

For over 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Safe Boating Council, along with federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly.

Safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 75 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures – carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating – we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water throughout the year.

Whereas, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

Whereas, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

Whereas, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

Therefore, I, Nancy Hyde, do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 18-24, 2024 as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

In Witness Thereof, I urge all those who boat to practice safe boating habits and wear a life jacket at all times while boating.

Given under my signature and the seal of at the city/state of New York,

this 11 day of May, 2024.

