

Los Angeles County Yacht Clubs Reduce Waste

A program of Clean Water Action (CWA) and Clean Water Fund (CWF), ReThink Disposable prevents waste before it starts. Prevention at the source cuts costs, conserves resources and prevents marine debris. In a follow-up to a successful pilot with six Northern California yacht clubs in 2019, CWA and CWF partnered with the California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program and The Bay Foundation to implement ReThink Disposable at yacht clubs throughout Los Angeles County. A combination of partner collaboration, an endorsement from the Southern California Yachting Association and passionate club commodores from the Shoreline Yacht Club,

Port Royal Yacht Club, and Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club helped reduce waste and enhance ocean stewardship. In all, the three clubs' efforts to swap single-use disposables with reusable food and beverage ware at their bars, restaurants and events annually will eliminate 58,799 single-use disposable items, prevent 845 pounds of trash from entering landfill and result in about \$2,700 total net savings.



Before: Disposable plastic water cups were available at Shoreline Yacht Club's self-serve water station.

Photo: Judy Fusco



After: Reusable plastic tumblers are placed with educational signage on single-use waste alongside the water station.

Photo: Judy Fusco

"We are so excited to be participating in a program like this, especially when we are in close proximity to our ocean. We notice firsthand how much plastic, balloons and trash there are. As people, we have a responsibility to take care of our planet and leave it better than we found it for generations to come." - *Israel Caro, Santa Monica Windjammers Yacht Club.*

To learn more about this initiative and its impact, [read this case study.](#)

FAQs: Environmental Impacts of Sewage

Through the “Changing Tide” newsletter, we cover the essentials about boating, your local waterways and the environment. We have received all kinds of questions from boaters and marina operators over the years. Here are answers to some FAQs about the impacts and management of boat sewage:

How does boater sewage impact the environment?

The negative effects of boat sewage in the environment are just as, if not more, impactful than those from other sources of boat pollution. In fact, according to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1 toilet flush of untreated sewage from your boat can cause the same environmental impact as 10,000 flushes from your home toilet, where waste is processed by a sewage treatment facility (source: [San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)). This raw sewage contains excess nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms, use up valuable dissolved oxygen, and contaminate shellfish beds with pathogens.

Does boating sewage impact human health?

Yes. As mentioned above, raw sewage contaminates waterways with harmful pathogens like bacteria, viruses, and parasites. These pathogens can cause symptoms ranging from nausea, upset stomach, respiratory problems, skin infections, and more. Coming into contact with polluted water or consuming shellfish contaminated by raw sewage can also cause more serious water-borne diseases.



A beautiful day for responsible sewage management at Coyote Point Marina.

What is the best way to manage sewage from my boat?

We advise using on-land facilities when possible or installing an onboard head with a US Coast Guard approved Marine Sanitation Device (MSD). These units chemically treat sewage for discharge outside of the 3-mile limit, or store sewage for onshore disposal at a pumpout station. To find the nearest pumpout or dump station near you, use the free [Pumpout Nav](#) app.

What are some common mistakes when using onboard toilets with MSDs?

Many disinfectants and deodorizers used to treat sewage in MSDs are harmful to aquatic life and negatively impact the environment. Boaters with

chemical treatment MSDs should avoid holding tank disinfectants and deodorizers that contain chlorine compounds; even small amounts can harm or kill aquatic organisms. Instead, they can use bio-active treatments to breakdown solids and reduce odor, as they are biodegradable and less toxic. Additionally, boaters with a holding tank should be careful to keep their Y-Valve closed, which directs raw sewage either overboard or into storage. We recommend using a zip tie to secure it or remove the handle entirely to prevent the possibility of unintended discharge.

Email us with any additional questions! We love to hear from you.

