

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Fall 2016

Virginia Green Marinas

[Virginia Green](#) is a program that recognizes tourism related organizations and businesses that are committed to protecting the environment and Virginia's natural resources. As a Virginia Clean Marina, you may already qualify to be a Virginia Green facility.

The minimum expectations for a Virginia Green Marina require that in addition to meeting the criteria for a Virginia Clean Marina, a facility must provide recycling for cans, bottles, etc. In certain areas of the state a comprehensive recycling program is not available. If this is the case in your locality, you must provide a written explanation of the recycling opportunities you do provide and your staff should know how to address this issue with guests. A sign encouraging patrons to take their items home to recycle should be posted in a visible location.

Virginia Green facilities are listed on the Virginia Green website and are searchable through the [Virginia is for Lovers website](#) and through the [Department of Environmental Quality's \(DEQ\) website](#). All participating facilities receive a Virginia Green

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Clean and Resilient Marinas

The Virginia Clean Marina Program has partnered with the Clean Marina Programs in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida to develop a set of resiliency guidelines for marinas in the region. This regional partnership will base the program on the already implemented [Gulf of Mexico Alliance Clean and Resilient Marinas Program](#).

In Virginia, we have received some funding through Virginia Sea Grant to incorporate resiliency into the existing Clean Marina Program. Resiliency, for this project is defined as practices "that increase the capacity of a business or community exposed to hazards to (1) absorb impacts while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning; (2) reduce the amount of time and financial resources needed to return to full level of functioning; or (3) adapt to future risks by learning from past disasters and adopting risk reduction measures;" (National Sea Grant College Program).

To measure our stakeholder knowledge of resiliency and their current practices, a survey was sent out to Virginia Clean Marinas towards the end of the summer. The survey will be available to marinas in the other participating states in the near

future. Some of the findings so far indicate that respondents are currently practicing at least some resiliency measures in their day-to-day operations. For example, all respondents back up records electronically and either move inside or secure trash and recycling receptacles prior to a named storm event. Other resiliency practices include bi-annual training for staff for emergencies, vessel monitoring during storm events, inspection and cleaning of storm drains on an as needed basis and locating fuel, water and septic systems well above the "highest possible storm surge."

When asked their greatest challenge to resiliency, aging infrastructure was number one, followed by limited knowledge of resiliency practices and financial resources, and finally recurrent flooding storm tide events and limited knowledge of existing resources tied for third.

The resilient marina guidelines will be voluntary, like the existing Clean Marina Program, with the ultimate goal of a certification program. If you have not already taken the survey, please follow this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vamarina>, and take a few minutes to complete the survey.





Virginia Green Marinas
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certificate for display and the use of the Virginia Green logo.

The process to join is easy and is now completely automated. You must be registered on Virginia.org to complete the Virginia Green application. If you are not already registered, visit <http://admin.virginia.org/>, and create a new account. As noted on DEQ's website, it may take 1-2 days to activate your account. Once your account is activated, [log in](#) and add your facility under the Attractions Category. Finally, visit DEQ's Office of Pollution Prevention Virginia Green Attractions site and click on [How to Join](#) for instructions on completing the application¹.

Participation in both the Virginia Clean Marina program and as a Virginia Green Attraction is a tool that you can use in marketing and to help your facility become more visible on the internet. [Hope Springs Marina](#) in Stafford County and [Crown Point Marina](#) in Hayes (Gloucester) are both certified as a Clean Marina and as a Virginia Green Attraction. To see their profiles as Virginia Green Attractions please visit [Hope Springs Marina](#) or [Crown Point Marina](#).

Virginia Green is a partnership program supported by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, DEQ and the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association. To receive the latest information from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, sign up for the Virginia Travel Post [here](#).

¹Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Pollution Prevention Program, Virginia Green, Green Attractions, <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen/GreenAttractions.aspx#join>.



Summary of Virginia's Working Waterfront Master Plan

What is a Working Waterfront? The Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act of 2011 defines a Working Waterfront as "real property (including support structures over and adjacent to the water or inland property engaged in significant water-related activities) that provides access to coastal waters or that supports commercial fishing, recreational fishing, business, boat building, shipping and rail yards, aquaculture, national defense, public safety, marine research, offshore energy production, or other water-related commercial, industrial and recreational business."

In 2007 Virginia hosted "Water Access 2007" the first National Symposium on Working Waterways and Waterfronts in Norfolk. The Symposium originated through a partnership between BoatUS and Marine Advisory Services at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Financial support for the effort came from a diverse group of interests including Brunswick Corporation and the National Marine Manufacturers. Over the next few years, several Virginia Regional Planning District Commissions (PDC) conducted inventories of their existing working waterfront sites under the direction of Tom Murray, Associate Director of Marine Advisory Services at VIMS.

