



Clean Boater Guide

Fish Waste and Marine Debris

Fish Waste



Excessive fish waste deposited directly into marina basins can produce foul odors, impair water quality and cause an unsightly mess. In small quantities, fish waste is scavenged by crabs and other marine animals. However, in an enclosed marina basin, decomposition of the fish waste can deplete the water of oxygen, which can lead to fish kills.

How to handle your fish waste:

- Follow your marina's regulations for proper fish cleaning and disposal procedures. Only clean fish in designated area.
- Freeze your fish waste and reuse it as chum. Or sell it to other fishers.
- Compost fish waste.
- Avoid releasing bait into the water- this can introduce foreign species.
- Save fish for tomorrow by practicing conservation and learning proper catch-and-release techniques.



Marine Debris



Marine debris includes plastics, styrofoam, cigarettes, glass, paper, tires, product packaging and other discarded materials. Marine debris is often durable and takes a long time to break down in the marine environment. Debris such as plastic bags and balloons resemble food and are often ingested by aquatic animals. Materials such as discarded fishing line can damage engine propellers and entangle divers or wildlife.

How to handle your trash:

- Have several litter bags or buckets onboard.
- Properly dispose your trash in a dumpster when you return to shore.
- Practice "Plus-One Boating": Bring back what you take out, plus one piece of litter you found during your excursion.
- Bring your food in reusable containers.
- Remove excess packaging before leaving shore.
- Do not throw cigarettes overboard. Filters are NOT biodegradable!
- Do not throw used fishing line overboard! Recycle fishing line in special monofilament recycling containers.



Be a Clean Boater... properly dispose of your waste!