

Linda Thompson

I encourage support of two amendments to the Cruise Ship Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Ecology, Port of Seattle, and Northwest Cruise Ship Association. The MOU being established to improve treatment of waste discharges from cruise ships operating in Washington waters, including Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca south of the international boundary with Canada and along Washington's Pacific Coast (and three miles seaward).

The two proposed amendments that I encourage you to support and incorporate into the existing MOU are:

1)to institute a ban on the discharge of exhaust gas scrubber wash water from all scrubber types, including bleed off or sludges, in MOU waters.

2)to incorporate the Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone(NDZ)for Puget Sound into the MOU to reflect the Washington state NDZ regulation.

As written, the MOU allows for treated sewage (blackwater) discharges after advanced wastewater treatment that are not allowed by the NDZ regulation. To be consistent with the regulation and to prevent vessel sewage discharges in MOU waters, all allowances of the sewage discharges in MOU waters should be prohibited.

Your consideration of these proposals and incorporation into the MOU will add clarity to the existing agreement and encourage further support for environmental stewardship so vital to this community.

Sincerely,