

## Why worry about waste?

Sewage discharge by boaters may seem minimal. Often people reason that they are just one boater, but South Carolina has over 400,000 registered boaters and many visiting vessels each year. Sewage discharge from all of these boaters contributes substantially to the localized degradation of water quality.

- Sewage can transmit waterborne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, gastroenteritis, dysentery, and hepatitis.
- Sewage decreases dissolved oxygen levels causing fish kills. It may also reduce growth, alter fish behavior, and have adverse reproductive effects.
- Sewage acts as a fertilizer and increases algae growth, which blocks sunlight needed by aquatic vegetation.
- Shellfish can become contaminated with sewage, passing fecal bacteria and other diseases to humans when consumed.
- Holding tanks also include deodorizing chemicals like formaldehyde, chlorine, and ammonium compounds which affect water quality when discharged.



For more information about the Clean Vessel Act and how to obtain federal aid for a pumpout contact the Clean Vessel Act Program at [sc-cva@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:sc-cva@dnr.sc.gov) or 843-953-9062



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# South Carolina Clean Vessel Act Program



**KEEP OUR WATERS CLEAN  
— USE PUMPOUTS**

## What is the Clean Vessel Act?

Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) in 1992 to help reduce sewage pollution from recreational vessels. The Act established a grant program which provides funds for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters.

## What does this mean for my marina?

The Clean Vessel Program provides grant funding (up to 75%) for qualifying marinas or other boat-related industries to install and maintain pumpout systems.

## Who is eligible to receive funds?

Funds are available to applicants whose facilities are located on navigable fresh or salt water bodies within the state of South Carolina and who serve recreational vessels. Eligible participants can include public or private operators of facilities such as boat ramps, marinas, and dock slips that provide public access.

## What are the conditions of funding?

1. Pumpout must be open to the public.
2. Pumpout must be open during normal business hours.
3. Pumpout equipment must be used for its intended purpose.
4. Ideally, a pumpout for boaters would be free, but facilities may charge up to \$5 per pumpout.

To learn more about the application process and funding opportunities, please visit our website at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/cleanvessel>.

## What pumpout systems are available?

1. Stations affixed permanently to a dock



2. Portable stations (cart-mounted)



3. Pumpout boats



4. What costs are reimbursable?

- Original construction
- Renovation
- Equipment Maintenance
- Operation & Maintenance of pumpout boats
  - Routine maintenance
  - Costs for staff time
  - Fuel and oil

## No Discharge Zones

Areas most likely to be affected by contamination are sheltered waters with low flushing rates and waters with recreational values. Areas of significant concern are designated as No Discharge Zones (NDZs).

It is illegal to discharge any sewage, treated or untreated, into a No Discharge Zone.

It is also illegal for houseboats to discharge raw or treated sewage into fresh water.

## South Carolina's No Discharge Zones:

- Broad Creek
- Lake Murray
- Lake Thurmond
- Lake Hartwell
- Lake Wylie
- Lake Keowee

## Map of No Discharge Zones:

