



Criteria for Marinas



**BLUE FLAG
CANADA**
blueflag.ca



environmental
defence

Canadian operator
of Blue Flag



The Blue Flag is an internationally recognized and respected eco-label that is awarded annually to beaches and marinas which have met strict criteria in four categories: Water Quality, Environmental Management, Environmental Education, and Safety & Services. The Blue Flag program was founded in 1987 and is run internationally by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a non-profit organization based in Denmark. There are currently over 4,000 Blue Flags flying in 48 countries.

Canada's National Operator of the Blue Flag program is Environmental Defence, a national environmental charity. In 2016, Blue Flags were awarded to 26 beaches and seven marinas across the country.

What makes the Blue Flag program so unique and successful is its holistic nature. The standards were developed to ensure that Blue Flag sites are not only clean and environmentally sustainable, but provide the facilities and services that tourists around the world look for. It is for this reason that the Blue Flag program is embraced by the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization, and the United Nations Environmental Programme.

The Blue Flag criteria for marinas are organized into four main categories: Environmental Education, Water Quality, Environmental Management, and Safety & Services. The criteria are further categorized as either imperative or guideline. Imperative criteria must be complied with in order for a marina to be awarded a Blue Flag. Guideline criteria are strongly encouraged, but are not mandatory.

Blue Flag performs random and announced control visits to Blue Flag marinas during the boating season in order to ensure that all criteria are being met. This is critical to ensure that all awarded marinas uphold the integrity of the program.

DEFINITION OF A BLUE FLAG MARINA

A Blue Flag marina must provide pontoons or piers for pleasure boats. If part of a larger harbour with other activities, the marina must be clearly separated from other harbour activities. The marina can be located in marine or inland waters. The applicant for Blue Flag accreditation is the authority charged with responsibility for the marina. This may be a local municipality, private hotel, national park, or private marina operator.

Environmental Defence and FEE reserve the right to refuse or withdraw Blue Flag accreditation from any marina where the local authority/marina operator is responsible for violations of national environmental regulations or otherwise acts in discord with the objectives and spirit of the Blue Flag program.

Steps to the Blue Flag Award

- 1 CONTACT US** - If you're thinking about getting your marina certified, contact us first - we have over a decade of experience helping communities achieve the Blue Flag. As part of a national and international network of marina operators, we can draw from the knowledge and experience of marina operators around the world.
- 2 FEASIBILITY STUDY** - Before you can apply for the Blue Flag award, we will conduct a feasibility study of your marina. In addition to reviewing the marina's environmental management plan and other documentation, we will meet with you to assess the facilities. Following the site visit, we will prepare a feasibility study report outlining the steps required to meet all Blue Flag criteria. This report will provide a helpful framework to guide your initiatives.
- 3 CANDIDATE PHASE** - If your organization agrees to adopt the recommendations of the feasibility study and proceed with Blue Flag certification, your marina will enter the pilot phase and become a Blue Flag "candidate." As a candidate, you may promote your efforts to achieve the Blue Flag.
- 4 BLUE FLAG APPLICATION** - Once the marina is in compliance with the Blue Flag criteria, you will be invited to submit an application. Applications are accepted each January and include other supporting documentation.
- 5 REGIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY** - The jury is made up of independent experts in environmental education, water quality, environmental management, safety, and tourism. The jury reviews all applications in February and forwards successful applications to an International Jury for final approval.
- 6 INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY** - The International Jury reviews all applications in April. Once the jury announces its decision, Environmental Defence shares the results with Canadian applicants. This information is



embargoed from the media until the official announcement in May, when we issue a national press release to promote Canada's awardees and candidates.

- 7 BLUE FLAG SEASON BEGINS!** - Once the marina is open for the season, the Blue Flag can be raised! Many awardees have flag-raising celebrations, and we help promote these events. Marinas are monitored by Environmental Defence throughout the season to ensure that they continue to meet all of the criteria. All of Canada's Blue Flag beaches and marinas are promoted on **BlueFlag.ca**.

Blue Flag Criteria for Marinas



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- 1** Information about the Blue Flag program must be displayed. (pg. 5)
- 2** Information about the local ecosystem must be displayed. (pg. 6)
- 3** A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the marina and surrounding areas must be displayed. (pg. 6)
- 4** Environmental education initiatives must be offered and promoted to marina users. (pg. 7)
- 5** The Individual Blue Flag for boat owners must be offered through the marina. (pg. 7)
- 6** A map indicating the location of the different facilities must be clearly posted at the marina. (pg. 8)



WATER QUALITY

- 7** The water in the marina must be visually clean without any evidence of pollution. (pg. 9)



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- 8** The marina must establish a marina management committee. (pg. 10)
- 9** The marina must have an environmental policy and plan in place. (pg. 11)
- 10** Sensitive areas must be managed accordingly. (pg. 11)
- 11** Adequate and properly identified containers must be in place for the storage of hazardous waste. (pg. 12)
- 12** Garbage bins must be available at the marina and must be regularly maintained. (pg. 12)

- 13** Recycling bins must be available at the marina. (pg. 13)
- 14** Bilge water pumping facilities should be available at the marina. (pg. 13)
- 15** Sewage pump-out facilities must be present at the marina. (pg. 13)
- 16** All buildings and equipment must be properly maintained and be in compliance with national legislation. (pg. 14)
- 17** Adequate, clean and well signposted restroom facilities, including washing facilities must be in place and provide drinking water. (pg. 14)
- 18** If the marina has boat repairing and washing areas, no pollution must enter the sewage system, land or water. (pg. 15)
- 19** Sustainable transportation should be promoted. (pg. 15)
- 20** Parking and driving is not permitted in the marina, except for designated areas. (pg. 15)

