

TRANSCRIPT: 2012 CLEAN VESSEL ACT PODCAST

NARRATOR: It's been 20 years since the U.S. Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act. Now in this anniversary year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the Clean Vessel Act program will be distributing \$11.4 million dollars to 29 states. Since its inception in 1992, the Clean Vessel Act program has provided funds to states to construct, replace, renovate and maintain facilities that assist recreational boaters in properly disposing of on board septic waste. Hannibal Bolton is the Assistant Director of the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

HANNIBAL BOLTON: "It's been a positive influx of funding and support to help the states to help protect and maintain our important water resources."

NARRATOR: Funds are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. Bolton says the Clean Vessel Act program also provides educational awareness of the benefits of pumpouts.

HANNIBAL BOLTON: "By using these pumpout facilities, boaters do not discharge this waste directly into the water. The Service has developed a national, logo or symbol to identify pumpouts. We also administer the grant program, we provide technical advice and promote information and education to benefit the use and availability of pumpouts. States are encouraged to identify areas of need for pumpouts and develop a plan. Each year States partner with marinas and local agencies to request grants to install a variety of facilities. States also receive grants to educate boaters. Boaters can get involved by finding pumpout stations and using them. The general public can get involved by supporting pumpout projects and being aware of clean water issues in their local areas well as outside the areas they live. Everyone shares the love of water and wants to keep our natural resources healthy for people and aquatic species that we love so well."

NARRATOR: For more information on the Clean Vessel Act Program, visit www.fws.gov and click on the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Page. In Washington, Kim Betton, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.