BC MARINE-RELATED CHARITABLE/NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

In our "Responsible Cruising" member survey last May, we learned that almost half of the members who responded were very or quite concerned about the effects cruising boats and related activities have on the environment. Most of them have taken deliberate actions to reduce the effects of their cruising by maintaining a clean hull, using a holding tank or composting toilet, installing renewable sources of energy, using eco-friendly materials for cleaning and personal products, motoring at fuel-efficient speeds, and reducing their use of plastics and non-reuseable containers.

Those are all worthwhile actions, and there are additional steps that members can take to help the marine environment. One positive step is to get involved with some of the many non-profit organizations in BC that work to restore, protect or enhance our marine environment.

We have put together this list of marine environment-related non-profit organizations in BC that you could support by spreading the word about their good work, with making a tax donation or by volunteering your time and energy to them.

If you know about other BC marine or ocean-related organizations that you think should be added to this list, please contact us at enviro@bluewatercruising.org

BC Marine Parks Forever Society https://www.bcmpfs.ca/ - advocates for and financially supports the creation, expansion or enhancement of BC Marine Parks.

BC Marine Trails https://www.bcmarinetrails.org/ - mission is to work with First Nations and stakeholders to build, protect and promote a public network of marine trails allowing recreational navigation of the BC coastline with minimal impact on the environment.

BC Parks Foundation https://bcparksfoundation.ca/ - mission is to inspire and empower people to enjoy, protect and expand parks and Indigenous protected areas in BC.

Canadian Orca Rescue Society https://orcarescue.com/ - support restoration of salmon spawning grounds and environmental initiatives to help the southern resident orca population. They provide orca education programs to children and support fish hatchery programs.

Clear Seas https://clearseas.org/ - provides impartial and evidence-based research to inform the public and policy makers about marine shipping in Canada, including risks, mitigation measures and best practices for safe and sustainable marine shipping.

Coastal Restoration Society www.coastrestore.com - a leader in industrial-scale restoration and stewardship projects in coastal communities and inland waterways, supporting the environmental remediation goals of First Nations, provincial, and federal government agencies.

Dead Boats Disposal Society https://deadboatsdisposalsociety.ca/ - a not-for-profit society dedicated to research, education, inventory, assessment, remediation, removal and disposal of dead boats and marine debris, from BC shores.

Georgia Strait Alliance https://georgiastrait.org/ – mobilizes and supports collective action for the protection of a Salish Sea teeming with life where thriving and just communities live in balance with the environment. Areas of work include biodiversity protection, climate action, Clean Marine BC, and energy & oil spills.

Living Oceans Society https://livingoceans.org/ - works towards Canada's oceans being sustainably managed and thriving with abundant and diverse sea life that supports vibrant and resilient communities, through research, interpretation of scientific data, and engagement with government, industry and coastal communities.

Marine Education & Research Society https://mersociety.org/ – dedicated to promoting conservation and understanding of marine ecosystems through scientific research, environmental education and marine wildlife response, with a research focus on whales.

Marine Life Sanctuaries Society https://mlssbc.com/ - works to achieve greater protection of our coastal waters through the creation of sanctuaries where absolutely no extraction of life, or mineral, is permitted within a marine protected area (MPA).

Nature United https://www.natureunited.ca/about-us/where-we-work/british-columbia/ - builds diverse partnerships to protect lands and waters and ensure nature is the foundation of healthy communities, economies and future opportunities. In BC, helps to advance Indigenous stewardship, leadership, governance and sustainable economic development, and delivers innovative approaches to the climate crisis through Natural Climate Solutions.

North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association https://nimmsa.org/ – conducts conservation and business activities aimed at benefiting marine mammals, the economy and the marine environment off northern Vancouver Island, including marine mammal research and conservation as well as providing responsible wildlife viewing experiences.

Ocean Legacy Foundation https://oceanlegacy.ca/ - a non-profit based in Canada, pioneering an EPIC Plastic Pollution Emergency Response™ program to help remove, mitigate and transform ocean plastic.

Ocean Wise Conservation Association https://ocean.org/ - builds communities that take meaningful action to protect and restore our ocean, by monitoring and protecting whales, fighting climate change and restoring biodiversity, protecting and restoring fish stocks, innovating for a plastic free ocean, and educating and empowering youth.

Pacific Salmon Foundation https://psf.ca/ - dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wild Pacific salmon and their natural habitat in British Columbia and Yukon.

Pacific Wild https://pacificwild.org/ – supports the protection of ecosystems that can sustain biodiversity throughout the Great Bear Rainforest & the northwest Pacific region, by leveraging its many partnerships to influence policy, public opinion, and legislative change to more urgently support healthy and protected ecosystems.

Princess Louisa International Society https://www.princesslouisa.bc.ca/ - raises funds to maintain and develop Princess Louisa Inlet Marine Park, to provide enhanced facilities, to acquire additional lands within Princess Louisa Inlet for dedication as Park, and to preserve and protect the unique marine and upland environment of the Inlet for the benefit of all.

Raincoast Conservation Foundation https://www.raincoast.org/ - a team of scientists and conservationists that undertake primary research and publish peer-reviewed science to inform their conservation objectives. They are

an evidence-based, conservation science organisation (science ENGO), that operates a research lab, research field station and a research/sailing vessel.

Rugged Coast Research Society https://www.ruggedcoastresearchsociety.com/ - non-profit organization and with a multi-disciplinary team of marine industry professionals who plan and safely execute research and restoration projects in BC's remote coastal areas.

Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society (SIMRES) https://simres.ca/ - a community-based non-profit organization building awareness of marine life and ecosystems in the Salish Sea. They work to promote scientific, evidence-based research and we provide support and facilities for marine research and education on Saturna Island.

Sea Change Marine Conservation Society https://seachangesociety.com/ - educates children and the public about marine and watershed environments, and conserves and restores marine habitats in British Columbia in partnership with coastal communities.

Sea Smart https://www.seasmartschool.com/ - delivers a diverse and innovative range of educational programs derived from current ocean issues to empower youth, businesses, teachers, and communities to take action and power a wave of change throughout the world.

Surfrider Foundation Vancouver Island https://vancouverisland.surfrider.ca/ – works for the protection and enjoyment of our oceans, beaches, waves, and coastlines through a powerful activist network. There are 2 other chapters in BC: https://pacificrim.surfrider.ca/ https://vancouverbc.surfrider.ca/ Activities include education and beach cleanups.

T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation https://www.bucksuzuki.org/ - works with fishermen, First Nations, NGOs, scholars, and governments to drive responsible and equitable governance of our coastal resources. Working together towards healthy marine ecosystems, abundant and sustainable fisheries, and thriving coastal communities.