



MINNESOTA CLEAN MARINA PROGRAM

The Clean Marina Initiative is a voluntary, incentive-based program that encourages marina operators and recreational boaters to protect the water quality by engaging in environmentally sound operating and maintenance procedures.

The Minnesota Clean Marina Program offers information, guidance, and technical assistance to marina operators, local governments, and recreational boaters on Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be used to prevent or reduce pollution.

Minnesota marinas that are certified in the Clean Marina Program are recognized for their environmental stewardship and obtain authorization to use the Minnesota Clean Marina logo.

After attending the Advanced Marina Management program in 2000 in Page, Arizona, Rockvum Boat Yards president Jerry Rockvum was inspired by Florida's Clean Marina Program to being a similar program in Minnesota. After becoming a Minnesota Certified Marina Manager, Rockvum spent several years surveying other local marina operators on their interest in such a program.

In 2008, he created a task force of local marina and government agencies to set up a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to establish the Minnesota Clean Marina Program. Serving as the Board of Director's first president, Rockvum created the guidelines and began fund-raising efforts. From an original \$5,000 donation from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, a Best Management Practices publication was created. This led to funding and in-kind donations by the Minnesota Natural Resources as well as federal funding. Additional funding partners include North Central Marina Association, Midwest Marina Association, MN DNR-MN Lake Superior Coastal Program and Eckberg Lammers Law Firm.

By 2012, Rockvum Boat Yards became one of the five original Minnesota Clean Marinas. In 2017, Rockvum Boat Yards general manager Roxanne Rockvum created the Minnesota Clean Marina Fast Track program to serve regional marinas. This "one-stop-shop" provides marinas the time, guidance and assistance to fulfill certification criteria.

To date, there are 18 certified Minnesota Clean Marinas with a goal of reaching 20 by the end of 2017. Additionally, the Minnesota Clean Marina Program is looking to acquire permanent funding with the Minnesota Legislature through a bill sponsored by MN State Senator Dave Osmeck. The bill looks to collect \$100,000 through state taxes on gas sold at marinas. Currently, marina gas taxes are allocated to Minnesota roads. The bill aims to help fund clean water programs.