



Covering the Michigan Clean Marina Program: Possible Stories/Angles

Contact: Elizabeth LaPorte, Michigan Sea Grant
734-647-7067 or elzblap@umich.edu

Program Profile

While the Clean Marina Program is starting to be recognized, there is still much ground left to cover. A general piece presenting an overview of the program, who is involved, what it could mean for boating in your region and our state is a great story to have in the hopper for slow days or holidays.

Voluntary Program

Marinas that participate in the Michigan Clean Marina Program do so because they choose to – it is a completely voluntary program. Since the goal is to maintain or improve water quality, boaters and non-boaters alike have a vested interest in the program.

The Last and First Line of Defense

Marinas are often the guardians of the shore and sometimes the only place people are able to access water. With the presence of fuels, exhaust, machinery and engines, cleaners and chemical sewage, marinas can act as homes, garages and gas stations for boaters. Putting best practices into place helps ensure those potential pollutants stay out of the waterways.

Michigan Leading the Way in the Great Lakes Region

Michigan was one of the first Great Lakes states to implement a Clean Marina Program, and Michigan Sea Grant and partners now lead a regional “Green Marina” initiative, streamlining processes and practices between Great Lakes programs. That means programs in the Great Lakes are teaming up to leverage training materials, lessons learned and program administration.

Big Business in Michigan

With the economic and geographic reach of boating and marinas throughout the state and the Great Lakes, the potential impact of a program like the Michigan Clean Marina Program is huge. It is a great way to profile how Michigan is getting it right by supporting green waterfronts. How big is it? There are consistently nearly 1 million registered boaters in Michigan, and about 750 marinas. See below for more statistics for use as a sidebar.

Americans Who Boat: As the recession hit, the number of Americans boating began to rise and reached a high in 2010 (year, boaters).

2000: 67.5 million	2004: 63.4 million	2008: 70.1 million
2001: 62.1 million	2005: 57.9 million	2009: 65.9 million
2002: 65.5 million	2006: 60.2 million	2010: 75 million
2003: 63 million	2007: 66.4 million	<i>Source: National Marine Manufacturers Association</i>

Boat Registrations: Though the number of registered boats in Michigan has dropped by about 5% in the last 10 years, there is still a significant amount of boaters. Michigan remains in the top 10 across the country for registrations. Number of registered boats in June (year, registrations):

2002: 973,853	2006: 965,992	2010: 936,866
2003: 976,057	2007: 961,650	2011: 925,075
2004: 973,690	2008: 950,772	
2005: 965,432	2009: 942,572	<i>Source: Michigan Secretary of State</i>