

## How do I pump out my boat?

The Massachusetts CVA Program currently has 97 participating public and private marinas offering free pumpout services with 68 pumpout vessels and 73 shoreside stations. On the back of this brochure is our program's website that has a link to an interactive map of pumpout locations. Contact these facilities directly for pumpout service and look for our pumpout guide and tide chart handouts.

### How to pump out your own boat using a shoreside station.\*

1. Practice good hygiene and safety by using gloves or properly washing hands after each pumpout.
2. Locate your deck waste fitting and unscrew the cap.
3. Uncoil the hose and check to see that the nozzle is in the perpendicular OFF position as seen below.
4. Turn on the pump at pedestal (GREEN button).
5. Keeping the nozzle tight to your deck waste fitting, turn the nozzle ON so the valve is horizontal to the hose.

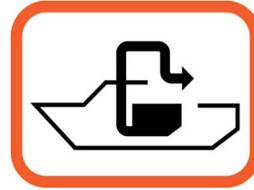
6. Watch the sight glass on the nozzle to see when your tank is clear.
7. When the sight glass is clear, your tank is empty. Turn off the valve on the nozzle.
8. Tip the nozzle slightly to let the residual effluent drip back into your tank.
9. Return the hose to the pedestal and turn off the pump (RED button).
10. Replace deck cap.

Leave the equipment in good order for the next person. Let someone at the facility know if you need help using the equipment or if the equipment is inoperable.

**\*Operation of shoreside stations may vary.**



Mattapoisett shoreside pumpout station



For more information on CVA and how your municipality or entity can obtain funding, please contact Cecil French, CVA Program Coordinator, at the Annisquam River Office in Gloucester, MA.

(978) 282-0308 x 119

Cecil.French@state.ma.us

You can also visit our program website for information and an interactive map of pumpout locations at <http://www.mass.gov/dmf/cva>

**If you know of a pumpout site that is down and unable to service recreational boaters, please contact CVA so we can address the situation.**



Director David E. Pierce  
*Division of Marine Fisheries*

Commissioner George N. Peterson, Jr.  
*Department of Fish and Game*

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton  
*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

Governor Charles D. Baker  
*Massachusetts*

**Marine Fisheries**  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

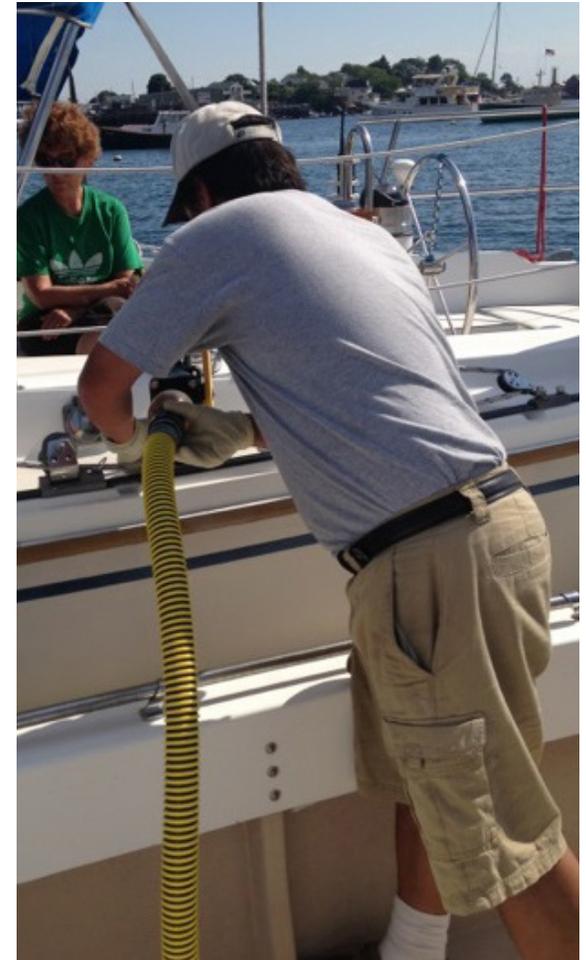


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## Massachusetts Clean Vessel Act Program

*Over 8 Million Gallons of Waste Pumped from Massachusetts Boaters*



*Keep Our Water Clean:*

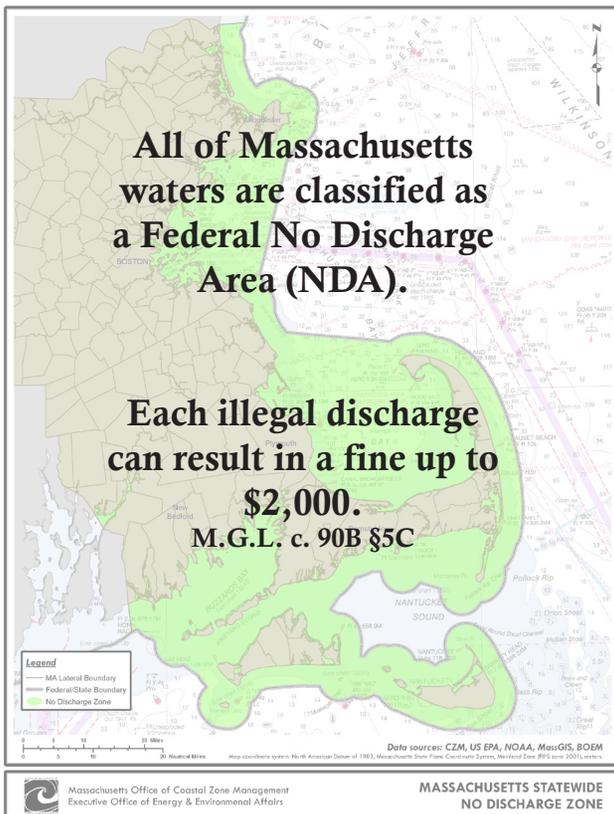
*Don't Dump Out,  
Pump Out!*

## What is the Clean Vessel Act?

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) was passed by Congress in 1992 to reduce sewage discharge from recreational vessels. It is a federally funded competitive grant program that reimburses states up to 75% of the purchase, operation, and maintenance of pumpout equipment. This includes pumpout boats, shoreside pump stations, and floating restrooms. In Massachusetts, the CVA Program is administered by the Division of Marine Fisheries.

The program is built around two basic principles: making pumpouts both free and convenient to recreational boaters.

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## Why is the program important?



**Over 138,000 registered boats in Massachusetts**

Vessel sewage can be over 10 times more concentrated than domestic sewage because it is not diluted with water like household toilets. Sewage waste contains harmful bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Even small numbers of these microorganisms in coastal waters expose swimmers and boaters to diseases like Hepatitis.

Massachusetts has more than 1.74 million acres of shellfish growing areas that sustain locally harvested clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels, and scallops. Shellfish filter tiny particles from coastal waters, along with any bacteria and viruses present from sewage. These can be directly transmitted to humans when consuming raw or undercooked shellfish.



## Sensitive Resources and Essential Habitat



Sewage also contains nitrogen, phosphorous, and other nutrients. These nutrients can overly stimulate algal growth, lowering the levels of dissolved oxygen and increase turbidity in poorly flushed embayments. These conditions are harmful to larval fishes and sensitive nursery habitat, like eelgrass. Chemicals used to treat boat sewage can contain chlorine, formaldehyde, or zinc compounds that are toxic to marine life.



Whether you enjoy eating local seafood, swimming in coastal waters, or recreating along the shore, using CVA pumpouts is a free and easy way for recreational boaters to dispose of raw or treated boat sewage. Help protect public health and our state's marine resources—use pumpouts!