

Final Report
LEPF 03-01
January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005

Develop and Establish a Clean Boater Program for Ohio,
With Focus on Lake Erie

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Project Summary

Ohio kicked off its Clean Marinas and Clean Boater programs at the In-Water Boat Show in September, 2004, joining a number of states that have developed "Clean Marinas Programs" (CMP) to encourage marina managers and boaters to be good stewards of the environment. Nine Lake Erie marinas and yacht clubs officially became Ohio's first Clean Marinas in a dedication ceremony at Spitzers Lakeside Marina, Lorain, Ohio on October 19, 2005; 3 additional marinas have been certified in early 2006. In addition, 29 marinas and yacht clubs were pledged to complete a certification process to become Ohio Clean Marinas as of December 31, 2005. The certified and pledged marinas are the core group of marinas with which the clean boater program has worked and will continue to work.

The Clean Boater program has distributed a "Best Boater Practices" (BBP) brochure at boat shows and other events since the 2003 In-Water Boat Show at Cedar Point. During 2004-05, supplemental space from the printing of three issues of the Ohio Sea Grant newsletter Twine Line was used to print 32,000 high quality BBP brochures. At the 2004 In-Water show, boaters were invited for the first time to sign the Ohio Clean Boater pledge and receive a decal to attach to their boats. There are currently about 500 Ohio Clean Boaters; boaters are now able to take the Ohio Clean Boater Pledge on the clean boater web site. Plans are being developed for a major initiative to recruit boaters who dock at certified clean marinas to take the Ohio Clean Boater pledge. Web pages have been developed for Clean Marinas and Clean Boaters as part of the Ohio Sea Grant web site.

A boat shrink-wrap recycling program has been developed within the Ohio Clean Marinas Program (OCMP), and will begin a two year pilot project in April, 2006. Working with a plastics manufacturing and recycling firm in Ohio, plastic shrink wrap will be collected 2-3 times per week at participating marinas. In addition, local solid waste management districts will develop a program for individual boaters, not storing their boat at a marina, to drop off used shrink wrap at pre-determined locations.

The success of the OCMP depends highly on cooperation by boaters. Most states with CMPs also work with boaters to complement and supplement their CMPs. The Florida and Alabama-Mississippi CMPs are the only two programs which have a clean boater pledge opportunity for boaters. California has an extensive clean boater program, but does not have a CMP. In addition to presenting accomplishments by objective, this final report presents the plan of action implemented during this project period, and to be solidified during the follow-up one-year implementation project, to put the Clean Boater Program on a continuing basis. The Ohio Clean Boater Program will continue to be administered within Ohio Sea Grant as an ongoing component of the OCMP, with ongoing support of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft as the primary collaborating agency.

Accomplishments

Accomplishment of Objectives

The clean boater project has 5 objectives. Accomplishments by objective are presented here.

Objective 1. To bring boater organizations more fully into the CMP process through the development of a Clean Boater Program and incorporation into the CMP advisory committee to insure that CMP procedures are developed in the context of the boater's perspective so that boaters are more likely to comply.

The clean boater program is advised by a subcommittee of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program advisory board. Clean boater practices are discussed as clean marinas program agenda items. The basic goals of the clean boater program were developed at a meeting of the clean boater subcommittee on April 29, 2004. Six marina managers who were in the clean marinas program certification process, most of whom are now certified clean marinas, attended a clean boater subcommittee meeting on February 24, 2005 to develop and discuss ways of integrating the two program components. The on-line clean boater pledge process tested during Summer and Fall 2005 was discussed and supported at the April 28, 2005 clean marinas program advisory board meeting. Since the on-line option has not drawn a large number of clean boater pledges, the development of a process to allow boaters to pledge at certified clean marinas is being developed (see objective 4 below).

Objective 2. To develop a set of Best Boater Practices (BBPs) to enhance use of CMP procedures and to reduce negative impacts on Lake Erie from boating.

The first best boater practices (BBPs) brochure was developed and distributed at the In-Water Boat Show at Cedar Point Marina in Sandusky, OH during September, 2003. A brochure distributed by the Florida CMP was used as a guide. A revised brochure was distributed at the Cleveland Boat Show and Cleveland Sport Show in early 2004. The first glossy brochure was printed (12,000 copies) as part of the March-April 2004 issue of Twine Line, the Ohio Sea Grant newsletter, and distributed at the In-Water Boat Show in 2004; this availability coincided with the initiation of the Ohio Clean Boater pledge process and the launch of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program where 8 marinas pledged to become Ohio Clean Marinas. After this boat show and two November workshops for marinas interested in the clean marinas program, those marinas that pledged began taking sufficient copies of the BBP brochure to distribute to boaters who dock at their facilities. A second printing of 10,000 copies of the brochure was part of the July-September, 2004 issue of Twine Line. A third printing of 10,000 copies of the brochure was printed with the April-June 2005 issue of Twine Line, paid for by ODNR, Division of Watercraft.

