

CSAW
Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters



Earth Island Institute

Overview of Cruise Ship Facts, Threats to the Environment, Criminal History

More Ships - Fewer Companies

- Worldwide fleet >220 ships, growing 50% from 2000-2005
- Carnival (Carnival/Holland/Princess/Costa/Cunard/Windstar/Seabourn/P&O) = 50% N. American market
RCCL (RCI/Celebrity/Island) + Star (Star/Norwegian/Orient) = 40% N. A. market

Solid and Toxic Wastes (Based on a "typical ship" of ~3000 passengers and crew)

- ~11.5 tons of garbage produced per day (*passengers only*, 75-80% is incinerated and disposed at sea)
- ~23 gallons of toxic waste generated/day including silver nitrate from photo labs, "PERC" from dry-cleaning facilities, mercury, lead, cadmium, and copper

Water Pollution

- ~270,000 gallons of graywater/day (sink, shower, laundry, galley wastes) contaminated with fecal bacteria and often containing infirmary and spa/beauty parlor wastes
- ~30,000 gallons of blackwater (sewage) and tons of sewage sludge/day; graywater and blackwater are contaminated with viruses that could infect swimmers.
- ~7000 gallons of oily bilge water discharged/day; bilgewater discharges have been used to hide the dumping of other toxic pollutants
- Thousands of metric tons of ballast water are exchanged with receiving waters that can infect receiving waters with invasive and/or disease-causing organisms

Air Pollution

- A single cruise ship can release as much air pollution every day as >12,000 automobiles
- Most ships use bunker fuel or other cheap, high sulfur fuels and refuse to plug into shore-side power

Aquatic Ecosystem Impacts

- Three humpback whales died in S.E. Alaska from ship collisions in 2002, individual humpbacks were killed by ship collisions in 2003 and 2004, finback whale killed by cruise ship in 2006
- Harbor seal populations have declined by 2/3 in Yakutat Bay AK in the past 10 years - the same time period in which cruise traffic increased by a factor of 10.
- Underwater noise from cruise ships can disorient and kill whales and porpoises
- Polluted wastestream releases and food chain accumulation of pollutants can harm marine mammals
- Cruise ship anchors have damaged large areas of coral reefs in the Caribbean
- High nutrient and bacteria levels in cruise ship discharges can harm coral reef ecosystems and contaminate aquatic vegetation

Repeat Felony and Misdemeanor Convictions

- >\$100 million in fines for pollution, falsifying records, and reef damage over the past decade; 87 confirmed cases of illegal dumping by foreign flagged cruise ships into U.S. waters between 1993-1998 (See *GAO Marine Pollution Report GAO/RCED-00-48*)
- Royal Caribbean - 21 felony counts for dumping, falsifying records, and obstructing justice in 1999
- Norwegian Cruise Lines - felony conviction for dumping and falsifying records in 2001; Norwegian Sun discharged 16,000 gallons of raw sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca on May 3rd 2003
- Carnival - felony charges in 2002 for dumping oily bilge water and falsifying discharge logbooks
- Holland America - cited for releasing untreated wastewater while docked in Juneau in 2001, convicted for dumping ~20,000 gal. of sewage sludge into Juneau harbor in 2002
- Crystal Cruises broke a promise to not discharge into Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, dumping 36,000 gal. of treated bilge, treated sewage, and grey water in 2002
- P&O - offloaded 100,000+ gal. oil sludge into an open pit on the Island of Vanuatu without permit