

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Fall 2020

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.
- Learn and teach clean boating habits.



Free Pump Outs Available

To request a free pump out please call 757.460.4253 or submit an online request. The program is operational: Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend (Friday – Sunday) and Fall - Spring (Saturday - Sunday)

<https://www.hrsd.com/boater-ed>



Boater Education and Year-Round Pump Out Program

The Hampton Roads Boater Education and Pump Out Program began in 1996 after the [Clean Vessel Act \(CVA\)](#) was passed in order to reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. The Program services boats docked at marinas and residences across all 17 counties and cities in the Hampton Roads area. The program is managed by HRSD and funded in part by the [Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Grant Program](#) (1996) - administered through Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Other sponsors include the City of Virginia Beach (2007), the City of Norfolk (2013), the City of Hampton (2018) and the City of Portsmouth (2018).

- Our Mission is to promote the proper disposal of sewage from boat holding tanks in order to protect public health and the waterways of Hampton Roads.
- Our Goal is to prevent the dumping of sewage from boat holding tanks into waterways.

Interns educate the boating community on the public and ecological hazards of dumping vessel waste into local estuaries, creeks, rivers, the bay, and ocean. The Program also provides a free 25-gallon pump out of marine sanitation devices (MSDs).

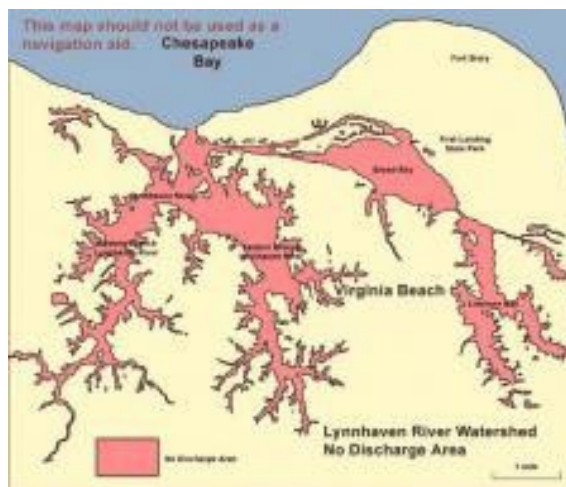
Our interns' staff three pickup trucks, each with a 125-gallon sewage storage tank and a portable pump out cart. Sewage is pumped out of MSDs, transferred to the truck storage tank then transported to one of the HRSD sewage treatment plants for proper treatment.

The VDH Marina Program that administers our CVA funding also provides financial assistance for the installation of pump out and sanitary waste dump stations. For more information about the VDH Marina Program and for a map of marinas with pump out facilities, click [here](#).

It is illegal to discharge untreated sewage from boats in all Virginia waters. A No Discharge Zone (NDZ) is a designated body of water that prohibits the discharge of treated and untreated vessel sewage. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regulations require all vessels to disable the MSD discharge capability while operating in waters designated as a NDZ.

[How to use a Pump Out Station?](#)

[Program Brochure](#) (Images can also be seen on page 6.)



Lynnhaven River Watershed No Discharge Area

Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

The Virginia Clean Marina Program has oil absorbent bilge pads available for distribution. The bilge pads were purchased with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Please email askVCMP@vims.edu, if you would like bilge pads for your slip holders.

Please send us your News!

Do you have a new and exciting method for managing recyclables at your facility? Are there any regulatory items that you would like addressed? Has your facility won an award, hired a new manager or purchased a fancy pump-out boat?

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 2021 and we would like to include information from the marina community. Comments or questions please email VCMP: askVCMP@vims.edu 804-684-7768



VIMS | WILLIAM & MARY
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE
MARINE ADVISORY PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 1346
GLOUCESTER POINT, VA 23062

10 Tips To Keep Your Boat Safe This Winter

News from BoatUS. By Charles Fort

You know how boats are. Little problems compound quickly into big ones. If we had to give only one piece of advice this winter, it's this: Visit your boat. Snow, ice, wind, rain, and damp air can take their toll on both of you. If guilt is a good motivator, think of it this way: You can sit by a warm fire drinking hot cocoa while winter rages, but your boat has to be outside, enduring winter's worst, so make some time to visit. Here are 10 tips from the BoatUS Marine Insurance claim files that can help prevent damage to your boat over winter.

