



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, an average of 600 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States; 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, alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents it was reported as the leading factor in 19 of deaths nationwide in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard considers operator use of engine cut-off switches to be important because when operators of powerboats are ejected or fall overboard, the boat will typically continue to operate, until it runs out of fuel, runs aground, or collides with another boat/object; 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; and

WHEREAS, boating safety courses and boating safety campaigns can teach people how to adhere to better boating practice and help them to boat more safely; and

WHEREAS, United States Coast Guard statistics show that, of the accidents where the level of operator education was known, 81 of boating deaths occurred on boats where the boat operator had never received boating education instruction;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 22-28, 2021, as

# Safe Boating Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

*Kay Ivey*  
Kay Ivey, Governor