



Friends of the Earth U.S., founded by David Brower in 1969, works to defend the environment and champion a healthy and just world. To accomplish our mission, we work at the nexus of environmental protection, economic policy and social justice to fundamentally transform the way our country and the world value people and the environment. We are supported by 1.5 million activists across the U.S. and more than 80,000 members and activists in Washington State.



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Our current national campaigns focus on promoting clean energy and solutions to climate change, ensuring the food we eat and products we use are safe and sustainable, and protecting marine ecosystems and the people who live from and work near them.

Our Oceans and Vessels Program is keenly aware that until we **wean ourselves off fossil fuels**, we must ensure that the best available technology and practices are continuously updated to reduce the risks posed by their transportation, because the **greatest risk of an oil spill is complacency**.

Since 1975 Friends of the Earth has maintained a presence in the Pacific Northwest, covering a broad range of environmental issues. **Since 2001 Friends of the Earth's Northwest campaign** has:

- Applied our unique combination of expertise in marine ecology and maritime trade to institute protections of depleted and endangered species that call the Salish Sea and West coast waters home—**from herring to endangered salmon and orcas**. Friends of the Earth has provided strong leadership and strategic actions to reduce shipping pollution, including **air and water emissions and oil spills**.
- Played leadership roles to institute a **complete ban on cruise ship discharges** in Washington waters and in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, as well as a ban on sewage discharges for all vessels in Puget Sound through the establishment of the Puget Sound **No Discharge Zone (NDZ)**.
- Worked in broad coalitions to **defeat proposed oil, gas and coal terminals in the Northwest** by empowering our activist base to write letters and attend public hearings to voice opposition.
- Advanced the prevention and response capacity to oil spills in the region, including the Emergency Response and Towing Vessels (ERTV) in Neah Bay, requiring pre-booming of oil transfers, and elevating the need for additional safety measures on oil barges through independent research that helped shape the **Oil Spill Prevention Act of 2018**.
- Worked with **Native American tribes** in the U.S. and Canada to help protect their sacred traditional areas from oil spills.
- Expanded to include the **protection of Arctic waters** from shipping impacts by working with Arctic indigenous peoples and organizations, including Alaska Native tribes, by creating better marine policies at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).



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Current actions underway to achieve our goals:

- Influence the creation of a **trans-boundary maritime safety forum** with Canada to include the numerous voices and interests in oil spill prevention and response efforts in the Salish Sea.
- Provide additional protections to **the San Juan Islands** through the expansion of oil tanker tug escort and **emergency response tug requirements** to the movements of oil barges.
- Conduct independent research identifying the **shipments of tar sand-derived oil within Puget Sound**. Pushed for requirements to address tar sands risk in the **2018 Oil Spill Prevention Act**.
- **Update Oil Spill Rules**. Advocated for Ecology to initiate the 5-year update of its oil spill Contingency Plan Rule to increase the speed and amount of spill response equipment required to be pre-stationed along Washington waters, including the ability to respond to tar sand dilbit.
- **Oppose the tripling of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline** that will cause a 700% increase in tar sands tanker traffic throughout the Salish Sea and West Coast. We served as the only US national environmental NGO to intervene in the National Energy Board review of the project, and are working with the Heiltsuk First Nation and Washington Tribes to help ensure the promised \$1.5B from the Canadian Ocean Protection Plan is being spent appropriately. Coastal communities on both sides of the border must have the appropriate oil spill protections.
- **Uphold the Magnuson Amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act**. The law prohibits federal agencies from issuing permits that enable increases of crude oil to be shipped in Puget Sound. We are challenging the US Army Corps' permit that enabled the BP refinery to double its tanker dock, increasing its ability to import and export crude oil - unless the Corps conditions the permit to limit the number of tankers able to transport crude oil to and from the BP refinery.
- **Washington Governor's Orca Task Force Vessel Traffic Workgroup**. Friends of the Earth is actively involved in this workgroup to help provide solid recommendations to reduce vessel impacts to endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales.
- **Continue Public Media Outreach & Expertise**. Friends of the Earth is a trusted voice on maritime safety matters. Our Op-Eds are published regularly and we are often quoted in Puget Sound media outlets, including Seattle's NPR stations, the *Seattle Times*, *The Stranger*, and King5 and Komo7 television stations. We combine our media presence with targeted action alerts to bring public and political pressure that ensures our message is heard and the strong protections we seek for the Salish Sea are achieved. This helps build strong public support across the Northwest for our goals.

For additional information, please visit our website www.foe.org. You may also contact:

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