

MARINAS

All marinas have potential to adversely affect aquatic habitats. These effects can be minimized through proper location and design. In addition to guidelines for boat ramps, bulkheads and seawalls, Sewage Treatment, Housing Developments and Disposal of Dredged Material, the following apply:

- a. Marinas are best created from excavated uplands that are designed so that water quality degradation does not occur. Applicants should consider basin flushing characteristics and other design features such as surface and waste water collection and treatment facilities. Catchment basins for collecting and storing runoff should be included as components of the site development plan.
- b. Marinas should be located in areas where suitable physical conditions exist. For example, potential sites should be located in areas with suitable navigable depths to avoid dredging or propwashing and away from environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, seagrasses and shellfish beds.
- c. To protect water quality and to provide adequate flushing, turning basins and access channels should not create sumps or other slack-water areas and depths must not exceed those of the connecting waterbody.
- d. Consideration should be given to aligning access channels and configuring marinas to take full advantage of circulation from prevailing summer winds.
- e. Permanent dredged material disposal sites (for use in initial and maintenance dredging) that do not impact wetland areas should be identified and acquired. Suitable disposal alternatives include placing dredged material on uplands and using dredged material to create/restore wetlands. Projects that lack permanent disposal sites will likely not be authorized if maintenance dredging is needed and disposal sites/options are not available.
- f. Catchment basins for collecting and storing surface runoff should be included as components of the site development plan. Repair and support facilities should be equipped with hazardous material containment facilities so that biocides such as marine paints, oil and grease, solvents and related materials are not directly or indirectly discharged into the marina.
- g. Marinas should be sited in areas with adequate upland area to provide parking and other support facilities.
- h. Marinas with fueling facilities should be designed to include measures for reducing oil and gas spillage into the aquatic environment. Spill control plans are required when marina facilities hold more than 55 gallons of petrochemicals per The Oil Spill Prevention and Recovery Act of 1990.
- i. Facilities for the collection of trash are required. Where vessels with marine toilets will be moored, pump out facilities and notices regarding prohibition of sewage and other discharges are required.

NOTE: Reconfiguration of existing docking facilities within an authorized marina

area may be covered under Nationwide Permit 28. Maintenance dredging of existing marina basins may be authorized under Nationwide Permit 35. Contact the Galveston District Corps of Engineers for more information.