

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Summer 2020

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.



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.



A New Boating Safety Concern This July 4

BoatUS Foundation: Don't try to have your own fireworks show

ANNAPOLIS, Md., June 22, 2020— Celebrating America's birthday, thousands of boaters are expected to hit the water this Fourth of July holiday weekend, recreational boating's traditional busiest time of the year. With COVID-19 it certainly won't be the same. The [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](#) has a few boating safety reminders just in time for the holiday.

While boaters will need to follow [social distancing guidelines](#), that's not the only COVID-19 concern, according to the Foundation. While many local community fireworks displays have been canceled this year, some boaters may wish to offer their own fireworks show and take to the water with pyrotechnics. "With gallons of fuel aboard and other flammable materials – your boat – you would be truly risking lives," said BoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. "It's not worth the risk. There is no safe place aboard a boat suitable for using fireworks."

As the captain, you can't head out without remembering that your

passengers become your responsibility as soon as you pull away from the dock. Think twice about loading up the boat with a cooler full with beer, wine and other alcoholic drinks as [alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents](#).

"Just because the captain is sober doesn't mean alcohol should be free-flowing aboard your boat," said Sensenbrenner. "The stressors of a hot sun, wind and waves all day when combined with alcohol can intensify the effects

of inebriation, increasing the risk of a passenger slip or fall overboard or worse. Save the alcohol for celebrating after you have safely returned home for the night."

Lastly, remember that you won't be out on the water alone. [Operation Dry Water](#) will heighten BUI awareness and enforcement during the three-day weekend of July 3 – 5, and law enforcement officers will be on alert for those violating boating under the influence laws. Agencies from all 50 states and are expected to participate for increased enforcement.



The Independence Day holiday weekend is expected to bring thousands of boaters to the water.



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.

Save the Date



Virginia Marine Trades Association 2020 – Annual Meeting & Conference:

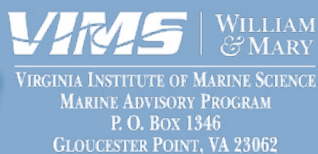
November 10, 2020 from 8am – 5pm at VIMS, Gloucester Point, VA

Additional details including registration information will be included in a future newsletter.



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.



COVID-19 Resources: Updated "Return-to-Work Standards" in May 2020.

COVID-19 Emergency Loans available for Marine Industry Small Businesses

The Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act recently passed by Congress allocates \$350 billion in 100% federally guaranteed loans to help small businesses keep workers employed amid the pandemic and economic downturn.

These loans are being offered and administered now through the SBA and local banks. Loans can be up to 2.5X the borrower's monthly payroll costs, not to exceed \$10 million, and are available to small businesses (less than 500 employees) and self-employed individuals during the ensuing 12-week period. For more information about the Corona Virus Emergency Loan Program contact your local lending institution and go online at www.sba.gov and www.uschamber.com/co.

The Paycheck Protection Program Borrower Application Form is available at: <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form--paycheck-protection-program-borrower-application-form>

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 Fall 2020 and we would like to include information from the marina community. Comments or questions please email VCMP: askVCMP@vims.edu 804-684-7768



MRA
MARINE RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Family First Corona Virus Response Act (FFCRA)

The FFCRA requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Department of Labor's (Department) Wage and Hour Division (WHD) administers and enforces the new law's paid leave requirements. These provisions will apply from the effective date through December 31, 2020.

"What You Need To Know" e-book

An e-book that iHire and PeopleWorks agreed to share: [PDF](#)

Information on FFCRA

Available from the U.S. Department of Labor: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

FFCRA Employees Rights poster

Available for download here: https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus Prevention Plan

This plan is an editable document for you to have your own prevention plan in place. This document is available for download at: [Word Document](#)

OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

CDC's Updated Return-To-Work Standards (updated May 2020)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Helpful tools to navigate the evolving information about COVID-19 along the waterway

(from AIWA Newsletter June 2020)



The American Waterways Operators - #SummerofSafety!

In keeping with our commitment to member health and safety, AWO will not hold an in-person Summer Safety Committees' meeting this August. Instead, this month we are launching a Virtual Summer of Safety, which will feature engaging conversations with key maritime industry government partners and educational webinars on a range of timely safety topics.

