The Michigan Clean Marina Program was developed to protect water resources and wildlife habitat by promoting environmentally sound marina and boating best practices.

This is a voluntary stewardship program open to all public and private marinas in Michigan. Many Michigan marinas have successfully completed the training, and others are working toward certification.

HOW IT WORKS
The Michigan Clean Marina Program encourages marinas to develop environmentally sound and economically feasible approaches to reduce waste and prevent the release of hazardous substances. Marinas pledge to join the program, and then follow a 10-step process to achieve Clean Marina certification.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
The Michigan Clean Marina Program was developed through a public-private partnership involving the marine industry, academic institutions and state government in an effort to sustain and improve water quality in Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Objectives include:
- Promoting voluntary implementation of pollution prevention strategies, environmental risk reduction and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Encouraging industry compliance with environmental laws and regulations.
- Developing economic incentives and recognition for environmentally proactive marina operations.
- Fostering communication among marina operators, state government, universities and the boating industry.

Benefits for Certified Clean Marinas:
- Reducing pollution and protecting water quality, fish, plant and wildlife habitat in Michigan’s waterways and the Great Lakes.
- Enhancing the public image of boating and marinas by promoting environmentally sound best practices.
- Saving money, such as reducing insurance costs and reducing waste disposal fees through recycling. In fact, some marinas are generating revenue through oil reclamation programs.
- Accessing free boater education information and marketing tips through program outreach and promotions.

Michigan has more than 750 marinas and nearly 1 million registered boats. It is one of the top boating states in the nation. But this popularity can have a downside. Each year, hazardous substances are inadvertently released into Michigan’s waters as a result of common boating practices.
Regional efforts

The Green Marina Education and Outreach project is part of the marina-focused effort to sustain and improve water quality throughout the Great Lakes basin. A central piece of the project has been to develop and promote best management practices that can be consistently applied by marinas throughout the Great Lakes.

Recently these best practices were compiled in the Great Lakes Clean Marina Best Management Practices Guide, a free publication available through Michigan Sea Grant. The guide highlights marina best practices that are in place around the Great Lakes. It is an important contribution to strategic restoration efforts to reduce or eliminate pollution from entering the Great Lakes.

The Clean Marina Classroom will also be revised based on the content of the new guide and will be updated in early 2013.

Learn more: www.miseagrant.umich.edu/greenmarina

Program resources

The Michigan Clean Marina website is a one-stop shop for more detailed information. The web resources include the program pledge and registration form, the certification checklist, a current clickable map and list of Certified Clean Marinas, boater tip sheets, fact sheets that address common marina issues (like pump out procedures) and more.

Online classroom

The online Clean Marina Classroom is the primary training resource for the program. The course is designed to help marina operators reach certification in a self-paced, convenient way. The online classroom includes examples of best practices for every aspect of marina businesses — from vendor contracts to cost-saving measures.

The course offers:

- Web-based units with both regulatory (state and federal) laws and recommended best practices clearly outlined.
- Video case studies and photos of best management practices from certified Clean Marinas.
- Linked glossaries for a breakdown of regulatory and environmental terms.
- Self-paced modules are available at any time, from any computer.

Training content addresses the following topics:

- Siting Considerations
- Habitat
- Marina Design and Facility
- Storm Water Management
- Boat Maintenance and Repair
- Petroleum Control
- Sewage Handling
- Waste Containment and Disposal
- Marina Management
- Laws and Regulations

Contact

Josh Gunn
Michigan Clean Marina Program Outreach Coordinator, Michigan Sea Grant Extension Educator
(586) 469-6087
gunnjosh@msu.edu

The Michigan Clean Marina Program is a cooperative effort of the Michigan Boating Industries Association, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Michigan Sea Grant College Program (Michigan State University and the University of Michigan). The Clean Marina Program is supported by the Michigan Clean Marina Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

www.michigancleanmarina.org

MICHIGAN CLEAN MARINA PROGRAM