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# Green Boating Guide

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### Our Message

Canada's coast, with over 243,042 kilometres of coastline, is home to over 10,000 marine species and some scientists feel there are still thousands more waiting to be discovered. There are over 2,800,000 commercial and pleasure vessels that ply these waters. Mariners have always enjoyed the rich bounty of these waters, which continue to provide us healthy fisheries and some of the finest sailing in the world.

Despite its outward beauty, all is not well with our coastal waters. The open ocean refreshes inside waters slowly, which means pollution stays in our safe harbours for years. In addition, rapid population growth and development in the south are increasing pressure on the marine environment. Shellfish contamination, unusual algae blooms and declining fish populations are all indications of a system under stress.

As mariners, we only contribute a small portion of the overall pollution entering our coastal waters, but it often concentrates near sensitive foreshore areas and in confined bays. There's a lot we can do to ensure the future health of our coastal waters. This guide outlines some of the steps we can take to minimize our environmental impacts. Slow down and enjoy the voyage!

For Our Environment

### Spills Get on the blower

Solutions for a healthy coast depend on you. If you see a spill or something floating on the water that is just not right, get the authorities on it. If you have a spill on board, stop the source of the spill and contain the liquid before it reaches the water.

Contact

- Canada Coast Guard 24/7 VHF Channel 16 or Pacific: 1-800-889-8852 Newfoundland: 1-800-563-9089 Maritimes: 1-800-565-1633 Quebec: 1-800-363-4735 Central & Arctic: 1-800-265-0237
  - · Eastern Canada Oil Response Corporation 1-613-230-7369
  - Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team 1-800-645-7911
  - Pacific Emergency Program (24 hours spills of dangerous materials): 1-800-663-3456
  - Environment Canada waste reduction: 1-800-668-6767
  - Fisheries and Oceans fishing violations 1-800-465-4336
  - Marine Mammal hotline 1-800-465-4336
  - · Office of Boating Safety: 1-800-267-6687

## Report all spills that reach the water! Even spills of less than a litre are significant.

Be prepared to answer the following:

- Where, when and how did the spill occur?
- What kind of pollution is it?
- How much was spilled?
- What's the name of the person or vessel that caused the spill?



Red Bat Starfish © Parks Canada and Anna Gajda



### Shellfish FEELING FLUSHED

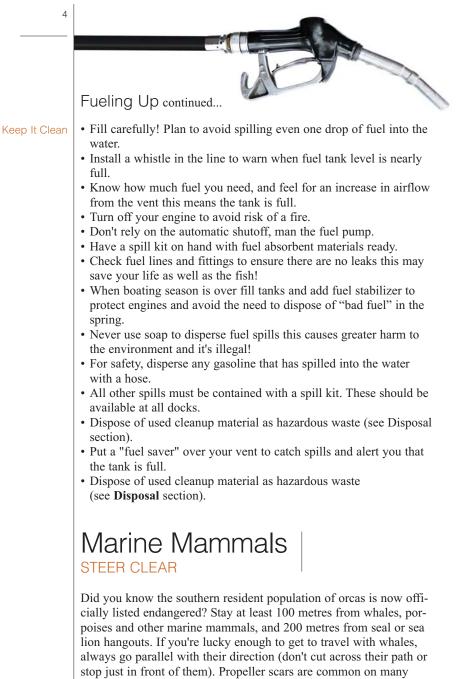
In busy or poorly flushed anchorages, sewage from boats contaminates shellfish beds and swimming beaches. Each year a number of areas suffer from shellfish closures, health risks, and other unpleasant effects. This is no longer acceptable practice. New regulations (May 2007) under the Canadian Shipping Act have been brought in to stop this practice.

Clams, oysters and mussels are filter feeders, which concentrate the disease-causing organisms present in sewage. A single mussel can filter up to 300 times its weight in one hour! If the surrounding waters are polluted with sewage, bacteria and viruses can become concentrated in the shellfish to much higher levels than its surrounding waters. The resulting health risk means the closure of thousands of hectares of shellfish beds every year. This imposes hardships on the businesses and communities that rely on these resources.

### Fueling Up to drip or knot to drip

Chemicals present in fuel react with sunlight to become up to 50,000 times more toxic killing plankton and other species that are essential for a healthy marine environment.

