

National Park Service  
2007 Environmental Achievement Awards

**Honorable Mention**

**National Capital Region Green Marina Team**

*“The Clean Marina Program: A National Park Service and District of Columbia Government Partnership”*

In 2002, the National Capital Region (NCR) Clean Marina Program (CMP) began as a partnership between the NPS National Capital Region (NCR) and the District of Columbia Department of Environmental Health (DC DEH). The partnership was formed to address numerous environmental infractions and costly fines from federal and State agencies due to noncompliance at marinas located in the NCR.

The CMP laid the foundation for managing the NCR marinas in a sustainable fashion, eventually leading to complete compliance with applicable state and federal regulations. Although the CMP is voluntary, the local boating community came to understand the benefits of compliance (i.e., that it is cheaper to be in compliance than to pay fines for noncompliance).

In order to be considered “clean,” those managing marina operations must not only comply with the regulations but go beyond compliance by implementing recognized Best Management Practices (BMPs). The Clean Marina Guidebook, developed by NCR with assistance from the DC DEH, is the backbone of the program and outlines a methodical process for achieving and going beyond compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations. The Guidebook educates marina operators by identifying the numerous regulations a marina operator must adhere to as well as marina BMPs that are recognized by the boating industry. In addition, the Guidebook is used to measure and evaluate the Clean Marina certification status of marinas.

The NPS has benefited from this innovative partnership in many ways, most importantly by obtaining funds from various local sources that allow for continuation of the program. For example, in 2002, the program was awarded the American Planning Association’s *Outstanding Federal Planning Award*, and in 2006, the Marine Environmental Education Foundation awarded the partnership a \$5,000 grant.