1. If your boat's in the water, take a walk around it at the dock. Are there any changes in the waterline? If so, check the bilge for water, a good practice at any time. If you find any, locate the source. It might be a leaking thru-hull or stuffing box, or be coming from the deck through a hatch or portlight.

2. Verify that all seacocks are closed, except for the cockpit. Also check that leaves don't clog the cockpit scuppers, which could fill the cockpit and force drains underwater, back-flooding the boat.

3. Check your docklines for security and chafe. Winter storms can put a lot of strain on docklines so make sure you use a good chafe guard, and make sure the boat is tied so it can't get caught under the dock during tide changes.

4. Check the operation of the bilge pump. It should work even if the battery switch is off. Manually turn on the switch to verify the pump comes on.

5. Inspect the shore power cord for damage and make sure the battery charger is operating. Verify the battery electrolyte hasn't evaporated and add some if needed. If you spot corrosion on battery terminals, clean it off now.

6. Look for fuel, oil, or coolant leaks. You don't want your bilge pump to spew oil into the water. In addition to polluting the environment, you could be in for a big fine.

7. If you haven't already removed expensive electronics, now's the time. Boatyards are like ghost towns in the winter, and can be easy pickings for thieves.

8. Make sure the boat is well-ventilated. Air circulation prevents mold and mildew from forming down below and keeps the boat smelling fresh. Treat any mold that you find now, before it gets worse.

9. If your boat is stored ashore, check that jackstands haven't shifted or sunk into the ground, and are chained together under the boat. Tell the boatyard if something doesn't look right.

10. Make sure that water isn't pooling on deck or in the cockpit. Nothing good ever comes from standing water inside or outside a boat; water can damage the gelcoat and cause stains.



Photo: Thinkstock



Boat Owners
Association of
The United States
5323 Port Royal
Rd, Springfield, VA
22151

National Recycling Day – November 15, 2020

Awareness, Educational, Environment

What is National Recycling Day?

I hope you're ready to recycle because November 15 is National Recycling Day and we're making sure nothing gets turned into waste. According to "National Geographic," Americans send 64 tons of waste to landfills during their lifetime. That's 246 million tons of waste each year. National Recycling Day aims to encourage Americans to purchase recycled products and recycle more.

History of National Recycling Day

Recycling is a much older concept than we give it credit for. Archaeological studies have found that during periods when natural resources were sparse, waste dumps show less household waste, giving many reasons to believe that they were recycling and reusing products in the absence of virgin materials.

In fact, finding recycled or reusable resources has always held a premium in human history. Whether it's the "dustmen" of Victorian era England, who went around and collected coal fires to help with brick making, or the development of shoddy and mungo rags combining used materials with sparse amounts of virgin wool, recycling has played a key part in our relationship with natural resources.

Additionally, in modern history, wartime has always been a period of buckling down and recycling. Most resources in wartime go to, well, the war. So citizens typically need to find innovative ways of reusing what materials they have for what they need. Additionally, scrap metal and second hand materials is increasingly important to help create a bank of resources for armies to turn into utili-



ties. Examples of this are from World War II with the National Salvage Campaign in Britain and the Salvage for Victory Campaign stateside.

In our modern times, nationalism has been replaced with environmentalism and the urge to help preserve our sparse resources by reusing goods and reducing waste. So, if pre-historic humans can figure out how to recycle, your annoying roommate can figure it out as well.

Enter to Win \$15,000: BoatUS Foundation and Berkley Recast & Recycle Contest

Aims to increase fishing line and soft bait recycling by tapping the public for ideas

ANNAPOLIS, Md., August 24, 2020 – Have you ever wondered how old, discarded fishing line is recycled and reused? You may be surprised to learn that turning fishing line into new products is labor intensive, requiring a series of workers to comb through, sort, clean, remove hooks and weights, and separate out miles of encrusted debris in entangled fishing line. There also aren't any recycling programs for fishing related materials like soft baits. There just has to be a better way.

The [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](#) and [Berkley](#) have teamed up for a year-long [Recast and Recycle Contest](#) to seek out new ideas and improvements to the process, new recycled product ideas, or offer a technology breakthrough for the current process that will increase the volume of line and soft baits that are recycled. A



Do you have any better ideas on how to recycle soft baits and old fishing line? There's \$30,000 in cash prizes at stake in the Recast and Recycle contest.

total of \$30,000 in prize money is at stake for any boater, angler, armchair technologist, team, student or anyone willing to submit a contest entry now through May 14, 2021.

