

Important Note: The following text is excerpted directly from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's publication, *Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Self Assessment Guide for the Marina Industry*. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Pollution Prevention Unit. March 2003. The only changes that have been made are the addition of links to pertinent resources or regulations and Editor's Notes, where appropriate.

Water Regulations

Most marinas are located on or near a body of water which means that there is always the potential for contaminants to spill or leak into the waters of the State. Since gas pumping operations are often located on docks, spills of petroleum products can occur if care is not taken during the dispensing of gas into vessels. Wastes from marinas may contain inorganic dissolved solids in the form of phosphates and sulfates, and organic wastes in the form of oils and greases. Accidental spills, leaks, and drips of petroleum products can also contribute significantly to effluent contamination. Usually tanks do not spring a leak that would allow the entire solution to leak away undetected. However, a slow leak amounting to a solution loss of 10 to 20 gal/day could go undetected for weeks at some marinas.

CAN YOU TREAT OR RECYCLE YOUR WASTEWATER?

Wastewater treatment and recovery processes can be considered treatment of a hazardous waste if the wastewater is a listed or characteristic hazardous waste. In order to avoid obtaining a permit under the hazardous waste regulations, your process must meet one of the exemptions found in **6 NYCRR Section 373-1.1(d)(1)**. http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/subpart373_01a.html Processes that comply with certain conditions are

eligible for exemptions such as the wastewater treatment unit and the recycling exemptions.

The wastewater itself could be excluded from being a hazardous waste, such as the closed-loop exclusion.

WASTEWATER DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

Under the federal Clean Water Act, a marina operator can not discharge any pollutant to surface or ground waters of the State without a state pollutant discharge elimination system (SPDES) permit. If your facility performs boat washing or has any storm water runoff, you may be required to obtain either a general or a specific SPDES permit. If your facility discharges process or non-process wastewater directly to surface waters, you may be required to obtain a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. You are considered a **direct discharger**. If your facility discharges its process wastewater to a sewer that flows to a publicly owned treatment works (POTW), you may be required to meet pretreatment standards. You are considered an **indirect discharger**.

Both direct and indirect dischargers must meet effluent limits and conduct periodic monitoring and reporting. Also, both direct and indirect dischargers will be required to pre-treat their wastewater to meet their applicable effluent limits.

PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

If your facility discharges wastewater directly into surface or groundwaters, then you are required to obtain a SPDES Permit. These permits are regulated under **6 NYCRR Parts 750-758**.

http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/subpart750_01.html

A SPDES permit will list all pollutants your facility is discharging into surface or groundwater that DEC determines necessary to address. It may contain limits, action levels or monitoring for each pollutant. Limits applied to your discharge will be the more stringent of either technology-based limits (sometimes referred to as best available technology or BAT limits), water quality limits, or groundwater effluent standards. Water quality limits are calculated according to the classification and ambient standards assigned to the specific water body receiving the discharge. All surface waters and groundwaters in NYS are classified according to the best usage, e.g., drinking water or fish propagation.

To make certain you are complying with your permit limits, may be required to sample your discharge and submit

monitoring reports. Contact your regional DEC office for information on obtaining a SPDES permit. A list of DEC regional offices can be found in resource guide section of this manual.

Remember

Before discharging oil and grease, solvents, acids, alkalides, or any other wastes generated at your facility to a municipal sewer system, check with you your local POTW.

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Pollutants that enter the water in storm water runoff are referred to as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Even though recreational boating and marinas are not considered by DEC to be a significant source of NPS pollutants, DEC does recognize that in some areas the increased number and size of marinas does cause the potential for adverse impacts to water quality.

Sources of non-point source pollution include:

- construction activities
- septic system infiltration
- agricultural runoff
- marinas and recreational boating
- highway and parking lot runoff

These sources of pollution could introduce contaminants such as nutrients, petroleum products, biological oxygen demand (BOD) loading, suspended solids, and bacteria into lakes, rivers, and other water bodies of the state. Since marinas generate pollutants like heavy metals, hydrocarbons, solvents, antifreeze, acids/alkalis, nutrients, sediments, and bacteria, they should use best management practices to reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution.

For more information on nonpoint source management, you can obtain a copy of the manual, "Marina Operations for Existing Facilities" from DEC's Division of Water by calling 518-402-8243.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater begins as rain or melting snow that runs off fields or hard surfaces such as paved roads, roofs and parking

lots. As it flows through culverts, ditches or drains, the stormwater often picks up oils, litter, animal wastes, fertilizer, pesticides and eroded soils, sediment, heavy metals, or other materials causing it to become polluted. When this untreated stormwater eventually flows into waterways, it can impact water quality, leading to the closing of beaches and shellfish beds, nuisance weed growth in lakes, the destruction of aquatic habitats, and possible flooding.

