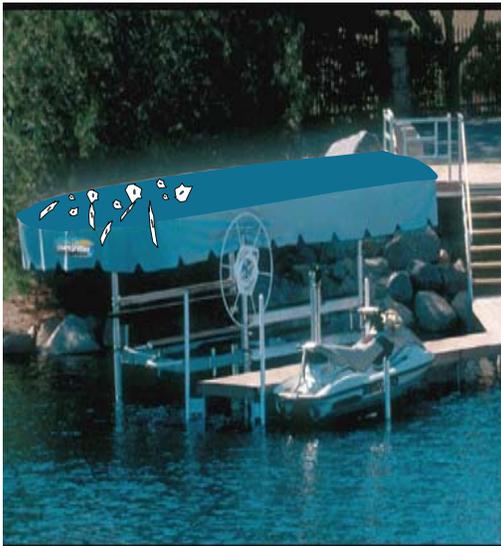


## Solving the Gull Problem –

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Newsletter

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Sooner or later, all flat structures over water become white-washed by gulls. These unlucky structures include docks, rafts, boat hoist covers, and boat houses. The gulls like to gather on them for loafing and checking out the local food supply. The scout bird arrives and checks out the location. Pretty soon, dozens more follow and the loafing/feeding structure begins to acquire a spreading mélange of grayish-white blobs. This stuff is really nasty, especially on docks, where it can become impossible to avoid stepping in it.



Proposed solutions abound, the most common being posting mock owls and snakes in strategic locations – which do not work.

The solution is simple, and takes advantage of a little gull biology. Gulls (and herons and cormorants, too, for that matter) like unobstructed landing zones. If the proposed landing zone (your dock, boathouse – whatever) has

an impediment to landing, gulls will avoid it. Twenty to forty of the fake owls will do, if scattered over the structure to provide pretty complete coverage. However, a cheaper and more esthetic solution is to string fishing monofilament line (30 pound test or so) over the structure, about 6-8 inches above the structure. The monofilament is usually tied to 1 inch diameter PVC pipe, or to 2"x2" stakes which are attached at the middle of the top. Our neighbor has just one line strung above her boat house and the gulls have not come back. More preferred would be a network of string stung over the structure. In the hoist canopy pictured below, a line should be strung over the middle of the top. Four corner posts should be attached and additional lines strung from middle post to corner post to form a large X over the top.



Monofilament may similarly be strung around the borders of docks, rafts, and boathouses. It works.

If you're not comfortable doing the job yourself, the yellow pages contain names of wildlife consultants who can do the job.