



EEEEEEEEEE15.....! Ethanol Going Up

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We've written a lot of about ethanol in marine environments (see below) for some important reasons - it is "hydrophilic" (which means it loves water and absorbs it in greater quantities than conventional gasoline [read: not good for engines]) and it is a strong solvent - older resin-based fuel tanks dissolve when you add even E10 to the tank. And, now, as of 10/13/10, The Environmental Protection Agency waived a limitation on selling fuel that is more than 10 percent ethanol for model-year 2007 and newer cars and light trucks. And it can't be used in marine environments. This column is about that.

What Goes Wrong

There are a lot of things that mariners worry about when the dock hand fuels up their boat:

1. Don't put gasoline in my diesel tank!
2. Don't put diesel in my gasoline tank!
3. Don't put fuel in my water tank!
4. Don't put fuel in my marine sanitation holding tank!

And now - don't put E15 anywhere in my boat!

Why? Remember, ethanol is a solvent. If hoses and tanks do start to dissolve even in the slightest, this will lead to gumming up of all fuel lines. As water gets picked up into suspension in the hydrophilic fuel, it becomes explosive as it turns to steam in a confined area - like the valves and piston areas. All modern marine engines are designed to run up to 10 percent ethanol blend. But not E15.

What Can You Do?

First, the EPA waiver is not an effort to mandate the use of E15. but it could create confusion among



the owners of boats and other non-road vehicles and that could lead to mis-fueling. To aid the mariner, E15 can only be sold at pumps that are clearly marked, according to the EPA. But I wouldn't be bashful about asking!

What About Winter Lay-Up - Empty or Full?

We're heading to winter and de-commissioning is underway all over Out East (see SSP, "Winterizing - Now or Later, It Has To Be Done", 9/22/10.) And the question about the fuel system always is, "Empty or Full?" Do you drain down the fuel out of the tank for the winter or fill the tank to the top? Now, remember, ethanol is hydrophilic - it loves water. If you fill the tank up, AND you add fuel stabilizer AND you run the engine for a while so that the stabilizer makes it into your fuel lines, you will have a pretty good system. The full tank keeps condensation from forming along the sides of the tank and the stabilizer, along with the fuel itself, is fighting the solvent nature of the ethanol. Some mariners believe that draining the tanks all the way down is best as you are not relying on the stabilizer to do a

job that might be too tough over a long, cold and damp winter. I, for one, don't buy it. Empty tanks invite condensation along the inner walls of the tank. This will be problematic in the Spring commissioning. And I remember why we used to fill the tanks in the old days - because the fumes are more likely to cause an explosion than the fuel!

But what about those hoses? That is a legitimate concern that I don't want to minimize. Here is an idea. When changing the fuel/water separator, pour some of the gasoline, or ask your mechanic to pour some, into a clear jar and check the level of water and debris. If you see little specks in the fuel, you could have a potential ethanol problem. Those specks could be pieces of rubber fuel line that has begun to deteriorate internally.

If you find them, replace the fuel lines with a new ethanol-resistant line. A water/fuel separator can catch debris before it reaches the engine and I recommend filters with a 10-micron rating. If you use 2-micron filters, you will be changing the filters every other Saturday. 10-micron filters should be changed every 50 to 100 hours, as well as for winter layup.

And don't let them put E15 in your boat!

Prior Ethanol Columns

01/31/10 Ethanol/E10 - Back to the Future, With Care

03/05/10 Ethanol Use Going Up...Eek!?

06/30/09 Ethanol - the Battle Lines are Drawn

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2010@aol.com or go direct to John Blevins, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."



FISHING WITH TONY

DESPITE WIND, FISH CONTINUE TO BITE

by TONY SALERNO

Just when you thought you might catch a bit of reprieve from the ever-howling wind, we don't. In fact gale warnings and small craft advisories were the norm for both the Long Island Sound and the local ocean front this past weekend making a ride to the local fishing hot spots a challenging one. However for those anglers that somehow found their way to the water holes, they also found that the harder the wind blew, the harder the fish bit.



