

# California Celebrated 38th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day

**Authors: Eben Schwartz, California Coastal Commission, Marine Debris Program Manager**

California celebrated its 38th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 17.

Traditionally the largest annual volunteer event in the country, Coastal Cleanup Day had undergone significant changes during the pandemic, switching to a largely remote model. In 2022, however, public health restrictions had lifted to the point where every county was able to return to hosting in-person cleanups. The relief was palpable—volunteers organized over 600 sites across the state.



**Kayakers from Westwind Sailing in Orange County. Photo: Westwind Sailing, Diane J Wenzel, Orange County.**



**Kayaker participating in Coastal Cleanup Day in Bair Island Aquatic Center (San Mateo County). Photo by Vivian Matuk.**

While turnout was not quite back to what could be considered “normal” levels, over 35,000 volunteers participated on the day of the event, with 3,237 more taking part in the continued effort around neighborhood cleanups throughout the month of September. In all, close to 300,000 pounds of trash were removed from California’s environment—from beaches, lakes and inland shorelines of all types.

As always, the boating community made its presence known during Coastal Cleanup Day. In 2022, 44 boating facilities participated, with over 1,700 volunteers removing more than 41,000 pounds of trash and recyclables.

Also, 155 different vessels were out on the water to help with the effort—an incredible turnout that helps the cleanup program reach into areas that would otherwise not be cleaned. The boating community's participation remains strong and has become a vital part of the growing cleanup program.

Coastal Cleanup Day continues to be California's premier volunteer event and has contributed so much to the health of our coast and ocean. The trash removed can no longer cause serious impact to our state's health, economy and marine life, and the data that volunteers gathers helps change laws and regulations to reduce the amount of trash entering the environment in the first place.

Plans for the 2023 cleanup are already underway, so mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023!

For more information on California Coastal Cleanup Day, click [here](#).



Ideas for future  
newsletter articles?  
Please contact Vivian  
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*San Diego Canoe Kayak Team participants. Photo: San Diego Canoe Kayak Team.*



## Snapshot: Boater Sewage Disposal in California

California has over 4 million recreational boaters and over 1,100 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline and hundreds of navigable inland rivers and lakes. With vast recreationally available waterways and mild climate, California's water resources are in high recreational demand and are at risk for pollution from boat sewage.

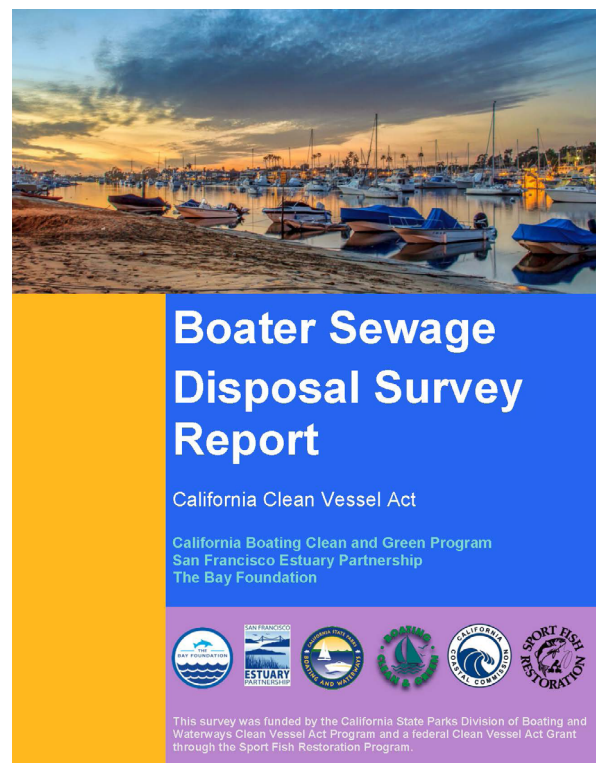
As detailed in the "Boater Sewage Disposal Survey Report," between October 2020 and February 2021, a survey was conducted to collect information on California boaters' sewage disposal norms and preferences to inform future outreach programs that help to protect California's shared waterways. Specifically, project partners sought to find out how boaters currently dispose of boat sewage, if they were satisfied with this method, if they preferred another method and how they find information for sewage disposal services.

The survey, which received 424 responses via virtual and socially distanced in-person outreach, showed that most boaters had on-board heads with holding tanks that needed to be pumped out (74.5%). Among these boaters, more than half (60.4%) indicated they used stationary sewage pumpouts to dispose of their vessel's sewage, and the next most common method utilized mobile pumpout boats (17.7%). Stationary pumpout boat users had an average satisfaction rating of 3.7 out of 5 and said their rating could mostly be improved if pumpout stations were more accessible or better functioning.

