

DC CLEAN MARINA PARTNERSHIP

All District of Columbia yacht clubs and marinas, in partnership with the National Park Service and the District Department of the Environment, are celebrating that “boating is good clean fun” and asking you to help “keep it that way.” Americans like to boat and recreate on clean waters. By protecting the Potomac and Anacostia rivers we protect a valuable resource for future generations. It is up to boaters to help protect the water environment.

DC CLEAN MARINA AWARD RECOGNITION

Washington, DC’s Clean Marina Award program recognizes marinas and yacht clubs for their efforts to comply with environmental regulations and to protect District waters by reducing potential pollutants from entering boating waters.

Look for and patronize marinas that have won the District’s Clean Marina Award (see DC map) and the similar Maryland and Virginia Clean Marina Award recognition.

This brochure, which is part of the Clean Marina Program, provides valuable information on proper clean-boating practices. While the greatest amount of water pollution and litter in District rivers comes from non-boating sources, all of us share the responsibility to be clean boaters.

For more information about the District Clean Marina/Boating programs, please visit <http://www.cleanmarinadc.org>

DC CLEAN BOATER PLEDGE

As the first step toward becoming a Clean Boater, I pledge to do my part to keep the District of Columbia’s waterways free of harmful chemicals, boat sewage, excess nutrients and debris.

I will use practices to control pollution associated with:

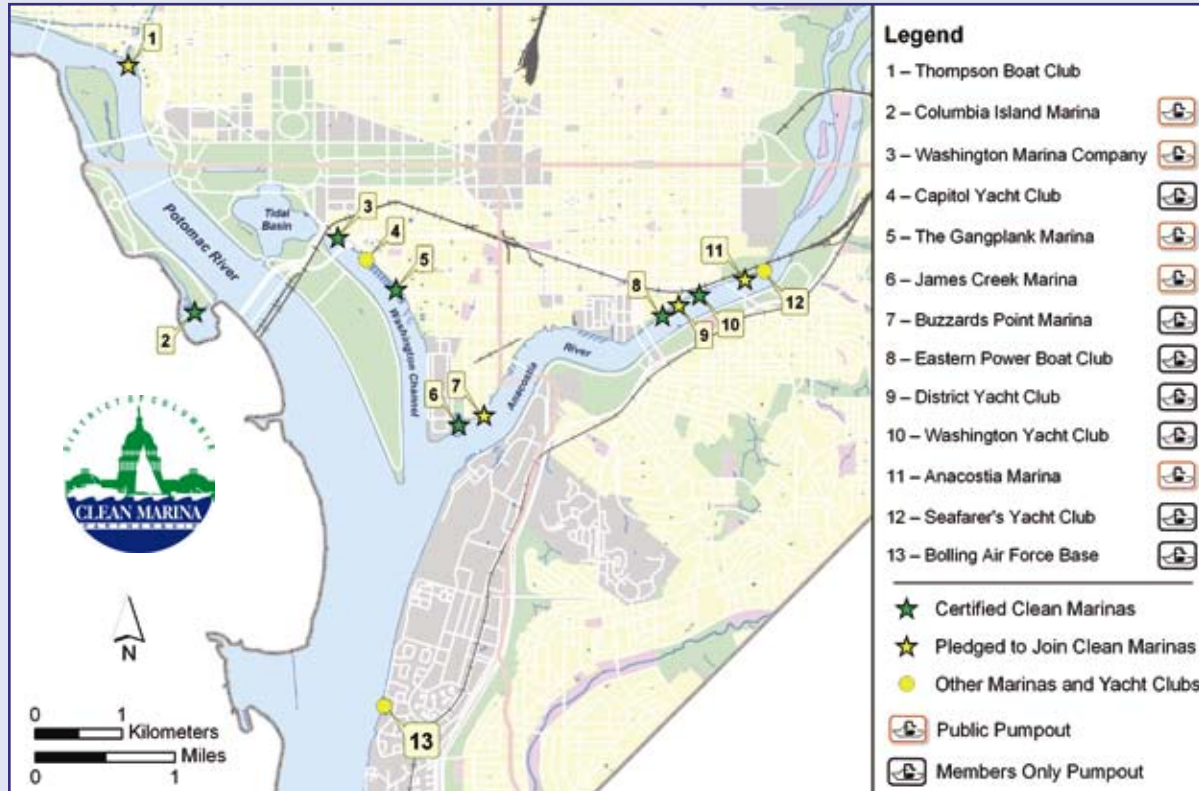
- Maintaining, cleaning and repairing my boat,
- Fueling my boat and controlling bilge oil leaks,
- Using pumpouts frequently and never discharging any boat sewage overboard,
- Disposing of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes ashore in proper containers,
- Bringing back all trash from my boat and any that I clean from the rivers, and
- Encouraging others to also be Clean Boaters.

