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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

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Apr 5th, 2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Puget Sound no discharge zone for vessel sewage

Amy Jankowiak

Washington State Dept. of Ecology, United States, amy.jankowiak@ecy.wa.gov

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Puget Sound Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zone

Amy Jankowiak
Water Quality Program



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

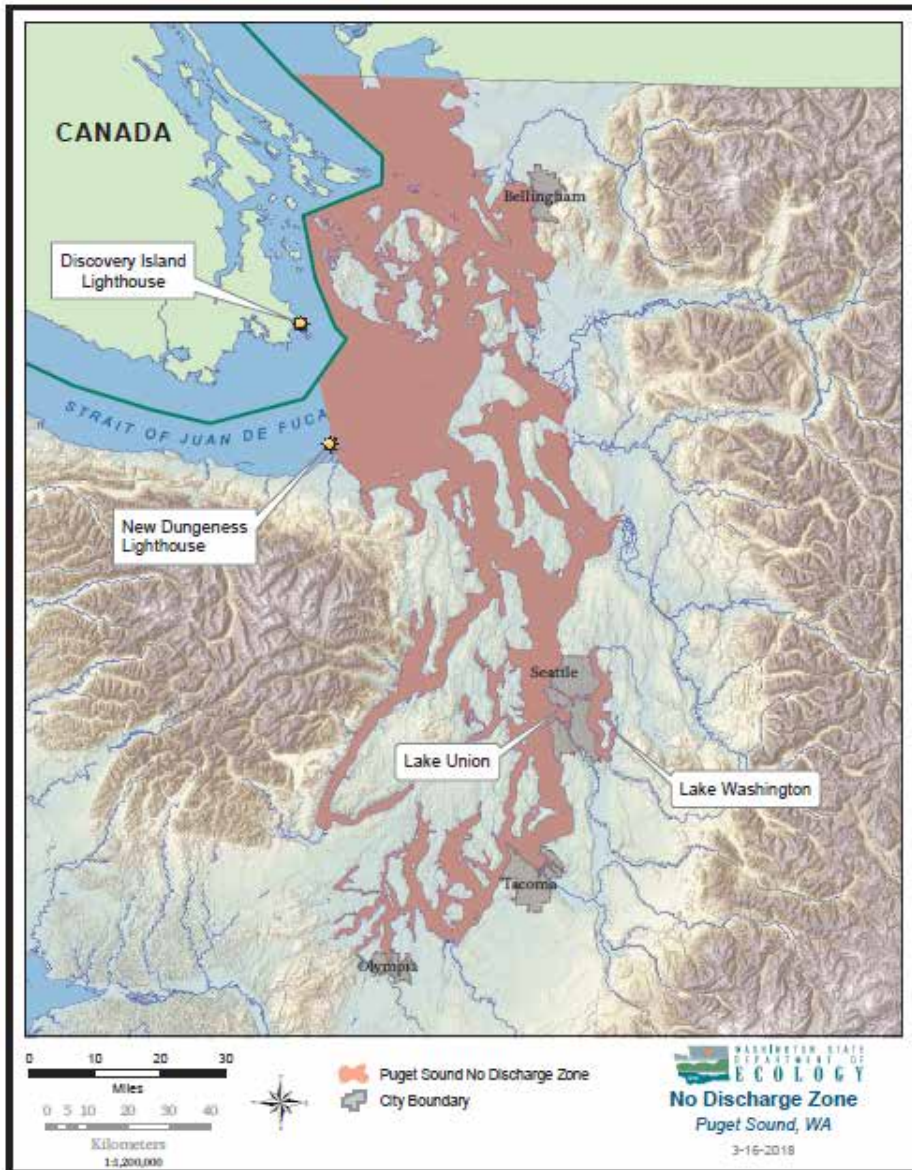


Map of proposed geographic extent of NDZ in proposed rule

The western boundary of the NDZ would be the exit of the Strait of Juan de Fuca near the entrance of Admiralty Inlet. This boundary is known and visible to vessel operators as it is the line between New Dungeness lighthouse and Discovery Island lighthouse.

The northern boundary would be the border with Canada and heading south including all marine waters down to the south end of the south sound and Hood Canal.

