

GAM Document

Yacht Club Standards for Ocean Stewardship

The Environment of the Sea Committee requests the assistance of CCA members to advance one of its important goals. The Committee has encouraged CCA members, yacht clubs and the recreational boating community at large to commit to stewardship of the seas. As part of this effort, we have now drafted a set of guidelines entitled “Yacht Club Standards for Ocean Stewardship”, the text of which is set out below and also will be posted on the Committee’s webpage.

Members of the CCA belong to many yacht clubs throughout North America and thus are in a unique position to call these guidelines to the attention of a significant number of clubs. The Environment of the Sea Committee requests that members do just that by sharing a copy of the Standards with their yacht clubs and asking that they consider adopting some or all of them.

We are aware that some yacht clubs have already taken action along the lines suggested by the Standards and we also recognize that what works for one club, might not be suitable for another. We know too that most sailors care about ocean issues, but believe that collective stewardship action under the banner of a yacht club is a strong way to reinforce convictions already held and make progress in this important area.

The Environment of the Sea Committee would appreciate feedback about steps which members’ yacht clubs have taken to promote ocean stewardship or suggestions for additions to the Guidelines. Please address such feedback to Committee Chair, Bill Foss at wsfoss@gmail.com.

The Standards for Ocean Stewardship are as follows:

1. Mission Statement. Amend mission statement, if necessary, to reflect the Club’s commitment to the health of the oceans. By way of example, such an amendment might read: “The Club will conduct its activities in a manner consistent with a commitment to stewardship of the seas.”
2. Promotion of Ocean Stewardship. Encourage members to maintain and operate their boats in an environmentally friendly manner, to be aware of environmental issues affecting the oceans and to consider becoming personally involved in addressing such issues. Such awareness and involvement could be as simple as joining and supporting one of the many non-profit organizations committed to ocean conservation or participating in the Ocean Conservancy’s annual International Beach Cleanup individually or as a group. Promotion of ocean stewardship might be facilitated by the designation of an individual or the creation of a committee with primary responsibility to oversee such efforts. An alternative might be to charge several committees to embrace ocean stewardship in their areas of responsibility.
3. Publicity. Use Club publications, bulletin boards, website and speaking programs as tools to communicate Club’s commitment to ocean stewardship.

4. Dining Rooms. Use guidelines such as those provided by the Monterey Bay Aquarium (www.seafoodwatch.org) or the Blue Ocean Institute (www.blueocean.org) in the Club's dining rooms to maximize seafood choices for healthy oceans. Note on menus that this is done. Make copies of the guidelines available to members and encourage them to follow them at home and in restaurants.
5. Regattas. Ensure that regattas sponsored by the Club are run in an environmentally friendly manner. For an example of an approach to this, go to www.sailorsforthesea.org and click on "Programs" and then on "Clean Regattas".
5. Clean Marina Programs. Become certified as a clean marina under the appropriate state clean marina initiative. For more information on this see www.management.noaa.gov/marinas.html.
6. Annual Award. Institute an annual award to the member of the Club who has done the most to promote the Club's commitment to stewardship of the oceans.
7. Youth Sailing Programs. Incorporate principles of ocean stewardship into the curricula of sail training programs.