

ITEM	4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	75
COUNCIL MEETING	93/12/20

TO: CITY MANAGER 1993 DECEMBER 15

FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: MARINE CRAFT SEWAGE DISCHARGES

PURPOSE: TO INFORM COUNCIL OF THE PROPOSED MARINE (PLEASURE AND NON-PLEASURE) CRAFT SEWAGE POLLUTION PREVENTION REGULATIONS AND A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS MARINE CRAFT SEWAGE DISCHARGES.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council request the Provincial Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks to designate:
  - a) False Creek, English Bay, Vancouver Harbour (First to Second Narrows) and the balance of Burrard Inlet; and
  - b) Fraser River - North Arm;

under the proposed Pleasure Craft Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulations (PCSPPR);
2. THAT correspondence in support of this request be forwarded to the neighbouring Burrard Inlet and Fraser River municipalities including Burrard Inlet Environmental Review Committee, Fraser River Estuary Management Program and the Vancouver Port Corporation.

**REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

At the regular Council Meeting on 1993 November 01, Council received and reviewed a letter dated 1993 October 15 from the City of Vancouver requesting Council to support the recommendations in a report prepared by the City Engineer on marine craft sewage discharges.

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Subsequent to discussion on the issue, Council requested staff to prepare a report on a comprehensive strategy to address the issue of marine sewage discharges.

**2.0 PROPOSED MARINE (PLEASURE AND NON-PLEASURE) CRAFT SEWAGE POLLUTION PREVENTION REGULATIONS:**

The proposed Pleasure Craft Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulations (PCSPPR) and the proposed Non-Pleasure Craft Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulations are formulated pursuant to the Canada Shipping Act. The proposed PCSPPR prohibit the discharges of sewage from a pleasure craft while in any body of water designated in the schedule to the Regulations. Water bodies designated in the schedule to the proposed PCSPPR are also applicable to all non-pleasure crafts.

The proposed PCSPPR further require a pleasure craft equipped with a toilet to either be fitted with a sewage holding tank or be fitted with a piping system appropriate for the removal of the holding tank's contents by shore based pump-out facilities at marinas.

Although the two proposed regulations are federal regulations, its application to any specific water body is regulated by the province in which the water body is located. This is accomplished by having each participating province nominate those water bodies for inclusion in the schedule to the PCSPPR. Requests for amendment to the schedule may be submitted bi-annually.

**3.0 COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY IN MANAGING MARINE CRAFT SEWAGE DISCHARGES:**

When recreational boating is at its peak during the summer months, sewage from pleasure crafts can be a persistent source of public health and aesthetic concerns. In addition, discharges of sewage from non-pleasure crafts can also affect water quality.

While we agree with City of Vancouver's report to protect water bodies of False Creek, English Bay and the Vancouver Harbour (First Narrows to Second Narrows), the designation in the schedule to the PCSPPR should, in addition to the inclusion of the aforementioned water bodies, also include the balance of the Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River - North Arm because of the availability of swimming opportunities at the Barnet Marine Park and other public beaches as well as the presence of park trails along the Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River.

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4.0 CONCLUSION:

The proposed PCSPPR prohibit the discharges of sewage from a pleasure craft while in any body of water set out in the schedule to the Regulations. Water bodies designated in the said schedule also apply to non-pleasure crafts.

While we support City of Vancouver's recommendation to protect water bodies of False Creek, English Bay and the Vancouver Harbour, water bodies for the balance of the Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River - North Arm should also be included.



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MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

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- cc: ( ) Director Administrative & Community Services  
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( ) Director Planning & Building  
( ) Director Recreation & Cultural Services

