



PRESS RELEASE

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State's First Freshwater Clean Marina Buoyed by Prestigious Industry Award

(Sandy Hook, NJ)Bridge Marina in Lake Hopatcong, NJ, the first freshwater facility in the state to be designated a Clean Marina has earned another impressive title, according to Mike Danko, Fisheries & Boating Marine Recreation Agent for the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC). Bridge was named 2010 Marina of the Year in a highly competitive, coveted annual award presented by *Marina Dock Age* magazine, one of the industry's leading publications.

Every year the magazine selects one small marina, with fewer than 250 slips, and one large marina, with over 250 slips, to receive the award. These marinas have achieved success through exemplary business practices, contributions to the marina industry, and commitment to customer service and environmental responsibility. Bridge Marina was selected as the 2010 Small Marina Award Winner.

NJSGC's Danko, who worked closely with Bridge Marina owner Ray Fernandez to prepare the facility for Clean Marina status in 2009, said *the Dock Age Award* was well deserved.

"Bridge Marina is an important contributor to the New Jersey marine industry, with a sharp focus on protecting New Jersey's marine resources. When Bridge successfully earned recognition as New Jersey's first and only freshwater certified Clean Marina, it demonstrated a real commitment

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to protecting the environment by implementing practices that control pollution, enhance the surrounding environment, and encourage responsible boating practices.”

Danko also noted that “Bridge Marina has been very proactive regarding protection of its environment by implementing additional methods on its fuel dock to inhibit fuel entering the lake, improving service department methods to collect and recycle waste fluids, and just recently was awarded a federal grant for a vessel pump out system.”

Danko added that 40 marinas have been certified so far as using best management practices to protect New Jersey’s water resources. He’s hoping Bridge Marina’s success and recognition will encourage even more freshwater and saltwater marinas throughout the state to learn more about the Clean Marina Program and apply for designation status.

The DEPs Office of Coastal Management and Watershed Restoration and NJSGC, teamed up in 2005 to launch the state’s Clean Marina Program. The program spurs marinas to adopt programs to protect the environment. Each marina is evaluated for compliance with all federal and state regulations and for launching any of a number of voluntary best management practices it undertakes to protect the environment.

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium is an affiliation of colleges, universities and other groups dedicated to advancing knowledge and stewardship of New Jersey’s marine and coastal environment. NJSGC meets its mission through its innovative research, education and outreach programs. For more information about NJSGC visit njseagrant.org.

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