



# TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TOWN URGES RESIDENTS TO USE FREE MARINE PUMPOUT SERVICES**

**Riverhead, NY** – Just in time for the start of the summer season, Supervisor Sean Walter announced that the Riverhead free boat pumpout service is once again being offered.

In addition, the Town of Riverhead offers two public stationary, no fee, pumpout facilities located at East Creek and downtown Riverhead that are available 24 hours a day. These facilities are self-service.

The Town has provided pumpout boat services free of charge since 2004 and usage has increased dramatically. In 2006, 334 vessels were serviced and 8,308 gallons were pumped. Last year, 741 boats were serviced and 22,370 gallons were pumped.

“This service significantly reduces the amount of nitrogen being contributed to the Peconic Estuary, thereby protecting water quality and lessening potential for future brown tide blooms,” Supervisor Sean Walter said. “We know that protecting Riverhead’s marine environment is crucial to our economy.”

Chief David Hegermiller noted that the purchase of the two town vessels was subsidized 75% through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), and 12.5% from Suffolk County. EFC also provides the Town of Riverhead up to \$14,000 annually to assist in the costs of operating and maintaining the two vessels and the two stationary facilities. This funding was secured by the town’s Community Development Department. Hegermiller noted that it is against the law to discharge effluent into the Peconic River Estuary and that violators are subject to substantial fines.

Services are provided at no cost to vessels at anchor or on a mooring. Boats must be in either the Peconic River or the portion of the Peconic Bay Estuary administered by the Town of Riverhead from May 15 to September 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. seven days a week. From September 15 to October 1, the service is available only on weekends. Boaters wishing to contact the mobile pumpout units may initiate radio contact on VHF Channel 73. The mobile pumpout units are managed by the Town of Riverhead Police Department.