

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Summer 2019

Virginia Clean
Marina
Recertification



Three months ago, notices were emailed to 74 certified VCMs that needed to be recertified. Pete Hall, acting VCMP Program Director, is happy to report that as of this date 36 have completed and submitted their recertification checklist for scoring. Of those, 31 have met the scoring requirement and have received a letter granting them continued VCMP status.

Congratulations to the following marinas on their Virginia Clean Marina recertification:

Belle Haven Marina
Bethpage Camp-Resort Marina
Bluewater Yachting Center
Cavalier Golf & Yacht Club
Chesapeake Boat Basin Inc.
Cobb's Marina
Colonial Beach Yacht Center
Deltaville Marina
Deltaville Yachting Center
Fairfax Yacht Club Marina
Garrett's Marina
Ginney Point Marina
Morningstar Marinas
Knitting Mill Creek Yacht Club
Leesylvania State Park
Leeward Municipal Marina
Lynnhaven Marine
Norview Marina
Queens Creek Marina
Riverwalk Landing
Salt Ponds Marina
Seaford Yacht Club
Smith Point Marina
Southall Landings Marina
Stingray Harbor Marina
Tides Marina
Two Rivers Yacht Club
Volvo Penta Test Center
Whitehouse Cove Marina
Yankee Point Sailboat Marina, Inc.
York River Yacht Haven

Here Are 6 Ways Boaters Can Be Green This Summer

By BoatUS

All across America boating season has begun. With some help from the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, here are six ways boaters can help keep waters clean and be good environmental stewards all summer long.

≈ **1. Cleaning and waxing:** When making your boat sparkle, understand that some general cleaning soaps may have harmful chemicals, so consider using alternate cleaning methods. You'd be surprised, for example, of how effective (and affordable) having a spray bottle with the proper mix of white vinegar and water can be as an all-purpose cleaner.

≈ **2. Waste management:** A simple thing like having a trash bin aboard can make a difference, especially in a crowded

Saturday afternoon anchorage. Ensure it has a lid that can be secured to prevent trash from blowing overboard. The presence of a trash can, and ensuring everyone aboard knows where it is, will encourage guests to be good environmental stewards as well.

≈ **3. Sewage handling:** If you have a head aboard, ensure it's in good working condition. Also familiarize yourself with how to use a pumpout correctly. Mistakes here can make it into family lore. Before you go to the

pumpout location, call ahead to ensure it's operating, advise of your boat length and ask if there are any restrictions on getting access to the pump as it may be in a tight location. The good news is that many are inexpensive or free.

≈ **4. Fuel efficiency:** In addition to having the engine tuned, have you had last season's propeller dings fixed? You'd be surprised what a little time

in a prop shop can do for a boat's fuel economy. Other places to look to save gas: Are you carrying around a bunch of extra junk (weight) in lockers? Are your trim tabs in good working order? Balancing the load, especially in smaller boats, not only improves efficiency but safety as well.

≈ **5. Fishing:** While everyone wants to have the biggest catch after a long day of fishing, it's important to practice selective harvesting.

This encourages you to keep more midsized fish and release the biggest ones as they're more likely to reproduce next season. Use circle hooks to minimize damage, and do your best never to leave fishing line in the water. Encourage your community's line recycling by making a monofilament fishing line recycling bin and start a recycling program at your boating and fishing club, launch ramp or marina.



If you refuel your boat at a gas station, be aware that any fuel with more than 10% ethanol (E10) is prohibited for use in marine engines. Photo credit: BoatUS

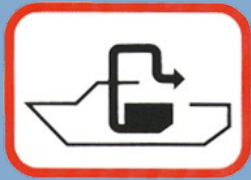
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Virginia Clean Marina Website Update

The newly redesigned Virginia Clean Marina Website is live! The site has undergone a much-needed facelift and content overhaul with updated content on the information you need most, including the Virginia Clean Marina guidebook and checklist, clean boater information, regulatory help, and links to resources. Visit the new site at the same web address <http://www.virginiacleanmarina.com>.

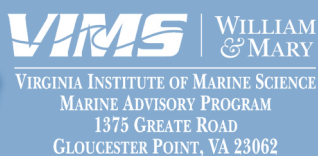
Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

The Virginia Department of Health has funds available for the installation and maintenance of vessel sewage pump-out and dump stations. The program is funded through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. Marinas that find themselves with increasingly higher maintenance costs should consider applying for funding to replace their existing pump-out stations. Please contact Litta Paulson, Litta.Paulson@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7457 or Preston Smith, Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7468, for more information on the Clean Vessel Act program and participation for Virginia marinas.



Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

Oil absorbent bilge pads are available for distribution. The bilge pads were purchased with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Please contact askVCMP@vims.edu, if you would like bilge pads for your slip holders.



BoatUS App's New 'Connect to Local Towing Captains' Feature Shortens Response Time

By BoatUS

When boats break down on the water, run aground or run out of fuel, many recreational boaters use the free BoatUS App to summon TowBoatUS for routine on-water assistance. The app's new Connect feature will automatically link app users with the closest local TowBoatUS captain, eliminating the need to call to BoatUS national dispatch and providing better service to boaters by shortening response times from the nation's largest 24-hour, on-water towing fleet.



Getting on-water assistance is easy with the BoatUS App, now featuring direct connect for faster response times. Photo Credit: BoatUS

"At BoatUS, we know what it's like to have to make a phone call for on-water assistance when conditions are not optimal," said Mike Vatalaro, BoatUS digital innovation manager. "We have now eliminated that need, speeding up the dispatch process to get you service more quickly." On average, more than 70,000 boaters a year request on-water assistance from the TowBoatUS fleet. "We are going to shave thousands of minutes off dispatch times," added Vatalaro. "And that's good for boaters."

