

# Focus on: Puget Sound No Discharge Zone Commercial Vessels



## More information

The No Discharge Zone prevents pollution from impacting shellfish beds, beaches, public health and overall water quality.

<http://www.Ecology.wa.gov/NDZ>

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## Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7668 or visit <http://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## Puget Sound is now a No Discharge Zone (NDZ)

It is now illegal to discharge treated or untreated blackwater (sewage) into Puget Sound for all commercial and recreational vessels. However, while vessel operators are learning about the new law, Washington State plans to focus on education before enforcement. Chapter 173-228 WAC was adopted on April 9, 2018. The rule is effective as of May 10, 2018. Some exceptions apply.

The Puget Sound is a unique and sensitive environment that is prone to poor water quality conditions. A No Discharge Zone helps to prevent vessel sewage pollution from impacting our shellfish beds, beaches, and water quality.

## How to manage vessel sewage in the NDZ

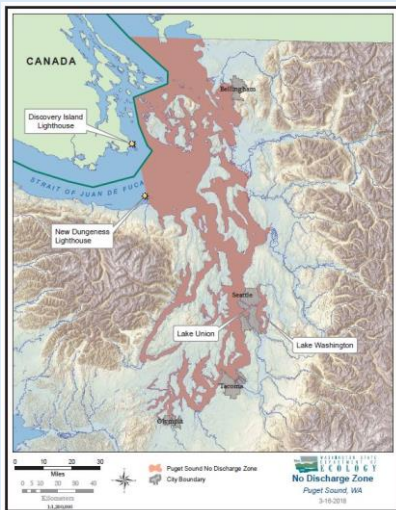
### Type I or Type II devices

Vessels with these MSDs must secure the devices to prohibit the discharge of treated sewage while in the NDZ. Acceptable methods include:

- Closing the seacock and removing the handle;
- Padlocking the seacock in the closed position;
- Using a non-releasable wire-tie to hold the seacock in the closed position; or
- Locking the door to the space enclosing the toilets with a padlock or door handle key lock.



The NDZ includes marine waters of Washington State inward from the line between New Dungeness Lighthouse and the Discovery Island Lighthouse to the Canadian border, and fresh waters of Lake Washington, Lake Union, and the connecting waters between and to Puget Sound.



<http://www.ecology.wa.gov/NDZ>  
for larger map

## How to manage vessel sewage in the NDZ (continued)

### Type III holding tanks

Use stationary pumpouts, mobile pumpouts, pumping services (such as barges or trucks), or follow discharge requirements outside the NDZ.

### Without Installed toilets

Vessels without installed toilets must dispose of any collected sewage from portable toilets or other containment devices at facilities in a manner that complies with state law (ashore in a proper facility).

### Pumpouts

Ecology has provided a list of potential commercial vessel sewage pumpout options on our website: <http://www.Ecology.wa.gov/NDZ> (info for commercial vessels)

## Exceptions

The following vessels have until May 10, 2023 to comply:

- Tug boats
- Commercial fishing vessels
- Small commercial passenger vessels (<249 overnight passengers)
- NOAA research and survey vessels

These vessels are still required to comply with existing state and federal discharge regulations in the interim. But, because of costs and efforts to retrofit systems, the vessel types listed above and defined in the rule have until 2023 to comply with the No Discharge Zone specific discharge rules.

All other vessels (not listed above) must comply with the rule starting May 10, 2018.

Public vessels emergency exemption:

There is an exemption for any public vessels as defined in the rule that are actively involved in emergency, safety, security, or related contingency operations where it would not be possible to comply with the no discharge zone.

The NDZ does not affect graywater discharges.

## Enforcement

Ecology and the United States Coast Guard may enforce the Puget Sound No Discharge Zone using existing authorities. In addition, other federal, state, and local agencies may provide enforcement, as authorized. Ecology's approach is first focused on outreach and education, as we work with partners in a NDZ Enforcement Committee and NDZ Outreach and Education Committee.