



From the desk of the...

MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

STRIVING TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE MARYLAND'S WATERWAYS

MARYLAND TO BAN USE OF ZINC ANODES

Marina Owners / Operators:

As you already know, the Maryland Department of Environment is in the process of re-writing the Wastewater Discharge Permit for marinas. Included in their draft is the requirement for marinas that power wash boat bottoms to sample the water runoff and have those samples tested for levels of copper, zinc, and other metals.

If you are not aware of this document, go to http://www.mde.maryland.gov/assets/document/permit/10ma_tentative_determ_permit.pdf.

Compliance with this permit, as written, will be costly to all marinas and may, in fact, result in the requirement for a water recycling or reclamation system for power washing. In addition, it will require a significant increase in paperwork.

MDE held a public hearing in August and MTABC was represented by several members of your Board of Directors.

After long discussion prior to the hearing, the MTABC Board agreed that the ultimate goal of the permit requirements is to reduce the levels of various metals in the waterways, particularly around marinas. However, as written, it fails to properly address waterfront homeowners and divers. In the Board's opinion, the burden of the permit falls unfairly on marinas operators and boat owners. Therefore, the Board decided to take a pro-active position. The Board met with Delegate Michael Weir and a representative of Senator Norman Stone.

The outcome of that meeting was a public proposal that the State of Maryland legislatively prohibit the sale and use of copper-based paints with a phase-in period of 3-5 years. Further, the **Board recommended that zinc anodes be prohibited now that aluminum anodes are available for virtually every application.**

Delegate Weir and Senator Stone are preparing that legislation to be introduced in the 2011 Maryland General Assembly.

It is the position of the MTABC Board that this legislation will truly and effectively reduce copper and zinc levels entering the Bay. **The availability of copper-free paints and aluminum anodes has been satisfactorily explored.**

As the fall paint ordering season approaches, **the purpose of this letter is to ask all MTABC members to give full consideration to offering and use of some percentage of copper-free paints and aluminum anodes in the 2011 spring launch season.** This should be done after your own satisfactory evaluations of products

From: MTABC [mailto:info@mtabc.org]
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