

# MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## OVERBOARD DISCHARGE ANNUAL FEE INFORMATION SHEET

Since 1989 the State of Maine has funded the administration of the overboard discharge (OBD) licensing and inspection programs with fees paid by OBD licensees. This fee is called the **Annual Fee**.

*Public Law 2011, Chapter 546, An Act To Improve the Department of Environmental Protection's Annual Waste Discharge License Fee System*, enacted in 2012, amends the method for calculating **Annual Fees**. The base fee is now limited to the fee charged in 2011 (adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index) plus the Water Quality Improvement Fund fee.

### **FEE REDUCTION**

There is only one available reduction to annual fees.

**If the combined, adjusted gross income of all licensees is less than \$15,000 you may reduce the fee by \$125, only if you attach documentation.**

**To qualify for this reduction, send us the first page of Federal Form 1040 for the most recent tax year, demonstrating that the combined, adjusted gross income of all licensees is less than \$15,000 per year. If you do not file taxes because your only income is from Social Security, please attach your form 1099-SSA.**

Businesses, corporations, partnerships and trusts are not eligible for this reduction.

### **SYSTEM REMOVAL**

If you removed your OBD system, and all its components, **prior to December 31, of any given year**, you do not have to pay the annual fee for the following year.

Your account can not be closed until you have submitted a Proper Abandonment form, dated and signed by the contractor that performed the removal, certifying the date the removal was completed. If you have removed your system and are still receiving a bill, please contact the DEP for an Abandonment Form immediately.

Unpaid fees are subject to interest on the principle amount at a rate of 15% annually. Failure to pay the Annual Fee within 90 days may result in progressive enforcement action including fines and penalties.

**Please Note:** If you have a mechanical treatment system, you are still required to retain a service contractor for year-round system maintenance. DEP staff verifies all contracts with the service contractors annually and during license renewals and transfers. If you do not have a mechanical system, you are not required to have a service contractor.

## ✓ CUSTOMER CHECKLIST

- Have we listed your address correctly?**
- If you qualify for a fee reduction, did you attach the first page of Federal Form 1040 for the most recent tax year or a copy of Form SSA-1099 for all licensees?** If the combined, adjusted annual gross income of all licensees is \$15,000 or less, your fees will be reduced by \$125 this year **only if you attach documentation!** The fee reduction is available to residential discharges owned by individuals with low incomes. Businesses, corporations, partnerships, trusts are not eligible for this reduction.
- If you are having trouble paying your bill, please contact us to discuss.**
- If you are planning to sell or transfer your property, have you or your realtor contacted us? Certain requirements for OBD removal apply when transferring ownership of a property containing an OBD. It is more efficient to contact us when you list your property!**
- If you are planning major renovations to your property or a change in use, have you contacted us to discuss your plans?** Please call us before you start work. Calling in the planning stage may help avoid difficult and often expensive problems in the future. License or permit restrictions may not allow expansions, additions, or conversions to year-round use. Please take the time to read your license or permit carefully; there may be requirements or restrictions that may affect your future plans for the property.

**If you have any questions, please call us.**

**From outside Maine call (207) 287-7688 then ask for the wastewater OBD program**

**From inside Maine call (800) 452-1942 then ask for the OBD program**

**☞ Remember** - your sewage treatment system contains living organisms that clean the waste before discharging to the ocean or river. Don't use harsh, concentrated chemicals and use water carefully and consistently. Careful use will prevent chemicals and poorly treated waste from going into the ocean or river and extend the life of your system.

**If you wouldn't pour it into the ocean, don't pour it down your drain!**