Northern CA: CVA@bayareametro.gov

Southern CA: community@santamonicabay.org

Must Do's for Spring Cleaning Your Boat This Season

Spring is a great time of year for a thorough boat cleaning—but remember, to keep your boat in tip-top shape, you should regularly clean and maintain it all year-round. In doing so, you also minimize environmental impacts. Here are some tips and recommendations to minimize the environmental impact when cleaning your boat:

- Use a minimal amount of fresh water to clean your boat after every use. Instead, use more elbow grease and buy only what cleaning materials you need.
- Leave big cleaning jobs for the boatyard, where toxic wastewater is collected for treatment and proper disposal.
- Choose [less-toxic cleaning products](#), such as non-phosphate, biodegradable cleaners.
- Look for products with official green certifications such as the [Environmental Protection Agency Safer Choice](#) or [Green Seal](#).
- Read the label. When purchasing boat-cleaning products, look for words such as “danger/poison,” “warning” or “caution,” which can indicate toxicity of a product.
- Contain wastewater. The water from routine cleaning of boats (above-waterline cleaning) if mixed with detergents and/or other cleaning agents should be contained and/or directed to sewer drains instead of rinsing into surface waterways. When washing boats by hand, keep two containers available—one for clean water, one for wastewater. Rinse cleaning rags in buckets instead of directly into waterways.



- [Recycle used oil and oil filters.](#)
- Dispose of [hazardous waste](#) at your county [household hazardous waste collection center.](#)
- Use canvas boat covers to keep boat clean between trips, reducing the amount of cleaning you need to do.
- Contain spills and debris using tarps.



RECYCLE
USED OIL

Used oil recycling symbol.

Photo: CalRecycle

When cleaning the bottom side of a boat:

- If marine growth on the boat needs to be removed using abrasive cleaning methods that may also remove paint from the boat, haul the boat out of the water for cleaning.
 - Regularly clean the hull to extend the life of the hull paint and to avoid hard fouling growth that requires more abrasive cleaning.
 - Clean with non-abrasive methods, such as with a soft cloth, fleece mitt, soft carpet or a long, bristled soft brush.
 - Avoid aggressive cleaning—with scrapers, abrasives, powered rotary brushes—as it may cause the paint to slough off, releasing copper or biocide unnecessarily.
- Employ or contract with divers formally trained in environmentally sound hull-cleaning best management practices, such as those by the California Professional Divers Association, which are currently the only standards available in California.
 - Consider using non-biocide bottom paints, which do not release chemicals such as zinc and copper, or low-leach rate copper paints on your boat.
 - Check the “[Boater’s Guide to Using Hull Paint in California](#)” when selecting a bottom hull paint. This brochure provides an easy-to-read format and key considerations.
 - When divers need to replace zinc anodes, collect them for recycling by a local scrap-metal recycler.



Ideas for future
newsletter articles?
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Destination Series: *Ventura Harbor*

Ventura Harbor is located approximately 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The harbor is surrounded by the vast Pacific Ocean on one side and lush farmland on the other, and framed by a backdrop of the San Ynez mountains, a scenic landscape ready for your adventurous spirit. Since its opening in 1963, it has grown to over 152 acres of land and 122 acres of water, and houses five marinas with 1,500 slips.

This quaint harbor is filled with a rich heritage in commercial fishing and is used primarily by recreational and commercial vessels. The harbor's proximity to the Channel Islands, about 18 miles away, makes it a great location from which to take day or extended trips.

On shore and on the water, the mild year-round climate makes this harbor a perfect vacation destination for the entire family. During your visit to Ventura Harbor, you will discover the charming Harbor Village, access to miles of uncrowded beaches like Surfer's Knoll or the smaller Harbor Cove Beach, and a bustling beachfront promenade. Here, you will also find one of California's longest wooden piers with a [1,620-foot-long wooden walkway](#), many fine restaurants, nearby



Ventura Harbor beauty. Photo: Michelle Staffield.

shopping districts, whale-watching opportunities, scuba excursions and much more. For music enthusiasts, Harbor Village hosts regular weekend concerts and special events throughout the year.

If you're feeling adventurous, paddleboard your way to the Harbor Village restaurants and shops from the water and take advantage of the complimentary tie up in "C" dock of Ventura Harbor Village Marina. Also, if you're visiting on your electric boat or other type of vessel, you can gain complimentary day use of the Village services by contacting the Ventura Harbor Village Marina Courtesy Patrol.

Additionally, the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center is located just beyond the entrance to the harbor and brings an interesting and educational island experience to the public. Exhibits include a tide pool, animal and plant life, and an accessible display of whale baleen and bones.

