

# Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

## Winter 2021

### 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 Winter 2021 and we would like to include information from the marina community.

Comments or questions please email VCMP: [askVCMP@vims.edu](mailto:askVCMP@vims.edu) or call 804-684-7768



## Gas Station Pump Labels Are Supposed to Warn Boaters Against Putting the Wrong Fuel in the Tank; Survey Reveals They Fail Miserably

*Respondents favor prototype E15 warning label 4-to-1 over existing label*

SPRINGFIELD, Va., Dec. 2, 2020 – With the boat in tow, you head to the gas station to fill her up. At the pump you find a fuel prohibited for

use in boats, E15 gas, being sold alongside approved E10 fuel. What's to prevent you from misfueling?

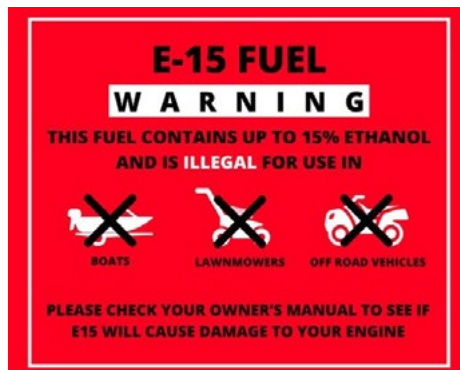
A little warning label about the size of a pack of gum that's often hard to notice, difficult to understand, and too often fails to protect consumers, said boat owners and other non-road-engine users in a recent [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#) survey on the effectiveness of current E15 warning labels.

The ethanol warning label survey is being used to help persuade EPA regulators, currently reviewing E15 labels, to offer a more effective warning. Survey takers were shown the existing orange E15 warning label and a red prototype label with pictographs. Respondents were more than four

times as likely to say that the prototype label more clearly conveys the idea of a "warning" for consumers than the current label.



*The current E15 warning label.*



*The prototype E15 warning label that recent survey respondents said provided a more effective warning to consumers.*

What made the difference? The prototype's red color and visual reinforcement was cited as more effective than the real label. Where the label is located on the pump can also be improved: 70% of respondents noted that inconsistent placement of the E15 label on fuel dispensing pumps made it harder to locate and less effective.

"EPA has some work to do in regard to educating consumers at the pump with more effective ethanol fuel labeling that better communicates the hazards of E15 for boat

engines and other small motors," said BoatUS Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. E15 is

*Continued on page 3*

# Virginia Marine Trades Association (VMTA) Conference is January 27th. Register Now!

VMTA's Annual Conference will be held virtually on Wednesday, January 27th 2021. The registration link is open now. With speakers addressing topics that range from customer service to marine recycling, our conference will be **FREE for members**.

Tickets are available for \$25 to non-members. Register for our Virtual Conference by clicking [here](#).

Membership to the VMTA gives you AMI (Association of Marina Industries) membership benefits. This year AMI, Association of Marina Industries, will also be holding their conference virtually.

AMI's conference is geared specifically toward marina and boatyard owners, operators and managers, as well as dock masters, harbormasters, boat builders and repairers, and industry consultants. The AMI Conference & Expo is where dedicated marina professionals gather to

exchange information, talk about the future of the industry, and get down to business!

Attendees of AMI's conference will have access to all pre-conference workshops, educational training, a virtual exhibit hall for all marina needs, interactive product demos, and participation in conference social events. You can find out more about AMI's conference schedule by clicking [here](#).

More information and pricing information is available here.

*As a result of our ongoing relationship with AMI, the VMTA has an opportunity to obtain a group rate for AMI's full virtual conference.*

In order to secure the group rate, we will need certain levels of participation. If you are interested in attending AMI's conference and would like a group rate, please click [here](#) and answer a short four question survey.

## VMTA Conference Speakers

Congressman Rob Wittman,  
*US Representative of the 1st Congressional District*

### Responding to Customer Complaints:

Steve Zimmerman, *Zimmerman Marine*

### Exploring The Benefits of a Third Party Marina Management:

Brian Arnold, *Oasis Marinas Management*

### Industry Trends and Legislative Outlook:

Jason Ortega, *LobbyIt*

Eric Kretsch, *AMI*

### Marine Recycling Program Update:

Evan Ridley, *RIMTA*

## VMTA Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

Send an email to [info@virginiaboatlovers.com](mailto:info@virginiaboatlovers.com) for details about sponsorship opportunities - you can have your business information included in our digital programs which will be distributed to attendees and more!

## It's Time for the Midwinter Visit to the Boat: 8 Secrets for a Safe Checkup

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – It's midwinter which means it's time to check up on your vessel in storage. Why? How your boat fares over the long and, in some cases, brutal winter will help ensure a timely spring launch. However, checking up on a boat during winter requires unique seasonal safeguards according to the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water. U.S. Coast Guard statistics show that January has **the most** number of accidents that result in death. Here are eight tips for doing it safely:

- ≈ If your boat is stored in the water, consider making a visit with a friend. That's because there's a good chance that in the dead of winter no one would hear a potential call for help if you accidentally slipped and fell overboard.
- ≈ If there's ever a reason to wear a life jacket, now may be the time,

especially if you're solo. A simple little slip could have big consequences, and a life jacket could buy you the time for self-rescue, which tees up the next tip:

- ≈ Know where the dock ladders are located.
- ≈ Fluffy snow can be deceptively slick, so save the smooth-soled boat shoes for the summer and wear something with traction. According to BoatUS Marine Insurance, slip and falls are a common claim occurring in a marina.
- ≈ Be extremely careful if using a ladder when boarding a boat stored in the marina yard or on a trailer. Ensure it is firmly planted, secure it with a line at the top to avoid shifting, and if possible, have a friend hold it when you're ascending/descending. Use bucket and line tied to a cleat to help

move tools and supplies to keep your hands free to hold the ladder.

- ≈ Heavy snow loads can add tremendous weight. Now is the time to ensure any tarps or coverings haven't been loosened and enough pitch remains to slough off snow and ice. As during boating season, always "keep one hand on the boat" when adjusting covers or lines that are difficult to reach.
- ≈ Check jack stands to ensure they haven't moved, but don't ever attempt to move or adjust one by yourself – that's the marina's job. Do not tie off tarps to stands as winds could pull them out.
- ≈ Shoveling or chipping away ice on your boat may cause damage. A stiff broom is best to clear a path.

# 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 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



*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.*

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 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](https://www.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](https://www.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.

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*Gas Station Pump Labels Are Supposed to Warn Boaters Against Putting the Wrong Fuel in the Tank; Survey Reveals They Fail Miserably, Continued from page 1*

prohibited by federal law for use in recreational boat engines, off-road vehicles and small engines.

In addition to supporting improvements to the ethanol content warning label type, size and location on the pump, Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) supports public education efforts, evaluating the adoption of different fuel pump nozzle sizes, ceasing misleading marketing of ethanol fuels such as "Regular 88" fuel (containing 15% ethanol), evaluating the use of physical barriers and keypad systems, and offering a dedicated pump for E0 (0% ethanol) fuel.