Most fuel dock fuel pumps are able to supply fuel much faster than small and medium sized boats are able to take it. The "kickback" effect or "burping" is a major source of fuel spills. The advice from fuel dock operators is "don't rush your fuelling and don't worry about keeping other boats waiting for an extra minute or two".



marine mammals, use caution when they are near. Avoid erratic maneuvers, and never chase whales or other animals. Minimize your wake and engine noise.

The federal Fisheries Act makes it illegal to disturb marine mammals. Report observed violations or harassment of marine mammals to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans: 1-800-465-4336. For more detailed information on marine mammals and commercial operator best practices, see the Whale Watcher Operators Association's guidelines at nwWhaleWatchers.org.

# Sensitive Areas

Shallow or poorly flushed bays, narrow channels, river and stream estuaries, eelgrass beds and shellfish areas are extremely sensitive to pollutions or boating activity.

Keep all pollution out of these waters (e.g. oil, soap, sewage etc.). Avoid running motors in shallow waters.

**Enclosed bays and narrow channels** experience very little exchange of water and tend to accumulate pollution.

**Estuaries** are used by up to 80 percent of BC's wildlife at some part of its life cycle. These areas are especially important to juvenile and spawning salmon and marine birds.

**Eelgrass and kelp beds** are key habitat for juvenile fish, crabs and shorebirds. Anchors can damage these areas. Use fixed moorings instead where possible.

**Shellfish areas**, mussels, clams and oysters, are an important economic resource on the coast. These and other filter feeders are very sensitive to pollution. Never discharge sewage or other pollution in these areas. Take care to not damage shellfish beds with anchors, dinghies or other activities.

### Clean Bilge BATTLE OF THE BILGE

Oil, fuel, antifreeze and other fluids collect in the bilge and are then pumped overboard, often by automatic pumps. Bilge cleaners, degreasers and soaps — even biodegradable ones — increase harmful effects. These cleaners spread the pollution over a greater volume of water, harming greater numbers of fish and other marine life.

Oil absorbing pads soak up the oil in your bilge, but not the water. These pads are very effective at keeping your bilge and the environment clean. When the pads are saturated, use gloves and wring out the oil into a container for recycling. Re-use the pad. To dispose of worn out pads see the **Disposal** section.

Half a litre of oil will cover an acre of surface water. If every one of the 2,800,000 boats on our coasts spilt just half a litre that would be a 2,800,000-acre oil slick! It all counts!



- Don't pump oily bilge water overboard if it discolours surface water it is pollution. This is a criminal offence!
- Large amounts of fuel or oil in the bilge must be pumped into a closed container and properly disposed of ask at your fuel dock or marine mechanic for advice.
- Secure an oil absorbent pad in your bilge and check it often.
- Chronic fuel or oil in the bilge indicates a leak check all fittings.
- To clean the bilge, pump out uncontaminated water and then wipe out the rest using an EcoLogo cleaner. Don't flush bilges with cleaners.
- Fit a drip tray under your engine to catch any leaks. Install a bilge filtration system

### Solid Waste GARBAGE IN GARBAGE OUT

Trash is ugly and kills fish and wildlife. Plastics can foul props or engine intakes and cause expensive repairs. Don't let trash get thrown, blown or washed overboard. Many remote areas do not have garbage facilities, so plan to bring back everything you take with you. Dispose of all recyclables such as glass, aluminum, plastic, newspapers, batteries and oil in the appropriate marked containers on land. Remember: "reduce, reuse, recycle".

At least 267 different species worldwide are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris including seabirds, turtles, seals, sea lions, whales and fish!

Across Canada, 56,916 volunteers collected 37,618 plastic bottles and 116,138 food wrappers in the 2009 Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Shoreline and recreational activity accounted for more trash than any other category.

#### Keep It Clean

# Marine Birds

Wildlife is sensitive to disturbance from people, boats and pets. Birds often abandon their nests and young, and feeding or other behaviour critical to survival can be disrupted.

There are only 11,000 black oystercatchers left in the world. Between April and August they build camouflaged nests near the shoreline of small islets or spits. These are easy to disturb without even knowing you've done so.

#### Marine Birds

- Don't approach within 100 metres of bird colonies.
- Don't allow pets ashore where they can disturb birds or nests. This can easily kill young birds.
- Marine birds often nest on the ground or in burrows on small islets, cliffs and shorelines. These nests are difficult to see so be careful! For more information contact the Canadian Wildlife Service:1-604-666-0143.

