

josie Lopez

Toxic, fossil fuel wastewater ends up in the ocean via a device called "scrubber." Although scrubbers have been touted by the cruise industry 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.

Banning scrubbers is absolutely essential for securing permanent protection for Puget Sound, its ecosystem, and in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem needed for the survival of threatened orcas and Chinook salmon.

A major reason I strongly support amendment #2 to ban scrubbers in Puget Sound is because 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 discharging the toxin-laden wastewater directly into the ocean.

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 so 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, 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 strongly support amendment #2 as critical for essential and meaningful change.