

Smart Harbors



Fall 2023

Updates From Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Free CleanWay™ Fuel Fill Kits – Preventing Spills and Splashes



CleanWay™ devices are available to each certified Virginia Clean Marina at no cost to marinas. Full color laminated instructions will be provided, and a brief training will be conducted with marina operators and staff. Operators can then instruct their clients in the proper use of the units when refueling. Funding for this project was secured through the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and sales of the “Friend of the Chesapeake” license plate. For more information about the CleanWay™ fuel fill kits, please email acclark@vims.edu or visit the website [here](http://vims.edu).



Your New Clean Marina Program Specialist

Abigail Clark is your new Clean Marina Program Specialist at VIMS! Abigail comes from the Virginia Department of Health in Norfolk. Please send any questions, comments, certifications, or recertifications to acclark@vims.edu or call 804-684-7768 for more information.

Why Become a Virginia Clean Boater?

By adopting pollution prevention measures, Virginia Clean Boaters can take satisfaction in knowing they are doing their part to keep Virginia waterways clean, preserve our waterways for the future, and learn/teach clean boating habits. For more information visit the website [here](http://vims.edu).

CMP Highlighted Marina – York River Yacht Haven

This quarter’s highlighted marina is York River Yacht Haven in Gloucester Point, VA. The marina completed the recertification process in August. General Manager Morgan Waters writes: “York River Yacht Haven is Virginia’s finest full-service destination marina! Located at the mouth of Sarah Creek in Gloucester Point, our 14-acre marina is a sought-after home with boat slips for some of the finest yachts in the Chesapeake Bay. For the past 3 years, York River Yacht Haven has been a VA Clean Water Marina and has recently certified their General Manager as an AMI Clean & Resilient Marina Professional. We invite boaters to come and experience our amenities and ask our staff how we implement best management practices for a clean and green marina!”



Photo credit: York River Yacht Haven

Updates from External Partners

NOAA: Atlantic Hurricane Season Ends November 30th

Watch vs. Warning

A **Watch** is posted when hurricane or tropical storm conditions pose a threat to a specified coastal area, usually within 48 hours. A **Warning** is posted when hurricane or tropical storm conditions are expected within 36 hours or less.

Click [here](#) for an extensive library of storm preparation videos brought to you by BoatUS.

Association of Marina Industries: Upcoming Webinars

What Cyber Threats Do Marinas Face?

Webinar: January 3, 2024; 12 PM EST – 1 PM EST

This webinar will cover the digital threat landscape in the maritime industry and the solutions and resources that we have to combat the increase in cyberattacks on marina industries.

To sign up, click [here](#).

Fishing For New Hires – How to Lure Them In

Webinar: February 14, 2024; 12 PM EST – 1 PM EST

The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) Foundation has done extensive research into identifying solutions for marina industry companies looking for new hires, and it goes well beyond simply posting a listing on a job-search website. Join ABYC's Accreditation Director to hear the top 10 tips for locating and grooming the right talent for your yard, shop, or marina. You will leave this session with specific action items you can implement to address your hiring needs.

To sign up, click [here](#).

Chesapeake Bay Foundation – Oyster Gardening

Interested in Oyster Gardening at your marina? Please contact acclark@vims.edu or jlutzow@cbf.org for more information if you would like to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.



BoatUS Foundation Receives \$10 Million NOAA Grant for Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Program Targeting Nation's Coasts and Great Lakes

From BoatUS, September 6, 2023

Boats end up abandoned or derelict on our nation's coasts for several reasons. Irresponsible owners abandon vessels when they can no longer afford to care for them or pay for their disposal. Poorly maintained, "at risk" anchored boats combined with the [increasing frequency and severity of storms](#) leave shorelines littered with wrecks after each hurricane. A four-year, [\\$10 million grant from NOAA's Marine Debris Removal Program](#) to the [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](#) aims to rid our nation's shores of abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs), and remove the associated pollution, navigation and safety hazards that can harm waters for years.

The grant, funded by the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), is part of NOAA's larger mission to address [marine debris](#), which not only includes fiberglass boats but derelict fishing gear, plastics and other types of debris.

The grant directs the Annapolis, Maryland-based boating nonprofit to "... improve U.S. coastal and marine waters affected by abandoned and derelict vessels by facilitating removal and prevention activities across the country."

The majority of funds will kick-start a one-stop-shop competitive grant program to seek out and complete marine debris removal projects on our nation's coasts (saltwaters) and in the Great Lakes for funding and support. Under the guidelines, any organization – public or private – will be able to apply for ADV removal funds.

To help educate and prevent future ADVs, the Foundation will also create a national ADV database to track the scope of the challenge and measure success, document ADV prevention and removal activities to share with the public and support a national dialogue and education efforts on boating-related debris removal, with an added focus on how ADVs impact waters in underserved communities.

