



4.11 Fish Waste Management

Sport fishing is one of the most popular uses of boats. However, fish cleaning waste produced by recreational fishermen can become a major nuisance if not properly handled. If recreational fishermen are regularly cleaning their fish at your marina, review the following BMPs to see if any new practices can help improve the situation.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The following laws apply to fish waste disposal. If fish waste is regularly generated at your marina, please read the summary of these regulatory programs in Chapter 6.

- Massachusetts Solid Waste Regulations

Best Management Practices

If fish waste disposal is a potential problem at your facility, the following tips may help you.

- ▷ **Offshore Cleaning and Disposal:** Encourage fishermen to clean fish off-shore and discard fish waste at sea.
- ▷ **Fish Cleaning Area and Rules:** The best way to prevent a problem is by developing and clearly marking a fish cleaning area and posting rules for disposal of fish waste on the marina property. This will prevent fishermen from cleaning and disposing of fish at improper locations.
- ▷ **Fish Cleaning Staff:** Provide a staff person who can clean fish for fishermen for a per pound service charge.
- ▷ **Covered Containers:** Treat fish waste like any other solid waste that requires covered containers.
- ▷ **Fish Cleaning Provisions in Customer Contracts:** Include requirements for cleaning fish in the customer's environmental contract.
- ▷ **Fish Composting:** Compost fish waste where appropriate by mixing it with peat moss or wood chips to make garden mulch. This quickly produces an excellent compost for use in the marina gardens without any odor problem. For more ideas about composting fish waste, refer to The Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Guide found on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's website at www.state.ma.us/dep/recycle/files/leafguid.doc.
- ▷ **Fish Cleaning Stations:** Towns should also consider installing fish cleaning stations at public boat launch ramps and fishing piers.

Useful Contacts

Call Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) at (617) 626-1520 to locate your nearest DMF regional office for assistance.



FISH WASTE MANAGEMENT

Complete this checklist if your customers clean fish at the marina.

Activities that occur at the facility: Fish Brought to the Dock Fish are Cleaned

Check either the "Yes" or "No" column to indicate if you are using each of the BMPs listed below. If the BMP does not apply (you are using a different BMP or the activity does not occur at your marina), put "NA" in the "Yes" column. In the "Action" box, list the next steps for all BMPs where you have checked the "No" column.

BMP	YES/NA	NO	Refer to Page	Action
Offshore Cleaning and Disposal			4-59	
Fish Cleaning Area and Rules			4-59	
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Covered Containers			4-59	
Fish Cleaning Provisions in Customer Contracts			4-59	
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NOTES:
