

# **The New Jersey Clean Marina Program GUIDEBOOK For Partners**



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This manual is an educational tool for boating support facilities, marina operators and boaters. It is not a complete reference to all relevant state, federal, or local laws and regulations. The official state regulations are found in the New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.). Should there be any discrepancies between this document and the official version, the official version will govern.

Relying solely on the information in this book will not protect you legally. The contributing agencies, organizations, and individuals do not assume any liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information in this publication. Inclusion in this Guidebook is not an endorsement by the Department of Environmental Protection or the State of New Jersey of any product or company listed.

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## Foreword

The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) of 1990 require coastal states to develop Coastal Nonpoint Source Programs to address polluted runoff within the coastal zone. Nonpoint source pollution is a contamination of our waterways, ground water and ocean that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil and littering. With each rainfall, pollutants generated from these activities are washed into storm drains that flow into our waterways and ocean.

By their very nature, marinas, boat yards, and yacht clubs are on the frontline as potential sources of nonpoint source pollution. Unreflective or careless activities at these facilities can contribute to the degradation of our waterways. Marina operation is a complex business that involves diverse activities, many of which can contribute to pollution of the environment. Marina related sources of pollution include stormwater runoff from boatyards, drips from fuel docks, discharges from marine heads, and disposal of fish waste by recreational anglers.

Rather than address boating and marina related risk through additional regulation, New Jersey is implementing a Clean Marina Program, a statewide, voluntary, incentive-based initiative. We call on all marina, boatyard, and yacht club operators to embrace the challenge and join the Clean Marina Program to protect our clean water and fresh air.

## Acknowledgments

This Clean Marina Guidebook is the result of the efforts of many individuals, groups, and organizations. Foremost, we gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Clean Marina Initiative. The Maryland Clean Marina Guidebook has served as the model upon which the guidebooks of many other states, including New Jersey, are based.

We would like to thank representatives from the following NJDEP offices who reviewed the Guidebook for regulatory accuracy: Air Compliance and Enforcement, Air Quality Permitting, Emergency Response, Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement, Nonpoint Pollution Control, Pesticide Compliance, Pollution Prevention and Right to Know, Recycling and Planning, Release Prevention, Solid Waste Compliance and Enforcement, Underground Storage Tanks, and Water Compliance and Enforcement.

The following organizations deserve a special thanks for their hard work and dedication to the New Jersey Clean Marina Pilot Project: Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program, Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Manasquan River Watershed Association, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources, and the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium.

In addition, we would like to thank the following marinas for their assistance and commitment to the New Jersey Clean Marina Program: Atlantic Highlands Municipal Harbor, Baywood Marina, Leamings Marina, Main One Marina, Ocean Gate Yacht Basin, and Silver Cloud Harbor Marina.

# Table of Contents

Introduction	1
▶ The Clean Partner Pledge	2
▶ How to use this Guidebook	3
The Clean Marina Committee	4
The New Jersey Clean Marina Webpage	4
Vessel Maintenance and Repair	5
Environmental Concerns	5
Best Management Practices to Control Pollution from Vessel Maintenance and Repair Activities	6
▶ Designate Work Areas	6
▶ Contain Sanding Dust	7
▶ Contain Abrasive Blasting Debris	7
▶ Minimize Pressure Washing Impacts	8
▶ Minimize Paint Impacts	10
▶ Minimize Painting Operations Impacts	10
▶ Reduce Overspray	10
▶ Handle Solvents Carefully	11
▶ Minimize Environmental Impacts from Engine Repair and Maintenance	11
▶ Winterize Safely	12
▶ Conduct In-Water Maintenance Wisely	13
Petroleum Control	17
Environmental Concerns	17
Pump Contaminated Bilge Water	18
Minimize & Contain Spills and Leaks from Machinery.	18
Community Right to Know.	19
▶ Develop Emergency Response Plans	19
▶ Make Plans Accessible	20
▶ Train Employees	20
▶ Share Your Emergency Response Plans	21
▶ Maintain Oil Spills Response Equipment	21
▶ Store Oil Spill Response Equipment Smartly	21
▶ Be Prepared for a Fire	22
▶ Maintain Material Safety Data Sheets.	22

