

Boatyard General Permit

Purpose of the permit

Washington's Boatyard General Permit protects Washington's waters from pollution caused by activities at boatyards.

These activities include:

- Pressure washing hulls.
- Painting and coating.
- Engine and propulsion system repair and replacement.
- Hull repair.
- Joinery.
- Bilge cleaning.
- Fuel and lubrication system repair and replacement.
- Welding and grinding of hull.
- Buffing and waxing.
- Repair/replacement of Marine Sanitation Device (MSD).
- Other vessel maintenance activities.

Permit history

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) reissued the Boatyard General Permit in November 2005. The Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA) and the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (PSA) appealed the permit. The Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) issued a decision on the NMTA and PSA appeal in January 2007. NMTA and PSA appealed the PCHB decision to Superior Court in February 2007. NMTA, PSA, and Ecology reached a settlement in this appeal, which funded a pilot study to determine the effectiveness of treatment for boatyard stormwater runoff. The settlement also required a modification of the permit, which occurred in January 2008. Ecology released a second permit modification in November 2008.

After conducting a full public process and collecting public comments, Ecology expects to issue a new boatyard permit in 2010.

Why It Matters



Copper and zinc are harmful to salmon and other aquatic life, even at relatively low concentrations. Keeping copper from entering our waterways is a key to protecting Puget Sound.

Contact information

Gary Bailey
Water Quality Program
WA Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-6433
E-mail:
gary.bailey@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations

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Permit definition of a boatyard

A boatyard is a commercial business engaged in the construction, repair, and maintenance of small vessels. A boatyard must have a Boatyard General Permit if 85 percent of the vessels it works on are 65 feet or less in length, or revenues from which constitute more than 85 percent of gross receipts. All boatyards that meet this definition must obtain coverage under this permit unless they meet requirements for exemption under condition S1B of the permit.

How to obtain permit coverage

Those facilities that have coverage under the current permit will continue to have coverage under the modified permit unless otherwise notified by Ecology. New or unpermitted facilities seeking permit coverage should request an application for coverage from the Ecology regional office serving their site location. Go [here](#) to identify the Department of Ecology office serving your location.

For more information about this permit

Visit Ecology's website at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/boatyard/index.html