Respect ecological reserves. These are identified on charts.



Long-tailed Jaeger & Arctic Tern © Parks Canada

# Hydraulic System

Biodegradable hydraulic oils are available to run in most systems. The Statue of Liberty uses soy oil, a renewable, biodegradable, non-mineral oil, as its elevator fluid.

- · Regularly inspect fittings and hoses for leaks.
- · Replace worn, cracked or chafed hoses.

# Engine Maintenance

- · Keep engines well-tuned and efficient.
- Use an oil change pump to transfer oil to a fuel dock or to a spill-proof container, then take it to a recycling facility.
- Slip a plastic bag over the oil filter before removing to prevent oil spilling into the bilge.
- · Keep oil-absorbent pads handy to wipe up spills.
- Inspect and fix any leaks or drips.
- Many older engines are bleeders; if you have one, get a drip tray and empty it regularly.
- · Antifreeze is harmful to marine life use only when necessary.
- Dispose of oil, filters, contaminated absorbent pads and other materials correctly (see **Disposal** section).
- · Inspect lines and hoses for deterioration. Prevent lines from chafing.
- Use biodegradable oils whenever possible.

Keep It Clean

Keep It Clean

### BOAT WASTE PUI

#### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Deep Bay Harbour Authority, Bowser Campbell River Harbour Authority, Campbell River Comox Harbour Authority, Comox Dungeness Marina, Cowichan Bay Saltspring Island Harbour Authority, Ganges Gibson's Landing Harbour Authority, Gibsons Gibson's Marina, Gibsons Ladner Harbour Authority, Ladner Lund harbour Authority, Lund Pumpty Dumpty 2 Mobile, Mayne Island Mission Harbour Authority, Mission Port of Nanaimo Eco Barge, Nanaimo Fairwinds Schooner Cove Marina, Nanoose Bay Deep Cove North Shore Marina, North Van Mosquito Creek Marina, North Van Ocean Falls Public Dock, Ocean Falls Harbour Authority of Pender Harbour, Pender Harbour Madeira Park Public Dock, Pender Harbour Point Robert's Marina, Point Roberts Porpoise Bay DFO Govt. Dock, Porpoise Bay Port Hardy Harbour Authority, Port Hardy Port McNeil Harbour Authority, Port McNeill Reed Point Marina, Port Moody Shelter Island Marine, Richmond Pumpty Dumpty 1 Mobile, Saanich Inlet Sandspit Harbour Marina, Sandspit Harbour Authority of Sayward, Sayward Fairwinds Schooner Cove Marina, Schooner Cove Port Sidney Marina, Sidney Tsehum Harbour Authority, Sidney Van Isle Marina, Sidney Steveston Harbour Authority, Steveston Sointula Harbour Authority, Sointula Harbour Authority of Squamish, Squamish Tofino Harbour Authority, Tofino Ucluelet Harbour Authority, Ucluelet Burrard Civic Marina, Vancouver Coal Harbour Marina, Vancouver False Creek Harbour Authority, Vancouver False Creek Yacht Club, Vancouver Heather Civic Marina, Vancouver Coast Harbourside Marina, Victoria Victoria Marina, Victoria

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Cardigan City Wharf, Cardigan Quarter Master Marine, Charlottetown Silver Fox Yacht Club, Summerside

Graphic reproduced with the permission of Natural Resources Canada 2009 Courtesy of the Atlas of Canada

### MP-OUT FACILITIES

#### NOVA SCOTIA

Baddeck Marine, Baddeck Cape Breton Boat Yard, Baddeck Harbour Authority, Ballantyne's Cove Bridgewater Marine Terminal, Bridgewater Chester Red Cross Wharf, Chester Harbour Authority, Cribbon's Point Dartmouth Yacht Club, Dartmouth Dundee Marine, West Bay, Dundee Barra Straight Marina, Grand Narrows Guysborough Waterfront Marina, Guysborough Royal NS Yacht Squadron, Halifax Echo Bay Marine, Lunenburg Scotia Trawler Marina, Lunenburg Mahone Bay Government Wharf, Mahone Bay Straight of Canso Yacht Club, Port Hawkesbury Hector Quay Visitor's Marina, Pictou St. Peter's Lions Marina, St. Peter's Shining Waters Marine, Tantallon SS Marion Sailing Society Wharf, Whycocomagh

