



# Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta

October 7 & 8, 2023



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Hosted by Thistle Fleet 34 and Severn Sailing Association  
311 First Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21403

## Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



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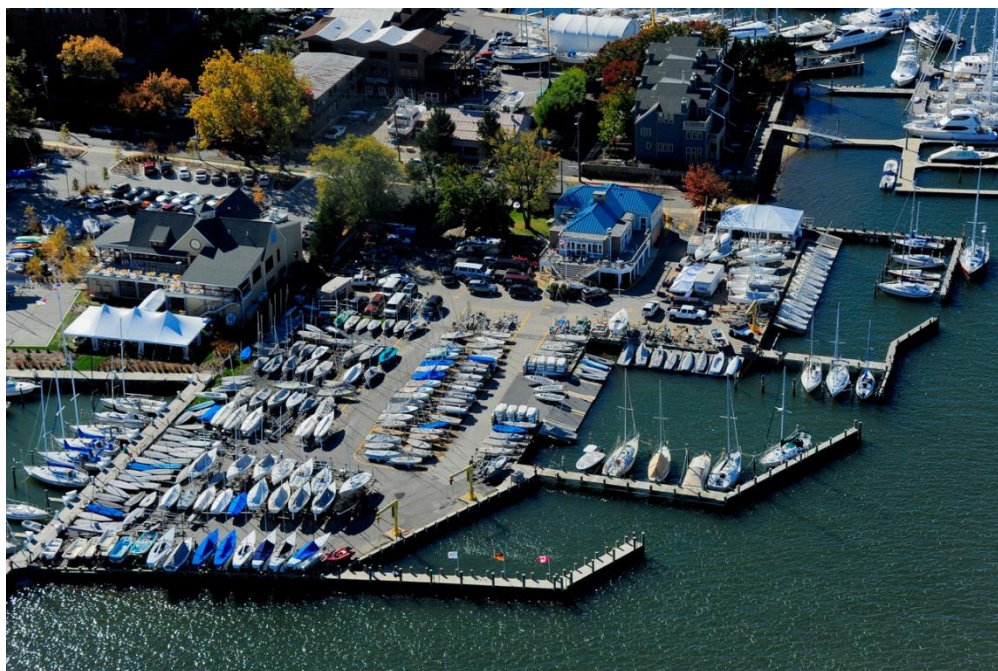
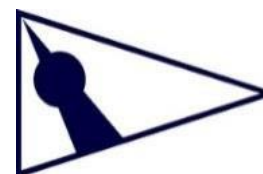
Green Team Members include:

Rosemary Foltis, Doug Freeman, Stephanie Gajar, Tory Gibb, John Gilmour, Ed John, Bill Krafft, Cairn Krafft, Charlie Krafft, Martin Krafft, Bill Lawson,  
Mary-Pat McNulty, LeAnn Myhre, Collete Preis, Molly Ratz, Cody Richardson



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Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, MD.

## Introduction

Thistle Fleet 34 at Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis, Maryland, ran its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Clean Regatta Oyster Roast in October of 2023. Initially inspired by the 2017 Thistle Class Association (TCA) Nationals, our fleet has run all of our subsequent major events, including Oyster Roasts, as Clean Regattas. In 2020, under the leadership of Mike Ingham, TCA embarked on the Clean Class Initiative in partnership with Sailors for the Sea. A national-level committee has worked since then to develop a pilot plan for how leadership from a one-design class could go about engaging its entire class in these stewardship efforts. With its relatively long history of running Clean Regattas, two members of our Thistle fleet community stepped up to join what is now recognized as a standing committee for the Thistle Class. And, Sailors for the Sea has just announced another class is joining the Clean Class Initiative which the Thistles piloted, the International 29er Class!

Working at all levels of regatta organization including Nationals, Mid-Winters, regional, series (e.g., the East Coast Fall Series, of which the Oyster Roast is one of the events), and local fleet racing, committee members reach out to regatta organizers to see what is possible given that event's particular circumstances, and how we can help. We encourage folks to stretch, and for Thistle Fleet 34, that meant reaching for our first Platinum level certification with our 2022 Oyster Roast, continuing this new tradition in 2023, and adding reusable plates to our array of Clean Regatta equipment.