I am committed to being a Clean Boater. Over this boating season and in the future, I will use pollution prevention practices while urging all my boat guests to do the same.

CLEAN BOATING IN WASHINGTON DC



CLEAN MARINAS IN WASHINGTON DC



THE CLEAN MARINA INITIATIVE DC PARTNERS FOR CLEAN BOATING



DC BOATING IS GOOD CLEAN FUN.
LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

1. CONTROL BOAT SEWAGE

- At the club/marina, use onshore restrooms instead of your boat toilet. This is especially important for boaters who are visiting and/or staying overnight. Urge everyone to use the bathroom before leaving home.
- Empty portable toilet at pumpout station, shoreside dump station, or at home.
- If your boat has a built-in toilet, make sure it is US Coast Guard-certified and is maintained in working condition following manufacturer's instructions.
- District law prohibits discharge of any treated/untreated sewage overboard. Federal law prohibits any untreated sewage discharge anywhere in the Chesapeake Bay or District rivers, except outside the three-mile limit in the Atlantic Ocean.
- If you have an MSD Type III with holding tank, and your boat has a Y-valve and through-hull fitting, always keep them locked and closed inside the Chesapeake Bay and on the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. Opening the Y-valve and through-hull is legal only beyond three miles offshore. Unless you do deep-sea fishing or cruising, remove the Y-valve and through-hull so no sewage can ever go into the water.

- Use Pumpouts where you see this sign.
(See DC map showing all pumpout locations.)



Every marina and yacht club in the District has pumpout service available for boat holding tanks. If you keep a boat in a slip, schedule regular pumpouts to keep your holding tank empty. Pumpouts are available for all boats at the following four marinas (which include the District's two public fuel docks): James Creek Marina (fuel), Gangplank Marina, Washington Marina Company, and Columbia Island Marina (fuel). Pumpouts are available at yacht clubs by appointment only.

- Alert marina owner or club officer if their pumpout is not working or is unavailable at convenient times.
- Use biodegradable deodorant/cleaner in holding tank. If odors persist in older MSD systems, consider replacing hoses with new nonporous ones.
- Graywater. Use minimal amounts of nonphosphate and biodegradable soaps in sink and shower. Use shoreside laundry facilities and showers whenever possible.
- Dogs. Take dogs to the marina/club's posted pet-walk area. Always clean up after your dog; use a plastic bag and toss it into trash. Ask your marina/club to supply scooper bags to use.

2. KEEP FUEL AND OIL OUT OF THE WATER

- Any spill is against Federal and District laws. Follow instructions posted at fuel docks, and prevent fuel/oil from getting into the water via the fuel filler fitting, the fuel tank air vent, and/or the bilge pump.

FILLING YOUR FUEL TANK:

- When fueling, carefully monitor how the tank is filling. Automatic shutoff nozzles may not work fast enough, so have an oil-absorbent pad or donut-shaped fueling collar ready to catch any splash or drips from the nozzle.
- Avoid topping off fuel unless immediately leaving on cruise. Fuel coming from underground storage tanks will be cooler than DC's air temperature. Then, as the expensive fuel in full tanks warms up, it expands and can squirt out the air vent. This will cause a reportable spill, stain the hull, and waste money.
- Keep your engine properly tuned for efficient fuel/oil consumption by following manufacturer specifications.
- NOTE: Federal law requires that oily waste discharge placards must be displayed on boats that are 26 feet or longer.

