

# 2018 Wastewater Sampling Results For Small Cruise Ships and Ferries

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Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program

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#### 1. SUMMARY

This is a summary of the results of onboard sampling and laboratory testing of small cruise ship and ferry wastewater effluent in Alaska during 2018. Tables of sample results are included in Appendix 1. Information on the sampling techniques and requirements can be found in the Methods section of this summary. Table 1 lists small cruise ships and ferries with BMPs in Alaska and their discharge status in 2018. Small cruise ships and state ferries have made progress in terms of overall wastewater effluent quality since the beginning of the Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance (CPVEC) BMP program.

### 2. INTRODUCTON

Sampling of wastewater effluent was conducted for all small cruise ships and ferries with over 50 overnight passenger berths discharging in Alaska waters. Sampling is needed to:

- Check if treatment systems are operational
- Obtain information on treatment system performance for future discharge permits or Best Management Practices Plans
- Compile information on potential environmental effects
   Sample result data for cruise ships and ferries has been collected by the Department of Environmental Conservation since 2000. Reports and summaries for prior years can be found on the cruise program's report webpage.

http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise\_ships/reports.htm

#### 3. METHODS

Samples are grab wastewater samples taken from a sample port prior to discharge. The grab samples were taken according to requirements in the ship's approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Several vessels used the Cruise Line International Association North West and Canada Quality Assurance Project Plan for Sampling and Analysis of Treated Sewage and Graywater from Commercial Passenger Vessels, and some ships use their own Department approved QAPP. The QAPP specifies minimum requirements for sampling and analysis of wastewater. It includes a list of approved methods, sample collection requirements, and laboratory analysis requirements. Samplers must follow the QAPP and the Vessel Specific

Sampling Plan (VSSP) for each cruise ship when collecting a sample. The cruise ship program reviews results submitted by the cruise ship operators for compliance with the QAPP and VSSPs.

Sampling may occur while underway or while docked. All samples were obtained in Southeast Alaska in 2018, with the majority of samples obtained in or near Juneau.

In the attached tables, there are results which have been highlighted in orange indicating an exceedance of water quality standards or Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) certification standards. Regulations (18 AAC 69.080) allow the department to work with the small cruise ship operators to develop corrective actions to address these exceedances, and develop revisions to the BMPs to improve the working order of the MSD. Dark blue highlights indicate that either no sample data was received or accepted. Results below the method detection limit (MDL) are recorded as zero.

#### 4. RESULTS

Wastewater sample results are listed in Appendix 1 with tables for conventional parameters, nutrient parameters, and metals. Full results of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and base neutral acids (BNAs) are available on request.

Sampling requirements were modified in late 2015 to match similar changes in the 2014 large cruise ship general permit pertaining to nutrients and priority parameters. Ships with separate greywater discharges were allowed to sample greywater for conventional parameters every other year starting in 2016.

Small cruise ships and ferries are required to meet standard terms and conditions, or seek alternative terms and conditions with Best Management Practices plans in order to discharge blackwater and graywater in Alaska marine waters. Under standard terms and conditions blackwater, graywater, and other wastewater must contain no more than 200 fecal coliform per 100 milliliters and no more than 150 milligrams per liter of total suspended solids. These are the US Coast Guard performance requirements for approval of Type II Marine Sanitation Devices

(MSD) under test conditions. A MSD is required for discharge of blackwater in US waters. Some small cruise ships and ferries also treat their graywater with their MSD.

The statutes allowing alternative terms and conditions expired at the start of 2016, ships operated under a No Action Assurance memo from the Department allowing operation under existing BMPs. The new law allowing alternative terms and conditions was passed in 2017. Regulations were updated and updates to multiple ship BMPs occurred in 2018.

Small cruise ships and ferries continue to balance bacterial disinfection and chlorine use. Chlorine is used to disinfect bacteria, but it is toxic to marine organisms and high residuals must be avoided. Several vessels have installed equipment to dechlorinate the treated wastewater.

