

“BROWN WATER”--NO SURPRISE

The “brown water” cruise ship discharge in Kailua-Kona on March 15 should come as no surprise. The ship owner, Holland America Lines, may still be on probation for a 2002 discharge violation--which came while HAL was still on probation for a dumping felony in 1994.

In the 2002 discharge, “brown foam” in Juneau Harbor turned out to be 20,000 gallons of raw sewage from HAL’s Ryndam. The crew ignored automatic alarms and reports from passersby. Federal criminal charges against HAL led to a \$2 million plea agreement and three years probation.

At the time, HAL was still on probation for a 1994 felony dumping of oily bilge water off Juneau. The penalty was \$2 million in fines and restitution.

Also:

**HAL’s former vice president of compliance programs pled guilty in 2004 to making false claims that environmental audits were being done.

False claims are no surprise either. A federal judge ordered the audits for Carnival cruise line and its units, including HAL, after Carnival pled guilty in 2002 to six charges of false records on discharge of polluted wastewater.

**Oily water was illegally dumped in the Caribbean by HAL’s Noordam in 2004. A chief engineer admitted to improper processing of bilge water.

Protect Hawaii from cruise ship surprises. Call Larry Lau, director of State Environmental Health, 974-4000 x 64424, and urge him to support strong State laws on cruise ship discharge. And sign a petition to Governor Lingle at <http://www.kahea.org/ocean/petition.php>

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