



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
C38/W46

Memorandum

JAN 8 2014

To: Central Files

Through: Sue Masica, Alaska Regional Director

From: Susan L. Boudreau, Superintendent *SLB*

Subject: Annual Determination of Cruise Ship Quota – 2015

In accordance with 36 CFR § 13.1160 (b), the 2015 cruise ship seasonal vessel quota will be as follows:

June, July and August: 153 use days

May and September: 92 use days

The year-round daily quota for cruise ships remains at two per day in accordance with the 2003 Vessel Quota Operating Restrictions Environmental Impact Statement (VQOR EIS) Record of Decision (ROD) and federal regulations.

The VQOR EIS ROD states that the determination to increase seasonal quotas for cruise ships will rely on criteria that define the environmental and social conditions to be met before any additional seasonal-use days are approved.

In 2005, an independent Science Advisory Board (SAB) appointed by the National Park Service (NPS) recommended prioritized research assessing potential impacts from vessels, including cruise ships, on physical and biological resources, visitor experience, and the Huna Tlingit relationship to the park. In December 2009, SAB members, principal investigators, and NPS managers met to review results of the first suite of studies. Their assessment indicates that the original impacts analyses from the VQOR EIS remain accurate. However, the SAB identified important information gaps that require investigation. Ongoing studies that address these information gaps include those examining cruise ship effects on air quality, soundscape, marine wildlife, and the Huna Tlingit relationship to their ancestral homeland.

Therefore, this determination continues, unchanged, from the March 31, 2006 final decision, for the 2007 through 2014 season quotas. In November 2013, public comment was solicited via press release and the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website. One comment was received from Princess Cruises & Tours stating the opinion that the 2015 quotas are responsible and appropriate.

