

San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

The San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau (SJIVB) is writing in support of the update to Chapter 173-182. We are the Destination Marketing Agency for all of the San Juan Islands. Strengthening oil transportation safety in the Salish Sea is critical to San Juan County's tourism economy.

It will:

- Secure Stable and Reliable Funding for Oil Transportation Safety
- Improve Oil Spill Preventions and Implement Marine Protections
- Establish the Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum

Protection of the Salish Sea is the right thing to do for human health and the health of our ecosystem. AND, protection of the Salish Sea is also the right thing to do for our economy.

The outdoor industry in our corner of the Pacific Northwest supports thousands of jobs. This update would help ensure that our waters stay clean.

Conservation-minded tourists from around the world are the backbone of the San Juan Islands economy. As a world-renowned visitor destination, any kind of a toxic spill would be broadcast by media quickly throughout the world and devastate our economy. Who comes to our beautiful region to see beaches covered in bunker fuel and littered with dead seabirds?

While there are environment losses every day throughout the world, our region must chart a different course. We think it is particularly important to coordinate with our Canadian partners to address shared issues in the cross-boundary waterways between Washington state and British Columbia, including oil spill prevention. A Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum would accomplish this goal.

We urge you to champion our environment and our outdoor-dependent economy and update Chapter 173-182 with the proposed changes.