



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Aquatic Resources Division

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Amy Jankowiak
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
3190 – 160th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Subject: Comments to proposed new rule – Chapter 173-228 WAC, Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zones

Dear Ms. Jankowiak,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to comment on the above subject rule proposing a no discharge zone (NDZ) for 2,300 square miles of marine waters of Washington State. DNR supports the proposed rule and welcomes any opportunity for contributing to its successful implementation

DNR is the steward of more than 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands and responsible for ensuring its protection. The proposed NDZ will contribute to the public health and safety of the state's marine waters and Puget Sound recovery and support Washington's Shellfish Initiative. The public waters and sensitive resources of the state should not be the treatment solution for vessel-generated sewage, both treated and untreated. Current waste management technologies are readily available for the proper disposal and treatment of vessel-generated wastewater. Public, private, and non-profit agencies are spending enormous resources to clean up Puget Sound. Declaring a NDZ is an important action that shows the state of Washington is taking serious action toward restoring the Puget Sound and preventing risks to public health.

Please consider the following comments to the Draft Rule Implementation Plan:

Page 1: *Implementation and Enforcement*

- Consider including WDNR Enforcement in this section.
- Consider establishing a hotline to report illegal discharges.
- Have larger commercial vessels of a determined size and crew capacity keep records of the pump out facility where they dispose of their wastewater in order to assess the successful compliance of the program.

Page 3: *Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance*

- Provide technical information as needed for the design of acceptable wastewater holding systems.
- Verify that there is an adequate distribution of pump out facilities established throughout the NDZ for commercial sized vessels (See page 15 of Preliminary Regulatory Analyses). Complete an assessment to determine if there are an adequate number of facilities necessary to support the program prior to the five-year delay for these vessels to meet the NDZ requirements.

Though it may be late in the process, DNR recommends that the NDZ include the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Cape Flattery. This area includes significant commercial and recreational fisheries and is an important destination for other water dependent tourism activities.

Please let me know of any assistance DNR can provide toward the implementation of this important new rule.

Sincerely,



David Palazzi

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Lands Planning and Stewardship Section Manager

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