

The image features a central white circle with a thick green border. Inside this circle, the text "The Dirt on Boat Wash Stations" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font. Surrounding the central circle are various abstract elements: a white zigzag line on the left, a small orange circle at the bottom left, a larger orange circle at the top right, a set of four parallel white diagonal lines on the right, and a large, solid orange circle in the bottom right corner.

The Dirt on Boat Wash Stations



Most effective way to remove aquatic invasives is rinsing your boat with hot high-pressure water





There is interest in Ohio in setting up similar boat washing stations as concerns about hydrilla and other aquatic invasives rise



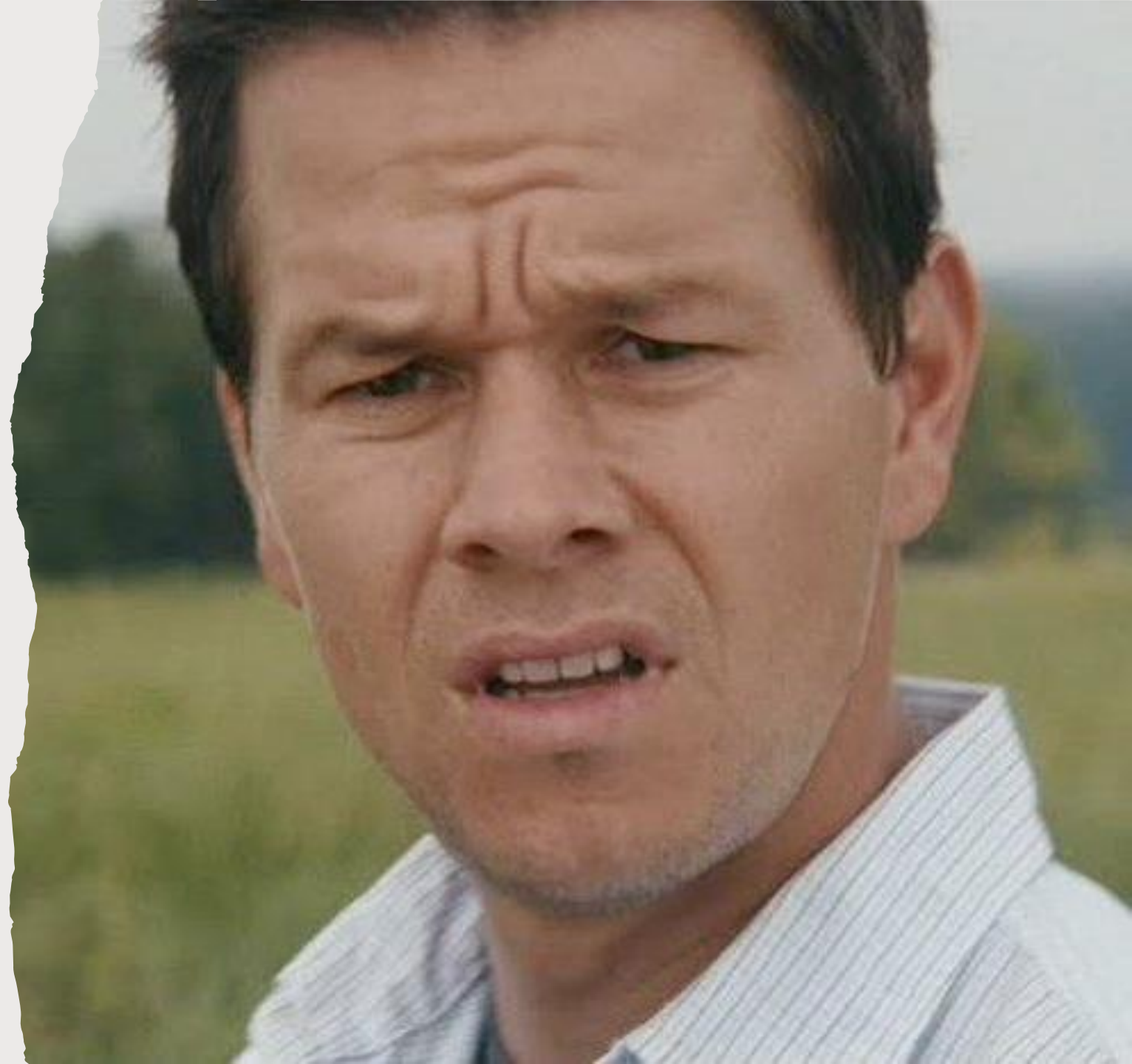
Clean Water Act

- A business cannot discharge industrial wastewater into waters of the state without obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from Ohio EPA.
- Water from pressure washing is considered an industrial wastewater



The confusion

- So how are all these other states getting away with boat washing stations?



NEW BOAT WASH STATION AT GENEVA STATE PARK HELPS PROTECT LAKE ERIE WATERS

October 23, 2024



Workshops Set to Educate Marinas on Best Practices

GENEVA, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) announced a new state-of-the-art boat wash station at Geneva Marina located in Geneva State Park through the Ohio Clean Marinas Program.