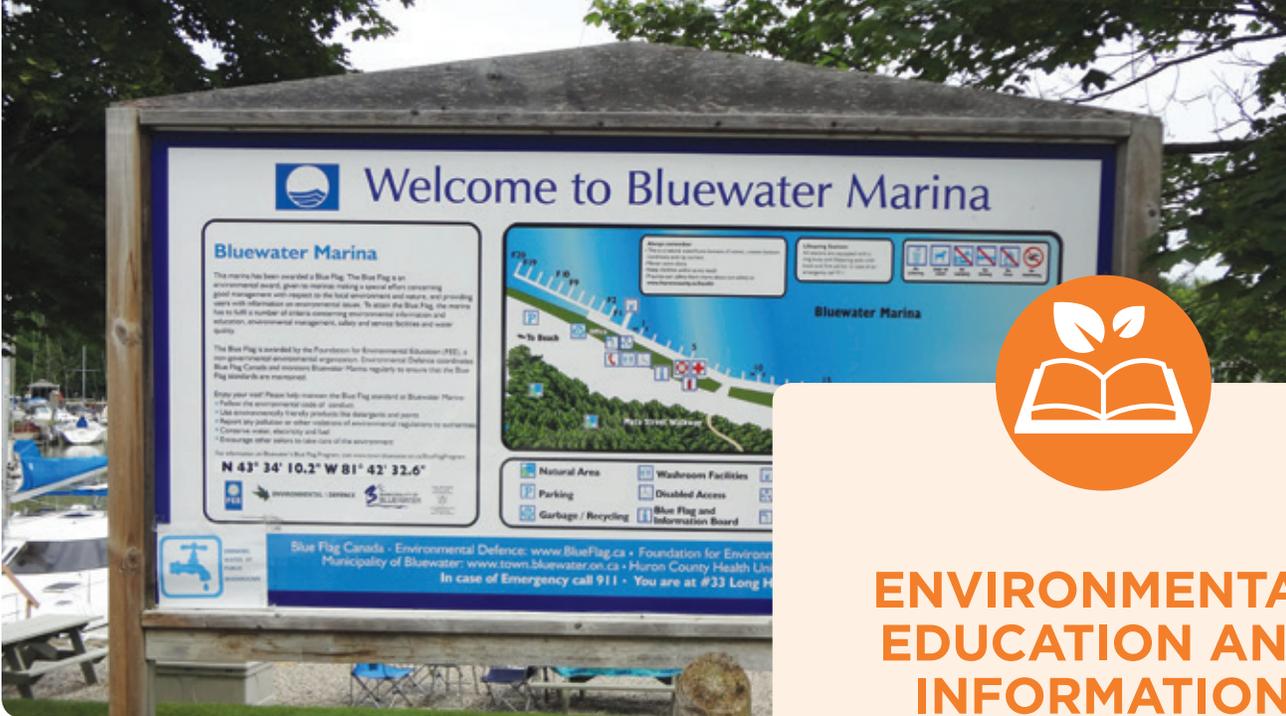


SAFETY AND SERVICES

- 21** Adequate and well signposted lifesaving, first aid, and firefighting equipment must be present. (pg. 16)
- 22** Emergency plans in case of pollution, fire or other accidents must be produced. (pg. 17)
- 23** Safety precautions and information must be posted at the marina. (pg. 18)
- 24** Electricity and water must be available at the slips. Installations must be approved according to national legislation. (pg. 18)
- 25** Wheelchair access and accessibility features should be in place. (pg. 18)

APPENDIX A

Tools for establishing environmental plans [Criterion 9] (pg. 19)



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

1 Information about the Blue Flag program must be displayed.

Impetive

Blue Flag Information Board

Once awarded a Blue Flag, your marina must have a Blue Flag information board in place by the beginning of the boating season. The information board tells visitors about the Blue Flag program, what your community is doing to meet the criteria, and what your marina has to offer. It points out where visitors can find key facilities and services like washrooms and first aid, and provides contact information if they have questions or concerns. The information board is also used to describe the local ecosystem, advertise upcoming environmental education activities and promote environmental best practices to boaters.

Blue Flag Canada has a Blue Flag information board template which can be adapted to incorporate local information. This template saves Blue Flag communities from designing an information board from scratch, and ensures that the information board contains the following necessary information:

- 1 Blue Flag logo
- 2 Name of the marina
- 3 Information about the Blue Flag program
- 4 Contact information and logos for the local, national and international Blue Flag representatives

Blue Flag Canada has a Blue Flag information board template which can be adapted to incorporate local information. This template saves Blue Flag communities from designing an information board from scratch.

- 5 Code of conduct
- 6 Information about the local environment
- 7 Map of the beach indicating location of facilities
- 8 Safety precautions
- 9 Explanation of the four categories of the Blue Flag criteria
- 10 Length of the boating season at your marina
- 11 Information about environmental education activities

It is strongly recommended that the entire list of criteria be available at the marina for interested visitors. Visitors should be encouraged to contact the relevant authority if they come across any non-compliance with the Blue Flag marina criteria.

2 Information about the local ecosystem must be displayed.

Imperative

The aim of this criterion is to ensure that marina users are educated about the coastal ecosystem and surrounding natural environment, and that they are motivated to learn about and experience this environment in a responsible way.

Information about the local ecosystem must be publicly displayed on the Blue Flag information board at the marina. Nearby sensitive areas are defined as areas within walking distance from the marina (a few kilometres) and nearby sensitive, marine areas are defined as coastal or inland areas easily reached by boat (within the distance frequently sailed by the users of the marina). The information should include both information about sensitive areas, and in cases where it is possible to visit the sensitive area, a code of conduct for activities within that area. Details must also be provided about sensitive marine areas to avoid when sailing or mooring.

