



February 17, 2013

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TO: Governor Sean Parnell
Third Floor, Alaska State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Stop Cruise Ship Pollution Bill HB 80

Dear Governor Sean Parnell:

For over two decades I have observed cruise ship wastewater discharges, residues and effects in the Ketchikan area by boat and airplane and have concluded that **NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO LOOSEN REGULATIONS ON THE CRUISESHIP WASTE WATER DISCHARGE PERMITS.**

I am lifelong Alaskan from Ketchikan. I fish, run a fish packer, and fly my Piper aircraft as a private pilot and for the local Search and Rescue squad. My two sons and I have watched the development of the cruise industry in the southern southeast area and are most concerned about what we see out in the water behind these cruise ships: long trails of fragmented toilet paper, brown discolored streaks extending for miles, soapy froth in Wards cove, and an increased frequency of red tide algae blooms.

Frankly, the chemicals released in the effluent *that we don't see* are probably the worst impact.

I have attached photographs from just a few observations. I believe that our fish are being stressed by frequency and staggering amount of wastewater discharged by cruise ships. Degrading the waters that our herring and salmon are swimming in as juveniles migrating out or adults returning to spawn probably has a role in the declines in abundance and quality we are witnessing.

As a certified aircraft mechanic, I know that some technological challenges take time to meet. But with the growth of the cruise fleet here, I think it is time to maintain a watchful eye and pressure for ships to clean their wastewater to a very high standard.

I request that you withdraw HB 80 from further consideration and encourage the cruise industry to adopt a higher standard for wastewater treatment if they are to discharge in Alaskan state waters.

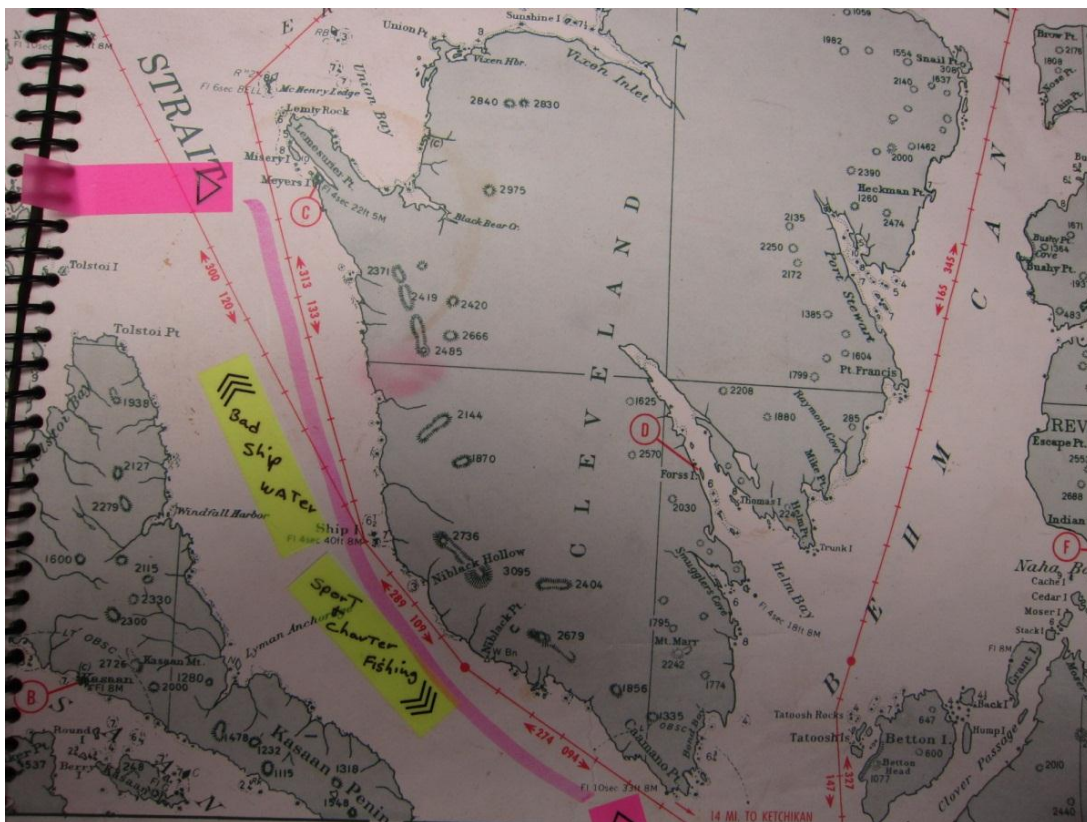
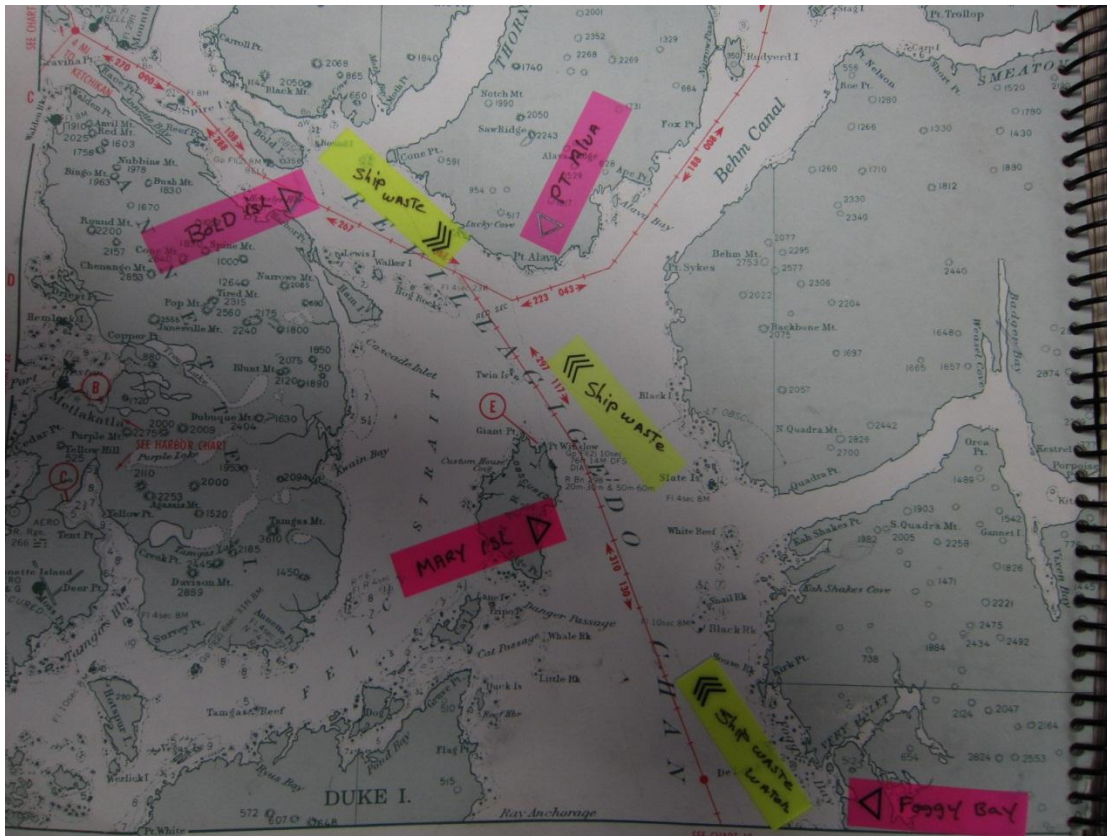
Sincerely,