Across all boaters surveyed, the majority were concerned about the impacts of untreated sewage and chemicals in vessel care products on water quality, as well as on plants and

animals. Overall, survey respondents agreed that sewage disposal behavior in the boating community is influenced by marina-boater interactions and underscores the importance of engaging marina managers and the boating community directly to prevent improper and illegal sewage disposal for the benefit of California's shared waterways.

To read the "Boater Sewage Disposal Survey Report," click [here](#). The report was prepared by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, The Bay Foundation, and California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program and was funded by the California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways Clean Vessel Act Program and a federal Clean Vessel Act Grant through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.



## Winterize Your Boat

Suddenly, it is almost winter again and time to prepare your vessel for cold weather conditions. This includes preparing your vessel for storage to protect it from the elements and ensure it is ready for the spring season. Consult your manufacturer's manual for your specific vessel's instructions.

Here is some general guidance on preparing your boat for hibernation:

- **Clean and dry the boat bilge.** Empty the bilge to reduce the chance of a spill and prevent freezing of the bilge pump. Place an oil absorbent in the bilge to capture excess oil and dispose of used oil absorbents and the bilge water at your local government [household hazardous waste collection center](#). Remove boat drain plug if stored on a trailer.
- **Empty holding tanks and port-a-potties.** Find pumpout and dump stations by downloading the [Pumpout Nav](#) app or checking the [Division of Boating and Waterways \(DBW\) directory](#). Use nontoxic antifreeze in holding tank systems and heads.
- **Clean your boat inside and out.** Choose [alternatives to toxic cleaning products](#), and be sure they have green certifications such as [EPA Safer Choice](#) or [Green Seal](#).
- **Cover when stored and ventilate to prevent mildew.** Custom-made, reusable canvas or synthetic covers protect your vessel and allow for air circulation to prevent mildew buildup. Recyclable shrink-wrap provides a waterproof barrier.



*Photo: Shutterstock.*

- **Clean your dock box and properly dispose of products.** Call (800) CLEANUP ([800] 253-2687) or visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) to find hazardous waste disposal locations near you.
- **Fill fuel tanks.** Keep your tank full to ease condensation and add a nontoxic fuel stabilizer. Change or install fuel/water separators and filtration systems. Follow engine manufacturer recommendations and check for additional recommendations from [the Boat Owners Association of the United States](http://theboatowners.org).
- **Drain water systems.** Be sure to drain both the engine cooling and drinking water systems, and fill each with nontoxic antifreeze. Never use automotive antifreeze, which is toxic to the environment and can cause serious illness if used in drinking-water systems.
- **Check and charge batteries.** Clean terminals and use a terminal protector. If you remove your battery from your boat, keep it in a dry place and connect it to a trickle marine charger. If you keep your battery in your boat, unplug it and fully charge it periodically.
- **Maintain inboard engines:** Change and recycle used oil and oil filters; visit the [California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery \(CalRecycle\) webpage](http://calrecycle.org) to find a used-oil certified collection center near you. Flush engine(s) with fresh water and drain if your boat is out of the water. Drain manifolds. Check coolant in closed cooling system.
- **Maintain outboard engines:** Change and recycle oil in lower unit; [visit the CalRecycle webpage](http://calrecycle.org) to find a used-oil certified collection center near you. Flush engine with fresh water. Disconnect fuel hose and run engine until it stops. Store engine upright for proper water drainage.
- **Inspect stern drive.** Drain and refill lower unit. Check for leaking parts. Grease all fittings and check fluid levels in hydraulic steering and lift pumps.

Find additional tips [here](#) on the DBW website, and happy sails come spring!

## Reduce Toxic Discharges From Bottom Paints

In 2018, as part of a statewide effort to reduce the amount of copper entering harbors and waterways, the [Department of Pesticide Regulation](#) capped the leach rate of copper-based antifouling paints at 9.5 µg/cm<sup>2</sup> per day in the State of California.

Why copper? Copper is commonly used in hull paint to slow or stop the growth of marine life (fouling) on boat hulls by releasing copper. Copper-leaching bottom paints rely on the toxic properties of cuprous oxide (Cu<sub>2</sub>O) to prevent spores and larvae from attaching to the hull of the boat.

Unfortunately, these paints also introduce levels of dissolved copper into marina sediments, where they are taken in by bottom-dwelling (or benthic) organisms. The copper enters the food chain as the benthic organisms are eaten by other animals. These copper-contaminated animals are in turn consumed by even larger fish, birds and mammals. Copper, in accumulated amounts, is toxic to these animals and can eventually pose human health risks.