## Clean Regatta Best Practices

### Elimination of Single-Use Items

#### 1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

Participants are requested in the additional information included in our Notice of Race (NOR) document, on the TCA calendar, and in emails to bring and use their own reusable water bottles. We use signage and verbal communication at the competitors' meeting to let folks know where SSA's water bottle filler is located. Thistlers are pretty used to bringing their reusable water bottles to regattas at this point!





## 2. Eliminate Plastic Straws

SSA's concessioner offered compostable straws this year with their mixed drinks, which are made from PHA, a plastic replacement made by fermenting plant sugars that come from beets, corn, and other vegetables waste, or even biogas from landfills. PHA products degrade into nontoxic components within months, and can also be reformed into new products.



Fleet 34 provided compostable wooden stirrers for coffee at our continental breakfasts.



### 3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware



Thistle Fleet 34 provides reusable mugs and canning jar glasses, metal silverware, and new this year, reusable plates at our invitational regattas. Since SSA's clubhouse has only a small kitchen, our reusable items are stored in bins at a Fleet member's home. This year, we were happy to loan our bins of reusable dinnerware to SSA's Lightning Fleet for their first registered and certified Clean Regatta! It's great to see other fleets at SSA become interested in Clean Regattas!





#### 4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

Reusable shopping bags are used by those buying ingredients and supplies for the event. Participants are encouraged in the additional information provided in the NOR document and elsewhere to use reusable bags for their personal regatta provisioning, as well.



#### 5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy



Practical items are awarded as keeper trophies for skippers and crew placing 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. This year we were able to award bags created by Sea Bags in exchange for sails collected



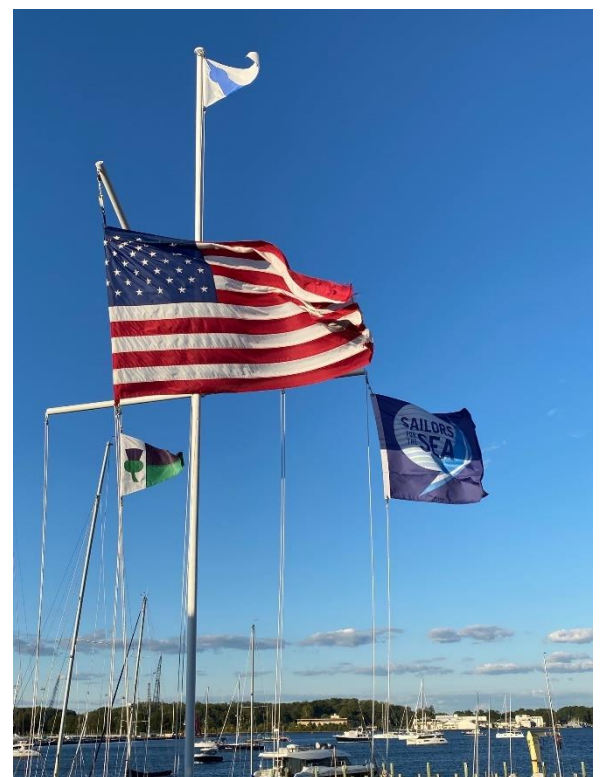
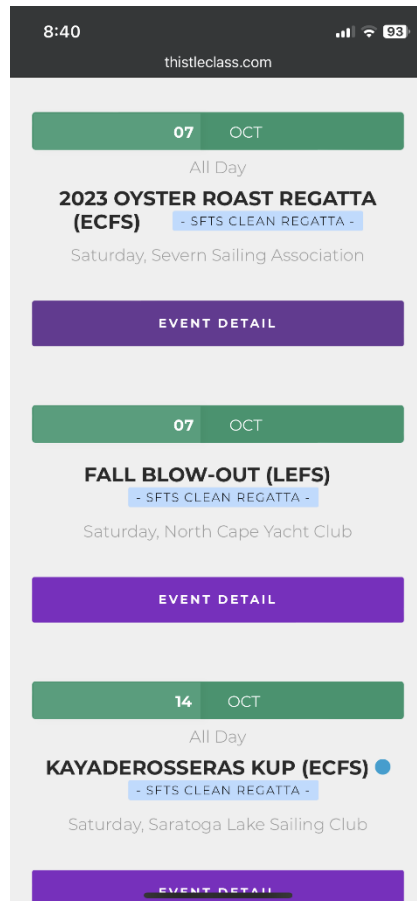
during a sail drive at the 2022 Oyster Roast. The winning crew was clearly pleased to also win the Parramore perpetual trophy in memory of former Thistle and Jet 14 sailor, Paul O. Parramore, who passed away unexpectedly at a young age in 1968.