cc. Alaska State Legislature

Attached: Photos & maps of cruise ship wastewater, red tide blooms and stressed salmon

FISH AND CRUISESHIP OBSERVATIONS FROM STEVE SHRUM KETCHIKAN February 17m 2013

- I am finding that almost 50% of the Coho will have what I call puss pockets in the early part of the summer and then the frequency diminishes later in the year. I think these fish are being stressed from the huge amounts of polluted cruiseship graywater and wastewater. Some days we have six or more ships dumping over 200,000 gallons of each from each ship. That is more than $400,000 \times 6 = 2,400,000$ and from what I understand that is very conservative. Add that to the fact that they are dumping within 1 1/2 miles from the beach everywhere in Alaska. The shocking point is when they leave a harbor such as Ketchikan they will start dumping **their waste** right in the middle of our fishing fleet, there could be boats all the way around fishing, and they start pumping there, saved up chemicals from their stay in port. This is extremely shocking when you are fishing and your fishing line comes up with toilet paper and other youuck. From what I understand their sewage only needs to be chopped up to 1 inch. When fish eat products that are chemically treated I would guess these chemicals are passed but more than likely these chemicals are absorbed into the tissues, and then when we consume these fish we also absorb these nasty chemicals.
- When Murkowski changed the law to enable these ships to be able to pump their waste **,,,one and a half mile from the beach** it was a huge disservice and no consideration was taken with regards to the health of our fish nor humans. **90% of our consumable fish caught by sport fishermen and charter fishermen are within that one and a half mile range which just so happens to be the most concentrated where the ship influence, and probably has never been checked what they're discharging and I guess the actual water has not been tested. But a layman can see what's going on, just look at our fish.**
- **Our red tide has increased dramatically year by year along the routes of these ships, I would suggest that the chemicals, change our insight passage water by changing not only the chemical makeup along with, also changing the water temperature which allow bacteria or whatever to dramatically affect our fish.**
- It is also likely in my opinion our fish have become stressed, because their food supply is diminishing day by day from the herring being recklessly fished out completely in almost all of Southeast Alaska, Fish and wildlife has recklessly allowed fishing of depleted stocks,, time and time again to the point we have no Herring fishing because there are no Herring . They have not allowed for the whale population, they have serviced the commercial fishing fleet, taken the attitude we will let you fish because it is so lucrative for you we cannot deny.
- The pictures I'm sending show the skin where the scales being forced off from a disease.
- The pictures also show what is happening under the skin, you can not see the puss pockets unless the skin is removed, and not all have any indication whatsoever on the outside of the skin. You can take a perfectly normal looking fish and when you remove the skin and fat you will find numerous 1/4 inch diameter white puss pockets throughout . If you ask a biologist they will tell you it is probably okay,, as long as you thoroughly cook. That really turns me off is I do not eat anything that I know is contaminated including a disease.
- **Steve Shrum [907-617-4061](tel:907-617-4061)**





From the boat and airplane, we frequently see long brown streaks of discolored water, and trails clearly marked by fragmented toilet paper trailing behind cruise ships (Ktn 2008).





I was running out of Ward Cove and saw all this soapy foam so I stopped to check it, it was soap and you can see the ship in Tongass Narrows 7-22-2010 9:14 am. Steve Shrum





These photos show the skin where the scales being forced off from a disease, and many of these have strange 'puss pockets' embedded in the fish muscle tissue.





Here is a big red tide bloom near Mary's Island. Our red tide has increased dramatically year by year along the routes of these ships, probably fed by the chemicals they discharge.