When a recreational boater requests on-water assistance by tapping the BoatUS App's "Request a Tow" button on his or her smartphone, the app automatically provides the nearby TowBoatUS responder with the disabled boat's confirmed GPS location. The boater will

be asked to answer a few short questions to confirm the vessel type, the number of passengers aboard, anchoring status, the nature of the boat's disablement, and the preferred destination.

Within seconds, a text message to the customer on the disabled boat will confirm the request was received. A follow-up text a few minutes later

provides an estimated time of arrival. "The next communication is a call or text message from the local TowBoatUS towing captain advising he or she is underway," added Vatalaro.

The app also offers hurricane alerts, weather and tides; helps BoatUS members find discounts on fuel, transient slips, and marine services; and makes it easy to file an insurance claim, pay bills, and update policy information.

BoatUS offers on-water Unlimited Towing Memberships for freshwater boaters and anglers for just \$85 a year and \$159 for saltwater. In addition to towing, both offer more than 25 benefits and services. Boaters without BoatUS towing services face costs that average \$750 per towing incident, with some paying into the thousands out of pocket.

BoatUS Towing Services provides assistance for routine on-water assistance. In the event of an emergency, boaters should contact the U.S. Coast Guard or a local government agency.

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≈ **6. Refueling:** Check out this short refueling tips video. Never use hands-free clips, and avoid any distractions while fueling. Fuel expands as temperatures rise, so don't top off your tank. Know how much fuel your tank holds and fill it to about 90%. Clean up fuel spills immediately with an oil-only absorbent pad. The U.S. Coast Guard

must be notified if a spill creates sheen on the water. Call the Coast Guard National Response Center at 800-424-8802 to report a spill. If you are refueling at a gas station, ensure you do not refuel your marine engine with E15 (15% ethanol) fuel or greater blends as this is against the law and will void your engine's warranty.



National Working Waterfront Network Website

The National Working Waterfront Network (NWWN) is a nationwide network of businesses, industry associations, nonprofits, local governments and communities, state and federal agencies, universities, Sea Grant programs, and individuals dedicated to supporting, preserving, and enhancing our nation's working waterfronts and waterways. Participation in the NWWN is open to all individuals and organizations involved in working waterfront issues at the federal, state, and local level. Their mission is to increase the capacity of coastal communities and stakeholders to make informed decisions, balance diverse uses, ensure access, and plan for the future of their working waterfronts and waterways.

Their newly renovated website and online toolkit contains lots of information, data, and tools that individuals, communities, and governments at all levels can use to develop, inform, and enhance their sustainable working waterfront initiatives. On their site, you can find information on financing, law and policy, economics and historic trends, and read case studies on successful projects solving problems that impact marinas. To visit the site, go to <https://nationalworkingwaterfronts.com>.

The NWWN website and Sustainable Working Waterfronts Toolkit was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

For additional information on the Virginia Clean Marina program please click on the logo to visit our website.



SOBA's 33rd Annual Boating Access Educational Symposium: Overcoming Challenges and Improving Boating Infrastructure

by **Libby Yranski, Executive Director**

SOBA's Annual Boating Access Education Symposium will be here before you know it and early bird registration is still available! The Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be co-hosting the 2019 event in Portsmouth, Virginia. The conference theme is **"Overcoming Challenges and Improving Boating Infrastructure."**

As professionals providing access to boaters, we face many challenges from securing locations and agreements to building in rising seas and changing weather. I encourage you to come and share your experiences with your fellow new and old SOBA colleagues and friends. Together we can overcome any challenges that we face, in order to provide great infrastructure and opportu-



nities to our boating constituents.

Monday will feature the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) training day; Tuesday and Wednesday will feature the general sessions, breakout tracks with Engineering, Clean Vessel, and Boating Infrastructure; a full Exhibit Hall with vendors; awards program; and the traditional boating access site visits along the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

When: September 9 – 12, 2019

Where: The Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel in Portsmouth. Room rate is \$94 plus taxes. To make your reservations today, please click [here](#).

Registration: Early bird registration ends July 31, so register now at <http://www.sobaus.org/conference/conference14.html>.

Help Your Local Boating Community Be Safe and Clean with a BoatUS Foundation Grant

By **BoatUS**

Would you like to help boaters be safe and keep waters clean in your local area? Begun over 25 years ago and one of the longest-running boating community grant programs, the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water Grassroots Grant program provides local groups up to \$10,000 to help educate boaters on safe and clean boating topics. A 365-day rolling grant application process allows applicants to apply at any time throughout the year, speeding the review process and allowing flexibility in funding projects.

To get started, all a local group has to do is submit a short letter of intent explaining its idea. If the idea is strong and meets Grassroots Grant program guidelines, the BoatUS Foundation will ask for a full proposal. Past projects have ranged from public service announcements on the effects of boating under the influence and installing fishing line recycling bins to hands-on education about the effects of marine debris and even a distinctive airborne blimp adorned with boating safety messages.

"Our goal is to facilitate behavioral changes in the boating community," said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. "We are always looking for unique ideas that reach local boaters, either through technology or in other ways that can be measured in terms of success."

Since 1989, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million to organizations that have developed creative projects to promote safe and clean boating on their local waterways. For more information or to apply, go to BoatUS.org/Grants.



A Grassroots grant helped these youngsters understand marine debris in their own community. Photo credit: BoatUS