

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Spring 2023

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.



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 Summer 2023 and we would like to include information from the marina community. Comments or questions please email askVCMCP@vims.edu or call 804-684-7768.



BoatUS Spring Commissioning Checklist

More than 800,000 BoatUS members are about to hit the nation's waterways; make sure your boat is ready for the season

SPRINGFIELD, Va., March 7, 2023—The recreational boat owner's advocacy, services and safety group, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), has more than 800,000 members about to return to the nation's waterways for boating season. But, before they get there, they will need to follow the timeless rite of spring commissioning. To help boaters simplify this task – and ensure a summer of fun and safe boating and less chance for breakdowns – BoatUS offers help for all types of boat owners with its annual [Spring Commissioning Checklist](#).

A printer-friendly PDF copy of the [checklist is available to download](#) and take to the boat (also see pages 6-7 of this newsletter). Be sure to follow all manufacturer recommendations for your specific boat, engine and accessories.

Before You Launch

1. Check the condition of antifouling paint and [repaint](#) if necessary.
2. Inspect all [hose clamps](#) for rust and replace as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless-steel hose clamps. While not technically required, it's wise to double clamp whenever possible on all hoses — especially those below the waterline.
3. Inspect all [hoses](#) for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking, and replace



The BoatUS spring commissioning checklist can help ensure your boat is ready for the season. Photo credit: BoatUS.

- any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.
4. [Inspect prop\(s\)](#) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.
5. Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side. If it's loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.
6. Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly. Check the rudder bearing and steering cable for unusual play or movement.
7. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.

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E-A-R-T-H D-A-Y Spelled Out to Recreational Boaters - 53rd Annual Earth Day celebration April 22

ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 19, 2023 – After a long winter lay-up, boaters are beginning to return to water. With the 53rd annual Earth Day celebration just around the corner on Saturday, April 22, it's time for boaters to think how they can prime themselves to be good waterway stewards all season long. The non-profit [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](#) breaks down the eight letters of E-A-R-T-H D-A-Y to help boat owners put a plan into action:

- E** Empty your holding tank at a pumpout station or a designated place ashore.
- A** Always attend your gas nozzle when fueling your boat and resist topping off.
- R** [Recycle fishing line](#) and plastic baits when possible, dispose of properly.
- T** Take the time for clean, drain, dry to stop the spread of invasive species.
- H** Have a trash receptacle or a way to [collect refuse aboard](#) so nothing goes in the water.
- D** Dispose of used oils, gas and chemicals properly; ask for help if needed.
- A** Adopt a beach or a special place on your waterway to [clean up periodically](#).
- Y** You make all the difference when it comes to smart, safe and clean boating!

Want to learn more about clean boating? The BoatUS Foundation offers Clean Boating, a free online course, at [BoatUS.org/Clean-Course](#).



Inspections and cleaning, often done at launch ramps, can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species from one waterway to another. Photo credit: Minnesota DNR

On the Path to Balance Anchoring Rights, Is There Light Ahead?

Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) is applauding a recently passed Broward County, Florida, ordinance that, according to the recreational boating advocacy, services and safety group, could lead to a successful path ahead in fairly balancing the needs of both local communities and responsible cruising-boat owner's rights when it comes to anchoring.

The ordinance revolves around two small manmade lakes in Hollywood, Florida, North and South lakes, each connected to the Intra-coastal Waterway. Locals have long shared the waters – North Lake was designated an idle-only area, drawing sailors and paddlers, while South Lake was used for powered-vessel water activities. For years, responsible long-distance cruisers were welcome in both anchorages.



An abandoned and sunken vessel is a hazard. Photo credit: USBoat

A dramatic increase in abandoned derelict vessels (ADV), at-risk or improperly long-term anchored boats over the past few years have changed that equation, however, crowding out all other activities with some vessel owners anchoring for months and even years. These vessels are often poorly maintained and their anchoring gear is prone to failure. Each storm only increases the number of safety hazards in the water and ashore. Many anchored boats don't meet U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations on required night time lighting or sanitation equipment. Irresponsible boaters have simply been squeezing out locals and responsible cruisers alike.

Approved last November, Broward County's ordinance tackles the issue directly, allowing for up to 45-days of anchoring for any vessel within any six-month period. It also adds an exemption for imminent or existing hazardous weather – increasing boater safety by not requiring crews to haul anchor and head out into potentially unsafe weather conditions.

