

ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

Clean harbor water is not merely a pleasantry; it is a virtual mandate. The Federal Clean Water Act set the standard that is supplemented by a network of state and local ordinances. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Offices provides assistance and enforcement of federal laws in federally owned navigable waterways. Some of the agencies that enforce state laws are State Environmental Protection Agencies, Health Departments, State Park Authorities and Fish and Game Agencies. Local government is involved through Port Commission Boards, City Council Officials and other agencies specifically developed for water area concerns. A successful tabbing program also depends on the informed support of local government legislatures.

Development of a tabbing program should be tailored to fit the unique concerns and structure of each harbor. Penalties for violation must be clearly defined. In some instances appropriate regulations may require modifications to enhance compliance. To aid the development of adequate legislation the Harbor Master, other port authorities or special consultants should first determine and contact local enforcement authority charged to monitor compliance with the existing ordinances.