

Three new marina certifications and five re-certifications for the Michigan Clean Marina Program

Livonia, Mich., October 4, 2017, – The Michigan Clean Marina Program is pleased to announce three Michigan marinas have been named as Certified Clean Marinas. They are **Fayette State Harbor** - Fairbanks Township, **East Tawas State Dock** - East Tawas, & **Pier 1000 Marina** - Benton Harbor. They have been certified for a three-year term through 2020. Additionally, five marinas have been re-certified as “Michigan Clean Marinas”; they are **Milliken State Harbor** –Detroit, **Hammond Bay State Harbor**- Millersburg, **Straits State Harbor**- Mackinaw City, **Lexington State Dock** – Lexington, & **Cedar River State Harbor** – Cedar River. They have been re-certified for another five-year-term through 2022. More than 54 Michigan marinas have obtained and are maintaining this prestigious certification.

The Clean Marina Program was initiated to preserve and protect, through voluntary efforts, Michigan’s greatest resource, the Great Lakes and its connecting waterways. The certification process begins with a pledge to participate in the program, followed by an online course with an overview of the designation process and a review of best management practices. The facilities then conduct self-evaluations of their environmental practices to determine their strengths and weaknesses. After implementing improvements and reaching a level of competencies, the marina requests a visitation by a CMP consultant to evaluate the facility’s environmental stewardship. When the facility reaches established goals, they receive their designation.

“We welcome Fayette State Harbor, East Tawas State Dock and Pier 1000 Marina to the Clean Marina Program, and we commend Milliken State Harbor, Hammond Bay State Harbor, Straits State Harbor, Lexington State Dock and Cedar River State Harbor for being re-certified as Michigan Clean Marinas and for their continuation of following best practices,” said Nicki Polan, executive director of the Michigan Boating Industries Association. “More boaters are becoming aware of the program and are searching out these facilities as places they want to patronize.” The Clean Marina designation is applicable for a three-year period, at which time the facility must be re-designated.

MBIA encourages all marinas to seek out this certification. “It is not difficult, and there are both financial and environmental gains that come with this effort,” said Polan. Currently Michigan has 54 Clean Marinas.

Nearly 60 percent of boaters surveyed by the DNR in their recent boater survey would prefer to go to a Certified Clean Marina over a non-certified. The average survey respondent were males in the age range of 55-64 years old with household incomes of \$100k plus. The most popular boat amongst respondents were fishing boats, cruisers, and kayak/canoes/stand-ups. Read the rest of the results here: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/BoaterSurveyResults2017_598971_7.pdf.

The Michigan Clean Marina Program is a partner program between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan Boating Industries Association. For more details

on the program and to see which facilities are designated Michigan Clean Marinas, go to: <http://miseagrant.umich.edu/cmp/>. For more information on the Clean Marina Program and the Michigan Boating Industries Association, visit www.mbia.org.

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