

Smart Harbors



Spring 2024

Updates From Virginia Institute of Marine Science



Credit: Wes Batten

Fishing Line Recycling

Do you have used fishing line (monofilament, fluorocarbon, and braided line) or an inactive collection bin? The Clean Marina Program and Virginia Sea Grant have begun collecting fishing line for recycling. For more information, please email acclark@vims.edu or call (804) 684-7768.

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 <https://cleanwayfuelfill.shop/>

Interested in Recycling Boating Shrinkwrap?

VIMS is starting a recycling program for boating shrinkwrap. If your marina would like to serve on the working group as we plan collection activities, please email acclark@vims.edu or call (804) 684-7768.

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, click [here](#).



CMP Highlighted Marina – The Docks At Downtown Hampton

This quarter's highlighted marina is The Docks At Downtown Hampton!

Congratulations to the Docks at Downtown Hampton! The Docks at Downtown Hampton has received a Boater's Choice 2023 Award via Marinas.com and Dockwa. This award is given to marinas that maintain a 4 star or higher average customer rating over the course of the year. Well done! Visit their website: [here!](#)

The Docks at Downtown Hampton is a transient facility located within walking distance of Downtown Hampton's historic district, restaurants, and local attractions. It was also the first marina in the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive Virginia Clean Marina certification.

The Docks have several boater amenities, including shower facilities, onsite laundry, free public wifi on the docks, complimentary bicycles, a garden with pick your own veggies & herbs, marina office with internet access and telephones, discounts on car rentals from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and pool, spa, and fitness room privileges at the Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina Hotel.

Both pleasure boaters and those traveling around the Intracoastal Waterway find safe haven in the marinas dotting Hampton's sheltered harbor, and boaters do not have to pay a boat tax. Hampton Roads harbor offers deep water slips and first-class amenities, and most boater needs are within walking distance. Follow channel marker 2 to channel marker 20 on the scenic Hampton River, and see why boaters proclaim Downtown Hampton to be "the best kept secret on the Lower Chesapeake Bay".

The Hampton River channel is easy to follow and is well marked. On the east shore of the river's entrance you can see the Veteran's Hospital and Hampton University. Traveling up the Hampton River, Sunset Creek bears off to port and is clearly marked by the junction tower on the north side of the channel and a green day marker "1" on the south side. The tide ranges about 2 ½ feet, and the current is a negligible ¼ to ½ knot at max flood and ebb. The tree lined shore on the Hampton University side of the river and picturesque Downtown Hampton on the opposite shore offer excellent protection from foul weather.

Updates from External Partners

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.



Photo credits: Docks at Downtown Hampton



Industry News

Selling a Boat This Year? Don't Forget These 4 Critical Paperwork Tasks

From BoatUS, March 4, 2024

The spring boat-buying season is upon us, much to the delight of boat sellers, some of whom may be eager to unload their boats after racking up off-season storage bills. However, when a boat is sold, sellers need to understand – sometimes for safety reasons – that they aren't in the free and clear until critical paperwork is done right. Here is a seller's paperwork to-do list from Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS).



Credit: BoatUS

1. **Cancel the boat insurance policy.** This is the first thing most boat sellers do right. It's super important to cancel a vessel's insurance policy once the sale goes through. Not doing so potentially adds unnecessary risk and potential liability to the seller. Also don't forget to cancel any automatic bank payments that were set up to pay policy premiums.
2. **Release the DSC-VHF radio's Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number.** If you're selling your boat, remember a key fact about MMSI's: Once issued, the MMSI number stays assigned to the boat (installed VHF radios). The emergency contact information, among other data, requires updating. If a seller forgets to release the MMSI number to the buyer, a future mayday distress aboard the vessel could delay first responders. BoatUS members can release or update an MMSI for no cost at <http://boatus.com/MMSI>.
3. **Have an EPIRB aboard?** A seller will need to ensure an Emergency Position-Indicating Rescue Beacon (EPIRB) attached to the boat is updated with new owner contact information. To update an EPIRB go to NOAA's Beacon Registration site and change the status to "Sold/Transferred." Once this happens, the new owner can register the beacon in their name with their own emergency contact information.
4. **Contact the state boat registration agency to advise them the boat was sold.** Sending a letter by mail or email to your state's boat registration agency acknowledging the boat has a new owner may help prevent future misdirected registration renewal notices. In some states it is a legal requirement to report any changes in vessel ownership status within a certain number of days with the name of the purchaser, purchase price and date of sale.