Some sites at or near the Blue Flag marina may be sensitive and require special man-

agement. In these cases, the marina operator must consult an appropriate conservation organization for advice on how to manage these sites. If areas require special management, at the time of application, the applicant must provide confirmation that this consultation has taken place and that a management plan will be implemented.

In exceptional cases, the sensitivity of certain natural areas may preclude them from being included in the information posted at the marina, due to the fact that such information could increase the number of visitors to the area and possibly endanger wildlife or damage habitat.

Some sites at or near the Blue Flag marina may be sensitive and require special man-

3 A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the marina and surrounding areas must be displayed.

Imperative

A marina is only as environmentally friendly as the boaters who use it. A code of conduct encourages environmentally responsible behaviours and ensures that visitors understand the marina rules and local by-laws.

The code of conduct must be posted on the information board, and should also be posted on the marina website and included in marina brochures and newsletters. Marina users should be asked to sign a code of conduct along with their seasonal or day-use contract.

The code of conduct should cover the following topics:

- Proper disposal of hazardous waste
- Use of recycling bins and garbage containers
- Respect for wildlife and natural habitat
- Avoidance of boating in sensitive protected areas
- Use of the boat-repairing and washing areas according to best practice
- Prohibition of dumping garbage or sewage into waterways
- Use of sewage pump-out facilities

4 Environmental education initiatives must be offered and promoted to marina users.

Imperative

The community must offer at least three environmental initiatives during Blue Flag season. The activities should focus on the environment, environmental issues, Blue Flag issues or sustainability issues. These initiatives must be promoted at the marina. If sensitive environmental areas exist near a Blue Flag marina, it is strongly recommended that one or two environmental activities deal with these natural areas.

It is not necessary for the applicant to organize all of the environmental education initiatives. Blue Flag Canada encourages partnerships with local organizations, whether they are “Friends of” groups, environmental NGOs, conservation authorities, naturalist clubs or other community groups. Environmental education can also be incorporated into community events by setting up a Blue Flag information table and talking to the public about the program and relevant environmental issues.

Environmental education initiatives can take many forms, and can be divided into the following categories:

1 Passive participation: Exhibits, films, presentations, slide shows, conferences, debates, etc.

2 Active participation: Guided tours, educational games, clean-up days, photography or art contests, naturalization projects, recycling projects, green technology projects, community coastal monitoring programs, etc.

3 Training activities: Training sessions for boaters or marina staff, municipal staff, teachers, cleaners, summer students, etc.

4 Publishing and media: The production of leaflets, brochures, stickers, t-shirts, bags, interpretive signage, school and municipal newsletters, books, posters, radio broadcasts, etc.

5 Blue Flag Environmental Information Centre: This is a place where information about Blue Flag and environmental education issues can be provided. A common meeting area can be used as an information centre, so long as it offers activities and displays, and provides environmental information. The centre should be open to and have information for the general public.

5 The Individual Blue Flag for boat owners must be offered through the marina.

Imperative

A marina must offer the Individual Blue Flag for Boat Owners at its office. The Individual Blue Flag is a small flag offered to boat owners who commit to an environmental code of conduct. Both national and foreign boat owners are eligible for the Individual Blue Flag.

Blue Flag Canada will provide certified marinas with a Blue Flag for Boat Owners pledge form that contains all of the recommended commitments, and includes space for boaters to provide their signature, name, and address. If the boat owner hands in the signed pledge form to marina staff, the marina should provide the boater with a flag and send the signed Code of Conduct to Environmental Defence. Alternatively, the boat owner may choose to send

the signed Code of Conduct directly to Environmental Defence. Regardless, all boat owners flying the Blue Flag must have their name and addresses registered with Environmental Defence.

Information about the Individual Blue Flag for Boat Owners must be displayed on the information board.



6 A map indicating the location of the different facilities must be clearly posted at the marina.

Imperative

A map of the marina area indicating all the required and other facilities must be posted on the information board.

The following facilities must be indicated on the map:

- Facilities for hazardous waste and oil waste
- Garbage bins
- Recycling bins
- Sewage pumping/reception facilities (if present)
- Bilge water pumping/reception facilities (if present)
- Lifesaving equipment
- Firefighting equipment
- First aid equipment
- Public telephone (if applicable)
- Sanitary facilities (toilets, showers, washing facilities, and drinking water)

- Fuelling station (if present)
- Boat repairing and washing areas (if present)
- Marina office /club house
- Facilities for people with disabilities (if present)
- Designated parking areas (if present)
- Boat places reserved for guest boats (if present)
- Nearby public transportation (if very close to the marina)
- “You are Here” indicators
- Compass rose

Other facilities (like shops, restaurants, etc.) can also be indicated on the map.

Different facilities should be indicated on the map in easily understood pictograms, and the cartographic co-ordinates of the marina should be located in a clearly visible place.



WATER QUALITY

7 **The water in the marina must be visually clean without any evidence of pollution.**

Imperative

In order for the marina to comply with high environmental standards, the water within the marina must be visually clean. The water should not contain oil spots, litter (bottles, cans, cigarette butts etc.), sewage, or other noticeable signs of pollution. There should not be any unnatural odours or smells coming from the water.

Natural phenomena like driftwood, leaf litter, decaying algae, etc. might give the appearance

The water should not contain oil spots, litter (bottles, cans, cigarette butts etc.), sewage, or other noticeable signs of pollution.

of pollution in the water without this actually being the case. In such instances, information about these naturally occurring phenomena should be displayed on the information board.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

8 The local authority/marina operator must establish a marina management committee.

Imperative

Blue Flag is a multi-disciplinary program, often requiring cooperation between various agencies and stakeholders. Establishing a marina management committee ensures that these personnel work together throughout the years to maintain Blue Flag standards. The committee should also include representatives of community groups, clubs, non-profits, tourism groups and conservation authorities.

