

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **Free, Convenient Pumpout Service Will Go Where the Boaters Are at Two Tacoma Harbors**

*Washington State Parks' Clean Vessel Act Program sponsors new pumpout boats at two Tacoma marinas.*

Life will soon get easier and the waters may soon get cleaner at two popular Tacoma-area marinas. Starting later this year, the Narrows Marina and Foss Harbor Marina will offer free mobile pumpout services to all recreational boaters using their facilities. Both marinas already have dockside stationary pumpouts, but their managers say the new pumpout boats, which will go where boaters are moored or anchored, will ensure that they follow the golden rule of onboard sewage disposal, which is also the law: "Pump, don't dump."

"You make it much more convenient, and with the service being free there's really no reason for them not to pump out," explains Foss Harbor Marina manager Ian Wilkinson. "A lot of people don't take their boats out every week, especially when fuel prices are high. But they do use the boat as a sort of floating condo or hotel room, so they still need to pump out."

A paid private pumpout boat formerly operated at Foss Harbor, but its owner moved it to the Anacortes area. The Narrows Marina by contrast is launching its first mobile service. Narrow Marine managing partner Scott Wagner says its pumpout boat, now being built by Lee Shore Custom Aluminum Boats in Port Angeles, will be especially convenient for boaters moored on the far side of Day Island Lagoon. "We've been working hard to clean up the environment down here," says Wagner. "The easier we make it, the more people will use it."

The Washington State Parks Clean Vessel Program will pay 75 percent of the cost of the new pumpout boats (\$47,378 at the Narrows and \$36,000 at Foss Harbor) using Federal Clean Vessel Act (CVA) funds collected via taxes on marine fuel and recreational boats and fishing gear.

The State Parks program, in partnership with Washington Sea Grant, helps marina

owners install and operate pumpout stations, educates owners and boaters about the importance of proper sewage disposal, and distributes free adapter kits that make pumping easier and cleaner. All these measures help boaters comply with state law, which forbids dumping in inland waters. This protects both aquatic organisms and human health. Raw sewage contains norovirus and other pathogens, and it promotes algal growth that can deplete dissolved oxygen and create stagnant “dead zones.”

Since no commercial pumpout services operate near the marinas, the new CVA-supported pumpout boats will not duplicate existing service or compete with private businesses. Together with a new pumpout boat at Charbonneau Park in Eastern Washington, they will keep 20,000 to 30,000 gallons of raw sewage out of Washington’s waters in their first year.

Washington Sea Grant also distributes free adapter kits for cleaner, easier hands-free pumping. And it has used funds from the State Parks Clean Vessel Program to create a Google map showing all 146 CVA pumpout locations in Washington. The map can be accessed using the QR code on the adapters’ instructions or at [www.pumpoutwashington.org](http://www.pumpoutwashington.org). If your organization or yacht club would like free pumpout adapters for its members, please contact Aaron Barnett at (206) 616-8929 or [aaronb5@uw.edu](mailto:aaronb5@uw.edu).

*Based at the University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant provides statewide marine research, outreach and education services. The National Sea Grant College Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. [www.wsg.washington.edu](http://www.wsg.washington.edu)*