

FINAL - OCTOBER 24, 2016

The Anne Arundel County Maritime Advisory Board by unanimous vote of the members present at the meeting of October 24, 2016, makes the following statements and recommendations to the County Executive concerning the implementation of a No Discharge Zone in the waters of Anne Arundel County.

1. The Maritime Advisory Board believes that clean, clear, swimmable, and fishable water in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries is a crucial resource for citizens and an important selling point for marine businesses in the County and is a goal that should guide decisions on development around and discharge into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
2. The Board strongly believes that educating the public, including the boating public, about the benefits of clean water and limiting polluting discharge into the waters of Anne Arundel County is a positive step and should be pursued where possible.
3. The Board does not believe that boats and boaters significantly degrade the quality of the waters of Anne Arundel County, but we hope that by committing to improvement, others will follow suit.
4. In considering the question of whether to recommend the creation of a No Discharge Zone, the Maritime Advisory Board considered input from its own members, who represent a significant cross section of marine businesses and marinas in the County, and also heard from people outside the Board, including people that both oppose and support a No Discharge Zone.
5. Opponents of the plan believed that focusing on the area immediately around the City of Annapolis put an unfair burden on a small part of the County and its residents without sufficient showing that the concentrated burden would truly work to improve water quality.
6. Opponents of the plan were concerned that certain boats currently in existence and currently EPA compliant would no longer be able to legally operate in the No Discharge Zone and that this would impose an unfair burden on owners of those existing boats.
7. Opponents point out that there are sources of water pollution other than boats, including ones that may be more significant, and that clean-up efforts may be better directed elsewhere.
8. Proponents of a No Discharge Zone point out that it is a worthy goal to reduce bacteria and disease connected to fecal matter and untreated waste and that marine businesses and residents are negatively impacted each time a warning is necessary due to bacterial levels.
9. Proponents also point out that water quality, clarity and oxygenation is improved by lowering the amount of solids and nutrients that are deposited in the bay, and that this has

a positive impact on the enjoyment of the bay, the tourist industry, as well as Bay fisheries and habitat.

10. Proponents also note that many locations in the United States, including large parts of New England, have already successfully implemented No Discharge Zones. A No Discharge Zone has also been successfully implemented in Herring Bay, and Board members with direct knowledge of that body of water state that it has improved water quality without hurting business.
11. Having heard the discussions noted above, the Board makes the following recommendations:
 - a. Anne Arundel County would benefit from having its waters declared a No Discharge Zone and such an application should be pursued through appropriate authorities.
 - b. The No Discharge Zone should include more than the area around the City of Annapolis. It should extend to all of the parts of the County where there is sufficient pump out service to allow boats with holding tanks to be pumped out. Areas that do not have sufficient service should be urged to develop that service.
 - c. The No Discharge Zone should include all County waters, including the Patapsco, Magothy, Severn, South, West and Rhode Rivers so long as there is sufficient pump out service to support the boating community.
 - d. The application must be drafted to allow for existing vessels that do not have holding tanks to continue to operate.
 - e. The application must account for the fact that there are existing vessels that are EPA compliant and that could not be legally operated in a No Discharge Zone without extensive and expensive retrofitting. It is the recommendation of the Board that such vessels be allowed to continue to use a treated waste (Type I or II) system.

Respectfully submitted,

The Anne Arundel County Maritime
Advisory Board