The fecal coliform standard is 200 colonies per 100 ml for approved Type II Marine Sanitation Devices. The Alaska marine water quality standards (AMWQS) is a daily maximum of 43 colonies per 100 ml. This AMWQS is used due to the collection of shellfish for raw consumption. This more stringent AMWQS is used by the Cruise Ship Program as it is assumed that the use of this standard would provide adequate protection to all other uses of all marine waters. Traditionally blackwater has had the highest median fecal coliform results, although very high results have also been found in graywater.

#### Conclusion

The CPVEC program continues to work with small cruise ships and the state ferries to make progress in terms of overall wastewater effluent quality. Since the beginning of the CPVEC program and implementation of the small cruise ship BMPs there has been an increased improvement in the results. Unfortunately, some ships continue to struggle with meeting the standards for suspended solids, fecal coliform, BOD, and chlorine. The National Geographic Quest is a new ship with a new wastewater treatment systems, the effluent performance will be reviewed prior to the 2018 Alaska cruise season. Operators have continued to make progress in corrective actions taken after high fecal coliform and suspended solids results are reported.

## **APPENDIX 1: 2018 SMALL CRUISE SHIP SAMPLE DATA**

Table 1: 2018 Small Cruise Ship and Ferry Summary

									Discha	rging in
					Maximum				Alaska <sup>2</sup> &	
		Passenger	Crew		Total	Blackwater Treatment				program
Vacal Operator	Vessel Name			Vovogoo			Unito	вмр	BW	GW
Vessel Operator					Passengers		Units			
Alaska Marine Highway	Columbia	625	66	Apr-Oct	N/A	Omnipure 15MX	4	Yes		Mixed
Alaska Marine Highway	Kennicott	748	42	Year Rd.	N/A	Orca II 500	3	Yes		Mixed
Alaska Marine Highway	Malaspina	500	50	Jan-April	N/A	Omnipure 15MX	3	Yes		Mixed
Alaska Marine Highway	Matanuska	498	50	Year Rd.	N/A	Omnipure 15MX	3	Yes		Mixed
Alaska Dream Cruises	Admiralty Dream	66	21	18	1188	Omnipure 12M	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alaska Dream Cruises	Chichagof Dream	78	27	18	1404	Orca II A-500 MSD	1	Yes	Yes-	Mixed
American Cruise Lines	American Constellation	173	46	13	2249	Marine Fast MSD	1	Yes	Yes-	Mixed
Hapag-Lloyd	Bremen	155	94	1	155	Hamworthy RT 80		N/A	No	No
Lindblad/Nat. Geographic	National Geographic Quest	100	50	18	1800	Gertsen & Olufsen Bioreactor	1	Yes	Y	es
Lindblad/Nat. Geographic	National Geographic Sea Bird	62	28	18	1116	Omnipure 12MX	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lindblad/Nat. Geographic	National Geographic Sea Lion	62	28	16	992	Omnipure 12M	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Silver Expeditions	Silver Explorer	150	130	6	900	AquaMaster Unex Bio 200 E	1	Yes	Yes-	Mixed
Un-Cruise Adventures	Safari Endeavor	86	35	17	1462	Omnipure 12M5508	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Un-Cruise Adventures	S.S. Legacy	92	34	15	1380	Red Fox RF-2000-FP	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Un-Cruise Adventures	Wilderness Adventurer	74	23	25	1850	Omnipure 12MX	1	Yes	Yes-l	Mixed
Un-Cruise Adventures	Wilderness Discoverer	78	24	15	1170	Omnipure 12MX	1	Yes	Yes-l	Mixed
Un-Cruise Adventures	Wilderness Explorer	76	26	23	1748	Red Fox RF-2000-FP	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windstar	Star Legend	212	155	11	2332	Rochem Biofiltration 18/27-10	1	Yes	Yes-	Mixed
			Totals	214	19,746					
<sup>1</sup> A small vessel has overnig	ght accommodations for 50 to 249	passengers.								
<sup>2</sup> Alaska water extends 3 m	niles from the coastline and includ	es the Alexand	ler Archipela	ado.						
•	r small cruise ships and capacity									

