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Manitowoc Marina to become certified 'clean marina'

Nine in state have voluntarily adopted practices since July

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MANITOWOC — Manitowoc Marina will be among recipients of the new Clean Marinas certification on Thursday during the Clean Marina Workshop in Racine, according to a news release.

The new Wisconsin Clean Marina program certification process was launched in July 2010 and so far nine Wisconsin marinas have voluntarily adopted practices needed to become certified, the release stated.

Other newly certified marinas include The Abbey Marina in Fontana and Gaslight Pointe Marina, Lakeshore Towers and SkipperBud's Reefpoint Marina, all in Racine.

Marinas participating in the program adopt up to 100 "best management practices," depending of the type of facility, ranging from docks only to full-service businesses with fueling, storage, repair and maintenance capabilities. The marinas typically have improved 10 to 25 practices ranging from procedures for preventing and cleaning up gas spills to installing better hazardous waste containment, sewage collection or hull wash water treatment systems.

Through the program, marinas will prevent pollution and protect fish and wildlife and public health knowing that a cleaner environment is important to their boating clientele, their livelihood and Wisconsin's coastal communities, according to the release.

"The Clean Marina Program provides technical assistance and training for marina managers and recognizes marinas that are good stewards of Wisconsin's environment," said Victoria Harris, water quality specialist with UW Sea Grant.

The Clean Marina program is a partnership between the Wisconsin Marina Association, the UW Sea Grant Institute and the UW Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center, with support from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program.