

PROCLAMATION
National Safe Boating Week
May 16 – May 22, 2026

For over 100 million Americans, boating remains a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water to enjoy 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. By following 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 that boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to raise awareness of important life-saving tips for recreational boaters to help ensure a safer, more fun experience on the water.

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

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 would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

Therefore, I, Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor of the City of Madeira Beach, Florida, do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 16-22, 2026, as National Safe Boating Week and urge all boaters to Boat Smart, Boat Safe, and Wear it. Proclaimed this 29th day of April 2026.

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



Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor
City of Madeira Beach, Florida