



# CVAP

## What Happens When You Dump Septic Waste from Your Boat?

### Disease

Pathogens in sewage can find their way into the food chain through shellfish, which are filter feeders. Waterborne diseases such as hepatitis, typhoid and cholera can all be transmitted to humans who eat contaminated shellfish.

*Raw or poorly treated sewage can spread disease and contaminate shellfish*



### Algae Blooms

Decomposition of sewage waste may also cause a dramatic increase in the growth of algae through the addition of nutrients. Mass amounts of surface algae can prove to be bothersome to boaters navigating through these areas.



*Algae blooms decrease light penetration to aquatic organisms below and can alter an ecosystem.*

*Sewage depletes the water's oxygen levels, which results in fish kills.*



### Oxygen Depletion

When organic matter in sewage is decomposed by bacteria, the oxygen in the water is depleted causing stress to fish and other aquatics.



# Most Vulnerable Areas

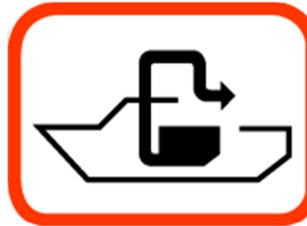


*Boaters who spend time at marinas or in small bays and harbors and who dispose of septic waste safely are being especially mindful of their impact on the surrounding waters.*

**Low-Flush Areas:** Sheltered or enclosed waters, where the flow and exchange of water is lowered by natural and man-made structures, may be particularly affected by raw sewage discharges. These regions are called “*low-flush areas*” due to the fact that water in these areas tends to sit in one place, unlike open waters, where the flow naturally moves water in and out and is constantly refreshed.

**Estuaries:** Estuaries are places where freshwater from rivers and streams mix with saltwater from oceans. Many creatures spend at least a part of their life cycle in an estuary. When estuaries are impacted by sewage waste, these critical habitats and the creatures that frequent them may be damaged for many years to come.

**Be a responsible boater ...**



**... use PUMPOUTS!**

## **What Boaters Can Do to *S.A.V.E.* Our Waters...**

- S**upport marinas that provide easily accessible and reliable pumpout services to all boaters who need them.
- A**ct by using pumpout stations to properly dispose of septic waste from your boat.
- V**oice your concern for clean waters with boater organizations, your community and local officials. Get their support to spread the word!
- E**ncourage fellow boaters to **Help Keep Our Waters Clean ... Use Pumpouts!**

For more information on pumpout locations in New York State, visit:

**NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation's Clean Vessel Assistance Program**



**Environmental Facilities Corporation**

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