

Feeding Behavior and Preference

Killer whales as a species have many different feeding preferences and behaviors. The Southern Resident killer whales (SRKW) are a Distinct Population Segment that feeds exclusively on chinook salmon. The residents spread out and communicate vocally while hunting, using echolocation to find their prey.

My painting represents the diet of the SRKW, and their shortage of food. My experience when we actually went to the San Juan Islands and saw the killer whales was breathtaking. Seeing the orcas so up close brought tears to my eyes. Their grace and power was truly overwhelming. I felt privileged as they approached our boat and greeted us. In that instance, it really did make sense to me why it is so important to help these majestic, beautiful creatures.

Amelia

