



## Scarborough Borough Council

7 July 2009

Dear Boat Owner

### "Black Water" – A Guide to Good Practice

Currently the Marpol Convention regulated by the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) advises and enforces the disposal of sewage at sea, however this relates only to ships over 400 gross tonnage and those vessels carrying more than 15 passengers.

With the increase in berthing capacity and a general growth of the leisure boating industry in the ports of Scarborough and Whitby it was felt that guidance to good practice in dealing with the 'black water' (sewage and washing water) issues was required from the Harbour Authority.

This guidance applies to all vessels using the ports facilities within the legal harbour limits which are outside of the Marpol regulation convention regarding the disposal of sewage at sea.

At present the issue of the disposal of 'black water' at sea and within port limits is a value judgement of the vessel operator to which good practice applies.

Please note the following guidelines and employ them as required to lessen the environmental impact your operations have within the harbour limits.

### What Can I Do?

- Only use sea toilets in open waters where the waste will be quickly diluted and dispersed.
- Use shore side facilities where provided and available, public toilets are available for use as well as dedicated marina facilities.
- Always use pump out facilities where available, if you have to empty slop tanks only do so more than 3 miles offshore.
- Take extra care in areas of poor tidal flushing or are seen as sensitive to the environment and other port users. Again use shore side facilities where possible.
- Chemical toilets should be emptied onshore into the regular sewage system.
- Consider fitting a holding tank to your boat, it is the law in some European Countries.
- Always give consideration to the environmental sensitivity of the area before using your sea toilet.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR WASTE!**

2

7 July 2009

The above guidelines provide basic good practice in regard to the use of your vessel's toilets, showers, and sinks, if used correctly and the above advice used judiciously, it should be able to promote and sustain good water quality and a pleasant environment for all to enjoy our harbours.

I look forward to your cooperation in applying the above guidelines and good practice within our harbours.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Willis', written in a cursive style.

Capt. Martin Willis  
Borough Harbour Master

mw/ld