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# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 2, 2002

## **Southern California Harbor Makes Biodiesel Available to Mariners**

*Harbor is first in country to sell 100 percent biodiesel to the public*

VENTURA, Calif. – A new marine fuel dock in Ventura Harbor began offering the alternative fuel biodiesel to boaters in Southern California today. The pump opening signifies a growing interest in biodiesel from marine communities.

Biodiesel is a cleaner burning fuel that can be made from any fat or vegetable oil and works in any diesel engine. It is usually made from soybean oil in the United States. It is biodegradable and virtually nontoxic, making it a safer fuel for the marine environment and for boaters to use and handle. Biodiesel can be blended with petroleum diesel at any level or used in its pure form. Ventura Harbor is selling the pure biodiesel (B100) to boaters.

“A lot of boaters are interested in the environmental benefits of biodiesel because it is far less harmful than petroleum diesel in sensitive marine areas,” said John Johnson, owner of Ventura Harbor Marine Fuel, Inc. “Even the best kept sailboat smells like diesel inside, and when they replace that with biodiesel the smell goes away. Also, they notice they don’t have to scrub the stern of the boat where there is often black exhaust residue. We expect biodiesel to be a big seller.”

The company will supply nearby Channel Islands National Park with biodiesel. Channel Islands National Park has been using biodiesel for nearly two years. The park uses B100 in the vessels *Pacific Ranger* and *Sea Ranger II* as well as in diesel equipment on the islands, including stationary power generators. The use of biodiesel and other renewable resources made the islands petroleum free.

“We are an environmental organization, and we should be willing to be in the forefront in demonstrating things that have a positive environmental impact,” said Kent Bullard, maintenance supervisor of the park. “It has been seamless. The biodiesel is performing just as well as diesel.”

Across the country in Fort Meyers, Florida, a 20 percent blend of biodiesel (B20) has been available to boaters at WCI Communities Gulf Harbor Marina since March 2002. Ward Oil Company, the distributor making biodiesel available, hopes to expand biodiesel sales to 16 marinas throughout Florida.

More than 100 major U.S. vehicle fleets already use the cleaner-burning alternative fuel that works in any diesel engine with few or no modifications. Biodiesel can be used in pure form (B100), or blended with petroleum diesel at any level. It offers similar fuel economy, horsepower and torque to petroleum diesel. Biodiesel reduces emissions like hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, sulfates and particulate matter. It reduces life cycle carbon dioxide by 78 percent according to a U.S. Department of Energy study.

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Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting <http://www.biodiesel.org>. The National Biodiesel Board is funded in part by the United Soybean Board and state soybean board checkoff programs.