The new boat wash station uses a system that cleans and reuses water from power washing and prevents harmful materials contained in the wastewater from running off into Lake Erie, such as algae, paint chips, and invasive species like zebra mussels or aquatic plants like hydrilla. The wastewater is then treated with bromide and UV light, so it can be reused, saving water and money.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Adding to the confusion:

- ODNR Completed a boat washing station at Geneva to prepare boats for winterization
- This process is different from AIS boat washing stations because the process can lead to paint leaching in the water
- AIS removal is not intended to strip paint, only remove plant/animal life

So how are other states offering boat wash cleaning stations?

Option 1: Go waterless

- Less effective but no regulations



Option 2: Capture wastewater

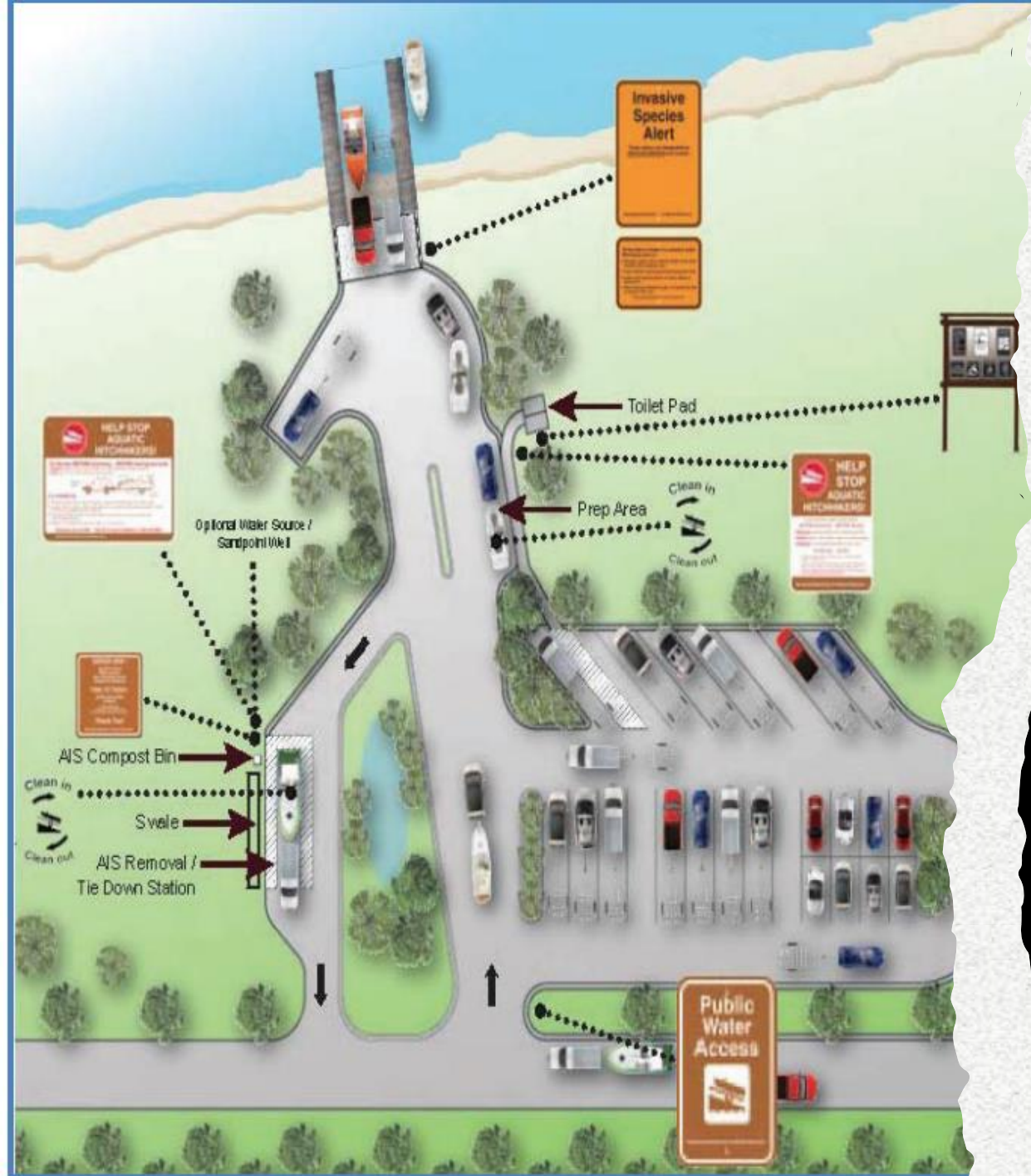
- Some states require water be captured and disposed of
- Will have to work with wastewater hauler or POTW to dispose of water



**Option 3: work
with EPA to
create rules to
safely manage
the wastewater**

Michigan's rules that do not require a permit

- No overland flow to surface water
- No soap, chemicals, or other additives used during washing
- Written permission from property manager
- Discharge occurs over grass/soil and not on paved or gravel areas conducive to runoff
- There are no nuisances or hazardous conditions created such as ponding or flooding



Summary

- Watered boat washing stations where the water is not captured would require a NPDES permit from the EPA
- Other states have developed guidance on watered boat washing stations for AIS that allow them to be exempt from stricter permitting
- Industrial boat washing and AIS boat washing have different goals but pollutants can be generated with either
- The Clean Marinas Team is ready to assist with wading through these regulations to get watered boat wash stations in Ohio