

[The following testimony is a transcription of oral testimony recorded on November 13, 2017, at the webinar hearing for proposed Chapter 173-228 WAC – Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone. The testimony was transcribed by Dept. of Ecology staff. The original audio file of this testimony is part of the rule file (Administrative Order #17-02)]

Hi. This is Paul Thorpe, past president of the Recreational Boating Association of Washington. We are very discouraged as being characterized as polluters. We all use pumpouts except those of us who have approved marine sanitation devices, which are very effective. Those of our members who travel in Canadian waters have these sanitation devices because there are no pumpouts up north, or very few.

We appreciate having been able to have a dialog with Ecology on the NDZ evaluation, but we have been frustrated that this issue has been messaged as an exercise in removing untreated sewage from Puget Sound.

It's illegal to dump untreated sewage within three miles of shoreline, which means there's no discharge of blackwater allowed south of Admiralty Inlet – that's the only place you can get three miles away from a shore.

As far as the comment, previous comment made about the implementation schedule, Ecology has not allowed an implementation period for recreational vessels. We face the same problems that the commercial users face in terms of getting designs done and implementing storage tanks for sewage. It's just - you're going to be making us illegal overnight, with no opportunity for compliance. That is wrong.