

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Fall 2021

What is the Virginia Clean Boater Program?

The Virginia Clean Boater Program is an important part of the Virginia Clean Marina Program. Both programs are voluntary and give participants the resources needed to minimize pollution. The Virginia Clean Boater Program recognizes boaters for being good stewards by doing their part to keep the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia waterways clean.

For Virginia Clean Boater Program brochures to display at your marina, please contact askVCMP@vims.edu.



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.



CleanWay™ Fuel Fill Kits Have Arrived!

In the last issue of Smart Harbors, we announced a new grant-funded initiative to bring CleanWay™ Fuel Fill Kits to all certified Virginia Clean Marinas. This simple, innovative, and reusable device allows boaters to refuel quickly and efficiently without overflow or spillage.



CleanWay's™ unique design allows air to escape throughout the refueling process and automatically redirects any splashed fuel down into the tank. By preventing spills before they happen, regular use of these baffles helps keep fuel, dispersants, and debris out of the marine environment and flammable absorbent materials out of the landfill.

Starting in early Spring 2022, VCMP representatives will begin distributing CleanWay™ devices to

each certified Virginia Clean Marina (one device for each standard fuel port size). 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 askVCMP@vims.edu.

Boaters: 5 Things You Can Do to Take the 'Search' out of Search and Rescue

Are you making it difficult to be found in an emergency?

ANNAPOLIS, MD., May 25, 2021— "Do I know how to be found in an emergency?" That's a question every boater should ask at the beginning of the boating season. The answer, however, is likely to go far beyond simply having a cellphone aboard. The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water offers five tips that can potentially speed a rescuer's response to a boater in need of emergency help.

1. File a float plan: Telling a responsible family member or friend,

leaving a note (on your vehicle's dashboard) at the launch ramp, or using a smart phone float plan app, are great ways to allow someone else to trigger the alarm if you fail to return by an appointed time.

2. Have a VHF radio aboard — but not just any old VHF radio: All VHF radios are not alike. One of the best ways to speed an on-water rescue is to have a Digital Selective Calling (DSC) VHF radio aboard. A DSC-VHF

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With Peak 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season Approaching, Are Recreational Boaters Prepared?

SPRINGFIELD, Va., August 20, 2021 – It was back on May 22 when Tropical Storm Ana became the first named storm of the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season – and also the seventh consecutive year that a storm formed before the official start of the season. Today, eight named storms later, and with Tropical Storm Henri setting its sights on New England, the peak of the official June 1 to November 30 hurricane season is approaching. Up to 21 named storms are predicted this year, according to [NOAA Climate Prediction Center's midseason report](#), with the potential for 7 to 10 to reach hurricane strength (winds of 74 mph or greater), qualifying this as an “above-average” season.

The nation's largest advocacy, services and safety group, BoatUS, is urging boaters to be ready and is offering free recreational boat-, yacht club-, and marina-preparation information at [BoatUS.com/Hurricanes](#). Also offered is an extensive [library of hurricane-preparation videos](#) and BoatUS Magazine articles containing proven tips and techniques amassed from the BoatUS Catastrophe Team's nearly four decades of experience. “How to Find and Fix Potential Breaking Points on Your Boat” and “How Not to Read a Hurricane Map” are just a couple of the helpful short reads available.

More extensive downloadable guides include “BoatUS Magazine Hurricane Preparations” and “Preparing Boats and Marinas for

Hurricanes.” The easy-to-download “BoatUS Hurricane Preparation Worksheet” is a great checklist to have while getting a hurricane plan in place. The website also features an Active Storm Tracker, and to help keep boaters up-to-date on the direction and intensity of incoming storms, the [BoatUS App](#) offers text alerts anywhere you go.

NEWS from BoatUS 
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radio does all of the things a regular VHF does, but it also has a unique press-one-button mayday feature that gives rescuers your vessel's location — taking the “search” out of search and rescue. The newest waterproof handheld DSC-VHF radios are great for small boats. Before you install your DSC-VHF radio, be sure to get your radio's Maritime Mobile Service Identity Number (MMSI) that is your vessel's unique ID. BoatUS members can request one for free.

3. Label your SUP, canoe, or kayak: Adding contact information on the inside of your paddlecraft with a waterproof marker could mean less time U.S. Coast Guard and first responders need to spend chasing down false alarms. This frees up valuable resources when time really counts. And let's face it, another benefit is that you may get your paddlecraft back after it blows down the lake. It's also a good idea to let authorities know if your paddlecraft has gone missing.

4. Do not leave shore ... without a fully charged phone: Smartphones are part of life ashore and aboard. The reality, however, is that many boaters put all their safety eggs in one basket and rely solely on a cellphone to call for help. Cellphone batteries generally don't do well after a long day of running apps, listening to music, texting, and taking photos. And for many phones, water is the enemy. Consider keeping your phone a waterproof pouch or case. If you need help for routine, nonemergency assistance, such as a tow home, battery jump, fuel delivery or soft ungrounding, download the BoatUS App that connects boaters to closest local TowBoatUS response vessel.

5. Register your EPIRB or PLB: The U.S. Coast Guard receives hundreds of false alerts each year from these critical safety devices. To free up more time for responding to real emergencies, boaters need to properly register their Emergency Position Indicating Rescue Beacon (EPIRB) or

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 2022 and we would like to include information from the marina community. Comments or questions please email VCMP: askVCMP@vims.edu or call 804-684-7768.

Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). If you need a beacon for only a short period of time, rent one from the affordable BoatUS Foundation EPIRB/PLB rental program.

Credit - Original Article: [BoatUS.com](#)



SURVEY: Inventory of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels in Virginia


Virginia has some of the most breathtaking waterways in the country. Our state prides itself on the connection to the water. As such, the Virginia Marine Trades Association (VMTA) is on a mission to keep our waters clean, navigable, and enjoyable for boaters.