"Whether it's monofilament line, braided line or soft baits, we want

there to be a sustainable, large-scale solution to keeping line out of our waters and landfills where it can remain a problem for birds and wildlife," said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. "We want to know how to make the process better. There's no limit on the possibilities, but keep in mind that judges will add weight to contest submissions that actually work, are practical, innovative, and have the potential to have a significant impact. We really don't know where a breakthrough could materialize."

The first-place prize is \$15,000, second place receives \$10,000, and \$5,000 will be awarded for third place. Contest submissions can address any part of the process (or multiple parts) of taking fishing gear from end of life to a new life. Professionals, amateurs and students are all

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Washington, DC and the AIWW Update

July 31, 2020

GOOD NEWS! On July 31st, the U.S. House of Representatives approved over \$7.63 billion for the U.S. Army Corps Engineers Civil Works Program in their passage of H.R. 7617. The Corps funding for Energy & Water Development was included in an FY21 appropriations bill that was combined with five appropriation packages for other federal agencies and programs, also called a minibus appropriations bill. The H.R. 7617 minibus bill included funding packages for Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Financial Services and General Government, Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, Transportation-Housing and Urban Development.

Diving into the details of how this impacts the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway (AIWW), the Corps received their funding broken into the following accounts:
Investigations- \$151 million
Construction- \$2.6 billion
Operation & Maintenance- \$3.84 billion
Other- \$1.039 billion

Since the AIWW is an existing federal project, we receive our funding through the Operation &

Maintenance Account. This year, the individual allocations included in the Administration’s Budget are:

- VA - \$685,000 for Dismal Swamp Canal & \$1.262 million for the Albemarle-Chesapeake Canal
- NC - \$3.625 million
- SC - \$100,000
- GA - \$202,000
- FL - \$380,000
- Total for AIWW - \$6.254 million

The House also included the following mini-pots for Additional Dredging Needs where we can compete for additional funding for AIWW projects this coming year. In our advocacy efforts, we asked that the mini-pots be \$75 million each, which was a larger request than we had previously received:

- Navigation - \$5.7 billion (\$40.156 Million in FY20)
- Inland Waterway- \$55 million (same as FY20)
- Small, Remote or Subsistence Navigation- \$65 million (same as FY20)

While the numbers were less than requested in two categories (but equal to their FY20 allocation), Navigation funding well exceeded our request and is being envisioned to fund waterway infrastructure projects that will provide a stimulus to the U.S. economy during the current pandemic and recession. Overall, the Corps funding included over \$17 billion in emergency funding including the \$5 billion in the Navigation mini-pot listed above.

Looking ahead, this completes the process for the House until the Senate proposes their appropriation bills and approves them. Once the Senate completes their process, the two legisla-

tive bodies will need to agree on a final compromise (a Conference Bill) and the House and Senate will need to vote to approve the Conference Bill and the President will need to sign the Bill. Since it is a Presidential election year and FY21 begins on October 1, 2020, we do not expect the appropriations process to be completed before the new fiscal year begins. Therefore, Congress will need to pass a Continuing Resolution to continue funding the federal government at FY20 levels until the new bills are passed or we would have a government shutdown. We will be tracking the next few months in Washington, D.C. and we will continue to keep our membership informed.

From our friends at [NMMA](#), please find below a press release on the historic Great American Outdoors Act.



Historic Boating Access and Conservation Bill Approved by Congress

On July 22, 2020 in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, Congress passed the [Great American Outdoors Act](#) – **legislation that will stimulate the recreational boating industry and create more safe and sustainable recreation access for all Americans.** The bill – passed and was signed into law on August 4 – follows years of advocacy by the outdoor recreation community, including NMMA and boating industry stakeholders. The Great American Outdoors Act addresses two long-standing priorities of the outdoor recreation community. First, it fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund – a go-to program for conserving and maximizing outdoor recreation access. Second, the bill tackles the maintenance backlog on our public lands and waters by investing in boating infrastructure like docks, ramps and parking facilities.

continued on the next page



Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway Inspection Tour.
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On the Water, Separation Isn't Just About Safe Distancing

With more paddlers and boaters sharing the water this summer, BoatUS Foundation offers etiquette tips to help ensure safety and fun for all

SPRINGFIELD, Va. July 13, 2020 – The coronavirus pandemic is leading to [more recreational boats](#) and [paddlers hitting the water](#), all trying to have fun in a safe way. So what are these two groups doing this season to safely share more crowded waters?

“Ultimately, it’s about looking out for each other,” says [BoatUS Foundation](#) Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. The



AIWA, continued from previous page

“With more Americans flocking to boating in the era of social distancing, the Great American Outdoors Act is the shot in the arm we need to continue delivering the memorable experiences and significant economic impact our industry provides, including more than 35,000 businesses and 700,000 American jobs,” said Frank Hugelmeyer, NMMA president. “We applaud Congress for coming together in an overwhelmingly bipartisan manner on legislation that ensures both local economies and families can reap the benefits of outdoor recreation activities for generations to come.” “From Boating United and social media, to coalition letters and virtual meetings with members of Congress, the recreational boating industry – in concert with our outdoor recreation community partners – showed exactly what can be accomplished when

nonprofit boating safety and clean water arm of [BoatUS](#) shares some etiquette tips to make for a positive day on the water for paddlers and boaters alike.

Etiquette for paddlers:

≈ Be seen – but that may be harder than you think. Perhaps your kayak, life jacket or clothing is a neutral or dark color. As the day progresses, glare increases, waves kick up, and it becomes more difficult for recreational boaters to see you at a safe distance. Bright clothing and life jackets, warning flags, painting paddle blades bright colors and adding reflective tape to the tips can ultimately give boaters more time to steer clear of you.

≈ Try to cross channels at a 90-degree angle, and if you are with a group,

we all work together to advance a top advocacy priority,” said Nicole Vasilaros, NMMA senior vice president of government and legal affairs. “Thanks to the tireless work of countless NMMA members and boating industry stakeholders, the Great American Outdoors Act is the law of the land, which will allow more American to get out on the water today and beyond.” Learn more at [nmma.org](#).

The AIWA is a national non-profit organization with the mission of securing funding and support for the maintenance of the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway. We are the only organization dedicated to ensuring the future of the AIWW and proudly represent all stakeholders of the waterway.

Contact: 5A Market, Beaufort, South Carolina 29906
(843) 379-1151

cross together and not stretched out in a long line. This reduces the time you spend in a potentially hazardous waterway in which recreational vessels may be limited in navigation by size, draft or maneuverability.

≈ Even if you think you have right of way, practice defensive paddling to prevent collisions and mishaps in spite of the actions of others around you. Try to avoid heavy boat traffic, and pick a route away from congestion. Typically, it is safest to pass astern of other vessels and let them cross in front of you. Some boats have awkward blind spots that prevent good visibility at certain trim angles, so never assume a boater can see you.

Etiquette for boaters:

≈ Put down the phone, minimize distractions and be on the active lookout for small craft. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that operator inattention and improper lookout are at the top of the list for contributing factors to accidents. [Consider learning the S.C.A.N. \(Search, Concentrate, Analyze, and Negotiate\) method](#) to help you safely navigate around paddlers and other traffic on the water.

≈ While you may not be in an official slow speed zone, show courtesy and slow down in areas where paddlers congregate. Be mindful of your wake. One way for boat operators to check their courtesy is to ask themselves, “If my son or daughter were in the kayak I am about to pass, what would I do?”

≈ Paddling is booming, and paddlecraft rentals are here to stay. Accept and understand that some paddlers may not understand the rules of the road or all of the safety risks inherent to small-craft operation. Paddlecraft are highly maneuverable, so it’s good to give a little more breathing room on the water when you can. Everyone has a responsibility to avoid a collision.

encouraged to apply, as are school teams and groups. Contest entries can be submitted with as little as a link to a video demonstration of the idea or one-page graphic summary. Videos are limited to 4 minutes.

Contest rules and conditions, details on the current recycling process and videos on how various plastics and soft baits are recycled can be found at the Recast and Recycle website BoatUS.org/contest.

Suggested Tweet and Facebook post:

Have an innovative idea for recycling used fishing line and soft baits? There's \$30,000 in cash prizes at stake in the Recast and Recycle contest to find a second life for recreational fishing gear <https://bit.ly/3hdNpph> @BoatUSFoundation, @BerkleyFishing, #recycle, #repurpose, #fishing

About the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water:

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national leader promoting safe, clean and responsible boating. Funded primarily by donations from the more than half-million members of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), the nonprofit provides innovative educational outreach directly to boaters and anglers with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of America's waterways and keeping boating safe for all. A range of boating safety courses – including 36 free state courses – can be found at BoatUS.org/Courses.

About Pure Fishing:

Pure Fishing, Inc. is a leading global provider of fishing tackle, lures, rods and reels with a portfolio of brands that includes Abu Garcia, All Star, Berkley, Fenwick, Fin-Nor, Greys, Hardy, Hodgman, Johnson, JRC, Mitchell, Penn, Pflueger, Sebile, Shakespeare®, SpiderWire, Stren, Ugly Stik, and Van Staal.

Pump Out Don't Dump Out brochure images:

HOW DO I SCHEDULE A PUMP OUT FOR MY BOAT?
Call 757-460-4253 or visit www.hrsd.com/boater-ed to schedule a FREE* pump out.

AS A BOATER, WHAT ELSE SHOULD I DO TO KEEP OUR WATERWAYS CLEAN?

1. Use non-hazardous materials when working on your boat. Sanding, cleaning, painting, and degreasing boats can pose a major threat to our waters. If it's hazardous to you, it's hazardous to the environment.
2. Take care when fueling. The US Coast Guard recommends filling the tank only 90% to reduce the chance of spills from overfills.
3. Keep oil absorbent pads nearby for use in the bilge. Diesel fuel and motor oil are toxic and can block life-giving sunlight in the water.
4. Throw away all trash in proper receptacles. Trash is not only an eyesore; it can damage boats and threaten the well-being of marine life.
5. Always use pump out/dump stations and bathroom facilities when docked.

This program is sponsored by:
NORFOLK, HAMPTON VA, THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH, PORTSMOUTH

This program is administered by:
HRSD, VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Virginia Marina Locator Map
Scan this code for a map of marinas throughout the Commonwealth. Please report broken pump out/dump stations to the Virginia Health Department Marina Program at 804-864-7468.

This program is funded in part by the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Grant Program. To learn more, visit: www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/marina-program
For questions please email us at boatered@hrsdc.com

Boaters of Hampton Roads, Virginia!
Here's an easy and convenient way you can help keep our local waterways clean.
The Hampton Roads Boater Education and Pump Out Program encourages you to always use pump out/dump stations to properly dispose of your on-board sewage.
Call 757-460-4253 or visit www.hrsd.com/boater-ed to request a FREE* pump out.

WHAT IS THE HAMPTON ROADS BOATER EDUCATION AND PUMP OUT PROGRAM?
Created in 1996, the program provides a FREE* year-round pump out service to boaters in Hampton Roads, Virginia.
Our mission is to promote the proper disposal of sewage from boat holding tanks in order to protect public health and the waterways of Hampton Roads.

DAYS OF OPERATION:
Friday, Saturday and Sunday Memorial Day through Labor Day
Saturday and Sunday Fall through Spring
Appointments must be scheduled in advance.
* Marinas funded by the Clean Vessel Act may charge no more than \$5 to use their pump out/dump station.

WHY SHOULD I ALWAYS USE PUMP OUT AND DUMP STATIONS?

1. IT KEEPS OUR WATERWAYS AND AQUATIC LIFE HEALTHY AND PROTECTS PUBLIC HEALTH.
DID YOU KNOW? Areas most likely to be affected by boat sewage discharge are sheltered waters with low flushing rates, which are waters with significant recreational value.
Raw sewage can spread diseases like hepatitis, typhoid and cholera, which can be transmitted by the shellfish we eat.
Organic matter in sewage is decomposed in the water by bacteria, which use oxygen. As a result, sewage may deplete the oxygen levels in area waters, causing stress to fish and other aquatic animals.

2. IT IS THE LAW.
It is illegal to discharge untreated sewage from vessels into all water bodies of the Commonwealth.
A no discharge zone (NDZ) is a designated area in which both treated and untreated sewage discharges are prohibited. While operating a vessel in a NDZ, the marine sanitation device (MSD) must be locked and closed at the Y valve to prevent discharge.
A vessel must be beyond three miles from shore to legally discharge sewage overboard.
Y valve must be secured so waste cannot be discharged into water. Drainage to pump-out station.

Typical Marine Sanitation Device
Help keep our waterways clean and healthy by reporting illegal discharges to the local Coast Guard.
Report both land and water spills to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802
Violators could be charged up to a \$5,000 civil penalty.