#### Table 2: Conventional Parameters for Mixed Treated Blackwater and Graywater

		Ammonia		Temper	Biochemical O <sub>2</sub>	Chemical Oxygen	Total Suspended	Total	Free	Fecal Coliform	Specific	Oil &	Total Organic	Alkalinity	Hardness (as	Nitrogen, Nitrate- Nitrite (as	Total Phosphor	Total Kjeldahl	Total Settleable
		as N	pН	ature	Demand	Demand	Solids	Chlorine	Chlorine	Bacteria	ce	Grease	Carbon	(Total)	CaCO3)	N)	us	Nitrogen	Solids
Reportable Limit (PC	L)	0.1	0.1	0.1	2	10	4	0.1	0.1	2	2	5	1	2		1	0.05	1	0.1
Units		mg/L	S.U.	С	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	FC/100ml	umhos/cm	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ml/L
Alaska Marine Water Quality	Standards,																		
Secondary Treatment standa	ards, or AS	1	6.5-8.5	n/a	60	n/a	150	0.0075	n/a	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
46.03.463																			
	Sample																		
Vessel Name	Date																		
Columbia	8/27/18		6.80	17.7	100		65	0	0	27									
Columbia	9/24/18	5.60	6.49	13.8	180	1,000	215	0	0	81	41,200	0		120	4,900				0
Kennicott	8/29/18		8.15	15.9	18		14	2.60	2.14	18									
Kennicott	9/26/18	0.17	7.87	14.8	2.7	840	18	3.3	3.0	0	45,100	0		100	5,100				0
Malaspina	8/26/18		6.77	19.4	140		130	8.3	0.74	130									
Malaspina	9/23/18	3.6	6.54	18.1	66	800	60.0	3.00	0.44	0	39,300	8.90		99	4,600				0
Matanuska																			
Chichagof Dream	6/13/18	2	6.00	23.9	ND	500	34	1.00	0	44,000	38,000	0		120	4,200				0
American Constellation	6/30/18	60	7.43	19.0	200	900	120	0	0	500	1,710	0		400	100				0
American Constellation	8/18/18	48	7.24	23.7	460	1,100	300	0	0	48,000	2,430	6.7		450	110	0.23	14	75	0
National Geo Quest	6/3/18	3	7.85	20.0	16	54	10	0	0.21	410,000	136	0		54	29				0
National Geo Quest	7/1/18	67	7.51	19.0	470	890	107	0	0	3,700,000	1,080	13.6	197	400	41	0	10.8	150	0.5
National Geo Quest	8/12/18		6.96	20.5			117	0	0	200,000									
National Geo Quest	8/26/18	0.78	6.00	19.0	820	1,300	248	0	0	0	10,800	43.7		130	54				0
Star Legend	6/7/18		7.47	30.1	20	82	0	0	0	10	1,170	0.0	24.7	350	20		4.64	87	0
Star Legend	7/5/18	1.1	7.33	26.8	10	62	0	0	0	8	864	0.0		250	16	0	1.24	44	0
Star Legend	7/18/18	79.0	7.59	27.5				0	0	8				400		0	4.76	84	
Wilderness Adventurer	5/5/18		7.96	18.8	480		493	0	0	19,000,000									
Wilderness Discoverer	6/23/18		8.71	17.6	120		103	8.6	0.51	<100									
	Minimum	0	6	14	3	54	0	0	0	0	136	0	25	54	16	0	1	44	0
	Maximum	79.0	8.7	30.1	820.0	1,300.0	493.0	8.6	3.0	19,000,000	45,100	43.7	197.0	450.0	5,100.0	0	13.8	150.0	0.5
	Median	3.60	7.38	19.00	120.00	840.00	103.00	0.00	0.00	81	2,430	0.00	110.85	190.00	100.00	0.00	5	84.00	0.00
	Average	24.54	NA	20.31	206.85	684.36	119.65	1.49	0.39	1,376,634	16,526	6.63	110.85	239.42	1,742.73	0.06	7	88.00	0.06

Nondetects set to 0

\* Too numerous to count Exceeds WQS, Alaska, or federal secondary treatment standards. Not a violation under BMP

