

PUMP, DON'T DUMP!

PROTECTING PUGET SOUND FROM VESSEL WASTE

PUGET SOUND DESERVES TO BE A NO DISCHARGE ZONE

After years of hard work and study, Puget Sound is poised to join other iconic waterways across the United States as a No Discharge Zone. San Diego Bay, Long Island Sound, all state waters of Massachusetts, Michigan, and Rhode Island - over 90 in total - have No Discharge Zones.

 Now is the time to add Puget Sound to that list, and we need your help to make it happen.

When enacted, the Puget Sound No Discharge Zone will prohibit the discharge of raw or partially treated sewage from boats in waterways east of Port Angeles, and would include the sensitive marine waters of the San Juan Islands, important shellfish harvesting areas, in addition to Lake Washington and Lake Union. This protection would require all vessels with a permanently installed toilet, or "head," to collect sewage in a holding tank then pump out for proper treatment. This would not apply to gray water, such as water from sinks or showers.

A NO DISCHARGE ZONE WILL PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUGET SOUND

Raw or partially-treated boat sewage is highly concentrated and contains dangerous bacteria and other microorganisms that can contaminate shellfish beds and lead to severe illness.

 Every year recreational and commercial shellfish beds have to be shut due to pollution or even proximity to moorage areas.

These closures impact people and businesses that rely on clean water. Even onboard systems that partially treat sewage before discharging do not adequately kill off the microorganisms that make people sick.

PUMPOUT STATIONS SERVE ALL OF PUGET SOUND

Over 100 pumpout facilities are available all over Puget Sound (visit pumpoutwashington.org), and already serve marine vessel sewage needs. Mobile trucks, pumpout boats, and barges even meet ships and large vessels on the water, and these companies serve the entire Puget Sound. In 2016, over 10 million gallons were pumped out and diverted from Puget Sound. We can do better.

Some boats in Puget Sound dump raw or partially-treated sewage right into the Sound.

This sewage contains dangerous bacteria and other microorganisms that can contaminate shellfish beds and lead to severe illness.

90 other waterbodies across the US already have a "No Discharge Zone" to protect their communities and ecosystems. It's time for Puget Sound to follow suit!

The Department of Ecology is considering this designation, but they haven't made their decision yet.

Your voice is crucial in this process - make yours heard today!

HOW YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT:

1. Online today
2. Via webinar on Nov 13
3. In person Nov 15

More details and how to get involved on the reverse side.



Photo: Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

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MOST VESSELS ALREADY COMPLY WITH THIS PROTECTION

Fortunately, over 97% of boaters already do the right thing – they have holding tanks onboard to store sewage (also called blackwater), then pump it out using shoreside stations at state parks, marinas, or docks. Several businesses voluntarily store and pump out sewage as a company policy. In recent years, the cruise ship industry voluntarily adopted policies that they would not dump even treated sewage in Puget Sound.

But not all boats currently dispose of their waste in this way. Many boats are designed for offshore passage and have systems that can dump untreated sewage directly into Puget Sound. Others have marine sanitation devices onboard with rudimentary treatment systems that don't do enough to protect human health. These systems may fall into disrepair, weakening their effectiveness over time.

PROCESS FOR FINALIZING THE PUGET SOUND NO DISCHARGE ZONE

To protect against these risks and the accompanying threats to human health, the Department of Ecology proposes to establish a No Discharge Zone for Puget Sound. For the past five years, Ecology has extensively evaluated the ongoing risks, the benefits of removing this pollution source, and the feasibility of establishing a No Discharge Zone in Puget Sound. The US EPA evaluated the draft proposal and agrees that sufficient pumpout facilities exist to set up a No Discharge Zone.

The residents and users of Puget Sound strongly support establishing a No Discharge Zone for Puget Sound. Many assume this is the case already. Others clearly see it's important that all vessels do their part to keep our waters clean. We know the maritime community values Puget Sound and we're confident that the remaining vessels will step up.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD



The final public comment period is now open, and your voice is needed for the final push to establish Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone. Please take a moment to tell the Department of Ecology that you support this action as a common-sense protection for a healthy and clean Puget Sound.

ONLINE

Through November 30

Use Ecology's online form to submit your written comment. The comment period ends November 30th.

Visit: ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=EQHJt

VIA WEBINAR

November 13

2:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Ecology will accept comments through the webinar via computer or phone.

Dial: 240-454-0887

Access code: 805 088 513

IN PERSON

November 15

11:00 am

Ecology will accept written or verbal comments during the hearing.

South Seattle College's Georgetown Campus, 6737 Corson Avenue South, Seattle

RSVP to Rein Attemann at WEC: rein@wecprotects.org

For more information about pumpout stations in Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands, inland lakes, and throughout Washington, visit pumpoutwashington.org

For a how to use a pumpout station video, visit pumpoutwashington.org/how-to-pump-out

For more information and to get involved, contact your local organization:

