

History of visitor and tourism management in Glacier Bay

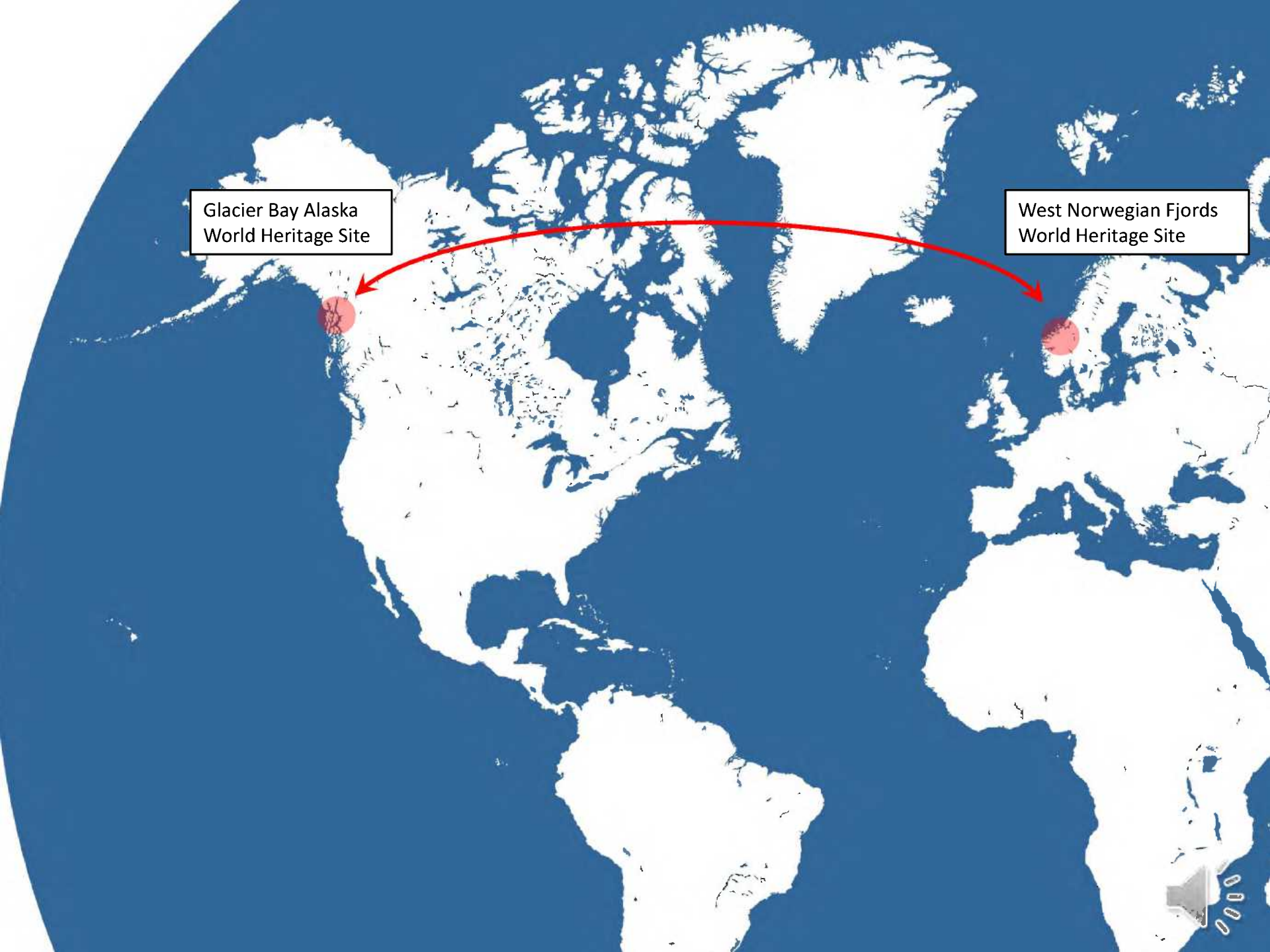
Scott Gende
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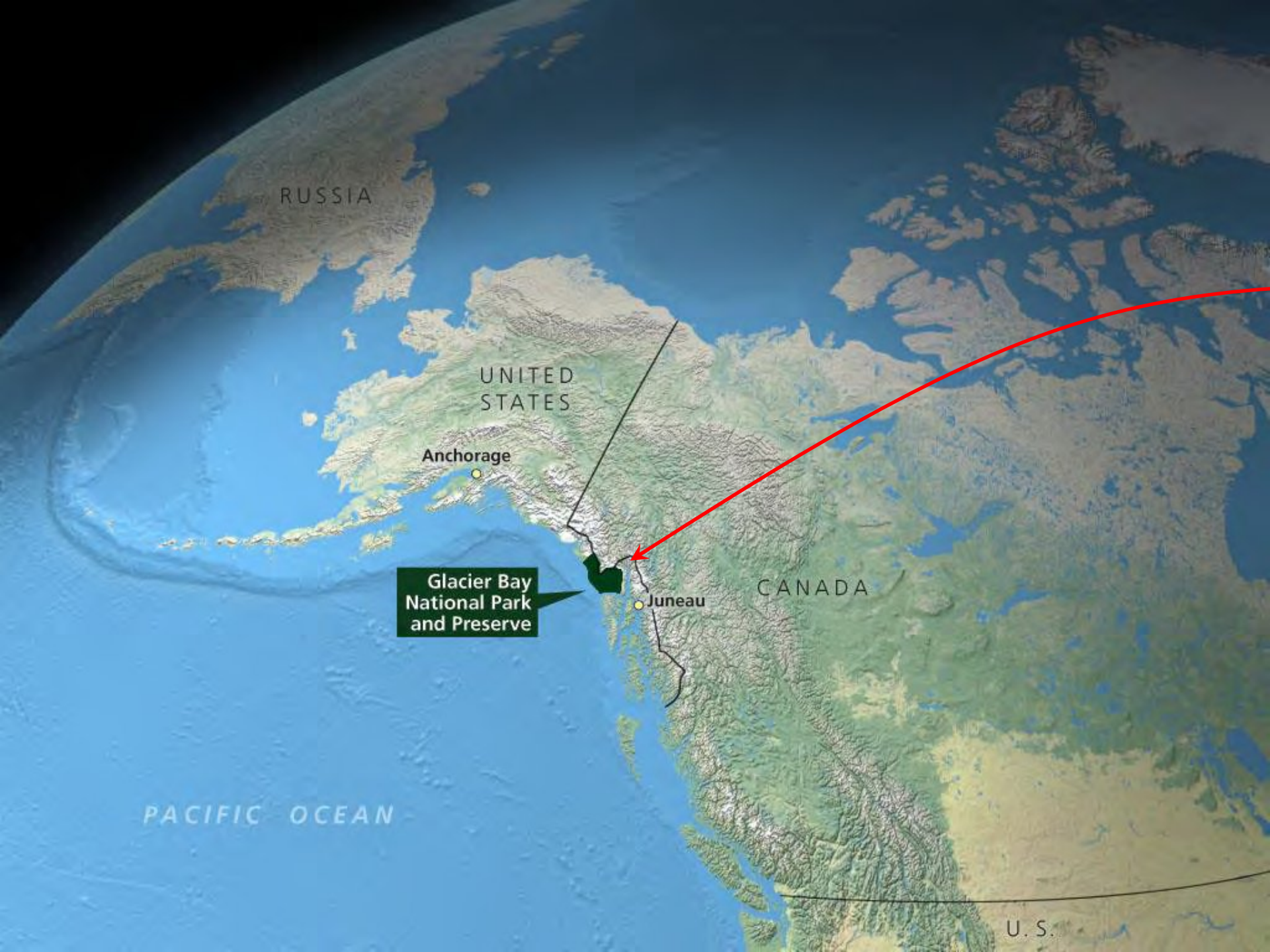
Philip Hooge
Superintendent
Glacier Bay National Park



Glacier Bay Alaska
World Heritage Site

West Norwegian Fjords
World Heritage Site





RUSSIA

UNITED STATES

Anchorage

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Juneau

CANADA

PACIFIC OCEAN

U.S.



RUSSIA

UNITED STATES

Anchorage

UNESCO World Heritage Site

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

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CANADA

PACIFIC OCEAN

U.S.



Wrangell-St. Elias/Kluane/Tatshenshini- Asek/Glacier Bay World Heritage Site

**Wrangell-St. Elias National
Park and Preserve**

**Kluane National
Park and Preserve of Canada**

Tatshenshini-Asek Park

**Glacier Bay National
Park and Preserve**

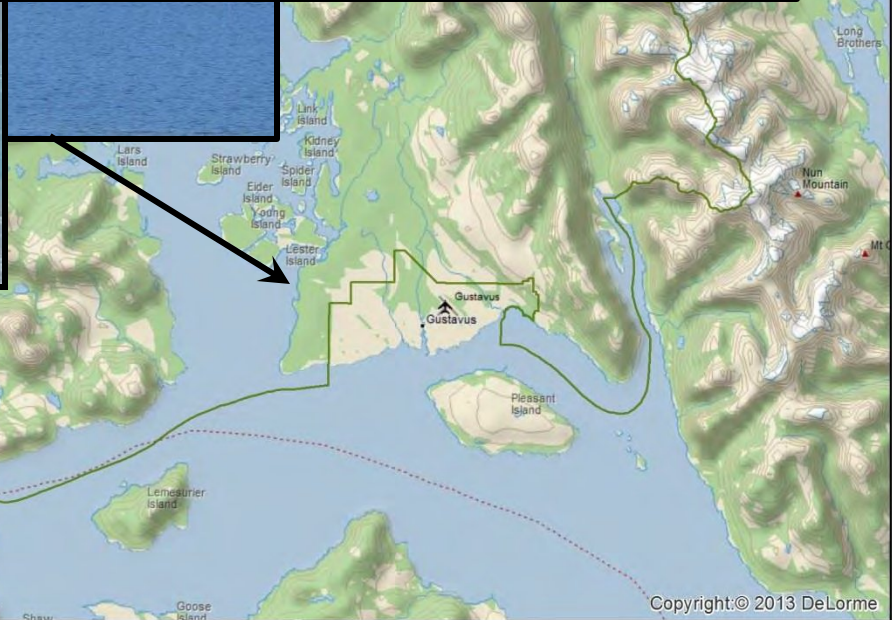
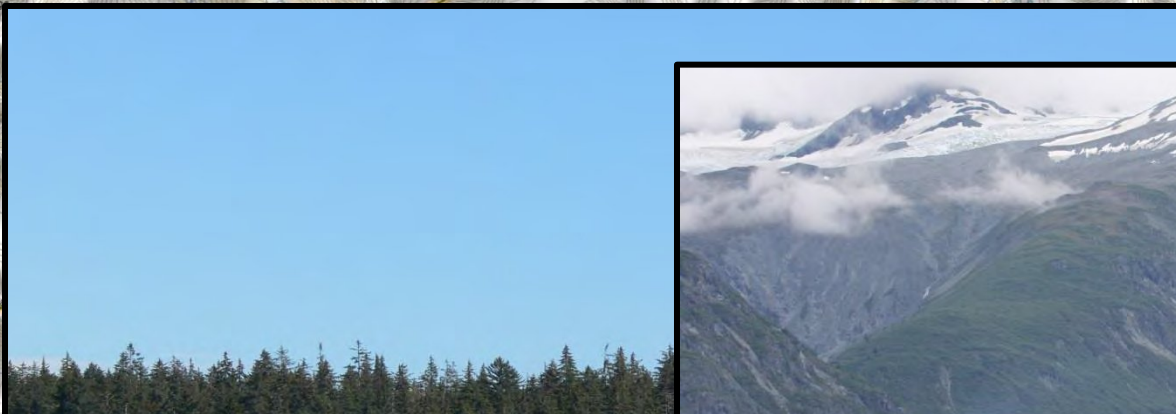
 **9.800,000 ha**



Sources: Esri, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, DeLorme, HERE, Geonames.org, and other contributors

Area: 3,280,958 acres (13,277 sq. kilometers)





Access is only by water!



1941 William Osgood Field - © National Snow and Ice Data Center



2013 © Fabiano Ventura



1899 A.J. Brabazon - © GLBA Museum Collection



2013 © Fabiano Ventura

No roads into Glacier Bay so nearly all visitors arrive by marine vessel

Permits for entry in Glacier Bay – thus the US National Park Service controls visitor volume

NPS can also dictate vessel operations once in Glacier Bay

An aerial photograph of Glacier Bay, Alaska, showing a large cruise ship in the foreground. A dashed yellow line curves across the water, separating the area into 'Park jurisdiction' (above the line) and 'State jurisdiction' (below the line). The background features snow-capped mountains and a clear blue sky.

Park jurisdiction

State jurisdiction

Goals and Values of Glacier Bay National Park

Conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein that....will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations

Protect a dynamic tidewater glacial landscape for scientific discovery

Access of tidewater glacial environments by marine vessel (so people can view and enjoy the glaciers)

Opportunities for scientific studies of tidewater glacial landscapes

Preserve a diversity of large intact ecosystems dominated by natural processes

Wilderness

Diverse opportunities for visitors to experience dynamic tidewater glacial landscape

