

Francine Dolins

Scrubbers, as used by the Cruise Ship industry, have been touted by 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.

The WA Department of Ecology, the Port of Seattle, and the cruise trade industry organization are renegotiating a voluntary anti-dumping Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the Puget Sound.

This is why scrubbers must be banned:

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,
Francine Dolins, Ph.D.