Finding publicly accessible pollution prevention amenities in this harbor is easy. Fueling docks, oil absorbent distribution and collection centers, oil recycling stations and pumpouts for both oily bilge and sewage are available throughout the harbor. If you try your hand at fishing, [fishing line recycling stations](#) abound as well.

For more information about Ventura Harbor, contact the harbor master upon your arrival, and you can also check out the following websites: www.venturaharbor.com and www.ventura-usa.com.



Ventura Marina. Photo: Justin Billow.

Become a Partner Dockwalker in 2022

Dockwalkers engage the boating community about environmentally sound boating practices and distribute the [California Boater Kits](#). Trainings are **FREE** and Dockwalking is a fantastic way to interact with boaters to help keep California's marinas, waterways and ocean clean and healthy. The free trainings provide an overview of environmentally sound boating practices, information about how to conduct Dockwalking and educational materials that Dockwalkers distribute, including the Boater Kit.

Last year, thanks to partner Dockwalkers, we were able to *safely* share clean boating practices and distribute the California Boater

Kits to [5,500 California boaters throughout the state!](#)

Anyone 15 years old or older with an interest in water quality and sharing clean boating information, regardless of your background, can become a Dockwalker!

To find out what Dockwalker participants are saying about the program, click [here](#).

This program provides tons of benefits to:

- [Boaters and water enthusiasts](#)
- [United States Coast Guard Auxiliary](#)



Dockwalker conducting boater education prompted by the CA Boater Kit and its questionnaire. Photo: Civicops.

- [Marina harbors, and yacht club operators and staff](#)
- [America's Boating Club Former United States Power Squadrons](#)

The program is implemented by California State Parks, California Coastal Commission and The Bay Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, America's Boating Club, Save Our Shores, Lake Berryessa Partnership and many more organizations.

Here is a list of upcoming Dockwalker trainings and links to register:

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Program times for the sessions listed below are **10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.:**

- [Saturday, April 2, 2022: Virtual training](#)
- [Saturday, April 30, 2022: In-person training - Oakland Yacht Club: **Please note:** If we do not meet our targeted registration number of participants, this training will be virtual. You will be notified by Wednesday, April 27, 2022, and a link for the virtual training will be provided to you.](#)
- [Saturday, May 7, 2022: In-person training - Sacramento Marina: **Please note:** If we do not meet our targeted registration number of participants, this training will be virtual. You will be notified by Tuesday, May 3, 2022, and a link for the virtual training will be provided to you.](#)
- [Saturday, June 18, 2022: Virtual training](#)

Refresher trainings:

If you were trained three or more years ago, it is time for a refresher:

- [Saturday, April 23, 2022, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.: Virtual training](#)
- [Thursday, May 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Virtual training](#)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Program times for the sessions listed below are **10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.:**

- [Saturday, March 26, 2022: Virtual training](#)
- [Saturday, April 16, 2022: Virtual training](#)
- [Saturday, May 14, 2022: Virtual training](#)
- [Saturday, June 11, 2022: Virtual training](#)

Refresher trainings:

If you were trained three or more years ago, it is time for a refresher:

Program time for the session listed below is: **10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.:**

- [Thursday, April 28, 2022: Virtual training](#)

Little Things That Matter

[“The 2021 California Boater Kit Feedback Survey Report”](#) is Out!

Learn what recreational boaters who received the California Boater Kit from Partner Dockwalkers in 2021 have to say about this great education and outreach tool and its components.

Want to Receive Your 2022 California Boater Kit?

The 2022 California Boater Kit includes essential materials for a safe and clean boating season, including two oil absorbents, the “2022 Tidebook,” a fuel bib and much more. It only takes a few minutes to get access to the FREE California Boater



The 2022 California Boater Kit

Kit. Simply visit [our virtual Clean Boater Questionnaire](#) and complete a brief quiz that helps us with our outreach programs!

Updates to the [Pumpout Nav App](#)

Have you checked out the Pumpout Nav mobile app recently? Users can now log their pumpouts and “favorite” their preferred sewage-disposal locations. The app shows a user the nearest sewage pumpout station, floating restroom or portable toilet dump station to their boat, and provides valuable features, such as switching from a map- to list-view and the ability to report non-operational units. The Pumpout Nav app also has key facility-specific information, including operationality, hours, contact numbers and much more.



Pumpout Nav logo