

DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



Thomas M. Panther, Flotilla Commander

Flotilla 054-03-10, Callao, VA.

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Warsaw Town Council

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Each year the third Saturday in May starts National Safe Boating Week, the kick-off of the annual Safe Boating Campaign. It runs through the following Friday to serve as an important boating safety reminder before the Memorial Day weekend. This year, the Safe Boating week runs from May 17th through the 23rd.

I am writing on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 054-03-10 in the hope that the Warsaw Town Council will pass the following resolution (see attached) recognizing the onset of the boating season in the Northern Neck area of Virginia.

Very sincerely,

Thomas M. Panther

Local Proclamation

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, The Town of Warsaw Virginia Town Council, do hereby support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 17-23, 2026, as National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

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

Given under my signature and the seal of the Town of Warsaw, Virginia,
this _____ day of _____, 2026.