

**OPALCO** supports whales and values our hydro system.

Orcas Whales

- There are few topics that feel as important as the health and recovery of Southern Resident Orca Whales. Salmon recovery is one of the most complex and pressing environmental issues in our region. There is no one action that will solve this complex problem. We need to address a web of interconnected issues including noise pollution, ocean acidification, over-harvesting of fish, water temperature change and toxic chemical pollution.
- We are witnessing the collapse of our ecosystem due to climate impact. Rivers that have no dams (Frasier, for example) are seeing significant falloff in salmon populations. Species are migrating northward to cooler waters on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.
- BPA customers (OPALCO members) fund the largest fish and wildlife mitigation program in the nation to help preserve our region's culture and environmentally conscious way of life.
- There are a number of things we can all do to help. Some are calling for the breaching of the lower Snake River Dams but we believe that is the most expensive and radical action with too many risks and unintended consequences.
- We believe that it is dangerous to eliminate carbon-free resources. Clean hydro power is critical solution to reducing carbon emissions. With new carbon fees coming in through Washington's Clean Energy and Transportation Act, the demand and competition for our clean hydro resources will increase and the cost of replacing lost generation will be expensive in dollars, and especially in carbon (which pollutes our air and water and then impacts marine species).
- We need a vast amount of energy to avoid energy shortages in the Northwest. The US West is retiring of over TEN THOUSAND megawatts of coal fired generation over the next decade. The demand for carbon-free resources will be greater than ever and hydro is critical to firm up intermittent renewable resources like wind and solar. BPA uses the lower Snake River dams to help balance over half of the region's 9,000 MW of wind generation.
- OPALCO is positioned to offer long range energy solutions that will benefit our natural environment and keep costs affordable. Over the next 20 years, we want to increase our local generation of power from renewable sources by 50%. Read about the Co-op's vision for the future of our power: https://www.opalco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/OPALCO-2020-2040-IRP-R16.pdf

**NOAA Report on Southern Resident Killer Whales:** 

https://nwriverpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Orcas-Recovery-Fact-Sheet-NOAA-2016.pdf Seadoc Society on 7 things to benefit the whales:

https://www.opalco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Seadoc-Benefit-Whales.pdf

PBS News Hour on Climate Change Impacts on Lobster:

pbs.org/newshour/show/how-rising-water-temperatures-could-end-maines-lobster-boom

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