## Community Involvement

### 6. Publicize your Sustainability Efforts

TCA now has an option on their digital calendar that allows posters to select a “Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta”

designation, which is then displayed prominently on the calendar. We also include information regarding our Clean Regatta efforts in all of our emails, advertisements and write-up articles in TCA’s *Bagpipe* magazine, as well as SSA’s newsletter. And, we let everyone present on the site know of our commitment by flying the Sailors for the Sea flag, passing out Sailors for the Sea stickers, and displaying our Clean Regatta certificates.





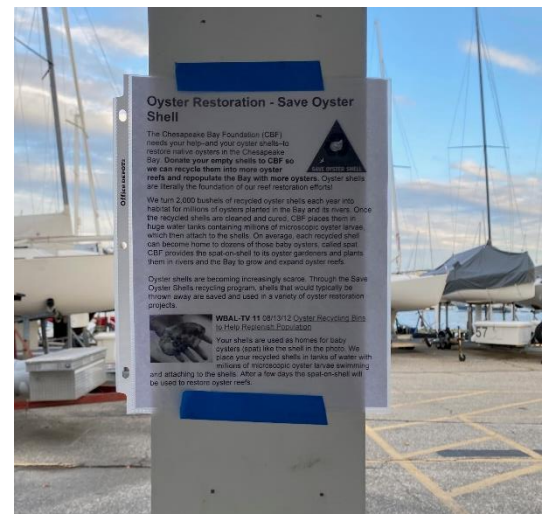
## 7. Involve Local Organizations



For the 2023 Oyster Roast, we were once again able to partner with Langton Green Community Farm, where one of our community members volunteers, so that all of our compostable items could be commercially composted.

## 8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

Fleet 34 posts signage that is both reusable and educational, providing information on topics such as oyster restoration work (this is the Oyster Roast, after all), as well as what items sailors could consider for composting rather than landfill disposal.





## 9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably



This year for our breakfast breads, we were able to include organic apples from a small Amish farm, as well as local farm eggs that were used for both baking and offered hardboiled. Dinner was catered by a local BBQ restaurant. Oysters were purchased from Wild Country Seafood down the street, which operates the last two commercial workboats out of Eastport. This year our oyster shells were recycled for oyster restoration through Wild Country Seafood, which is required by the state to use oyster shells to replenish their oyster bars on the Rhode River.



## Responsible Waste Management

### 10. Organize a Green Team



For Oyster Roast Regatta Clean Regatta tasks, we rely on a core group of hardworking volunteers who this year included Cairn Krafft (Green Team Chair), Rosemary Foltis, Doug Freeman, Stephanie Gajar, Tory Gibb, John Gilmour, Ed John, Bill Krafft, Charlie Krafft, Martin Krafft, Bill Lawson, Mary-Pat McNulty, LeAnn Myhre, Colette Preis, Molly Ratz, and Cody Richardson. We also view all of our participants and race

committee as Green Team members, since it is impossible to hold a successful Clean Regatta without their help.

### 11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Management Placement and Signage

The Oyster Roast Green Team works hard to label receptacles for refuse and reusable items with meaningful, easy-to-read signage, and to place related receptacles in logical clusters. Orphaned bins (e.g., landfill with no matching recycling bin) are hidden out of sight before the event.





