

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Spring 2016

2017 Boating Infrastructure Grant Applications due August 1, 2016

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is now accepting applications for the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) through Monday, August 1, 2016. The BIG program is administered on the national level by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and on the state level by VDH. The program is funded through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

The BIG program is authorized to provide and enhance infrastructure at boating facilities for transient recreational vessels 26 feet or more in length. The enhanced infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, day docks, mooring buoys, docks and other equipment and services that benefits eligible users of the facility. There are two types of grants available, Tier 1 – State and Tier 2 – National. Tier 1 – State BIG is administered on the state level and provides up to \$200,000 per state for eligible projects. BIG Tier 2 – National competes on a national level with an award ceiling for eligible projects typically set at \$1,500,000.

See 50 CFR Part 86, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program; Final Rule, published May 6, 2015, for guidance on proposal preparation. Please note that the scoring criterion was updated in 2015. Do not hesitate to contact Preston Smith, Preston.Smith@vdh.virginia.gov, 804-864-7468, or Anne Smith, annesmith@vims.edu, 804-684-7768, with any questions.



The docking facilities at Riverwalk Landing were funded in part by a Tier 2 – National Boating Infrastructure Grant. Photo by Preston Smith.

Economic Impact of Virginia's Coastal Communities

Virginia's coastal communities contribute significantly to several sectors of Virginia's economy. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's online resource Economics: National Ocean Watch indicates that just over 118,000 people are employed in some sector related to water based activities. Of those 118,000 people, close to 60,000 are employed in the tourism and recreation sector (includes eating and drinking establishments, hotels, marinas, boat dealers and charters, recreational fishing and several other activities), 2,600 are employed in marine construction, 3,790 are employed in the living resources sector (includes commercial fishing, fish hatcheries, aquaculture, seafood processing and seafood markets), and more than 35,500 are employed in ship and boat building. The wages associated with Virginia's total ocean economy are approximately \$4.7 billion. That figure translates to more than \$920 million for wages in tourism and recreation, close to \$166 million in marine

construction wages, more than \$76 million in wages for those employed in the living resources sector, and approximately \$2.4 billion employed in ship and boat building.¹

There is the very real threat of coastal storm events and recurrent flooding that has the potential to impact Virginia's coastal economy. On September 18, 2003, Hurricane Isabel caused significant beach erosion, 36 deaths and more than \$625 million in damage to Virginia.² Given the current focus on resiliency planning, the Virginia Clean Marina Program will be examining resiliency tools and developing guidelines over the next couple of years to assist you, the marina owners and operators, in preparing for these coastal events.

¹ National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. Office for Coastal Management. Digital Coast. <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/>

² Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Hurricane History. <http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/stay-informed/hurricanes/hurricane-history>

Virginia Marine Trades

By Thomas J. Murray

Recreational boating is an industry that provides \$1.3 billion to Virginia's economy on an annual basis. What makes this industry unique is the fact that it is comprised of mostly small firms located in rural localities throughout the Tidewater and larger lakes in the Commonwealth. These firms contribute significantly to the regional economy by generating business earnings and providing numerous year-round, well-paying jobs. Unfortunately, most of the businesses have operated independently of one another with no real collaboration as to how the industry handles regional challenges. As a result the Virginia

Marine Trades Association (VMTA) was established in 2010 as a non-profit trade association organized to promote and support Virginia's recreational marine industry. The Virginia Sea Grant Marine Extension Program (VASG MEP) has been a key collaborator with VMTA for educational programs in support of the marine trades.

Building on information gathered in 2004, *Virginia Marine Trades Workforce Training, A Regional Needs Assessment*, the VASG MEP will conduct a Marine Trades Training Needs Assessment in 2016. The needs assessment is currently under development but look for notification within the coming months.

National Marina Day, Saturday, June 11, 2016

By Wendy Larimer

Twenty marinas have already registered their National Marina Day events--are you one of them?

Registering is important so visitors and the media can find you. The phone has already started ringing with requests from local magazines looking for marinas to talk to about the day and their event.

To keep the media completely in tune with what you are planning, take advantage of our online templates for press releases and radio spots. It may be early, but putting a notice out now will give an editor something to put on the calendar to make sure the event is covered.

Why are you holding an event again? You are holding an event because this is a day to show off your business and the marine industry. Let the public know boating is the choice recreation for all the cool kids. You know the difference between a day on the water and a day in front of a computer, so share that knowledge.

For more information please contact Wendy Larimer, wlarimer@marinaassociation.org phone: 202-350-9623 or you can also visit the National Marina Day website here.

2016 Virginia Marine Debris Summit Proceedings and Presentations now Available

The 2nd Virginia Marine Debris Summit was held March 7-9, 2016, at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Gloucester Point campus. The summit brought together a diverse audience of participants from across the state and as far away as Maryland and Connecticut.

To view the presentations and proceedings from the 2016 Summit please click here.

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



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Spring is Here!

Well technically, yet I am writing this on a day in April that saw snow showers for many of us the previous night. Let's hope that it was just a fluke so we can get underway with what I hope is a very busy season for all.

That being said, as marina owners and operators, some of your most valuable assets are your slip holders. As Clean Marinas the opening of the boating season is a perfect time to remind them of your commitment to the environment by providing a refresher on clean boating tips.

Contain Trash – Retrieve trash that blows overboard. Marine debris is harmful to fish, sea birds and marine mammals.

Recycle – Recycle cans, glass, plastic, newspaper, antifreeze, oil and lead batteries. Bring used monofilament fishing line to recycling bins at your marina or tackle shop.



Norfolk Yacht and Country Club provides a waste oil container with secondary containment for their members.



Deltaville Yachting Center planted this living shoreline to stabilize an erosion issue and to provide habitat for marine life. They have placed signs asking grounds keepers not to mow the area and are educating their slip holders about the importance of living shorelines.

Fuel Cautiously – Use oil absorbent material to catch drips from the fuel intake and the vent overflow. When you fill your tank upon your return to port, fill it to only 90% capacity and remember fuel expands as it warms.

Control Oil in the Bilge – Place oil absorbent material or bio-remediating booms in the bilge. Never discharge bilge water with sheen – it is illegal.

Properly Dispose of Oil Absorbent Materials – Recycle used oil absorbent materials whenever possible. Check with your marina owner or manager for proper disposal instructions. If these options are not available, please contact your local household hazardous waste collection center.

Clean Gently – Wash your boat frequently with a sponge and plain water. Use phosphate free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners.

Maintain Your Vessel Wisely – Be aware that some paints, varnishes and solvents are hazardous. Dispose of any maintenance waste properly in accordance with your marina's policy.

Sewage – Use enzyme-based products to control odor and reduce solids in holding tanks. Avoid holding tank products that contain quaternary ammonium compounds and formaldehyde.

Dispose of Fish Waste Properly – Do not throw fish waste into marina waters. Discard over deep water or in the trash. Alternatively, save the waste and use as chum or bait.

Protect Sensitive Habitat – Do not disturb wildlife. Avoid contact with submerged aquatic vegetation.

Be a Responsible Boater – Learn about environmentally safe products and practices. Share the information with other boaters.

Virginia Clean Marina Program Recommended for Grant Funding

Members of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee have recommended that the Virginia Clean Marina Program receive funding for the purchase of oil absorbent bilge pads. The funds will be available immediately pending the passage of the amendments to the 2016 budget. Once this occurs, we will proceed with the purchase of the bilge pads and send out a notice to all of you late June, early July. They will be available as supplies last, for distribution to your slip holders and boaters in the Commonwealth.

The Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund monies are generated through the sale of the Chesapeake Bay license plate.