

Smart Harbors

Raising the Standard

Spring 2020

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act

The EEOC is updating this 2009 publication to address its application to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Employers and employees should follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as state/local public health authorities on how best to slow the spread of this disease and protect workers, customers, clients, and the general public. The ADA and the Rehabilitation Act do not interfere with employers following advice from the CDC and other public health authorities on appropriate steps to take relating to the workplace. This update retains the principles from the 2009 document but incorporates new information to respond to current employer questions. For readers' ease the COVID-19 updates are all in bold. https://www.eeoc.gov/facts/pandemic_flu.html



— COVID-19 Resources —

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>



CDC's Updated Return-To-Work Standards

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

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.

≈ The following is a "What You Need To Know" e-book that iHire and PeopleWorks agreed to share: [PDF](#)

≈ Information on the FFCRA is also available from the U.S. Department of Labor: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

≈ The FFCRA Employees Rights poster is available for download at: https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf

≈ The 2019 Novel Coronavirus Prevention 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>



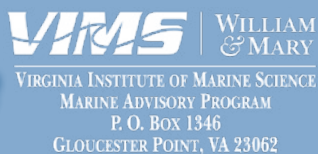
The Coast Guard Foundation has published [Marine Safety Information Bulletin 11-20 \(MSIB 11-20\)](#) to provide further clarification when determining which Marine Transportation System (MTS) workers are considered essential in regions affected by the coronavirus quarantine and shelter-in-place orders.

You can view the article, found on the Work Boat website by clicking on the link below.

Additionally, below you can download a copy of the pdf outlining these guidelines.

Coast Guard Guidelines
<https://www.workboat.com/news/government/coast-guard-clarifies-essential-maritime-workers/>

Marine Safety Information Bulletin
<https://files.constantcontact.com/51768121701/55d1d0f3-ed0f-4104-9efa-b83d0cddc8e2.pdf>



BoatUS: 8 Ways to Love Boating While Safely Waiting Out Coronavirus



Offshore Sailing School's Learn to Sail, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Modern Marine Navigation courses free through May 15

SPRINGFIELD, Va., April 22, 2020 – For recreational boaters who are staying off the water during the coronavirus pandemic, there's certainly more free time during what should be the busy spring launch season. So if boaters can't get to their boats, what are they to do? Here are eight ways from Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) to keep the love of boating alive that could also make you a better, safer boat operator.

1. Become a smarter sailor while saving big bucks by taking [Offshore Sailing School's Learn to Sail](#) or the [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Modern Marine Navigation courses](#) free any time through May 15. Use the coupon code "learn free" at [BoatUS.org/Courses](#) at registration.

2. Checklists are great when you really need them — just ask the person at the boat ramp who forgot to install the hull drain plug. What kind of printed, laminated checklist would be helpful to have aboard? Ideas include: [pre-launch checklist](#), [trailer checklist](#) (did you remember to cross the safety chains?), and [safety checklist](#).

3. Whether you're an inshore day cruiser, offshore angler, or cruising sailor, you always need to be prepared to abandon ship. Here's [what to pack in a ditch kit](#).

4. Docking can be a spectator sport. The [BoatUS How to Dock a Boat YouTube playlist](#) includes a range of docking scenarios that show you how, from outboard to inboard powered boats. It also includes '[How to Back a Single Engine Inboard Boat Into a Slip](#)' – the single most impressive recreational boat docking maneuver of them all.

5. If the boat and trailer are safely in the garage or driveway, now may be the time to look at all the things you never have enough time to, such as replacing outdrive anodes, changing trailer bearings or restoring the shine to gelcoat. It's all in one place at [BoatUS Trailer Boat YouTube playlist](#), including small boat handling tips such as '[How to Use Trim Tabs](#),' [the most-watched BoatUS video ever](#).

6. Learn how to tie up your family, pets or anything else around the house with help from the [BoatUS Essential Boating Knots YouTube playlist](#). Practicing at home now will make these knots easier to remember aboard the boat when the pandemic is over.

7. Consider supporting the waterfront businesses you enjoy and do business with – restaurants, chandleries, prop shops, sail lofts or other service providers – by purchasing a gift certificate. You can start by going to the local businesses' website to see if they are available.

8. Help protect the water you love and take the free, online [BoatUS Foundation Clean Boating course](#), which offers simple steps you can take to reduce the impact boating activities on our waterways.



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.

