

MARINAS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Marinas and recreational boating are regarded as popular users of coastal areas. However, a wide range of marinas activities, like fueling operations, engine maintenance and repair, boat painting, boat cleaning, human wastewater disposal, dredging, etc., can cause significant impacts to the water column, sediment and organisms within the marina. The environmental quality of a marina area depends mainly on its correct siting, careful design and well managed operation. Marina siting and design management measures should ensure that the construction and use of marinas and their ancillary structures will not impose adverse impacts to the water quality and environmental pressure to the biological species. Their common objective should be a compromise of a variety of factors aiming to the development of a marina that should combine capacity, services provided, access on the one hand and minimum environmental impacts, protective constructions requirements and dredging needs on the other.

Therefore, both recreational boaters and marina managers should bear in mind the strong potential for their activities to cause water pollution and deterioration to the fragile coastal environment and therefore to manage them with special care. Consequently, it is essential to enact a public education, outreach, and training program for boaters in an attempt to prevent improper disposal of polluting material. It should be beard in mind that a policy of clean boats and marinas along with an adoption of clean marinas habits, will benefit both the boating community and the aquatic life.