

Louise Stark

As 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 Puget Sound, please include an amendment to ban the discharge of scrubber wastes by cruise ships. 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.

The cruise industry must, whether they like it or not, address and reduce the pollution that they cause. They must end the dumping of all scrubber wastes in Puget Sound. Please approve amendment #2 and ban scrubbers.

Marine ecosystem needs a healthy home to survive. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing tragedy on a global scale (just think of all the masks, with creature-killing strings to tangle in), 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.