#### QUÉBEC

Lord Reading Yacht Club, Beaconsfield Club Nautique de Boucherville, Boucherville Royal Saint Laurence Yacht Club, Dorval Hudson Yacht Club, Hudson Marina St-Mathias, St-Mathias Club de voile des Laurentides, Oka Yacht Club Pointe aux Anglais, Oka La Marina du Port de Québec, Québec Marina de Rimouski Est, Rimouski Est Club Nautique de Roberval, Roberval

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

Bathurst Marina, Bathurst Sawmill Point Boat Basin Marina, Bouctouche Camping Marina, Bas Caraquet Chipman Marina, Chipman Cocagne Marina, Cocagne Regent Street Wharf, Fredericton Gagetown Marina, Gagetown Cocagne Cape Port Authority Marina, Grande-Digue Douglas Harbour, Grand Lake Belleisle Bay Marina, Hampton Saint John Marina, Ltd., Ketepec Mactaguac Provincial Park Marina, Mactaguac Miramichi Boat and Yacht Club, Miramichi Station Wharf Marina, Miramichi Oromocto Boat Club, Oromocto Rothesay Yacht Club, Rothesay RK Yacht Club, Millidgeville Marina, Saint John St. Andrews Market Wharf, St. Andrews Shediac Bay Marina, Shediac Pointe du Chêne Marina, Shediac

# Exhaust System

Conventional 2-stroke outboards discharge up to 25 percent of their fuel/oil mixture straight into the water. Just think, if you used 20 gallons of fuel you might as well have poured a 5 gallon can of gas and oil into the water!!!

#### Keep It Clean

- · Always keep your engine well-tuned.
- Choose 4-stroke or oil injected 2-stroke outboards instead of conventional 2-strokes. They're better for the environment, save fuel costs, and are quieter.
- Some new inboard diesel and gas engines produce less air pollution. Consider this when choosing your next engine.



One of the greatest potential sources of pollution is the dryland area in shipyards where boats are hauled out for cleaning. Most of us enjoy blasting away with the pressure washer to clean the bottom. Unfortunately, the paint residue that we remove is toxic, and when we wash it down the storm drain it goes straight into the water.

Very few shipyards have installed recirculating systems because of the cost and the difficulty of disposing of the toxic sludge that is collected. Until these systems are in place, boaters can eliminate the problem by using a "drop sheet" to collect residue from cleaning, sanding or painting. Responsible shipyards insist on this. Don't feel shy about suggesting this practice to other boaters.



Have your boat hauled out annually, and plan to do any substantial work on dry land, where you can contain waste products and keep them out of the marine environment.

- · Choose hard antifouling or new "non-fouling" paints.
- Only use a soft brush or cloth to clean your hull in the water. This prevents the release of toxic paint into the environment.
- Don't buy more than you need. Reseal and keep for future use.
- Avoid tide grids for sanding, scraping or painting. If other options are not available, use a groundsheet to collect spills as well as residue from sanding or scraping, then dispose of this properly.

# Deck Maintenance

Any foreign substance entering the water can hurt marine life. To minimize the risk, you should do most of your work on land. Follow these steps when minor dockside work can't be avoided check with your harbour authority for its policy on this.

- Don't let anything fall in the water, including sanding dust, solvents, strippers etc. Choose water-soluble solvents.
- Ensure that sanders, grinders and other tools have dust collection fittings in place.
- Be prepared! Always have absorbent pads or rags on hand to contain spills.
- Contain the mess! Use tarps on the dock and between the dock and the boat to catch spills and other materials.
- Mix paints and other liquids on shore and have only small amounts open on the dock or boat at any time.
- Don't wash parts over the water. Wash over a bucket or in a parts washer.
- Never pour paint or other liquid wastes down storm drains or any other drain.
- Before doing any work on your boat ask your marina or boatyard for a copy of Environment Canada's Best Management Practices.
- Become familiar with where to dispose of paints, solvents and other wastes.

Keep It Clean

Keep It Clean

 Cleaning Hatches & Decks
SWABBING THE DECKS

Dish soap, bilge cleaner and many other marine cleaning products that go down your boat's drains or out your scuppers are harmful to fish and other marine life. These products go untreated into the water and stay there. Use certified ecologo products or vinegar and water, with a healthy dose of elbow grease.

