

New Jersey's First Pumpout Boat



WHAT IS IT?

There are now eight CVA pumpout boats in New Jersey. They are publicly run (counties, municipalities), including those operated by the Borough of Seaside Park, by Monmouth County, and by Ocean County. New Jersey's first pumpout boat, "The Circle of Life", was dedicated on May 22, 1998 at the Borough of Seaside Park. The boat was given its name following an essay contest with the students of Seaside Park Borough School. "The Circle of Life" is a 20-foot open scow type boat, which can carry up to 300 gallons of boat sewage from vessels that are moored and anchored in Barnegat Bay. It was purchased with funds allocated under the Clean Vessel Act Program and NJ Department of Environmental Protection environmental grants.

Pumpout boats can pull up along side a recreational boat and pump out its sewage holding device with a suction hose. Once a pumpout boat is full of waste, it discharges the waste into a sewage treatment facility for proper disposal.

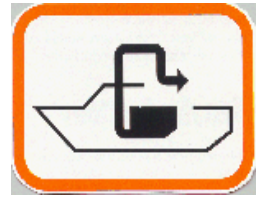
HABITAT PROBLEMS at TICES SHOAL

Approximately 3 miles south of Seaside Park and 6 miles north of Barnegat Inlet on the east side of Barnegat Bay (along Island Beach State Park) lies Tices Shoal. This is a popular recreational boating area that provides anchorage for approximately 600 recreational boats and crafts. Overnight anchorage at Tices Shoal is common, creating an environmental problem when boaters release boat sewage into the bay. Disease, contaminated shellfish beds and lower oxygen levels result from this practice. It detrimentally affects public health, overall water quality, plant life, clam and oyster beds and numerous wildlife species. Boaters using the pumpout boat will be an enormous step in rectifying boat sewage problems.

HOW to CONTACT the PUMPOUT BOATS

"The Circle of Life" monitors VHF radio frequency #9 and is in operation through mid-September. Give them a call - the cost is completely FREE! - and Barnegat Bay will benefit from your participation in keeping our waters clean and healthy. For additional information on the pumpout boats, contact the Borough of Seaside Park at 732-793-0234, the County of Monmouth at 732-431-7456 and the County of Ocean at 732-244-2121. For further information on land based pumpout stations call the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at 856-785-2711.

How to Pump Out Your Boat:



- Remove the cap from the boat's deck waste fitting.
- Insert pumpout hose nozzle into deck fitting.
- Turn pump on. If there is a hose valve, open it to start suction.
- When no waste is seen in "sight glass", close hose valve and remove nozzle from deck fitting.
- Put nozzle (with open valve) in bucket of water for 15 seconds to rinse hose.
- Rinse boat's tank with water and pump dry, if desired.

Close valve and put away hose. Turn off pump and replace deck fitting cap

No Discharge Areas

The Manasquan River and the Shark River were given some help on May 28, 1998, as they were designated as New Jersey's first NO DISCHARGE ZONES for boat sewage. Later the Navesink River and the Shrewsbury River were also designated NO DISCHARGE ZONES by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. What does this mean? It means that the discharge of any boat sewage, treated or untreated, is forbidden in these areas. These waterways have sufficient boat sewage pumpout facilities to accommodate all boaters using the areas. For additional information on pumpout stations near you, call the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife at 856-785-2711.

Current law for the Manasquan, Shark, Navesink, and Shrewsbury Rivers now makes it illegal to dump boat sewage within 3 miles of the shorelines of these areas. Fines for illegal dumping may reach \$2,000 or more. In order for a body of water to become designated as a no discharge zone, there should be 1 pumpout station per 200 to 300 slips. Once this number is established and the pumpout station is operational, the body of water may be designated a no discharge zone by the EPA and the NJDEP.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has approved the Hudson River and Barnegat Bay for the No Discharge designation. The State of New York has also approved the Hudson River for such a designation. If approval of these two bodies of water is given by the US EPA, these two waterways will also become NO DISCHARGE ZONES.

The establishment of NO DISCHARGE ZONES is part of the state's watershed management program to reduce all sources of pollution. The sewage from boats can lower oxygen levels in the water, increase fecal bacteria counts and increase algae blooms. All these factors can lead to beach closings and restrictions on the consumption of shellfish and other fish. The end result of NO DISCHARGE ZONES is cleaner, healthier water that may lead to restrictions being lifted and a better environment for all to enjoy