



# Keep the Delta Clean

*You Play in it. You drink it, too!*

## Boater Kit Educational Messages

Thank you for teaming up with the Keep the Delta Clean Program! We are one big family of caring California boaters and supporters, spreading the news about safe, convenient and clean boating habits on our beautiful Delta waterways. We really appreciate your time, energy and support!

The Boater Kits were designed to promote the implementation of environmentally-sound and safe boating practices which are associated with each item in the Kit. Each piece is specially designed to be of interest, value, and have real benefit to boaters. (The retail value of each Boater Kit is approximately \$35, and you might even mention this to your audience.) With face-to-face education known to be the best way to spread clean and safe boating information, it is important that time is taken to review the key items with each boater that you speak with. Their answers to a five minute anonymous questionnaire—which can contribute to better boater services at their favorite marinas—plus a minute of their time to learn these important messages, is well worth the free Kit *and* the clean water results that we all enjoy and appreciate.



### Recommended Tips for Distributing Kits:

1. In order to capture boaters' attention, a recommended strategy is to show the boater kits and tell the boater that it is free.
2. **Before** handing the boater kit to the boater, it is important to ask boaters to first fill out the **2008 Boater Questionnaire** indicating that it will only take about 5 minutes of their time.
3. When the boater returns the survey to you, quickly look it over to see that it is complete.
4. Once you have collected the questionnaire, please discuss the materials included in the boater kits with the recipient, emphasizing the main message associated with each of the materials (See the main messages below). *Be aware that the most significant items are the Recreational Boater Map and oil absorbent pillow.*

### Main Messages

- **Prevent oily discharges into the water.**

To prevent leaked engine oil from accidentally polluting the water when the bilge pump activates, use oil absorbents (show the bilge pillow) in the bilge near the engine. There is a loop on the pillow, which can be secured with the included zip tie; this keeps the pillow out of the way. Pillows can also be kept onboard just-in-case. When the pillow is used to clean up oil, it becomes hazardous waste, and cannot be thrown in the trash.

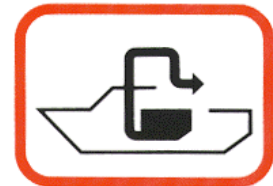
- **Take used absorbents, oil, and oil filters to a conveniently located hazardous waste facility. These products are recyclable.**

Review pillow cover sheet and boater map to find Delta marina oil absorbent exchange centers nearby, or note the phone number and Web site to locate statewide facilities: 1 (800) CLEANUP (253-2687) or visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org). Drop off the used absorbent, and pick up a new one for free. *Please read over*



*the information included on the pillow cover sheet to learn more.*

- **It is illegal to use soaps or other dispersants to remove an oil sheen in the water.** It is **illegal** to use soaps or any bilge cleaning products to remove an oil sheen on the water. These products pollute the environment and make the problem worse by chemically bonding the oil/fuel with the water.
- **Other things boater can do to prevent spills:**
  - ✓ Change oil using a closed system, such as a manual or electric pump.
  - ✓ Use the Delta boating map to see what environmental services are offered at Delta marinas. The back of the map also contains clean & safe boating, regulatory, and emergency information.
  - ✓ Practice periodic preventive engine maintenance; keeping engines well tuned and working at a peak efficiency.
- **Report all oil and chemical spills by calling the National Response Center and the CA Office of Emergency Services.** These phone numbers are included on the back of the map (24 Hour Emergency Response section).
- **Reduce spillage from refueling.** Leave room for fuel to expand. Choose to refuel on land whenever possible. Install fuel spill prevention devices and use absorbents for spills.
- **Raw sewage should never be discharged overboard** within the three-mile territorial limit (SF Bay and the Delta). No sewage, treated or untreated, should be discharged in a No-Discharge Zone (NDZ). The CA NDZs are included in the Clean Boating Habits publication on page 19. Use a pump-out or dump station. Check the map for locations or call 1 (800) CLEANUP (253-2687), visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) or [www.dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov). Avoid holding tanks disinfectants that contain chlorine, formaldehyde or other components that can harm the environment. Know the holding tank capacity and use a pumpout log to track it. Leave at least 10% of the tank free of sewage and empty it on a regular basis. Full and overfull tanks are difficult and dangerous to drain.
- **Keep all pollutants out of the water.** Pollutants include boat maintenance and cleaning products, toxic hull paints, and trash. Use less toxic cleaning products and more elbow-grease. Avoid bilge cleaners that contain detergents or emulsifiers, The Clean Boating Habits publication page 6 and the back of the Delta boating map provide more recommendations.
- **Stash your trash.** Avoid excess packaging, pack food in reusable containers; designate an area in the boat to stash the trash and bring it back. Apply the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Clean up litter and debris. Keep cigarette butts out of the water--they are not biodegradable.
- **Always keep safety in mind.** See the “ABCs of the California Boating Law” for current boat safety regulations. Suggest that boaters to read the “ABCs” and take one of the safety classes provided by DBW, the Power Squadrons, or the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Check the back of the Delta boating map for more information.



**REMEMBER: EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS**

**Boaters want to protect our shared water resources.  
They just need good information and access to free, convenient public services.**