
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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No Discharge Areas in New Hampshire

The NHDES Clean Vessel Act Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cooperatively worked to establish a No Discharge Area for all New Hampshire coastal waters. The goal of the No Discharge Area is to help protect New Hampshire coastal waters from the discharge of pollutants such as nutrients and bacteria.

What is a No Discharge Area?

A “No Discharge Area” is a body of water or a designated area of water where the discharge of all boat sewage, whether treated or untreated, is prohibited. The Clean Water Act allows states to prohibit all boat sewage discharges by creating a No Discharge Area if the state can provide evidence that the waters require greater protection.

COASTAL

NHDES decided to designate its coastal waters to protect the numerous shellfish beds, beaches and other recreational opportunities that are available in New Hampshire’s coastal waters. As of September 30, 2005, all of the coastal waters in the State of New Hampshire are a No Discharge Area.

Sewage wastewater must be contained in a holding tank to be later removed at a pumpout or dump station. Pumpout stations service boats with fixed toilets while dump stations are specifically for portable toilets. New Hampshire's coastal waters are currently serviced by three stationary pumpout stations located at marinas and two mobile pumpout boats that can travel to where the service is required.

Boat sewage discharges are highly concentrated with bacteria and nutrients, and those boats with treatment systems (MSDs) may also contain toxic disinfectants such as formaldehyde. All of these pollutants can contribute to unhealthy water for shellfish, other fauna and flora, and unsafe conditions for swimming and other recreation activities. By prohibiting the discharge of boat sewage, NHDES is helping to protect the state's sensitive natural resources.

INLAND

All inland waters of the state were designated as No Discharge Areas in 1975. There are numerous pumpout and dump stations available on some of the largest lakes in the state, including Lake Winnepesaukee, Lake Winnisquam and Lake Sunapee. If there isn’t a pumpout or dump station on the lake you boat on, you’ll need to look at alternative methods for pumping

out. These include hiring a septic hauler truck, which can typically meet you at a boat launch (make sure to tell them you're pumping out a boat so they can ensure they have the correct fittings.) You can also haul your boat and bring it to a pumpout station. You may also be able to pumpout at an RV or other land-based sewage disposal site. For future boating, consider asking if a pumpout station might be installed on your lake. NHDES offers funding for 75% of the cost to install a pumpout station and to maintain it. Any organization can apply so long as they are the landowner on a lake.

If you own a boat with a toilet, sink, or shower, please do your part to reduce pollution by using pumpout and dump stations. To find a pumpout or dump station near you, visit [the pumpout directory](#).

For More Information

For more information visit [the CVA program website](#) or use the following contact information:

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