



CHARLEVOIX, Mich. — Aside from the obvious jobs they do as marinas, Michigan House Rep. Greg MacMaster (R-Kewadin) said marinas in Michigan have an additional role to play as community representatives. MacMaster noted that people gauge communities by the roads they use to travel in and out of town.

“Marinas are another venue where there is the potential to leave an impression,” he said. “This program is a shining example of the private-public partnerships we have in our state. Having a clean marina speaks volumes for the community that it is part of.”

MacMaster spoke at the Michigan Clean Marina Program Open House at the Irish Boat Shop in Charlevoix on Thursday. Michigan Sea Grant – a collaborative program of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University – and the Michigan Boating Industries Association sponsored the event. Irish Boat Shop hosted the open house and organized a tour of the facilities to showcase best management practices in action. The marina has been in operation on Lake Charlevoix since 1971 and has been a Certified Clean Marina since 2006.

As participants in the Michigan Clean Marina Program, marinas voluntarily pledge to maintain and improve Michigan’s waterways by reducing or eliminating releases of harmful substances and phasing out practices that can damage aquatic environments. In order to receive official certification as a Michigan Clean Marina, participants need to complete a 10-step process, including an online training course, a self-evaluation checklist and a site visit. Certified marinas strive for continuous improvement in daily environmental stewardship practices.

Chuck Pistis, Michigan Sea Grant Extension Education Leader, gave an overview of the program, discussing its benefits and successes.

“The relationship between boating and water quality is an intimate one. You can’t discuss one without considering the other, said Pistis. “The fact that this is voluntary and that the practices Certified Clean marinas put into place are above and beyond regulatory standards is a strong mark of success. And customers are starting to look for and ask about the program.”

For more information, see:
www.michigancleanmarina.org

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