#### Keep It Clean

- Use the Environmental Choice or Green-Seal ecologo symbols as a guide to less harmful products.
- Read labels and look for non-toxic, chlorine-free, phosphate-free products.
- Minimize your use of soaps and detergents.
- Check out "Alternative Cleaners" (see next page).

Choosing environmentally friendly cleaning products can be confusing. In Canada, manufacturers don't have to substantiate claims such as "green" or "environmentally friendly". If you are buying cleaning products, here are some of the terms you may encounter.

Term	Explanation
Environmental Choice	The Canadian Environmental Choice ecologo indicates that a product has been certified by an independent third party. The certification criteria used is established through a multi-sectoral consultative process. EnvironmentalChoice.com has a section dedicated to marine products. These products are widely accepted for providing a high level of environmental protection.
Green-Seal	The US Green-Seal ecologo indicates that a product meets the non- profit organization's science-based environmental certification standard. GreenSeal.org has a list of certified cleaning products. These products are also widely accepted for providing a high level of environmental protection.
Biodegradable	Product naturally breaks down, but sometimes into harmful components.
Surfactants	Surface active agents are in all soaps and detergents to create suds they attach to fish's gills, destroying their ability to breathe.
Chlorine	Found in bleach and other cleaning products, it forms the basis of dioxins and other deadly compounds that cause cancer and damage growth, development and reproduction in humans, fish and other wildlife.
Phosphate- Free	Adding phosphates can lead to eutrophication, fostering algal blooms and leading to severe water quality problems.

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Keep It Clean

- Never use chlorine bleach or products containing chlorine.
- Choose all soaps and detergents carefully, and use the minimum amount necessary.

Remember: Choose your cleaning products carefully!

# Alternative Cleaners

Use these alternatives to augment Environmental Choice or Green Seal ecologo cleaning products.

Task	Alternative Cleaners
Decks/Hatches	1 part vinegar to 8 parts water
Fibreglass	Baking soda and salt (in wet paste)
Aluminium	1 tbsp. cream of tartar in 1/2 litre hot water
Brass	Worcestershire sauce, vinegar and salt solution
Chrome	Vinegar and salt solution
Chrome/Metal	Polish with baby oil
Copper	Lemon juice and salt solution
Clear Plastic/Glass	1 part vinegar to 2 parts water
Mildew	Vinegar and salt solution or tea tree oil
Wood (interior)	Polish with olive oil
Bleaching	Hydrogen peroxide bleach (NOT chlorine bleach)
Scouring	Baking soda and water paste
Hair	Baby shampoo (phosphate-free & pH balanced)
Shower/Toilet	Wet area & scour with baking soda
Hands	Baby oil to remove grease or paint Margarine or use organic citrus extract based
Dishes	Use minimal amounts of dish soap. Choose non- petroleum based soaps (eg. Nature Clean)
Aprés Cleaning	1 part rum to 2 parts fruit juice mix with ice

### Hazardous Waste Disposal

The following substances are listed as special marine wastes and should only be disposed of at the appropriate facilities. Never mix hazardous substances!

Substance	Disposal Information
Used oil	Most fuel docks (check first), some public docks and harbour authorities
Oil filters	Most fuel docks (check first), some public docks and harbour authorities
Oil absorbents	Most fuel docks (check first), some public docks and harbour authorities
Stale or contaminated gas	Most fuel docks (check first), some public docks and harbour authorities
Solvents & thinners	Some retailers, Local recycling depot
Paints & varnishes etc.	Some retailers, Local recycling depot
Antifouling paint	Some retailers, Local recycling depot
Batteries	Battery retailers, Local recycling depot
Antifreeze	Most fuel docks (check first), some public docks and harbour authorities

Web resource to help identify recycling facilities: **www.productcare.org**, **www.usedoilrecycling.com**. Use the B.C. Recycling Hotline **1-800-667-4321** or N.S. Solid Waste Hotline 1-877-313-7732 when you do not have web access.



Notes
Confirm disposal location before changing oil. Do not mix fuel and oil!
Drain first and dispose of oil as above.
Wring out and reuse (dispose of the liquid with used oil). Dispose of when no longer useable.
Store and transport only in "ULC" approved containers. Keep fuel out of oil collection facilities!
Allow sediments to settle and then re-use.
Share product if still useable. Some recycling depots have a paint sharing service.
Store carefully and save for future use rather than disposing.
Handle carefully, always use gloves and eye protection.
Propylene glycol is harmful to marine mammals and ethylene glycol is harmful to fish. All should be recovered and recycled.

