

# 2012 BOATER PACKET

## EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES

Thanks again for your interest in the California Recreational Boater Packet. We truly value your willingness to practice and promote clean boating practices in California.

The Boater Packets are designed to promote environmentally-sound boating and help boat owners implement clean boating practices. They are high quality items - the value of each kit is approximately \$22 (not including design, assembly, and other costs). It is important to conduct face-to-face boater education with each boater kit recipient, including reviewing the items within the packets and their messages. In this way you will ensure the packets are delivered in a way that will successfully promote environmentally sound and safe boating. Otherwise, the Program's limited funding may be wasted without raising awareness and improving clean boating practices in California.

### MAIN MESSAGE YOU WANT TO SHARE

#### Recommended TIPS for Distributing Packets:

1. In order to capture the boaters' attention, a recommended strategy is to show the boater packet and tell the boater that it is free.
2. **Before** handing the boater packet to the boater, it is important to ask boaters to first fill out the **2012 Boater Questionnaire and Pledge**, indicating that it will only take about 5 minutes of their time.
3. When the boater returns the questionnaire and pledge to you, quickly look it over to see that it is complete, go over the responses for **questions 7-12. Correct Responses are: Q9= Fine up to \$2,200; Q10=Violators are liable....; Q11 and Q12=TRUE**
4. Once you have collected the questionnaire, please discuss the materials included in the Boater Packet with the recipient, emphasizing the main message associated with each of the materials (see the main messages below). *Be aware that the most significant items are the three-hole punch binder card, oil absorbent, and the "Clean Boating Habits". The San Francisco Bay Clean Boating Map is also a very important item for the San Francisco Bay Boater Packets*
5. The "Southern California Boater's Guide" is a very important item for the Southern California Boater Packets. Every Dockwalker will receive a personal copy. Please use this copy to share with Boater Kit recipients. There will be order forms for this publication in each box of Boater Packets. Boater Kit recipients will need to send an order form to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation in order to receive a copy of the Southern California Boater's Guide. Volunteers may order extra copies for their outreach efforts by contacting Michelle Kearney at [mkearney@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mkearney@waterboards.ca.gov)/(213) 576-6648.
6. **2012 Boater Questionnaire/Pledge:** Please make sure you include the questionnaire date and location. In Q1, please mark the option Dockwalker. On the back of each survey, include your name so we can keep track of the questionnaires you are collecting for the 2012 Dockwalker contest.

- **Prevent oily discharges into the water.** To prevent oily discharges, place an oil absorbent (such as the included pillow) in the bilge. There is a loop on the pillow, which can be secured with the included zip tie; this keeps the pillow out of the way. Boaters can also use the absorbent to clean up spills or when fueling. Used oil absorbents are hazardous waste and can not be disposed of in a trash can. Please read over the information included on the oil absorbent wrapper to understand how to use the absorbent and where to properly dispose of it.
- It is **illegal** to use soaps, or any bilge or cleaning products to remove oil sheen on the water. Cleaning products pollute the environment and don't remove oil from the water.
- Change oil using a closed system, such as a pump.
- Recommend that boaters ask the marina, yacht club, fuel dock operators, or harbor masters for disposal locations. Some marinas actively distribute and collect oil absorbents or call **(800) CLEANUP** (253-2687) or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) for the closest household hazardous waste disposal locations. This number and website provide local information by zip code. The Tidebooks also provide information on some marinas that provide oil collection services. If you receive the Northern California Boater Packets, please check the Tidebook (pages 62-64) for some marinas providing environmental services for boaters including oil collection, sewage and bilge pumpouts, and oil absorbent distribution and collection. *Also check the Bay Area map.* If you receive a Southern California Boater Packet, please check the Southern California Tidebook (pages 28-48) and the "Southern California Boater's Guide."
- Recommend that boaters practice preventive engine maintenance to keep engines well tuned and working at a peak efficiency.
- Avoid bilge cleaners that contain detergents or emulsifiers. These chemicals may clean the bilge, but contaminate the water by chemically bonding the oil and fuel with the water. These toxins will discharge into California waterways when the bilge pump is activated.
- Recommend that boaters to review the brochure entitled "Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know." This publication includes current laws related to oil and dispersants, their citations and potential fines.
- **Recycle used oil and oil filters.** Many people are not aware that used oil filters are recyclable and should not be thrown in the trash. *Used oil is a hazardous waste.* Some marinas accept used oil and used oil filters. For proper disposal of used oil and oil filters, recommend that boaters ask the marina, yacht club, or harbor master for disposal locations, or for the locations of certified used oil and household hazardous waste collection centers or call (800) CLEANUP (253-2687) or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

**REMEMBER:**  
**Education is the key to success. Boaters want to protect our water resources; they just need information and easy and convenient services.**

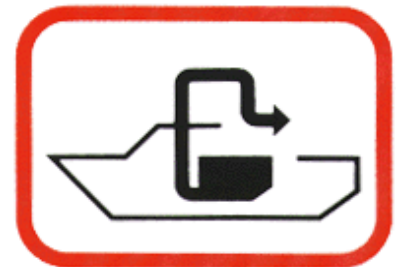


- **After completion of the questionnaire**, let boaters know that the "oil drop" logo identifies California certified used oil recycling locations. This logo is found on the back of the Tidebooks as well as on the oil absorbent wrapper.

