

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), today applauded a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that would require the 3,675 square mile area of Lake Ontario to be a "no discharge zone." With this distinction, boats will be completely banned from discharging sewage into the Lake.

"It's vitally important that we protect the waters of Lake Ontario and I applaud the EPA and DEC for designating the 'no discharge zone' to the water we rely on every day," said Slaughter. "The Great Lakes represent 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply and we must do everything we can to preserve them for future generations."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has tentatively determined that there are adequate facilities around Lake Ontario for boats to pump out their sewage, allowing the establishment of a "no discharge zone" for 3,675 square miles of the lake, its tributaries and bays, and 326 miles of shoreline that comprise the New York State portion of the lake.

The proposed no discharge zone for the New York State portion of Lake Ontario includes the waters of the lake within the New York State boundary: the Niagara River, including the Niagara River up to Niagara Falls, in the west to Tibbetts Point at the mouth of the Saint Lawrence River in the east. The proposed no discharge zone also includes the navigable portions of the Lower Genesee, Oswego and Black rivers and various tributaries, Irondequoit Bay, Sodus Bay, Henderson Bay, Black River Bay, Chaumont Bay, and North and South ponds.

Lake Ontario, its harbors, bays, creeks and wetlands support fish spawning areas and habitat, commercial and recreational boating, and plethora of recreational opportunities. The Lake Ontario watershed is also a source of drinking water for 760,000 people.

For more on Slaughter's efforts to keep the Great Lakes water clean including her work to prevent invasive species from entering our waters, [click here](#) .