"We believe 45 days is a reasonable time frame for a vessel to remain in a particular area and will allow all active, responsible cruising and recreational boaters to use, anchor, rest, repair, visit, re-provision, and enjoy

these bodies of water," said BoatUS Government Affairs manager David Kennedy.

Kennedy notes, however, that efforts to educate the public, including installation of local signage, updating of navigation aids as well as online cruising resources, and ultimately any enforcement activity could take some time before significant results are seen. "We'll be monitoring the situation closely," he said.

Since 2009, the Sunshine State has been at the center of the nation's stormy challenge in trying to balance the rights of responsible boaters and local communities when it enacted a state-wide bill to limit local governments from regulating anchoring. For a bigger look into Florida's anchoring story and recent success, go to the February/March 2023 issue of *BoatUS Magazine*, [Big Win for Responsible Cruising Boaters](#).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Releases FY23 Work Plan and 2023 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Funding Levels



The Unified Voice of the Waterway
Over 20 years of advocacy and education

On February 28th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released their FY 2023 Work Plan for the Army Civil Works Program identifying the projects and program funding for the current fiscal year. The FY2023 Work Plan includes the following allocations:

- Construction - \$2.106 billion
- Investigations - \$172.5 million
- Operations and Maintenance - \$5.121 billion
- Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries - \$370 million
- Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action - \$400 million

In addition, the USACE projects funded through the 2023 Disaster Recovery Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA 2023) were also identified. As noted in the press release from USACE, the FY 2023 Work Plan and DRSAA 2023 includes over \$9.8 billion and will fund 1,325 studies and projects in 50 states and three territories, including 69 Justice40 disadvantaged communities. We invite you to [read the press release from USACE](#) and below are direct links to the FY23 Work Plan and DRSAA 2023.

[Link to USACE FY23 work plan information](#)

[Link to Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2023](#)

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway received an additional \$1.3 million in the Work Plan for Georgia and \$5 million in DRSAA 2023 funding for Florida. **In total, we received \$47.633 million for the AIWW/IWW and \$1.060 million for the NJIWW.**

Below is a table of the final FY23 allocations. This is great news and will continue to support our efforts in reducing the operations & maintenance needs of Marine Highway 95.

State	FY 2023 President's Budget	FY 2023 Work Plan Funding	DRSAA 2023 Funding	FY 2023 Final Appropriations
VA	\$11.006M	\$0	\$0	\$11.006M
NC	\$15.805M	\$0	\$0	\$15.805M
SC	\$4.515M	\$0	\$0	\$4.515M
GA	\$3.777M	\$1.3M	\$0	\$5.077M
FL (AIWW/IWW)	\$6.23M	\$0	\$5M	\$11.23M
Total for AIWW/IWW	\$41.333M	\$1.3M	\$5M	\$47.633M
NJIWW	\$1.060M	\$0	\$0	\$1.060M

Dear AIWA Members,

We received the following notice from our U.S. Coast Guard partners and encourage our members to respond to their request for survey responses.

Waterways Analysis and Management Systems Study for Port Royal and St. Helena Sounds

This year, the Coast Guard is conducting a Waterways analysis and Management Systems (WAMS) Study to gauge the integrity of federally maintained waterways in Port Royal and St. Helena Sounds. Below is a map and link to a survey. If you regularly transit the aforementioned waterways or have a vested interest, we kindly ask for your comments and concerns. The survey will remain open until 01APR2023. Please forward the link to anyone else that may be interested. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZWORMC3>

Thank you, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Very Respectfully,
LT James P. Sullivan
USCG Sector Charleston
Waterways Management Div., Chief
(843)323-7761



St. Helena Sound to Savannah River

8. Make sure your [engine intake sea strainer](#) (if equipped) is not cracked or bent from ice and is free of corrosion, clean and properly secured.
9. With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder [stuffing boxes](#) for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two or three drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning. Check the shaft log hose for deterioration and rusty hose clamps.
10. [Inspect, lubricate and exercise thru-hull valves](#). It's a good idea to tie a right-sized wooden bung to the valve in case of failure.
11. Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or [gaskets](#) as necessary.
12. [Inspect and test the bilge pump and float switch](#) to ensure they're both working properly. Also inspect the pump's hose.
13. Check stove and remote [LPG tanks](#) for loose fittings, leaking hoses and properly functioning shutoff systems. Use the pressure gauge to conduct a leak down test to check for system leaks.
14. Inspect dock and anchor lines for [chafe and wear](#).
15. If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.
16. After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

Engines and Fuel Systems

1. Inspect fuel lines, including fuel tank fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
2. Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel

before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or [replace fuel filters](#) and/or fuel-water separators if not done before winterization.

