

From: [gene](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: MARITIME HAZARD
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 1:13:26 PM

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TO: Visitor Industry Task Force

Please accept this copy of my letter to the Coast Guard written last summer as testimony re: effects of industrial tourism in Juneau.

Gene Whiting

----- Original Message -----
From: gene <gene@genewhiting.com>
To: martin.s.donohue@uscg.mil
Date: July 10, 2019 at 4:40 PM
Subject: MARITIME HAZARD

To: CWO Martin Donohue
United States Coast Guard
Juneau Sector
709 W. 9th Street
Suite 223 B
Juneau, Alaska 99802

RE: Maritime Hazard
Danger from wakes to residents of Shelter Island near Juneau, Alaska

The growth of the whale watching industry out of Auke Bay, Alaska has increased to where it poses a serious threat to the safety of the residents of Shelter Island. We access Saginaw Channel by launching across the beach. As the whale watching boats have increased in number and size, the constant surf resulting from the powerful wakes poses a continual danger to life and limb.

There are in excess of twenty (20) whale watching boats rounding the SW corner of Shelter Island each 12-hour day. Each boat makes three round-trips per day. This is 120 passes, or one boat (wake) every six minutes. Each wake lasts three or four minutes, so there is never a five minute period without substantial wake induced wave action beating on the shore.

At the beach, we load over the bow via small portable plastic steps. Many days this is nearly impossible. My wife is seventy-two years old and quite spry, but dodging the breaking surf while climbing into a surging boat is a gymnastic feat for anyone. Not to mention the swamping risk of taking surf over the stern.

I do not know what can be done, but I feel the need to bring this to the attention of the Coast Guard as maritime hazard.