The marina management committee should work with the marina manager to implement environmental management practices and conduct regular environmental audits of the

marinas. The committee is also responsible for ensuring compliance with other Environmental Management criteria. The committee should meet at least twice a year to discuss the management of the marina and ensure that all criteria are being met. Committee members are encouraged to take a hands-on approach and provide support to the marina manager, facilitate environmental education initiatives, and promote the program.

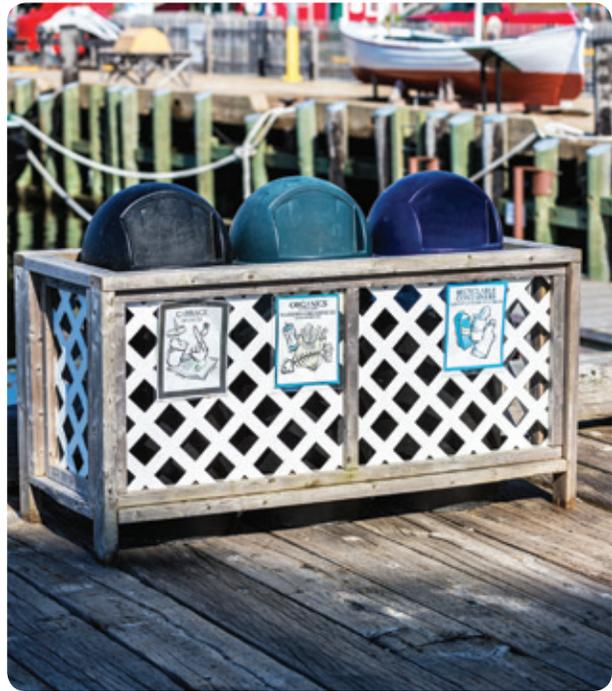
If there are multiple Blue Flag sites within a community, only one committee is needed to oversee all of the sites.

9 The marina must have an environmental policy and an environmental plan in place.

Imperative

As a standard of excellence, Blue Flag requires that applicants manage the marina and facilities in compliance with provincial and national legislation. This includes building codes, land use planning, environmental assessments, wastewater treatment, environmental management, and accessibility. As well, operators are expected to have an environmental plan in place that references water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally friendly products.

Marina operators are expected to: review energy and water use, waste management, and the environmental impacts of the marina; plan and perform improvements that reduce the marina's impact of the environment; and document ongoing improvements. See Appendix A for two suggestions of how to comply with this criterion.



10 Sensitive areas must be managed accordingly.

Imperative

Some sites at or near the Blue Flag marina may be environmentally sensitive and require special management. In these cases, the marina operator is strongly encouraged to consult an appropriate conservation organization or expert for advice on how to manage these areas. Where areas require special management, at the time of application, the applicant must provide confirmation that this consultation has taken place and that a management plan will be implemented.

In some circumstances, the sensitivity of certain areas may prevent them from being part of a Blue Flag zone or from having information posted at the marina directing people to the area, because an increased number of visitors could endanger wildlife and/or habitats. As a general rule, Blue Flags are only awarded

Blue Flags are only awarded to sites that can demonstrate management of visitors and recreational use in a way that prevents long-term, irreversible damage to the local natural environment.

to sites that can demonstrate management of visitors and recreational use in a way that prevents long-term, irreversible damage to the local natural environment.

If a Blue Flag marina is located in or near a Marine Protected Area, it is necessary to consult with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in order to ensure compatible ecosystem, conservation, and biodiversity goals.

11 Adequate and properly identified, containers must be in place for the storage of hazardous waste.

Imperative

The collection facilities for hazardous waste must provide segregated, properly identified containers for all relevant hazardous waste (e.g. paints, solvents, boat scraping, antifouling agents, batteries, waste oil, flares, etc.). It is mandatory to have separate containers for at least three different types of hazardous waste and it is preferable that one be motor oil. The collection facilities must be clean and environmentally safe, and the waste containers must be suitable for the type of hazardous waste they are holding. Containers must be placed on concrete flooring, a metal tray or another solid material to prevent leaching into the soil. Proper precautions must be taken to prevent leaks, combustion, explosions, etc. Hazardous waste should be stored away from other marina facilities and must not pose a danger to visitors or

To ensure the correct collection, sorting, storage and disposal of the waste, the marina must comply with national waste management standards.

the general public. The facilities should not be located close to the water and when possible, should be aesthetically pleasing. In the event of an accidental spill, the area around the containers must be cleaned up immediately.

Hazardous waste must be handled by a licensed contractor and disposed of at a licensed facility. Facilities must be approved by authorities on the basis of environmental requirements. To ensure the correct collection, sorting, storage and disposal of the waste, the marina must comply with national waste management standards. The duty of the marina receiving the Blue Flag is to ensure that the waste is properly disposed of.

In the case of a small and/or remote marina (less than 150 slips), a marina may negotiate with another marina in the area that has the facilities to recover and dispose of hazardous waste. In this case, this information must be very clear on the information board as well as to all clients of the marina. A written agreement needs to be signed between the two marinas; however, it remains the responsibility of the Blue Flag marina to ensure that the waste is properly managed.

12 Garbage bins must be available at the marina and must be regularly maintained.

Imperative

Garbage bins should be well designed and functional. If possible, bins should be made of environmentally friendly products like recycled plastics or wood. It is best to use bins with covers, otherwise they can attract wildlife and birds.

There must be enough bins to service the traffic at the marina and they should all be regularly maintained, well secured, and spaced appropriately. During the peak tourist season, the spacing between bins and the frequency at which they are emptied should be increased as necessary.