3. Every few years, remove and inspect [exhaust manifolds and risers](#) for corrosion (for inboard-powered and inboard/outboard boats).
4. [Charge battery](#).
5. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Use a wire brush to clean battery terminals, and top off cells with distilled water (if applicable).



Checking hoses are an important part of spring commissioning Photo credit: BoatUS.

6. Inspect the bilge ventilation intake and blower ducting for damage or leaks and run the blower to confirm correct operation.
7. Test engine warnings and alarms.

Engine Outdrives and Outboards

1. [Inspect rubber outdrive bellows](#) for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.
2. Check [power steering](#) and power trim oil levels.
3. [Replace anodes/zincs](#) that are more than half wasted.
4. Inspect the outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the

cable must be replaced.

5. Inspect [lower unit oil](#) level and top off as necessary.

Sailboat Rigging

1. Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.
2. Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape, and ensure that water is able to freely drain from it.
3. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.
4. Inspect masthead sheaves and all blocks to make sure they're running freely.

Trailers

1. [Inspect tire treads and sidewalls](#) for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure; don't forget the spare.
2. Inspect wheel bearings and [repack](#) as necessary.
3. [Test all lights](#) and replace any broken bulbs or lenses.
4. Inspect winch to make sure it's working properly. Inspect hitch chains.
5. Inspect trailer frame and axle(s) for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.
6. [Inspect brakes](#) and brake fluid reservoir.

Safety

1. A [law that went into effect in 2021](#) requires a vessel operator to use either a helm or outboard lanyard or wireless engine cutoff switch on certain vessels less than 26 feet when traveling on plane or above displacement speed, so be sure your switch is working properly and the lanyard is in serviceable condition. If you use a wireless cutoff switch, ensure

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Southern California Boat Towing Company Named King of the Fleet at Annual TowBoatUS Conference

TowBoatUS Long Beach earns Tower of the Year honors

LONG BEACH, Calif., Jan. 20, 2023 – [TowBoatUS Long Beach](#), a towing and assistance company much like an on-water auto club that helps boat owners get home after a boat breakdown, was awarded Tower of the Year at the annual gathering of the TowBoatUS fleet in New Orleans yesterday. Owned by captains Mike Del Grande and Ken Walker, TowBoatUS Long Beach was chosen from more than 130 independently owned TowBoatUS towing companies across the nation.

The coveted Tower of the Year award recognizes professionalism in providing recreational boaters with 24/7 on-water towing and assistance services. This includes a near-perfect 24-hour towing dispatch operation, high customer satisfaction surveys and on-water towing case management.

Also figuring into the company's commendation is the captains' willingness to help other new TowBoatUS companies learn the ropes of providing routine on-water assistance to recreational boaters 24/7 under all types of weather conditions.

"TowBoatUS Long Beach goes above and beyond to help mentor others who can benefit from their experience and operations," said BoatUS towing services vice president John Condon. "If someone has a question, captains Del Grande and Walker are always willing to help. They are role models who increase the professionalism and esprit de corp of the fleet." The company also supported October's Breast Cancer Awareness month activities, including changing a red towboat to pink to help grow community awareness of the insidious disease. Providing



(L to R) Capts. Michael Del Grande and Ken Walker of TowBoatUS Long Beach, California, accept the coveted TowBoatUS Tower of the Year Award at the 2023 TowBoatUS Conference in New Orleans. Photo credit: Stacey Nedrow-Wigmore/BoatUS

towing, soft ungrounding service, battery jumps and fuel drop-offs, the company is part of a nationwide network of more than 600 red TowBoatUS towboats at 300-plus locations – 10 in Southern California alone – that responds to more than 90,000 requests annually for routine on-water assistance.

