



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, many residents engage in boating, fishing and other recreational activities on the navigable waters around the state of Alabama. Many of those activities involve the use of a recreational vessel of some type, including open power boats, cabin power boats, personal watercraft and paddle craft such as paddleboards, kayaks and canoes; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the most recent year for which data are available, the United States Coast Guard verified 3,887 recreational boating incidents in the United States that involved 556 deaths, 2,170 injuries and approximately \$88 million of damage to property; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors. Alcohol use remains a leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; and

WHEREAS, operator inattention and inexperience are also leading contributing factors in mishaps, causing hundreds of accidents and dozens of fatalities annually. Where data were known, navigation rules violations were a contributing factor in 55 percent of incidents, 34 percent of deaths and 63 percent of injuries in 2024; 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 or object; and

WHEREAS, of reported boating accident victims who drowned in 2024, 87 percent were not wearing a life jacket. 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, Coast Guard statistics show that, of the accidents where the level of operator education was known, 69 percent of boating deaths occurred on boats where the boat operator had never received boating education instruction. Boating safety courses and boating safety campaigns can teach people how to adhere to better boating practice and help them to boat more safely:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 16 through 22 2026, 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 14th day of May 2026.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor