



Lake St. Clair, "Heart of the Great Lakes", and the 760 square mile watershed of the Clinton River



Marinas and boat docks line the lower Clinton River and Anchor Bay on Lake St. Clair, gateway to Southeast Michigan's water wonderland.



Cruising at sunset in the North Channel of Lake St. Clair



Water resource stakeholders from Macomb and Oakland counties, State of Michigan, and U.S. Congressional delegation met to proclaim water quality initiatives on River Day, June 2003



Pumpout Facility

## National Clean Boating Campaign

### CAMPAIGN GOAL

The Goal of the National Clean Boating Campaign is to minimize the impact on water quality from boating activities through a national outreach educational program.

### CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

The National Clean Boating Campaign objectives for clean boating include:

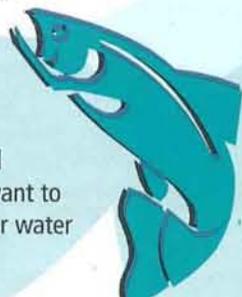
- ~ Building a network of national, state, and local organizations, businesses, agencies, and individuals to promote clean boating practices
- ~ Organizing annual National Clean Boating Celebrations of recreational boating and clean water each summer
- ~ Producing a national education campaign to promote clean water practices by the recreational boating industry and boating public
- ~ Developing corporate and public partnerships to support and promote clean boating and clean water
- ~ Increasing industry and boating public awareness of the importance of water quality protection.

### CAMPAIGN PROGRAM

This campaign is composed of a broad coalition of key boating groups, boating industry associations, businesses, environmental organizations, academia, and government agencies. This private and public partnership is working together in a national outreach campaign to foster positive attitudes toward clean water and good boating.

The National Marine Manufacturers Association estimated that over 17.3 million boats were used and 30.3 billion dollars were spent on boating nationwide.

Clearly, Americans like to boat and recreate on our waters and they want to boat on clean water. Protecting our water quality is up to each of us.



The National Clean Boating Campaign (NCBC) is a nationwide program created and organized by the Marine Environmental Education Foundation.

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[www.cleanboating.org](http://www.cleanboating.org)

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# A GUIDE FOR A CLEANER BOATING ENVIRONMENT

Presented by:

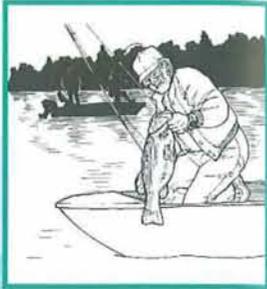


*Boating is good clean fun.  
Let's keep it that way.*

The National Clean Boating Campaign celebrates that "boating is good clean fun" and asks you to help keep it that way. Here is how you can lend a hand:

### 1. CONTROL BOAT SEWAGE AND USE PUMPOUTS.

- ~ Use onshore restrooms and shoreside facilities when in docks. Urge everyone to use the bathroom before leaving home.
- ~ Take dogs to the marina's posted pet walk area (and always use a pooper scooper).
- ~ Empty portable toilets at shoreside dump stations or at home.
- ~ If your boat has a toilet, make sure your equipment is U.S. Coast Guard-certified.
- ~ To keep your **MSD** **Type 1 or 2** working properly, follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance program. Post MSD instructions near the toilet.
- ~ When in "no discharge" waters, lock or secure the **MSD Type 1 or 2** closed so it cannot empty overboard.
- ~ If you have a toilet with holding tank and your boat has a y-valve and through-hull fitting, always keep them locked closed.
- ~ Use a pumpout facility at the end of each boating day for your **MSD Type 3** with holding tank. Otherwise, use a mobile pumpout service to empty your vessel's tank while in the slip.



### 2. KEEP FUEL AND OIL OUT OF THE WATER.

- ~ Prevent fuel and oil from getting into the water at the fuel filler fitting, fuel tank air vent and bilge pump.
- ~ Avoid topping off fuel. When filling your fuel tank, listen to hear when the tank is filling to avoid splash back.
- ~ Automatic shut-off nozzle may not work fast enough — have an oil-absorbent pad ready.
- ~ Keep your engine properly tuned for efficient fuel/oil consumption and to prevent spills. Follow manufacturer specifications.



#### Outboard boats:

- ~ Check bilge area for any oils or fuel before you pull the drain plug. Remove oil with absorbents or a steam cleaning service.
- ~ Close portable tank fuel vent when boat is not in use to prevent vapor loss.

#### Boats with built-in fuel tanks:

- ~ Install fuel/air separator in air vent line from tank to prevent vent spills during and after fill up.
- ~ Routinely check for and fix fuel leaks; use a drip pan under your engine. Place an oil-absorbent in the pan.
- ~ Use a bilge oil-absorbent pillow, dispose of it before fully saturated according to the manufacturer's suggestion and the laws of your state.

#### Bilge care:

- ~ Avoid pumping any bilge water that is oily or has a sheen.
- ~ Use oil-absorbent pads made for boats.
- ~ Avoid using bilge cleaners that contain detergents or emulsifiers.

#### In case of fuel/oil spill in water:

- ~ Immediately stop the source.
- ~ Notify the marina for assistance; call the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at **1-800-424-8802**.
- ~ Contain with oil-absorbent pads or booms.
- ~ Do not squirt any detergent or emulsifier on an oil slick: It is not good for the environment, is against the law and can bring heavy fines.
- ~ Dispose of oil-absorbents where your marina takes waste oil for recycling. Check your local or state regulations for further disposal alternatives.

### 3. KEEP BOATING WATERS FREE OF LITTER AND FISH WASTE.

- ~ Bring back what you take out.
- ~ Teach everyone onboard your boat that tossing anything other than ice cubes into the water is just not done.
- ~ Remove unnecessary packages and wrappings and bring reusable containers to the boat.
- ~ Empty all trash bags onshore in garbage cans or take them home.
- ~ Recycle when possible, and encourage marinas to recycle.
- ~ Smokers, use an ashtray and always bring butts ashore.



#### About fish waste:

- ~ Use a fish cleaning station.
- ~ Freeze and then re-use fish parts as bait and/or chum.

### 4. PRACTICE GOOD BOAT CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE METHODS.

- ~ Before performing boat maintenance, think about where all the dirt, paint chips and solvents could go, and choose a method that prevents discharges to the water.
- ~ Clean boat bottoms and do all hull scraping, sanding and chemical stripping ashore over a drop cloth.
- ~ Read product labels and buy "non-toxic" and "phosphate-free" cleaners, or use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda, lemon juice and vinegar, along with a little elbow grease.
- ~ Use less soap.
- ~ Wash decks and hulls frequently with fresh water.
- ~ Change oil and transmission fluid with a spill-proof pump or vacuum tank; slip a plastic bag over the oil filter before removal; and immediately wipe up oil drops with oil-absorption pad.
- ~ Use orange-pink colored propylene antifreeze/coolant because it is less toxic than the blue-green colored ethylene glycol.
- ~ Use minimal engine cleaning solvents, frequently wipe engine clean, and clean engine parts on land over a leak-free container, not over the water.
- ~ Separate and recycle used oil, solvents and antifreeze, or follow label instructions or local rules for disposal.
- ~ Recycle used boat batteries at point of sale or recycle centers.

**Help other boaters keep the water clean . . . pass this guide along. For more clean boating tips, please visit the NCBC's website at [www.cleanboating.org](http://www.cleanboating.org).**