Wednesday, July 8 - 2:00 p.m. ET

“But I Don’t Want to Wear My Face Mask” with Sharon Lipinski
[Click here](#) to login to the Member Dashboard and register for any of the events.

Share Your Lessons Learned

As part of the *Virtual Summer of Safety*, AWO will feature presentations on lessons learned to provide members with opportunities to learn from the experiences of industry peers as you work to improve policies and behavior. Lessons can be positive or negative, include recommendations about what to do or avoid, and be based on past success or failure. If you have a lessons-learned experience that you would be willing to share as part of our *Virtual Summer of Safety*, please email [Brian Bailey](#) to discuss and sign up!

It’s National Safety Month!

June is here and it’s National Safety Month! The goal for the month is to reduce leading causes of injury and death, and the National Safety Council has designated a particular

focus for each week: mental health; ergonomics; building a safety culture; and driving. Join AWO and thousands of organizations across the country as we work to ensure that employees get to work safely, stay safe on the job and return to their families safe after their shift.

AWO wants to know how your company is recognizing National Safety Month! Share National Safety Month stories with us so that we can highlight member initiatives on our social media all month long. Please share your efforts with the [AWO Safety Department](#). Remember to tag AWO on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) and use the hashtags #NSM and #AWOSafety in your posts.

Requests for Facial Coverings

In a timely move to assist the federal government in ensuring the safety of critical maritime infrastructure workers, AWO recently coordinated with the Maritime Sector Coordinating Council’s Facial Coverings Task Force to facilitate member requests for nearly 230,000 of 2.4 million facial coverings sourced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and distributed by the Maritime Administration. MARAD has now shipped approximately half of all orders they have received from the maritime sector and has confirmed that all orders will be shipped by the end of this week. According to the Task Force, requesting businesses may be contacted by MARAD’s logistics team to confirm their order details via email prior to shipment. Please be sure to reply to the logistics confirmation email as soon as you receive it. It may take as many as three to eight days following confirmation of the order before delivery. These non-

medical grade facial coverings, made with anti-bacterial material, can be washed and reused. Questions may be directed to safety@americanwaterways.com.

Join AWO’s Now Bi-Weekly COVID-19 Call

Mark your calendar to join fellow AWO members and AWO staff for the now bi-weekly off-the-record, members-only conference call on COVID-19 prevention and response strategies. These calls are a chance for industry colleagues to share experiences with addressing COVID-19-related issues and to discuss any concerns. The dial-in telephone number is 1-888-585-9008 and the conference room ID is 684-367-844. Please email [John Young](#) if you have questions.

Technical Regulatory Amendments to the RCP

On May 20, the AWO Board of Directors unanimously approved two technical revisions to the AWO Responsible Carrier Program to ensure consistency with current regulatory requirements. These changes are effective July 1, 2020. The first revision adds Subchapter M’s Health and Safety Plan requirements at 46 CFR 140 Subpart E, which became effective July 22, 2019, to the RCP. This includes general health and safety requirements nearly identical to those in the current RCP.

The second revision ensures the RCP’s radar refresher training requirement in Section K.1.a mirrors existing regulation in 46 CFR Parts 10, 11, and 15, which exempts certain

Continued on page 4

Helpful tools to navigate the evolving information about COVID-19 along the waterway, continued from page 3

mariners from the requirement to complete a Coast Guard-approved or -accepted radar refresher or recertification course in order to renew their radar observer endorsements.

To view the revisions in a redline version of the RCP, please click [here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the AWO Safety Department.

Have You Reported?

This is a reminder that Q2 of the AWO Safety Statistics Reporting Program ends on June 30 and the deadline to submit your company's statistics is July 31. AWO understands that in light of COVID-19, finding the time to enter your company's data might be difficult. If we can help by inputting your Q2 statistics for you, please send your company's Q2 data

and operating sector – Inland, Inland Fleeting, Coastal, or Coastal Harbor – to [Nick Down](#). If you would like to submit your statistics yourself, click [here](#).

PFD Safety

Business owners and vessel crews are responsible for ensuring that the personal flotation devices they use remain in good condition, fit properly and function correctly. The Coast Guard estimates that approximately 80% of marine casualty incidents can be avoided by wearing PFDs. As a best practice, the Coast Guard recommends testing the quality of the devices in a controlled environment. If during a test you are unable to maintain a relaxed, face-up position, then a new PFD should be considered.



