

Final Report
LEPF 05-04
January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Ohio Clean Boater Program
With Focus on Lake Erie

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Ohio Sea Grant College Program
The Ohio State University Research Foundation

Project Summary

As of 12/31/06, there were about 1035 pledged clean boaters and 26,600 BBP brochures in circulation or in the hands of marinas, visitors bureaus, Watercraft, etc. About 50 percent (535) pledged clean boaters resulted from the current project with 524 pledged within the integrated certified clean marinas and clean boater programs.

Ohio kicked off its Clean Marinas and Clean Boater programs at the In-Water Boat Show in September, 2004, joining a number of states that have developed “Clean Marinas Programs” (CMP) to encourage marina managers and boaters to be good stewards of the environment. Nine Lake Erie marinas and yacht clubs officially became Ohio's first Clean Marinas in a dedication ceremony at Spitzers Lakeside Marina, Lorain, Ohio on October 19, 2005; 3 additional marinas have been certified in early 2006 and 14 in later 2006 after the clean boater pledge process was underway in certified marinas. In addition, 20 marinas and yacht clubs were pledged to complete a certification process to become Ohio Clean Marinas as of December 31, 2006. The certified and pledged marinas are the core group of marinas with which the clean boater program has worked.

The Clean Boater program has distributed a “Best Boater Practices” (BBP) brochure at boat shows and other events since the 2003 In-Water Boat Show at Cedar Point. During 2004-05, supplemental space from the printing of three issues of the Ohio Sea Grant newsletter Twine Line was used to print 32,000 high quality BBP brochures. At the 2004 In-Water show, boaters were invited for the first time to sign the Ohio Clean Boater pledge and receive a decal to attach to their boats. Web pages have been developed for Clean Marinas and Clean Boaters as part of the Ohio Sea Grant web site.

The success of the OCMP depends highly on cooperation by boaters. Most states with CMPs also work with boaters to complement and supplement their CMPs. The Florida and Alabama-Mississippi CMPs are the only two programs which have a clean boater pledge opportunity for boaters. California has an extensive clean boater program, but does not have a CMP. The Ohio Clean Boater Program will continue to be administered within Ohio Sea Grant as an ongoing component of the OCMP, with ongoing support of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft as the primary collaborating agency.

Accomplishments

Accomplishment of Objectives

The continuing Ohio Clean Boater project had three objectives. Accomplishment by objective is presented here.

Objective 1. To develop an organizational structure that provides for the continuation of the Ohio Clean Boater Program to include location of the program, cooperation of the agencies involved, and the financial base for future support of the program.

Of primary concern to Ohio Sea Grant and to ODNR Division of Watercraft is the continuation of the Ohio Clean Boater program. There are two critical needs to put the clean boater program on a sound footing for continuation into the future. First, an organizational structure must be developed for management of the program. Second, the components of the program must be structured in such a way that the financial resources available to the program can sustain the program. The primary goal of the continuing project from the Lake Erie Protection Fund was to solidify the structure put in place during the first project.

Results of the 2006 program were disappointing; see the discussion of objective 3 below. However, one-third or 4 of the 12 certified clean marinas did implement the program in satisfactory fashion. The 12 certified clean marinas pledged from 0 to 90 boaters, with 4 marinas pledging over 50 clean boaters each. With the addition of 14 new certified marinas and recognizing that a 33 percent success rate is not bad, our judgment is that another year of testing is warranted.

During 2007 The Ohio Clean Boater Program will continue to be administered by the Ohio Sea Grant College Program as a component of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program. The program will be under the leadership David Kelch and Gary Comer of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program (OCMP), both of Ohio Sea Grant. Close collaboration will be maintained with Mathew Adkins, ODNR, Division of Coastal Management-Division of Soil and Water Conservation and Ken Alvey, President, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association. Other participants include Jeff Reutter, Director of Ohio Sea Grant and Jill Jentes, Communications of Ohio Sea Grant, and John Wisse, ODNR, Division of Watercraft.

During 2007 the clean boater program will be administered solely as an incentive to Ohio's certified clean marinas; there have been very few boaters taking the pledge independently. Priority will be given to those certified clean marinas who request inclusion of the clean boater program as an activity at their marina. This includes the 4 who did well during 2006 and those of the newly certified marinas who request to participate in the program. Incentive materials remaining from 2006 will be used as long as they last. Resources for new incentive materials will be requested of John Wisse, ODNR, Division of Watercraft and other sources as the need arises. The format of the clean boater program into 2008 is dependent on results from 2007.

Objective 2. To further explore the use of a dockwalkers program at certified clean marinas and at launch ramps.

The proposed dockwalkers program has not been developed because of effort devoted to integrating the clean boater pledge process into certified clean marinas (see objective 3 below). Some of the certified clean marinas are involving selected boaters who dock at their marinas in providing information about clean boater practices in a way complementary to maintaining certified clean marina status. However, the lack of attention given to the clean boater program by many certified marinas, suggests that more groundwork is needed for a successful dockwalkers program.

Objective 3. To update and revise as needed those components of the clean boater program implemented during the first implementation project.

The primary focus of this project was to integrate the clean boater program into the certified clean marinas of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program. Beginning January 1, 2006, there were 12 certified clean marinas. The clean boater pledge process was implemented in these 12 certified clean marinas. 1188 walleye eradicators were purchased (618 with project funds and 570 by Watercraft for \$3500), along 15 easels and 12 spill kits with project funds. The burgees and key chains purchased from the first project were also integrated into the package. Each of the 12 certified marinas were provided with an easel, a clean boater poster, a pledge poster, and an incentive package (walleye eradicator plus key chain for each pledging boater and a burgee and spill kit for an end of season drawing). Gary Comer, coordinator of the OCMP, was the on-site person providing certified marinas with easels, posters, eradicators, etc. as he assisted them in implementing the clean boater program as well as the clean marinas program.

