

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/19/2016 5:24:56 AM

First name: John

Last name: Coombes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi: I have been boating in Prince William Sound since 1982 have had a boat in a permanently assigned slip in Whittier since 1982 continuously until the present day.

The wilderness character of the Sound continues to be degraded due to increased usage.

There is a new illegal lodge and dock in Eshamy Bay. The PWSAC hatcheries continue to contaminate the native wild stocks of salmon and the hatcheries and the development around them continue to cause wilderness degradation. Every year there is a new batch of requests for more development.

25 years ago the deer population was quite high in the Port Chalmers area. 4 years ago a friend walked up above Chalmers and did not see a deer track, let alone a deer.

It is possible that a very few people could make some money logging or mining or with lodges or hotels, but for the vast majority of the citizens of Alaska and the US PWS development is a negative.

Watching a bear or eagle catching and eating salmon has immensely more value than cutting down trees or mining for minerals.

Seeing orcas and humpbacks going about their lives is quite interesting.

Hopefully we humans will realize very soon that we are not separate from the earth and the environment that we live in. Development and over population cannot continue indefinitely without negative consequences.

For those people who want to develop PWS I request that you go to Seattle and take a boat ride along the eastern shore of Puget Sound and near the mouth of the Duwamish River. The development that has occurred there makes it a much different place than PWS.

So please maintain and expand the wilderness quality of PWS. If we want development we can always hop down to Seattle and experience it.

Thank You

John Coombes; PWS boater