



## Responsible Cruising in Alaska

Senate Resources Committee

Juneau, Alaska 99801

January 23, 2013

Testimony RE: SB 29, Cruise Ship Discharges

The preference of Responsible Cruising in Alaska is that cruise ships discharge only in federal waters, beyond the 3-mile state limit, where there are no direct salmon, whale or subsistence impacts in the coastal waters of Alaska.

Ship discharges in near shore and coastal waters pose a distinct risk to wild salmon populations. Of all the potentially toxic constituents in cruise ship wastewater, copper is the one heavy metal that is uniquely harmful to wild salmon at all their stages of development and in tiny concentration levels, a few parts per billion.

Metal polishing technology available today for large marine vessels will remove over 50% of the copper generated onboard, and many ships achieve better removal levels, but SB 29 would exempt the entire fleet from high Alaska water quality standards.

A very few older ships, primarily the Princess fleet, are riddled throughout with copper piping and also have small wastewater holding issues, yet their seven ships usually discharge into the Juneau treatment plant. The remaining 23 ship Alaska fleet is clean, nearly clean, or willing and able to discharge both solids and wastewater in federal waters.

That is the shame and irony of SB 29 - Alaska and the cruise industry have made great strides in 6 years to address legitimate wastewater issues, yet SB 29 throws the fleet laws and regulations aside to exempt a few Princess 'copper ships.' These ships will soon be exchanged and re-deployed for newer ships with plastic flex-pipe, eliminating the dissolved copper found onboard their fleet today. SB 29 is unnecessary legislation.

Copper is generated solely by leaching copper pipes on cruise ships. One huge factor causing copper leaching is water softener, but that product is deemed important for cruise passenger showers and shampoos.

Ships built 30+ years ago are copper-piped in over 1000 state-rooms, the galley, engine room, crew quarters, etc. These 'copper ships' have the highest copper counts in discharge waters, such as Princess Cruise Lines.

Conversely, all recently built cruise ships have plastic flex- pipes and generate the lowest copper counts from just water heaters and separators with copper piping, such as Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

SB 29 is unnecessary and puts at risk many salmon populations in state waters. Cruise ships are now legally permitted to discharge outside the 3 mile state limit, in federal waters, and Juneau has dock hookups for ships to discharge into the municipal water treatment plant. Princess Cruises uses the Juneau hookup daily during summer for their Alaska fleet of seven ships because, as noted, these ships are older, riddled with copper and have small wastewater holding tanks.

Responsible Cruising in Alaska wants cruise ships that must discharge in northern SE Alaska do so in the Juneau treatment plant and thus into one, municipal mixing zone that's been permitted by DEC without incident for 40 years. The alternative posed by SB 29 is that all of SE Alaska, Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet become cruise ship mixing zones, open for discharge whenever ships decide to do so.

SB 29 is looking for a problem that is already 95% solved. Wastewater discharge is available today in Juneau, and federal, offshore discharge for cruise waste solids is legal and permitted. I urge the committee to put aside SB 29 without making unnecessary exemptions to Alaska water quality standards for cruise ships.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

*Chip Thoma*

Chip Thoma, President  
Responsible Cruising in Alaska

ID #	Port	Location	Day	Date	Dissolved Copper ug/L	Dissolved Nickel ug/L	Dissolved Zinc ug/L	Comments
AE 2163	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Thu	17-Jul	6.75	5.57	38.7	Volendam
AE 2167	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Thu	24-Jul	0.531	0.65	4.93	Zaandam
AE 2175	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Wed	6-Aug	1.37	0.645	4.92	Norwegian Pearl
AE 2221	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Thu	14-Aug	3.9	1.3	9.5	Volendam
AE 2221	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Tue	19-Aug	0.92	0.96	7.2	Statendam
AE 2274	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Tue	26-Aug	1.0	<1	8.1	Statendam
AE 2294	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Tue	2-Sep	2.9	1.8	15	Statendam
AE 2319	Skagway	Skagway Broadway Dock	Thu	9-Sep	1.3	5.2	9.1	Statendam