In summary, when choosing and locating bins, the following factors should be considered:

- Bin capacity
- Environmentally friendly products
- Type and source of litter
- Volume of visitor traffic
- Frequency of service
- Local environment, e.g. winds, high tides
- Scavenging by wildlife and birds
- Accessibility, e.g. height, surface

The marina must ensure the waste storage area is cleaned as often as needed.

13 Recycling bins must be available at the marina.

Imperative

In order to encourage people to recycle, it has to be convenient — so it is important that there are enough recycling bins to service the number of visitors at the marina, and that they are easy to find. Provide separate containers for the types of waste that are recycled in your municipality, such as paper, plastic, glass, and cans. The

marina must have facilities for receiving at least three different kinds of recyclable waste materials. These bins should be well labeled and designed to encourage people to put materials in the appropriate containers. If your local recycling facility does not require source separation, this should be communicated on signage.

14 Bilge water pumping facilities should be available at the marina.

Guideline

The bilge water pumping facilities should be able to separate the oily bilge water or extract water from oily residues.

The bilge water pumping facilities can be provided within the marina or in very close proximity to the marina. These facilities must be easily accessible for all potential users.

In the case of a small and/or remote marina (less than 150 slips), a marina may share this facility with a neighbouring marina. In this case, this information must be very clear on the information board as well as to all clients of the marina. A written agreement needs to be signed between the two marinas; however, it remains the responsibility of the Blue Flag marina to ensure that the bilge pumping facilities are properly managed.



15 Sewage pump-out facilities must be present at the marina.

Imperative

Sewage discharges in bodies of water can negatively affect water quality, and impact marine life and recreational water use. Sewage pump-out facilities encourage boaters to follow environmental best practices by discharging at an appropriate facility where sewage will be sent for treatment.

Sewage pump-out facilities may consist of a mobile sewage pumping facility, a sludge pumping van, or a permanent sewage pumping station. These facilities can be located within the marina or in very close proximity to the marina. The facilities must be easily accessible to boat owners.

Permanent sewage pump-out facilities must be centrally located in the marina and easily accessible for all boats (including those boats requiring more space and depth).

The sewage tank waste reception facilities must comply with national legislation.

In the case of a small and/or remote marina (less than 150 slips), a marina may share this facility with a neighbouring marina. Additionally, a small and/or remote marina can also offer the services of a contractor to take care of this. In both cases, this information must be very clear on the information board as well as to all clients of the marina. A written agreement needs to be signed between the two marinas, or the Blue Flag marina and the contractor, however it remains the responsibility of the Blue Flag marina to ensure that the sewage pump-out facilities are properly managed.

16 All buildings and equipment must be properly maintained and be in compliance with national legislation.

Imperative

The marina (including all the buildings and equipment) must be well maintained and must comply with national and international legislation. The marina must have all the necessary permits to act as a marina. If a new marina with more than 500 slips is to be constructed or an existing marina is to be extended by more than 250 slips, an Environmental Impact Assessment must be conducted.

It is strongly recommended that the marina uses environmentally friendly equipment and products in the buildings whenever possible.

It is strongly recommended that the marina uses environmentally friendly equipment and products in the buildings whenever possible. Green areas like lawns, gardens, and naturalized areas at the marina should also be properly maintained in an environmentally responsible way (without the use of pesticides, etc.).

Consideration should be given to the general appearance of the marina. It must be well integrated within surrounding natural and built environments, should give consideration to design standards, and meet environmental and aesthetic requirements. The Blue Flag must not fly during substantial renovations at the marina.

17 Adequate, clean and well signposted restroom facilities, including washing facilities must be in place and provide drinking water.

Imperative

Buildings must be well maintained and in accordance with the building code. Restroom facilities must be in good condition and clean, and should include toilets, sinks, and showers.

Other facilities could include washing machines.

The number of sanitary facilities available in the marina must be adequate for the number of marina visitors in the peak season. The marina management should discourage boat owners from using boat toilet facilities during their stay in the marina.

The sanitary facilities must be easily accessible and located not too far away from any point in the marina (in general less than 200 metres from any boat at any slip). The location of the sanitary facilities must be easy to locate (using signs or on the map of the marina).

The sanitary facilities must be linked to a licensed sewage treatment system, and the system must be in compliance with the national legislation. If the marina is very small and/or very remote, the National Jury can, in special cases, approve another safe way of disposing of the wastewater generated by the marina.



18 **If the marina has boat repairing and washing areas, no pollution may enter the sewage system, marina land and water, or natural surroundings.**

Imperative

A marina with boat repairing and washing areas must comply with all standards and regulations in national and international legislation. Boat repairs and washing must take place in a designated area at the marina. There must be collection filters (or equivalent systems) to prevent hazardous substances from entering the sewage system and the marina land/water. The collection filters must be regularly emptied and the waste in the filters should be treated as hazardous waste.

Larger repairing activities (such as grinding, polishing, or sandblasting) which cause dust pollution should take place under cover or indoors under controlled conditions. Collected waste must be handled as hazardous waste. Serious noise pollution from boat repairing and washing must be avoided.

19 **Sustainable transportation should be promoted.**

Guideline

Transportation has a big impact on the environment, from affecting local air quality to increasing greenhouse gas emissions. A truly sustainable marina should be accessible by cycling, walking or public transit.

There are several ways that you can encourage sustainable transportation:

- Provide and encourage public transportation like trains, buses and streetcars.
- Offer shuttle buses to and from the marina.
- Provide cycling and pedestrian trails to and from the marina.
- Provide cycling infrastructure like trails, bike racks, and bike rentals or loans.
- Ensure that there are adequate sidewalks to encourage walking.