Copper hull paints have been identified as the largest source of copper pollution in marinas. To reduce toxic discharges from bottom paints, please take the following steps:

- Utilize alternative, nonbiocidal hull coatings instead of bottom paints that contain metals. For more information, refer to the [“Recreational Boater’s Guide to Using Hull Paint in California.”](#)
- Employ or contract only with divers formally trained in environmentally sound hull cleaning Best Management Practices.

- Conduct hull scraping, sanding and stripping ashore over a drop cloth to catch all debris.
- When sanding, use a dustless vacuum sander. For painting, use a high-density, low-volume paint sprayer.
- Avoid abrasive bottom-side cleaning that results in the release of a colored paint plume.
- Choose frequent nonabrasive cleaning (e.g., using a soft cloth, fleece mitt, soft carpet or a long bristled soft brush), which can minimize marine growth and extend the life of bottom paints.

Marinas in Southern California impacted by copper pollution include Marina del Rey, Newport Bay and San Diego's Shelter Island Yacht Basin. For more information on the regulations and requirements in these areas, contact the local [Regional Water Quality Control Board](#).

With time, proper paint selection paired with appropriate cleaning practices will diminish the impact of copper on California's marinas. Remember, the smart choices you make today to safeguard our waterways benefit all for generations to come.

## **New Report From National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine About U.S. Contributions to Global Ocean Plastic Waste**

*Authors: Eben Schwartz, California Coastal Commission, Marine Debris Program Manager*

On Dec. 1, 2021, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a new report, "Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste." The report, written by an interdisciplinary group of subject experts, is the first comprehensive look at what we currently know about the sources, transport, fate and potential solutions to plastic pollution.

The report demonstrated the scale of the problem in the U.S.; for example, the U.S. generates 130 kilograms per year of plastic waste on a per capita basis, which is two to eight times higher than most other countries. Approximately 1-2 million metric tons of that waste enters the environment.

An interactive summary of the report and links to the full text can be found here: [National Academies Press | Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste](#).

## Destination Series: *Lido Marina Village*

Lido Marina Village is a seaside destination nestled right at the base of the Balboa Peninsula in Newport Beach, California. The area has a rich history, as it was originally developed in the 1970s with plans to create a pedestrian-friendly shopping and dining district. However, the once charming attraction became almost vacant as occupancy gradually declined until 2013, when a private equity investor took on the project. The property has since been modernized while keeping its original architectural charm. Since its remodel, the area has been bustling with Lido community members and visitors exploring the unique mix of chic shops, delicious restaurants and beautiful waterfront views, all accessible via walkable streets.

Lido Marina Village is just one of the many marinas in Newport Harbor, one of the largest recreational boat harbors on the West Coast, and offers 50 rentable boat slips along with several commercial slips. Because of the large boating community, visitors can expect both onshore and on-the-water activities. The village offers several waterfront dining experiences, electric boat rentals, oceanfront views and even a public deck with live music and free workout classes. The village also has a diverse collection of boutiques. Shoppers can check out the many fashion, accessories, home goods and fitness stores.

For those looking for a bite to eat, Lido Marina Village has an impressive array of restaurants and eateries for you to choose from. Visitors can enjoy the world-renowned Japanese cuisine or eat

locally and try the coffee shops, bakeries and sustainable fish options—satisfy any craving. Beyond its eateries, the village also has an impressive selection of craft beer and wine.

In winter, the area turns into a charming, festive village and makes for a wonderful addition to your holiday travel plans. Make sure to book your next trip to Lido Marina Village and embrace the casual and comfortable lifestyle of Newport Beach.

For more information and to find a directory of vendors and activities, please visit [www.lidomarinvillage.com](http://www.lidomarinvillage.com).

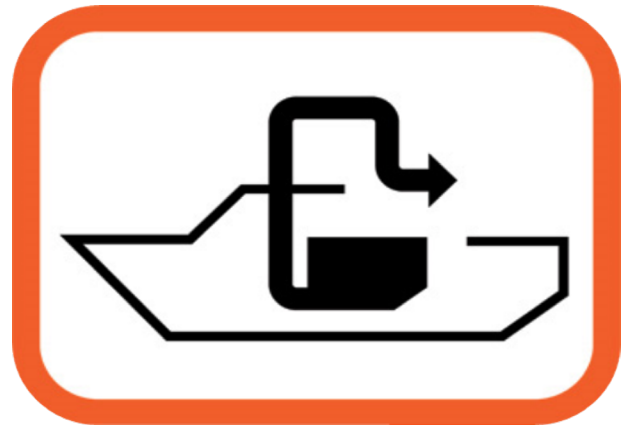


*Photo: Jason Middlekauff.*

# Everything You Need to Know About Sewage Mobile Pumpout Services !

California has one of the highest levels of recreational boating in the nation. The combination of recreationally available waterways, high recreation demand and mild climate makes it even more important for there to be resources available for boaters to effectively and conveniently keep sewage from entering our valuable waterways. In many areas of California, boaters can have their boat sewage removed by a mobile pumpout vessel service.

