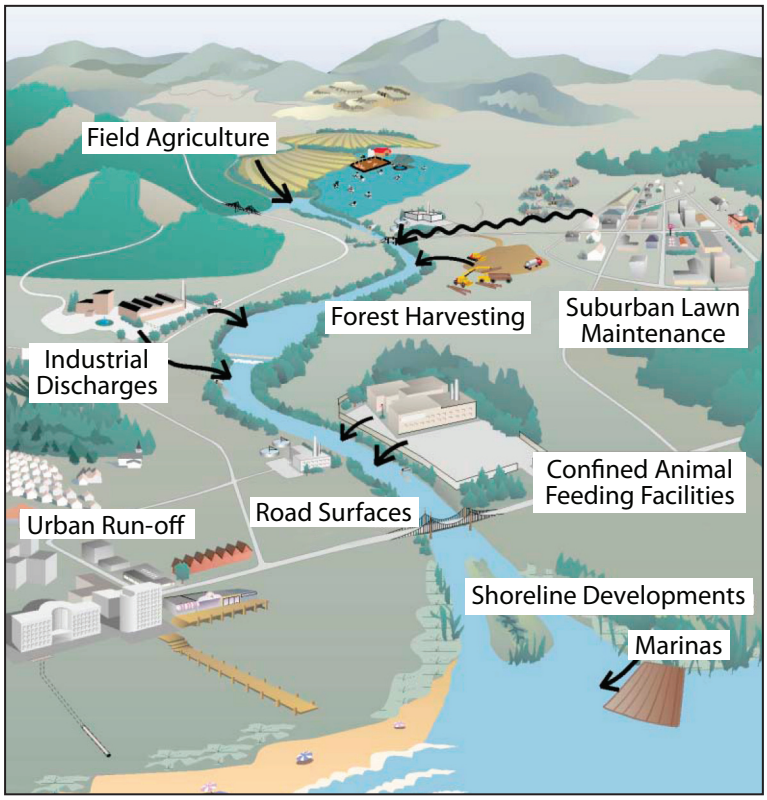
Introduction

The Indiana Clean Marina Program guidebook was developed in an effort to provide marinas, boat yards, yacht clubs, and recreational boaters with environmentally-friendly practices to control nonpoint source pollution and protect our lakes and rivers.

This guidebook provides the framework on which the Indiana Clean Marina Program is based. Within this guidebook, you will find a variety of best management practices that can be utilized by marinas during their day-to-day operations. You will also find clean boater tip sheets that you can print and hand out to recreational boaters to educate them on how they can do their part in protecting our aquatic resources.

What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution results from rainwater or snowmelt flowing across the landscape (also known as run-off), picking up pollutants and delivering them to our surface waters and ground water (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2001). The potential pollutants carried in run-off are largely determined by land use practices. For example, nutrients from fertilizers, detergents from car washing, and animal waste from pets are often associated with urbanized areas. The nonpoint source pollutants that have the greatest potential of harm to our waterways are sediment, nutrients, organic matter, pathogens, and toxic compounds (U.S. EPA, 2001). These are considered pollutants because they can harm the biological and physical integrity of our waterways.



Schematic of a Watershed (Source: U.S. EPA, 2001)

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Marinas, Recreational Boating & Nonpoint Source Pollution

Every boater—no matter what size or type of watercraft he or she operates—and every marina owner/operator can protect our waterways by implementing the best management practices in this guidebook.

All human land-use practices have the potential of generating some form of nonpoint source pollution. As we disturb the native landscape we create a higher risk of delivering pollutants via run-off to our waterways. When we remove natural vegetation and harden the landscape with pavement and buildings, we reduce the natural process of water permeation and filtration. As a result, a greater volume of rain or snowmelt runs off, picking up contaminants generated during our day-to-day activities.

The concentration of boats, marina operations, and the physical location and design of marinas can be a significant contributor of nonpoint source pollutants in the watershed. Because pollutants generated upstream in the watershed are often delivered via surface run-off to the waterway in which the marina is located, the water quality within a marina is a reflection of the marina itself and the watershed as a whole.