In 1987, under the Clean Water Act, EPA established a program to address storm water discharges associated with industrial activity. The term “storm water discharge associated with industrial activity” refers to a storm water discharge from one of 11 categories of industrial activity defined in **40 CFR 122.26(a)(9)(b)(14)**.

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_99/40cfr122_99.html Five of the categories are defined by SIC codes, while the other six are identified through narrative descriptions of the regulated industrial activity.

All marinas that are subject to the general storm water permit will fall into Category (xi) because they have a standard industrial code of 34, and may fall into Category (i) because this category includes any facility, regardless of size, that is subject to toxic pollutant effluent guidelines.

Storm water permits are required when water from your facility is conveyed to a surface water body. If your facility’s storm water discharge goes directly into a combined storm sewer and sanitary sewer system that conveys the storm water to a POTW, then your facility may not need a general storm water permit.

Check with your regional DEC office to determine if your facility is exempt from obtaining a storm water permit.

Storm water permits will help DEC recognize what wastes may eventually end up in the state’s waterways. To this end, DEC issues storm water permits that cover discharges from roads with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains, which are used for collecting and conveying storm water directly related to manufacturing, processing, or raw material storage areas at industrial facilities.

DEC issues two types of storm water permits: individual permits or general permits. An individual permit is more complex and requires substantial data collection and reporting as compared to a general permit. Your facility can apply for a general permit by the following procedure:

- First, develop and implement a **“Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.”** To do this, you must obtain a copy of the SPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges. You can get a copy by calling your DEC regional office (http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/pdfs/DEC_regional_offices.pdf). [Editor’s Note: For more information on requirements for [Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans in New York](#), <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/industri.htm#ppp>] You can write the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or have a consultant prepare it. [Editors Note: For a copy of [a sample Storm Water Pollution Plan for a](#)

[hypothetical marina, http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/pdfs/marinaswppp.pdf](http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/pdfs/marinaswppp.pdf) This plan does not have to be submitted to DEC, but must remain on the premises in case a DEC inspector needs to review it.

- Second, submit a “Notice of Intent, Transfer, Termination” (NOITT) to: DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, Attention: Joe DiMura. To download a copy of the NOITT go to:

www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dcs/permits/olpermits/noitt.pdf

General permits may require some type of monitoring, depending on the type of facility. Usually, marina may only be required to do visual monitoring.

Information on storm water management can be found on DEC’s website at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Here are some tips that could help you reduce the contaminants in your storm water runoff:

- Install water bars to divert off-site storm water away from your marina, especially from maintenance and repair areas. Water bars are essentially speed bumps positioned to divert stormwater.
- Construct grass areas between the marina and the nearby surface water to filter out any contaminants before they are discharge to waters of the State.
- Other types of vegetation can effectively remove contaminants from stormwater. Even wetlands act as filter that remove nutrients, hydrocarbons, and sediments from runoff.
- Perform all boat maintenance and painting in an enclosed, roofed area. If any scrapings or boat maintenance has to be performed outside, use a plastic tarp to catch the contaminants. Please be aware that paint scrapings can not be thrown in the dumpster if they fail the toxicity test. See section IV for regulatory requirements of paint scrapings.
- Don’t pour fluids into your septic system, into a dry well, on the ground, or in the trash.
- Cover all containers that are stored outside to prevent any spillage onto the ground.
- Install sand filters, holding tanks, oil-grit separators, or vortex concentrator chambers to improve storm water quality before it is discharged.
- Try to do all your washing over a drain that is connected to a sanitary sewer.
- Prohibit the use of soaps and detergents by boat owners during boat washing. Instruct them to use plain water when washing their boats.
- When removing antifreeze from the boat’s engine or water system for the summer season, **do not** empty the antifreeze on the ground or in the water.
- Try to have marina employees do all fueling. Make sure the pump’s automatic shut-off is working properly.
- Always have a spill kit located

close by the fueling operations and make sure all employees are trained in the use of spill containment and clean-up. The kit should include: absorbent socks or booms, absorbent pillows and pads, oil dry, broom and shovel, disposal bags or other containers, safety goggles, plastic gloves.

- It is important to clean up spills promptly and thoroughly.

Call DEC at (518) 402-8117 if you have questions on the storm water management program.