

10/7/2022

Martha's Vineyard Commission:

For eight years, I have worked for Safe Harbor Marinas. I can attest to how clean of an operation we continue to run. Since my time in the Vineyard Haven location, I have been part of a team that goes above and beyond environmental standards to protect the Lagoon and its ecosystem. We filter our pressure washing water and re-use it, we use environmentally safe anti-fouling paint, we do not produce run-off of oils or any petroleum-based chemicals, and we recycle our shrink wrap. We strive to run one of the cleanest marinas in the region and will continue to do so.

The project we are purposing will take pre-existing summer stored vessels off the Lagoon and place them in the safest storage option for the environment: off the water and dry racked.

Dry racked storage vessels do not need anti-fouling bottom paint, nor do they pose any environmental risks to water ways. Additionally, no wetlands will be harmed or manipulated in the purposed project.

For years, the Lagoon's health has been studied and documented and I have carefully followed these reports.

The nitrogen levels derived from the resident's homes on the Lagoon is worrisome. The septic systems and leeching fields have major impacts on the Lagoon's health. This past summer, Martha's Vineyard went through a major drought and all the lawns surrounding the Lagoon continued to be fertilized and watered, weekly. The run-off from the homes surrounding the Lagoon is directly linked to the health of the pond, not dry racked stored vessels. If residents on Lagoon want to see the health of the pond improve, I believe this should be the first course of action.

I am in favor of the purposed project. The waterways need a better infrastructure and Safe Harbor's project would accomplish that. Our customer base hardly uses the Lagoon to go boating. The Lagoon merely acts as an entry and exit way to the open water. Safe Harbor Marinas prides itself on environmental stewardship and I am proud to work for a company with these values.

I'd like to close by saying, I have been coming to Martha's Vineyard my entire life, lived here year-round for a good portion of my childhood, and my father was a respected island business owner. I have spent countless hours on the water around this island. I care about this place and would not be in favor of any project that could harm it.

I ask the commissioners to please study the facts, respect business, and move forward with the project.

Thank you,

William C. O'Doherty