Continued from previous page

- batteries in the fobs and wrist worn devices are refreshed.
- 2. Check dates on pyrotechnic flares, which expire 42 months after manufacture.
- 3. Inspect fire extinguishers. A [regulation that went into effect last year](#) requires a 12-year expiration for disposables and has different carriage requirements for older and newer model year vessels.
- 4. Ensure you have properly sized and wearable [life jackets](#) in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders and dissolvable "pill" bobbins in auto-inflating models.
- 5. Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge [alarms](#).
- 6. Check running lights for operation and spare bulb inventory.
- 7. [Update chartplotter software](#).

- 8. Replenish [first-aid kit](#) items that may have been used last season or are expired.
- 9. Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in. ([BoatUS members can obtain a free MMSI number at BoatUS.com/MMSI.](#))
- 10. Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out more at [cgaux.org/vsc](#).

For the Dock

- 1. In addition to checking its entire length for wear or abrasions, check both ends of the shore power cable connections as well as the shore power receptacle on the boat for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat's shore power inlet or the dock's receptacle must be replaced.
- 2. Test ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock, and

[know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning.](#)

The Paperwork

- 1. Make sure your boat registration is up to date – and dinghy if you have one. Don't forget your boat trailer tags.
- 2. Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. Get a [free quote at BoatUS.com/Insurance](#). Provide a copy to your marina or club.
- 3. Ensure your BoatUS membership is in good standing, and check your [TowBoatUS](#) coverage by logging into [BoatUS.com/Account](#), or join at [BoatUS.com/Membership](#).
- 4. Download the free [BoatUS App](#) to make it easy to summon on-water assistance and speed response times as well to check tide tables, weather, and partner discounts.



SPRING COMMISSIONING CHECKLIST

Before You Launch:

- Check the condition of antifouling paint and repaint if necessary.
- Hose clamps should be inspected and replaced as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless hose clamps. Keep seacocks closed when you are away from the boat.
- Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.
- Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.
- Grip the prop (on inboard drive systems) and try moving the shaft up and down and side to side – if it's loose and can be wiggled, the cutless bearing may need to be replaced.
- Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly.
- Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.
- Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is not cracked or bent from ice, free of corrosion, and is clean and properly secured.
- With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for correct adjustment. A stuffing box should leak no more than two drops each minute when the prop shaft is turning.
- Inspect and lubricate seacocks. Make sure strainers are clean.
- Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.
- Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make sure they're working properly.
- Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.
- Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.
- If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.
- After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

Engines and Fuel Systems:

- Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
- Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with fresh fuel. Clean or replace fuel filters.
- Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds for corrosion (for inboard powered boats.)
- Charge battery. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water (if applicable).
- Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks and run blower to confirm correct operation.

Engine Outdrives and Outboards:

- Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.
- Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
- Replace anodes that are more than half wasted away.
- Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.
- Inspect lower unit oil level, in sterndrives and outboards, top up as necessary.

Sailboat Rigging:

- Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for “fishhooks” and rust.
- Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape with fresh tape.
- If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

Trailers:

- Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure – don’t forget the spare.
- Inspect wheel bearings and repack with grease as necessary.
- Test all lights, replace any broken bulbs or lenses.
- Inspect winch to make sure it’s working properly. Inspect hitch chains.
- Inspect trailer frame for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.
- Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

Safety:

- Check expiration dates on flares. Inspect fire extinguishers. Replace if over 12 years old. Over 40 million Kidde extinguishers with plastic handles were recalled on Nov. 2, 2017 (learn more at BoatUS.com/extinguisher-recall).
- Make sure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders.
- Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.
- Check running lights and spare bulb inventory.
- Update paper charts, and chart plotter software.
- Replenish first aid kit items that may have been used last season.
- Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in.
- Be sure to get a free vessel safety check from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary or US Power Squadrons. Find out more at SafetySeal.net.

For the Dock:

- Check both ends of the shore power cable connections for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat’s shore power inlet or the dock’s receptacle must be replaced.
- Test ground-fault protection on your boat and dock, and know how to prevent Electric Shock Drowning by going to BoatUS.com/ESD

The Paperwork:

- Make sure your boat registration is up to date. Don’t forget your trailer tags.
- Review your boat insurance policy and update coverage if needed. BoatUS provides free quotes at BoatUS.com/Insurance. Provide a copy to your marina or club.
- Ensure your BoatUS Membership is in good standing. Login to BoatUS.com/Account to check your Membership status or join at BoatUS.com/Join

Visit BoatUS.com for More Helpful Boating Information