Mobile pumpout vessels have a sewage pumping system (often referred to as a “honey barge” system) to empty boat holding tanks and then take the waste to a local pumpout station for emptying into the municipal sewer system. Mobile service vessels are retrofitted to hold a large quantity of sewage and can typically pump out dozens of vessels before having to discharge into a dockside pumpout system. This service



*Photo: CA State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways*

can be managed by a contractor or provided by the marina itself, or simply allowed on premises as a boater-solicited service. For a cost based on the service provider and holding tank size, boaters can get their holding tanks pumped out by a professional.

The benefits of using mobile pumpouts are clear. According to the results detailed in the [“Boater Sewage Disposal Survey Report,”](#) boaters value the convenience of mobile pumpouts as a means of sewage disposal and are highly satisfied with mobile pumpout services



Report ALL oil, chemical and sewage spills to BOTH the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services at (800) 645-7911.

Mobile pumpouts are a great solution, as they can be arranged when boaters are not at the marina. This hands-free option is relatively inexpensive and can be a very attractive addition to a marina's list of services.

Protecting water quality is essential to maintain healthy habitats and is in everyone's best interest. To find a sewage mobile boat-to-boat service near you, please visit the California Boating Clean and Green Program [website](#). If you'd like to do it yourself and find a stationary sewage pumpout station near you, download the [Pumpout Nav app](#).

Remember, it is against federal and state law to discharge untreated sewage within the 3-mile territorial limit (including lakes, rivers, reservoirs, or coastal waters within 3 miles of shore) or treated sewage into any designated "no discharge zone." Fines up to \$2,000 can be imposed for illegal discharges.



## Dockwalkers Rock!

The California State Parks and California Coastal Commission's Boating Clean and Green Program and The Bay Foundation would like to express their deepest gratitude to all Dockwalker partners and organizations that supported the Dockwalker program this year. In 2022, the program partners worked together with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Power Squadrons, Save Our Shores, Lake Berryessa Partnership, Conservation Corps chapters and many more organizations.

Dockwalkers are partners and environmental educators trained to provide face-to-face boater education about clean boating practices and distribute [California Boater Kits](#) to recreational boaters. They perform these duties while visiting boating facilities, boat launch ramps, boat shows and events, as well as through presentations at yacht clubs, or by simply talking to boaters when the opportunity arises.

Through the program, boaters receive a boater kit after completing a boater questionnaire and signing a pledge to adopt clean boating practices. The questionnaire helps to improve future education efforts in the Dockwalker Program.



*US Coast Guard Auxiliary and Dockwalker Kevin Kealey conducting face-to-face education at Clear Lake State Park.  
Photo: USCG Auxiliary, Kevin Kealey.*

In addition, the questionnaire helps us to identify and [map](#) where boaters live who have received clean boating information from partner Dockwalkers and staff. Dockwalkers make a difference!

In 2022, 170 new partner Dockwalkers participated in the 13 trainings. In total, 2022 Dockwalker partners distributed 5,900 Boater Kits across the state! Working together with these dedicated partners made this year another success.

Click [here](#) to see the list of 2022 Dockwalkers recognized for administering and returning the highest number of questionnaires, and who joined the ranks in the **Dockwalker Hall of Fame**. Thanks to our partners, the following rewards were provided to the Hall of Fame recipients:

- Trader Joe's products
- Gift cards to West Marine, Starbucks, Sprouts Farmers Market
- California State Parks annual passes
- Life jackets



*Solano County Dockwalker distributing the CA Boater kit with education. Photo: Solano County.*

Next year, program partners will continue to offer more virtual trainings and in-person trainings. The 2023 trainings will be featured on the [Dockwalkers' website](#) in January 2023.

Check out these [videos to learn](#) what other Dockwalkers are saying about the program.

Thank you, Dockwalkers, for all you do in providing clean boating education and improving the health of our waters.

To learn more about the Dockwalker program, visit the [Boating Clean and Green Program webpage](#) or contact Vivian Matuk at [vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:vmatuk@coastal.ca.gov).



*Dockwalkers and Marin Conservation Corps attending an outreach event. Photo: Marin Conservation Corps.*

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