Photo courtesy of Virginia Sea Grant.

The Dangers of Mooring Lines

Last month, Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Portland released [MSIB 01-20](#) reminding port facilities and vessel operators of the dangers mooring lines pose to mariners if used incorrectly. The MSIB was prompted by a recent increase in marine casualty incidents involving improper handling of mooring lines.

Below are best practices that can help to decrease the chances of significant injury:

1. Always wear personal protective equipment such as hard hats and safety glasses while working.
2. Keep up on refresher training on operating lines.
3. Identify danger zones around mooring lines that are under tension.
4. Maintain situational awareness, especially when lines may be pinched between a vessel and the pier, as projectiles or line snaphacks can occur.
5. Use the proper tools (such as deck fittings) and means to secure lines.

For additional information on mooring lines and best practices for avoiding injury, please email safety@americanwaterways.com.

Upcoming AWO Events

Please register for these upcoming events, and stay tuned for more to come by checking out our *Virtual Summer of Safety* webpage:

[The National Marine Manufacturers Association](#) has called on the federal government to take action and help marine manufacturers respond to COVID-19. In addition, NMMA is aligned with organizations including the National Association of Manufacturers, US Chamber of Commerce, the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and others to ensure our industry's voice is heard.

Our daily newsletter, *Currents*, will focus on the most pressing COVID-19 news of the day. We encourage you to subscribe, if you do not already receive it.

[The Waterway Guide](#), Dockwa, AGLCA and Snag-A-Slip are reporting the changing status of access to marinas, services and docks while the United States is developing a response to the spread of COVID-19. The information listed here comes from boaters, marinas, partners, the U.S. Coast Guard, our staff of on-the-water boating editors, and internal teams of experts. Waterway Guide is committed to providing boaters with up-to-date content for captains and crew to make informed decisions regarding their vessel and safety. WWG will continue to publish and update news about affected facilities and waterways until normal conditions resume. <https://www.waterwayguide.com/covid-19-reports>

On-Water Mass Gatherings – Recreational, Sporting, or Cause-Related Events

On-water mass gatherings pose concerns due to the safety issues they create for the boating public and the Maritime Transportation System (MTS). Regardless of the nature of these gatherings, whether recreational, sporting or cause-related, they are primarily a boating safety issue. As these types of marine events continue to grow in popularity throughout the country, the Coast Guard will work together with its port partners to ensure the safety on the marine transportation system. These actions will take into account health and safety factors including but not limited to local COVID-19 and social distance guidelines as well as current unrest. The Coast Guard issues

permits for, and monitors marine events, to ensure safety of life at sea and on our waterways. Permits are required for powerboat races, sailing regattas, and other marine events that have the potential to draw an accumulation of spectator craft, may obstruct a waterway, or introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of human life on the navigable waters of the United States. A large gathering of recreational boaters would not necessarily meet the requirement for an event permit. It is recommended you contact your local Captain of the Port to determine if your event will require a permit. The Coast Guard and our port partners are committed to ensuring the safety and security

of the waterway. The Coast Guard and other local agencies will provide on-water safety and law enforcement assets. The goal of these patrols is to ensure mariners using the waterway are not negatively impacted due to the anticipated increase in vessel traffic and to ensure that commercial traffic can safely continue operations. Regardless of the nature of the event, the Coast Guard's role is to ensure the safety and security of the maritime transportation system. The presence of the Coast Guard and its partners on the waterway is not to support the event itself, but to ensure the waterway is safe for all mariners due to the anticipated increase in traffic. Boating accidents can occur quickly and without warning. To ensure a safe and enjoyable time on the water, the Coast Guard is asking boaters to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and safety equipment before getting underway. This includes a properly fitting life jacket for each passenger, a VHF radio, and flares. The Coast Guard regularly conducts recreational boating safety checks. Failure to have the necessary safety equipment may result in the termination of a voyage. Having the basic equipment can ensure a safe and enjoyable day on the water. It is recommended participants in the event, and mariners in general, follow guidance from the CDC and local government health authorities to prevent the spread of coronavirus, including social distancing and the use of face coverings when social distance cannot be maintained. Questions concerning this notice may be forwarded to Coast Guard Office of Waterways Policies and Activities Division (CG-WWM-1) by email to cgwwm@uscg.mil.



