

MAYOR
DAVID R. MARTIN



CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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February 24, 2015

TO: Ms. Anne Fountain, Director of Health and Social Services
Mr. Michael Handler, Chairman, Water Pollution Control Authority
Mr. Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations
Mr. Richard Talamelli, Environmental Protection Board
Mr. Tyler Theder, Stormwater Regulatory Compliance and Administrative
Officer

FROM: Dr. Damian Orтели, Chairman, Harbor Management Commission

SUBJECT: Stamford Harbor Water Quality

During its meeting on February 17, 2015 the Harbor Management Commission discussed the attached report and photos provided by the Stamford Harbor Master concerning a substantial amount of floating debris in Stamford Harbor.

The Stamford Harbor Management Plan adopted by the Board of Representatives identifies issues concerning water quality and describes how any significant pollution in Stamford's coastal waters can affect the enjoyment of boating activities, the vitality of fish and wildlife habitat, and the health of those who come in contact with the water.

In addition, the Harbor Management Plan encourages and supports all feasible measures to protect and improve water quality in Stamford's coastal waters. The Plan includes a number of provisions to advance that goal and calls for coordination among all city agencies to achieve the goal.

Acting on our own, the Harbor Management Commission does not have the resources to address this issue. After significant discussion during our meeting, it was the sense of the Commission to contact the city agencies with water quality interests and authorities and to request your assistance for developing a strategy to: 1) remove and properly dispose of the existing pollution; and 2) identify and mitigate the existing sources of this pollution.

On behalf of the Harbor Management Commission, I look forward to your response and guidance for how to proceed. I can be reached at (315) 651-0070 or dortelli@stamfordct.gov.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Ortelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Damian Ortelli

Chairman, Stamford Harbor Management Commission

cc:

Mr. Frank Fedeli, Stamford Office of Operations

Captain Eric Knott, State of Connecticut Harbor Master

Sergeant Robert Monck, Stamford Police Department Marine Unit

Stamford Harbor Master's Supplementary Report 02/13/2015

To Geoffrey Steadman

Geoff,

As directed at the Stamford Harbor Commission meeting 2/17/2015, please find attached photographs of assorted pollutants, garbage and debris in the harbor. The pictures were taken by me within the past week.

The pollution pictured had been present and unchanged for 5-10 days prior to the pictures being taken. Currents and tidal flow within the harbor are not removing the debris, but seem to be concentrating it in particular areas.

The location (of these pictures) is Czescik marina, but similar rafts of pollutants are present throughout the harbor, being mainly concentrated around structure. The items observed in the water include;

- Assorted plastic and polystyrene containers
- Discarded paper cups
- Assorted driftwood
- Dead animals/birds
- Lengths of rope (various sizes and lengths)
- Weed/plants
- Biological waste matter
- Food stuffs
- Clothing
- Globules of sticky and indeterminate nature.

At present, it is unsightly but as spring approaches, temperatures rise and members of the public return to the water/water side for recreation, it is going to become a safety issue. The possibility of disabling and causing damage to recreational boats will be very real, as will the health hazard to those nearby.

As Harbor Master, I do not have the facilities to remove and make safe the pollution. I therefore request that a means be sought to;

1. Remove and dispose of the debris presently in the harbor, a matter I consider of some urgency.
2. Locate and remove source of pollution. This will be more difficult as there is no single point of pollution and some may in fact be of 'natural' origin.

I request that you contact CT DEEP and other agencies/departments as you deem appropriate with a request to provide resources to remove the debris from the harbor.

Respectfully

Respectfully submitted

Captain Eric Knott

Harbor Master

Stamford Harbor Master's Supplementary Report 02/13/2015