20 **Parking and driving is not permitted in the marina, except for designated areas.**

Imperative

In general, parking and driving cars inside the marina should be avoided. The use of cars should, wherever possible, be replaced with sustainable transportation (public transportation, bicycles, etc.).

If parking and driving within the marina cannot be avoided, driving and parking must only take place in areas designated for this purpose. It is very important in the planning of these areas to consider the safety and free passage of people walking in the marina.



SAFETY AND SERVICES

21 Adequate and well signposted lifesaving, first aid, and firefighting equipment must be present.

Imperative

Accident prevention is paramount for safety. To help prevent accidents, marina management and staff should ensure that the marina facilities are properly maintained, national legislation is followed, and staff and users are well informed and/or trained about safety issues. It is also recommended that an assessment of the marina be conducted to study safety issues, such as the placement of boats in relation to the possible spread of fires.

If an accident does occur, the marina should have the necessary technical means or equipment to deal with it.

Lifesaving equipment

The following general guidelines should be followed when considering water safety in a marina:

- A person who falls in the water should be able to get out of the water.
- A person must be able to help or rescue a distressed person in the water without risking his or her own life.

The required lifesaving equipment in the marina must (at minimum) include the presence of lifesaving rings and ladders. Other types of lifesaving equipment could include boat-hooks, rescue boats, or rescue stations at/near the marina. The lifesaving equipment must be approved by the Lifesaving Society or comply

with national standards.

The equipment must be available in adequate numbers, easy to identify (well signposted), easily accessible from all over the marina (not more than 200 metres from any point), and available 24 hours a day throughout the Blue Flag season. The placement of equipment must be in compliance with national legislation and must be indicated on the marina map.

Guidelines for ladders and public lifesaving equipment

- Placement (at minimum) should be every 25-50 metres from any waterfront point in the marina.
- Equipment should be available on each pier.
- Equipment should be painted for visibility (red, orange and with reflectors).

Firefighting equipment

The firefighting equipment in the marina must (at minimum) include the presence of fire extinguishers, but could also include water hoses, fire carpets, etc. The firefighting equipment must be approved by a national firefighting association/organization/authority or comply with national standards.

The equipment must be available in adequate numbers, easy to identify (well signposted) and easily accessible from all over the marina (not

more than 200 metres from any point). The placement of equipment must also be in compliance with national legislation. It must be available 24 hours a day throughout the Blue Flag season and the location of firefighting equipment must be indicated on the marina map.

Fire extinguishers must also be present at fueling stations, near hazardous waste storage facilities and at locations where high temperature work is done.

Guideline recommendations

- Have handheld fire extinguishers placed every 25-50 metres and with at least one per pier
- On piers longer than 100 metres, there should be a fixed water supply (fire hydrant) at the beginning of the pier.
- When deciding on the size and type of extinguishers and their placement, consideration should be given to the size of the boats and the distance of the marina from a fire station.

First Aid

First aid equipment must be present at the marina and can be located in the marina office or at other facilities (shops, restaurants, etc.). The first aid equipment must be available at reasonable times (e.g. the operating hours of the mari-

na office) and availability must be posted on the information board and marina map.

The contents of the first aid equipment box must comply with national legislation or meet the standards set by the Lifesaving Society, and must be regularly checked with items replaced as necessary.

Other

It is recommended that the entrance/exit to the marina be clearly marked with signs for boaters and that the marina be well-lit at night.

For dry docks and storage areas, it is recommended that the boats be placed so that emergency vehicles can move between the rows, and firefighting equipment should be placed throughout the area. Local fire experts should be contacted for advice.



22 Marinas must have emergency plans in case of pollution, fire or other accidents

Imperative

If an accident or emergency does occur, the marina should have the necessary emergency plan in place to deal with it. The emergency plan must state what to do in case of pollution, fire or other possible accidents affecting the safety of the marina. The staff at the marina must be informed about the emergency plan.

The emergency plan for the marina can be specific to the marina, but can also be part of a larger harbour, municipal or regional emergency plan. Relevant authorities must approve the emergency plan.

The emergency plan should include, at minimum, the following:

- Identification of the people to contact in case of an accident
- Involvement of administration services and people necessary to intervene
- Procedures for the protection or evacuation of people at or near the marina
- Procedure for warning the public

In the case of severe pollution coming from outside the marina, the emergency plan must provide procedures for the immediate removal of such pollution. In very severe cases, it may be necessary to withdraw the Blue Flag temporarily, explaining the reasons for the withdrawal on the information board.

23 Safety precautions and information must be posted at the marina.

Imperative

Accident prevention is paramount for safety. In most cases, accidents that occur could have been prevented by the people involved. Thus, safety information and education for the marina users is very important.

General information about safety precautions must be posted at an easily accessible site at the marina, and on the information board. The safety precautions should include (at minimum) the following:

- Information about the correct storage of hazardous and flammable waste
- Directions for filling gas tanks at the fuelling station
- Signs for safety hazards
- Prohibition of open fire or fireworks at the marina (unless there is a designated area or permission from the marina)
- Directions for the safe use of electrical outlets at the marina
- No swimming in the marina
- Information about the location of public

telephone, lifesaving, firefighting and first aid equipment

- Information about how to use the above-mentioned equipment
- Details on how to warn other people about an unsafe situation
- Information about who to contact for further information about safety at the marina
- Information about relevant emergency telephone numbers (police, fire department, ambulance, marina manager)

Other information could include:

- Guidance that children should wear lifejackets in the marina
- Information about first aid and lifesaving courses
- Guidance about the consumption of alcohol at the marina
- Information about how to prevent fire on individual boats

24 Electricity and water must be available at the slips.

Imperative

Electricity and water must be no more than 25 metres from the slips (except for boats not using electricity). There must be clear information about the conditions for using electricity and water, and there should also be information about energy and water conservation.

