

Mary Cato

I am writing in support of amendment #2 in the voluntary anti-dumping Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Puget Sound to ban the discharge of scrubber wastes. Cruise ships 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. Amendment #2 allows 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. The marine ecosystem needs a healthy home to survive. The cessation of cruise vessel traffic in Puget Sound because of the COVID-19 pandemic has been an ongoing tragedy on a global scale, but has been a welcome reprieve from the water pollution these ships create. That's why scrubber dumping must not return to the Sound.