



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

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Orca expert Howard Garrett to speak at Everett Public Library

Free program on orcas is part of 2019 *Everett Reads!* event series in February

EVERETT, WA – Howard Garrett of the Orca Network will introduce these big mottled dolphins and give a status report on our endangered Salish Sea resident population in a free program at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave. in Everett.

Most of what is known about orcas has been learned in the last 40 years. We now know that orcas are long-lived and forge lifetime ties, and also transmit knowledge through culture. We know there are several pods of orcas, called the Southern Resident orcas, which are permanent residents of our own Salish Sea. Garrett will present a brief history of the growth of scientific knowledge about our resident orcas and about the natural history of orcas worldwide. Now down to only 74 members, our resident orcas are barely surviving. Garrett will talk about Gov. Inslee's Orca Recovery Executive Order, and the resulting Task Force process to find solutions.

Garrett will look at our changing attitudes toward orcas, the current environmental hazards impacting them (along with possible mitigations), and will provide an update on the improved prospects for the return of Lolita, the L pod orca captured in Penn Cove in 1970, now a marine performer in the Miami Seaquarium. Orca Network has campaigned for years to return Lolita to her native waters. Garrett will conclude with some thoughts on an emerging consensus about our relationships with orcas.

Garrett has worked with Southern resident orca of the Pacific Northwest for over 30 years, beginning as a field assistant with the Center for Whale Research. In 1991 he launched the Lolita Campaign, and in 2001 the Orca Network, which promotes orca conservation through education and awareness.

For further information, please call 425-257-8000 or visit <http://www.epls.org/reads>.

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