

[FRL~4660-8]

Rhode Island Marine Sanitation Device Standard; Notice of Determination

On March 8, 1993, notice was published that the State of Rhode Island had petitioned the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, to determine that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for Great Salt Pond in the Town of New Shoreham, County of Washington, within the State of Rhode Island. The petition was filed pursuant to section 312(f)(3) of Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Laws 95-217 and 100-4, for the purpose of declaring these waters a "no discharge area." Section 312(f)(3) states: After the effective date of the initial standards and regulations promulgated under this section, if any State determines that the protection and enhancement of the quality of some or all of the waters within such States require greater environmental protection, such State may completely prohibit the discharge from all vessels or any sewage, whether treated or not, into such waters, except that no such prohibition shall apply until the Administrator determines that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for such water to which such prohibition would apply.

The information submitted to me by the State of Rhode Island certified that there are four pump-out facilities available to service vessels in Great Salt Pond. Three of the facilities are

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stationary pump-out units, and one is a mobile vessel mounted unit.

Pumpout facility No.1 is a mobile vessel-mounted unit owned by the Town of New Shoreham and operated by the Block Island Harbors Department.

The pump out unit is mounted on a 23-pot Ocean Scout motor launch and connected to a 300 gallon holding tank built into the hull. Pumpout service is provided from 7

to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m. daily. Pumpout service is free for boats on Town-owned moorings, and costs \$10 for boats on private moorings, at anchor, or alongside private docks.

Pumpout facility No.2 is located at Champlin's Marina, on the southwestern shore of Great Salt Pond, and will accommodate vessels with a draft of 15 feet. This facility is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Pumpout service is free for marina patrons, and costs \$15 for others.

Pumpout facility No. 3 is located the Block Island Boat Basin, on the southern shore of Great Salt Pond, and will accommodate vessels with a draft of ten feet. This facility is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Pumpout service is free for customers and costs \$12.50 for others.

Pumpout facility No.4 is located at Payne's Dock, on the southeastern corner of Great salt Pond, and will accommodate vessels with a draft of 14 feet. This facility is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. Pumpout service is available only to marina patrons, and is free of charge.

The State of Rhode Island certified that the three stationary pump-out units are connected to the municipal sewage system, and the pumpout boat discharges to the Block Island Boat Basin pumpout facility. The New Shoreham Water Pollution Control Facility is located on Spring Street, just south of Old Harbor, and discharges to the Atlantic Ocean. The facility was commissioned in 1977, and an upgrade to increase its capacity was completed in 1990. The facility provides secondary treatment utilizing activated sludge and extended aeration, and has consistently met EPA and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management effluent discharge standards.

While there are only approximately 130 boats registered with the Town of New Shoreham, boat counts on weekends during the summer season (which extends from Memorial Day through Columbus Day) regularly exceed 1,000, and have approached 1,500 on some holiday weekends. The Block Island Harbors Department estimates that the live-aboard population on such weekends is on the order of 4,000.

None of these vessels will be excluded from using one or more of the existing pumpout facilities.

No comments were received by the Agency on the merits of the petition prior to the deadline for receipt of comments. Therefore, based on an examination of the petition, which included a site visit by EPA Region I staff, I have determined that adequate facilities for the safe and sanitary removal and treatment of sewage from all vessels are reasonably available for all waters of Great Salt Pond east of a line from the landward end of the jetty located at the northwestern channel entrance to the landplaced red marker located approximately 600 feet northwest of the United States Coast Guard facility dock. This determination is made pursuant to section 312(f)(3) of Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Laws 95-217 and 100-4.

Dated: May 11, 1993

Patricia L. Meaney,

Acting Regional Administrator

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