



HB 303

Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance

Emma Pokon, Deputy Commissioner

Randy Bates, Director, Division of Water



Operating Expectations

- ▶ All Industries operating in Alaska are subject to discharge requirements
 - ▶ Oil and gas
 - ▶ Hard rock and placer mining
 - ▶ Seafood processing
 - ▶ Publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities
 - ▶ Timber operations
 - ▶ Housing and industrial developments
 - ▶ Commercial passenger vessels

- ▶ DEC takes protection of Alaska's environment seriously, and we expect all industries and operating facilities to engage and perform meaningfully in that protection



2021 Cruise Ship Oversight

- DEC led on-board inspections of small and large discharging vessels operating in Alaska
 - Respectful of COVID-19 protocols and safety measures
 - Inspections scheduled and unscheduled, in-port and underway
- Vessel sampling results
- Port and common corridor transit area water quality sampling



2022 Season and Beyond

- DEC marine engineers and inspectors will
 - perform initial and annual inspections on ships operating in Alaska as early in the season as possible
 - will perform both scheduled and unscheduled inspections in-port and while vessel is underway
- Small vessels will be subject to the same inspection requirements



Existing Challenges

- Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program statutes were passed in 2001
 - Statutes require outdated, inefficient reporting methods
 - Statute-based standards are difficult to change when waste treatment and monitoring technologies improve
- 2006 ballot initiative put ocean ranger observers on large vessels
 - DEC staff spent significant time going through ocean ranger reports
 - Ocean ranger observations produced 6 notices of violation over 12 years
 - Small vessels did not get the same attention as large vessels
- Water quality in port communities is impacted by cruise passengers using onshore facilities



Proposed Changes

- Move detailed statutes to regulation
- Clarify DEC authority to board vessels while in port and underway
- Allow DEC to set format requirements for reports from vessels
- Simplify fee structure
- Incorporate technology
- Repeal ocean ranger observers
- Establish grant program to assist port municipalities to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities serving vessel passengers



What Will Not Change

- ▶ DEC's authority to conduct inspections at reasonable times and ability to get a warrant if necessary
- ▶ DEC's vessel registration system, which is required for all passenger vessels with over 50 overnight berths
- ▶ Air emission monitoring program
- ▶ The large cruise ship wastewater discharge general permit
- ▶ Separate discharge requirements for small vessels
- ▶ Sampling and reporting requirements
- ▶ What may not be discharged to Alaska's environment
- ▶ Recognition program



Current Fee Structure

Fee	Applies to	Fee
CPVEC	Large and small vessels	\$0.70 - \$1.75 scaled per lower berth fee based on range of berths
Ocean ranger	Large vessels	\$4 per berth

- Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Fee (CPVEC) established in 2001 to fund DEC oversight of cruise ships
- Ocean ranger fees were created in 2006 to fund the onboard observer program



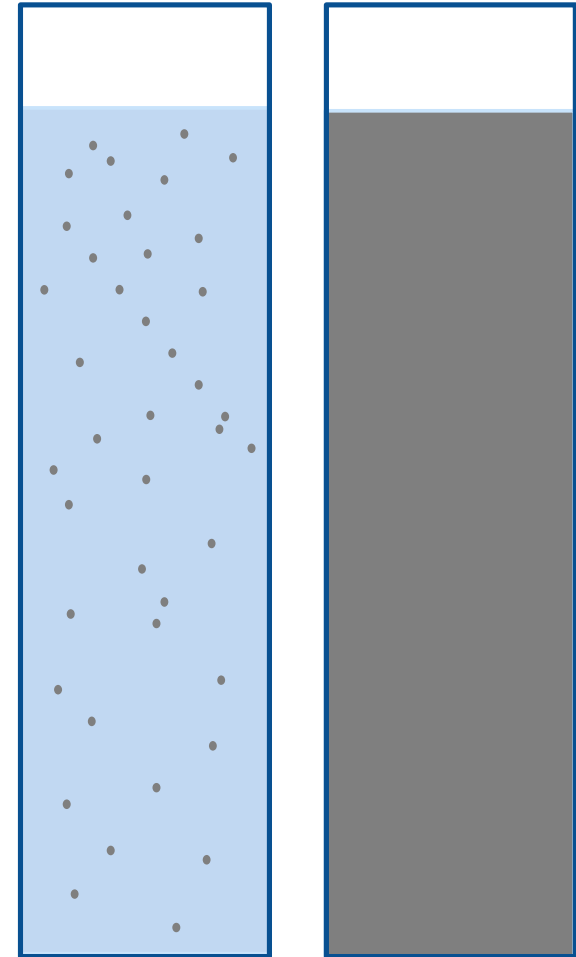
Proposed Fee Structure

- All vessels over 50 berths pay \$5 per lower berth
 - Large vessels pay roughly the same
 - Small vessels will pay increased fees in 2024
 - The fee would be reduced by \$1 per lower berth for any ship that maintains a DEC-approved electronic wastewater monitoring system



Local Water Quality Disparity

- ▶ Large cruise ship permit allows up to 40 fecal colony forming units per 100 ml.
- ▶ Local wastewater treatment facility permit allows up to 1.5 million fecal colony forming units per 100 ml.
- ▶ Many of the over one million yearly cruise ship passengers will use on-shore restrooms when visiting Alaska ports





Local Water Quality

Community	301(h) Waiver?	Fecal Colony Forming Unit Effluent Limit(s) per #/100 milliliters
Juneau	N	<u>Juneau Douglas:</u> Average monthly: 200 Average weekly: 400 Daily Maximum: 800 <u>Mendenhall (varies seasonally):</u> Average monthly: 112-200, Average weekly: 168-400, Daily Maximum: 224-800
City of Ketchikan	Y (Charcoal Point)	<u>Ward Cove:</u> Average monthly: 200 Average weekly: 400 Daily Maximum: 800 <u>Charcoal Point:</u> Average monthly: 1,000,000 Daily Maximum: 1,250,000
Sitka	Y	Average monthly: 1,000,000 Maximum Daily: 1,500,000
Skagway	Y	Average monthly: 1,000,000 Maximum Daily: 1,500,000



Shoreside Facility Upgrades

- A portion of the berth fees will be used to support improvements to shore-based wastewater treatment facilities in port communities
- DEC will establish a grant program to provide financial assistance



Questions?

