



MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION



PROTECTING WATER QUALITY FOR THE TRIBAL FISHERY AND RECREATION

- ⚓ Much of marine pollution is land derived, but all boaters can help prevent it by following clean boating practices and reporting all evidence of pollution. The health and continued use of our lakes and rivers for fishing and recreation depends on pollution prevention.
- ⚓ It is against federal law to dispose of any garbage overboard including plastics, wood, paper, metal and food waste.
- ⚓ It is against federal law to discharge oil or hazardous substances into the water and if this occurs the Coast Guard must be notified immediately.

TYPES OF MARINE POLLUTION

Trash - Plastics float and persist in the water so they can be transported long distances and are deadly to fish, turtles and waterfowl if eaten or by entanglement. Plastics also cause boating problems by fouling propellers and clogging intake ports leading to delays and repair expenses. Plastic, paper, wood and metal waste belong in onshore recycle or trash bins.

Toxic chemicals - Gasoline, diesel fuel, engine oil, antifreeze, marine paints and thinners and engine and boat cleaning products all contain toxins that can be deadly to marine organisms.

Human and food waste - Nutrients from these can cause algal blooms, lead to oxygen depletion and make the water less desirable for fisheries, recreation, and drinking water. Sewage contains disease-carrying bacteria that can make the water unsafe for humans and wildlife.



PLEASE REPORT POLLUTION SIGHTINGS



- ⚓ If you observe pollution (oil, gas, sewage or trash) in any of the lakes, or someone polluting, gather as much information as possible and call the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 or VHF radio channel 9 or 16.
- ⚓ There is an oil containment kit available at the Tribal Fire and Rescue Department if an oil or gas spill occurs at the Grand Traverse Band marina. Please contact a Conservation Officer on VHS radio channel 16 or call Fire and Rescue at (231)534-7666 or dial 911.

PLEASE USE CLEAN BOATING PRACTICES

Oil and gas -- Place a bilge “pillow” (available at marine stores) in your bilge to absorb oil and gas from the bilge water. Do not drain any engine fluids into the water. Keep your engine well tuned to maximize fuel efficiency and reduce exhaust pollutants. Use premium engine oil which burns cleaner. Inspect and maintain fuel lines to avoid gas leakage. When changing your engine oil, recycle used oil at the Grand Traverse Band automotive department *during work hours and with staff assistance*. Avoid topping off the gas tank when refueling.

Trash -- Keep a covered garbage receptacle on board and dispose of all trash including cigarette butts (the filters have been shown to be damaging to birds) and especially plastics such as fishing line, plastic bags and beverage rings. Avoid using disposable plastic products and recycle as much trash as possible. Also, retrieve any trash you come across and let passengers know about trash disposal onboard.

Sewage -- Vessels with installed toilets must have Coast Guard approved marine sanitation devices. Treated or untreated sewage must not be disposed of overboard from any type of system. Holding tanks should be pumped out at a shore facility and portable toilets emptied into a plumbing system. Use onshore facilities when docked to decrease the need to empty your boat system.

Paint -- Clean your boat with non-phosphate, non-toxic detergents and use safe anti-fouling paints (avoid toxic TBT-based paints). Collect old paint scrapings when refinishing your boat and dispose of properly as hazardous waste. Keep paints and thinners away from the water and dispose of properly.

Biological -- To prevent the spread of non-native species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and spiny water flea, be sure to drain your bilge water before you leave one water way and enter another, and empty bait buckets on land in trash receptacles.

Erosion -- Minimize boat speed in no wake zones to prevent shoreline erosion and stirring up bottom sediments which can deprive aquatic plants of sunlight and cover spawning beds.

⚓ For more information, please contact Melissa Witkowski, Environmental Response Coordinator, at (231)534-7362 or melissa.witkowski@gtbindians.com.

