

# GREEN MARINA

## Education and Outreach Project Summary



The Green Marina Education and Outreach Project will help reduce or eliminate pollution from entering the Great Lakes through boating and marina activities.

Pollution prevention strategies are at the heart of this Green Marina effort. They include implementing best practices, such as using oil-absorbent pads when fueling to prevent fuel from entering the water; and selecting native plants to capture and slowly release storm water. Other best practices include properly disposing hazardous materials, sewage and fish waste. Support through the Green Marina Education and Outreach project will assist more marinas with training and completing certification.

### OVERVIEW

This project, a strategic collaboration between Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin Sea Grant programs, will support education and outreach efforts for a 3-year period, beginning in November 2010. Educational materials highlight the sources and impacts of marine-related pollution to Great Lakes waters and how to implement best practices to address critical issues.

Project activities will support and improve existing Clean Marina programs,

and will help increase participation in education efforts that lead toward certification. Education methods will include in-person workshops, as well as online training and webinars for marinas. Marina experts from the Great Lakes region will assist in enhancing and expanding the web-based Clean Marina Classroom developed by Michigan Sea Grant. This educational tool has nine units with best practices, such as boat maintenance and repair, sewage handling and petroleum control.

### CERTIFICATION

In order to become certified, Clean Marinas must complete a training course, perform a self-evaluation, and address both mandatory and recommended best practices. Approximately 100 marinas in the Great Lakes region have already made a commitment to voluntarily implement best practices. Also, educational materials include tip sheets for boaters who use marinas and play a critical role in the environmental quality of the Great Lakes.

- **Total Project Funding:**  
\$478,262
- **Program Officer:**  
Judy Beck, US EPA, Great Lakes National Program Office

- **Lead Organization:**  
Michigan Sea Grant College Program
- **Principal Investigator:**  
James Diana, Michigan Sea Grant Director
- **Co-investigators:**
  - Elizabeth LaPorte and Chuck Pistis, Michigan Sea Grant
  - Vicky Harris and Gene Clark, Wisconsin Sea Grant
  - Jill Jentes Banicki and Frank Lichtkoppler, Ohio Sea Grant

- **Partner Organizations:**  
Ohio and Wisconsin Sea Grant programs, the Michigan Boating Industries Association, Michigan State University Extension and Clean Marina organizations

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The Michigan Clean Marina certification checklist includes more than 70 items that must be addressed and vetted by marina consultants who perform site visits. Clean Marina programs in Ohio and Wisconsin have similar checkpoints and best practices.

However, best practices in the Great Lakes region currently vary from state-to-state. Therefore, a central focus of the Green Marina Education and Outreach project will be to develop uniform certification standards for marinas, boatyards and harbors that can be consistently applied throughout the Great Lakes region.

Team members will work with technical experts and outreach professionals to find common ground on best practices and certification criteria for marinas. Engaging local, regional and national organizations to help sustain ongoing training and continuous improvement of certified marinas is also a priority.

## PARTNERS

Project collaborators include universities, state agencies and marina industries, such as the Michigan Boating Industry Association, the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, the Indiana and Wisconsin Coastal Management programs, the Wisconsin Marina Association, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, the Midwest Marina Association, and the National Association of Marina Industries.

Additional collaborators include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan Forum, Coastal Zone Management Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Power Squadrons, and non-government organizations.

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