

HOUSEBOAT OWNERS GREY WATER DIRECTION

Firstly it must be made very clear that houseboat owners are not against adopting a system or behavioural change to assist in reducing the impact of waste from a boat as long as it is done at an acceptable level which is commensurate to the risks it is to address, workable, cost effective, fit for purpose, appropriate to the build and use of the boat, does not draw excessive power (specific to GWTS), is quiet, and not cause blockages to the plumbing.

With the program to install Grey Water Treatment Systems [GWTS] it is imperative that no boats are required to install GWTS retrospectively. Boats are built to various standards and are not able to carry heavy add-ons after the boat has been balanced and build to a formula which does not allow for major additional weight distribution. Short of having a trailer built for each boat within the categories 1,2,3 and 4 to tow behind them and process the grey water they would be unable to safely have additions to process the extra weight of grey water let alone having the room on the boat for extra equipment required for the treatment system. It is understood that waste from the sink alone on a houseboat is in excess of 10 times that of black water waste which would have a major consequence to the balance, performance and flotation of the boat. This does not take into account waste from showers, washing machines, dishwashers etc.

Our requirements therefore are as follows

- Other technologies and options are to be considered for boats incapable of fitting GWTS (eg grease traps, ecofriendly products made available)
- Evidence of management of waste is provided prior to any installation eg blackwater pump out stations upgraded, grease trap management installed at each marina
- No existing houseboats are required to fit retrospectively a grey water system.
- All new boats being built are required to have a “Fit for Purpose” system installed. This should be a trial period of a number of years after which if successful, boats changing category or having major renovations carried out will be required to have GWTS fitted.
- Once this process has been successfully completed all category 5 and 6 boats currently on the lake are to be fitted out with the GWTS subject to the signing off on the process for each individual boat by a marine engineer where the boat has capacity to accept the system or other technologies are adopted (grease traps etc)