## 12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill



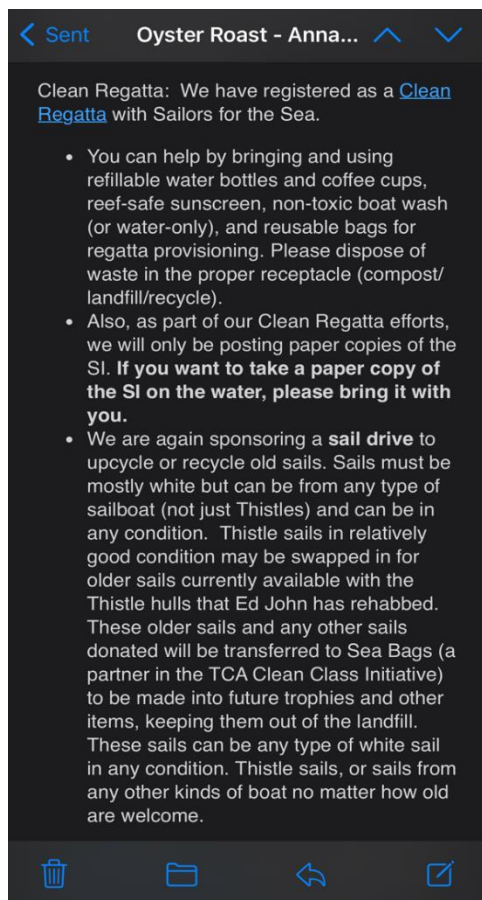
In 2023, we again took our compost to the commercial composting facility at Langton Green Community Farm, where one of our community members volunteers. Langton Green is an organization that supports adults with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to explore their interests, set personal goals, and realize their full potential. Their community farm is the only organization for people with disabilities to own and operate a working farm that supports not only clients of the program, but the greater community as well.



Because we had invested in reusable plates and were therefore not generating large volumes of compostable plates, we were able to go back to using our smaller compost buckets, rather than large bins.



### 13. Use Paperless Event Management



- You can help by bringing and using refillable water bottles and coffee cups, reef-safe sunscreen, non-toxic boat wash (or water-only), and reusable bags for regatta provisioning. Please dispose of waste in the proper receptacle (compost/landfill/recycle).
- Also, as part of our Clean Regatta efforts, we will only be posting paper copies of the SI. **If you want to take a paper copy of the SI on the water, please bring it with you.**
- We are again sponsoring a **sail drive** to upcycle or recycle old sails. Sails must be mostly white but can be from any type of sailboat (not just Thistles) and can be in any condition. Thistle sails in relatively good condition may be swapped in for older sails currently available with the Thistle hulls that Ed John has rehabbed. These older sails and any other sails donated will be transferred to Sea Bags (a partner in the TCA Clean Class Initiative) to be made into future trophies and other items, keeping them out of the landfill. These sails can be any type of white sail in any condition. Thistle sails, or sails from any other kinds of boat no matter how old are welcome.

In our effort to reduce paper usage for the Thistle Oyster Roast Regatta, all registration was on-line at SSA's website. Participants were notified in advance by email and NOR that if they wanted a printed copy of the Sailing Instructions, they should bring them with them, and a paper copy of the results was posted on the official notice board, rather than handed out individually. Results were also posted promptly to the SSA website.

A photograph of a printed document titled "2023 Thistle Oyster Roast Series Standing - 4 race scored" pinned to a corkboard. The document includes a table of results for the Thistle division. The table has columns for Pos, Sail, Boat, Skipper/Crew, Club, and race scores for 1, 2, 3, 4, and a Total. The data is as follows:

| Pos | Sail | Boat     | Skipper/Crew         | Club | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | Total |
|-----|------|----------|----------------------|------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1   | 4054 |          | Felix/Helen/John/Ed  | SPIC | 1  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 4     |
| 2   | 3921 | A301     | Chris/Mary/John/John | LPHC | 2  | 2  | 2  | 2  | 8     |
| 3   | 420  | Sam/John | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 3  | 3  | 3  | 3  | 12    |
| 4   | 3678 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 4  | 16    |
| 5   | 4023 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 5  | 5  | 5  | 5  | 20    |
| 6   | 1408 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 6  | 6  | 6  | 6  | 24    |
| 7   | 1047 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 7  | 28    |
| 8   | 1710 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 8  | 8  | 8  | 8  | 32    |
| 9   | 1056 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 9  | 9  | 9  | 9  | 36    |
| 10  | 4345 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 40    |
| 11  | 1860 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 44    |
| 12  | 1731 | John     | John/John/John/John  | SSA  | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 48    |

## Environmental Stewardship

### 14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-Up

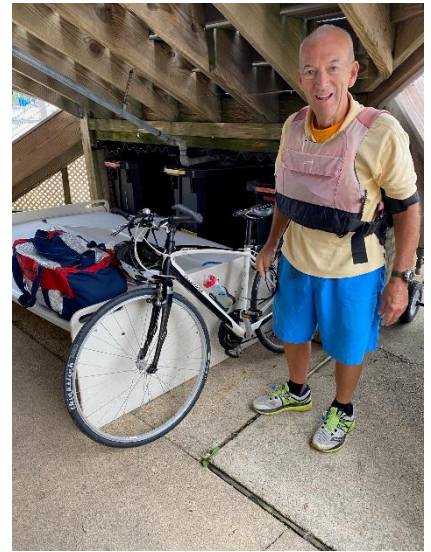
This year, the Green Team performed the sailing center cleanup for the Oyster Roast, including checking for contamination in SSA's new recycling dumpster.





