

## The Clean Boating Act of 2008

For over 30 years the Environmental Protection Agency has exempted recreational boats from its operational discharge permit system. As the result of a federal court decision in a case relating to the discharge of bilge water from large ships, this exemption has been nullified and the EPA is required to put into place by September 30 of this year a permit system applying to every recreational vessel, presumably including dinghies, and covering deck runoff, bilge water, gray water and engine cooling water.

The permit systems in question do not relate to the discharge of oil, fuel, garbage and sewage, which are already addressed by federal law and are applicable to recreational boats.

Bills to enact The Clean Water Act of 2008 are pending in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This Act would reinstate the permit exemption for recreational vessels. It is supported by a broad coalition of boating groups. The Environment of the Sea Committee encourages members of the CCA to learn more about this situation by going to [www.boatblue.org](http://www.boatblue.org) and to consider whether they would be interested in voicing support for this legislation.