclaim June 8, 2022 to June 7, 2023 the Year of the Salish Sea. Beginning on World Ocean Day, the Year of the Salish Sea will bring together local First Nations, municipalities, organizations, and individuals across the Lower Mainland."

Presented by:
Simran Sarai and Tasha Romeyn
Project Co-leads, Year of the Salish Sea
Former cohort members of Simon Fraser University's Semester in Dialogue

April 2022

City of Richmond Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee *Guest Presentation*



Presentation Outline: Year of the Salish Sea

Background:

1. What is the Year of the Salish Sea (YoSS)?
2. What can it achieve?

Request to the Committee:

Advance the proclamation of YoSS
in the City of Richmond

What is the Year of the Salish Sea (YoSS)?

Background

- Emerged out of the SFU Semester by the Salish Sea cohort in Fall 2021 program
- Created in response to the state of the Salish Sea, its ecosystems, extreme weather conditions, and fragmented ocean management



June 8, 2022 - June 7, 2023

yearofthesalishsea.ca

What will it achieve?

Year of the Salish Sea

- Amplification of stewardship and conservation efforts
- Promotion of public events
- Opportunities for dialogue and collaboration

Goals

1. Encourage collaboration and coordination between stakeholders
2. Foster public awareness and engagement
3. Open windows for ocean and climate policy development and change

June 8, 2022 - June 7, 2023

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Year of the Salish Sea in the City of Vancouver, Town of Gibsons, Islands Trust Council

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.

Vancouver City Council Year of the Salish Sea Motion

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Proclaiming YoSS

YoSS is an opportunity to

- Support the stewardship work of local First Nations
- Increase public engagement and awareness of the urgency behind protecting this unique ecosystem
- Provide opportunities for existing conservation and ocean education groups to collaborate

"Young people are our future and it's time that we listen to and work with them in implementing the systemic change they are asking for in order to ensure we have a healthy Salish Sea for future generations."

Ginger Gosnell-Myers
Co-Instructor, SFU Semester in Dialogue



June 8, 2022 - June 7, 2023

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Questions?

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