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April 6, 2021

Dear Stakeholders, Interested Individuals, and Organizations:

**Subject: Regional Engagement on *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) Recovery Documents for the Transient Killer Whale in Canada**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would like to provide you with an update on *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) recovery planning for the Transient Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) in Canada, and to seek any new information that you or your organization have related to two recovery documents for this population: a draft amended Recovery Strategy and a draft Action Plan.

Transient Killer Whale was listed under SARA as Threatened in 2003, and a [Recovery Strategy for the Transient Killer Whale in Canada](#) was finalized in 2007. Insufficient information was available in 2007 to identify critical habitat for this population, and a schedule of studies to identify critical habitat was included in this Recovery Strategy. Following science advice received in 2013 ([CSAS SAR 2013/025](#)), a draft amendment to the Recovery Strategy was developed to incorporate partial identification of critical habitat. A SARA Action Plan was also drafted, which outlines key measures that can support the recovery of Transient Killer Whale in Canada. Input on these two recovery documents was previously sought as part of a regional consultation process in the Fall of 2016. Feedback received during this process has been included in the most recent versions of the draft documents.

Since 2016, minor updates have been made to the background information and to the critical habitat section of the Transient Killer Whale draft amended Recovery Strategy (attached). The draft Action Plan (attached) has not been substantially changed from the 2016 version.

DFO is in the final stages of completing the recovery documents to be ready to post as proposed on the [Species at Risk Public Registry](#) for a 60-day public comment period; in advance of this, we are checking-in with Indigenous groups, Wildlife Management Boards, and stakeholders to determine if there is any new information related to these two documents we should consider. With respect to the Recovery Strategy, given that it was amended to update and describe identified critical habitat for this population, we specifically welcome any new information you and your organization might have on Section 8.0 (Critical Habitat) of this draft document.

Following this regional engagement, there will be additional opportunity to provide input on the Transient Killer Whale draft amended Recovery Strategy and draft Action Plan during the 60-day public comment period, anticipated to commence in Fall 2021. Finalizing the draft amended Recovery Strategy and draft Action Plan for this population will be an important step towards continued recovery efforts and the long-term goal of population viability.

**For further information, please see:**

- *Draft amended Recovery Strategy for the Transient Killer Whale (Orcinus orca) in Canada* (2020), attached
- *Draft Action Plan for the Transient Killer Whale (Orcinus orca) in Canada* (2020), attached

- *Report on the Progress of Recovery Strategy Implementation for the Transient Killer Whale (Orcinus orca) in Canada for the Period 2013 to 2018 (2020):* [https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual\\_sara/files/Pr-TransientKillerWhale-v00-2020Dec-Eng.pdf](https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/species-risk-registry/virtual_sara/files/Pr-TransientKillerWhale-v00-2020Dec-Eng.pdf)
- Transient Killer Whale species profile on the Species at Risk Public Registry: <https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/species/606-4>

**To submit any written comments and/or any new information you would like us to consider, please respond by June 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 via e-mail: [SARA.XPAC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:SARA.XPAC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).**

Sincerely,



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