

“Pump don’t dump” call for Falmouth Harbour’s new black-water waste station

News Release: Immediate



Any vessel fitted with a holding tank can use Falmouth Harbour’s new blackwater pump-out station.
Photos by Falmouth Harbour.

Sea-farers around Falmouth are being urged to pump out waste from their vessels using Falmouth Harbours’ newly installed black-water reception facility – rather than dumping it into the sea.

The £19,000 investment at North Quay aims to curb the amount of raw sewage pollution by the many craft which use the waters of Falmouth Bay, Falmouth Harbour and the Carrick Roads each year – which poses a threat to sealife and eco-systems as well as public health.

Any boat or craft with a holding tank can pump-out using the waste water station, which directs effluent into the sewerage system to be appropriately treated by South West Water. The service is free to all Falmouth Haven berth and mooring customers, while other users will be asked to spend just £12 a pump to help cover running costs.

It has been among the key environmental investments on the agenda for Falmouth Harbour with their ambition – shared with other Maritime organisations - to transform Falmouth into an increasingly sustainable area through reduction of impacts.

“It’s obvious that pumping sewage from a boat into the sea is bad for our beautiful natural environment as well as for people and wildlife – especially

when vessels are gathered in high concentrations,” says Falmouth Harbour’s Environment Manager Vicki Spooner. “Our new black water pump-out station goes some way to addressing this problem, although we’d urge owners of smaller or older vessels which don’t have a holding tank to avoid using their onboard heads: use land-based toilet facilities wherever possible!”

Falmouth joins Fowey and Padstow as the Cornish entries on “The Green Blue’s Pump-Out Directory” map of facilities around the UK coastline, found at

<https://thegreenblue.org.uk/resources/boat-user-resources/marine-facilities/>

The environmental charity, backed by numerous maritime organisations including the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and British Marine, has clear advice for water users about the effects of discharging sewage and chemicals from vessels into the sea – along with an entertaining animation on the subject – all found at <https://thegreenblue.org.uk/you-your-boat/info-advice/water-pollution-prevention/sewage/>

Kate Fortnam from The Green Blue welcomes the installation of Falmouth Harbour’s new pumping station and says, “With more and more of us taking to the water each year it is important we all know how to deal with our waste in a responsible manner. It’s no longer acceptable to pump waste out whenever and wherever it suits and it is our responsibility to consider the effects this may have on the surrounding environment.”

Access to Falmouth Harbours’ pump-out facility on North Quay is tidal so users should call the Falmouth Haven team on 01326 310990 to book an appointment. Details of a vessel, including its draft, will be taken to ensure there is enough water to complete the pump-out safely.

Falmouth Harbour Chief Executive Miles Carden says, “We very much want boat owners to use this new facility to reduce the amount of sewage pollution and bacteria entering local waters where nutrient loading is already high.

“It’s helping to protect sea life and water quality – and clearly it’s far more sanitary to dispose of black water into the sewer where it gets properly treated.”

The use of sea toilets has long been banned for vessels berthed at the Falmouth Haven Marina, with boat owners encouraged to use the amenity block and, now, the black water pump out facilities rather than disposing of any waste further out at sea. The pump out facility cannot be used to pump

out bilges – but the Falmouth Haven Team can advise on the correct disposal of bilge-water onshore.

For detailed information on the work and services of Falmouth Harbour www.falmouthharbour.co.uk or call the Falmouth Haven team on 01326 310990.

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Notes to Editors:

- **Photos** all free to use with a picture credit for Falmouth Harbour much appreciated.
- **Falmouth Harbour Commissioners** (FHC) are a statutory port authority with responsibility for the Inner Harbour at Falmouth (excluding Falmouth Docks), the Penryn River up as far as Coastlines Wharf, the southern part of the Carrick Roads and a large part of Falmouth Bay.
- **FHC** is managed by a Board of Trustees set up as a trust port by statute to administer the harbour in the best interests of its stakeholders
- FHC operates to the standards in the Modernising Trust Ports written by the Ports Division for the Department for Transport as part of the process of Modernising of Trust Ports and last updated in 2018
- FHC provide pilotage services for the anchorages in Falmouth Bay and Carrick Roads, Falmouth Docks, Truro, Penryn and St Mawes as well as the Helford river, the Quarries on the East side of the Lizard Peninsula and the Falmouth, Gerrans and Veryan Bays
- Depending on length, destination and cargo, a Falmouth Pilot (a member of the Falmouth Pilots LLP) is required to assist ships entering FHC's waters
- **The Green Blue's** – mission is to promote sustainable boating for cleaner and healthier waters: their information and advice to help the boating community to reduce their impact on coastal and inland waters can be found at <https://thegreenblue.org.uk/>