

Elizabeth Ray

Hello:

I am reaching out to you in opposition to the proposed rule of a No Discharge Zone for all of Puget Sound.

The implementation of this rule will be costly with nebulous benefits.

The contribution of recreational boaters sewage to our

vast water ways is minuscule. Your claim that eliminating boaters release of sewage will help protect shellfish beds and swimming beaches is a far reach.

What would best protect these two entities is ELIMINATING SEPTIC SYSTEMS from along shore front lots. Boaters do not release sewage close enough

to shore to have an affect! I am strongly opposed to the far reaching legislation in that 1: we boaters are not the primary contributor. 2:

Washington State currently does not have the infrastructure

in place to support the legislation. (Too few pump out stations are in place through out Puget Sound and the San Juan Waters to help boaters comply), 3: the commercial fleets and state research boats get 5 years to comply where

regular recreational boaters are required to comply in 5 months.(THIS is absurd!)

Recreational charter boating provides great tourism dollars to my Anacortes community and this regulation will severely cut into operations, requiring retro-fitting all charter boats to comply.

If you want to protect shoreline ecosystems, eliminate septic tanks that cause the problems directly.

Regards,

Elizabeth Ray
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Washington waters support a tremendous recreational tourism dollar stream for charter boating.