



Model Process for Recognizing Environmental Programs in Marinas

Lighthouse Consulting

2003

Citation: Lighthouse Consulting. 2003. Model process for recognizing environmental programs in marinas. Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island. 1 pg.

For more information contact: Pamela Rubinoff, Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. 220 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882
Telephone: 401.874.6224 Fax: 401.789.4670 Email: rubi@gso.uri.edu

The Marina Good Management Practices Project is a partnership of the Mexico Tourist Marina Association and the Coastal Resources Center. This publication was made possible through support provided by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. Additional support was provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Environment and Natural Resources Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. PCE-A-00-95-0030-05.

The David and Lucille
Packard Foundation



Model process for recognizing Environmental Programs in Marinas

There are a number of different ways to conduct a voluntary compliance program. There are over a dozen programs in North America and Europe that use some form of voluntary compliance reviews to certify environmental standards. Each program uses some certification process reviewing and accrediting “clean marinas.” Below is a summary of the major steps used in the certification process.

- Sign a **pledge** committing to protect waterways from harmful chemicals, excess nutrients and debris. A press release is issued for each pledge received.
- Conduct a **self-assessment** using the Clean Marina Award Checklist. The checklist is keyed to the *Clean Marina Guidebook*. The checklist is divided into sections organized by marina operations. These generally include: vessel maintenance and repair, petroleum control, emergency planning, sewage handling, waste containment and disposal, marina management, stormwater management, and marina design and maintenance. Marinas must comply with all applicable legal requirements and achieve a minimum score for each section of the checklist.
- Marina operators are invited to call upon a **mentor** for assistance. Clean Marina staff and committee members, along with members of the Marine Trade Association, are available to provide confidential advice.
- Once a marina operator feels that his or her facility meets the minimum award criteria, a **confirmation visit** is scheduled. During the visit, a member of the Clean Marina staff and a marina operator(s) verify that the candidate marina meets the award criteria. If the marina does not meet the criteria, Clean Marina staff send a letter outlining what additional steps need to be taken. Alternatively, if the inspection team feels that the facility meets the award criteria the staff member sends an email to the full Clean Marina committee asking for their consent.
- A certified Clean Marina is **rewarded** with a 3’x5’ flag bearing the Clean Marina logo, a smaller burgee, a certificate, promotion in Clean Marina exhibits and displays, and another press release

Major Variations:

There are many different local-variations to this process. The major variations are listed below:

- The confirmation visit does not include a marina operator.
- The confirmation visit is done by a neutral third-party.
- The certification is awarded in tiered levels. The highest level is given to facilities that have in-place a significant number of clean marina practices. The lowest level is given to those that meet required standards.
- ISO EMS approach that includes a self-audit confirmed by private sector suppliers or regulatory bodies that have been approved by a national accreditation body.