National Boating Federation

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Long Island Sound Declared a NDZ: As reported in Trade Only, the US EPA and the NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation, designated a 760 square-mile area of Long Island Sound as a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) which means of course that all boats, even those with legally approved MSDs, may not use them in the Sound. Nothing was stated about storm water runoff from the streets of Manhattan, New York City or overflow from sewage treatment plants. It was also stated that "there are adequate facilities in the Sound for boats to pump out their sewage." Again nothing was stated about whether the facilities are operable and if there is enough depth for deep draft vessels to access the facilities. In comments to the report, one individual stated that she was going to "pass this on to Doug Gansler, AG of the State of Maryland, hoping this notice will encourage Doug to bring a NDZ proposal before the Maryland legislature again this year." A Bay NDZ proposal was brought before the Maryland legislature last year and after hearings on the bill, most testified against it and the bill failed.

EPA Ruling on E15 Pump Labeling: The EPA has issued a ruling that would mitigate the potential for misfueling engines and equipment not approved for E15 ethanol. These include model year 2000 and older vehicles, gasoline powered equipment and boats. Once E15 is introduced into commerce, gasoline retail stations must label fuel pumps to alert consumers to the appropriate and lawful use of the fuel. The fueling pumps will require a label stating: "Attention E15 Up to 15% ethanol. Use only in 2001 and newer vehicles and flex-fuel vehicles. Don't use in other vehicles, boats, or gasoline-powered equipment. It may cause damage and is prohibited by Federal law." Hopefully all fueling points on the road and at marinas will actually provide these labels and not cause any misfueling by the boating community.