

Mark Blitzer

Puget Sound is a local, regional, national, and, if my add, marine treasure of world importance. As such, it deserves the utmost protection and currently is not receiving it. It needs formal designation as a No Discharge Zone!

Currently, partially treated sewage enters the sound when strong rains create a outfall overflow and not all of the sewage can enter local sewage treatment plants. Bad stuff also enters the Sound directly from boats plying its waters. There are enough pump out stations so that there is no need whatsoever to discharge raw sewage into Puget Sound. If nothing else, and there IS much else, raw sewage in Puget Sound is a health hazard, and a threat to the local shellfish industry.

Puget Sound is an iconic body of water whose apex predator, the orca, is in danger of local extinction because its own prey (Chinook salmon) are dwindling precipitously in number, partly due to pollution in the sound.

We must do all in our power to see to it that Puget Sound is not allowed to degrade further than it already has. A NDZ should be a sine qua non!