

## Lauren Mendez

Thank you for your thorough and careful evaluation of the need to designate Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone. Puget Sound should join 90 other iconic waterways across the United States as a No Discharge Zone.

To date, our region is the only one in the nation that has not designated No Discharge Zones for any waters. Puget Sound, a national treasure, needs this type of protection. I fully support Department of Ecology's determination and proposal to establish the Puget Sound No Discharge Zone.

This simple and common sense approach will protect public health, keep our waters clean, protect sensitive marine waters, and support important shellfish harvesting areas.

Fortunately, over 97% of boaters already do the right thing they have holding tanks onboard to store sewage (also called blackwater), then pump it out using any one of the 100 designated pumpout facilities that are available throughout the Puget Sound.

I, along with many residents and users of Puget Sound, strongly support establishing a No Discharge Zone for Puget Sound. The maritime community values Puget Sound and I am confident that the remaining vessels that don't have proper holding tanks onboard will step up to do their part to keep our waters clean.

Again, thank you for your hard work. Please establish the Puget Sound No Discharge Zone.