<https://www.saturnamarineresearch.ca/seatalks>

**Orca Tour - SATURNA ISLAND, B.C. with Author and Conservationist Erich Hoyt**

**What:** Presentation and talk given by Erich Hoyt on “Healthy Seas for Whales and Dolphins” and book signing of new edition of “ORCA: The Whale Called Killer”

**When:** Saturday, September 28, 2019 1:00 pm

**Where:** Hosted by Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society (SIMRES) on Saturna Island, B.C., in the Saturna Community Hall close to the BC Ferries dock and public wharf

**Tickets:** $10 at the door, 18 years and under are free

**Hosted by**: Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society (SIMRES) on Saturna Island, BC

**AUTHOR AND CONSERVATIONIST ERICH HOYT RETURNS**

**FOR ‘ORCA TOUR 2019’**

 ‘**Orca Tour 2019**’ follows the sell-out 2014 and 2015 tours and will focus on Erich’s efforts to protect marine mammal habitats worldwide and how they might support the conservation of orcas in the North Pacific. The talks, as well as the release of the Erich’s expanded new edition of “Orca: The Whale Called Killer,” are especially timely given the recent loss of three southern resident orcas.

After Erich’s presentation, senior representatives from **Parks Canada** will provide an update on the Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area that has been in development for more than 15 years and a representative from **Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)** will present their work on BC’s Marine Protected Areas and their campaign to save the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKWs).

“Orca: The Whale Called Killer” charts Erich Hoyt’s adventures and conservation work, which began with killer whales off the B.C. coast and was followed by two decades of orca research in Kamchatka, Russia. As co-chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, and policy lead for the Healthy Seas program of the U.K.-based Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), Erich co-directs a 10-year project to map the habitats for 130 species of marine mammals across the world’s oceans. His book, “Marine Protected Areas for Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises,” has helped set the standard for marine biodiversity conservation work.

“This is a rare chance to hear from Erich in person,” said Donna Sandstrom, Executive Director of The Whale Trail and a member of Governor Jay Inslee’s Task Force on Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery. “Erich has been thinking about how to protect orcas as long as he has been writing about them, starting in the 1980s when he contributed to the successful effort to protect Robson Bight, a critical habitat for the northern resident orcas. Erich’s talk will inspire and inform our efforts to protect J, K and L pods, here, where his work began.”

The Orca Tour is organized by The Whale Trail and SIMRES. “Orca: The Whale Called Killer” and Erich’s other books will be on sale at this event. A Q &A and book signing will follow the presentation.

**About Author and Conservationist Erich Hoyt**

Erich Hoyt has spent much of his life on or near the sea, working with whales and dolphins and marine conservation. An award-winning author, he has written or co-written more than 20 books and hundreds of magazine articles on whales, dolphins, as well as ants, insects, wild plants and other subjects. In 2013, Erich won the European Cetacean Society’s Mandy McMath Conservation Prize for his body of work. www.erichhoyt.com

**About SIMRES**

Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society is dedicated to encouraging marine research at or near our location at the center of the Salish Sea and to providing or facilitating educational programs, workshops and hands-on activities which will create awareness and promote a better public understanding of our marine ecosystems. SIMRES operates a hydrophone network for monitoring underwater noise in Boundary Pass, presents a lecture series about current marine topics called SeaTalks and is the initiator of a new whale awareness program called #ForTheWhales. www.saturnamarineresearch.ca

**About The Whale Trail**

The Whale Trail inspires appreciation and stewardship of orcas, other marine mammals and the marine environment by identifying a network of viewing sites along the whales’ trails through the Salish Sea and along the Pacific Coast. From 16 inaugural sites in Washington State, the trail now includes more than 100 sites from British Columbia to Southern California. The Whale Trail has its roots in a rare conservation success—the successful return of the orphaned orca, Springer. Our vision is a fully recovered Southern Resident orca population thriving in a healthy sea for generations to come. www.thewhaletrail.org

Parks Canada Proposed Southern Strait of Georgia Marine Park https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/amnc-nmca/cnamnc-cnnmca/dgs-ssg/intro

Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS) https://cpawsbc.org/