

Jerry Hillis

I strongly oppose the proposed no discharge zone. First I don't believe it will show a measurable improvement in water quality in the Salish Sea. I have a boat at Shilshole Marina and watched the West Point sewage disaster with alarm. Millions of gallons of sewage were discharged in one location over months, probably as much as all the boaters in the Sound do all year. Yet how many clam and/or oyster beds were closed or are now closed because of it? The impact boaters have is minimal. So for some "feel good" emotions, we have this draconian no discharge zone and it is draconian because there is a huge lack of pumpout facilities. As a practical matter the number of pumpout stations is severely limited. I am lucky if I can dock and pumpout in less than 15 minutes. Do the math. At Shilshole we have 2 pumpouts. So at best 8 boats an hour. Really? A marina with 1500 boats. This exclusion zone puts boaters in the untenable position of not being able to comply. Holding tanks are limited in capacity and pump outs are often hard to reach for a craft that travels at 7 knots. The boater may also want to go to remote areas where pumpout stations simply do not exist.

Why not phase in a plan that puts pumpouts on every dock, a plan that is based on hard science which can provide an achievable and measurable improvement to infrastructure and water quality. This is something I could actually comply with.