Here's the BoatUS Spring Commissioning Checklist That's Helping Recreational Boaters Prep for the Summer Boating Season

New videos show you how

SPRINGFIELD, Va., March 3, 2020 – Getting the boat ready for the summer boating season is an exciting time for America's nearly 12 million recreational boaters. Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) has a Spring Commissioning Checklist to help boaters start the season right, along with a [new YouTube Spring Fitting Out video library that shows you how to do some basic tasks](#), from changing the outdrive oil or fixing broken trailer lights to replacing zincs or changing a propeller.

Before You Launch

1. Inspect and replace hose clamps as necessary. Double clamp fuel lines and exhaust hoses with marine-rated stainless steel hose clamps. While not technically required, it's a wise move to double clamp whenever possible on all hoses - especially those below the waterline.
2. Inspect all hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking, and replace any that are faulty. Make sure they fit snugly.
3. Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure.
4. 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 cutlass bearing may need to be replaced.
5. Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent. Operate the wheel or tiller to ensure the steering works correctly.
6. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.
7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Inspect, lubricate and exercise seacocks.

10. Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.

11. Inspect and test the bilge pump and float switch to make sure they're both working properly.

12. Check stove and remote LPG tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.

13. Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafe and wear.

14. If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed.

15. After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

Engines and Fuel Systems

1. 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.

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 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 up cells with distilled water (if applicable).

6. Inspect the bilge blower hose for leaks and run the blower to confirm correct operation.

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 up 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 but don't wrap airtight.

3. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

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.

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Oil Absorbent Bilge Pads Available

The VCMP 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.

Virginia Clean Marina Re-certifications

Congratulations to the following marinas that have achieved re-certification as Virginia Clean Marinas:

- Aquia Harbor Marina
- Portsmouth Boating Center, LLC



Shall We Say Goodbye to 'Small Craft Advisory' and Hello to 'Small Craft Warning'?

BoatUS supports proposal to simplify critical warning messages; NWS invites boaters to weigh in

by BoatUS

SPRINGFIELD, Va., April 15, 2020 – In a move that could simplify and potentially reduce misunderstanding of urgent weather messages used by recreational boaters to make critical boating safety decisions, the National Weather Service (NWS) has proposed renaming “Small Craft Advisory” to “Small Craft Warning” and is asking for boaters’ feedback. Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) urges [boaters to speak up now](#) by taking a NWS survey for recreational boaters at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZGX6BF>. The survey closes May 24, 2020.

“Every day they go boating, boat owners check the weather and then make the decision to either head out or not,” said BoatUS Government Affairs Manager David Kennedy. “We think the name change will help clarify what this means, leading to a better understanding of the severity of a marine weather forecast, and help give recreational boaters the information they need to make smart choices about boating safely.”

For decades, [NWS has used the Watch, Warning, and Advisory \(WWA\) system to alert users about forecasted hazards, but it has recognized this can be confusing](#). The proposal to rename a “Small Craft Advisory” to a “Small Craft Warning” is part of a larger effort to reduce the messages to just two flagship headline terms: Watch and Warning. NOAA also says the name change would better align with [all other marine warnings – Gale, Storm, and Hurricane Force Wind](#) – leading to greater understanding by recreational boaters.

Changing from an “advisory” to “warning” would not change the term’s definition or meaning. While [there is no precise definition of a “small craft,”](#) today a “[Small Craft Advisory](#)” is issued when sustained wind speeds or frequent gusts have reached 20 to 33 knots and/or seas or waves 4 feet and greater and/or waves or seas are potentially hazardous. The requirements vary slightly by region, and local conditions may also dictate issuing a Small Craft Advisory.

Virginia Clean Boater Guide

VCMP recently announced that our new Virginia Clean Boater Guide is now available. Here is the brochure link from the VCMP website – <https://www.vims.edu/research/units/centerspartners/map/vacleanmarina/cleanboater/guidelines/index.php>

If you would like to receive printed copies along with a display holder to distribute them at your marina, please send an email to askvcmp@vims.edu.



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 as good stewards by that do their part to the keep the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia waterways clean.

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Does Your Town, Marina or Boat Club Want Visiting Boaters? Boating Infrastructure Grants Help Fund Transient Vessel Docks, Moorings and Guest Facilities

5 tips from BoatUS on how to get your share of BIG funds

SPRINGFIELD, Va., March 17, 2020 – Recreational boaters like to go places, but to welcome them and take advantage of the spending they bring, you need safe dockage for the day or night. [The Boating Infrastructure Grant \(BIG\) program](#) funnels federal taxes paid by recreational boaters on the sale of motorboat and small engine fuel back to the states to attract visiting boaters. For FY 2021, there will be approximately \$20 million in funds available to local governments, port agencies, public and private marinas, and boat clubs. However, before applying for a grant, you need to know how the program works. BoatUS has five tips that can increase the chances that your organization will get the BIG funds it needs.