**The more boaters you get to fill out the “2012 Boater Questionnaire/Pledge” the greater your chance of winning a surprise award this fall.**

- **For hazardous waste disposal and information about where to find a sewage pumpout, oil absorbent distribution and collection, used oil collection, and other clean boating services call 1 (800) CLEANUP (253-2687) or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org).** This number and web site provide local information by zip code. These resources are included on several items in the Boater Kit, including the tote bag, the three-hole punch binder card and the oil absorbent wrapper. If you receive the Northern California Boater Packets, please check the Tidebook (pages 62-65) for some marinas providing environmental services for boaters including oil collection, sewage and bilge pumpouts, and oil absorbent distribution and collection. *Also check the Bay Area map found in the Bay Area Boater Packets.* If you receive a Southern California Boater Kit, please check the Southern California Tidebook (pages 20-38) and the “Southern California Boater’s Guide”. Also, recommend that boaters review the brochure entitled “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know.” This publication includes current laws related to hazardous waste, their citations and potential fines.

- **Always report all oil and chemical spills to 911 and the National Response Center at 800-424-8802 and the California Office of Emergency Services at 800-OILS911 (645-7911).** These phone numbers, as well as other useful phone numbers, are included on the back of the three-hole punch binder card (“Who to Call” section).
- **Reduce spillage from refueling.**
  - Shut off motors and electrical equipment before fueling
  - Fill tanks slowly to prevent overflows from the air vent. Avoid “topping-off” the tank.
  - Don’t rely on the automatic shut-off nozzle to prevent spills; they don’t shut off in time.
  - Know your tank capacity. Leave the tank at least 10% empty because fuel expands. Choose to refuel on land whenever possible. Install fuel spill prevention devices and used absorbents for spills.
- It is against federal and state law to discharge **untreated sewage** anywhere within the three-mile territorial limit (including lakes, rivers, reservoirs or coastal water within three miles of shore) or even treated sewage into any designated No Discharge Zone. Fines of up to \$2,200 can be imposed for illegal discharges.
- The California NDZs are included in the “Clean Boating Habits” publication (page 19).
- All boats with an installed toilet must have a Coast Guard approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD).
- Do not discharge your Type I or II Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) while in restricted waters” such as a marina, swimming/wading areas, a sanctuary, poorly flushed areas, lakes, reservoirs, or freshwater impoundments and into a federally No Discharge Zone . If operating in these waters, your Type I or II MSD must be connected to a holding tank or secured to prevent any sewage discharge.
- Always use a pumpout facility to empty holding tanks. Use dump stations for port-a-potties. Ask boaters to look for the pumpout symbol for marinas with sewage pumpout services. This symbol is included in the three-hole punch binder card. Boaters can also call **1 (800) CLEANUP** (253-2687), visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) or [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov) for pumpout locations.
- Avoid holding tank disinfectants that contain chlorine, formaldehyde or other chemicals that can hurt the environment.



- If you have a holding tank, know the capacity and use a pumpout log to track it. Leave at least 10% of the tank free of sewage and empty it on a regular basis. Full and overfull tanks are difficult and dangerous to drain.
- **Only after completion of the questionnaire**, let boaters know that the pumpout logo identifies sewage pumpout locations. This logo is found on the three-hole punched binder card and the “Clean Boating Habits” publication.
- Recommend that boaters review the brochure entitled “Environmental Boating Laws Every Recreational Boater Should Know.” This publication includes current laws related to sewage, their citations, and potential fines.
- **Keep all pollutants out of the water.** Pollutants include boat maintenance and cleaning products, toxic hull paints, and trash. Use non-toxic and biodegradable products and more elbow-grease. The “Clean Boating Habits” publication (page 6) provides alternative to toxic products and more recommendations. Remember to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs).
- **Stash your trash.** Avoid excess packaging, pack food in reusable containers; designate an area in the boat to stash the trash and bring it back. Apply the 3Rs; clean up litter and debris. Keep cigarette butts out of the water; they are not biodegradable.
- **Always keep safety in mind.** Recommend that boaters to check the “ABCs of the Boating Laws” to learn more about current boat safety regulations. Although not required in most instances, California law recommends that boaters read the “ABCs” and take one of the safety classes provided by Department of Boating and Waterways, U.S. Power Squadrons, or U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Check the “ABCs of the Boating Law” flyer and [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov) for more safety information.

**Please collect all completed questionnaires and send them to:**

**Vivian Matuk  
California Department of Boating  
& Waterways/California Coastal  
Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 1900 San  
Francisco, CA 94105**

**Note: You are welcome to order more packets (up to 54 or three boxes) once the completed questionnaires are returned to the program.**

**For more information about the Dockwalker Program and to find useful resources Visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/dockwalkers.html>**