Washington, DC and the AIWW Update

May 20, 2020

Entering into the summer of 2020, the impacts of COVID-19 continue to impact the regular appropriations process in Washington, D.C. as Congress works to identify additional stimulus measures while trying to guesstimate the impacts from their previous efforts. Both parties realize additional measures will be needed; however, there is not a consensus yet on what that might look like and the rollout time. The House of Representatives has passed their next COVID-19 appropriations bill while the Senate is reviewing the new information coming out on a day-to-day basis before moving forward.

Where does this leave funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and specifically, the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway? Congress would typically at this point in the season be working in Appropriations Subcommittees to develop Appropriations Bills and hold subcommittee hearings. As of now, no hearings are on the horizon for the Energy & Water

Development Appropriations Bill that funds the Corps — the federal agency responsible for AIWW maintenance.

The good news for the Waterway is that the Corps continues to execute projects with the money they received

in Fiscal Year 2019. At this point, the AIWW is navigable across its

entire length and we at the AIWA are working to represent our stakeholders to ensure this progress continues. Dredging is occurring, and new projects are planned all along the Eastern Seaboard. In addition, locations for new dredge material placement areas are being identified and plans developed to insure storage capacity for waterway maintenance. We also continue to work with our federal partners to support their efforts to beneficially use dredge material for the creation of bird islands and in marsh restoration and resilience projects. We look forward to the appropriate time for the regular appropriations process to get back on track and we'll keep you updated.

[AIWA newsletter](#)



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

Prepare for Hurricanes

After a record active start to hurricane season, the tropics have lain close to dormant for several weeks. Not only is the tropical Atlantic quiet, but a layer of desert air from the Sahara is also actively working to suppress tropical cyclone development.

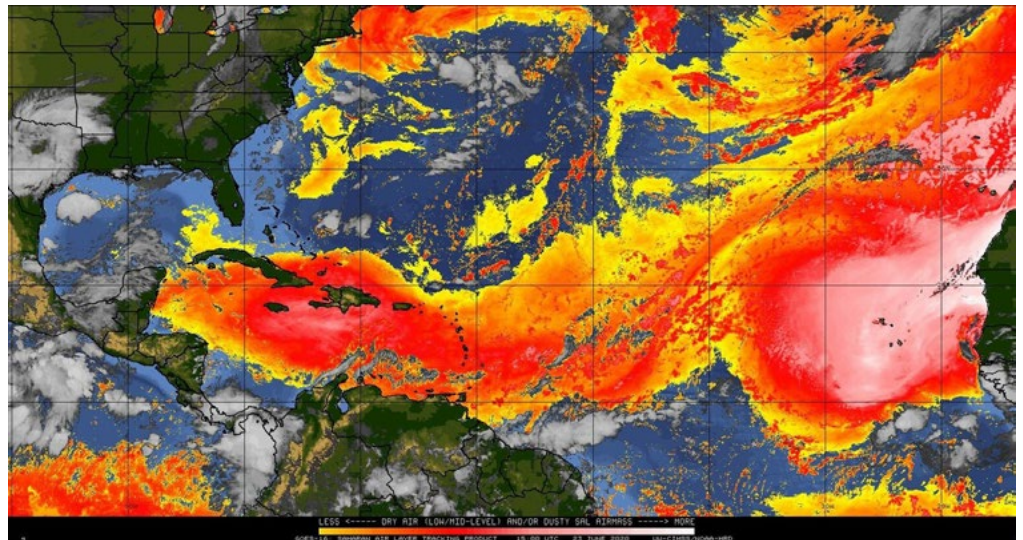
Hurricane season peaks in September, and experts across the board have predicted an active season. Already, the gears are slowly turning that could favor a rejuvenated bounce toward more typical activity, with a developing La Niña and other atmospheric parameters favoring a stormy season.

The brief respite punctuates an already busy start to hurricane season, which has featured four named storms and included the earliest third named storm on record.

A massive billowing cloud of desert dust from the Sahara stretched more than 4,000 miles across the Atlantic early Tuesday, bringing reduced visibility from the Leeward Islands to the Greater Antilles and the Caribbean. Before long, the hazy veil could cover the Yucatán Peninsula and western Gulf of Mexico, with even parts of the Mississippi Valley, Tennessee Valley, and the Southeast expected to encounter a dusty shroud over the weekend.

