

Important Note: The following text is excerpted directly from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's publication, Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Self Assessment Guide for the Marina Industry. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Pollution Prevention Unit. March 2003. The only changes that have been made are the addition of links to pertinent resources or regulations and Editor's Notes, where appropriate.

New York Storm Water Permits

Pollutants that enter the water in storm water runoff are referred to as nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Even though recreational boating and marinas are not considered by DEC to be a significant source of NPS pollutants, DEC does recognize that in some areas the increased number and size of marinas does cause the potential for adverse impacts to water quality.

Sources of non-point source pollution include:

- construction activities
- septic system infiltration
- agricultural runoff
- marinas and recreational boating
- highway and parking lot runoff

These sources of pollution could introduce contaminants such as nutrients, petroleum products, biological oxygen demand (BOD) loading, suspended solids, and bacteria into lakes, rivers, and other water bodies of the state. Since marinas generate pollutants like heavy metals, hydrocarbons, solvents, antifreeze, acids/alkalis, nutrients, sediments, and bacteria, they should use best management practices to reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution. For more information on nonpoint source management, you can obtain a copy of the manual, "Marina Operations for Existing Facilities" from DEC's Division of Water by calling 518-402-8243.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater begins as rain or melting snow that runs off fields or hard surfaces such as paved roads, roofs and parking lots. As it flows through culverts, ditches or drains, the stormwater often picks up oils, litter, animal wastes, fertilizer, pesticides and eroded soils, sediment, heavy metals, or other materials causing it to become polluted. When this untreated stormwater eventually flows into waterways, it can impact water quality, leading to the closing of beaches and shellfish beds, nuisance weed growth in lakes, the destruction of aquatic habitats, and possible flooding.

In 1987, under the Clean Water Act, EPA established a program to address storm water discharges associated with industrial activity. The term "storm water discharge associated with industrial activity" refers to a storm water discharge from one of 11 categories of industrial activity defined in [40 CFR 122.26\(a\)\(9\)\(b\)\(14\)](#).

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_99/40cfr122_99.html Five of the categories are defined by SIC codes, while the other six are identified through narrative descriptions of the regulated industrial activity. All marinas that are subject to the general storm water permit will fall into Category (xi) because they have a standard industrial code of 34, and may fall into Category (i) because this category includes any facility, regardless of size, that is subject to toxic pollutant effluent guidelines.

Storm water permits are required when water from your facility is conveyed to a surface water body. If your facility's storm water discharge goes directly into a combined storm sewer and sanitary sewer system that conveys the storm water to a POTW, then your facility may not need a general storm water permit. Check with your regional DEC office to determine if your facility is exempt from obtaining a storm water permit.

Storm water permits will help DEC recognize what wastes may eventually end up in the state's waterways. To this end, DEC issues storm water permits that cover discharges from roads with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains, which are used for collecting and conveying storm water directly related to manufacturing, processing, or raw material storage areas at industrial facilities.

DEC issues two types of storm water permits: individual permits or general permits. An individual permit is more complex and requires substantial data collection and reporting as compared to a general permit. Your facility can apply for a general permit by the following procedure:

- First, develop and implement a **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan**.^{*} To do this, you must obtain a copy of the *SPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges*. You can get a copy by calling your [DEC regional office](#). (http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/pdfs/DEC_regional_offices.pdf) You can write the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or have a consultant prepare it. This plan does not have to be submitted to DEC, but must remain on the premises in case a DEC inspector needs to review it.
- Second, submit a "Notice of Intent, Transfer, Termination" (NOITT) to: DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, Attention: Joe DiMura. To download a copy of the NOITT go to: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dcs/permits/olpermits/noitt.pdf

General permits may require some type of monitoring, depending on the type of facility. Usually, marinas may only be required to do visual monitoring. Information on storm water management can be found on DEC's website at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm

* Editor's Note: For more information on requirements for [Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans in New York](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/industri.htm#ppp),
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/industri.htm#ppp>

For a copy of a sample Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for a hypothetical marina, see the pdf version of this file (<http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/pdfs/marinaswppp.pdf>), or the MS Word version of the plan that can be edited (<http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/pdfs/marinaswppp.doc>).