

MARINE USE OF BIODIESEL CATCHING ON



From recreational boaters in Tampa Bay, Florida, to the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, to Puget Sound, Washington, mariners are discovering the advantages of American-made biodiesel. The Sierra Club and the National Biodiesel Board promotes biodiesel as a cleaner-burning fuel that can be made from any fat or vegetable oils, such as soybean oil, and works in any diesel engine. Biodiesel can be blended with petroleum diesel at any level or used in its pure form.

According to the National Biodiesel Board, this alternative fuel is not only better for the environment and human health because it reduces harmful emissions, but it can also simplify clean-up and maintenance of boats. Biodiesel performs similar to petroleum diesel, but is easier on engines because it greatly increases lubricity.

“Biodiesel is a smart choice for marine users of all kinds — from recreational boats to tour boats to ocean-go-

ing commercial ships and research vessels — because it is non-toxic, readily biodegradable and easier for boaters to handle and store,” said Joe Jobe, executive director of the National Biodiesel Board.

Aaron Evenson, general manager of Ward Oil in Tampa, Florida, sells biodiesel to local boaters. “The benefits of biodiesel are starting to filter down by word of mouth, and I’m starting to get repeat requests for the fuel,” he said. “Boaters love biodiesel because the fumes are less toxic, and it has a much sweeter smell than petroleum diesel.” He also notes that biodiesel is cleaner and boat owners don’t have to scrub the

soot off the back of their boats like they do when they use regular diesel fuel.

That message was echoed by Jacquie Clark, owner of *Tropic Island*, a 75-foot, 150-passenger charter boat on the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. This is their second season using B20 (a mixture of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel). According to Clark, they have noticed a reduction in fumes and less soot on the boat since switching to biodiesel. That means a lot less scrubbing for them — something that they had been doing daily with regular diesel.

“We applaud the increasing use of biodiesel in diesel engines in sensitive marine ecosystems,” said Elisa Lynch, global warming campaign director at the Bluewater Network, whose mission is to champion innovative solutions and inspire individuals to protect the Earth’s finite and vulnerable ecosystems. “Biodiesel is much friendlier to the environment and public health than pe-

ENVIRONMENTAL NOTEBOOK

petroleum diesel. It is nontoxic, renewable, and leads to significantly reduced air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.”

Other examples of where biodiesel is being used:

- Ventura Harbor Marine Fuel, Inc., California: Offers B100 to boaters in Southern California and is the supplier for Channel Islands National Park.

- Channel Islands National Park, California: Uses B100 in the vessels *Pacific Ranger* and *Sea Ranger II*. B100 is also used in other diesel equipment on the islands, including stationary power generators and forklifts.

- Sanctuary Cruises: A whale-watching company based in Moss Landing, midway between Monterey and Santa Cruz, uses biodiesel in its two vessels.

- Lodge of the Four Seasons Marina, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri: The marina sells B20 to slip holders and others on the lake, including two cruise boats — one of them owned by Anheuser-Busch.

- Elliott Bay Marina & Shilshole Marina, Seattle, Washington: Sells B100 at Elliott Bay Marina and B20 at Shilshole Marina.

- West Bay Marina, Olympia, Washington: Sells B100 to boaters and is the only public retailer in Olympia.

Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have completed the rigorous health effects testing required by the Clean Air Act. Results show biodiesel poses less of a risk to human health than petroleum diesel. The Environmental Protection Agency recently released a comprehensive technical report of biodiesel emissions data that shows the exhaust emissions of particulate matter from pure biodiesel are about 47 percent lower than overall particulate matter emissions from diesel. Breathing particulate has been shown to be a human health hazard. Biodiesel emissions also reduce by 80 to 90 percent the cancer-causing compounds called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and nitrated PAH. Biodiesel also reduces emissions of total

unburned hydrocarbons, a contributing factor to smog and ozone, by about 68 percent. Carbon monoxide is reduced by about 48 percent.

Biodiesel has similar horsepower, torque and BTU content compared to petroleum diesel. It offers excellent lubricity and higher cetane than diesel fuel. Biodiesel is registered with the EPA as a fuel and fuel additive. About 300 major fleets currently use biodiesel nationwide.

Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting <www.biodiesel.org> or by contacting the National Biodiesel Board, 3337A Emerald Ln., P.O. Box 104898, Jefferson City, Missouri 65110-4898, phone (573) 635-3893.