

Use your **HEAD** | **PUMP IT, DON'T DUMP IT!**



Katy Morrison

Help us eliminate boat sewage as a pollution source.

Boat sewage degrades water quality and marine habitats. Elevated fecal bacteria levels in coastal waters can pose a human health risk, leading to closures of valued beaches and shellfish growing areas.



The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has designated West Penobscot Bay as a No Discharge Area, where the discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage is prohibited. The other four approved No Discharge Areas in Maine are the Southern Mount Desert Region, the Boothbay Region, Casco Bay, and the Kennebunk-Wells Region.

To help improve water quality in Camden Harbor, the Town of Camden and the Maine Healthy Beaches Program (a partnership between the Maine DEP, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and Maine Sea Grant) are collaborating to assess potential sources of bacterial pollution at Laite Beach and the Camden Yacht Club Recreation Area. After testing in the past, they found that both locations frequently exceeded bacterial safety standards. Water quality monitoring has been expanded and residents and visitors are being asked to help protect the Penobscot Bay watershed.

What can you do?

- Be a responsible boat owner by ensuring all sewage goes into a holding tank and is disposed of properly.
- Report any illegal discharges from boats to the local harbormaster.
- Do not feed waterfowl, as they can increase bacteria levels.
- Maintain your home's septic system, and report any sewage problems on land to the local plumbing inspector.
- Dispose of pet waste properly.
- Retain or plant vegetative buffers along shorelines.

Successful water quality protection depends on community support.

To find out more about this project, please contact Keri Lindberg, Maine Healthy Beaches Program Coordinator, keri.lindberg@maine.edu, 207-832-0343.

For more information about No Discharge Areas, contact Pam Parker, Maine DEP, 207-287-7905.



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West Penobscot Bay is a designated **No Discharge Area**.

The discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage is prohibited.

The Town of Camden is promoting responsible boat ownership by providing a waste pump-out boat free for public use. The boat will come to you for service at no cost. **To call the pump-out boat, phone 207-236-7969 or radio channel 16.**

Pump-out locations are also indicated on the map below. The closest pump-out station to Camden Harbor is at Wayfarer Marine, 207-236-4378, channel 71.

