

# Introduction



The Delaware Clean Marina Program is an effort to assist marina and boatyard operators to protect the resource that provides their livelihood: clean water. 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 swimming and birds diving. They want to be able to swim and crab without health concerns. 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 it—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 Delaware 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 Delaware 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, full-service boat dealers, 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
- boater education

Those marinas that adopt a significant proportion of the best management practices suggested within the Guidebook (including complying with all regulations) will be recognized as Delaware Clean Marinas. They will receive a certificate acknowledging their environmentally responsible actions, authorization to use the Delaware Clean Marina logo on their letterhead and in their advertising, a flag to fly from their property, and promotion by the Delaware Clean Marina Initiative in publications and at public events. Plans are also being made to acknowledge Delaware Clean Marinas and provide additional resource materials on the World Wide Web.

Now is the time to take a leadership role in protecting and enhancing the quality of Delaware's natural resources. We hope you'll be part of this clean water program.

## How to Use this Guidebook

The Delaware 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.

Seven 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, waste containment and disposal, and winterizing your 2-cycle motor. These tip sheets are intended 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 is listed in Appendix I. Subsequent appendices contain information about marina industry periodicals and reference materials, storm water permitting, sample contract language, emergency response contractors, NOAA management measures, spill control and emergency response plans, and marina regulations.

## Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plans

As you explore the Delaware Clean Marina Program, it will quickly become evident that there is a heavy emphasis on developing and maintaining an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for your marina. The Plan has been a requirement for all Delaware marinas since 1990, whether existing, under construction, or proposed. The intent of the O&M Plan is to address compliance with statutory requirements and permit programs and to protect the water and land environment. One of the primary benefits of the Clean Marina Program is to provide guidance to those marinas without approved Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plans. We all have a vested interest in a clean marine environment. The Clean Marina Program is ready to support those marinas seeking to come into compliance with State and Federal marina regulations. This Guidebook is the centerpiece of the Clean Marina Program's support.

## Steps to Becoming a Delaware Clean Marina

### 1. Learn about the Clean Marina Program.

To obtain a copy of the *Delaware Clean Marina Guidebook*, the pledge form, the award checklist, and other program information, call (302) 645-4268 (or email [dchapman@udel.edu](mailto:dchapman@udel.edu))

### 2. Take the Clean Marina Pledge.

By signing the pledge, you commit to do your part to “keep Delaware's waterways free of harmful chemicals, excess nutrients and debris.” Send us a photocopy (to Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service, 700 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958, Attention: D. Chapman) of the signed pledge and then display the original in a public area so that your customers will be aware of your commitment to clean water. We will prepare a news release acknowledging your participation in the Program and will include your facility's name in public displays. The pledge expires one year from the date you sign it. If you are unable to achieve Clean Marina status in one year, you may renew the pledge by contacting the Clean Marina office.

3. Conduct a self-assessment of your property.

Assess your own facility using the *Clean Marina Award Checklist* and this *Delaware Clean Marina Guidebook*.

4. Call Clean Marina Executive Committee member if you have any questions.

Do not be discouraged if you initially have difficulty meeting the minimum scores. Call the Delaware Clean Marina (Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service) office at (302) 645-4268. We will keep all questions in strict confidence.

5. Schedule a confirmation visit.

Once you are satisfied that your facility meets the award standards described on the back of the *Clean Marina Award Checklist*, call the Clean Marina office to schedule a confirmation visit. Representatives from the Delaware Clean Marina Advisory Committee, including a marina operator, will visit your facility to verify the items checked on the *Award Checklist*.

6. Enjoy your rewards!

As a Delaware Clean Marina you will be authorized to use the Clean Marina logo on your letterhead and in your advertising. You will receive a certificate and a flag. Furthermore, the Delaware Clean Marina Program will promote your facility through publications, public displays, and media releases. A variety of environment-enhancing incentives are continually being developed for Clean Marina Program participants.

7. Maintain your Clean Marina status.

Annually, confirm in writing that you continue to meet the award standards described on the *Clean Marina Award Checklist*. At least every third year, a Clean Marina representative will contact you to setup a meeting to reaffirm Clean Marina status.