Clean Boater Tip Sheet

Solid Waste

Solid waste such as bottles, cans, fishing line, plastic bags and other refuse can injure or kill aquatic life and birds by trapping or entangling them. Not only is trash unsightly, it can also foul props or water intakes of boats or other equipment. You, as a boater on Indiana water, can be an active steward of this valuable resource by implementing these practices:

Recycle your fishing line to prevent entanglement of fish and wildlife.

Controlling Solid Waste

- Have a waste container on your boat. The best policy is to carry out what you carry in. You might consider going one step further and carry out any trash less thoughtful people may have left behind.
- Use recyclable containers and reusable bags. Minimize the use of plastic wrap and disposable bags while out on your boat.
- Don't toss garbage, including cigarette butts, overboard.
- If trash blows overboard, make an effort to retrieve it.

- Recycle oil, batteries, plastic, metal, glass and newspaper.
- Recycle fishing line or dispose of it properly. Some marinas and sporting goods stores offer fishing line recycling.
- Find out if your marina recycles shrink wrap used for winter storage. Recycle your shrink wrap if possible.
- Properly dispose of unwanted waste chemicals by utilizing the household hazardous waste collection program in your community.
- Clean up after your dog and deposit waste in a trash can or appropriate receptacle.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Sea Grant Illinois - Indiana

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Use trash and recycling bins at your marina.

- Use the marina's trash cans and recycling bins and replace the lids after using them so that waste does not blow out of them.
- Cut the rings of six pack holders prior to disposal.
- Clean your fish at a fish cleaning station—not at the dock—to keep the marina cleaner, keep odors down and reduce nuisance birds and pests. Disposing of fish waste in the marina basin is prohibited.
  If there are no disposal options, double bag the fish waste and dispose of it with the regular trash.
- If your marina has a fish waste composting program, compost your fish waste.
- Avoid feeding wild birds, including ducks, geese and seagulls, in the marina. Feeding birds encourages them to flock to the marina and become long-term residents. The birds' waste can contaminate water and create a mess on boats and walkways.

Some marinas offer battery recycling.

For More Information

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