To help make buying and selling easier, BoatUS offers a free Boat Buying and Selling Guide and other helpful resources at BoatUS.com/Guide.

Interested in Your Marina's Impact on Your Local Economy?

From the Association of Marina Industries

The Association of Marina Industries (AMI) is pleased to present the Marina Economic Impact Calculator – a simple but powerful tool that lets a marina input gross revenues to calculate its impact on the local economy.

Visit: <https://marinaassociation.org/meic> to use the calculator! (Please note there is a fee for non-AMI members.)

This valuable information can help a marina justify its need for expansion or renovations and highlight its overall value to its local community. Marina operators can even use the information the tool provides to aid in loan and grant requests. Meanwhile, what AMI gains is better insight into how marinas overall impact the economy across the larger United States (US), because the tool will aggregate the results by region giving the industry a comprehensive picture of just how economically valuable marinas are to local, regional, and country-wide economies.

If you need any help using this tool, please contact Eric Kretsch at EKretsch@MarinaAssociation.org or 202-350-9623.

Taking The Invasive Species Fight Nationally

From BoatUS, December 2023, By Rich Armstrong



Credit: BoatUS

The Aquatic Invasive Species Commission was established in 2022 by members of the outdoor recreation industry (including BoatU.S.) to turn the tide on proliferating AIS. Different species — whether zebra mussels in the Northeast, snakeheads in the Mid-Atlantic, lionfish off Florida, or Asian carp in the Midwest — have different means of encroaching, so there's no one-size-fits-all solution. [Aquatic invasive species](#) don't respect borders, so today's patchwork of local efforts to halt the AIS spread is losing ground.

[A United Nations-backed global study](#) released this summer estimated the spread of more than 3,500 harmful invasives (aquatic and terrestrial) are costing society more than \$423 billion each year — and getting worse fast. The study finds invasive species are changing biodiversity and ecosystems globally, causing species extinction, and damaging food supplies and human livelihoods.

For the U.S. approach, the [AIS commission's final report](#) recommends a renewed federal approach to addressing the challenges, informed by consultations with leading voices in natural resources policy, scientists, federal, state, and tribal representatives, and recreational stakeholders.

“The plan is for our [BoatU.S. Government Affairs](#) department and our partners to develop legislation addressing the needs outlined in the report,” explains Alanna Keating, BoatU.S. Foundation's director of outreach. That legislation will be based on the AIS Commission's recommendations, which include:

- **Updating federal law and policy** to enhance prevention, reduce spread, and increase management of AIS.

- **Increasing federal funding** to address AIS through a coordinated, strategic, and targeted approach across federal departments, agencies, and bureaus to provide tools to address AIS at the regional and watershed levels.
- **Enhancing collaboration** between states, regions, and marine industries and communities, including recreational boating. Communication and planning are critical to AIS prevention, detection, management, and eradication.
- **Maintaining access to the water.** Laws, regulations, and policies addressing AIS at the federal, state, regional, and tribal levels should maintain access for boaters, anglers, and other users in a manner that seeks to balance use of waterways with the ecological health and long-term sustainability of critical natural resources.
- **Increasing public education and engagement**, especially outdoor users such as anglers, boaters, hunters, and other conservationists to help reduce the persistent threats of AIS.

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 Summer 2024 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.

