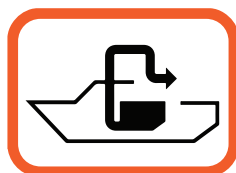


As a responsible boater, you can protect North Carolina waters and wildlife from pollution by doing your part and properly disposing of marine sewage in dump stations and pumpouts.



For more information please visit  
[www.ncwildlife.org/Boating.aspx](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Boating.aspx)



### OUR MISSION

To conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters; other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.



**NCWILDLIFE.ORG**



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Photograph by Melissa McGaw / NCWRC.

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**CLEAN**  
*BOATING*  
**TIPS**

# CLEAN BOATING TIPS

With over 350,000 registered boats in North Carolina, every effort by boaters to follow the actions below will help preserve waterways in our beautiful state.

*Let's keep our water clean!*

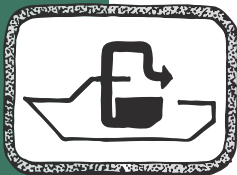
## Contain Trash

- Do not let trash blow overboard. Trash must be retrieved.
- Purchase and pack food in reusable and recyclable containers.
- Buy products without plastic or excessive packaging. Plastic used in products is harmful to fish and birds.
- Recycle fishing lines, cans, glass, plastic and newspapers.
- Follow the "Plus One Rule"—bring back all of your trash PLUS something you find.



## Use Pumpout, Don't Dump Out

- Use marinas' pumpout stations.
- If you don't have an installed toilet, use a port-a-potty and empty it at dump station or in a bathroom. Human waste can contain disease-causing organisms, such as bacteria, viruses and parasites. Swimmers, water skiers and others who swallow or come in contact with water that has been contaminated with human wastes can become ill.



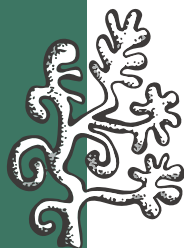
## Choose Green Products

- Use the cleanest maintenance products that do the job. Look for the EPA-certified "Design for Environment" label (DFE), which ensures that the product has minimal environmental impact and is safe for the person using it. Safer products like these reduce water pollution.



## Fish Cleaning

- Excessive fish waste deposited directly into lake water can produce foul odors and impair water quality through increased bacteria levels and decreased dissolved oxygen.
- Dispose of fish waste and unwanted bait offshore. Use fish cleaning stations with trash receptacles. Save and freeze fish waste and use as chum or bait.



## Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

- Remove plant debris from your boat when you take it out of the water and dispose of the debris in the trash. Do not throw it back into the water. Inspect your hull and remove any attached organisms.
- Never release unused bait into the water.



## Cigarette Litter

- Cigarette butts are made from plastics and end up in storm drains, creeks and waterways when they are tossed overboard or thrown on to the ground. They can last for decades, leave an unsightly mess and harm fish and other wildlife.



## Prevent Oily Discharges from the Bilge

- Keep your engine well-tuned to prevent fuel and oil leaks. Secure an oil absorbent pad or pillow in your bilge and under your engine where drips may occur. Check the pads often, do not let them clog the bilge pump and dispose of them as hazardous waste at a marina or local hazardous waste collection center.

## Dispose of Hazardous Waste Properly

- Dispose of paints, batteries, antifreeze, cleaning products, oil, oil filters and other hazardous waste at a hazardous waste collection facility.



## Fueling

- Prevent fuel spills by filling fuel tanks slowly and using absorbent pads or range to catch drips and spills.
- Do not top off or overflow your fuel tank. Leave the tank 10 percent empty to allow fuel to expand as it warms.



## Spill Proof Your Oil Changes

- When changing your oil, use an oil change pump to transfer oil to a spill-proof container. Wrap a plastic bag or absorbent pad around the oil filter to prevent oil from spilling into the bilge.

