

MSD Effluent – No Discharge Zones and Procedures

The Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes the designation of "No Discharge Zones" (NDZs). In a NDZ, all vessels are prohibited from discharging sewage, whether treated or not.

"No Discharge Zones" are designated bodies of waters that prohibit the discharge of treated and untreated boat sewage.

- Illinois does not currently have any designated or proposed "No Discharge" Zones.
- Indiana does not currently have any designated or proposed "No Discharge" Zones.
- Pennsylvania does not currently have any designated or proposed "No Discharge" Zones.
- Ohio does not currently have any designated "No Discharge" Zones, but the area is under a proposed review.



No Discharge Zone in the waters of the State of New York - Lake Erie

New York's portion of Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence River is a "Vessel Waste No Discharge Zone." This designation means that boaters and shippers are not allowed to discharge their on-board sewage into the water. Boaters must instead dispose of their sewage at pump-out stations that are available for recreational boater use or hold it.

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Anytime your vessel is operating in the No Discharge Zone(s) the officer of the watch must inform the Engine Room that the vessel is entering a No-Discharge Zone. The time and position of the vessel **MUST** be noted in the Deck Log along with comments “MSD overboard discharge secured”.

Upon receiving the above call the Engineer on watch shall immediately secure the overboard discharge and secure the discharge valve by:

1. Closing each valve leading to an overboard discharge and removing the handle;
2. Padlocking each valve leading to an overboard discharge valve in the closed position; or
3. Using a non-releasable wire-tie to an overboard discharge valve in the closed position.

(33 CFR 159.7)

The Engineer on watch shall then note the time in the engineering Log along with “MSD overboard discharge secured.”

In Canadian Waters of the Great Lakes: In Canadian waters where it is legal to discharge the MSD Effluent, the officer of the watch will notify the engine room and both will make a log entry noting the time and location where the discharge valves were opened.

The discharge is made at a distance of at least 12 nautical miles from shore and passed thru a marine sanitation device and the effluent has a fecal Coliform count that is equal to or less than 250/100mL.

In U.S. Waters of the Great Lakes: Where it is allowable to discharge; Canadian Flagged vessels must maintain at least 12 nautical miles from shore and the sewage and grey water mixture must be passed thru a marine sanitation device and the effluent has a fecal Coliform count that is equal to or less than 250/100ml.