

From: [Steve Bradford](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Comments on specific impact for tourism task force
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 7:23:42 AM

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I have been a Juneau resident for almost 45 years. During this time tourism has grown from almost nothing to what it is today.

Like most locals, I avoid downtown Juneau in the summer. So you could say a common impact to most all local citizens is the loss of accessibility to our core downtown area. With an increase in tourism this will only get worse. How can we roll this back? There is only one way and that is to limit the number of ships allowed to dock in Juneau. This would be very unpopular with the merchants, as every businessman likes to grow their market. However, in this instance they are growing their market at the expense of local citizens' ability to enjoy living in their town. The unchecked growth of the tour industry has changed many towns, we need to deal with this now.

A second impact I would like to discuss is the whale viewing industry operating out of Auke Bay. I have been a boater her for all of my 45 years. It used to be that the only boat wake we had to navigate was the Alaska State Ferry. Now, the whale watching boats are constantly coming and going from Auke Bay and they throw a huge boat wake with little regard for other boaters. I think it is time to limit the number of these boats and the speed at which they travel and also not allow them to utilize narrow channels of water such as the "Coglin Cut" on the north side of Coglin Island.

A third impact we are all feeling is the masses that descend on the Mendenhall Visitors Center. Our trail systems have started to become over-utilized as evidenced by last year's restrictions and the visitor center is so crowded we have to avoid going to the Glacier altogether.

So yes, it is time (or past time) to limit tourism in Juneau. If the tourism industry does not want to start self-regulating, locals will begin to elect local officials who will regulate them. I don't think they will like the results.

In terms of getting more local input into your Task Force, I would encourage you to get more public participation by utilizing social media. Most working people are not interested in going to a meeting downtown after a working all day.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thanks to the Juneau Empire for the news article that promulgated my email.

Steve Bradford, Juneau

Sent from Steve's iPad.