

* * * ACTION ALERT * * *

TAKE 5 MINUTES TO PROTECT ALASKA'S WATERS FROM CRUISE SHIP DUMPING

Governor Parnell's Bill Will Increase Pollution in Coastal Waters

BACKGROUND: Cruise ships are floating cities that produce and discharge large volumes of sewage and other harmful wastes. In 2006, [Alaska voters passed a statewide ballot initiative](#) requiring cruise ships to reduce their pollution dumping in Alaskan waters (i.e., from the shoreline out to 3 miles). In response, cruise ship lobbyists pushed through legislation in 2009 to establish an industry-dominated "Science Panel," which immediately set out gathering information to weaken the 2006 citizen initiative (industry lobbyists [excluded the most knowledgeable public interest voice in Alaska](#) from the panel because they did not want any opposition to their pollution rollback plans).

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW: The Parnell Administration – on behalf of the cruise ship corporations – has introduced companion bills in the Alaska House ([HB 80](#)) and Senate ([SB 29](#)) – which will once again allow cruise ships to rely on pollution "mixing zones" to meet state water quality standards. Mixing zones embrace the long-discounted notion that "dilution is the solution to pollution," and they create sacrifice zones which violate the fishable and swimmable goals of the Clean Water Act.

TAKE ACTION: Contact your Senate & House Representative ASAP! Floor votes are coming soon! Here is a [list of legislator emails and phone numbers](#), and here is a [list of legislators](#).

TALKING POINTS:

- Cruise are huge floating cities and the technology exists to reduce cruise ship pollution; if a few ships need more time to comply, build in a 3 year compliance schedule
- Cruise ships corporations rake in huge profits and should not use Alaskan waters as their dumping grounds
- Cruise ship dumping will harm our ability to market our fish and shellfish as safe and sustainable
- Alaskans spoke in 2006 and Governor Parnell and the legislature should listen to the will of the people
- Alaskans rely on our coastal waters for recreational and business, and it makes no sense to pollute the fish, shellfish and coastal areas that make Alaska special
- Dilution is not the solution to pollution; cruise ships should not be allowed to use moving mixing zones which can overlap with other mixing zones
- If cruise ships are allowed to discharge in Alaskan waters, there should be exclusion zones around critical habitat areas, shellfish farm and important fisheries.

MORE INFO:

[Statement from Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters \(1/1/13\)](#)

[ADEC Cruise Ship Website](#)