



FACTS ABOUT Marine Pollution



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS

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Facts About Marine Pollution

This pamphlet was developed as an informational guide to the pollution problems and the marine environmental issues facing the California boater. It presents solutions we can all take part in as well as information on pertinent state and federal laws.

What can you, as a boater, do about plastic, garbage, chemicals and oil in our oceans and waterways? Develop a simple vessel trash plan. Separate plastics, store your trash on board and dispose of it in dumpsters at port. Recycle. Participate in a beach clean-up. Use care when fueling, changing oil, or repairing your boat. These are some of the ways that boaters can help to clean up our beaches and waterways.

Plastic Debris

Millions of boaters use the nation's coastal waters, discarding more than 400,000 tons of garbage every year. A large part of this debris is plastic, such as six-pack beverage holders, plastic fishing line and plastic bags.

Plastic is not biodegradable. Most of the plastic dumped at sea washes up on our beaches where birds, fish, and other marine life encounter it. Every year, thousands of fish, birds and even sea lions die with six pack holders around their necks and bodies, or entangled in plastic fishing line and netting. Some animals eat plastic, which makes them feel full while they slowly starve to death.

Plastic debris in the water can cause life-threatening situations for boaters, too. Plastic items foul propellers and clog engine intake systems, resulting in disabled vessels, as well as expensive repairs and lost time.

MARPOL Annex V

The International Treaty to Prevent Pollution From Ships (MARPOL) was created to address the plastic pollution problem. It prohibits the dumping of any plastic into the water anywhere, and restricts the dumping of other forms of garbage within specified distances from shore. Violators of any of the regulations issued to implement Annex V are liable for a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each violation, and criminal penalties of up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 5 years.

State Law

State law further prohibits:

- the dumping of any garbage into the navigable waters of the state, including inland navigable waters and up to 3 miles from shore;
- the loading of garbage on a vessel with the intent to dump it into the navigable waters of the state or in waters up to 20 miles from shore; or,
- any person in charge of a vessel from permitting it to be loaded with garbage with the intent to dump it into navigable waters or in waters up to 20 miles from shore.

A violation of any of the above laws is a misdemeanor.

Marpol Requirements

It is illegal for any vessel to dump plastic trash anywhere in the ocean or navigable waters of the United States. Annex V of the MARPOL TREATY is a new International Law for a cleaner, safer marine environment. Each violation of these requirements may result in civil penalty up to \$25,000, a fine up to \$50,000, and imprisonment up to 5 years.

U.S. Lakes, Rivers, Bays, Sounds and 3 miles from shore ILLEGAL TO DUMP Plastic & Garbage Paper Metal Rags Crockery Glass Dunnage Food	3 to 12 miles ILLEGAL TO DUMP Plastic Dunnage (lining & packing materials that float) also if not ground to less than one inch: Paper Crockery Rags Metal Glass Food	12 to 25 miles ILLEGAL TO DUMP Plastic Dunnage (lining & packing materials that float)	Outside 25 miles ILLEGAL TO DUMP Plastic
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State and local regulations may further restrict the disposal of garbage.

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
California Department of Boating and Waterways, 1429 F Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-2610
Developed by the Center for Marine Conservation

All boats 26 feet and over in length must display, in a prominent place where the crew and passengers can read it, an informational placard on the subject of these prohibitions. The placard must be at least 9 inches wide by 4 inches high

and made of durable material bearing letters at least one-eighth of an inch high. The placards can be purchased at marine supply dealers, or may be requested free of charge from the Department at the address on the back.

Vessels 40 feet and over which operate beyond 3 nautical miles from shore must display the placard and also prepare and carry a written waste management plan describing procedures for collecting, processing, storing and properly disposing of garbage in a way that will not violate the MARPOL requirements. It must also designate the person responsible for carrying out the plan.

Litter



In recent years, cleanup efforts have netted tons of garbage from California's beaches. Plastic, glass and metal debris not only endangers wildlife, it makes the beaches unsafe for people. Some of the items cleaned from beaches have been traced to recreational boats. Store your trash onboard until you can properly dispose of it on shore. Use reusable containers for food storage aboard your vessel.

Marine Sanitation Devices

Sewage discharged from boats is harmful to marine life and introduces disease-carrying pathogens into the water which are harmful to the public health.

The term "marine sanitation device (MSD)" includes any equipment for installation on board a vessel which is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage, and any process which treats such sewage, not including portable devices. The federal Environmental Protection Agency has set standards for the performance of MSDs, and the U.S. Coast Guard has issued regulations implementing these standards.

There are two varieties of MSDs. One type treats the waste and then discharges it into the water. The other type retains the waste onboard, or treats it in a manner which does not result in any discharge into the water. The second type requires periodic pumpout.