All installations must be safe and approved by national and/or international legislation.

Public spaces at the marina must be lit for safety.



25 Wheelchair access and accessibility features should be in place.

Guideline



The marina must comply with provincial and national regulations regarding access and facilities for people with disabilities. The facilities for people with disabilities at a marina should include:

- Access to and around the marina (including the piers)

- Accessible parking
- Accessible restroom facilities

Other accessible facilities in a marina could include:

- Boating facilities
- Marina offices, shops, and restaurants

Appendix A

Tools for establishing environmental plans [Criterion 9]

The marinas that participate in the Blue Flag program vary in size and capacity. The compliance with Criterion 9 can therefore take place in two ways: either a) through planning and performance/implementation as requested in an environmental logbook system, or b) through implementing a proper environmental management system.

a) Environmental logbook system

In the environmental logbook system, the Blue Flag marina lists environmental goals. The marina management can choose the most relevant and important goals for the marina, but does not need to restrict itself to these. It is recommended that these goals are discussed with the national operator. What is essential is continual improvement. The marina is therefore required to set new and higher goals each year, though the marina can choose to expand or intensify efforts related to previously set goals.

In the application form for the coming season, the marina must provide information about the goals that the marina intends to fulfill. In the same application form, the marina should also report on goals achieved in the previous season by sending a status copy of the environmental logbook. The marina can change a goal during the season, but there should be a good reason for this noted in the environmental logbook. The marina is strongly advised to contact the national operator before changing a goal. In exceptional cases, if the marina has not fulfilled a goal and they can give a reasonable explanation for it, the National Jury might choose to give a dispensation. There is no stipulation that the marina has to fulfill the goal during the Blue Flag season; often it is preferable to carry out improvements ahead of the season.

Here are some suggestions from FEE for relevant goals:

Goal	Description	Further Information
1	Electricity	
1a	Replace energy consuming light bulbs	Install energy-saving bulbs
1b	Manage light at the marina	Install automatic light switches
1c	Replace old equipment and installations	Refrigerator, freezer, washing machine, etc.
1d	Harness solar energy	Used to heat water
1e	Limit electricity on the jetty to 4 ampere	Visitors cannot use electrical heaters
1f	General investigation of electrical insulation at the marina	
2	Water	
2a	Install water saving equipment	Low-flow shower heads, and faucets
2b	Replace toilets, shower, taps, etc	Toilets with less flush water and/or toilets with dual flush (3 /6 litres)
2c	Infrastructure inspection	Waste pipe, water pipe, etc.
2d	Push buttons on taps and showers	
2e	Information about water saving	
2f	Install an environmental facility for receiving toilet waste	Compostable toilet, grey-water system

Goal	Description	Further Information
3	Buy and use environmentally friendly products	
3a	Buy environmentally friendly paint	
3b	Buy environmentally friendly soap for cleaning and washing	
4	Waste	
4a	Distribute recycling bags	For boat owners taking short trips and returning to the marina, the marina can offer garbage bags to collect their waste while boating.
4b	Litter management and disposal	Separate organic waste (for compost) and inorganic/toxic waste. Establish additional containers for sorting household waste.
4c	Establish compost bins	

The environmental logbook looks like this:

ENVIRONMENTAL LOGBOOK OF A BLUE FLAG MARINA

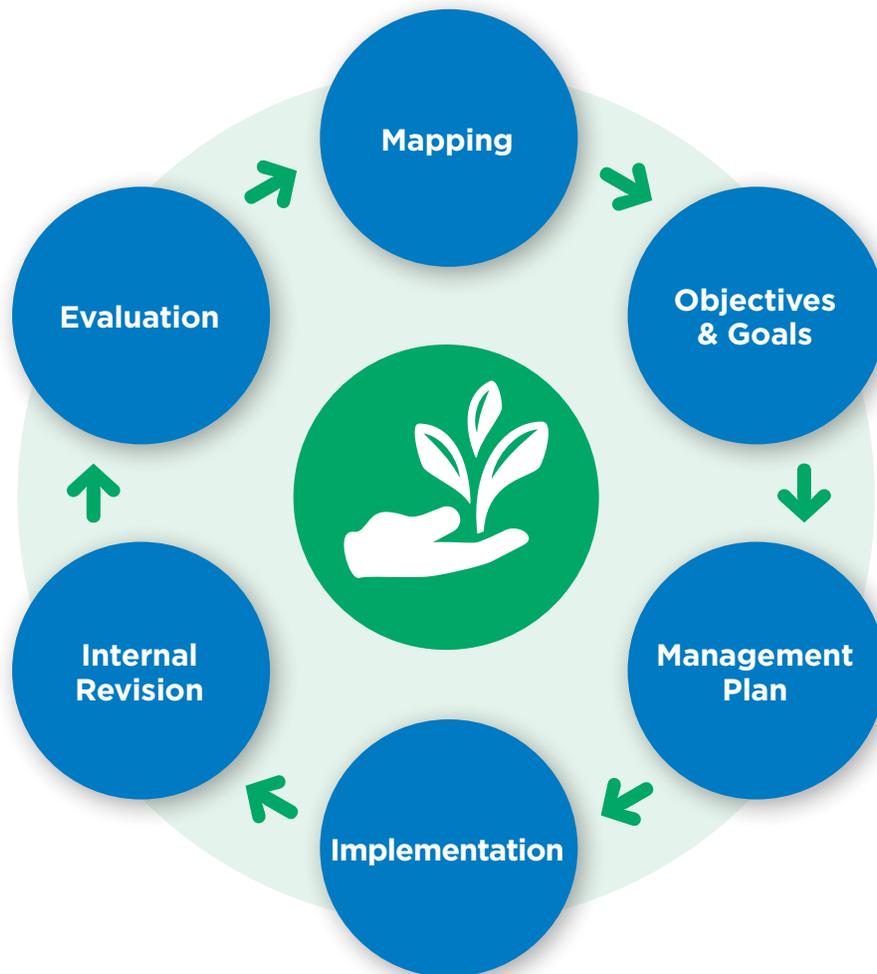
Name of Marina:	Park Marina
Name of responsible person:	Brian Jones
Year:	2015