Objective 3. To develop an educational program to make boaters aware of the CMP program and how they can implement the set of BBPs and cooperate in the implementation of BMPs by marinas through:

3a. A Clean Boater brochure and/or other publications of BBPs.

The BBP brochure is discussed above. As of December 31, 2005, about 25,000 of the brochures had been distributed to marina managers and/or boaters. The remaining brochures will be distributed to pledged and certified marinas for their spring mailings to boaters.

3 b. Fact sheets on clean boater practices.

Six tip/fact sheets have been written, based on similar publications used by other clean marinas programs. These tip sheets are available on the clean boater web page and in an appendix in the clean marinas guidebook available in hard copy and on the clean marina web page.

3 c. Signage at marinas and boat ramps.

A two-part poster has been developed. Part 1 provides information about the clean boater program and the pledge process, while part 2 is a sign-up poster which contains space for pledged clean boaters at a marina to write their names on the poster. This poster has been and will continue to be offered to all certified clean marinas, and to pledged marinas that request it. In addition, a larger clean boater poster was developed as part of the clean marinas and clean boater displays at the 2005 Cleveland Boat and Sport Shows. A modified version of this larger 30"x40" poster is being considered as an option for display in certified clean marinas which have sufficient display space for the larger poster. An alternative sign-up poster would accompany this poster.

3 d. An Ohio Clean Boater web page.

An Ohio Clean Boater web page at www.ohiocleanboater.osu.edu has been developed in addition to an Ohio Clean Marinas web page at www.ohiocleanmarina.osu.edu/. The web page contains the on-line pledge process, a section for boaters to ask questions, the BBP clean boater brochure, the six tip sheets, and contact information. The ODNR, Division of Watercraft website links to the clean boater web page.

3 e. Display materials for boat and other appropriate shows.

The first display for the clean marinas/clean boater programs was developed and presented at the In-Water Boat Show in September, 2003. This was prior to the beginning of the present implementation project, but after its acceptance for funding. The same display was part of the Ohio Sea Grant exhibit used at the Cleveland Boat and Sport Shows in early 2004. A slightly revised display was used at the 2004 In-Water Boat Show. A major redesign of the Ohio Sea Grant display, including the clean marinas and clean boater programs, was incorporated for the 2005 Cleveland Boat and Sport Shows and the 2005 In-Water Boat Show. In addition, the Clean Boater and Clean Marina programs were part of Ohio Sea Grant exhibits at the Ohio Sea Grant Program Assessment Review in August, 2005 and at the ODNR, Division of Watercraft Confluence 2005 in November, 2005.

3 f. Oral presentations at boat shows and boater organization functions.

The project investigator (PI) spoke to the Dayton Power Squadron on February 17, 2005. The PI, the coordinator of the OCMP and Margaret Podlich of Boat US Foundation conducted a workshop on clean boating in Ohio at the ODNR Division of Watercraft Confluence 2005. The Power Squadrons and Coast Guard Auxiliary units distribute the BBP brochures as part of their materials. We are still searching for a more effective way to involve these organizations in the clean boater program.

Objective 4. To explore the use of incentive tools such as a "Clean Boater Pledge", a "Clean Boater Sticker", a dockwalkers program and other tools as means to increase adoption of BBPs by boaters.

Clean Boater Pledge process: The Ohio Clean Boater pledge process is in place and has been through several iterations. The process includes agreeing to the statement:

I pledge to be an Ohio Clean Boater and follow Best Boater Practices (BBPs) to keep oil, sewage, toxic boat cleaning and maintenance products, plastics, cigarette butts and other trash, fishing gear and invasive species out of the water.

Upon "signature" the boater receives an Ohio Clean Boater decal to affix to the boat.

Boaters were first invited to take the pledge at the 2004 In-Water Boat Show, then later at the Cleveland Boat and Sport Shows in 2005. An important issue throughout has been how to distribute the decals to boaters. At the shows, decals were handed to boater when they signed the pledge. However, as we began exploring other procedures, the cost of mailing decals and entering pledged boaters into a data base became a concern. The current process, approved at the April 28 clean marinas program advisory board meeting, is comprised of two components: the pledge process and the selection of sites where pledged boaters can pick up a decal.