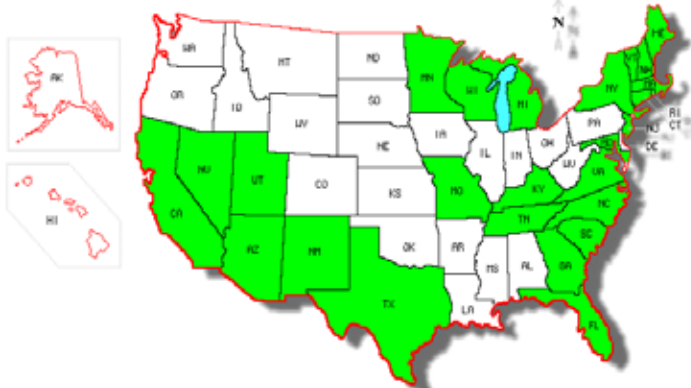
The fresh waters of Lake Washington, Lake Union and connecting waters between and to Puget Sound would be included.



What is a No Discharge Zone (NDZ)?

States with No-Discharge Zones

● - No-Discharge Zone



■ States with NDZs (part or all)

2-11-18

- Designated area where both treated and untreated sewage from vessels cannot be discharged
- Provides states with the ability to regulate discharges
- Widespread use of NDZs; over 90 established in 26 states



Why have a No Discharge Zone?

- Preventable pollution source, pathogens – protect water quality and public health/shellfish
- One piece of Puget Sound protection - (sewage, stormwater, ag runoff, etc.)
- Opening of ~1,000 acres shellfish beds in and near marinas across Puget Sound.
- Treated sewage from vessels doesn't meet standards for water quality and public health protection



