



KLEENFUEL

SERVING BOAT OWNERS - SAVING THE BAY

By Nuala Galbari

The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States and home to abundant marine life, provides inestimable opportunities for boaters and is one of the finest aspects of life in Virginia. For over thirty years, deteriorating environmental conditions from a number of causes have resulted in the loss of aquatic vegetation and habitat depletion for many of the Bay's animals and fish.

While efforts to clean the Bay have had varying results, federal, state and local governments, in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other environmental groups, are working to improve water quality and prevent sources of contamination. Each one of us can help in this effort by choosing environmentally responsible products for use in our homes and gardens, reducing air pollution caused by burning, and supporting the use of organic materials in farming practices. The Environmental Protection Agency recognizes that fuel from watercraft forms a lesser contaminant, but it can still damage wildlife and aquatic plants. Commercial and recreational boaters can help ensure that fuel is kept out of the Bay.

Alan Pinekenstein, president of Kleenfuel, has a two-fold mission: to help boat owners maintain clean, efficient engines, and in turn, to focus on keeping the Bay clean. A native of Danville, Virginia, Alan now lives in the Deltaville area and enjoys sailing the Rappahannock River and the Bay. U.S. Coast Guard licensed and insured, Alan has witnessed a growing demand for fuel cleaning services from the northern shore

down to Virginia Beach and beyond. Alan explains, "Most boat owners are environmentally responsible. Fuel spills are usually accidental and occur at marina pumps when tanks are being filled. However, to ensure fuel burns well and is less polluting, it is important to keep fuel tanks clean." Developed by a NASA engineer, the Ocean Marine system utilized by the company basically works in the same manner as a dialysis machine by pumping out fuel sludge and returning clean fuel to the engine.

"Unclean fuel may cause several problems and can even be dangerous, especially if you are caught in a storm." Alan continues, "Water may enter the filters and obstruct fuel lines, causing your engine to shut down. Your location and the climate can also be a factor, as fuel may become contaminated. To maintain safe, efficient engine operation and to make certain your fuel tanks are clean and secure, preventive maintenance should be carried out regularly."

We all form an important part of the preservation family and with care and consideration we can meet the current challenges and help the Chesapeake Bay return to good health.

Kleenfuel offers portable services to owners of commercial and recreational boats. The work can be performed in or out of water, at a marina, on a trailer or at your home. The company offers fuel polishing and fuel tank cleaning on small craft and vessels up to approximately 110 feet. The procedure normally takes from three to four hours.

Kleenfuel serves the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and the Peninsula.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, contact Alan Pinekenstein at 804-694-6040, or contact Kleenfuel Marine Services, P.O. Box 951, Deltaville, VA 23043. *pl*