



# Sport Fishing Institute

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# Killer Whale NOAA/DFO Workshop

- **What are the Workshops about?**
- **What is going to happen in the Workshops?**
- **What will happen next?**



# What are the Workshops about?

- Southern Resident killer whales are listed as an endangered species under both Canada's Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) have developed and adopted recovery plans as required by their respective statutes.
- These recovery plans present the biological status of the population, describe threats and factors believed to be limiting recovery, establish interim recovery objectives and identify critical uncertainties.
- The recovery plans also prescribe actions to address the threats and limiting factors and call for research to address critical uncertainties and data gaps.



# What are the Workshops about?

- **The workshops are designed to answer the following key question -- *To what extent are salmon fisheries affecting recovery of Southern Resident killer whales by reducing the abundance of their available prey, and what are the consequences to their survival and recovery?***



# What is going to happen in the Workshops?

- Recovery plans in both Canada and the USA identify several threats to killer whale recovery – environmental contaminants, insufficient prey, physical disturbance by vessels, noise pollution, oil spills, diseases, climate change, small population size, cumulative effects.
- The Canada-USA scientific workshop process is not intended or designed to undertake an extensive review of all of the threats to Southern Resident killer whales.
- The intent is to gain a better understanding of the extent to which salmon fisheries may be affecting recovery of Southern Resident killer whales.



## What is going to happen in the Workshops?

- Think of this process as a peer review in real time.
- Invited experts prepared and presented summaries of their research and analysis during the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop in September
- The independent science panel and invited experts then probed and critiqued the available science



## What will happen next?

- The Panel has now responded with recommend additional analyses to be completed for Workshop 2 (March 2012). You can this report at: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/ESA-Status/sci-docs1.cfm>
- Scientists, informed by the first workshop and the Panel's recommendations, will be invited to prepare additional analyses for consideration at Workshop 2



## What will happen next?

- After Workshop 2, the Science Panel will issue a draft report detailing its preliminary findings
- Comments will be solicited from workshop participants and the public for consideration at Workshop 3 (Sept. 2012)
- NOAA/DFO may prepare contrasting fishery scenarios for analysis and discussion at Workshop 3



## What will happen next?

- Following Workshop 3, the Panel will issue its final report on the status of the science pertinent to the effects of salmon fisheries on SRKW recovery.
- It is important to note that this workshop process and the resulting report of the panel are not intended or designed to establish policy or make management recommendations or decisions.