# **Preventing Marine Sewage Pollution**

from Small Vessels of <400 gross tons that carry ≤15 passengers

Sewage can cause harm to human health and the environment. Transport Canada regulates the discharge of sewage to waters under Canadian jurisdiction. The Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations (VPDCR), made under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, requires you to have the proper sewage management equipment on board of your vessel, and to know where to discharge your vessel's sewage. To comply with the regulations:

(or)

### **Consider your equipment:**

#### **MARINE SANITATION DEVICE**

 Must be a type approved to the standards set out by MARPOL\* (Annex IV), or those standards set out by the United States Coast Guard (USCG Type II MSD).

\*MARPOL, short for Marine Pollution, is the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

#### **HOLDING TANK**

- Large enough to hold the required capacity of sewage for your vessel's trip (Tip: Holding tanks should hold 0.56 litres per person per hour of operation).
- For discharge at a pump-out station ONLY, or from the vessel when it is at the prescribed distance from shore. Cannot discharge raw sewage directly from the toilet.

#### **TEMPORARY STORAGE**

- Only permitted for vessels under 15 GT and that carry ≤ 15 passengers.
- Do not use on inland waters.
- Must be secured to the vessel (e.g., porta-potty).
- Check with your municipality about the proper way to empty.

## **Consider your distance from shore:**

Important Note: You CAN NEVER discharge sewage within inland waters (rivers and lakes)

 $\langle or \rangle$ 

# More Than 3 Nautical Miles - 3 Nautical Miles - 1 Nautical Mile -You can only discharge if... You have a You can only discharge if... You discharge directly from the toilet. You can only discharge Device in your vessel that breaks up if... You have an and disinfects the sewage. approved Marine Sanitation Device in your vessel that treats sewage to a fecal coliform count of ≤ 250/100 ml. Designated Sewage Area You can only discharge within Designated Sewage Areas if... You have an approved Marine Sanitation Device in your vessel that treats sewage to a fecal coliform count of $\leq 14/100$ ml. Note: You can find the VPDCR online at: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2012-69.pdf

Questions? Contact the nearest Transport Canada Centre: http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/regions.htm