OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 32 – MARINA FACILITIES

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO REGULATE MARINA CONSTRUCTION THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT MARINAS WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE SANITARY FACILITIES FOR THE WATERCRAFT USING THE MARINA, AND THAT SUCH MARINAS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED, LOCATED, MAINTAINED, AND OPERATED IN A SANITARY MANNER SO AS NOT TO CREATE A NUISANCE OR CAUSE A HEALTH HAZARD (O.R.C. 3733.21 THROUGH 3733.30 AND O.A.C. 3701-35).

Authorities and Administration

The Public Health Council has adopted statewide regulations, pursuant to O.R.C. 3733.22, governing marinas and the inspection and issuance of licenses for all marinas (O.A.C. 3701-35). The intent of the marina law is to ensure that Ohioans using recreational watercraft, as well as surrounding areas, will be protected from unsafe drinking water and pollution hazards from improperly disposed wastes, accident hazards, and other unsanitary conditions. This is accomplished by establishing uniform, minimum health and safety requirements for marinas throughout the state. Such marinas will provide adequate sanitary facilities for the watercraft using them, and will be constructed, located, maintained, and operated in a sanitary manner so as not to create a nuisance or cause a health hazard.

No person shall construct a marina, alter the sanitary facilities of a marina, or substantially increase the size or number of watercraft using the marina, unless the Director of ODH has approved plans for the construction, alteration or increase. Plans must be submitted for review to and approved by the Director of ODH at least 60 days before any construction, alteration or increase begins. During the month of March, a license to operate an existing marina for that year must be obtained from the Board of Health of the health district in which the marina is located (O.R.C. 3733.24). If a new marina is to be constructed, application must be made for a license from the Board of Health district in which the marina is to be located at the same time as submission of the plans to the Director of ODH. Before a license is initially issued, and annually thereafter, the Board of Health inspects each marina, compiles a record of each inspection, and requires each marina to satisfactorily comply with O.R.C. 3733.21 et seq. and the regulations adopted thereunder. The following are the criteria for licensing: approved plan, minimum sanitary facilities, waste disposal facilities, minimum safety equipment, vector control and nuisance prevention (O.A.C. 3701-35-01 to 3701-35-09). Marinas that provide dockage for watercraft with installed sewage holding tanks must provide sewage pump-out facilities (O.A.C. 3701-35-05).

Additionally, the Ohio Clean Marinas Program, implemented in 2003, is a proactive partnership to encourage marinas and boaters to use simple, innovative solutions to keep Ohio's coastal and inland waterway resources clean. Information can be found at www.sg.ohio-state.edu/cleanmarina/.