Not analyzed

Holding time or temperature exceeded on fecal result

Not discharging/in overhaul

#### Table 3: Conventional Parameters for Treated Blackwater

						Chemical	Total			Fecal			Total		Hardness	Nitrogen, Nitrate-		Total	Total
		Ammonia		Temper		Oxygen	Suspended Solids		Free	Coliform	Conductivity	Oil &	Organic	Alkalinity	(as CaCO3)	Nitrite (as		Kjeldahl	Settleable
Reportable Limit (POL)		as N	pН	ature	O <sub>2</sub> Demand	Demand			Chlorine	Bacteria	Conductivity	Grease	Carbon	(Total)	CaCO3)	N)	Phosphorus	Nitrogen	Solids
Reportable Limit	(PQL)	0.1	0.1	0.1	2	10	4	0.1	0.1	2	2	5	1	2		1	0.05	1	0.1
Units		mg/L	s.u.	С	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	FC/100ml	umhos/cm	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ml/L
Alaska Marine Water Quali	ly Standards,																		
Secondary Treatment stan 46.03.463	dards, or AS	1	6.5-8.5	n/a	60	n/a	150	0.0075	n/a	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Sample																		
Vessel Name	Date																		
Admiralty Dream	6/8/18	15	8.17	14.7	46	910	86	7.1	1.9	4,500	39,000	0		150	4,600				4
Admiralty Dream	6/29/18		8.13	15.3				1.4	1.3										
Safari Endeavour	6/24/18		7.40	15.9	90		113.0	0	0	4,400,000									
Sea Bird	6/3/18	10	7.9	13.3	140	950	50	0.83	0	0	35,200	0		100	4100				4.5
Sea Lion	6/10/18	13	8.3	19.4	160	1400	90	0.67	0.1	0	40,800	10.5		110	4700				0
Silver Explorer	5/2/18		8.6	29.8	0		150	0.65		8									
Silver Explorer	8/30/18	150	8.15	26.6	480	1400	268	2.2	1.4	0	29,900	7.3	83.4	700	3000	1	14.6	200	3.5
SS Legacy	5/6/18	28	7	9.2	23	820	20	3.9	2.2	0	40,600	0		110	4900				0
Wilderness Explorer	5/5/18		7.48	9.7				0	0	6,600,000									
	Minimum		7.00	9.2	0	820	20	0	0	0	29,900	0	83	100	3,000	1	15	200	0
	Maximum		8.60	29.8	480	1,400	268	7.1	2.2	6,600,000	40,800	11	83	700	4,900	1	15	200	5
	Median		8.13	15.3	90	950	90.0	0.8	0.7	4	39,000	0	83	110	4,600	1	15	200	4
Needeteete eet te O	Average		NA	17.1	134.14	1096.00	111.00	1.9	0.85875	1,375,563.48	37,100	3.56	83.40	234.00	4,260.00	1.40	14.60	200.00	2.40

Nondetects set to 0

Too numerous to count Exceeds WQS, Alaska, or federal secondary treatment standards. Not a violation under BMP

Not sampled

# Table 4: Conventional Parameters for Treated Graywater

						Chemical	Total						Total		Hardness	Nitrogen, Nitrate-		Total	Total	
		Ammonia		Temper	Biochemical	Oxygen	Suspended	Total	Free	Fecal Coliform	Conduc	Oil &	Organic	Alkalinity	(as	Nitrite	Total	Kjeldahl	Settleable	
		as N	pН	ature	O <sub>2</sub> Demand	Demand	Solids	Chlorine	Chlorine	Bacteria	tivity	Grease	Carbon	(total)	CaO3)	(as N)	Phosphorus	Nitrogen	Solids	
Reportable Limit	(PQL)	0.1	0.1	0.1	2	10	4	0.1	0.1	2	2	5	1	2		1	0.05	1	0.1	1
											umhos/									1
Units		mg/L	s.u.	С	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	FC/100ml	cm	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ml/L	
Alaska Marine Water Qual	lity Standards,		6.5-																	1
Secondary Treatment star		1	8.5	n/a	60	n/a	150	0.0075	n/a	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
46.03.463			0.5																	
Vessel Name	Sample Date																			
Admiralty Dream																				
Safari Endeavour	6/24/18	1.40	6.33	22.7	400	560	38	0	0	45,000	335	16.1		0	21				0	Holding
Sea Bird																				
Sea Lion																				
Silver Discoverer																				
Wilderness Discoverer																				
Nilderness Explorer																				
Star Legend	6/7/2018	0.98	6.45	29.4	670	1,200	119	0	0	73,000	338	0		0	16				0	Holding t
Star Legend	7/5/2018		7.72	19.4	470		100	0	0	2,300,000										Holding t
	Minimum	-	6.33	19	400	560	38	0	0	45,000	335	0		0	16				0	1
	Maximum	1.4	7.7	29	670	1,200	119	0	0	2,300,000	338	16		0	21				0	1
	Median	1.19	6.45	22.70	470.00	880.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	73,000.00	336.50	8.05		0.00	18.50				0.00	J
Nondetects set to 0	Average	1	6.83	24	513	880	86	0	0	806,000	337	8		0	19				0	

