

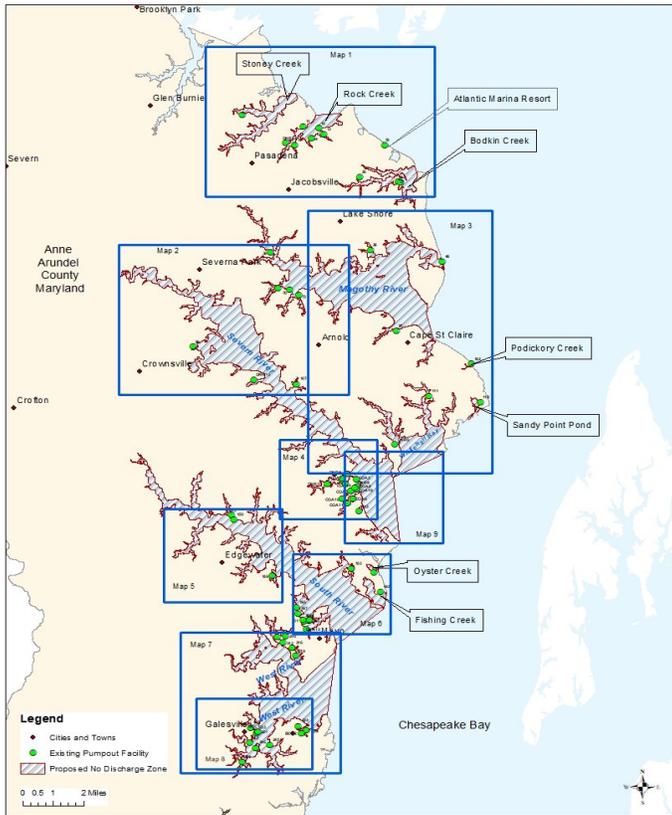
Anne Arundel County No Discharge Zone



Fact Sheet 2022



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, developed a No Discharge Zone proposal for all waters in Anne Arundel County. The Maryland Departments of Natural Resources and the Environment reviewed and submitted it to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for designation of these waters as a No Discharge Zone (NDZ). That designation was completed in 2021 and, by adoption of state regulations, will be effective July 1, 2022.

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 assess the need and the availability of pumpout stations to the boating public.

How will the NDZ be enforced? 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 will be the primary approach; penalties and 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 NDZ application identified 55 publicly available pumpout stations within these waters. A list of grant funded (publicly available) pumpouts is available at dnr.maryland.gov/boating/pumpout. Due to operations and maintenance grants to marinas, most pumpouts are reliable. However, please report inoperable pumpouts to DNR at 410-260-8772 or pumpout@dnr.state.md.us.

When Will the NDZ Become Effective? The provisions in §B(4) of COMAR 26.08.03 Discharge Limitations will be effective for all vessels on July 1, 2022, with the exception of United States Coast Guard Inspected Passenger Vessels as defined in 46 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter T, Small Passenger Vessels (Under 100 Gross Tons), for which this regulation will become effective on July 1, 2025.

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 the full NDZ proposal: dnr.maryland.gov/boating/Pages/pumpout/ndz.aspx • epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/vessel-sewage-discharges • severnriver.org/ •

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