These pollutants are often generated at marinas and through recreational boating:

- **Petroleum hydrocarbons** from fuel, oil, and solvents.
- **Nutrients** and **pathogens** from overboard sewage discharge and pet waste.
- **Toxic metals** and **compounds** from hull antifoulants and boat maintenance.
- **Liquid** and **solid wastes** generated from engine and hull maintenance and general marina activities.
- **Sediments** from parking lot and construction site run-off and shoreline erosion.
- **Fish waste** from dockside fish cleaning.

Pollutants often concentrate in marinas since the marinas are often sited in areas that are protected from the wind, waves, and current. Marina basins are often poorly flushed and therefore more susceptible to damage by pollutants.

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What is the Indiana Clean Marina Program?

The goal of the Indiana Clean Marina Program is to protect and improve the water quality of Indiana's waterways by reducing the potential amount of pollutants generated in our marinas. The Indiana Clean Marina Program provides marinas, boatyards, and yacht clubs the opportunity to receive recognition for being stewards of the environment by participating in the program.

If a marina is in compliance with state and federal regulations and also incorporates a high percentage of the best management practices recommended in this guidebook, it can be designated as an Indiana Clean Marina. Marinas that have been designated as an Indiana Clean Marina are authorized to fly the Indiana Clean Marina flag and use the Indiana Clean Marina logo in their advertising. The flag and logo are signals to boaters that a marina is a steward of Indiana's aquatic resources. Marinas participating in the program will also be included on the Indiana Clean Marina Program Web site and be introduced as an Indiana Clean Marina in a news release upon their inauguration.

The Indiana Clean Marina Program is part of a nationwide effort known as the Clean Marina Initiative. The Clean Marina Initiative is a voluntary, incentive-based program promoted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and others that encourages marina operators and recreational boaters to protect coastal water quality by engaging in environmentally-sound operating and maintenance procedures. Marina operators and recreational boaters can find out more about this nationwide effort on the Web at http://cleanmarinas.noaa.gov.

Advantages of Participating in the Indiana Clean Marina Program

The Indiana Clean Marina Program provides marina operators the opportunity to be stewards of the environment while being recognized for their achievements.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management listed the following benefits a clean marina program can offer to you, the marina owner/operator, by participating in the program.

- **Reduce waste disposal costs**—The best management practices will reduce the amount of wastes you produce so your disposal costs will be less.
- **Generate new sources of revenue**—Studies have shown that owners of Clean Marinas can charge slightly higher slip fees and have fewer vacancies.

- **Receive free technical assistance**—You will have access to best management practices guidebooks, training workshops and on-site visits. Often, states will even offer on-site assistance for meeting legal requirements.
- **Reduce legal liabilities**—You can feel more confident that you are meeting all legal requirements.
- **Enjoy free publicity**—Your marina will be recognized as a Clean Marina through press releases, newsletters, and boating guides, etc.
- **Attract knowledgeable customers**—Clean Marinas are aesthetically pleasing facilities and you can attract responsible clientele that will follow good boating practices.
- **Improve water quality and habitat for living resources**—Your marina and the boating industry depend on clean waters and a healthy coastal environment for their continued success.
- **Demonstrate marina is a good steward of the environment**—Many states distribute special burgees and signs for Clean Marinas to display. Your Clean Marina will be allowed to use the state's Clean Marina logo on all letterhead.

How to Become a Designated Indiana Clean Marina

Any marina wishing to become a designated Indiana Clean Marina must:

- Meet all federal and state laws that pertain to their facility. Please refer to Appendix C, "Indiana Clean Marina Program Designation Checklist," on pages 87-101. It identifies best management practices required by regulation or law with a numeric value of "0." If you have any questions about legal requirements, please contact the agencies which administer the regulations that apply to your facility.
- Achieve a cumulative score of at least 80 percent for all remaining best management practices listed in Appendix C that apply to your facility.

