

Integrated Pest Management

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Suffolk County

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Anti-fouling Paints and Boat Bottom Maintenance

10.2 Reducing the Potential for Marine Fouling by Marina Modifications

Reduction of marine fouling potential could reduce the need for toxic boat bottom paints.

One of the ways to reduce fouling potential in the marina basin is to increase water circulation.

Adequate water circulation is necessary for marinas to prevent stagnation.

Dock layout can be altered to:

- Maximize circulation
- Minimize stagnation
- Reduce buildup of sediment pollutants like heavy metals.

How is this done?

- Eliminate square corners wherever possible to reduce the accumulation of silt and debris.
- Establish entrances at opposite ends of the marina to promote circulation within the marina basin.

- Avoid dead end channels.
- Arrange docks to enhance and not obstruct water flow.
- Boat lanes should progressively WIDEN toward the seaward end and NARROW towards the inland end.
- Do NOT dredge the marina basin deeper than the adjacent channel:
 - Dredge the marina so the bottom contour DEEPENS offshore. This prevents pooling of water in the marina that encourages marine fouling.
- To reduce the need to construct long docks:
 - Dredge large areas.
 - Keep deep draft vessels that do not require shore services anchored outside the marina.
 - This will also reduce the introduction of new invasive species to some extent.

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