"This is a coordinated, once-in-lifetime investment to remove abandoned and derelict vessels, and we're proud to help NOAA carry out this important mission to rid our shores of marine debris," said BoatUS Foundation president Chris Edmonston. "Our goal over the next four years is to focus on the immediate issue – the substantial number of ADVs that need removal. In the future, we hope to expand the program to inland freshwater lakes and waterways, and reach a point where ADV removals diminish as educational and preventive efforts have greater impact. It's much more cost-effective to stop it before it happens."

BoatUS Foundation director of outreach and grant program manager Alanna Keating said, "We're excited about building upon our years of experience with ADV removals. What makes this program unique is it is open to any

organization, nonprofit or for-profit, as well as local, state, and regional government agencies. Clean, coastal waters for everyone. Some of our focus will be seeking underserved or marginalized communities that don't have the local resources to rid their shores of abandoned and derelict vessels."

"This grant, made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, underscores NOAA's commitment to combat marine debris and its negative impact on the communities and economies that depend on clean, healthy waterways," said Nicole LeBoeuf, assistant administrator, NOAA's National Ocean Service. "This pivotal partnership will enable us to address the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels, and help safeguard our coasts and Great Lakes from pollution, hazards and navigational challenges."

The Foundation, which drew more than 60 letters of support for the grant application, expects to announce the opening of ADV grant program applications in early 2024. Updates will be posted to BoatUS.org/ADVGrant as they occur.

Sea Tow Foundation Releases Flare Education Toolkit

From the Association of Marina Industries and Sea Tow Foundation, September 15, 2023

The [Sea Tow Foundation](https://SeaTowFoundation.org), a boating safety non-profit, has released a [Flare Education Toolkit](#) for the boating community. The toolkit is designed to provide boaters with the information they need to safely and properly use traditional flares as well as electronic flares (known as E-Flares). The toolkit also includes pre-made social media copy and email templates for industry leaders to easily spread flare knowledge to boaters.

"The goal of this toolkit is to increase education and awareness of visual distress options for boaters. Considering that E-Flares are relatively new to the boating industry, many boaters may not be aware of them or know that they are a great alternative to traditional flares," said Gail R. Kulp, executive director of the Sea Tow Foundation. "E-flares are easier to use, can eliminate injury or damages caused by burning slag, and are more affordable over time because they don't need to be replaced every 42 months. We encourage companies, organizations, and individuals within the boating industry to use our toolkit to help increase boaters' E-Flare knowledge."

For more information click [here](#).



Photo credits: Sea Tow Foundation

What's Different About Fall Boating? 3 On-Water Safety Tips

From BoatUS, September 20, 2023

For some boaters, fall is the best time for boating. Summer's steamy days have surrendered to more comfortable temperatures, angling improves, and winds are stronger for sailing. It's also time to embrace extra boating safety efforts for the season and look ahead to how you're going to store your boat this winter. The nonprofit [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](https://BoatUS.org) has three boating safety tips to consider, as well as some test results on the four main types of winter boat covers.



Photo credits: BoatUS

- 1. Take safety seriously.** If you ask the U.S. Coast Guard about boating safety and drowning, they'll tell you that three of every four boaters who drowned in 2022 were using vessels less than 21 feet in length at the time (when boat length was known in the [accident statistics](#)). The BoatUS Foundation says that small boats in particular are more susceptible to the effects of stormy weather. During leaf-peeping season there's also more solo boat operation, which means it's wise to wear a life jacket and file a float plan so someone can raise the alarm if you fail to return. A self-boarding ladder, such as a length of multi-looped rope anchored to a cleat, should be easily grabbable from the water.
- 2. Keep up with maintenance.** Like many boaters, enjoying summer boating season was primary. Secondary was toiling over the things that broke, leaked or came apart. Ensuring your vessel remains reliable is important as there are fewer potential good Samaritan boaters – generally your closest rescuers – to provide help, if necessary.
- 3. Use your engine cutoff switch.** While all states require an engine cutoff switch (ECOS) use for PWCs, seven states and the U.S. Coast Guard also require ECOS devices for boats. The Coast Guard's rule requires [ECOS wear when aboard vessels less than 26 feet traveling on plane or above displacement speed](#). The ECOS can be located at the helm of the boat or on the tiller or body of an outboard engine and typically connects to the boat's operator with a lanyard. Some ECOS devices eliminate the lanyard and rely on wireless proximity devices to shut down an engine if the operator goes overboard. Regardless, an accidental fall overboard could quickly turn dangerous. Make your ECOS your boating friend this fall.

Please Share Your News!

Do you have a new and exciting method for managing recyclables at your facility? Are there any regulatory items you would like addressed? Has your facility won an award or hired a new manager? If you have any news that you would like included in the Clean Marina Newsletter, Smart Harbors, please let us know! This is a quarterly newsletter with the next issue scheduled for Winter 2023 and we would like to include information from the marina community. If you have comments or questions, please email the Virginia Clean Marina Program: askVCMP@vims.edu or acclark@vims.edu or call (804) 684-7768.

