



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA SAFE BOATING WEEK

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is blessed with many beautiful and accessible coastal waters, freshwater rivers, and lakes. Unfortunately, an average of 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States. Over 75 percent of these fatalities are caused by drowning, and the vast majority of such accidents are brought on by human error or poor judgment rather than mechanical or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS:** During Georgia Safe Boating Week and throughout the year, dedicated enforcement officers, as well as volunteer organizations, provide Georgia citizens with the knowledge and skills to become safer and more responsible boaters; and
- WHEREAS:** We have the freedom and ability to use many of Georgia's waterways for personal recreation and enjoyment. The growing popularity of recreational boating and related water sports has increased the responsibilities of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as volunteer organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and America's Boating Club – Atlanta (ABCA), who strive to ensure the safety of the boating public; and
- WHEREAS:** Over 85 percent of boaters who drowned would likely be alive today if they had been wearing life jackets. Boaters are required to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket on board and available for each person on the boat. Boating safety advocates recommend that all boaters and passengers not only have a life jacket, but also wear it while boating; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgians are encouraged to spread the message of boating safety, urging fellow boaters to check the weather, file a float plan, stay sober, and follow State and Coast Guard regulations. Boating safety knowledge and skills are important in reducing human error, improving judgment, and ultimately saving lives; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 21 – 27, 2022 as GEORGIA SAFE BOATING WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28th day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Markus Kipertich

CHIEF OF STAFF