Activity	Date	Goal	Description	Persons involved	Documentation
Goal	15-01-15	1a	Replace all bulbs in the marina with energy efficient bulbs	Brian Jones Peter Smith	
Goal	15-01-15	2a	Change to water conserving showers	Brian Jones Peter Smith	
Action	15-05-15	1a	The bulbs in the office, toilet and in the club were changed. The bulbs outside will be changed during the season.	Brian Jones	Copy of bills and photos.
Action	30-05-15	2a	Low flow shower heads were installed and at the same time we installed water saving taps (2b).	Brian Jones	Copy of bills and photos.
Action	25-06-15	1a	The bulbs outside were changed.	Brian Jones	Copy of bills and photos.
Goals Obtained	01-12-15	1a	Obtained		
		2a	Obtained		
Further Remarks					
We expect to see savings on water consumption in 2016.					

b) Environmental management system

If a marina chooses to ensure the compliance through an environmental management system, it can either be certified through the official systems (ISO 14001 or EMAS certification system), or the marina can choose a parallel environmental management system as described here. It is always advisable to contact Environmental Defence for more information about environmental management systems.

The environmental management system is an ongoing process. The cycle is as follows:



The environmental management plan outlines how a marina can reduce its environmental impact and should inspire users and other stakeholders to make an active effort to protect the environment. The marina must prioritize its work and goals; however, there are some recommended areas (waste, water and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally friendly products) which should be addressed.

MAPPING

Mapping out the baseline is an important starting point for planning and evaluating environmental work. It can be helpful to distinguish between the direct environmental impacts of the marina and those of the boats themselves.

To be able to easily recognize the achievements from previous years, marina operators must be systematic and transparent when evaluating environmental impacts. Most users can point out

the most important ones. The following steps can be used in the overview mapping process:

- Develop an overview of the marina and its immediate surroundings.
- Try to determine the environmental impacts (in the form of energy, water, materials, waste, etc.) within a designated area of the marina.
- Examine the designated area: What impacts can be seen? Why are impacts occurring?

With a well-documented baseline of environmental conditions at the marina, individual issues can be dealt with. Identify the most important environmental impacts with a reasonable level of detail. Use pre-defined schemes when considering an impact to ensure that all relevant issues are considered. It can be useful to have two different evaluations, one for the marina (basic running of the marina) and one for the users (boaters).

When the management plan is produced for the first time, the most important environmental improvements made over the past years should be included (energy saving or water saving upgrades, for example). Information about these improvements can suggest new areas of improvement.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Once the baseline map has been created, it is time to consider how the marina can be managed to reduce its overall impact on the environment. The marina operator should lay out specific objectives and goals related to acceptable discharge, waste handling, energy consumption, etc. When deciding on objectives and goals, it is important to take into account the overall environmental policy of the marina.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

An environmental policy and the objectives stemming from the baseline map, inform priority areas for the coming year. During this process, the importance as well as significance of environmental impacts must be taken into account. When prioritizing, the following issues must be considered:

- **Effect** (What effects can be expected from the effort?)
- **Economy** (What does it cost? What savings can be expected? Are there external ways of financing the implementation?)
- **Environmental awareness** (What effect will your efforts have on the environment?)
- **Occupational health** (Are there benefits to occupational health?)

IMPLEMENTATION

Having decided what to do, timelines for implementation must be established. It can be helpful to draw up a formal workplan.

The implementation of the management plan may require changes to the behaviour of users and marina staff, a change in the code of conduct, and updated instructions. It is important to inform everyone about the management plan and what is required from each party.

INTERNAL REVISION

The revision process is a way of checking in to determine whether the objectives and goals outlined in the management plan have been met. Therefore, the revision process should include:

- Checking that objectives are met
- Checking whether the expected results are achieved
- Investigating the reason for and extent of any variances from the management plan
- Noting any unforeseen impacts
- Recording observations

EVALUATION

The evaluation should be published once a year as a tool in the environmental management process, but also to promote the improvements externally. The evaluation could contain the following:

- A description of the marina's main impacts on the environment
- An outline of any environmental improvements (first year: previously taken initiatives, second year: since the management plan)
- The environmental policy and objectives stemming from the mapping process
- A copy of the environmental management plan

CONTINUING THE PROCESS

After having been through the process the first year, the impacts of implementing the environmental management process can be evaluated and the process can begin again (at a deeper level than the previous year). Each year, the most significant environmental impacts must be determined, the management plan must be reviewed, and the observed impacts must be compared with the expected impacts.

The environmental policy should be evaluated annually to determine whether changes or updates are required.

When the Blue Flag is raised at a beach or marina, it is a celebration of a community's commitment to meet the strict Blue Flag standards, protecting our coastal ecosystems and helping foster a culture of environmental stewardship. When tourists and residents see a Blue Flag, they know a beach or marina is meeting the same high standards as any other Blue Flag beach or marina around the world.



For more information about the Blue Flag program and how to apply for the award:

Website: BlueFlag.ca
Email: info@blueflag.ca
Phone: 416-323-9521 ext.238



Blue Flag is a highly respected and recognized international eco-label. Blue Flags are awarded to beaches and marinas that meet strict criteria for Water Quality, Environmental Education, Environmental Management, and Safety & Services.



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