The dust heralded a layer of hot, dry desert air that has largely “capped” the lower atmosphere, putting a lid on thunderstorm development across the **tropical Atlantic**. The hot air prevents pockets of air below from rising, while the dry air works to shred any clouds that do manage to tower. Essentially, the atmosphere is squelching any attempts at storm genesis before it can even occur.

But that could change as we approach the end of June and head deeper into summer, the dust eventually thinning. At the same time, water temperatures will continue to warm, with other parameters becoming



Satellites depict the Saharan air layer. on Tuesday 6/23/2020. (NOAA/CIMMS)
Provided by Washington Post: Matthew Cappucci Meteorologist, Capital Weather Gang

more supportive of eventual storm growth as well.

The ongoing dust event across the Atlantic is noteworthy and is putting a damper on the prospects of hurricane activity in the next couple of weeks. But late June into July is typically a quiet period anyway before things ramp up in August and into September.

An active hurricane season remains likely, and preparedness is vital for anyone living in vulnerable areas. That’s true not only near the coast, but also inland — where decaying tropical systems can frequently dump extreme rainfall.



FEMA

Along with our partners, FEMA has also taken steps to prepare for hurricane season in a COVID-19 environment. On May 20, FEMA released “[COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#)” to help emergency managers and public health officials best prepare for disasters, while continuing to respond to and recover from coronavirus (COVID-19). The guidance can also be used by private sector and non-governmental organizations to gain an understanding of the government’s posture, planning and readiness efforts.

More information on how to prepare may be found at www.Ready.gov/hurricanes

Prepare for Hurricanes

Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1-November 30.



Know your Hurricane Risk

Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Find out how rain, wind, water could happen where you live so you can [start preparing now](#).

Make an Emergency Plan

Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands [your hurricane plan](#). Discuss the latest [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[guidance on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) and how it may affect your hurricane planning. Don't forget a plan for the [office, kids' daycare, and anywhere you frequent](#).

Gather Supplies

[Have enough supplies](#) for your household, include medication, disinfectant supplies, [cloth face coverings](#), [pet supplies](#) in your go bag or car trunk.

Those with Disabilities

If you or anyone in your household is an [individual with a disability](#) identify if you may need additional help during an emergency.

Know your Evacuation Zone

You may have to evacuate quickly due to a hurricane. [Learn your evacuation routes](#), practice with household, pets, and identify where you will stay.

Stay Safe During a Hurricane

Hurricanes are dangerous and can cause major damage because of storm surge, wind damage, and flooding. They can happen along any U.S. coast or in any territory in the Atlantic or Pacific oceans. Storm surge is historically the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths in the United States.

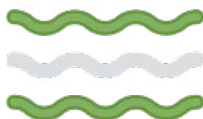
Stay Informed

- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- If told to evacuate by local officials, do so immediately.



Dealing with the Weather

- Determine how best to protect yourself from high winds and flooding.
- Take refuge in a designated storm shelter, or an interior room for high winds.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six



inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Personal Safety

- If you must go to a community or group shelter remember to follow the latest guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for protecting yourself and family from COVID-19.
- Be prepared to take cleaning items with you like soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, or general household cleaning supplies to disinfect surfaces you may need to touch regularly.
- Maintain at least 6 feet between you and persons not part of your immediate family while at the shelter [by avoiding crowds or gathering in groups] as much as possible.
- Anyone over 2 years old should use a cloth face covering while at these facilities.
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.



Recognize Warnings and Alerts

Have several ways to receive alerts. [Download the FEMA app](#) and receive real-time alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide. [Sign up for community alerts](#) in your area and be aware of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)- which requires no-sign up.

Review Important Documents

Make sure your [insurance policies and personal documents](#) like ID are up to date. Make copies and keep them in a secure password protected digital space.

Strengthen your Home

Declutter drains and gutters, bring in outside furniture, consider hurricane shutters.

Get Tech Ready

[Keep your cell phone charged](#) when you know a hurricane is in the forecast and purchase backup charging devices to power electronics.

Help your Neighborhood

Check with neighbors, [senior adults](#), or those [who may need additional help](#) securing hurricane plans to see how you can be of assistance to others.

Prepare your Business

Make sure your business has a [continuity plan](#) to continue operating when disaster strikes.