The VMTA is participating in a work group aimed at Abandoned & Derelict Vessels (ADV). In Virginia, we hope to be an example for others, developing a framework for preventing and addressing ADVs. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4WWq5Ik66l_yIupZBwIA8bRWguUUJvqwnznrYk_6U19zPRA/viewform




Report Abandoned Vessels


Abandoned boats can be hazardous to navigation and the environment.



Enter information about abandoned vessels using this QR code:



Virginia Abandoned and Derelict Work Group
www.longwood.edu/cleanva/ADV.html



Inventory of Abandoned and Derelict Vessels in Virginia

Have you found a derelict or abandoned vessel? Or is the vessel drifting or otherwise unmoored? If so, please use the form link in the article above to give us some information. Answer as many of the questions as you can.

Clean Virginia Waterways & the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program are partnering to co-facilitate a Workgroup to address the issues associated with abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. An important first step is creating a state-wide inventory of such vessels, then prioritizing removal based on the information you provide below (hazards to navigation, risk to the

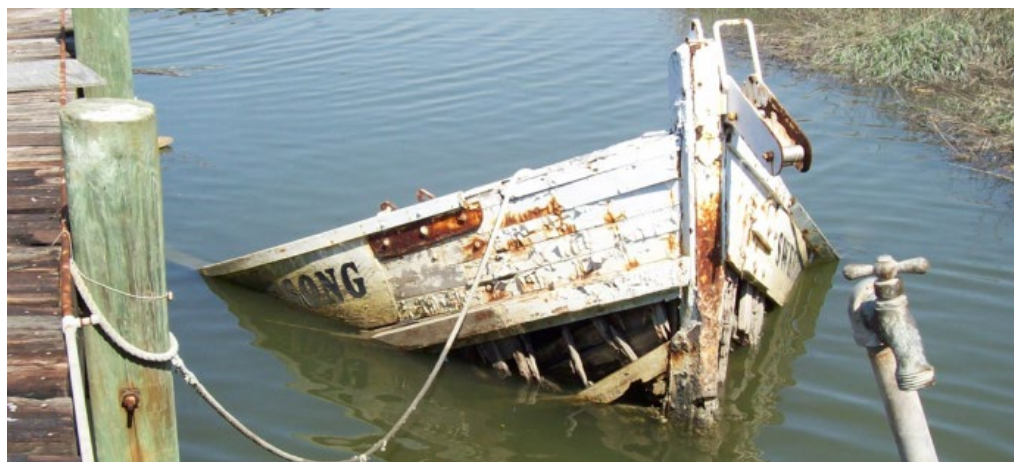
environment, size/location of vessel, etc.). We appreciate any & all information you can provide in the form below. Thanks for doing your part to improve the health & safety of our waterways & helping those who enjoy those resources!

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Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

The Virginia Clean Marine 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.



A Barometer of the Times, Social Distancing Takes No. 2 Spot in BoatUS Top 10 Boat Names for 2021

What a boat name may tell you about the owner

SPRINGFIELD, Va., June 29, 2021— It's been a tumultuous year for Americans, and getting away from it all on a recreational boat has given many the respite they've needed. With lives upended, some recreational boat owners have chosen to reflect on the times when selecting a name for their boat. "Social Distancing" rocketed to the No. 2 spot on the BoatUS Top 10 Boat Names list for 2021. The choice of boat names, which were requested from the [BoatUS online Boat Graphics service](#), may also tell you a little about the owner.

Here's this year's [Top 10 Boat Names list](#):

1. *Andiamo*: There's no mistaking this meaning of this Italian word for "let's go." While this name has made the list in the past, never before have so many boaters wanted to go and get away from it all, making this the No. 1 boat name for 2021.

2. *Social Distancing*: An affirmation of the times, physically separating by escaping to the water gives this boat owner the space they need to recover and rejuvenate during a crazy year of change.

3. *Grace*: Elegance, a refinement of movement. This owner may have chosen a vessel with the classic lines – a bit of [tumblehome](#), a [raked](#) stern and overhanging bow. There may even be [Grey Poupon](#) aboard.

4. *Shenanigans*: Moving up the list from No. 7 last year, this boat owner is definitely up to something. For other boaters who may share a dock with this vessel's owner, playful pranks are always part of the summer boating season. Better make sure your binoculars don't have a layer of black charcoal smudged on the eyepieces before you use them.

5. *Cool Change*: Also moving up three spots from the previous list, time for a "cool change" can be the escape this boat's owner is looking for. The literal meaning, which describes the change from a hot summer day to a cool afternoon breeze and thunderstorms ahead, comes from Australia and sparked a [pop song](#).

6. *Island Time*: Falling from the No. 2 spot last year, everything is more laid back aboard this vessel. Let down your hair, relax – you will get there when you get there. Literally and figuratively, this owner is on Island Time.

7. *Knot on Call*: Moving up two spots, this is a name often chosen by medical professionals. It also likely appeals to a wider group of boat owners where technology has made them always available to the office.

8. *Mojo*: Got yours back yet? Boating regains this owner's energy and enthusiasm.

9. *Freedom*: Ever since appearing on the Top 10 Boat Names list for the first time after 9/11, this peren-



Escaping to the boat was a priority in 2021.

nial favorite explains everything that boating gives this boat owner. Let it all go – no one is stopping you.

10. *Serenity*: An all-time favorite that was No. 1 last year, this name may indicate the owner's need to find time away from a high-stress job ... or family! It's often a name found on sailing vessels.

For a look at all of the BoatUS Top 10 Boat Names lists over the years, go to [BoatUS.com/Boatgraphics/Top-10-Boat-Names](#).

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