

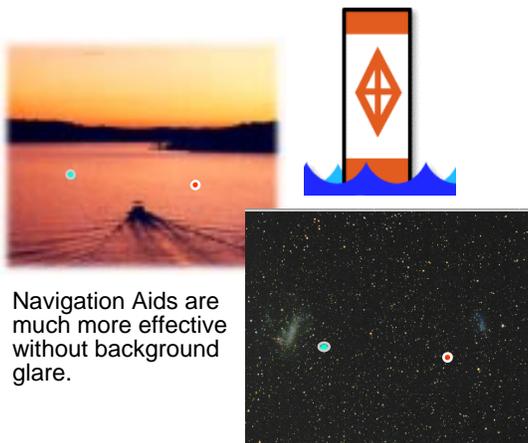
# Boating safety and light pollution



Fully shielded outdoor shoreline lighting increases boaters' safety and enhances the pleasure of boating at night under star studded skies.



Glaring lights cause safety problems for boaters.

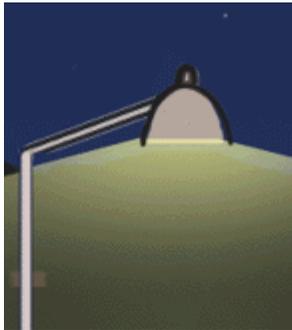


Navigation Aids are much more effective without background glare.

Photos courtesy of Johnny Noles



Glaring light—no!



Fully shielded—yes!

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## Glaring shoreline lights cause safety problems for boaters.

Boaters out at night are finding it increasingly difficult to navigate the waterways because of the growing number of glaring lights on the shoreline from highways, towns, bridges, marinas, docks or piers, private home security or architectural lights. The glaring lights create background clutter and effect vision which makes it difficult to see other boaters, hazards such as floating logs, bridge pilings, or navigation aids such as illuminated buoys. Groundings and boating accidents occur. There is a growing public demand for safer boating through shoreline light pollution control.

## Glaring lights reduce visibility and safety.

Glaring lights are produced when the bulbs are unshielded. At any time, whether on shore or on water, glaring lights reduce visibility and safety because the eye adjusts to the brightness of the light and is therefor incapable of seeing in shadows or dark areas. In addition to visual problems caused by direct glare, water surface reflections magnify light pollution problems.



## Navigation aids are ineffective against glare.

While navigation aids with reflective surfaces or small green, yellow or red lights are effective under starlit conditions, they are ineffective against background glare or light reflections on the water from shoreline lights.

## Experts agree about problems of glare to boaters.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG,) and many state and local marine police agree that shoreline light pollution is a safety nuisance to night navigation and safe boating.

## The solution is elegant and reasonable.

### Downlighting

Replace glaring lights with fully shielded, lower wattage bulbs which shine the light down on the dock or pier, the marina, the parking lot, highway or street, but not out onto the waterways to produce vision debilitating glare.

### Internally lit advertisements signs

Identify marinas or other points of entry with internally lit signs or top-down, low wattage illumination.

### Light only when needed

Discontinue all unnecessary shoreline lighting or use it only when needed. Put lights on a timer or switch.

### Local ordinance

As the problem continues to grow with increasing number of people building along the water's edge, a local ordinance may be needed for compliance with the solutions.