

Andrew Ashburn

I write in support of amendment #2, banning the use of scrubbers in the Puget Sound.

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 the Puget Sound and all the worlds oceans have experienced a great decrease in pollution from the cruise industry. This reprieve has given refuge to many iconic, endangered or threatened species including Southern Resident Orcas, Sea Otters, and Chinook Salmon. By refusing to allow these scrubbers to dump toxic discharges in the Puget Sound we increase the chances that the marine ecosystems of the Northeastern Pacific won't completely collapse. What's more there are whole industries and communities which depend on healthy fish populations. If the cruise industry is serious about changing their current practices to benefit the oceans and the world then now is a great opportunity for them to show it.

Upholding amendment #2 of the MOU will bring far greater benefit than acquiescing to the demands of a poorly performing, unsustainable and highly destructive cruise industry.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.