



Port of Skagit

La Conner Marina

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



At the La Conner Marina, we are proud to be a Certified Clean Marina. We care about the health of Puget Sound and we ask you to assist in keeping our marine waters clean by following our required Best Management Practices (BMPs).

BMPs are simple actions that you can take to prevent pollution from entering our marina basins. Our goal is to partner with you in the protection and enjoyment of our waters. Please contact the marina office at (360) 466-3118 with any questions regarding these topics or any other boating needs you may have. We are happy to assist you in your efforts to comply.

SPILLS

- Report in-water oil and fuel spills immediately to Port staff, Washington State Department of Ecology (1-800-OILS-911), and the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802). Port staff will respond to any call with a mobile spill kit.
- If you cause a spill, stop the source and clean it up immediately.
- Spill kits are located at both wash pads and at the haul-out pier. Clean up any spills with absorbent pads. Do not hose down spills.
- Do not use detergents or soaps to clean up fuel or oil spills as this makes recovery impossible. While enzyme-based cleaners are safe to use, it may take some time before the oil sheen is gone. It is best to remove contaminated water and dispose of it appropriately on shore. The discharge of emulsified oil is a violation of state law.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

- Boat hulls with soft or ablative anti-fouling paint shall not be scrubbed or cleaned in the marina by divers or with underwater scrubbing devices. Approved haul-out facilities must be used for these coatings. Mechanical devices or scrapers, or any process that removes paint underwater, may not be used.
- Divers are not allowed to leave any sort of material in the water including film, debris or zinc.
- Contractors must dispose of their own waste off site. The marina is not permitted to handle hazardous wastes generated by commercial operators or maintenance contractors.

BOAT WASHING – IN WATER

- In-water boat washing should be limited to the topside. No in-water hull cleaning or work below the water line is allowed. Use the haul-out and upland wash pads for hull cleaning.
- We recommend baking soda and vinegar for washing. If these are not available, use small amounts of phosphate-free and biodegradable, non-toxic soaps. Soaps listed as “biodegradable” are not necessarily “non-toxic” or “non-polluting”.
- If cleaners are used, no visible suds or discoloration of the water is permitted.

BOAT WASHING – UPLAND WASH PADS

- Boat wash pads are reserved for marina tenants and haul-out customers. No trailer-in use is permitted.
- Pressure washing must be approved by Port of Skagit staff.
- Only boats with hard-bottom paints can be pressure washed. Soft bottom paints cannot be pressure washed.

BILGE WATER

- Bilge water may contain oil, antifreeze, dispersants, solvents, or other toxic liquids and must be pumped, collected, and disposed of properly.
- Do not pump bilge water into the marina. Haul-out staff can take up to 5 gallons of bilge water. For larger amounts contact a private contractor. Install a manual bilge pump shut off to avoid discharging contaminated bilge water.
- Never drain oil, antifreeze, or other liquids into the bilge. If bilge water is contaminated with oil, use absorbents to remove oil before draining bilge water.

- Never dispose of contaminated bilge water on the ground, in storm drains, or dumpsters. Washington State fines for discharging oil from a bilge can amount to as much as \$20,000 per day per violation.
- In Washington, boats that are over 26 feet are required to display an “Oil Discharge is Prohibited” placard near the bilge pump switch. Placards are available at most marine supply stores.

IN-WATER MAINTENANCE WORK

- No underwater hull cleaning, repair, or modifications are allowed.
- Repairs, modifications, surface preparation, or coating of the topside or superstructure of boats is allowable on the deck in water if the work is minimal (less than 25% of topside) and all particles, oils, grits, dusts, flakes, chips, drips, sediments, debris and other solids are collected and managed to prevent their release into the marina.

SURFACE PREPARATION AND REFINISHING

- Cleaning, repair, modification, surface preparation or coating of any portion of a vessel’s hull may be conducted only in an approved upland boatyard facility.

SEWAGE AND GRAY WATER

- Never discharge sewage directly in the marina. Discharge within three miles of the coast (or anywhere in Puget Sound, including the La Conner Marina) is illegal and subject to fines. Pump-out stations are located on Docks F and G.
- Y-valves must be safety wired to ensure sewage flows into the holding tank only.
- Minimize detergent use in on-board sinks and showers and dispose of gray water at shore-side facilities.
- Marine sanitation device (MSD) repair or replacement can be done at an approved boatyard.

ENGINE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

- Engine and propulsion system repair/replacement, and fuel and lubrication system repair/replacement can be done at an approved boatyard.
- No in-water engine repair or replacement is allowed.

FUELING

- No boat fueling is allowed anywhere except at the fuel dock.
- Do not top-off or overfill tanks. Warm weather and direct sunlight can cause expansion and a fuel vent spill.
- Place a bucket or an absorbent pad at the fuel vent in case of accidental overflow.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

- Store all garbage on your boat for shore-side disposal. Dispose of waste at waste stations; never leave waste on the docks.
- Waste and recycling stations are located in the south basin, at the marina office, and at the north basin haul-out pier. These locations can accept the following materials:
 - ✓ Mixed paper and cardboard
 - ✓ Cans, plastics, and glass
 - ✓ Batteries
 - ✓ Zincs
 - ✓ Used oil
 - ✓ Oily rags
 - ✓ Used antifreeze

A fourth garbage-only station is located near the commercial dock in the North Basin.

Large household items and toxic or hazardous materials cannot be disposed of in these areas (except for antifreeze, oil, batteries, zincs, and spent absorbents). Empty paint cans may be disposed of in the dumpsters if the paint is completely dry.

HAZARDOUS WASTES

- Never dispose of antifreeze, oil, batteries, spent absorbent pads, zincs, and other hazardous wastes in the marina, storm drains, or dumpsters. These items can be disposed of at waste stations in the appropriately labeled containers. Port staff can provide assistance if needed.
- **Antifreeze:** Used antifreeze must be collected (large container provided by marina staff) over the wash pads and disposed of in the appropriate used antifreeze container at the waste areas. Do not mix other fluids in with antifreeze.
- **Oil:** Use drip pans or other containment devices during oil transfer operations. Oil changes must be conducted over the wash pads. Do not mix other fluid with oil. Contaminated oil cannot be recycled and is expensive to dispose.
- **Paint:** No storage of paint, solvents, or other chemicals is allowed on the ground or around the boat. These materials must be securely stored under cover, away from storm drains. Buy only what you need and take excess paints and chemicals home or dispose of them at the Skagit County Transfer Station (360-424-9532). There is no fee for Skagit County residents.
- **Zincs:** Zincs used as sacrificial anodes can be disposed of at the designated waste stations in containers labeled “ZINCS”. Do not dispose of zincs overboard, in garbage cans, or in dumpsters.