AE 2163	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Thu	17-Jul	3.88	2.23	39.8	Norwegian Sun
AE 2167	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Thu	24-Jul	0.618	0.732	4.82	Norwegian Sun
AE 2175	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Wed	6-Aug	0.459	0.791	4.54	Norwegian Star
AE 2221	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Thu	14-Aug	1.3	0.68	17	Norwegian Sun
AE 2221	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Tue	19-Aug	1.1	0.95	140	Radiance of the Seas
AE 2274	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Tue	26-Aug	2.3	2.2	13	Millennium of the Seas
AE 2294	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Tue	2-Sep	1.3	4.6	10	Radiance of the Seas
AE 2319	Skagway	Skagway Ore Station Dock	Thu	9-Sep	1.4	5.4	4.6	Millennium of the Seas

AE 2163	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Thu	17-Jul	5.68	12.7	84.6	Coral/Star Princess
AE 2167	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Thu	24-Jul	5.2	8.11	27.9	Island/Star Princess
AE 2175	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Wed	6-Aug	5.55	8.63	74	Diamond Princess/Serenade of the Seas
AE 2221	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Thu	14-Aug	150	470	500	Coral/Star Princess
AE 2221	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Tue	19-Aug	8.4	12	29	Sapphire/Golden Princess
AE 2274	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Tue	26-Aug	20	22	54	Golden/Diamond Princess
AE 2294	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Tue	2-Sep	32	46	89	Sapphire/Golden Princess
AE 2319	Skagway	Skagway Railway Dock	Thu	9-Sep	19	39	69	Golden/Diamond Princess

## CRUISE FELONIES 1998-2004

Celebrity Cruises is owned by Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd. A criminal case brought by the US Department of Justice, Royal Caribbean pled guilty to 21 felonies, six of which were for illegal discharge of PERC into several US ports. The other felonies concerned routine illegal dumping of oil and the falsification of documents to cover it up. RCCL was fined \$27 million and lost permits in Glacier Bay.

- In April, Carnival Corp. pleaded guilty to falsifying records to cover up oil pollution by six ships over several years. It paid an \$18 million fine, and the company is on probation. A new violation could prompt new criminal charges.
- In late September, a fired Carnival Cruise Lines executive filed a whistle-blower lawsuit alleging a host of environmental and safety violations, including toxic-chemical dumping, on ships sailed by Carnival, Holland America, Cunard and Costa to many ports around the USA. Carnival Corp. owns all those lines. The allegations have not been proved, and Carnival Corp. has not commented on them.
- On Oct. 15, Carnival Corp. disclosed in a government filing that officers from one of its Holland America ships have been subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury in Alaska investigating a spill of wastewater in Juneau Bay in August. The Coast Guard in Alaska estimates 40,000 gallons went overboard.
- After a judge ruled the government did have jurisdiction, Royal Caribbean pleaded guilty to 30 criminal charges in Miami, New York, Puerto Rico, Los Angeles, the Virgin Islands and Alaska. It paid \$27 million in fines in 1998 and '99. The line has since implemented a companywide environmental compliance program.
- When subpoenas arrived at Carnival Corp. a year later, the corporate response was far different. Carnival didn't question jurisdiction and instead handed over 1,200 boxes of records and began negotiating a deal. In April, the company pleaded guilty in Miami, agreed to set up a compliance program and paid an \$18 million fine.
- Just three months later, Justice announced Norwegian's guilty plea and \$1 million fine. The government's press release said Norwegian, a Bermuda corporation, had turned itself in and lauded the company's "corporate citizenship." In its own announcement, Norwegian said only that it had "discovered reporting irregularities" and "immediately reported these problems to the government."

[http://www.earthisland.org/csaw/Gen\\_Cruise\\_web\\_docs/Cruise\\_Industry\\_Overview\\_2008.pdf](http://www.earthisland.org/csaw/Gen_Cruise_web_docs/Cruise_Industry_Overview_2008.pdf)