Several marinas made a major effort to convince their boaters to pledge to become clean boaters, and were successful. Others pledged very few. As the year progressed and additional marinas were certified (there were an additional 14 certified marinas for a total of 26 plus 20 pledged marinas going through the certification process by 12/31/06), the 3 remaining easels plus some from marinas showing little progress were reallocated to some of the newly certified marinas; About 524 boaters had pledged through the certified clean marinas effort as of 12/31/06.

The response of certified clean marinas and boaters docked at these marinas to the clean boater program was very disappointing. In addition, only about 10 boaters pledged on-line through the web page. As of 12/31/06, there were about 1035 pledged clean boaters and 26,600 BBP brochures in circulation or in the hands of marinas, visitors bureaus, Watercraft, etc.

The Ohio Clean Boater web page continues and is updated as new information becomes available. Two issues of a joint clean boater, clean marina newsletter were written and distributed. There are 5400 BBP brochures remaining which are available for newly certified marinas and other distribution.

As continuation of the clean boater program is considered, these results need to be used to determine where effort can be most effective. The clean boater program will continue as an integral part of the OCMP at certified marinas in early 2007 as long as there is a supply of walleye eradicators.

Financial and In-Kind Contributions

Several financial contributions have enhanced the resources of the clean boater and clean marinas programs.

Clean Boater contributions:

ODNR, Division of Watercraft: purchase 570 walleye eradicators for \$3500.

Joint contributions (OCMP and Clean Boater):

Lake Erie Marine Trades: donation of display space at 2006 In-Water Boat Show.

Lake Erie Marine Trades: donation of display space to Ohio Sea Grant for the Cleveland Boat Show incorporated clean marina and clean boater information at the 2006 show.

Expositions, Inc: donation of display space to Ohio Sea Grant for the Cleveland Sport Show incorporated clean marina and clean boater information at the 2006 show.

Agency Involvement

The primary organization assisting Ohio Sea Grant, Jeff Reutter, Director, with the Ohio Clean Boater program was the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft, John Wisse, Communications. Close communications was maintained with Dave Kelch, Administrator, and Gary Comer, Coordinator, Ohio Clean Marinas Program and with Jill Jentes, Communications, Ohio Sea Grant. Gary Comer did most of the communications with certified clean marinas and distributed easels, posters, eradicators, etc. to these marinas. Given the role of the Ohio CMP in the Coastal Management Program, the Non-Point Source coordinator, Mathew Adkins, is also a key participant. Lake Erie Marine Trades, Ken Alvey, President, has been and will continue to be a key participant. Contacts are listed below. Work with boating organizations was ongoing to bring them in as participants in the program. The Ohio Clean Boater Program operates within the structure of the Ohio Clean Marinas Program Advisory Board.

John Wisse continues on assignment by the Chief, ODNR, Division of Watercraft to work with Ohio Sea Grant in the development of the Ohio Clean Boater program. He has become a major participant in both the Clean Marinas and Clean Boater programs. Matt Adkins, as Coastal NPS coordinator, has primary responsibility for getting NOAA approval for Ohio's coastal management program. Since the Ohio Clean Marinas

Program is the mechanism to satisfy coastal management goals for marinas, the Office of Coastal Management has a major stake in the Ohio CMP. To be successful, the results of the CMP and Clean Boater program must not only be utilized by these two divisions, but become parts of their programs.

John Wisse, Division of Watercraft, ODNR, 614-265-6695
Matthew L. Adkins, Coastal NPS Coordinator, ODNR, 419-609-4102
Ken Alvey, President, Lake Erie Marine Trades Association, 440-899-5009
Jeffrey Reutter, Director, Ohio Sea Grant, 614-292-8949
Jill Jentes, Communications, Ohio Sea Grant, 614-292-8949
David Kelch, District Specialist, Ohio Sea Grant, 440-326-5858
Gary Comer, Coordinator, OCMP, Ohio Sea Grant, 419-609-4120

Information Dissemination

Several communications outlets have been developed and will be further developed throughout the proposed project period. These include:

Ohio Clean Boater web page on Ohio Sea Grant web site
BBP (best boater practices) brochures
Tip Sheets, available on Clean Boater and Clean Marinas web pages
Articles in Twine Line, North Coast News and other appropriate newsletters
Displays at boat and sport shows
Presentations at boater organization meetings
Signage at Clean Marinas
Linkages with other web sites, such as Watercraft, Lake Erie Marine Trades, etc.

References Used

2004 State of the Lake Report, State of Ohio (prepared by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission)

1998 State of the Lake Report, State of Ohio (prepared by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission)

Alabama-Mississippi Clean Marina Program, Tips for Clean Boaters web page, <http://www.masgc.org/cleanmarinas/cleanboat.html> , states the pledge and clean boater tips.

“Boating Clean and Green in California,” see California Coastal Commission web site <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/cbndx.html> , for program information and publication.

“Clean Boating Partnership,” Florida Clean Marina Program on Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Law Enforcement website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/law/Grants/CMP/CBP.htm>.

“Dockwalkers Program (California),” <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/dockwalkers.html>.

Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan (LEPRP), second progress report, 2004, <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/reports/lepr/lepr2/secondreport.html>, Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan (LEPRP), 2000, Ohio Lake Erie Commission.

“Management Measures for Marinas and Recreational Boating,” Chapter 6, Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, 2000, at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/soilandwater/Coastalnonpointprogram.htm>.

Office of Coastal Management, NOAA, Clean Marina Initiative web site: <http://cleanmarinas.noaa.gov/> , a basic description of the national initiative and links to all clean marina programs in the U.S.