Pledge Process: 1) Go to Ohio Clean Boater web site at www.ohiocleanboater.osu.edu . 2) Click on the section "Take the Pledge". 3) Complete the Ohio Clean Boater Pledge form and Click on submit. 4) Upon receipt of the completed pledge form, the boater will be notified of acceptance as an Ohio Clean Boater by email; the notice will include a welcome as a pledged Ohio Clean Boater, congratulations on agreeing to practice Best Boater Practices, and a list of sites where the email can be exchanged for an Ohio Clean Boater decal. 5) Take the email to a designated site and receive an Ohio Clean Boater decal in exchange for the email. 6) Affix the decal to boat and enjoy improved water quality of Ohio's waterways.

Sites issuing Ohio Clean Boater decals include: 1) Ohio Lake Erie Office, Toledo, 2) LEMTA office, Cleveland. 3) Ohio Sea Grant Offices. 4) Coastal Management Office, Sandusky. 5) ODNR, Division of Watercraft, Columbus and selected field offices.

With the certification of 9 marinas, the process for pledging boaters at Ohio Clean Marinas is being developed. Certified Clean Marinas will be offered the opportunity to pledge boaters at the marina and issue decals. Each boater taking the pledge will receive incentives, initially to include a clean boater floating key chain and an oil absorbent bilge pillow. In addition, their name will be entered into a season end drawing for additional prizes, which include Ohio Clean Boater Program burgees and boater's emergency oil spill kits. The process for insuring that boaters provide all the necessary information and the transfer of that information to Ohio Sea Grant is still being worked out.

Dockwalkers: The concept of the dockwalkers program was explored with marina managers at the February 24 meeting. The focus to be explored with marinas as they become certified clean marinas is how volunteer boaters that dock at their facility can assist the marina managers in helping boaters a) become knowledgeable about the clean boater program, b) pledge to be an Ohio Clean Boater, and c) follow BBPs while at the marina or on the water. The second focus of the dockwalkers program is whether boaters can be enlisted on a voluntary basis to go to boat launch facilities and make boaters who use these facilities aware of the clean boater program by

distributing brochures and information about the pledge process. Work on this component of objective 4 was not begun because of limitations of financial resources and time.

Objective 5. To modify and adapt as needed the BBPs for boaters using marinas to those using launch ramps.

The discussion of objectives 1-4 provides detail on the modifications and adaptations to date.

Financial and In-Kind Contributions

Several financial contributions have enhanced the resources of the clean boater and clean marinas programs.

Clean Boater contributions:

ODNR, Division of Watercraft: purchase 5000 clean boater decals at about \$1500.

ODNR, Division of Watercraft: purchase 1000 iron-on t-shirt decals at about \$700

ODNR, Division of Watercraft: purchase 10,000 best boater practices brochures at about \$500

Clean Marina contributions:

ODNR, Coastal Management: grant of \$5000 for in-kind awards to certified clean marinas.

ODNR, Division of Recycling and Litter (Arley Owens) has worked with the Labor and Industry Council of Ohio to secure a donation of 20 recycle containers for use at certified clean marinas.

Joint contributions:

Lake Erie Marine Trades: donation of display space at 2003, 2004 and 2005 In-Water Boat Shows.

Lake Erie Marine Trades: donation of display space to Ohio Sea Grant for the Cleveland Boat Shows beginning 1980; Sea Grant display has incorporated clean marina and clean boater information at the 2004 and 2005 shows.

Expositions, Inc: donation of display space to Ohio Sea Grant for the Cleveland Sport Shows beginning 1980; Sea Grant display has incorporated clean marina and clean boater information at the 2004 and 2005 shows.

Framework to Continue the Ohio Clean Boater Program

Of primary concern to Ohio Sea Grant and to ODNR Division of Watercraft is the continuation of the Ohio Clean Boater program. There are two critical needs to put the clean boater program on a sound footing for continuation into the future. First, an organizational structure must be developed for management of the program. Second, the components of the program must be structured in such a way that the financial resources available to the program can sustain the program. The primary goal of the continuing project from the Lake Erie Protection Fund is to solidify the structure put in place during the first project as detailed below..

Ken Alvey, Chief (now retired) and John Wisse, ODNR, Division of Watercraft and Jeff Reutter, Director, Jill Jentes and the project investigator of Ohio Sea Grant met by phone on May 10,

2005 and agreed to the following to put the Ohio Clean Boater Program on a permanent basis. The Ohio Clean Boater Program will be located within the Ohio Sea Grant College Program. The alternative location is in ODNR, Division of Watercraft. It was agreed that the Sea Grant location makes it easier to keep the program as an integrated component of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program, which is also administered by Ohio Sea Grant. There will be close collaboration with the leaders of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program (OCMP), David Kelch and Gary Comer, both of Ohio Sea Grant, as well as with Mathew Adkins, ODNR, Division of Coastal Management-Division of Soil and Water Conservation and Norman Schultz (now being succeeded by Ken Alvey), President, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association. Common to the clean boater program and the OCMP are Jeff Reutter, Director of Ohio Sea Grant and Ken Alvey, formerly Chief of ODNR, Division of Watercraft and newly appointed President of LEMTA.

