

## Introduction

This guidebook provides the information necessary for Connecticut's marina and boatyard operators to make environmentally sound business choices and outlines the steps for certification as a Connecticut Clean Marina. The Connecticut Clean Marina Program is a voluntary, incentive-based education and outreach campaign to encourage environmental compliance and the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the state's marinas and boatyards. The Clean Marina Program operates in conjunction with the Clean Boater Program which encourages boaters to pledge to use clean boating practices.

The goal of the Clean Marina Program is to reduce nonpoint source pollution associated with recreational boating facilities in Connecticut's inland and coastal marinas, and to promote clean water and clean air. Nonpoint sources of pollution occur when water runs over land, picks up pollutants, and deposits them in surface waters. Mismanaged pollutants from everyday marina activities can enter a marina basin as nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution can be managed by using BMPs, which are measures that control the pollutant at its source, or intercept the pollutant before it is delivered to the receiving water body. This guidebook describes how to reduce potential pollution from marinas by outlining the legal requirements and suggested BMPs for common marina activities.

Of course, marinas and boatyards are not the only potential source of pollution in our state's waters. Water quality is impacted by a number of upland activities from pesticide and fertilizer use at residential homes to discharges from industry and sewage treatment plants. These activities and others are being addressed through other programs. Every potential pollutant source needs to be addressed so that we can all do our part to improve the quality of Connecticut's waters. The Clean Marina Program is part of a much larger effort to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution throughout the state in part to address the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under Section 319 of the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act and Section 6217 of the federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.