In February of 2014, VIMS hosted the first "Virginia Working Waterfronts Workshop" co-sponsored by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, to provide stakeholders an opportunity to become involved in the process of developing a Working Waterfront Master Plan (Plan) for the Commonwealth. The workshops and committee meetings culminated in an extensive report that gives recommendations to communi-

ties, local government entities, PDC and others on ways to protect and restore their working waterfront activities.

Some of the activities supported by Virginia's Working Waterfronts include commercial fishing operations, ship and boat building, maintenance and repair, marine research facilities, export and import facilities, recreational boating and supportive services and marine transportation (2016 Virginia's Working Waterfront Master Plan). The Plan also details some of the economic contributions of Virginia's Working Waterfronts. Virginia is the third largest producer of marine products in the U.S. with a dockside value of \$192 million with hard clams and oysters contributing \$36.9 million to that value (Virginia Marine Products Board, 2012). The annual recreational boating impact to Virginia is between \$1.2 billion (Virginia Marine Resources Commission) and \$2.9 billion (National Marine Manufacturers Association) with participation rates of between 8,732 people (VMRC) and 23,044 people (NMMA). The Port of Virginia brings an annual impact of \$60 billion with 374,000 total jobs, 9 % of Virginia employment and \$17.4 billion in wages (Pearson & Swan, 2013). (2016 Virginia's Working Waterfront Master Plan)

To preserve Virginia's Working Waterfronts, the Plan sets forth recommended actions for the following sectors; Federal Government, Virginia General Assembly, Governor of Virginia, Virginia Port Authority, Commonwealth of Virginia, Coastal Planning District Commissions, Coastal local Government and the Private Sector. To read a two page summary of the Plan, please follow this [link](#).

BoatUS Foundation Grass Roots Grants and Lifejacket Loaner Programs

BoatUS Foundation has changed the way they are administering two of their popular programs: the Life Jacket Loaner Program and the Grass Roots Grants Program. In the past the programs were administered on a set application deadline. They are now accepting applications for both programs on a year round basis with applications being reviewed within a month of submission. For more information on both of these programs please visit the [BoatUS Foundation website](#) and follow the Community Outreach link.



Funds Available

Remember that the Virginia Department of Health has funds available for the installation and maintenance of vessel sewage pump-out and dump stations. Marinas that find themselves with increasingly higher maintenance costs should consider applying for funding to replace their existing pump-out stations. Please contact Scott Vogel, ScottM.Vogel@vdh.virginia.gov or 804-864-7467, for more information on the [Clean Vessel Act](#) program and participation for Virginia marinas.

For additional information on the Virginia Clean Marina program please click on the logo to visit our website.



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2016 Marine Industry Workforce Development Survey

This past summer, the Mid-Atlantic Marina Industries Work Force Development Survey (2016) was sent to marine businesses in the mid-Atlantic to determine the need for skills training for their employees and to figure out the types of training that would be the most beneficial. The survey targets marine industry businesses from North Carolina to New Jersey and was distributed by the respective Sea Grant College Programs in each state to ensure a uniform means of collecting the information. The following is a summary of the results with a more detailed report to follow in the next several months. (Some of the questions allow for more than one answer so the percentages may not add up to 100%.)

Of the respondents 94% were a boatyard or marina that may or may not offer additional services. A total of 29% offer services and supplies and 22% provide brokerage services and 22% are a boatyard/marina. None of the survey participants fall into the category of manufacturer.

The responding companies employ both full-time and part-time workers with the largest company employing 50 full-time employees and the smallest just one full-time employee. Part-time employees range from zero part-time employees to six part-time employees. When asked to rank the importance of training needs, certified outboard technician and diesel mechanic ranked first and

second followed closely by yacht painters and refinishers and fiberglass technicians respectively. Electrical technicians, carpenters, welders, generator technicians all fell somewhere in the middle for training needs. When asked what types of on-going employee training was needed, 81% replied that certification and improvement of skills (such as the American Boat & Yacht Council) was needed while 54% would like more basic vocational training.

The top three methods of employee training that the respondents prefer are videos or CD-ROM (60%), internet (56%) and customized off-site training (52%). A total of 86% of the employers indicated that they would be willing to send employees to another location for training while 14% would not. In addition, 82% of employers would be willing to pay to enroll and pay for travel and lodging for an employee to attend training in central coastal Virginia if it offered nationally accepted marine industry certification courses; 18% would not.

The survey results do indicate a need for and desire for additional marine work force development training. As we further analyze the results of the survey, we will work with industry partners to develop a path forward regarding the marine workforce training needs in the Commonwealth and mid-Atlantic region.