Hank the Carpenter with a 12.9-pound blackfish taken aboard the open boat the Rosie

That was especially the case for anglers on the hunt for gator size bluefish and trophy striped bass. Before the big blow that started last Thursday afternoon, surfcasters and boatmen alike stalked along the ocean beaches in search of the gamesters and for the most part, most were not disappointed as acres and acres of bluefish and striped bass schools could be found gobbling away at myriads of baitfish anywhere from Fire Island Inlet, to Montauk Point. A sure indication of this fall migration run is the countless scores of sea gulls and terns that screech and wheel overhead as the bass and blues force forage and feeble baitfish to the surface where the birds carefully skim the surface for a shot of bits and pieces of torn flesh of the baitfish left behind by the insatiable gamesters. Beach casters found that popping plugs and bucktails did the trick in the suds, while boatmen found the fish responsive to diamond jigs.

During the blow, most of the action was confined to the south shore inlets and the north shore harbors where live bait such a spot, croakers, bunker, sandworms and eels did a terrific job of keeping anglers busy and smiling along with a scattering of bluefish. Here to it was simple; find some rip lines that clashed with the current, or locate a flock of gulls and you were in.

If bass and blues aren't your forte, there is always blackfish. Here again despite the big blow, anyone who found some lee inside the south shore inlet rock jetties, or along the rocky beaches of the Sound also found the togs very cooperative feasting on fiddler and Asian crabs. The key to success for the blackfish was to fish near high tide and just as it started to ebb, as this is the stage when the water is at it's coolest and cleanest, which usually turns the feeding switch on. Forget what the weather man says, just go fishing.



Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington

ShotSpotter: A Crime-Fighting Tool to Level the Playing Field

Crime in our neighborhoods has risen, money is tight, and our police force is spread far too thin. These are the facts facing us right now in Suffolk County. And for some of our neighborhoods, that have been dealing with high crime and gun violence for far too long, the facts are even grimmer. For instance, when I speak to the hard-working residents of Greater Bellport who are trying to raise families and live their lives in peace and safety, the fact is they are unable to do so. At a recent Public Safety meeting, one resident reported that she is afraid to allow her children to play in the yard for fear some harm will come to them. Once dusk falls, she will not leave her home for the gallon of milk most of us would run to fetch at the nearest 7-Eleven without thinking twice. In broad daylight, she is leery of the simple task of buckling her little ones into their car seats because someone might come up behind her. These fears are not unfounded for the residents of too many of our communities where the tough economy has hit hardest; where jobs are too few; and where gangs, drugs, and guns are far too many.

It is the major reason why we need the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System and why my fellow Legislators and I just passed legislation to begin the process to acquire this crime-fighting tool. ShotSpotter will never replace the need for enough trained police officers to maintain the public's safety. What it will do, however, is give our police the technological edge they need to respond immediately and precisely to incidents involving gunfire. The system triangulates within seconds the exact location of gunfire and alerts police to that fact. It also alerts police to the type of weapon used and how many guns are involved.

ShotSpotter is not untried. Police departments throughout the nation, including in Nassau County, have attested to the success of this crime-fighting tool. ShotSpotter has aided them in investigations, making arrests, and saving lives. With ShotSpotter the playing field between criminals and police becomes a little more level. It grows significantly more difficult for the bad guys to run, hide and escape arrest after they have shot into a home or sprayed a crowd with bullets. And this is good news for hardworking residents who want to feel and be safe in their neighborhoods.

Furthermore, we have learned that there are a number of ways to finance this tool. ShotSpotter could very possibly be funded through grants, which is all the more reason to move forward. As it stands, the current legislation we passed directs our commissioner of police to study how ShotSpotter can be implemented in Suffolk County and to report the findings to the County Legislature. I, for one, am anxious to get to the bottom line on this study since the public safety is at stake.