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How to Determine if You Qualify For Clean Marina Status

STEP 1:
Complete the "Indiana Clean Marina Program Designation Checklist" (see pages 87-101) according to the instructions provided. There are 63 questions to answer. Double check whether you meet all the required practices identified with the numeric value of "0" that apply to your facility. If you don't currently or you're just not sure, contact the Lake Michigan Coastal Program's coastal nonpoint coordinator at (219) 921-0863 for assistance. Use the "Comments" section on pages 12-13 of the checklist to explain any answers or request clarification for any particular best management practice. Be sure to reference the question number.

STEP 2:
Complete the "Point Summary" and calculate your total using the "Equation for Calculating your Cumulative Score" on the last page of the checklist—you need 80 percent to qualify. If you meet all the required practices identified with the numeric value of "0" and your cumulative score is 80 percent or higher, your marina qualifies for Clean Marina status. Congratulations!

STEP 3:
Contact the Lake Michigan Coastal Program's coastal nonpoint coordinator at (219) 921-0863 to schedule a confirmation site visit that will enable staff to meet with you and verify your qualifications.

What if You do Not Meet All the Requirements?

If you do not currently meet all the requirements of the program you can still become involved by signing an "Indiana Clean Marina Pledge" (see Appendix B). This pledge shows that you are committed to becoming a designated Indiana Clean Marina within a one-year time period. Boaters using your marina can help you reach your goal of becoming a Clean Marina by doing their part and signing an "Indiana Clean Boater Pledge" (see

For More Information

Appendix A – (page 79)
Indiana Clean Boater Pledge

Appendix B – (page 83)
Indiana Clean Marina Pledge

Appendix C – (page 87)
Indiana Clean Marina Program Designation Checklist

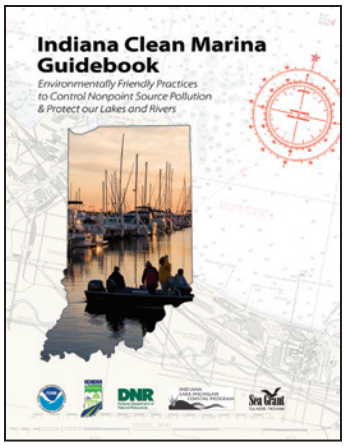
Appendix A). The Lake Michigan Coastal Program staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have and help you reach Clean Marina status! The telephone number is (219) 921-0863. In addition, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance offers confidential environmental assistance through its Compliance and Technical Assistance Program. For information, call CTAP at (800) 988-7901 (toll free in Indiana) or (317) 232-8172.

How to Maintain your Indiana Clean Marina Designation

Once your marina has become designated as an Indiana Clean Marina, you must maintain your designation by submitting a letter annually to the Lake Michigan Coastal Program's coastal nonpoint coordinator that states you still meet the requirements included on the checklist. If you have added new best management practi ces since your designation, please inform the coordinator. On the "Indiana Clean Marina Program Designation Checklist" is a "New Best Management Practice?" column. Simply place a check in this column for the appropriate best management practices. Then mail a copy of the updated checklist with your annual letter. The Lake Michigan Coastal Program staff wants to recognize any extra effort your marina takes as a participant in the program. Additionally, every three years you will be required to schedule a redesignation site visit.

A marina operator which believes itself aggrieved by the denial of its designation or the denial of the renewal of a designation as an Indiana Clean Marina may seek administrative review to the Natural Resources Commission under Title 4, Article 21.5 of the Indiana Code (IC 4-21.5) and Title 312, Article 3, Chapter 1 of the Indiana Administrative Code (312 IAC 3-1).

Using the Indiana Clean Marina Guidebook



This guidebook serves as a reference manual for marinas striving to become Clean Marinas or to maintain their designation. It's divided into sections based upon guidance provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in conformance with Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. Additionally, a section on exotic or nuisance species has been included in this guidebook. Refer to these sections as needed for recommended best management practices and some of the basic federal and state legal requirements as they pertain to marinas. (Participation in the Indiana Clean Marina Program does not exempt marinas from meeting any applicable legal requirements. The legal requirements described in this guidebook are only to help outline some of the major environmental laws that pertain to marinas and are not comprehensive.) Marinas are also encouraged to review other sources of information that are readily available for controlling nonpoint source pollution in their marina.