

# Boatyard General Permit 2016 Reissuance

## The problem

Boatyard activities can create water pollution problems. Activities include pressure-washing hulls; painting and coating; repair and replacement of engine and propulsion systems; hull repair; bilge cleaning; fuel and lubrication system repair and replacement; welding and grinding of hull; buffing and waxing; and repair and replacement of marine sanitation systems.

If a boatyard has a water discharge, it must be covered by a Department of Ecology administered Boatyard National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit. Currently, about 68 boatyards in Western Washington are covered by permit.

## Background

In 1992, Ecology issued Washington's first general permit for boatyards. About every 5 years, Ecology modifies, improves, and reissues the Boatyard General Permit. Ecology gradually changes the permit based on community input, recent monitoring data, and new scientific knowledge concerning boatyards, pollutants, and pollution prevention. Ecology is currently beginning a public process to update this permit.

The current Boatyard General Permit was issued in June 2011 and is effective through May 2016. Results of the self-monitoring conducted by the permittees during this period indicated:

- The concentrations of pollutants in the discharges of treated pressure-washing wastewater generally achieved their permitted limits, particularly in the more recent years.
- The concentrations of pollutants in the discharges of stormwater runoff have generally appeared to decrease over time (not statistically verified).
- Some permittees have not reported, and perhaps have not conducted, all monitoring required by the permit. The total number of monitoring results submitted to Ecology by permittees from June 2011 through May 2015 was about two-thirds of the total expected number.

## WHY IT MATTERS

The permit is a key tool to control the flow of toxic stormwater runoff and waste water from boatyards into marine waters.

### Website

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wg/permits/boatyard/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wg/permits/boatyard/index.html)

### Contact

James Maroncelli  
360-407-6588  
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### Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6600.

Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

### Proposed permit updates

Ecology proposes two *substantive* changes in the 2016 version of the Boatyard General Permit:

1. A decrease in the maximum daily limit for total lead in stormwater runoff discharges to Lake Union and the Lake Washington Ship Canal from 185 ug/L to 78 ug/L, and
2. A new requirement for Permittees to submit all permit-required reports to Ecology electronically via the Ecology Water Quality Permitting Portal, which is accessible at: <https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/wqwebportal/>.

During the next few weeks, Ecology would like any interested parties to review the draft permit and fact sheet and provide comments. Ecology will accept public comments on the proposed changes through **April 29, 2016**. Please email written comments to:

[BoatyardGPComments@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:BoatyardGPComments@ecy.wa.gov).

Ecology will hold public workshops and hearings on April 19 and 20, 2016 to explain the draft permit and answer questions and will accept formal oral testimony and comments about the proposed permit. Details of how, when, and where to provide comments may be found at: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/boatyard/publicinvolvement.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/boatyard/publicinvolvement.html).

### More information

The public may download copies of the new Draft Boatyard General Permit and its associated Fact Sheet from our website: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/boatyard/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/boatyard/index.html).