

**Excerpt from 5/01 Stakeholder meeting notes**

**Ken Rear – Environmental group**

*Requested information covered in this presentation:*

- 1) *What is the environmental impact of the cruise industry? (cruise ship category)*
- 2) *Environment impact comparison: large ship to small (planning category)*

Environmental impact of cruise ships

Ken read the Summary of his report [see handout].

Q: What are the sizes of “small” vs. “large” ships?

A: This is all about ships with accommodations - 50-250 passengers is small; over 250 berths is large.

Q: Do small cruise ships have regulations?

A: They're allowed to continually discharge gray water; fecal coliform counts in composition of untreated grey is similar to black – the independent study (that Ken refers to in his report) considered grey and black all together.

Q: Are there any new regulations that they can't discharge?

A: There are new regs, but they exempted boats made before 2004

Q: Does Sitka make those regs?

A: it's the state that regulates the emissions.

Q: How far out is state water?

A: 3 miles, but for discharges they have to be 12 miles

Q: Did you take into consideration the impact on the town or just the water, like air, sound, etc.

A: I tried to find out anything I could about the environmental impact. There were other things that I didn't cover – like impact on seals and sound.

Comment from Ken's committee – the group has more information to present that's not included in Ken's report.

Ken: I did look into the marine mammal issue a little bit. I tried to keep things in context of what's happening in Sitka – that's why I didn't include a lot of that information – not a pup ground or ice field;

The other issue – underwater soundscape – some ships went down to navy listening station, got a sound signature made and analyzed sounds from cruise ships, made comparisons between how far away you can hear ship vs. other sounds; an inflatable with 15ft outboard can be louder than a cruise ship, for example. It's a big massive complex report – cruise ships do make sounds, but they're not seen as harmful or disturbing. Small boats disturb as much as large, and they're more likely to come within 100 yds. of wildlife.

Matthew asks the SH to process what Ken has presented with the following questions:

*Everyone understand what's been presented here?*

Yes

*Regarding the question “What is the environmental impact of the cruise industry,” is there anything in Ken's report that we should strike in order to do our work?*

No.

*Is there anything we need to add as far as things to retain, things he presented that weren't included in the report?*

Air pollution isn't covered very well

SH comment: I have some remaining questions about how it's been impacted in other places, but then there's the question about if we need to know that now, or if the answer to that can wait.

Matthew says he's not putting any parameters on going back and getting more information during strategy phase as needed.

Ken: My angle was to present the current standards; there's not much data out there yet about impacts, these are fairly new legislations.

SH Comment: if the purpose is to gather all the information now that we need to strategize later, then I'd need more information on this topic before we move on; but if we're going to open this up again, then we can call this a good start.

SH: I don't want to discourage the process, and I've missed a couple meetings, but I'm struggling with the time frame – are there limits on presenting? If we spend this much time on each one, we'll never get done.

Matthew says yes, we have put a 5-minute time limit on presentations, but we needed to work through some of this processing stuff tonight.

SH comment: Going back to the question – I'd like to know if there are any studies on people that come to Alaska on a cruise and experience AK and then go home and treat their environment better.

SH: I suggest we keep Ken's long report instead of the short report. Lots more information and resources that we could follow up on later and then we move on.

Matthew asks again, regarding the question "What is the environmental impact of the cruise industry," Do we have enough information on this question right now to close it – Is anybody opposed to giving it a red dot?

No one is opposed, provided they can gather more information later if they see that as necessary to future decision-making.