

SAFE BOATING GUIDELINES FOR MAINE BOATYARDS AND MARINAS SPRING 2020

April 23, 2020 – DRAFT Please note some of this applies now and some of this could be followed when marinas start to open and there is more normal level of activity in the state. This is drafted to supplement all official safety guidelines issued from the CDC --such as social distancing, wearing PPE, and wellness checks.

1. Communication is Key: Let customers know your level of access, policies, rules, schedule, and what to expect if they ask to come to your facility. Send emails, post signage, put notifications on social media. Let your local law enforcement, municipality, and/or harbormaster know if you have essential designation from the state. Let them know how you are operating and what activity is (or is not) going on at your location. Remember to communicate with subcontractors too and ask them what safety measures they are taking.
2. Boaters Arriving by Water: Please remind them that the Governor's Order still requires them to self-quarantine for 14 days (on board their boat or perhaps at their cottage). It might be helpful to have a list available of local stores or restaurants who are willing to deliver supplies and/or food to them. It would be up to the facility to determine if they can safely move around the facility and if those people should have access to restrooms, pumpouts, fuel, etc.
3. Retail: Make sure sales are online or curbside with electronic payment.
4. Facility Access: You know your facility better than anyone else. Use common sense to try to control customer access to limit the number of people at the facility at any one time. Require appointments. Put up signage to potentially stop public access by people walking near docks or driving in just to look around. You may want to try to keep a log of who is at your facility each day (employees, deliveries, clients, contractors) in case you are asked to help with virus contact tracing. Some CT boatyards have hired off-duty police officers for security to make sure people are not congregating on docks after hours. Consider limiting customers to only using the head on their boats. This summer consider limiting launch service to one boat crew at a time or offering no launch service at all.
5. Boat Service: Communicate with customers about employees accessing their boats and there may be extra charges for disinfection of contact surfaces before and after service. Some boatyards are telling boat owners they will not put an employee on the boat within 72 hours of a customer being on board. Remind them that some jobs may take longer if only one employee can be on board at a time.
6. On the Docks: Be clear about no congregating on docks. Minimize helping customers or having them help each other with dock lines unless there is risk of damage or injury. Ask employees and customers to give each other space. Do not walk onto a float or ramp until

someone else has vacated the space. Remind people to hand wash or sanitize after touching dock lines, dock cart handles, fuel pumps, and hand railings. Keep pets leashed so they do not wander up to other people who may touch them. Enjoy your boat and return to your car directly without lingering. Catch up with your dock neighbors via phone or email this year. Maintain social distance. Consider adding sanitation options in key areas such as fuel pumps or near handrails. Currently outdoor sinks for hand washing do not have to be part of a wastewater license with Maine DEP.

7. Boat Ramps: If your customers use launch ramps, remind them to launch and haul away from others and only have their crew handle lines. They should avoid crowding and maintain social distance and not gather for fishing stories. If they arrive at a launch that has a full parking lot, keep moving to another location.

8. On the Water: Boaters should not raft with other boats or have beach parties. These activities have led to closures of boating in some places. Maine has plenty of freshwater and saltwater space to spread out and enjoy time on the water safely. If boaters are cruising to other marinas, suggest they call or research if their destination has any limitations or restricted access for transient boaters.

9. Operations: It may be important to review any internal company guidelines or handbooks about storm preparations, employee safety, or general policies and add special addendums at this time.