



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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New Funding Will Fuel Efforts to Help New Jersey Marinas Achieve “Clean Marina” Status

(Sandy Hook, NJ)... The New Jersey Department of Transportation’s *I BOAT NJ* Program has awarded over \$400,000 to the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium (NJMSC) to expand the efforts of the New Jersey Clean Marina Program (NJCMP) which encourages the nearly 600 marinas in New Jersey to minimize their impact on the environment. The Program, implemented by NJMSC, the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program (NJSGEP) and other partners, and managed by the Coastal Management Office of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), is a voluntary, incentive-based initiative that encourages marinas to adopt environment-friendly business practices to reduce pollution in local water bodies.

Over the next two years, NJCMP will use the funds to increase participation among marinas and other boating businesses and provide outreach and technical guidance to marinas interested in adopting procedures outlined as best management practices (BMPs). The new grant will also fund smaller projects through a mini-grant program,

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allowing marina owners to apply for funding to implement BMPs at their facilities.

“Funding from the *I BOAT NJ* Program provides the resources necessary to expand the Clean Marina Program and enhance the recreational boating industry in New Jersey,” said Michael Danko, Marine Fisheries Agent for NJMSC and NJSSEP. “Both initiatives will contribute to marinas continuing to be part of the working waterfront.”

Currently, 17 marinas in the state are recognized as “Clean Marinas,” having achieved the designation through compliance with regulations and procedures outlined in the Program’s comprehensive guidebook. Through its quarterly newsletter, annual Clean Marina Workshop and other outreach efforts, NJCMP will continue to encourage marinas to become involved in the effort.

The New Jersey Clean Marina Program was established in 2005 through a partnership between NJMSC, the NJDEP, and numerous other organizations. For more information about the New Jersey Clean Marina Program and its initiatives, visit njcleanmarina.org.

NJMSC is an 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 njmsc.org.

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