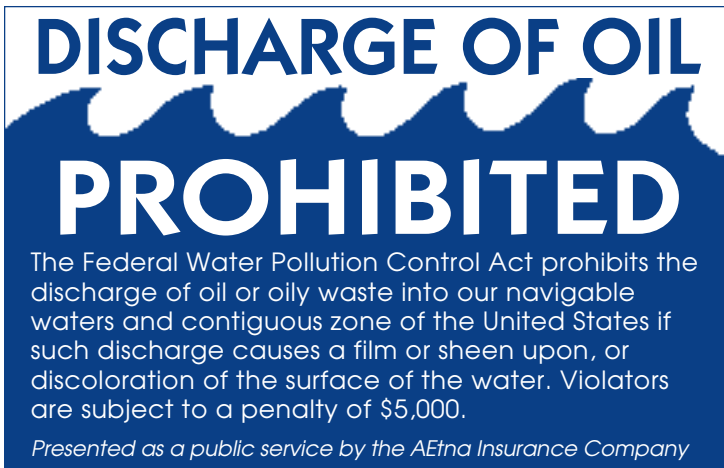


Certain waters in the state have been designated "no-discharge" areas. If you are operating in a no-discharge area, check on the availability of pumpout facilities.

For a free pamphlet, "Federal Marine Sanitation Device Regulations," write to the Department at the address on the back.

Discharge of Oil

Federal law requires all boats 26 feet or longer to display an Oily Waste Discharge Placard in the engine compartment or near the fuel pumping station. For more information, call the U.S. Coast Guard tollfree boating safety information line, (800) 368-5647.



DISCHARGE OF OIL

PROHIBITED

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily waste into our navigable waters and contiguous zone of the United States if such discharge causes a film or sheen upon, or discoloration of the surface of the water. Violators are subject to a penalty of \$5,000.

Presented as a public service by the Aetna Insurance Company

Wipe up any spills when changing or adding oil to your engine. Petroleum products contain toxic elements and metals. Gasoline contains more than 100 hydrocarbon compounds, as well as lead. Oil con-

tains zinc, sulphur and phosphorous. The surface of the water is a habitat in itself for microorganisms necessary to aquatic life as well as for the fish and waterfowl which inhabit the waterways. One quart of oil can completely cover an area of water equivalent to two acres in size.

Dispose of used oil on shore. Put it in a clean plastic container and take it to an oil recycling center. It must not be contaminated with gasoline, antifreeze, etc., or the oil recycling center will not accept it. Dispose of oil filters properly.

By law, oil or fuel spills must be reported to the U.S. Coast Guard. Call 1-800-424-8802 to report a spill. It is unlawful to use detergent or other chemicals on a spill to disperse or otherwise treat the oil.

Fueling Spill Prevention

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, spills during boat fueling are a major contributor to gas and oil pollution of our waterways. Another source of this type of pollution is marine engines of inefficient design, which discharge unburned fuel into the air and water.

What can boaters do? First, when shopping for a boat or motor, consider purchasing vessel engines that are cleaner burning, including direct injection two-stroke engines and four-stroke engines.

Fueling spill-related pollution can be avoided by following these practices:

- Think in terms of preventing even a drop of fuel from entering the water, especially when fueling at a dock or along the shoreline. It is best to fill your tank away from the water.
- Avoid overfilling; fill slowly to avoid spilling. Remember, excess fuel will flow out the vent (and into the water) when it becomes warm and expands. Know how much fuel your tank holds and maintain a reliable fuel gauge. Add a fuel/air separator in your tank vent hose. It prevents fuel from pouring out the vent when vapor builds up.
- Make sure that all fittings associated with the fuel system are tight and not leaking.
- Never leave a gas hose unattended while refueling. Remember, the automatic shutoff on the gas nozzle may not work on your boat.
- Label your fuel fill cap to prevent anyone mistaking it for the water or sewage tank.
- Stock your boat with petroleum-absorbent pads to use while refueling. Put one in your bilge, too.

Toxic Chemicals

Wood preservatives, hull cleaners, antifouling paint, paint thinners and strippers, turpentine, and antifreeze are some of the toxic chemicals boaters use in boat repairs. Dispose of these products properly. Use bio-degradable detergents.

Antifouling Paint

Antifouling paints containing tributyltin (TBT) are restricted materials which may only be applied to vessels by certified applicators. TBT-containing antifouling paints may be applied only to aluminum vessel hulls, vessel hulls 82 feet or more in length, or to the outboard motor or lower drive unit of a boat of any size.

Except as noted above, TBT-containing paints or coatings may not be applied to any surface or object that will come into contact with the freshwater or marine environment, including, but not limited to, vessels, docks, piers, nets, and other fishing equipment.

Additives containing TBT for mixing with paints or coatings may not be applied, either alone or when mixed with paint, to any surface that comes into contact with the aquatic or marine environment, including, but not limited to, vessels, docks, piers, nets, and fishing equipment.

When scraping old TBT paint from a vessel hull, do not allow scrapings to enter the water. Check with your local marina for environmentally safe methods of cleaning and maintaining your boat's hull.



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