Waste Containment and Disposal	25
Environmental Concerns	25
Best Management Practices to Properly Contain and Dispose of Waste	25
▶ Hazardous Waste	25
▶ Reduce Waste	28
▶ Manage Trash	29
▶ Recycle Whenever Possible	30
▶ Recycle Solid Waste	30
▶ Recycle Liquid Waste (N.J.A.C. 7:26A)	31
▶ Minimize Hazardous Product Use	32
▶ Store Solvents and Hazardous Materials with Care	33
▶ Follow Recommended Disposal Methods	34
▶ Track Pollution Incidents.	37
▶ Proper Disposal of Sanitary Waste	38
Sewage - Environmental Concerns	39
Pertinent Laws and Regulations	39
▶ No Discharge Areas	39
▶ Safeguard and Maintain Septic Systems to Protect Water Quality and Public Health.	39
▶ Offer MSD Inspections.	40
Stormwater Management	45
Environmental Concerns	45
Pertinent Laws and Regulations	45
Best Management Practices to Control Stormwater Runoff	46
▶ Practice Low Impact Development	46
▶ Cultivate Vegetated Areas	47
▶ Minimize Impervious Areas	47
▶ Employ Preventative Source Controls	48
▶ Use Structural Controls as Necessary	48
▶ Control Sediment from Construction Sites	49
▶ Stencil Storm Drains	49
▶ Basic Industrial Stormwater Permit	49
▶ Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Preparation	49

Best Management Practices for Protecting Sensitive Areas	51
▶ Minimize Impervious Areas	51
▶ Practice Water-wise Landscaping	51
▶ Adopt Integrated Pest Management Practices	51
Best Management Practices for Creating Habitat Areas	53
▶ Maintain and/or Develop Vegetated Areas	53
Facility Management	55
Staff Training	55
▶ Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	55
▶ Emergency Response Plans	55
▶ Be Watchful	56
▶ Approach Polluters	56
▶ Attend Relevant Workshops and Training	57
▶ Maintain Training Records	57
Inform Patrons	57
▶ Post Best Management Practices Signs	57
▶ Distribute Literature to Patrons	58
▶ Make Use of Informal Communication Mechanisms	58
Public Relations	59
▶ Publicize Your Good Deeds	59
Business Practices	59
▶ Offer Environmental Audits for Boaters	59
▶ Avoid Environmental Surcharges	59
Best Management Practices for Marina Facilities and Structures	60
▶ Conserve Water	60
▶ Educate Boaters	60
▶ Be Diligent	60

Laws and Regulations	61
Select Federal Agencies and Their Jurisdictions	61
Select State Agencies and Their Jurisdictions	61
Select Federal Laws of Interest to Marinas	61
▶ Clean Air Act Amendments, 1990	62
▶ Clean Vessel Act	62
▶ Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment of 1990	63
▶ Federal Water Pollution Control Act	63
▶ Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) or Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA Title III)	64
▶ Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act	65
▶ Oil Pollution Act of 1990	66
▶ Organotin Antifoulant Paint Control Act of 1988	66
▶ Refuse Act of 1899	66
▶ Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	66
Select State Laws of Interest to Marinas	68
▶ Marine Sanitation Devices	68
▶ Pumpout Systems	69
▶ No Discharge Areas	69
▶ Pollution Discharge Prohibited	69
▶ The Coastal Area Facility Review Act (N.J.S.A. 13:19-1 et seq.)	69
▶ The Waterfront Development Law	70
▶ Wetland Act of 1970	70
▶ Tidelands Act	71
▶ Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act	71
▶ Underground Storage Tanks	73
Environmental Permits and Licenses	73
▶ Basic Industrial Stormwater General Permit (NJ0088315)	73
▶ Sediment Control and Stormwater Management	74
▶ Accidental Discharge of Oil or Hazardous Substances	74
▶ Air Pollution Control Act (N.J.A.C. 7:27 Subchapter 8)	75
▶ New Jersey State Law	75

## Bibliography

## Appendices

I.	Information Sources	A - 1
II.	Permitting Information and Assistance	A - 3
III.	Sample Contract Language	A - 5
IV.	Conservation Landscaping	A - 7
V.	Coastal County Recycling Coordinators	A-19

## Special Features

### Tables

Table 1	Recommended Disposal Method	36
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### Boxes

Box 1	Bottom Paints	9
Box 2	Oil Absorbent Material	17
Box 3	How Do You Know if a Substance is Hazardous?	33
Box 4	Contents of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	50

### Clean Boating Tip Sheets

Sheet 1	Vessel Cleaning and Maintenance	14
Sheet 2	Petroleum Control	23
Sheet 3	Vessel Sewage	41
Sheet 4	Waste Containment and Disposal	43

## Acronyms

BMP	Best Management Practice
CAFRA	Coastal Area Facilities Review Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CZARA	Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MPPRCA	Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act
MSD	Marine Sanitation Device
NDA	No Discharge Area
NJAC	New Jersey Administrative Code
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PWC	Personal Water Craft
QAC	Quarternary Ammonium Compounds



RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFA	Request For Authorization
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
TCLP	Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure
UL	Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank

# Introduction

Welcome. As a member of New Jersey's boating community, comprised of approximately 540 boatyards and marinas and approximately 200,000 registered vessels, you play an important and leading role in keeping New Jersey's beautiful water clean. The goal of the New Jersey Clean Marina Partner Program is to offer information, guidance, and technical assistance to marina operators, local government, and recreational boaters to facilitate the implementation of the most effective practices available to protect New Jersey's water resources, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and promote environmentally sound boating practices. This Guidebook is an easy-to-use reference that will assist you in the day-to-day environmentally responsible operation of your marina, boatyard, or yacht club. In addition, it provides guidance for the long-range planning and operation of your business. By employing the best management practices (BMPs) and activities offered in this booklet, you and other marina and boatyard operators will contribute to the protection of the resources that draw boaters and fishers to New Jersey's waters. Additionally, improving the quality of New Jersey's waterways is a good business practice for your marina or boating supply facility.

The Clean Marina Partner Program is designed to assist marinas and boating support facilities to protect the resources upon which their livelihood depends: clean water and fresh air. These natural assets are essential features of the boating industry. After all, most boaters are drawn to the water and nature's glory. Ironically, activities such as boating and fishing associated with the enjoyment of natural wonders can have unintended consequences that lead to the degradation of resources.

The maintenance, operation, and storage of recreational vessels can contribute to the pollution of adjacent waters and impairment of local 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 and boating support facilities design and location may also contribute to environmental degradation by disturbing sensitive habitats.

This is not to say that marinas, boating support facilities and boaters are the only contributors to environmental degradation. Quite the contrary is true. Water quality is impacted by fertilizers and pesticides, 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. Consequently, we all must do what we can to limit the detrimental environmental consequences of our actions. If we each act in an environmentally responsible manner the cumulative result will be a cleaner, healthier environment.

By implementing the best management practices contained in this Guidebook, you demonstrate your commitment to environmental stewardship and you will have a beneficial influence on the boating experience. Your marina or boatyard will be a safer, healthier place to work. You may 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 aluminum cans and office paper. 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. Take pride in your efforts to protect the natural resources upon which we all depend.

The Clean Marina Partner Program promotes clean water and fresh air by providing technical advice and educational material to marina operators, boating support facilities and boaters. It seeks to encourage informed decision-making that reduces boating-related pollution. The Clean Marina Guidebook for Partners is written for managers of full service boating support facilities.

However, many of the recommendations equally apply to boating support facilities with limited services, independent boatyards, and marine contractors. The Guidebook provides advice on the following topics:

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

Boating support facilities (BSFs) that employ a satisfactory number of the BMPs provided in this Guidebook will be distinguished as New Jersey Clean Marinas. A marina that achieves Clean Marina status will be certified in recognition of its environmentally responsible efforts. Certified marinas may display the Clean Marina Program logo on their letterhead and advertising, fly a Clean Marina burgee from their property, and receive recognition by the Clean Marina Program in publications, on the official New Jersey Clean Marina Website ([njcleanmarinas.org](http://njcleanmarinas.org)), and at public events. Now is the time to take a leadership role in protecting and enhancing the quality of New Jersey's natural resources. We urge you to join the Program. The rewards in terms of both environmental protection and economic enhancement will be well worth the effort.

