

Trailer-Boat Gas Station Tips

The ability to explore distant fishing spots easily and fill up on the fly are synonymous with trailer boating. To help you safely refuel at gas stations, the Boat Owners Association of the United States has these trailer-boat gas station tips:

- **To prevent overfilling and blowback, know your fuel tank's precise capacity.**
- **Never use your boat's gas gauge while filling up.**
- **Don't leave a refueling vessel unattended.**
- **Fill evenly. If you have two or more tanks, distribute fuel equally. Loading up one tank more than another could unbalance your rig.**
- **Never top off the tank. Fuel that's pumped from cool, below-ground holding tanks into your boat's tank, warmed by hot asphalt below and bright sun above, will expand. Topping off the tank is a safety hazard, and by doing so you could pollute.**

Visit the Boat Owners Association of the United States online at www.boatus.com.

Boaters: Register Radios for ID Number

The Fish & Boat Commission reminds boaters with newer-model marine radios to register for a Mobile Maritime Service Identity (MMSI) number. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requires that all VHF-FM marine radios manufactured after June 17, 1999, be digital-selective calling-capable. The primary advantage of these radios is that when used with a global positioning system, a mayday can be transmitted with the push of a button. All information concerning the call, including the vessel's position and the nature of the distress, is then automatically transmitted. However, for the information to be accessed by the U.S. Coast Guard, users must first register for an MMSI.

BoatU.S. has been certified by both the FCC and the Coast Guard to assign MMSI numbers. Boaters can register their digital-selective calling-capable marine radios online with BoatU.S. at www.boatus.com/MMSI.

The move to digital-selective calling capability is part of the Coast Guard's "Rescue 21" communications system upgrade. Rescue 21 will allow Coast Guard personnel to respond faster to emergency calls, fill in current communications coverage gaps and provide enhanced interoperability with other federal, state and local communications systems. Although already functional in some parts of the country, the complete Rescue 21 system is not scheduled to be fully operational on the Great Lakes until 2006.

According to Pennsylvania regulations, recreational boaters are not required to carry VHF radios, but VHF radios are highly recommended for vessels on larger waters such as Lake Erie. Recreational vessels less than 20 meters in length are not required to have a station license to operate a VHF radio unless they travel to foreign ports or transmit to foreign stations. Use of a VHF marine radio is enforced by the Coast Guard.

Pan-Fried Yellow Perch with Ginger Butter

by Wayne Phillips

Complement the natural sweetness of yellow perch with the zing of butter flavored with freshly grated ginger.

Ingredients for four servings:

- ✓ Enough skinless perch fillets for four
- ✓ Flour seasoned with salt and pepper
- ✓ Finely sliced green onion
- ✓ Canola oil and butter for frying

Flavored butter:

- ✓ 1 stick butter
- ✓ 1 Tbsp. fresh ginger, finely grated

Procedure

Soften a stick of butter. Peel ginger and grate it on a fine grater or microplane. Blend butter and ginger together. Form into a log shape and wrap in plastic wrap. Freeze until the butter is solid. Slice the butter into rounds, about a quarter-inch thick, before you begin cooking the fish. Coat fillets in seasoned flour, and then shake off the excess flour. Into a



photo-Wayne Phillips

heated pan add 2 Tbsp. each of canola oil and butter. Fry fillets until just opaque. Top fillets with a round of ginger butter and some finely sliced green onion.

Serve

Serve with plain steamed rice or flavor the rice with some grated carrot or zucchini. Sugar snap peas and sweet red peppers are perfect for vegetables.

Hints

Excess flour on fish fillets can turn gummy. Shaking off the excess flour gives fish a crispy quality.