Long term, Ohio Sea Grant agreed to provide the human resources necessary to manage and run the program while ODNR, Division of Watercraft agreed to purchase items such as best boater practices brochures, Ohio Clean Boater decals, t-shirt iron-ons etc. needed for the program, and to provide web site linkages as appropriate. For the next several years to keep the program manageable, it has been agreed that the clean boater program will be marketed only at Lake Erie, and primarily through certified clean marinas and those pledged to become certified. For example, boaters will not be invited to take the clean boater pledge on the Division of Watercraft web site when they register their boats; there will be a link provided to the clean boater web page only.

Agency Involvement

The primary organization assisting Ohio Sea Grant, Jeff Reutter, Director, with the Ohio Clean Boater program is the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft, Ken Alvey, Chief (now retired) and John Wisse, Communications. Close communications is maintained with Dave Kelch, Administrator, and Gary Comer, Coordinator, Ohio Clean Marinas Program and with Jill Jentes, Communications, Ohio Sea Grant. Given the role of the Ohio CMP in the Coastal Management Program, the Non-Point Source coordinator, Mathew Adkins, is also a key participant. Lake Erie Marine Trades, Norman Schultz, President, (to be replaced by Ken Alvey) has been and will continue to be a key participant. Contacts are listed below. Work with boating organizations is ongoing to bring them in as participants in the program. The Ohio Clean Boater Program operates within the structure of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program Advisory Board.

John Wisse was assigned by Ken Alvey, Chief, ODNR, Division of Watercraft to work with Ohio Sea Grant in the development of the Ohio Clean Boater program. He has become a major participant in both the Clean Marinas and Clean Boater programs. Matt Adkins, as Coastal NPS coordinator, has primary responsibility for getting NOAA approval for Ohio's coastal management program. Since the Ohio Clean Marinas Program is the mechanism to satisfy coastal management goals for marinas, the Office of Coastal Management has a major stake in the Ohio CMP. To be successful, the results of the CMP and Clean Boater program must not only be utilized by these two divisions, but become parts of their programs.

Ken Alvey, Chief, Division of Watercraft, ODNR, 614-265-6476

John Wisse, Division of Watercraft, ODNR, 614-265-6695

Matthew L. Adkins, Coastal NPS Coordinator, ODNR, 419-609-4102

Norm Schultz, President, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, 440-899-5009

Jeffrey Reutter, Director, Ohio Sea Grant, 614-292-8949

David Kelch, District Specialist, Ohio Sea Grant, 440-326-5858
Gary Comer, Coordinator, OCMP, Ohio Sea Grant, 419-609-4120

Information Dissemination

Several communications outlets have been developed and will be further developed throughout the proposed project period. These include:

Ohio Clean Boater web page on Ohio Sea Grant web site
BBP (best boater practices) brochures
Tip Sheets, available on Clean Boater and Clean Marinas web pages
Articles in Twine Line, North Coast News and other appropriate newsletters
Displays at boat and sport shows
Presentations at boater organization meetings
Signage at Clean Marinas
Linkages with other web sites, such as Watercraft, Lake Erie Marine Trades, etc.

References Used

2004 State of the Lake Report, State of Ohio (prepared by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission)

1998 State of the Lake Report, State of Ohio (prepared by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission)

Alabama-Mississippi Clean Marina Program, Tips for Clean Boaters web page,
<http://www.masqc.org/cleanmarinas/cleanboat.html> , states the pledge and clean boater tips.

"Boating Clean and Green in California," see California Coastal Commission web site
<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/ccbndx.html> , for program information and publication.

"Clean Boating Partnership," Florida Clean Marina Program on Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Law Enforcement website at
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/law/Grants/CMP/CBP.htm>.

"Dockwalkers Program (California)," <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/dockwalkers.html>.

Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan (LEPRP), second progress report, 2004,
<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/reports/lepr/lepr2/secondreport.html>, Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan (LEPRP), 2000, Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

"Management Measures for Marinas and Recreational Boating," Chapter 6, Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, 2000, at
<http://www.ohiodnr.com/soilandwater/Coastalnonpointprogram.htm>.

Office of Coastal Management, NOAA, Clean Marina Initiative web site:
<http://cleanmarinas.noaa.gov/> , a basic description of the national initiative and links to all clean marina programs in the U.S.