

## Helping Marinas Help Themselves (and Save Money)

**N**ew York's recreational boating industry plays an important role in the State's economy, generating billions of dollars in revenue. The marinas that serve as the backbone of the industry are struggling to contain costs in order to survive the current economic climate. Because of their location in coastal areas, these facilities are faced with an additional challenge of having to comply with numerous environmental regulations.

In 2007, New York revised its general permit program for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities, placing new requirements on marinas. To be in compliance and avoid fines, these facilities were required to develop a detailed Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for their sites. Few marinas knew of these regulatory changes or what they were required to do to comply.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) worked with the New York Marine Trades Association (NYMTA) to hold an informational workshop for marina operators to increase awareness of the regulatory changes and to help them meet the new requirements.

NYSG also developed materials on the permit program, presenting them at training courses for marina personnel and at association meetings.

NYSG created a readily useable template for a model marina SWPPP for marinas, based on information from the EPA, posting it and other related materials on NYSG's Marina Pollution Prevention Web site for easy access by marina audiences.



*Resources provided on the [www.nyseagrant.org](http://www.nyseagrant.org) website help marina operators manage runoff and save money.  
Photo: Jay Tanski, NYSG*

### **New Resource Represents Opportunity for Significant Savings**

The NYMTA reported 57 percent of the 61 marinas in their organization used the NYSG template to develop their own SWPPPs. Consultants charge between \$3,500 and \$5,000 for this service, so the NYSG materials potentially saved these facilities between \$108,500 and \$155,000 by allowing them to do the work themselves.

The SWPPP template has been downloaded 970 times. If the same percentage of marinas in the total population of 450 marinas in New York's marine district use this material, the savings would be between \$0.9 million and \$1.3 million for the recreational boating industry.

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*New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the State University of New York and Cornell University.*

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