## 15. Promote Alternative Transportation

SSA provides bike racks to promote cycling for sailors who live or are staying locally, and RC. We also encourage carpooling.

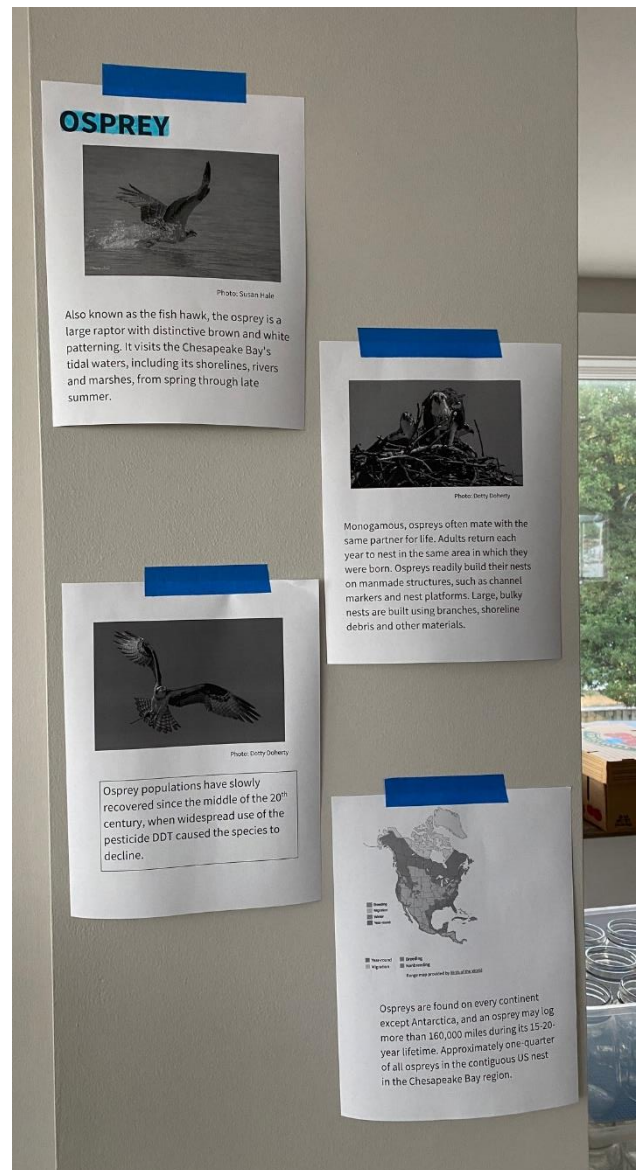


## 16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife Habitat and Protection

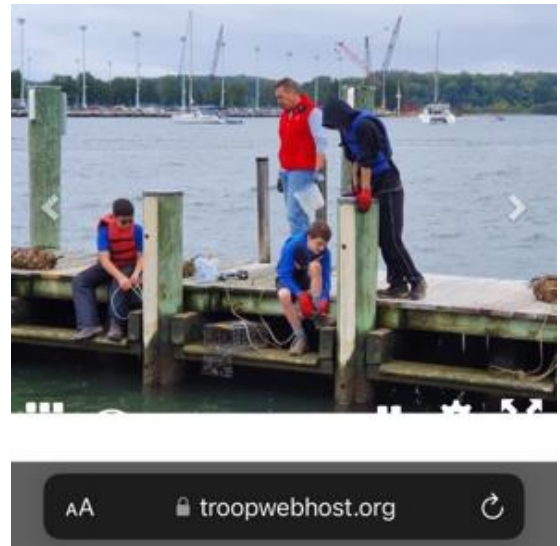
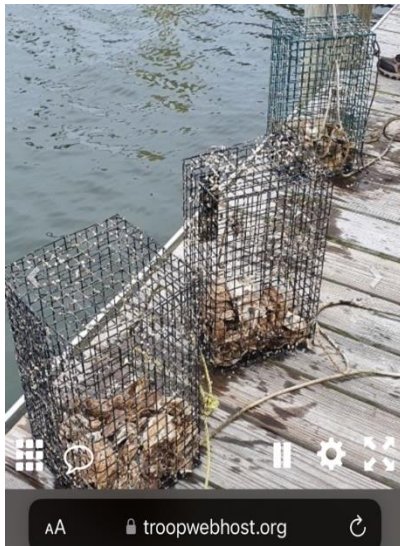
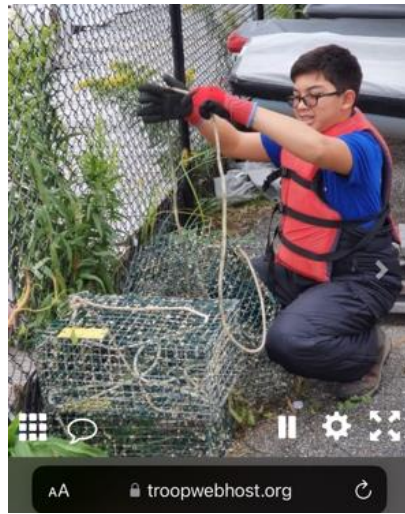
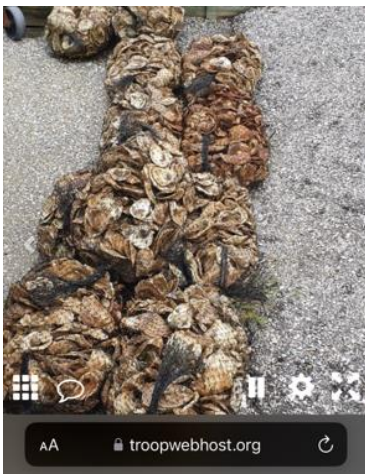


This year we once again posted our signage for Oyster Restoration work being conducted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation using recycled oyster shells. In addition to recycling of oyster shells, Severn Sailing

Association also hosts a local Sout troop's project to plant oyster spat in cages that are then attached to the SSA docks to provide habitat for the oyster spat to grow in before planting out in oyster bed restorations. We also displayed informational posters highlighting the osprey, a bird of prey often seen sailing out to the race course. The osprey posters feature photographs taken by local photographers, including a local Thistler, Susan Hale.







## 17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

Vegetarian or vegan alternatives were offered at each meal, in inclusive quantities that allowed everyone to discover that vegetarian and vegan dishes can be quite delicious.





## Green Boating

### 18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Our PRO, Steve Podlich, and his Race Committee team were committed to using eco-friendly race management practices for this event, including:

- Having RC boats turn off their engines while anchored.
- Using reduced speeds (except in rescue operations) to increase fuel efficiency.
