



Inspiring Conservation of Our Marine Environment

Write a Letter to the Editor

A letter to the editor (LTE) is a brief piece of writing, usually less than 300 words, that anyone can submit to a newspaper or other publication. You can use a letter to the editor to share your view on a current marine policy issue that you find important. Decision makers rely on local papers as a gauge for public opinion, and writing a letter to the editor is one way you can influence your elected officials.

LOOKING FOR TOPIC IDEAS?

[READ MORE ABOUT THE SEATTLE AQUARIUM'S OCEAN POLICY PRIORITIES →](#)

Need help getting started?

Feel free to use the following outline:

- **State your name, where you live, and what you do.** Write your letter to the editor in the first person. Making a personal opening statement can help establish your knowledge of the issue and grab the reader's attention.
- **Identify the topic you are writing about.**
- **Make 2-3 strong factual points to support your position.** Even if you use materials or templates from other organizations to write your letter, avoid copying and pasting talking points to remain authentic.
- **State why this issue matters to you.**
- **State clearly what you are asking for.** Wrap up with a line that lets readers know how to learn more or get involved, and finish with a call to action.

Submitting your letter

Put together a list of local newspapers serving your community and look online for each publication's instructions on how to reach their editors. Make sure your letter includes your name and any other requested contact information. Try not to submit the same piece to multiple papers—instead, select one paper to contact first and if your letter doesn't get accepted, continue to move down your list. Be persistent!

If you have a letter published on a marine conservation or policy issue reach out to us at n.nickum@seattleaquarium.org to let us know.

Wondering where to start?

See below for submission instructions from a few newspapers in Washington.

[THE SEATTLE TIMES →](#)

[THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE →](#)

[THE OLYMPIAN →](#)

[THE EVERETT HERALD →](#)

[THE COLUMBIAN →](#)

Example

Kelp forests are a historically and culturally important ecosystem in Washington and these critical ecosystems are showing concerning signs of overall decline. In the Salish Sea and around the world, kelp forests are at risk and kelp decline seems to be accelerating. Shrinking kelp forests lead to loss of biodiversity and habitat, decreased climate resilience for coastal communities, and a decline in fisheries and food security.

It's not too late to act. The Keeping Ecosystems Living and Productive Act, or KERP Act, would establish a grant program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for kelp forest conservation, restoration and management projects. These types of projects can help us better understand what actions can support kelp forest growth and sustainability into the future.

Thank you to Rep. Jayapal, Rep. DelBene, and Rep. Kilmer for signing on as co-sponsors on the KERP Act (H.R. 4458).

Rep. Strickland, Rep. Smith, Rep. Schrier, and Rep. Larsen—all ocean champions in so many ways—should similarly sign on to support this bill, which would make a real difference in protecting our vital ecosystems right here in Washington, and Congress should make it a priority to pass it in the new year.

