



Advisory Bulletin No. 1

Boat Cleaning Management Measures

1. Applicability

This management measure is applicable to commercial and non-commercial marinas servicing the waters of Lake George as defined in 6 NYCRR 645-2.1 (f)

2. Prohibitions

Pursuant to Section 17-1709 of the Environmental Conservation Law, it is unlawful for any person to discharge or allow the discharge into Lake George or its tributaries of any sewage waste or any other foul, noxious or deleterious solid or liquid waste including boat cleaners, detergents, teak cleaners, and fiberglass polishers.

As set forth in 6NYCRR 646-1.2 (b) (8), boat cleaning at marinas is prohibited unless the marina is equipped with a boat cleaning area that is designed, operated and maintained in such a manner to prevent contamination of the waters of the Park.

3. Description

Lake George and its tributary streams are protected by law and are assigned the highest classification for water quality, Special AA, signifying that the lake's best usage is as a water supply and for contact recreation. Lake water is used extensively as a direct source of drinking water.

Compliance with the measures described herein will minimize the use and release of potentially harmful cleaners and bottom paints. Marina employees and boat owners use a variety of boat cleaners such as teak cleaners, fiberglass polishers and detergents. This results in the potential for some of the cleaning material to enter the lake and its tributaries. Boat bottom paint may be released into marina waters when boat bottoms are cleaned in or near the water unless proper controls are established.

4. Management Measures Required

- a. Commercial boat cleaning facilities at marina which discharge industrial wastewater to the waters of the state through point sources as defined in Article 17 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) shall operate in compliance with a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) administers the SPDES program, For further information contact the Regional Water Engineer at the Warrensburg office 623-1200.
- b. Commercial boat cleaning facilities at marinas may discharge to holding tanks or municipal sanitary sewers or utilize a zero discharge recirculation treatment system, subject to approval of the Commission.
- c. Non-structural, non-mechanical, limited volume boat cleaning areas which do not discharge to point sources and which incorporate best management strategies may be approved by the Commission.

- 5. Conditions for Commission Approval of Boat Cleaning Areas Which Incorporate Best Management Strategies**
- a. No person shall launch a vessel into or remove a vessel from the waters of the park without inspecting the vessel and its trailer, if any, to ensure the detection of marine growth, including macrophytes (weeds), or any other hull contamination, and removing said growth and disposing of it so as to ensure that it is not discharged into the waters of the park.
 - b. No person shall clean any vessel with chemicals or detergents where runoff into or contamination of the waters of the park is likely to occur.
 - c. Boat cleaning shall not result in any discharge to Lake George, tributary streams, wetlands or stormwater systems.
 - d. Boat cleaning at marinas may occur only at an approved boat cleaning area which is designed, operated and maintained in accordance with these conditions except that boat owners may wash decks, bridges and cabin structures by hand.
 - e. Water usage shall be limited to less than 1,000 gallons per day.
 - f. Only biodegradable detergents and cleaning compounds in original containers may be used. Detergents containing ammonia, sodium hypochlorite, chlorinated solvents, petroleum distillates or lye are prohibited.
 - g. Boat hull scraping in the water or at the approved boat cleaning area is prohibited.
 - h. Designated boat cleaning areas shall be located a minimum of 100 feet from Lake George, tributary streams, wetlands, drinking water wells and the soil absorption systems for any wastewater treatment facility.
 - i. Designated areas shall retain all wash water and shall be made porous to allow wash water to percolate into the ground. Grassy areas are preferred. Gravel is allowed. In no event will impervious surfaces such as parking lots be approved.
 - j. Designated areas shall not contain any discrete conveyance of wash water to Lake George or its tributaries.
 - k. Water use shall be limited by mechanical means such as a timer, automatic closing valve, maximum flow valve or meter.
 - l. Boat washing shall cease when wash water pools on the surface of the ground. The number of boats cleaned shall be limited to ten per day unless specific approval of a higher number is issued by the Commission.
 - m. Designated boat cleaning areas shall not be used for other purposes including vehicle, boat or trailer parking or storage of materials.
 - n. In the event of a spill or overflow which results in a discharge to Lake George, the Lake George Park Commission shall be notified within 24 hours.
 - o. Approved boat cleaning areas or practices may not be altered or relocated except by approval of the Lake George Park Commission.