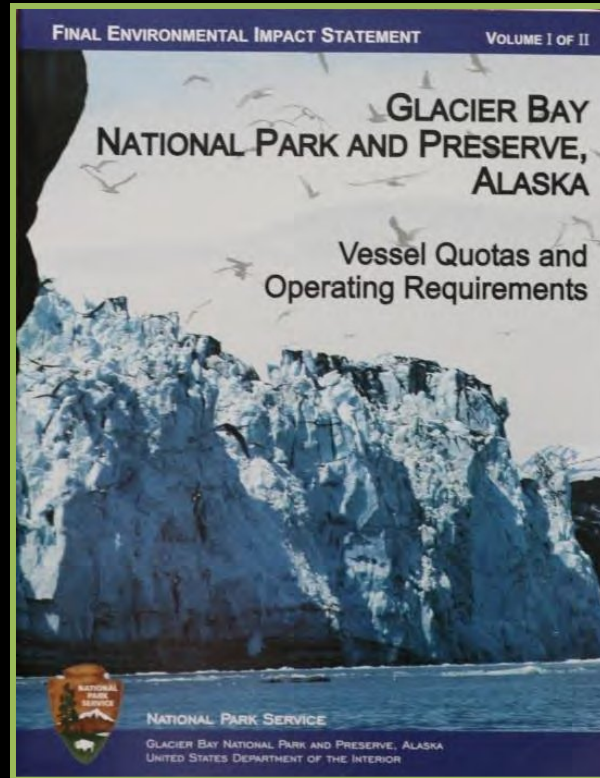
Tlingit ancestral lands

Steamship Ancon; Glacier Bay circa 1889



Cruise ship Volendam; Glacier Bay circa 2014





Can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/glba/learn/management/vessel.htm>

Maximum daily vessel quotas

- 25 private vessels, 3 tour vessels, 6 charter vessels, 2 cruise ships



Cruise ship quotas

- Daily Maximum: 2 ships
- Season Maximum
 - Peak Season (June-August): 153
 - Shoulder Season (May, Sept): 122
- Current total: 225

Carnival Spirit



www.shipsandtripstravel.com

Kyndam



Coral Princess



Westerdam



Diamond Princess



Crystal Symphony

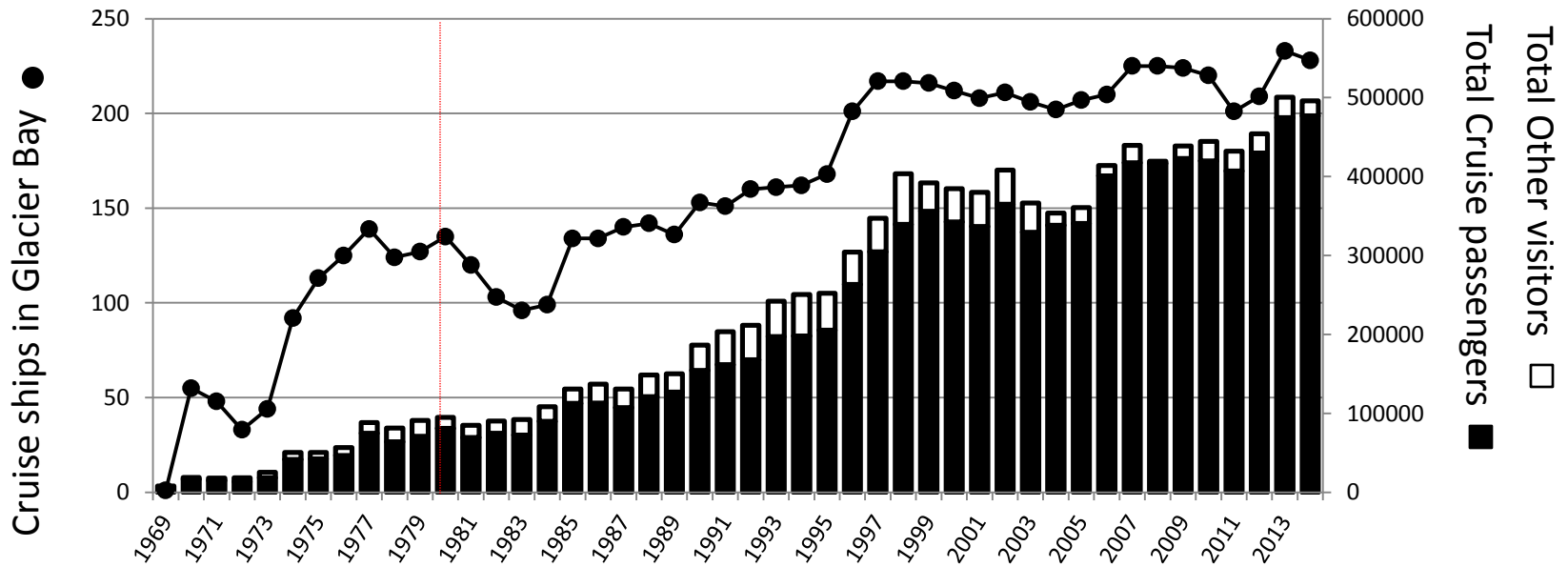


www.smartcruiser.com

Norwegian Pearl



Cruise ships and visitation to Glacier Bay







Glacier Bay



Geiranger

How does Glacier Bay provide for cruise visitation while increasing sustainability?