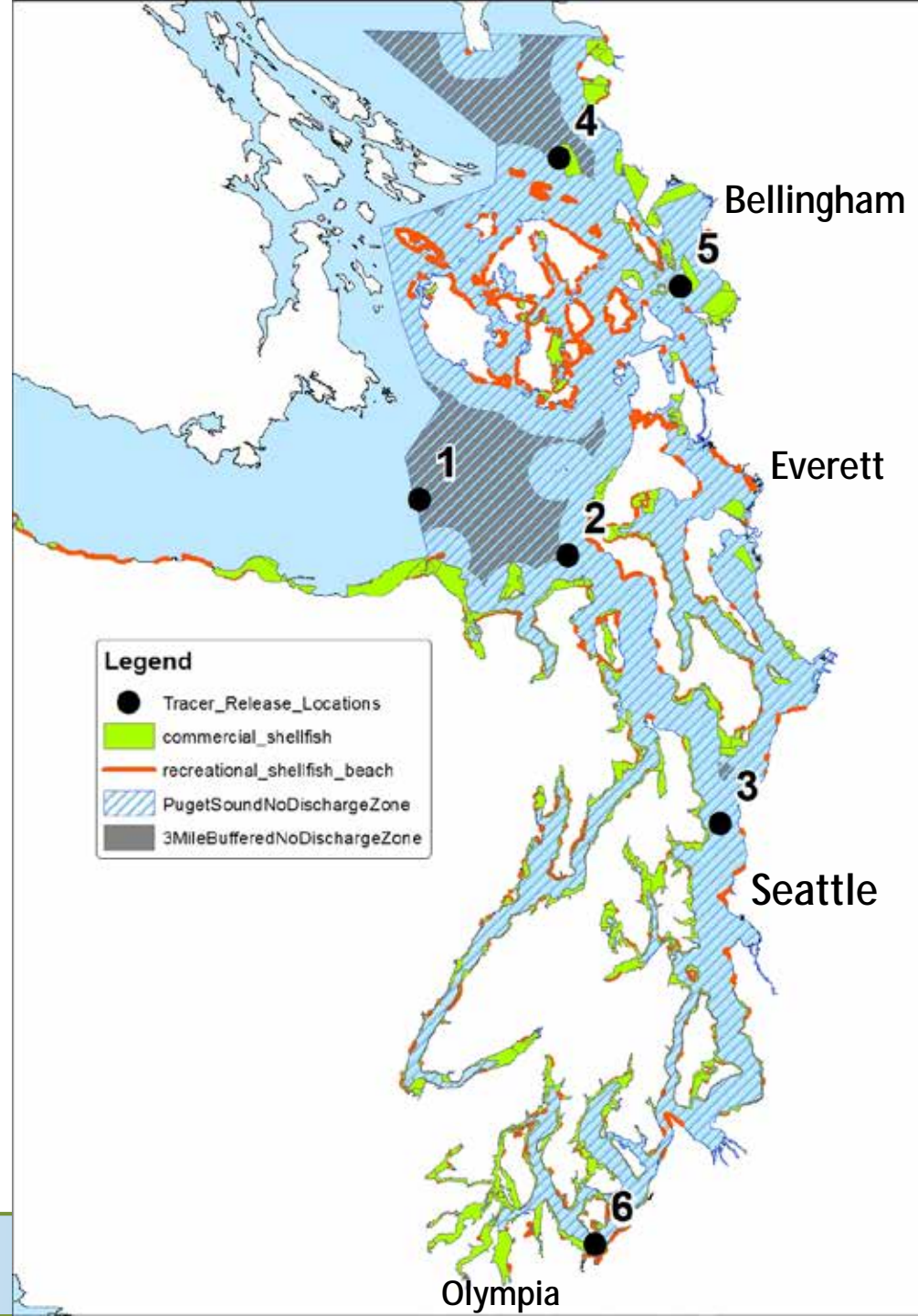
Process Leading to Rulemaking

- Over 5 years of public outreach and evaluation
- >50 public meetings, advisory group meetings (focus on geographic extent and infrastructure)
- Preliminary draft developed and issued in summer 2014, Response to Comments
- Upon input, conducted modeling, analysis of economic impact, etc.
- Ecology NDZ website >10 reports/studies
- Final Petition July 2016; EPA Response to Comments and Affirmative Determination February 2017



Modeling

- Dilution alone of vessel discharge is insufficient to maintain concentrations below the WQ standard at all times
- We cannot rule out vessel discharge impacts on sensitive areas, even if discharge is > 3 mi from shore.
- Additional analysis was conducted using a pulse release in the Salish Sea Model and CORMIX
- This is not a comprehensive assessment – there are an infinite number of combinations (vessel location, length/timing of discharge, salinity, temperature, wind conditions, etc.)



Information to Decision

- Stakeholder input
 - Advisory group, public meetings, several drafts for public comment
- Science pieces
 - Studies, modeling
- Policy
 - Considered alternatives, input, best way to protect water quality and public health



Information to Decision

- Challenges along the way
 - Concerns from stakeholders
 - Legal challenges
 - Politics
- Worked with stakeholders
- Evaluated all information and input
- Best decision to protect



Proposed Rule

- Purpose
- Definitions
- NDZ – Puget Sound
- Vessel Sewage management in NDZ
- When Effective
- Enforcement



Implementation Planning

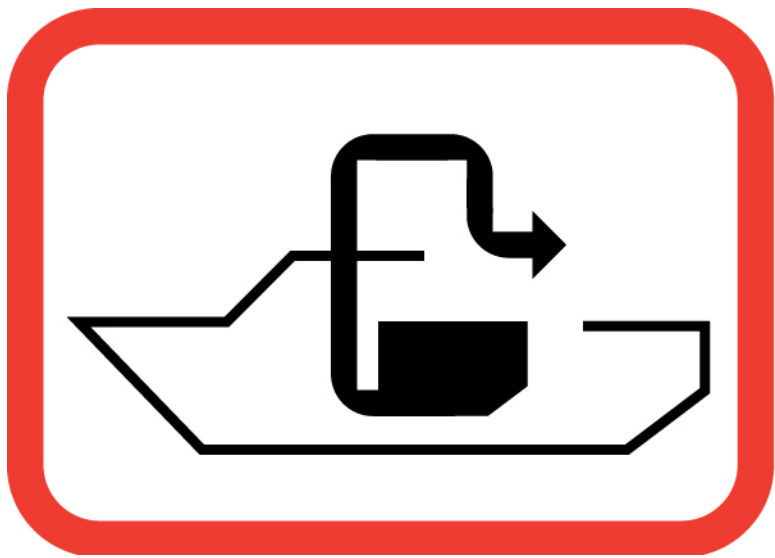
- Implementation planning in progress;
Implementation Plan
- Outreach/Education – key initial strategy to compliance
- Enforcement – combination of USCG, State and local authority



Evaluating the Success

- Long-term
 - by volume pumped out
 - shellfish beds opened
 - boater surveys
 - continued work on pumpout availability and outreach
 - water quality comparisons





Pump, Don't Dump



- <https://pumpoutwashington.org/>





No Discharge Zone Rulemaking Website:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-228-Jul17>

No Discharge Zone Website:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Puget-Sound/No-discharge-zone>

Questions and discussion

Project Lead: Amy Jankowiak
Municipal Compliance and Vessel Sewage
Prevention Specialist, Water Quality Program

Amy.Jankowiak@ecy.wa.gov

425-649-7195