

Okaloosa County News Release

6/26/2007

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us
P07-134

Okaloosa County Environmental Council Remind Boaters to Help Protect the Emerald Coast

Summer is the season to enjoy boating along the Emerald Coast and we'd like to remind boaters that Florida's coasts are protected from sewage discharge nine nautical miles into the Gulf. Discharging anywhere within those limits can bring fines and possibly arrest. Pump out stations and services are available in Destin, Ft. Walton Beach, Shalimar, Niceville and there are mobile pump outs as well. Protect our natural environment, share the responsibility for our beautiful waters, and properly dispose of boat sewage.

"Okaloosa County is known for its sugar-white sands and emerald waters, which we want to continue to protect through renourishing our beaches and protecting our waters," stated Commission Chair Don Amunds. The Emerald Coast was named one of the "Best Family Vacations" and "Best Beach in the South," by readers of Southern Living for the 12th year in a row. "These acclaims for the Best Beach Town and Best Family Vacation go far beyond our sugar-white sands and encompass the dedication of all of our tourism industry partners," stated President & CEO Darrel C. Jones, Emerald Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

If you would like more information about keeping **ALL** of the waters in Okaloosa County safe and clean for ourselves and future generations, visit www.dep.state.fl.us. For a complete list of pump out stations, visit <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/reefs.html>.

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PSA – Clean Boating

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