

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MARINE INTERESTS

Did you know that the marine industry of Florida generates more than 14 billion dollars each year? With over 2,000 marinas, approximately two-thirds of which have boatyards associated with them, over one million registered boaters and over 400,000 visiting vessels annually, boating in Florida has become so popular that one in every 18 Floridians own a boat.

The Clean Boating Partnership was formed in 2000, with a goal of promoting awareness of, and encouraging marine related industries to protect Florida's water resources by voluntarily instituting best management practices based on industry expertise and sound environmental principles. The partnership, made up of the Marine Industry, Sea Grant, and the United States Coast Guard as working partners with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection accomplishes its goals through a public/private board of volunteers that also includes marina and boatyard owners, members of the Marine Industries Association of Florida, the Florida Inland Navigation District, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Clean Boating Partnership currently focuses on four program areas: Clean Marinas; Clean Boatyards; Clean Marine Retailers; and Clean Boaters. Marine interests who are interested in participat-

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CLEAN BOATER PLEDGE

As a participating member of the Florida *Clean Boater* Program, I pledge to do my part in keeping Florida's waterways clean by following the guidelines set forth in the Clean Boating Habits booklet. I will identify opportunities and implement practices to prevent pollution associated with my boating activities such as: fueling, cleaning and washing, sewage handling and maintenance. I will further ensure that all passengers aboard my vessel follow the guidelines and maintain a clean boating environment.

As a *Clean Boater* I Pledge To:

- Recycle and keep Florida's waterways free of trash.
- Practice proper fueling techniques.
- Use pumpout facilities.
- Support Florida *Clean Marinas*, *Clean Boatyards* and *Clean Marine Retailers* whenever possible.
- Promote clean boating habits and the *Clean Boater* program to fellow boaters.
- Remember that a clean environment ALWAYS starts with ME.

Name _____

City _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Event Attended _____

www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina

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ing commit by making a “Pledge”, and then follow through by conducting a self assessment and implementing clean programs or habits as appropriate. The Clean Marina & Clean Boatyard designations are the most difficult and lengthiest designations to achieve because facilities must incorporate best management practices into their infrastructure as well as ensuring clientele are operating within the Clean Marina/Clean Boatyard framework. To date, over almost 200 marinas in Florida have received the Clean Marina designation. In Charlotte County, four marinas have acquired this designation. They are Palm Island Marina, Fisherman’s Village Marina, Laishley Marina, and Isles Yacht Club. MarineMax at Palm Island Marina has received the Clean Boatyard and Clean Marine Retailer designation.

The Clean Boater designation targets individual boaters and focuses on reducing the discharge of pollutants through the implementation of individual best management practices. This designation is based on your willingness to incorporate clean boating habits into your boating activities. “A Clean Boater pledges to keep Florida’s waters free of trash, practice proper fueling, recycle when possible, use pumpout fa-

cilities, help prevent the spread of exotics, be a clean boater example, encourage fellow boaters to Take the Pledge, and remember that a clean environment always starts with me”. To join over 10,000 other Clean Boaters in Florida, give me a call or stop by the Extension office at 25550 Harbor View Road, in Port Charlotte, and ask for a copy of Clean Boating Habits and a pledge card.

For more information about the Clean Boating Partnership, visit its website at www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina.

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Source: Clean Boating Partnership



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