



PRESS RELEASE

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Statewide Grant Program Successfully Shores Up Marina Industry

(Sandy Hook, NJ)..... The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/New Jersey Sea Grant (NJMSC/NJSG) and its Marina Industry Enhancement (MIE) Program recently announced the newest round of recipients in its mini-grant initiative. In late September, C & C Marina in Bayville, Brielle Marine Basin and Lanoka Harbor Marina were each selected to receive \$10,000 to assist with the purchase and installation of vessel wash wastewater systems. The mini-grant initiative, which began last fall with a total of \$400,000, received initial funding as part of a special project of the New Jersey Department of Transportation's *I BOAT NJ* Program. Since then, the MIE Program has awarded over \$240,000 to twenty-five marinas around the state.

Michael Danko, NJMSC/NJSG Marine Recreation Agent and MIE Program Director, is extremely pleased with the immediate and overwhelmingly positive response to the program. "Hopefully these grants will enable marinas to continue to do good business in these tough economic times, while encouraging them to adopt an environmental stewardship ethic," said Danko. "As more and more marinas continue to receive support to tackle these projects, we hope the end result is a healthy marina industry as well as a healthier environment."

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An MIE mini-grant significantly buoyed the efforts of Bridge Marina Inc. in Lake Hopatcong to become New Jersey's first freshwater certified Clean Marina and the twenty-eighth Clean Marina in the state. The \$4,100 grant, awarded to Bridge Marina in June, was instrumental in helping the facility pass the rigorous Clean Marina review process, including the purchase and installation of signage to remind boaters to dispose of trash properly, and a bioremediation parts cleaner, which uses microbes to eliminate petroleum-based pollutants and other contaminants in wastewater.

Similarly, Sherman's Boat Basin in Point Pleasant, another recipient of an MIE grant, recently installed a drainage system to reroute vessel wash wastewater from entering the waters of Beaver Dam Creek to comply with the State's recent stormwater discharge regulations. The small marina, with 42 slips, services approximately 200 boats throughout the boating season. The grant enabled Sherman's to accommodate its large customer base while at the same time, protect the waters it depends on for recreation and livelihood. More information about the MIE Program and the mini-grant initiative can be found at njmsc.org/MIE.html.

NJMISC/NJ Sea Grant is an affiliation of colleges, universities and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey's marine and coastal environment. It meets its mission through its innovative research, education and outreach programs. For more information about NJMISC/NJ Sea Grant, visit njmsc.org.

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