Preventing Vessel-Generated Pollution through Voluntary Environmental Certification: Best Management Practices for Boating in the Salish Sea

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Preventing Vessel-Generated Pollution through Voluntary Environmental Certification

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for boating in the Salish Sea

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Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
Vessel Generated Pollution

- Vessels use and generate materials that are toxic to marine life
- High potential for discharge to waterways (accidental or intentional)
- Difficult monitor and enforce compliance
Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Developed to address critical pollution issues such as fueling, sewage and maintenance
- Provide practical solutions for marina managers and boaters
- Voluntary for marinas, mandatory for boatyards or other facilities with NPDES permit
Clean Marina Certification

- Voluntary program coordinated with county EnviroStars
- Operational checklist/audit of environmental practices
- Tools to communicate BMPs to customers
- Goal setting for certification renewal
- Currently 66 certified marinas in Washington State
Partners and Members

Partners

Marinas

- Public Ports
- Private Marinas
- Yacht Clubs
Prakash and Potoski (2007) characterize Environmental Clubs as those “that require firms to incur costs not required by law that lead to the production of positive environmental externalities”

- Clean Marina requires participants to incur the costs of BMP implementation (among others) to produce the positive externality of improved water quality
- Program provides additional benefits to participating marinas

## Costs and Benefits of Participation

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<tr>
<th><strong>Costs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Benefits</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Increased administrative time</td>
<td>Brand recognition and promotion through Clean Marina marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision of recycling and some hazardous waste disposal</td>
<td>Improved aesthetic appearance attracts customers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff time to promote and enforce BMPs</td>
<td>Recognition by industry peers</td>
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<td>Improve operational efficiencies</td>
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Enhanced Environmental Protection

- Certification requires marinas meet or exceed pollution prevention activities required by law
- BMP Example- “We prohibit the discharge of treated or untreated waste within the marina basin” (required for certification)
- This is the level of protection provided by the proposed No Discharge Zone and exceeds current state and federal law
Challenges

- BMP Enforcement
  - Falls on marina staff in port
  - Nearly impossible while underway
- Reaching beyond early adopters to certify the remaining 2/3 of marinas in the state
- Helping marinas to realize more club benefits
- Improving Clean Marina brand recognition
Looking to the Future

- Trans-border BMPs?
- Reciprocal courtesy moorage at certified facilities?
- Interactive educational materials?
- Sustainable funding source?
Questions?

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