

# Jane Perkins

I wish to submit a comment as humans have a unique opportunity to ban scrubbers from the Puget Sound and protect endangered orcas from fossil fuel waste.

I understand the Washington Department of Ecology, the Port of Seattle, and the cruise trade industry organization get together once every three years to make amendments to the Puget Sound Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This time an amendment to ban the discharge of scrubber wastes is on the table!

I totally support this amendment to secure permanent protection for this high traffic inlet that is home to some of the most threatened marine species — like orcas and Chinook salmon. How does toxic, fossil fuel wastewater end up in the ocean? Via a device called "scrubber." Although scrubbers have been touted by the cruise industry as a solution for treating toxic ship engine exhaust, in reality, all it does is convert air pollution into water pollution and dump this fossil fuel combustion wastewater straight into the ocean. In high traffic inlets like Puget Sound, the build up of scrubber dumping is compounding and has serious implications on endangered species like killer whales, and likely other marine animals!

So we must take this opportunity to ban scrubbers and secure permanent protection for Puget Sound and its ecosystem.

I believe that scrubbers must be permanently banned in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem needed for the survival of threatened orcas and Chinook salmon. Here are my points:

Point #1: Ban scrubbers. There is a yawning loophole that allows cruise ships to burn one of the dirtiest fossil fuels on earth - heavy fuel oil - by 'scrubbing' the exhaust and discharge the toxin-laden wastewater directly into the ocean. That's why I support amendment #2 to ban scrubbers.

Point #2: This is a huge opportunity for the cruise sector to show that they are committed to changing their polluting ways by agreeing to end the dumping of all scrubber wastes in Puget Sound. Please approve amendment #2 and ban scrubbers.

Point #3: Marine ecosystem needs a healthy home to survive. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing tragedy on a global scale, but the resulting cessation of cruise vessel traffic in the Puget Sound has been a welcome reprieve from the water pollution these ships create. That's why scrubber dumping cannot return to the Sound. I support amendment #2.

Sincerely,  
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