

CRUISE SHIP DISCHARGES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CRUISE OPERATIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE

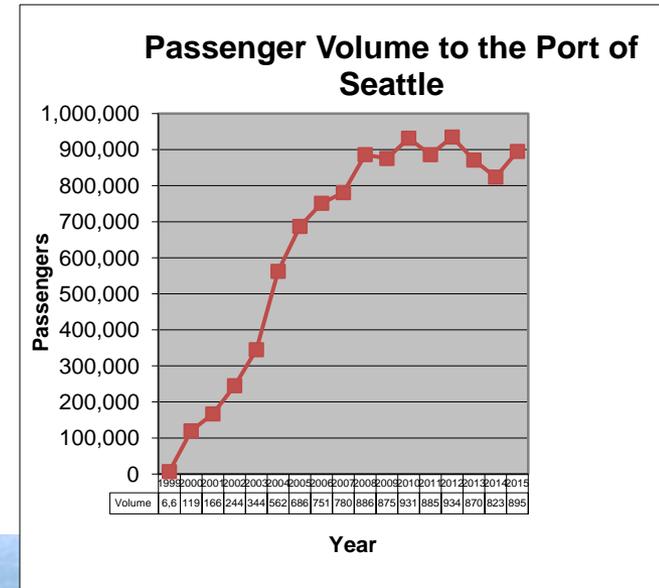
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Why Focus on Cruise Ships

- Protect State waters
 - Moving outfall
 - Various waste streams
 - Operating a treatment system with volume discharges
- Unique shape of State/marine waters
 - The Puget Sound is the second largest estuary in the U.S. with complex hydrology and areas of poor flushing
- Shellfish protection – public health
 - Over 1000 miles of Approved and Prohibited Area shellfish shoreline



OUR ROLE / MISSION

Protect, preserve and enhance Washington's environment for current and future generations.

To protect and restore Washington's waters

What the MOU Does

- Covers cruise association (NWCCA) member lines (vast majority of large cruise ships), since 2004
- Defines “Waters subject to the MOU”
- Prohibits untreated blackwater and untreated graywater discharges
- Only allows blackwater/graywater discharges by approval process, if advanced treatment used, and conditions similar to permit
- ½ mile from shellfish beds, immediately stop discharges if problem
- Solid waste, haz waste, oily bilge, etc.
- Inspections, non-compliance notifications
- Annual meeting, annual report, amendments, funding



MOU

- Benefits

- Without state regulation specific to cruise ships on all types of discharges, at least have agreement in place to protect water quality
- Continue to have enforcement capabilities under WO Standards and RCW 90.48.080 as well as press coverage if violate MOU
- Learning more about the vessels and equipment, ability to board/inspect
- Open communication with lines and vessels
- Procedure for notification of noncompliance

- Challenges

- Inability to enforce on violations of the agreement
- Lack of coverage of MOU for smaller passenger vessels or vessels that are not part of the Association
- Air quality issues not currently covered by the MOU





Questions and discussion



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Ecology Website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/ecyhome.html>

Cruise Ship Website:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/cruise_mou/index.html