

# Refuelling your boat

Every drop counts, help avoid oil spills  
into our waterways!

Every year hundreds of diesel and oil spills pollute our  
harbours and coastline.

Most are quite small, but even small amounts of fuel and oil can be fatal to birds and marine life and cause damage to the environment.

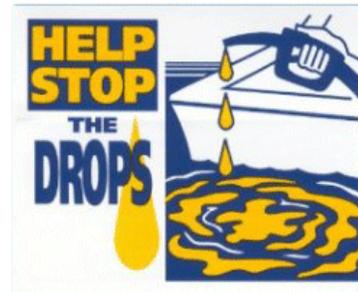
Because most of these spills are of very light oil, they quickly spread out into a thin film. This oily film is toxic, smells bad, fouls other boats, and contaminates shellfish and marine farms.

Most oil and fuel spills can be contributed to careless refueling or pumping oily bilge water overboard.



## FACT

- A single litre of fuel can contaminate over a million litres of water.
- One litre of used oil can form a 4000 m<sup>2</sup> slick
- Oil is toxic to fish and water species. Prolonged exposure affects reproduction, growth and feeding of aquatic life, even at low concentrations.
- The majority of oil pollution in our rivers and oceans comes from every day sources like refueling, engine emissions and oil leaks.



## Refuelling your Boat

- Whenever possible, refuel at an approved refueling station where spill kits are available, Do Not transfer fuel to your boat in containers.
- For safety, have all passengers disembark the vessel during petroleum refueling
- Before you start refueling, estimate how much fuel you need in your tanks to prevent overflow
- Plug the scuppers with rags during refueling where possible.
- Keep sorbent materials on deck to mop up any spills
- Make sure a responsible adult monitors the entire refueling process. Don't let children or untrained people refuel your boat.
- Never leave the fuel hose unattended while refueling
- Use caution in filling you fuel tank to avoid spillage into the water
- Fit a vent whistle & listen to the tone while refueling
- When fueling, avoid topping off or overfilling to reduce the risk of fuel overflowing from vents. Allow room for expansion in the tank.

If you overfill your fuel tank, wipe it up with an absorbent rag. Do Not hose the fuel off into the water. Dispose of the contaminated rags responsibly.

Report Spills immediately to the fuel station operator, marina operator and local Regional Council. The sooner the spill is reported the better chance there is of minimizing damage to the environment.