#### OF NOTE:

Keep a material disposal record, log: Facility name, phone, address, materials taken, hours etc. 18

# Boat Sewage

The new Vessel Pollution Prevention Regulations are designed to protect our marine environment. Raw vessel sewage contains pathogens that can cause illnesses, it will reduce available oxygen for local marine life, it could cause toxic algae blooms and may contain toxic chemical additives.

#### Simple Rules

- Do not discharge sewage while stopped or within three nautical miles of shore.
- Store sewage in holding tanks. Dispose regularly at pumpout stations, or hire a mobile pumpout service.
- Ensure your vessel's marine sanitation device (MSD) is work properly and discharge only when underway and a sufficient distance from shore. MSDs should not be discharged at dock or at anchor.
- Use shore-side restrooms rather than boat heads, whenever possible.

# Ballast Tanks



The discharge of ballast water and sediment can lead to the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens from one marine environment to another. Although vessels that travel exclusively in Canadian waters are exempt from Canadian ballast water regulations, when inside Canadian territorial waters, ballast water should be discharged away from shore, or in designated discharge zones. Transport Canada keeps an approved list of ballast water discharge zones.

# Gear Overboard

Davy Jones' locker doesn't need any more stuff! The reality is that when you are on the water you are faced with wind, water and waves that try hard to knock stuff off your boat. If it moves, stow it or tie it down! This is not only good seamanship; this protects other mariners and marine life from unnecessary hazards.

# Fuel Efficiency

The most important fuel saving device on any vessel is the throttle.

*By reducing your speed by as little as 25% you can save up to 50% on your fuel bill.* 

- · Slow down and enjoying the voyage!
- · Plan trips around tidal currents and weather
- Install a fuel flow meter. Monitor fuel consumption at different rpm's to find the most efficient speed for your vessel.

#### Maintaining a well-tuned engine

- If your exhaust is not virtually invisible, then your engine requires maintenance.
- Black exhaust indicates that the engine is overloaded, starved for combustion air or has worn injectors.
- Blue exhaust indicates that there is oil in the combustion chamber caused by worn rings or valve guides.

#### Outboard motors

- The conventional 2-stroke outboard engine uses considerably more fuel than the newer 4 stroke motors.
- The conventional 2-stroke engine also puts up to 25% of its fuel/oil mixture straight back into the water.

#### Hull cleaning and maintenance

- A "dirty bottom" or rough hull will increase drag on the vessel.
- All underwater attachments to the hull such as zincs, transducers and keel coolers should be faired to the hull on the leading and trailing edges will also help prevent underwater drag on the vessel.

Engine, gear, shaft and propeller

- They should be well matched to deliver maximum efficiency to the individual hull design.
- A propeller with bent blades, dings or eroded edges will decrease your fuel efficiency significantly.
- The diameter size of the propeller is also very important for maximum performance.

### Feedback & Support GET ONBOARD!

Help care for our coastal waters. The T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation is a charitable marine conservation organization whose goals are to protect habitat, prevent pollution, and promote sustainable fisheries on Canada's coastal waters — truly one of the world's richest marine ecosystems.

You can help us ensure that future generations get a chance to enjoy these magnificent waters too, by making a tax deductible donation online at www.BuckSuzuki.org or by mail to: #100 - 326 12th Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 4H6

All donations to T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation are tax deductible. If you would like a receipt for donations less than \$20, please request one.





### GREEN BOATING TIPS

If you have a green boating tip that you think should be in our guide, contact us at **1-866-960-1398**, or at: **www.BuckSuzuki.org.** An award may be made to the person providing the best green boating tip of the year.

Is what you put in the water safe? **Think of the impacts** if 2,800,000 commercial and pleasure boaters do the same thing!

**Get involved!** A recent survey found that most boaters would prefer shipyards with high environmental standards. Ask your shipyard to look at ways to improve its environmental performance. This includes facilities such as pump-outs and oil collection, as well as signs on docks showing how and where to recycle used products. There are many groups working to protect and restore our coast and its watersheds, your help is appreciated!



Solar Powered Ecodock

Get Involved

Polar Bear © Parks Canada

We welcome your comments and feedback. Please contact us at www.BuckSuzuki.org or 1-866-960-1398.

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