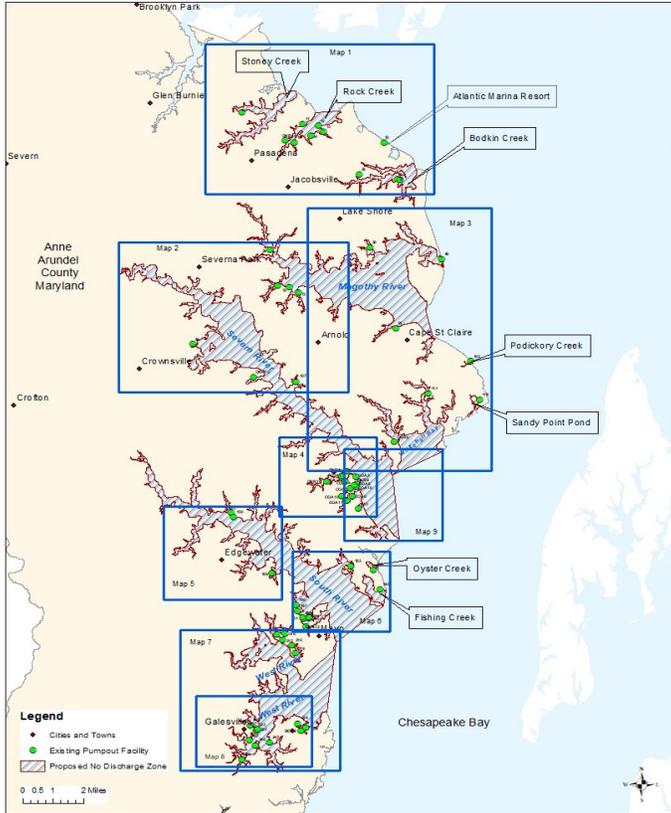


Proposed No Discharge Zone for Anne Arundel County Waters

Fact Sheet

Overview Proposed No Discharge Zones and Existing Pumpout Facilities



SUMMARY: The Severn River Association, with support from Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, has developed a No Discharge Zone application for all waters in Anne Arundel County. The Maryland Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment will review the final proposal and may apply to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for designation of these waters as a No Discharge Zone (NDZ).

What is a No Discharge Zone (NDZ)?

A no discharge zone (NDZ) is an area in which both *treated* and untreated sewage discharges from vessels are prohibited. It is already illegal to discharge raw/untreated sewage within 3 miles of the U.S. Coast. Within NDZ boundaries, vessel operators are required to retain sewage on board for disposal onshore at a pumpout facility and/or disable 'treat and release' (Type I or II) marine sanitation devices. To obtain this additional level of protection for state waters, states must apply to the U.S. EPA, who will assess the need and the availability of pumpout stations to the boating public.

How will the NDZ be enforced if it becomes law? Both the Natural Resources Police and U.S. Coast Guard will be able to enforce observed violations on the water. The Maryland Department of the Environment will be authorized to issue civil penalties not to exceed \$10,000 per violation. Education is the primary approach; fines would be a last resort.

Where Can Boaters Find a Pumpout Station? Are they reliable? Maryland law requires marinas with 50+ slips of a certain size to have an operable pumpout station. The Severn River Association has identified 55 publicly available pumpout stations within AA County waters which are noted in the NDZ application. A list of grant funded (publicly available) pumpouts is available at dnr.maryland.gov/boating/pumpout. Boaters can report inoperable pumpouts to DNR at pumpout@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8772.

When Could the Proposed NDZ Become Effective? Pending federal review and approval which may take a year or more.

Why Seek NDZ Designation? According to the University of MD Center for Environmental Science, the lower western shore region, which includes Anne Arundel County, is meeting less than 20 percent of the target for nitrogen reduction¹. The rivers are important economic drivers for the region, providing jobs and revenue through tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, and boating. Providing greater environmental protection with an NDZ will help improve the health of the water, and protect the important resources of Anne Arundel County waters.

More Information and Access the Application: <https://severnriver.org/> • dnr.maryland.gov/boating/pumpout • epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/vessel-sewage-discharges •

¹<https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/health/>