

Marine & Aquatic Environmental Laws & Statutes

U.S. Federal Law & Marpol Agreement*

(<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/opis/html/summary/apps.htm>)

It is illegal for any vessel to discharge plastics or garbage containing plastics into any waters. Restrictions on dumping non-plastic waste are outlined below. All discharge of garbage is prohibited in the Great Lakes or their connecting or tributary waters.

*(International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973). The first important IMO agreement on controlling pollution from ships, which deals not only with pollution by oil but also chemical, garbage and sewage.)

Within 3 Nautical Miles Offshore and Anywhere in Lakes, Rivers, Bays, and Sounds:

Illegal to Dump:

Plastic
All other trash

3 to 12 Nautical Miles Offshore

Illegal to Dump:

Plastic
Dunnage, lining & packing materials that float
All other trash if not ground to less than 1 inch.

12 to 25 Nautical Miles Offshore

Illegal to Dump:

Plastic
Dunnage, lining & packing materials that float

Outside 25 nautical Miles Offshore

Illegal to Dump:

Plastic

*This act was amended in 1987 by the marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act...
Want to know about other Federal Statutes affecting our marine and fresh water boating environments? Check out the link below:

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/opis/html/legal.htm>

Check your own State and Local Laws for additional restrictions!

State Legal Frameworks for Ocean Management:

[Ocean Planning Information System: State Legal Frameworks for Ocean Management](#)

Does your state have a good page with this information? Email the EnvCom chair to have the link placed on the site.