

Smart Harbors



Summer 2024



Updates From Virginia Institute of Marine Science

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.

Clean Marina Webinar Series – August 13th (10:30 - 11 am EST)

The Clean Marina Program will be launching a webinar series starting in August. Our first webinar will be “Talking to Boaters about Clean Boating & Best Management Practices”. Please contact acclark@vims.edu to sign up!

Video Contest

The Clean Marina Program is holding a video contest for the **25th anniversary** of the Virginia Clean Marina Program. If you are interested in submitting a short video about why your marina is a Clean Marina, please let us know! For example, you could submit a 1–5-minute video about how your staff monitors your pump out station and why being a Clean Marina is important to you. Videos will be used in our Best Management Practices video series. Swag bags will be awarded to "Best Overall Video", "Best Environmentally/Sustainability Focused Video", and one random entry pick. Videos are due September 6th.

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 – Hope Springs Marina

This quarter's highlighted marina is Hope Springs Marina in Stafford, VA.



Credits: Hope Springs Marina



Marina Photos – Clean Marina Program 25th Anniversary

The Clean Marina Program is collecting photos for our 25th anniversary newsletter in Fall 2024! If you'd like 1-3 photos of your marina/your staff added to the newsletter, please email them to acclark@vims.edu. Thank you!

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.



Department of Environmental Quality – Abandoned Boats

The Department of Environmental Quality is on the lookout for abandoned vessels. Please visit their website or scan the QR code for more information.

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/coastal-zone-management/coastal-conservation/marine-debris/abandoned-and-derelect-vessels>



Industry News

7 Practical Boating Tips for a Safe, Fun Summer on the Water

From BoatUS, May 1, 2024

How can you make your summer on the water a safe one? With National Safe Boating Week coming up May 18-24, the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water offers seven practical tips to keep you boating safely all summer long. These suggestions come from more than 40 years of helping to ensure that every day on the water is a great one, without an injury or fatality.

1. **Follow the dates.** Some required safety equipment, such as flares, have an expiration date. [Fire extinguishers](#) must be replaced 12 years after their date of manufacture, so you will have to do some math. And if you have automatic life jackets aboard, the dissolvable bobbin inside the inflation mechanism also has an expiration date stamped on the outside. Practically speaking, these dates help ensure the equipment will work when you need it. But don't stop there. While inflatable life jacket inflation cylinders don't expire, a thorough annual inspection of the cylinder and life jacket, including an overnight inflation test, is something you should have on your calendar every season.



Credits: BoatUS

2. **Get comfy.** 83% of people who drowned in recreational boating accidents in 2022 were not wearing life jackets. To wear your life jacket more often, you need a life jacket you don't mind wearing. There are many styles of life jackets today, such as inflatables, hybrids and special use vest types (eg., fishing, paddling) that are comfortable even on hot days and allow all the movement you need. Wearing yours also influences guests to wear theirs. Regardless, ensure a life jacket is always within reach of everyone aboard. Youngsters should never wear an adult jacket, and if you find yourself short on a correctly sized jacket, go to one of the [BoatUS Foundation Kids Life Jacket loaner program locations](#) to borrow one for free.
3. **Brush up on basics.** It's been a long winter without boating on your mind. Refresh your boating safety by taking BoatUS Foundation [free online course](#), [on-water powerboat training course](#) or brushing up on the rules of the road with the BoatUS Foundation [study guide](#).
4. **Start each outing right.** Before a day on the water, take a few minutes before you depart to share a safety briefing with your guests. If an emergency arises, you'll have a team aboard to address it quickly. If you're wondering what to share, download a [customizable predeparture safety briefing checklist](#).
5. **Don't go alone.** Let a trusted family member or friend know where you're going, when you expect to return, and what to do if you fail to check in. Having someone ashore who knows your whereabouts and trip plans can potentially shorten a response time.
6. **One hand for yourself.** Always be prepared for sudden, unexpected vessel movement by having a firm footing and one hand connected to the boat. With alcohol a leading factor in boating fatalities, it's best the other hand isn't holding a wine, beer or other alcoholic drink – save it for ashore.
7. **Don't rush the startup.** For boats with enclosed engine compartments, it is always important to run the blower for a minimum of four minutes before starting the engine and after each refueling. This is especially important after a visit to the gas dock.

For more information on boating safety go to [BoatUS.org](#).

BoatUs Helps Boaters Prepare: 'Extremely Active' 2024 Hurricane Season Expected

From BoatUS, May 28, 2024

Colorado State University's (CSU) Tropical Weather and Climate researchers, long known for their annual hurricane forecasts, are calling for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season to be "extremely active." Above-average warm waters in the eastern and central Atlantic – "fuel" for a hurricane – as well as expected La Niña

conditions later this summer/fall, which decrease vertical wind shear, contribute to the potential for increased storm formation this season.

While past storm forecasts averaged just 14.4 named storms and 7.2 hurricanes per season (1991-2020), CSU researchers predict 23 named storms this season, which begins Saturday, June 1, with 11 expected to reach hurricane strength (winds of 74 mph or greater). That could mean more boaters on the coast may find themselves unexpectedly in the “cone,” or predicted path of a hurricane, and needing to make preparations to protect their boat to lessen the chance for damage or loss.

They can start planning now with help from the national advocacy, services and safety group for boaters, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), which offers free boat, yacht club, and marina preparation information at [BoatUS.com/Hurricanes](https://www.boatus.com/Hurricanes). BoatUS makes this information available to all boaters in hurricane regions (membership not required).

Offered online is an extensive library of hurricane-preparation videos and *BoatUS Magazine* articles containing proven tips and techniques amassed from the nearly four decades of post-storm recreational vessel recovery, salvage, and wreck-removal experience.

Downloadable guides include “*BoatUS Magazine Hurricane Preparations*,” “*Preparing Boats and Marinas for Hurricanes*” and an easy-to-download “*BoatUS Hurricane Preparation Worksheet*” to take with you to the boat.

To help know when to prepare, an Active Storm Tracker helps keep boaters up to date on the direction and intensity of incoming storms, and the [BoatUS App](#) offers text alerts. The Atlantic Hurricane Season ends November 30, but in recent years, hurricanes have occurred outside the typical start and end dates.

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 Fall 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.

