

OHIO SEA GRANT AND STONE LABORATORY

OUTREACH

Reducing Pollution in Ohio's Lakes and Rivers through Marinas Partnership

Impact Statement 2020

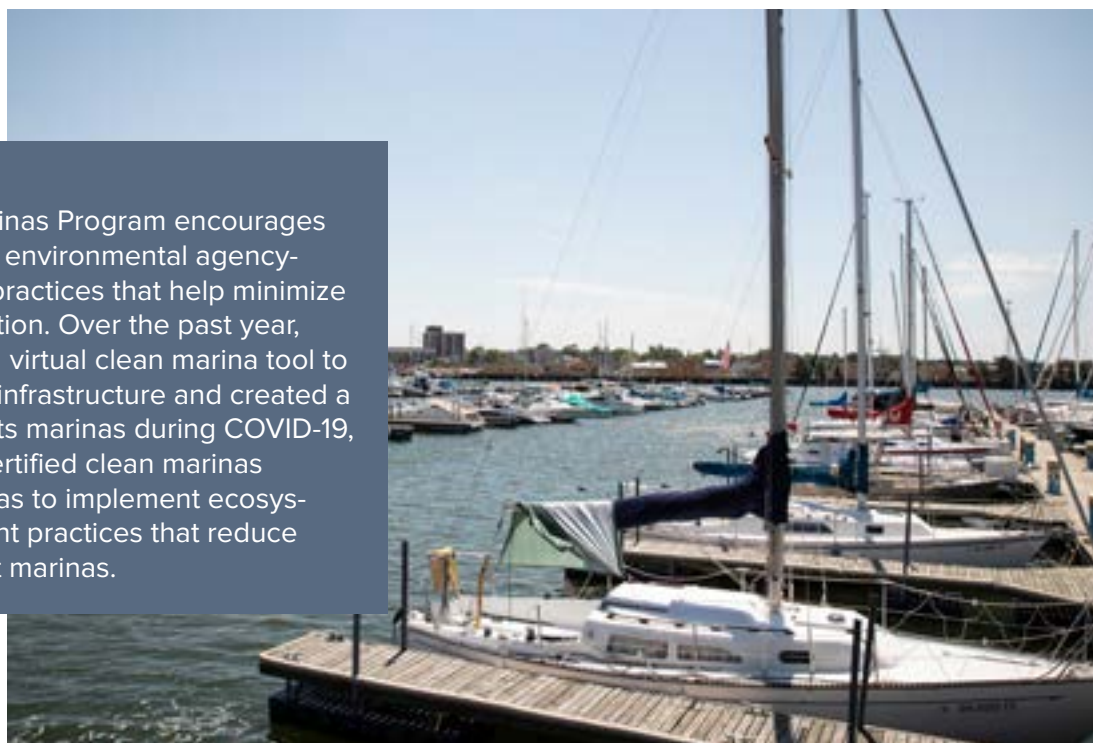
INVESTIGATOR

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SUMMARY

Ohio Sea Grant's Clean Marinas Program encourages marinas to voluntarily adopt environmental agency-approved pollution control practices that help minimize the potential for water pollution. Over the past year, the program has launched a virtual clean marina tool to introduce marinas to green infrastructure and created a virtual site visit process for its marinas during COVID-19, working with a total of 83 certified clean marinas and 49 pledged Ohio marinas to implement ecosystem-based best management practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution at marinas.



SITUATION

Marinas, like many industries, generate pollution. Because of their nearshore location, marinas serve as a “last chance” to address nonpoint pollution before it enters Lake Erie and other waterways. Ohio Sea Grant's Clean Marinas Program encourages marinas to voluntarily adopt environmental agency-approved pollution control practices that help minimize potential for water pollution.



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RESPONSE

In 2005, Ohio Sea Grant, the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources partnered to develop the Ohio Clean Marinas Program. Initially limited to marinas in the Lake Erie watershed, Ohio Sea Grant, the Ohio Coastal Management Program and the ODNR Division of Parks & Watercraft supported the expansion of the program in 2015 to a statewide certification effort. In 2018, a new, tiered certification program was launched to reinvigorate the 10-year-old program and provide opportunities for continued growth and additional chances for Ohio's marina industry to help protect water quality. Three educational workshops and conferences were held in 2020 with 100+ individuals, organizations and marinas participating. To adjust to a COVID-19 environment, the program also created a virtual initial site review process that provided 5 ongoing site reviews to evaluate marinas' implementation of best management practices and lessen their impacts on water quality. With a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, the program partnered with Michigan and Wisconsin Sea Grant to create a virtual reality visualization tool in 2020 that would show marinas how they can incorporate greeninfrastructure practices into their facilities.



IMPACT

In spite of COVID-19 challenges in 2020, the Ohio Clean Marinas Program conducted 11 site reviews for technical assistance to help improve environmental best management practices to reduce pollution to Ohio's waterways. One new marina was certified at platinum-level status, and a virtual reality tool was completed to aid in environmental education for the recreational boating community in Ohio.

CONTACT

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