

**NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION**  
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**Biobutanol – An excellent alternative to Ethanol:** As reported in Trade Only, and other media, a number of companies are working on the development of alternatives to ethanol, called biobutanol or sometimes called isobutanol, which have none of the well-known harmful characteristics of ethanol that cause damage to marine engines. Among these companies is a joint venture formed in 2009 between DuPont and BP to develop biobutanol which is said to be a \$28 billion market. Also a company, Gevo, can produce biobutanol, a fossil fuel substitute, with the same equipment others use to make the far less valuable ethanol. Gevo can employ equipment from current ethanol production facilities for use in its own production of biobutanol.

NMMA Legislative Director Jim Currie, speaking to MRAA's Advisory Council of Marine Associations, revealed preliminary tests show promise that corn-based biobutanol could be a safe gasoline additive in marine and other engines. The idea is that if further testing supports these early results, biobutanol will be a viable alternative to ethanol, farmers could still sell corn for fuel and the damage to engines would be averted. The critical point at this time is that there is an acceptable alternative to ethanol, making any rush to increase to E-15 as blatantly ill-advised as EPA's initial decision to allow the increase.

Biobutanol acts like a hydrocarbon and can be blended with a variety of fossil fuels. Ethanol, as the marine industry knows too well, is a product that corrodes pipe lines, absorbs water, and ruins small engines. Also, ethanol has lower energy content; a gallon of ethanol only contains about 67% of the energy of a gallon of gasoline, while biobutanol reportedly contains 82%.

NBF, along with some commercial interests, is working hard to either Repeal or Reform the Renewable Fuel Standard which requires billions of gallons of ethanol to be added to our fuel supply. Failing that, we hope biobutanol will be officially accepted as a replacement for ethanol and become available to the public. When that will become a reality is difficult to predict.

**BoatU.S. Action Alert – Comment now on EPA Ethanol Mandate:** BoatU.S. sent out a MEDIA ALERT indicating that the Environmental Protection Agency is asking for comments on a proposal to increase the amount of ethanol that must be blended into the nation's fuel supply for 2015 and 2016. If adopted, these proposed levels will require the use of a record amount of ethanol, forcing higher-level fuel blends (including E15) into more gas stations.

BoatU.S. is urging all recreational boaters to send a message to the EPA now by going to <http://goo.gl/CkfOtK> and demand that the agency lower the ethanol mandate to ensure an adequate supply of safe fuel. Comment deadline is July 27.

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