### The Clean Marina Partner Pledge

Included with this Guidebook is a Clean Marina Partner Pledge. By signing the pledge you commit to protect water quality and coastal resources by preventing and reducing nonpoint sources of pollution. Proudly display the original Pledge Card so that your customers can see your dedication to protecting the environment. Then send a copy to the New Jersey Sea Grant Office (see Appendix I).

### How to Use this Guidebook.

The Clean Marina Guidebook for Partners is intended for use both as a reference document and as a means for you to assess and score the achievement of BMPs at your facility. Read the chapters and sections that refer to the services provided at your BSF. Review the list of activities, practices, and permits required by law as well as those that are recommended for additional environmental protection and conservation of air and water quality and habitat. You will be eligible for recognition as a Clean Marina Partner only if your boating support facility complies with all regulatory requirements. Implementation of the recommended best management practices is voluntary but by doing so you demonstrate your commitment to resource conservation and environmental stewardship. It is this extra effort for which you will be honored by the Clean Marina Partner designation.

As you read through the Guidebook you will find that statements are preceded by a legal scale (⚖️) or a checkmark (✓). The scale identifies legal requirements and a checkmark indicates recommended activities for fulfilling a BMP. You do not have to institute every recommended BMP or activity and some may not apply at your facility. Often there are one or more recommended methods by which you can fulfill or implement each BMP. Each method has been assigned a value of either 1 or 5 depending on “level of difficulty” and overall environmental benefit. As you review each BMP determine which of the methods you have employed or are in place at your facility and award yourself the corresponding number of points. If a law, regulation, BMP, or one of the means by which to fulfill it do not apply at your facility simply mark it as N/A (not applicable). You will see an asterisk (\*) by some of the BMPs in the Guidebook (note pages, 6, 12, 13, and 47). You are only expected to implement one of the 2 or 3 activities marked with the \*. Score these by awarding points if you implement one of the activities and mark N/A for the other(s). If you do not do any of them, you must accept zero points for one and N/A for the other(s). Total the number of points you have earned for each BMP as well as the total number of points for each chapter and write it in the spaces provided in the Guidebook.

You may also keep track of your cumulative points as you complete each chapter.

A Self-assessment Checklist has been created that corresponds to the chapters, sections, and BMPs in this Guidebook. This checklist functions as a summary document allowing you to easily score your facility to determine whether it qualifies to be certified as a New Jersey Clean Marina. The Checklist has a simple set of directions that explain how to calculate your final score.

Four Clean Boating Tip Sheets are included in the Guidebook. They address vessel cleaning and maintenance, petroleum control, vessel sewage, and waste containment and disposal. Photocopy these tip sheets and distribute them to boaters. There is space on each sheet to include your facility’s name and logo.

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 permitting assistance, sample contract language, and conservation landscaping.

## The Clean Marina Committee

The Coastal Management Office within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) administers the planning and enhancement aspects of New Jersey's federally approved Coastal Management Program. As a result, the Coastal Management Office leads the implementation of the New Jersey Clean Marina Program in coordination with a Clean Marina Committee. This Committee includes representatives from government agencies, industry, non-profit groups, academic institutions, who have knowledge and expertise in boating and marina operation and management. The Coastal Management Office and the Committee have worked together to plan, design, and implement the Clean Marina Program.

Committee members represent:

- Coastal Management Office, NJDEP
- New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, New Jersey Sea Grant College Program
- New Jersey Marine Trades Association
- Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Rutgers Extension Program
- Division of Parks & Forestry, NJDEP
- Partnership for Delaware Estuary, DELEP
- Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program
- Manasquan River Watershed Association
- New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources

Additional information about the Committee members can be found in Appendix I.

## The New Jersey Clean Marina Webpage

Current information regarding the New Jersey Clean Marina Program can be found on the official webpage at [njcleanmarina.org](http://njcleanmarina.org). Copies of program documents including this Guidebook, the Pledge Card, the Self-assessment Checklist, the informational brochure, and others can be downloaded. Announcements, newsletters, photographs, answers to frequently asked questions, and more will also be available on the site.