

Introduction



The Maryland Clean Marina Initiative is an effort to assist marina and boatyard operators to protect the resources that provide their livelihood: clean water and fresh air. These natural assets are essential features of the boating industry. After all, many boaters are drawn to the water by nature's glory. They want to feel the sea rolling beneath them and the crisp air against their skin. They want to see fish running and birds diving. They want to be able to swim and crab without fear of disease. They want to test their mettle against a rising wind and to sit tranquilly at twilight. Ironically, it is the enjoyment of these natural wonders that may lead to their decline.

The maintenance, operation, and storage of recreational vessels has the potential to pollute adjacent waters and to impair air quality. Contaminants include dust from hull maintenance operations, solvents from engine repair shops, petroleum from careless fueling practices, sewage discharges from boats, and heavy metals from antifouling paints. These pollutants may be deposited directly into waterways or they may be carried in by stormwater runoff. Marina design and location may also contribute to environmental degradation by disturbing sensitive habitat areas.

This is not to say that marinas and boaters are the only contributors to environmental degradation. Quite the contrary is true. Water quality is impacted by fertilizers and pesticides applied by land owners (residential, commercial, and agricultural), by industrial discharges, and by our choices of home cleaning products. It is affected by sediment washed from cleared land and by stormwater runoff that collects oil and heavy metals deposited by our cars. Environmental degradation is not the result of any particular industry or user group. It is the consequence of all of our activities. As such, we all have an obligation to do what we can to minimize the negative environmental impacts of our actions. If we each take responsibility for that part of the problem which we can control—even if it seems insignificant—the cumulative result will be a cleaner, healthier environment.

By adopting the best management practices recommended throughout this Guidebook, you will demonstrate your commitment to environmental stewardship. You can be proud that you are doing your share to protect the natural resources upon which we all depend. Additionally, your marina or boatyard will be a safer, healthier place to work. You may be able to save money by reducing your costs for materials and for waste cleanup and disposal. You may increase your income by renting out equipment such as vacuum sanders and by selling recyclable materials such as batteries and scrap metal. Similarly, cleaner, more efficient equipment will increase your staff's productivity. Your liability associated with waste handling may also be reduced. And, your facility will be more attractive to those who care about the health of our water, land, and air.

The Maryland Clean Marina Initiative seeks to promote clean water and fresh air by providing technical advice and educational material to marina operators and boaters. The goal is to encourage informed decision making that leads to a reduction in boating-related pollution. The Maryland Clean Marina Guidebook provides an overview of actions that marine industry professionals can take to protect water and air quality. It is written for managers of full service marinas with boatyards. The recommendations contained within, however, are equally applicable to marinas with limited services, independent boatyards, and marine contractors. The Guidebook provides advice on the following topics:

- siting considerations for new or expanding marinas
- marina design and maintenance
- stormwater management
- vessel maintenance and repair
- petroleum control
- sewage handling
- waste containment and disposal
- marina management
- laws and regulations

Those marinas that adopt a significant proportion of the best management practices suggested within the Guidebook will be recognized as Maryland Clean Marinas. They will receive a certificate acknowledging their environmentally responsible actions, authorization to use the Maryland Clean Marina logo on their letterhead and in their advertising, a flag to fly from their property, and promotion by the Clean Marina Initiative in publications, on the world wide web, and at public events.

Now is the time to take a leadership role in protecting and enhancing the quality of Maryland's natural resources. Please, do your part.

How to Use this Guidebook

The Maryland Clean Marina Guidebook is intended to be used as a reference document. Refer to selected chapters as needed. For example, as you prepare for spring commissioning, review the recommendations in the Vessel Maintenance and Repair chapter.

As you read through the Guidebook you will find that recommendations are preceded by a diamond (◆), a broken diamond (❖), or an open diamond (◇). Solid diamonds identify legal requirements, broken diamonds precede highly recommended practices, and open diamonds indicate desirable activities.

Six Clean Boating Tip Sheets are included in the Guidebook. They address vessel cleaning and maintenance, bottom paint selection, underwater hull cleaning, petroleum control, vessel sewage, and waste containment and disposal. These tip sheets are meant to be photocopied and distributed to boaters. There is space on each sheet to include your marina's name and logo.



Helpful Hint

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Throughout the book you will find references to additional sources of information. Contact information and brief descriptions of services offered by each authority are listed in Appendix I. Subsequent appendices contain information about local Critical Area Commissions, environmentally sensitive landscaping, recycling contacts, sample contract language, spill response companies, local economic development contacts, templates of commonly needed plans, waste gasoline haulers, and a training guide.

