



NEWS RELEASE

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Pleasant Harbor's Homeport Marina Awarded a Marine EnviroStar

Preparing for spills, containing hazards, and educating boaters make this Hood Canal moorage Washington's latest designated Clean Marina.

Marina operator Bob Wise already knew a thing or two about protecting local waters while berthing boats. In 2011, his Port Hadlock Marina won Clean Marina certification from the Washington Clean Marina Program, after meeting a list of rigorous standards and commitments. Now Wise's Homeport Marina on Pleasant Harbor, a sensitive Hood Canal inlet just south of Dabob Bay, has become Washington's 68th certified Clean Marina. It's also Jefferson County's fourth, but its first since Port Hadlock. With certification comes a four-star rating under the EnviroStar Program, which certifies businesses in seven Washington counties that reduce waste and hazardous materials and conserve energy and water.

"We like to recognize marina operators for going above and beyond what they're required to do," said Aaron Barnett, Washington Sea Grant's boating program specialist, who helps operate the Clean Marina Program. "Bob Wise has really shown leadership, here and at Port Hadlock."

To earn certification, Wise had to incorporate the Clean Marina Best Management Practices in his marina's rules and regulations. He's communicated these practices to boaters via signage, handouts, and the Homeport website, and distributed oil-spill kits to them. He's also purchased secondary containment bins for storing hazardous materials and committed to switching to more environmentally friendly, less toxic products, while continuing to educate boaters about how to reduce their impacts.

Homeport Marina plans to work out an agreement to share spill-response equipment such as booms, and personnel with Pleasant Harbor Marina, which lies deep

inside the inlet. “This is very important,” explained the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance’s Andy Gregory, who manages the Clean Marina Program in partnership with the Washington State Parks Department and Washington Sea Grant. “Pleasant Harbor is located on a very remote site on the Hood Canal, and it would otherwise be difficult to get equipment there in time to respond to a spill.”

Wise will also advertise his Clean Marina status, which should help attract boaters who likewise care about protecting the waters they enjoy.

“Bob has high standards, and he really tries to hold his tenants to those standards,” said Laura Tucker, Jefferson County’s EnviroStar program coordinator. “We’re thrilled to add another EnviroStar to the list, especially since this is the first in four years, and because Bob now owns two clean marinas in Jefferson County

Based at the University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant provides statewide marine research, outreach, and education services. The National Sea Grant College Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. www.wsg.washington.edu