



Press Release

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Contact: Marsha Samuel at
732-872-1300 ext15 or
msamuel@njmsc.org

Shrink Wrap Plus Recycling Program Targets Boaters and Marina Industry

(Sandy Hook, NJ)..... The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) recently launched a new initiative aimed at increasing the number of New Jersey boaters, marinas and municipalities that collect and recycle shrink wrap and other non-biodegradable boating-related waste materials. The ***Shrink Wrap Plus Recycling Program***, co-sponsored by New Jersey Sea Grant and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Coastal Management Program, is the first statewide effort of its kind and is being funded through the NJ Department of Transportation's *Boat NJ* Program.

Approximately 500 tons of shrink wrap material is used each year in New Jersey for shrink-wrapping boats for storage during the winter months, and only 250,000 pounds, roughly half of that amount, is recycled. "The amount of material recycled has been decreasing over the last few years," according to Michael Danko, Chair of New Jersey's Clean Vessel Act Program and Marine Fisheries Agent for the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program. "Hopefully this program will help the state meet its goal of recycling 50% of the municipal waste stream and help marine

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business owners reduce disposal costs." In addition to promoting the recycling of shrink wrap, Danko noted that the "Plus" of the program will target recycling other materials used widely in the marine industry, including zinc and aluminum anodes and the plastic drums used for storing antifreeze.

The program will be implemented in two phases. The first will be an education and outreach campaign focused on explaining the benefits of the program to marinas, boaters, municipal officials and county recycling coordinators and demonstrating proper recycling procedures of the targeted materials. The second phase will make funds available to county recycling entities for the collection and recycling of the shrink wrap. Education and outreach efforts began in mid-February and will continue throughout the summer. Phase two is slated to begin later this year pending NJDEP funding finalization.

The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium is a non-profit affiliation of colleges, universities and public sector groups dedicated to advancing greater knowledge of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment. NJMSC meets its mission through innovative research, education and outreach designed to address coastal sustainability and ecosystem health, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine technology, science based management and science literacy. For more information about NJMSC and its activities, visit www.njmssc.org

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