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No-discharge compliance program in effect

By Sam Bari

After several revisions and legislative changes, the initially beleaguered and still controversial state Department of Environmental Management's No-Discharge Compliance Program, went into effect on June 1, 2006. This means that all boats subject to the program must be inspected and display a decal by June 1, 2007.

The program applies to all boats

registered in Rhode Island with permanently installed marine toilets.

Exemptions

Only three categories of boats are exempt from the program:

Boats with self-contained porta-potties, or no toilet at all. Boats that are already subject to mandatory U.S. Coast Guard inspection, as demonstrated by a valid USCG-issued certificate of inspection, and transient boats operated or moored in state waters for less than 30 days.

Requirements

All boats subject to the program must obtain and display a decal issued by an authorized certification agent. Decals are issued after an inspection to verify that the boat is in compliance with the state's no-discharge law. All decals are valid for a period of four years.

Effective dates

The program has been operational since April 2006 and formally took effect on June 1, 2006. The penalty and enforcement provisions of the program took effect on June 1, 2007. After June 1, 2007, any boat subject to the program that fails to display a decal may be subject to enforcement action, including a fine of up to \$100.

Inspection Fees

Certification agents may charge up to \$35 per boat for each inspection and decal. Agents may charge

boats with more than one marine toilet up to \$25 for each additional toilet.

The law

According to the state DEM Office of Water Resources, the federal Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of untreated, raw sewage from any vessel within three miles of shore in the territorial waters of the United States. This includes the Great Lakes and all navigable rivers.

On August 10, 1998, the state of Rhode Island took a step toward ensuring better water quality in marine waters by designating their coastal waters as a No Discharge Area (NDA). The state waters include territorial seas within three miles of shore, including all of Narragansett Bay. An NDA is a designated body of water in which the discharge of treated and untreated boat sewage is prohibited. This does not include grey water or sink water.

To learn more about this program and how it affects boat owners, visit the state DEM website at www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpo-ladm/manserv/hfb/boating/boating.htm.

To find a local marina or harbor master and get inspected today go to: www.ri.gov/DEM/marineseptic/finder/ and click on "boating licenses."

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Peace mural unveiled

Jamestown artist Andrea Good spent four months leading a team of six teens to create a peace mural at the Newport Martin Luther King Community Center. The mural, designed to inform and inspire all who view it, quotes such influential leaders as Rosa Parks, Nikosi Johnson, the Little Rock Nine, Jackie Robinson, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Gandhi, Mother Teresa, John Quincy Adams, Albert Einstein, John Lennon and Jackie Joyner Kersee. Here, Good is with the project's videographer Graham Wheeler, also of Jamestown, who attends the East Bay Met high school.

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jamestown fitness

The Jamestown Fitness Center has given me the confidence and strength needed to take part in police agility tests, which are needed to fulfill my career goal of becoming a police officer. Before joining the fitness center, I was reluctant to go to these exams because I was unsure if I could pass the battery of tests. In just a few short weeks I have noticed a HUGE improvement in my physical endurance. I attribute this to the convenient location, the state-of-the-art equipment and the friendly environment that kept me coming back for more. I truly believe that with a little time and sweat, anything is possible at Jamestown Fitness Center.

~ Sincerely, Alexander B. DeMolles II

Mon. - Thur.: 5:30 am - 8 pm
Friday: 5:30 am - 7 pm
Sat. & Sun.: 7 am - 3 pm

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