

FACT SHEET 3- WASTE CONTAINMENT

Trash is ugly and may be dangerous to humans and to wildlife. For example, plastic may snare propellers and choke sea turtles. Congress passed a law in 1987 to protect our waterways from garbage.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

The Marine Plastic Pollution research and Control Act (Title II of Public Law 100-220) regulates the disposal of garbage at sea according to how far a vessel is from shore:

- Within U.S. lakes, rivers, bays, sounds, and within 3 nautical miles from the ocean shore, it is illegal to dump anything other than fish guts.
- Between 3 and 12 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and any other garbage that is greater than one inch in size.
- Between 12 and 25 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and dunnage, i.e., lining and packing material, nets, lines, etc.
- Beyond 25 nautical miles, it is illegal to dump plastic.

METHODS:

Contain Trash

- Don't let trash get thrown or blown overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, retrieve it. Consider it "person overboard" practice.
- Pack food in reusable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging.
- Don't toss cigarette butts overboard. They are made of plastic (cellulose acetate).
- Purchase refreshments in recyclable containers and recycle them.
- Properly dispose of all trash on-shore, i.e., bring home or leave in the dumpster at the marina.

Recycle

- Recycle cans, glass, newspaper, antifreeze, oil, oil filters, and lead batteries.
- Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your tackle shop or marina or leave in a covered trash can at the marina.

Fish Waste

For safety reasons marinas are often located in sheltered areas-areas that will protect boats from winds, waves and storms. The same features that protect boats from the elements, however, also limit the exchange of water. Poor exchange, or flushing, means that any waste which is discharged into the water may stay in the same general area for an extended length of time. Fish cleaning may pose a problem if the carcass and/or innards are discarded in a poorly flushed marina basin. Fish waste is smelly and unsightly. Also, life-sustaining oxygen is removed from the water column as bacteria decompose the refuse. Avoid these problems by following these tips:

- Do not discard fish waste in poorly flushed areas.
- Find out what your marina's policy is.
- Bag waste and dispose at home or in a dumpster.
- Compost fish waste.
- Grind fish waste and use for chum. Do not discharge ground fish into poorly flushed water.

Maintenance Waste

Dispose of the following items according to the recommendations listed below.

WASTE PRODUCT DISPOSAL METHOD

Oil --Recycle

Oil Filters-- Puncture and hot drain for 24 hours. Recycle oil and canister

Antifreeze-- Recycle

Paint and Varnish-- Allow to dry completely, i.e., solidify. Dispose of in regular trash

Solvents, Gasoline-- Bring to a household hazardous and pesticides waste collection day

Expired Emergency Flares-- Bring to a local fire department or a household hazardous waste collection day

Derelict Vessels-- Obtain title and sell