



SEATTLE AQUARIUM

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Nov. 28, 2017

Amy Jankowiak
Compliance Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
3190 – 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
amy.jankowiak@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Prohibition of Discharges of Vessel Sewage

Dear Ms. Jankowiak:

The Seattle Aquarium understands that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Washington State Department of Ecology's petition on discharges of vessel sewage and has determined that a no discharge zone (NDZ) can be established for Puget Sound. EPA found that there are adequate facilities in the Puget Sound for vessels to pump out their sewage and Washington State may move forward with such a designation.

We have supported efforts for years advocating for clean water, and progress has been made, informed by improved scientific understanding and efforts by government, industry, and private citizens. That said, we appreciate and support Ecology's recognition that Puget Sound's water quality requires greater environmental protection.

The Seattle Aquarium supports a NDZ in Puget Sound, Lake Washington and their connecting waters. Such a NDZ will join more than 90 others in 26 states, including zones in the Great Lakes and the entire California coast. It will be the first one in Washington State.

During this current rulemaking phase, we urge Ecology to meet with maritime representatives to assure that standards will be measurable and applied evenly and consistently. In addition, an analysis should be made of whether vessels could meet the NDZ standards by use of treated discharges.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davidson
President and CEO

CC: Sheida Sahandy, Puget Sound Partnership
sheida.sahandy@psp.wa.gov