

Clean Marine-

Log line May 2011-05-27

If the weather ever clears up, many of us will finally go out to enjoy our great cruising grounds. Then, when Sunday night rolls around and you're heading home, the holding tank gets considered. Maybe your boat has a macerator pump and it seems so easy to push that button and the problem disappears, or maybe a manual pump is used to empty the tank. Before dumping directly to the ocean, consider the effect it might have. Untreated sewage has ten times worse biological oxygen demand (BOD) than treated sewage, and several hundred times greater than drinking water. BOD is a common measure of water quality. Of course, the ocean is not drinking water for us, but it is for the many organisms that reside there. So, a few considerations around sewage and holding tanks:

- when the tank needs emptying, use a pump out facility. More on these next time.
- use shore toilets where available. Even an outhouse can be better than raw sewage dumping.
- consider installing a holding tank level indicator. Gobius makes one that fits outside your tank. Knowing the tank level can give you the confidence you need to wait until you get to a pump out facility.
- consider using biodegradable toilet paper; available in most local chandleries.
- if you must pump out to the ocean, do so as far from shore as feasible.

As well, there are a number of areas that are designated as "No Discharge" zones besides our own harbour. They are: Carrington Bay, Roscoe Bay, Prideaux Haven, Squirrel Cove, Cortes Bay, Gorge Harbour, Tribune Bay, Smuggler Cove, Pilot Bay, Montague Harbour and Victoria Harbour.

"Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us." ~Henrik Tikkanen

NYC Environment Standing Committee -Brian Short