

# Pumpouts

## Potential Environmental Impacts:

Generally, marina basins are naturally sheltered and semi-enclosed, which usually means they are not flushed as well as more open waters. Bacteria, chemicals, and nutrients contained in untreated and minimally treated human waste from boats can overload small, poorly flushed waterways and may cause local water quality problems. Disease carrying bacteria, viruses, and protozoa can enter waterways through the discharge of untreated or poorly treated boat waste. The nutrients in boat sewage can stimulate algae to grow in such large numbers that their respiration and decomposition uses up oxygen necessary for fish to live. Direct threats to human health can arise through consumption of contaminated water, fish, or shellfish. Scientists have shown there is more bacteria in the untreated waste discharged by one boat than in the treated wastewater discharged by a small city.

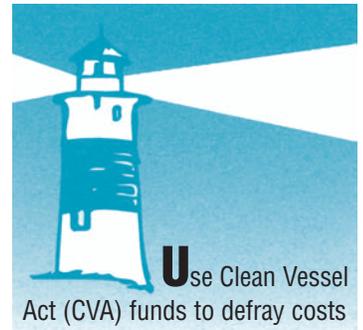
## Legal Requirements:

- There are no statutes or regulations that specifically require marinas in Connecticut to provide a pumpout facility. However, facilities may be required to provide a pumpout facility for customers and the boating public as a condition of a CT-DEP permit for a new or expanded marina construction. Regardless of possible permit conditions, more and more boaters are starting to demand pumpout facilities, so it makes sense to provide customers with convenient and affordable service.
- All Connecticut coastal waters are designated as No Discharge Areas. When operating a vessel on a body of water where the discharge of treated or untreated sewage is prohibited the operator must secure the device in a manner that prevents any discharge. Some acceptable methods are: padlocking overboard discharge valves in the closed position, using non releasable wire tie to hold overboard discharge valves in the closed position, closing overboard discharge valves and removing the handle, locking the door, with padlock or keylock, to the space enclosing the toilets (for Type I and Type II only).

Additionally, pursuant to federal regulations the discharge of all sewage from vessels is prohibited in all inland waters in Connecticut and the above-described requirement to secure MSDs applies. For more information on No Discharge Areas in Connecticut visit the US Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov/region1/eco/nodiscrg/ct.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/nodiscrg/ct.html) or visit the CT DEP website at [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep), click on the heading "Programs and Services" and click on "No Discharge Area".

## Best Management Practices:

- ✪ Install a pumpout or portable toilet holding tank waste receptacle. Select the type of pumpout system that meets the needs of your marina, your customers, and transients:



Coastal marinas are eligible for reimbursement for up to 75% of the costs of installation and operation and maintenance of pumpouts through the CVA program. CVA funds may also be available for inland pumpouts. For more information, contact CT-DEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs (OLISP) at (860) 424-3034.

- Permanently fixed to the dock, or
- Mobile, hand truck or pumpout boat
- ✪ If the pumpout is permanently fixed, choose an appropriate location which is convenient and accessible to the most number of boats throughout the tidal cycle:
  - Gas dock
  - T-head
  - Separate bulkhead
- ✪ If the marina services mostly smaller boats without holding tanks, provide portable toilet holding tank dump stations near small slips and launch ramps.
- ✪ Use Clean Vessel Act funds to defray costs of installing and operating a pumpout. The owners/operators of boating facilities are eligible for reimbursement for up to 75% of the costs of installation and operation and maintenance of pumpouts and dump stations through the federal Clean Vessel Act Program. For more information on this funding program, contact Rick Huntley in the Office of Long Island Sound Programs at 860-424-3034 or [rick.huntley@po.state.ct.us](mailto:rick.huntley@po.state.ct.us).
- ✪ Train staff to operate the pumpout. Boaters rely on functional pumpout facilities.
- ✪ Upland waste holding tanks, if above ground, should be secured and have a secondary containment area, including a concrete pad. Inspect the area regularly.
- ✪ Provide clean and attractive bathrooms for marina customers. Encourage customers to use them rather than the toilets on their boats.
- ✪ Support boaters' compliance with Connecticut's statewide prohibition of vessel sewage discharges. Include in slip and mooring contracts that discharge of sewage in violation of Connecticut's No Discharge Area designation is cause for expulsion from the marina.
- ✪ Educate marina customers about the impacts of boat sewage and the proper way to manage it. Post signs in the marina outlining the rules for proper sewage handling.
- ✪ Provide and promote biodegradable and non-toxic holding tank deodorant. Sell it in the ship's store.
- ✪ Encourage the boaters at your facility with marine heads to install holding tanks.
- ✪ Allow pumpout boats to service customers in your facility.

## Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

✓ Do you offer affordable, convenient pumpout facilities to customers and/or the general public?

YES      NO      N/A

✓ Does your facility provide clean bathrooms for customers?

YES      NO      N/A