

Smart Harbors



Winter 2025

Updates From Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Free CleanWay™ Fuel Fill Kits – Preventing Spills and Splashes



CleanWay™ devices are available to each certified Virginia Clean Marina at no cost to marinas. 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 acclark@vims.edu or visit <https://cleanwayfuelfill.shop/>

Welcome New Clean Marinas!

Lake Anna Yacht Club and the Franklin Boat Basin are our newest Virginia Clean Marinas! Both marinas completed the certification process this Fall.

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 – Lynnhaven Municipal Marina

This quarter's highlighted marina is the Lynnhaven Municipal Marina in Virginia Beach, VA. In 1967, the City of Virginia Beach Department of Parks & Recreation acquired the Lynnhaven Municipal Marina and has since established safe and convenient dock services to recreational and commercial boaters and local police and fire rescue departments. With easy access to the Chesapeake Bay and Lynnhaven Inlet, the Lynnhaven Municipal Marina offers affordable annual leases for 50 slips that accommodate vessels up to 36 feet in length, along with one transient slip.

The marina features stationary docks with finger piers and tie-off pilings and provides several complimentary amenities for members. These amenities include slip parking, a pump-out station, trash receptacles, monofilament recycling, freshwater access, and a 30-amp electric hookup. Additionally, there is a secure police presence and convenient access to nearby fuel docks.

This marina is located in a prime spot within walking distance of several family-friendly seafood restaurants and convenient amenities. For rates and rental inquiries, please call (757) 385-2080. Learn more at parks.virginiabeach.gov.



Credit: Colin Jesse / City of Virginia Beach

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.



Industry News

BoatUS Foundation, National Safe Boating Council Launch Pilot Program to Make Borrowing a Life Jacket Easier

From BoatUS, October 3, 2024

The nonprofit [BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water](#) and the [National Safe Boating Council](#), which provides national boating safety outreach, have teamed up with boating app provider DECKEE to make it easier to find and borrow child- or adult-sized life jackets for temporary use, such as for a day or weekend, with the goal of increasing life jacket wear and boating safety.

This pilot program has integrated the BoatUS Foundation's more than 600 life jacket loaner sites across the nation into the simple-to-use DECKEE app, allowing boaters to find their closest BoatUS Foundation loaner site on a map – highlighted by the BoatUS logo – or be notified when they are near a BoatUS Foundation Life Jacket Loaner location.

“It’s a great way to find a life jacket loaner if you have unexpected guests aboard,” said BoatUS Foundation program manager Alan Dennison. The Foundation’s loaner database includes more than 600 free kids’ Life Jacket Loaner Program sites at marinas, boat clubs, campgrounds, marinas, firehouses and TowBoatUS companies. “We really want to make it easier for families to get the right size life jackets, whether infant, child, teen or adult,” he added. The program loans out more than 140,000 life jackets annually.

Said Peg Phillips, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council: “The pilot app project with DECKEE and the BoatUS Foundation will help give us an accurate and scalable way to measure the influence of ongoing outreach programs. For example, a notification that comes as a gentle reminder of a nearby life jacket loaner site may reinforce or prompt increased life jacket wear by kids and adults.”

In 2023, statistics show 75% of fatal boating accident victims drowned (where the cause of death was known). Of those, 87% were not wearing a life jacket.

The DECKEE app is available for free for iOS and Android devices. For more information on the BoatUS Foundation Kids Life Jacket Loaner program, go to <https://www.boatus.org/life-jacket-loaner>.

Recreational Boating, Fishing Anchor the Nation’s Outdoor Recreation Economy

From BoatUS, November 26, 2024

A new [report from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis \(BEA\)](#) reaffirms that recreational boating and fishing continue to drive the outdoor recreation economy, contributing more than any other conventional outdoor activity including RVing, hunting/shooting, motorcycling or equestrian

activities. The “Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account: U.S. and States, 2023” report revealed that boating and fishing account for \$36.8 billion in current-dollar value added, representing a significant portion of the \$639.5 billion outdoor recreation economy in 2023.

The data also highlighted the impact of the industry at the state level, with Florida (\$4.2 billion), California (\$3.1 billion), and Texas (\$2.8 billion) leading as top contributors.

“BoatUS is committed to ensuring that policymakers recognize and prioritize the needs of boaters and anglers,” said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. “This may include ensuring boaters have sufficient and safe access to the water such as launch ramps, support for boating safety programs, and conservation efforts to support fish stocks.”

The report also noted that outdoor recreation overall accounted for 2.3% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. Boating and fishing were listed as the largest contributors to this sector in 34 states and the District of Columbia, demonstrating their widespread economic significance.

The BEA report’s findings come as communities across the U.S. face decisions on how best to manage natural resources and recreation infrastructure.

For more information on BEA’s findings and what they mean for recreational boating, visit <https://www.bea.gov/news/2024/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2023>.

Virginia veterans find healing in the water

From Wavy News, By George Noleff, November 12, 2024

The poet Henry David Thoreau once wrote, “Many go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”

Sometimes what they gain, without realizing it, is healing.

That is the premise [Project Healing Waters](#) operates from. Project Healing Waters (PHW) helps active military members and military veterans through flyfishing. The organization works with veterans’ groups and Veterans Administration hospitals around the country, taking them on flyfishing outings and teaching them how to tie flies.

Flyfishing gives the veterans a chance to decompress in a peaceful setting, while practicing repetitive motion and focus. It also allows them to share their experiences with other veterans.

The Roanoke Valley chapter is assisted by volunteers who work with the veterans on the water.

Seyward McKinney is a local veteran who works with and is helped by Project Healing Waters. An Iraq War vet, McKinney is paralyzed on one side of her body, and she is legally blind in one eye.

“Even if I don’t catch anything, it’s just very relaxing,” said McKinney as she cast a fly rod in the Roanoke River at Green Hill Park in Salem recently. “I don’t have to

think about the other stuff, that I have an injury or that I'm different from everybody else because it's not a big deal to everyone around me, which is cool."

On this day, McKinney was assisted by volunteers Brenda Willis and John Loope. Both are members of the Roanoke Valley Chapter of [Trout Unlimited](#).

"I have a passion for fishing, and I don't mind sharing it," said Willis as she assisted McKinney with a cast.

Despite the obstacles, McKinney has embraced flyfishing and calls it one of her passions. She says it brings her peace and joy, and the knowledge that there are always good times ahead at the end of a fly line.

"I like just how they hit the fly and put up a good fight," said McKinney. "It just gets you going."



Credit: Kathy Mueller

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 Spring 2025 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.

