

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

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## Applicability

*This section applies to all marinas and any agency or group involved in boater education.*

## Background

**P**ublic education is one of the most effective and efficient ways to reduce nonpoint source pollution in marinas. Recreational boaters who understand how their daily activities can impact water quality are often happy to do their part to protect the resource. There are numerous sources of public education programs and materials that are available for marinas and boaters to utilize. Examples include the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' boaters' education program, which features a free, online boat safety course, and this guidebook! Additionally, marinas may want to check if the town or city in which they are located is designated as a municipal separate storm sewer system community. If so, there may be information from the community's municipal separate storm sewer system coordinator that can be used.



## Best Management Practices

Listed below are just a few of the many best management practices that are available for public outreach and education as well as marina staff.

- Use signs to inform boaters of appropriate clean boating practices. Post signs at the marina office, docks and near waste disposal receptacles. Have best management practice signage and spill control measures posted at pumpout and fueling stations. Make sure the signs are easy to read by using large print and eye-catching designs.
- Utilize bulletins to post environmental messages. Post the bulletins in areas frequented by boaters such as the marina store and restrooms.

### Boater Education

Information about IDNR's boaters' education program can be obtained by contacting the Law Enforcement Division at (317) 232-4010, your local law enforcement district office, or visit the website at [www.IN.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2755.htm](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2755.htm).

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- Promote recycling. Offer recycling and post signs directing boaters to recycling locations.
- Distribute pamphlets, newsletters, and inserts with bill mailings that promote appropriate clean boating practices. Include maps that show the pumpout, dump, fish cleaning and fueling stations as well as locations for environmental services, including locations to obtain spill cleanup kits and recycle batteries, oil, plastic, metal, and glass.
- Educate and train marina staff to be environmentally conscious as they perform their duties and to be role models for marina patrons.
- Insert language into marina contracts that promotes and ensures that tenants will comply with the marina's best management practices. Make sure that they are aware of any restrictions on boat cleaning, repair and maintenance.
- Have a best management practice agreement for outside contractors to sign as a precondition to performing any work inside the marina.
- Mark storm drains with phrases such as "Dump No Waste—Drains to Lake Michigan" or use similar wording tailored to the name of your lake or reservoir.
- Hand out the clean boater tip sheets that accompany this guidebook (see Appendix K on page 175).



The Hammond Marina in Hammond offers battery recycling in its public laundry room.

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This storm drain is marked with fish symbols and text that indicates, "Dump No Waste! Drains to Waterways."



A sign posted at the launch ramp provides boaters with tips on how to prevent the spread of exotic invasive species.

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Signage for dog owners encourages proper waste handling.



Free educational signage is available at [www.boatus.com/foundation/cleanwater/drops/marinas/Educational.asp](http://www.boatus.com/foundation/cleanwater/drops/marinas/Educational.asp).

## For More Information

**Appendix J** – (pages 171-174)  
Sample Contract Language  
(for tenants and outside  
contractors)

**Appendix K** – (page 175)  
Clean Boater Tip Sheets