

# CLEAN BOATING



## Boating is good clean fun – let's keep it that way!

### Clean boating promotes CLEAN WATERS:

Michigan has the most registered boats in the United States – more than one million strong. Recreational boaters and anglers play an important role in protecting the clean, healthy waters of Northern Michigan. Many boating activities have the potential to harm the aquatic ecosystem.

### How you can help:

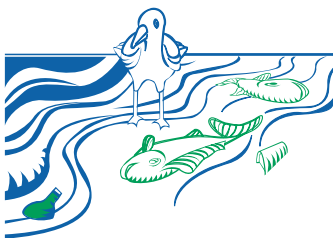
- Dispose of trash properly onshore
- Pump marine heads at marina facilities only
- Use caution when refueling and clean up small spills with a spill kit or oil-absorbent pads
- Keep your engine in good working order.
- Use oil absorbent bilge sponges and dispose of them properly
- Use non-toxic or phosphate free products to clean or paint your boat.
- Do large cleaning or maintenance jobs onshore to avoid dripping unsafe products into the water
- Don't dispose of fishing lines, nets or plastic items in or near the water
- Use suitable facilities for fish wastes and do not dump into surface waters.
- Help stop the spread of harmful invasive species:
- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting your boat
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water, including live bait
- Drain water from all your equipment before transporting
- Clean and dry anything that came into contact with water – boats, equipment, dogs, water toys, etc.

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## How does pollution hurt the aquatic environment?

- Toxins from oils, fuel, hull paints, and other chemicals can kill animals, or settle in their systems and move up the food chain, possibly to humans.
- Petroleum products are carcinogenic and contain toxic elements and metals.
- Untreated sewage can spread disease and contaminate humans and aquatic organisms.
- Excess nutrients from detergents, cleaners, or sewage degrade water quality and cause algal blooms.
- Birds, fish, and other animals can get caught in discarded fishing line and nets.
- Small pieces of litter, such as cigarette filters or plastic pellets, look like food to many aquatic animals. Once ingested, the plastic can block the digestive tract, killing the animal.



### Facts:

- A single quart of oil can create a two-acre oil slick – the size of three football fields – and contaminate up to 2 million gallons of water!
- Each year, Americans spill, throw away, or dump out more than 30 times the oil spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster in Prince William Sound.
- Refined products such as motor oil and gasoline are more toxic than crude oils because they are soluble in water, disperse more quickly, and are more easily absorbed by an animal's soft tissue.

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