1. Regulate volume
2. Distribute use by vessel type
3. Modify cruise ship operations
4. Use ships as conservation tool
 - See presentation on interpretation, education, and outreach efforts



How do we modify cruise ship operations: Competition (market)

1. NPS issues a concessions prospectus to offer commercial services (cruise ship entries) into Glacier Bay.
2. Prospectus is for 10 year periods to provide for planning and market certainty (next prospectus is for period 2019 – 2029)
3. Proposals to provide for cruises (services) into Glacier Bay submitted by different cruise companies. Companies must respond to criteria generated by Glacier Bay that are consistent with park's values (a Green Fjord)
4. Proposals from ship companies are then judged by panels for 'best' practices and entries allocated accordingly
5. Companies are then contractually obligated to behave in the manner they propose (or lose ability to enter Glacier Bay)

Types of Criteria in proposals

1. Oil Spills

- Ships will develop “Rapid Oil Spill Response Plan” for Glacier Bay

2. Noise

- Ships will limit side and reverse maneuvers, and operate at lower shaft RPMs while maneuvering
- Ships will avoid use of auxiliary engines, pumps, power equipment, tools, and avoid deck maintenance work or heavy equipment while in the park.
- Unnecessary sounding or whistles, horns and bells will be avoided
- Ships will submit to acoustical signature testing
- Helicopters will not be used within or over the park other than for medical evacuation
- Use of Public Address systems while in the park will be limited

3. Air Quality

- Incinerators will not be operated in the park
- Gas turbine engines will be utilized on ships so equipped
- Low sulfur fuel will be used while in the park
- Exhaust opacity alarms will be set at 15% opacity or below
- Wastewater, treated or untreated sewage, grey water, ballast water, bilge water, hazardous materials or solid waste will not be discharged in the park

Types of Criteria in proposals

4. Waste/Hazardous Substances

- No trash or other objects will be discarded while in the park
- No Styrofoam, plastic or paper products are permitted on the outer decks while in the park
- Concessioner will not discharge wastewater, treated or untreated sewage, grey water, ballast water, bilge water, hazardous materials or solid waste while in Glacier Bay.
- Immediate written notice to the Director must be given regarding any discharge, release or threatened release within or at the vicinity of the park of hazardous or toxic substances, material, or waste including asbestos, any contaminant, pollutant, petroleum, petroleum product or by-product.

5. Visitor Experience

- Park brochures will be distributed to all passenger cabins the night before entry into the park
- Ships will spend at least 4 hours in glacier viewing areas
- No shipboard events will be scheduled while in the park other than Glacier Bay Interpretive Programs
- Interpretive commentary will be broadcast in open pool decks, pool areas, non-formal dining areas, and all lounges offering outside viewing
- Ships will provide an information station area where passengers congregate and interpretive commentary can be heard, where Glacier Bay exhibits can be mounted/displayed, and where passengers can ask questions of NPS interpretive staff.
- Ships will schedule a Glacier Bay junior ranger program
- Ships will provide extensive Alaska reference materials relevant to Glacier Bay that passengers can access while on board.

6. Monitoring/Research

- Concessioner agrees to pay a franchise fee of the greater of **\$12 per passenger or \$500 per day.**

List of criteria used in competitive contract bids for cruise ships in Glacier Bay can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/glba/learn/management/cruise-ship-prospectus-glba-cs-08.htm>

Click on Proposal Package

Other information can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/glba/learn/management/cruise-ships.htm>

Or contact: Scott_Gende@nps.gov

Current cruise ship activity in Glacier Bay National Park

- 225 ship ports of call from 23 different large ships
- Maximum of 2 ships per day
- Ship sustainability increased by regulation, competition, and interpretation
 - Ships hold treated wastewater; no discharge in park
 - Ships switch to low sulfur fuel while in park (or gas turbines)
 - Ships refrain from using incinerators; monitor opacity
 - Ships pay the park \$12/passenger; funds go toward research, monitoring, and enforcement
 - Many others....



Skagway, Alaska