- Increase fuel efficiency by including a Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and other boats with 4-stroke engines.
- Having familiarity with SSA's spill clean-up kits that are obvious and conveniently positioned by each set of hoists.
- Not requiring bow stickers.
- Encouraging RC members to use reusable water bottles and drinking glasses.



## 19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

In the additional information included with our NOR document, we encourage participants to use reef-safe sunscreen and wash down their boats with water only, or with a non-toxic boat soap. For the



2023 Oyster Roast, we followed up on a crew suggestion by creating a display of reef-friendly

sunscreens that we use. Also, SSA provides oil spill kits by each set of hoists that are easily spotted if needed.



## 20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

Efforts to promote Green Boating practices at the Thistle Oyster Roast and beyond include working to keep old sails out of the landfill by giving them new life as trophy bags through TCA's partnership with Sea Bags, and rehabbing older Thistles in need of some TLC to keep them out of landfills and get them back on the water as entry-level boats (thanks to Ed John, a member of Fleet 34). Ed provided one of those boats as a loaner boat to a group of young sailors from Baltimore, who attended multiple regattas this summer, including our Labor Day Blue Crab Regatta (Ed and team with the yellow spinnaker; loaner boat with the red spinnaker).



Beyond these specific efforts, our experience points to a ripple effect that radiates outward from Best Practices experienced in the context of a Clean Regatta, and impacts how participants behave beyond the race course, in other boating contexts, and in life, to protect the oceans and our planet.