Nondetects set to 0

Too numerous to count
 Exceeds WQS, Alaska, or federal secondary treatment standards. Not a violation under BMP
 Not sampled

### Table 5: Full Suite Metal Sample Results

			Antimony (TR)	Antimony dissolved	Arsenic (TR)	Arsenic dissolved		Beryllium dissolved	Cadmium (TR)	Cadmium dissolved			Copper (TR)	Copper diss	Lead (TR)	Lead, diss	Mercury (Total)		/		Selenium, dissolved		Silver, diss	Thallium (TR)	Thallium, dissolved	Zinc (TR)	Zinc, diss
Reportable L	(		1	1	1	2.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Uni	ts		μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	µg/mg	µg/mg	μg/mg	µg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg	μg/mg
Alaska Marine Water Qual marine	· ·	ronic for	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.8	N/A	50 (chromium IV)	N/A	3.1	N/A	8.1	0.94	N/A	8.2	N/A	71	N/A	1.9 (acute)	N/A	N/A	N/A	81
Vessel Name		Sample Type																									
Columbia	9/24/18	Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	150
Kennicott	9/26/18	Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	29	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaspina	9/23/18	Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	34	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	55
Matanuska																											
Admiralty Dream	6/8/18	BW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	210	640.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	650
Chicagof Dream	6/13/18	Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	0
American Constellation	8/18/18	Mixed	1.8	0	5.2	5.5	0	0	0	0	1.8	2	42	27	0	0	0	5.1	5.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	110
Safari Endeavor	6/24/18	GW	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	62	6	3	0	25	12	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	210	170
Sea Bird	6/3/18	BW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	21	24	0	0	35	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1600	1300
Sea Lion	6/10/18	BW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	90
Quest	7/1/18	Mixed	0	1.2	1.9	1.9	0	0	0	0	1.3	1.7	59	160	1.6	3	0	4.9	5.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	340	260
Silver Explorer	8/30/18	BW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	2,600	2200	0	0	0	42	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	1600	1300
S.S. Legacy	5/6/18	BW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	58
Star Legend	6/7/18	Mixed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	4.8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.1	7
Wilderness Adventurer																											
Wilderness Discoverer																											
Wilderness Explorer																											
	Minimum		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maximum		2	2	5	6	0	0	0	0	2	2.0	2,600	2,200	24.00	3	0	42	38.0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1600	1300
	Median		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	59	29	0.00	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	110

Nondetects set to 0 Exceeds WQS. Not a violation under BMP regulations. Not required to sample Not discharging/in overhaul

# **APPENDIX 2: REFERENCES**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Cruise Ship Program <a href="http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/">http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/</a>

CLIA Northwest and Canada Quality Assurance Project Plan <u>http://dec.alaska.gov/media/5198/2018-clia-qapp.pdf</u>

Small Cruise Ship Discharge Options http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-smallship/

Alaska Cruise Ship Laws and Regulations http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/laws-regs/

Sample reports and summaries from other years <a href="http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-reports/">http://dec.alaska.gov/water/cruise-ships/cruise-reports/</a>