

Cruise Ships

Key Findings

- During the 2019 season, there were approximately 34 cruise ship visits to Rockland
 - 1 large cruise ship (501 passengers or more)
 - 33 small cruise ships (500 passengers or fewer)
- In 2017 there were 25 small ship visits and 5 large ship visits
- As of January 2020, there were 30 small ships and 6 large ships are already booked for the 2020 season; the City had turned away 1 large ship for this season
- A City policy on cruise ships was adopted in 2018 (order #51); it manages the number of ships that can be in the harbor and is based on the capacity of the City infrastructure as measured by the number of people it can serve
 - 1 ship can anchor
 - 1 small ship can dock
 - The daily passenger cap for January-August and November-December is no more than 2 ships with no more than 500 passengers each
 - The daily passenger cap for September and October is 3,000 passengers
 - No more than 6 ships total are allowed from September to October
- Approximately 12% of the FY20 harbor budget comes from cruise ship fee revenue
- Consistent with City policy, 70% of the revenues from cruise ship fees are dedicated to an infrastructure reserve account - the Port Development Fund; the remaining 30% supports the harbor budget
- Small cruise ship landings and cruise ship tenders are in most cases directed to the Public Landing dock; the Public Landing is in need of age-related updates and repair
- Cruise ship tenders are sometime directed to Middle Pier; Middle Pier also is in need of age-related updates and repair
- Public restrooms near where cruise ships disembark are limited; portable toilets are needed during the boating season
- Court president suggests use of fee revenue must be remated to services provided to visiting vessels (See COURT CASE); there is subsequent president in Juno, Alaska for other municipal uses from the Cruise Lines International Association agreement

Goals and Objectives

Goal:

- Cruise ship tourism that provides benefits to the City while protecting the natural environment and not overwhelming the capacity of the City to serve its residents and other activities/uses

Objectives:

1. Cruise ships are be one aspect of a balance of uses within the harbor
2. Policies toward cruise ships adequately protect the capacity of City facilities, infrastructure, and environment
3. Cruise ship activities (anchoring, tendering, etc.) maintain safety and navigation within the harbor
4. Revenues from cruise ship landings support needed improvements to facilities and infrastructure
5. Restroom facilities along the waterfront are sufficient to adequately handle the demand from the variety of waterfront and harbor related uses

Abbreviation Key:

Harbor Master - HM

Parks & Rec Committee – P&RC

City Staff - S

Wastewater Treatment Plant – WWTP

Harbor Trail Committee – HTC

Harbor Management Commission – HMC

City Council – CC

Comprehensive Plan Commission - CCP

Recommended Actions

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Objective	Recommended Action	Responsibility	Timeline
1,2,3,4	<p>Review and amend the City's existing cruise ship policy using the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the first year following adoption of this report allow large ships (501 passengers and larger as shown on the manifest) in September and October only and maintain the 6 ship limit - Clarify there is no limit on the timing or number of small ships (500 passengers or less as shown on the manifest) - Clarify that the passenger count referenced in the policy refers the number of passengers as shown on the ship manifest - Limit passenger count for large ships to no more than 3000 passengers shown on the ship manifest - Define the term "cruise ship" and clearly exclude schooners, windjammers and similar vessels 	HMC	Immediate

1,2,3	At least annually review the cruise ship policy for potential changes or improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate public feedback within the review process - Tie policies to municipal capacity - Review fees to ensure appropriate support for facilities and infrastructure 	HMC, CC	Ongoing
1,2,3	Develop a safety valve provision in the rules to allow the Harbor Master to authorize additions or limitations to the policy on a temporary basis	HMC	Short Term (1-2 Years)
1,2,3	Collect data on the number of large and small ship visits, ship size, ship capacity and number of people who disembark as well as the similar data on ships turned away	HM	Short Term (1-2 years), Ongoing
2,3,4	Evaluate whether and how current rules would allow the City to regulate cruise ship landings at private facilities and explore options for additional regulations if necessary	S, City Attorney	Short Term (1-2 years)
2,3	Explore tools encourage environmentally responsible cruise lines and discourage those with poor environmental records	S	Medium Term (3-5 years)
1,2,4,5	Evaluate the existing infrastructure and environment to determine capacities to handle passengers from cruise ships	S	Short Term (1-2 years), Ongoing
Factors to consider in capacity discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public dock space and landing areas • Public restroom facilities • Local streets and parking areas • Staff • Harbor space • Natural resources 			