



MARYLAND CLEAN DIVER PLEDGE



The Maryland Clean Marina Initiative, the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM), professional divers in Maryland, and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) staff have worked together to develop “best management practices” (BMPs) for underwater hull cleaning. It is important to understand that the federal Clean Water Act prohibits releasing any pollutant into U.S. waters so divers must take care not to remove paint in the water. The BMPs below are designed to prevent the accelerated release of metals found in bottom paints (e.g., copper, zinc).

The *Maryland Clean Diver Pledge* is for professional divers who have studied the recommended practices provided by the Maryland Clean Marina Program and agree to follow them when working in Maryland waters. **In addition to the list below, a Tip Sheet on Underwater Hull Cleaning is available at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/cleanmarina/resources.asp>**

Best Management Practices for Divers

- Ask the customer what bottom paint is on the boat before cleaning. Know if it is hard or ablative paint. ***Do not clean ablative paints underwater.*** The [General Permit for Discharges from Marinas](#) prohibits **cleaning ablative paints in the water** at facilities operating under this Permit.
- Refrain from cleaning “hard” paints for a minimum of 60 days after application.
- Clean gently at all times; Stop if you see a plume or cloud in the water.
- Always use the least abrasive material that will effectively clean the painted surfaces:
 - Use soft sponges or soft towels to clean marine growth.
 - Use more rigorous cleaning pads only as needed to remove hard growth.
 - Use stainless steel pads or brushes only on *unpainted* metal areas.
- Never sand, strip or chip bottom paint underwater. Do not use motorized brushes.
- Collect any debris and properly dispose in a receptacle on shore.
- Do not clean the entire hull if it is not dirty; remove only marine growth.
- If you replace sacrificial anodes, bring the old ones ashore for recycling. Many boatyards accept zincs for recycling or visit mdrecycles.org/recycling-directory/ for a list of scrap metal recyclers.
- Provide customers with a copy of your *Maryland Clean Diver Pledge* so they understand your practices.

I certify that I have reviewed the Best Management Practices for Divers and pledge to follow these practices when working in Maryland waters.

Diver’s Signature

Diver’s Printed Name

Date: _____ *[Pledge is valid for one year from this date.]*

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