



# CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

March 19, 2020

Department of Ecology  
State of Washington  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, Washington 98503

## **Re. Proposed amendments to the Washington State Memorandum of Understanding**

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on proposed amendments to the Washington State Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is a voluntary agreement between Cruise Lines International Association North West & Canada, the Port of Seattle, and the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE).

The [Chamber of Shipping](#) is a Canadian-based industry association representing commercial marine carriers, shipping agents, shippers, and terminals in Canada which trade internationally and domestically. Commercial shipping results in \$30 billion of economic activity annually in Canada and moves more than \$200 billion worth of goods to and from global markets. While cruise lines have not called upon Pacific Northwest ports in Canada and United States during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of them are members of the Chamber and we look forward to the resumption of service.

Our members consider the protection of our shared unique waters as a priority and are pleased with the continued binational efforts to reduce the cumulative effects from shipping. Canada and the United States have worked together on challenges such as the protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW). The Chamber and its partners were instrumental in achieving the SRKW [Conservation Agreement](#), 2019, and implementing a five-year plan of mitigation measures, which includes vessel traffic from both countries.

With respect to the proposed amendments, the Chamber provides the following specific comments and recommendations:

1. **“Institute a ban on the discharge of exhaust gas scrubber wash water from all scrubber types, including bleed off or sludges, in MOU waters.”**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted stringent guidelines for the discharge of wash water and residue from exhaust gas cleaning systems, and these are included in Annex VI of the IMO's International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The United States and Canada have adopted these guidelines and implemented them in national regulations. The U.S. has harmonized U.S. requirements in the *2013 Vessel General Permit* and has proposed standards in the *Vessel Incidental Discharge Act*, and Canada has adopted

them in the *Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations* under the *Canada Shipping Act*.

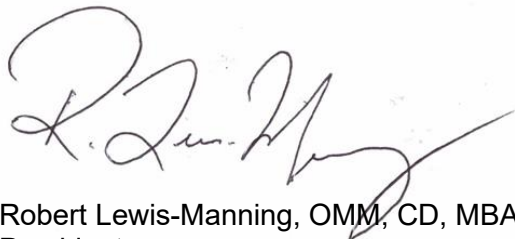
The United States and Canada have a long-lasting commitment to developing uniform standards for international shipping, especially for ships that travel frequently between jurisdictions. **Consequently, the Chamber strongly recommends that the MOU not institute a ban on wash water discharges and respect the national and international standards adopted by both countries.**

2. **“Ecology proposes to incorporate the Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for Puget Sound into the MOU to reflect the Washington state NDZ regulation. Chapter 173-228 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) adopted on April 9, 2018, and effective May 10, 2018. As written, the MOU allows for treated sewage (blackwater) discharges after advanced wastewater treatment that are now not allowed by the NDZ regulation. To be consistent with the regulation and to prevent vessel sewage discharges in MOU waters, allowances of sewage discharges in MOU waters should be prohibited. This would not affect graywater discharge in the MOU.”**

It appears that this proposed amendment would be duplicative, in that it would overlap the requirements already established in the *Washington state NDZ regulation. Chapter 173-228 Washington Administrative Code (WAC)*. **Accordingly, this amendment would not be appropriate for the MOU and it is recommended that it not be pursued by the parties to the MOU.**

It is hoped that the spirit of collaboration will continue and be reflected in a harmonized approach to protection our common waters. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Robert Lewis-Manning, OMM, CD, MBA  
President  
Chamber of Shipping

