

## New Yorkers Take 2010 Discover Clean & Safe Boating Pledge

**A** New York Sea Grant (NYSG) survey on boating expenditures indicated that learning about environmentally sound boating practices was important to nearly 90 percent of respondents. In response to this need for boater BMPs (Best Management Practices), NYSG initiated a pilot effort in 2008 called “Discover Clean & Safe Boating.”

A successful debut at the Boating Industry Association (BIA)-sponsored Central New York Boat Show (upstate NY’s largest boat show) as a static display led to the development of a full educational effort in 2010 addressing clean and safe boating practices. BIA, as a key industry partner in this effort, provided funding as well as direct linkage to the marine industry throughout upstate NY.

In 2010, Marathon Boat Group provided an 18-foot “made in New York” Grumman pontoon boat equipped with two electric motors (a \$15,000 value) for the summer Discover Clean & Safe Boating tour. For the “tour,” the boat was outfitted with all the required and recommended



*NYSG Recreation and Tourism Specialist Dave White aboard the 2010 Discover Clean & Safe Boating vessel. Photos: Kara Lynn Dunn, NYSG*

gear for safe and clean boating on NY waters. The boat was equipped with PFDs (personal flotation devices, including life vests), safety flares, chartbook, paddle, green cleaning products, bilge sock,

fuel nozzle bib, and other gear labeled and on display. Two of New York’s marine supply wholesalers — Morgan Recreational Supply and Taylor Made Products — donated all of the displayed material.

More than 1,400 boaters who pledged to be “clean and safe” were invited to spin a wheel for boat safety or cleaning products, e.g., a bilge sock, PFD, or chart book, and received a “Boater Bag” of clean and safe information. Residents from across upstate NY signed the pledge, with thousands more exposed to good boating practices through the 2,500-plus mile campaign at 11 events in two states.

Partners donating prizes included the Sailboat Shop, Skaneateles NY; the New York State (NYS) Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation; and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail (a National Recreation Trail).



**This project meets the performance measures of Sea Grant’s Sustainable Coastal Development focus area.**

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