

# Memo

March 18, 2009

To: Nathan Poore, Town Manager  
Fr: Chief Ed Tolan  
Re: Requested change in the *Coastal Waters Ordinance*

At the last Harbor Committee meeting (Thursday, March 12, 2009) a motion was made to allow small outboard motors, but no external fuel tanks, to be left on personal dinghies that are permitted at the dinghy float.

The concept behind this was that it may be unsafe and difficult for many people to row long distances within the anchorage. When outboard motors and external fuel tanks were banned from the harbor it was because dinghies were not being cared for by their owner and were often sinking with fuel cans floating in the water. At that time dinghies were not registered and it was difficult to locate the owner. Additionally we did not have the staff to monitor this area on a daily basis.

Now that all dinghies must be registered and display the permit, should there be a problem the owner will be contacted immediately. With the additional staff of two park rangers Harbormaster Al Twombly has indicated the following procedures will be adopted to prevent any abuse or incidents if motors are permitted.

Each morning and evening the rangers will check the dinghies to determine if any violations are occurring and will immediately notify the harbormaster if they find a violation. The dinghy's owner will be advised to correct the violation immediately and issued one written warning. Should a second violation occur their permit will be revoked and the dinghy removed from the harbor. Should the dinghy be in danger of sinking, a local mooring service will be contacted to pump it out and the owner will be responsible for the cost of this service.

If adopted this would require the following change to the *Coastal Waters Ordinance*:

Section 9-95 F .4 –All skiffs shall be properly secured and maintained. Skiffs shall not be secured with chains or wire, nor padlocked to the float and will not be left overnight with ~~an outboard attached or~~ external fuel onboard.