1. **BIG is a commitment.** First championed through Congress by Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) in 1998, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) manages the BIG program and it is administered through state boating, parks and conservation agencies. [Start by learning which agency in your state administers the funds.](#) Remember that the grant is awarded to the state-designated agency, which needs to ensure that the funds are spent properly according to federal

regulations. That includes a commitment to maintain the transient access for its useful life as defined in the grant documents. During this period, these regulations require prior authorization from both the state agency and FWS before selling or transferring ownership of a BIG-funded facility, and it must continue to be maintained under the terms of the program by the new owner until the end of the infrastructure's useful life.

2. **Public access must be maintained.** During that useful life period, reasonable public access at a BIG-funded facility must be maintained, along with BIG program signage indicating the funding source for the transient dockage. Facilities must be open during boating season — closing to the public for private events or not allowing tie-ups isn't permitted. Any transient dockage fees charged to boaters cannot vary significantly from the prevailing local rate.

3. **There's a "target" audience.** The matching grant program, which offers both noncompetitive (Tier 1) and competitive (Tier 2) funding streams, requires a minimum of 25% of funding to come from state, local or private sources. Towns, public and private marinas, boat clubs, and

conservation agencies can use BIG funds to welcome passing boaters for the day or up to 15 days in port with the key point being that facilities must target transient (traveling) recreational (noncommercial) vessels 26 feet in length and larger, or what is generally considered to be a nontrailerable boat. If you're thinking of applying to use BIG funds to only offer more seasonal boat slips, [fuhgeddaboutit.](#)

4. **Sharing is OK – just not too much.** In addition to providing [safe, protected harborage](#), BIG dollars can be used to install conveniences such as restrooms, bathing facilities, fuel docks, electricity, water and sewage utilities, laundries, and recycling and pumpout stations. There are also some limited funds for dredging. It's OK if some of these amenities are utilized or shared by nontransient boaters or full-time marina customers, but your BIG funding application will be reduced proportionately or, in the case of competitive Tier 2 grants, may not be awarded if it doesn't focus enough on the needs of visiting boaters.

5. **Start now for 2021 funds.** Since inception, more than \$235 million has been provided for BIG projects, funding more than 6,000 transient berths across the U.S. The program has a recurring annual application deadline, typically in the late summer to early fall, varying by state. BoatUS encourages applicants to start now if you're interested in applying for FY 2021 funds (to be disbursed in 2021). Visit www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/Subpages/GrantPrograms/BIG/BIG.htm to learn more. In addition, the [States Organization for Boating Access](#) offers a free downloadable publication, [An Applicant's Guide to the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program.](#)

Virginia Clean Boater Guide, continued from previous page

Why become a Virginia Clean Boater?

By adopting pollution prevention measures as specified in the program, 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.

How to become a Virginia Clean Boater?

1. Download the [Clean Boater Guide](#).
2. Agree to follow the Clean Boating Tips listed in the guide.
3. Take the [pledge](#).
4. We'll mail you a Virginia Clean Boater sticker to put on your vessel.
5. Support a [clean marina](#).





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

(from AIWA Newsletter March 2020)

[The American Waterways Operators](#) has launched a dedicated COVID-19 webpage containing information and resources to help mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus and guide the U.S. tugboat, towboat and barge industry in operating safely while continuing to serve the American people during the pandemic.

[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.

[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.

BoatUS Spring Commissioning Checklist, continued from page 3

5. Inspect trailer frame for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.

6. Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

Safety

1. Check expiration dates on flares.
2. Inspect fire extinguishers. Replace if more than 12 years old or if age is unknown. More than 40 million Kidde extinguishers with plastic handles [were recalled](#) on Nov. 2, 2017.

3. 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.

4. Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.

5. Check running lights for operation and spare bulb inventory.

6. Update paper charts and chart-plotter software.

7. Replenish first-aid kit items that may have been used last season or are expired.

8. Check the operation of VHF radio(s) and that the MMSI number is correctly programmed in. [\(BoatUS members can obtain a free MMSI number at BoatUS.com/MMSI.\)](#)

9. Get a free vessel safety check from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. Find out more at [SafetySeal.net](#).

For the Dock

1. In addition to checking its entire length for wear or abrasions, 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.

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. Don’t forget your trailer tags.

2. 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.

3. Ensure your BoatUS Membership is in good standing. Login to [BoatUS.com/Account](#) to check your Membership status or join at [BoatUS.com/Membership](#).

4. Download the free BoatUS App ([BoatUS.com/App](#)) to make it easy to summon on-water assistance and speed response times.

For more information about the nation’s largest advocacy, services and safety group, go to [BoatUS.com](#).