BOATS WITH OUTBOARD ENGINES:

- For two-cycle motors, use the manufacturer-recommended mix of oil in fuel.
- Check bilge area for oil or fuel before pulling 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.
- Recycle used oil and oil filters. For recycling locations call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit <http://www.earth911.org>.

BOATS WITH INBOARD FUEL TANKS:

- Install a fuel/air separator in the air vent line from tank to prevent spills during and after fill-up.
- Routinely check for and fix fuel leaks. Use a drip pan with oil-absorbent pad under your engine. Dispose of the pad before it becomes fully saturated, following manufacturer's suggestions and District laws.

BILGE CARE:

- Avoid pumping overboard any oily bilge water.
- Use an oil-absorbent pad/sock, bilge oil filter, and/or bioremediation treatment in the bilge. If using pads or socks, secure them to prevent clogging or fouling the bilge pump float or sensor.
- Avoid using bilge cleaners that contain detergents or emulsifiers; they are harmful to the aquatic environment when pumped overboard.

IN CASE OF FUEL/OIL SPILL IN WATER:

- Quickly stop the spill source. Report the spill to the fuel dock attendant or the marina/club manager if a visible sheen is spreading on District waters.
- Contain the spill with oil-absorbent pads and/or a boom. Dispose of oil-absorbents where waste oil is recycled. Check your marina/club or District regulations for further disposal alternatives.
- Never squirt any detergent or emulsifier on an oil slick because it disperses oil into the water column where it harms fish and aquatic life. It is also against the law and can bring heavy fines.
- If a large spill is observed in the docks, immediately notify the marina/club management, who will call the appropriate authorities. If you observe a spill while underway, contact the National Response Center (800-424-8802), US Coast Guard (VHF radio Channel 16), National Park Police (202-438-6589), or District Harbor Police (202-727-4582).

3. KEEP BOATING WATER FREE OF LITTER AND FISH WASTE

TRASH AND SOLID WASTE:

- Bring back what you take out. Teach everyone onboard that tossing anything into the water is unacceptable. Everything that is not eaten should be returned to shore for disposal.
- Remove unnecessary packaging from food and other products before bringing to the boat, and consider using reusable containers and bags instead.
- Keep trash bags where they can be used conveniently and dispose of them onshore.
- If trash accidentally falls overboard, retrieve it when safe to do so.
- Recycle when possible, and encourage your marina/club to recycle as well.
- Remind smokers to use an ashtray and always bring butts ashore.

FISH WASTE:

- Use a fish cleaning station onboard, or clean fish offshore. Toss fish waste only in open, unrestricted water or at sea (if the state allows). Before tossing a fish carcass overboard, puncture each fish eye to ensure the carcass sinks (where it can be eaten more easily) and doesn't float.
- Freeze and then reuse fish parts as bait and/or chum.
- Prevent introducing foreign species into fresh water rivers and lakes by not releasing live bait into the water.

4. PRACTICE GOOD BOAT CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE METHODS

- Keep pollutants out of the District water.
- Apply the Three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.
- Before doing any boat maintenance, think about where the dirt, paint chips, and solvents could go. Then choose a clean-up method that prevents them from entering the water. Use drop cloths or filter geotextile materials, and shake collected waste into a dumpster.
- Clean, scrape, sand, and chemical strip boat bottoms ashore over a drop cloth—never over or in the water. Use a dustless vacuum sander.
- Read product labels and buy nontoxic, phosphate-free, biodegradable cleaners, or use alternative cleaners, such as baking soda, lemon juice, and vinegar. Buy only what you need.
- Wash decks and hulls frequently with fresh water. Use less soap and cleaners, more elbow grease. Maintaining a good wax coat on the hull will make washing easier.
- 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 an oil-absorbent pad.
- Use minimal engine cleaning solvents, wipe engine clean frequently, 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.
- Use orange-pink colored propylene antifreeze/coolant; it is less toxic than the blue-green colored ethylene glycol.
- Recycle used boat batteries at point of sale or recycle centers.

