

Ocean Op-eds:

Limericks by Salish Sea Inhabitants

Rosemary Sissel

Orca

Echolocation I use to find food
And whistles and calls to share my mood
But there's one giant creature
Whose noises aren't a good feature
Those oil tankers' loud sounds are just rude.

Barnacle

I love my tough shell - it's poky and mean
But acidification is making me lean
A pH that's lower
Makes me want to glower
I'm smaller and softer - but I can dream.

Sargassum (Invasive Seaweed)

I was sucked into the bilge of a boat
And now, across the Pacific, I float
In this new Salish Sea,
Ultra giant I'll be,
A million strong, I will sit here and gloat.

Seagulls

After a good day of eating, I'm full
I ate plastic beads, some nets, and a bowl
All this trash that I've caught
In my stomach will rot
Digesting plastic is impossible.

Octopus Under Narrows Bridge

I'm giant, mysterious, and shy
To humans, I don't often say hi
But this ocean is warming
And big issues are forming
So please fix them before I must say good-bye.

Mother Ocean

My children are not feeling good
If I could fix the past century, I would
But in recent weeks
Our health has had new peaks
COVID-19 helped humans do what they should.

Plankton

We drift around, a little out of touch
Not noticing warming, the trash, and such
But often these days,
There's less of a haze
So quarantine, thank you so much!

Red Rock Crab

Little hands disturb my tidepool
See finger, pinch it - that's been my rule
But lately, people bring
Worry about many things
So I put my claws away; I'm not cruel.

Boulder

I've sat on this beach for many years
And this one has been full of human tears
This is a time of great change
Our world's being rearranged
But things will be okay, have no fear.