

# CSAW

Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters



Earth Island Institute

## Reasons to Pass SB 1582 and Place “Ocean Rangers” on Large Cruise Ships Transiting CA Waters

1. Independent marine engineer observers are needed on cruise ships to ensure the protection of California's coastal resources.

a. More cruise ships are calling upon California ports of call every year. The cruise ship fleet is increasing in size and carrying capacity, and producing increasing volumes of solid and liquid waste.

b. Improperly treated wastes released into the environment can significantly impact California's aquatic ecosystems and the people and industries that depend upon them.

c. The cruise industry has received numerous felony convictions and fines for dumping wastes into public waters and has a poor record on self-policing environmental practices. Despite increased public awareness, the industry has demonstrated a continued willingness to circumvent prudent environmental practices to increase profits (e.g., Vanuatu dumping scandal, 11/06.)

d. California's zero-discharge law for cruise ship discharges does not provide independent oversight of the industry or verification of the zero-discharge requirement.

2. Public safety officers are needed on cruise ships to deter and investigate crimes against U.S. citizens, and oversee the potential entry of thousands of aliens onto American soil.

a. Millions of American citizens travel on cruise ships every year and numerous documented cases exist of serious crimes against passengers by other passengers and crew members.

b. The industry has failed to adopt measures to protect passengers from theft, rape, and “disappearance” (suspected homicides,) or provide necessary assistance to U.S. safety officers investigating crimes.

c. Every cruise ship crew transports thousands of aliens who have direct access to multiple U.S. ports of call.

Ocean Rangers will be employees of the State of California: licensed marine engineers and/or public safety officers, certified to perform environmental monitoring and/or public safety duties:

a. monitor environmental compliance related to the discharge of all wastestreams from cruise ships in California waters.

b. observe maintenance and operational procedures for onboard waste treatment systems and review relevant logbooks related to environmental compliance activities.

c. assist passengers as needed with the reporting and investigation of all crimes against U.S. citizens onboard the vessel.

d. evaluate and respond to risks related to homeland security.

For more information contact CSAW.