



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### GEORGIA SAFE BOATING WEEK

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia is blessed with numerous beautiful and accessible coastal waters, freshwater rivers, and lakes, affording great recreational boating enjoyment for citizens and visitors alike; and
- WHEREAS:** Unfortunately, an average of 700 people die each year in boating related accidents throughout the United States. However, boating fatalities have been on a downward trend over the past several years; and
- WHEREAS:** During Georgia Safe Boating Week and throughout the year, dedicated enforcement officers and volunteer organizations lend Georgians the knowledge and skill to become safer, more responsible boaters; and
- WHEREAS:** While we have the freedom and ability to use Georgia's waterways for personal recreation and enjoyment, the growing popularity of recreational boating and related water sports has placed a greater demand on the Department of Natural Resources; and
- WHEREAS:** A significant number of boaters who have drowned would be alive today if they had been wearing life jackets. Drowning is the reported cause of death in four-fifths of all fatalities and approximately 84.5 percent of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets; and
- WHEREAS:** Knowledge and skill are important in reducing human error and improving judgment. When citizens are aware of the risk, they are more likely to take the precautionary measures to protect themselves, their friends, and their family; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgians are encouraged to continue to spread the message of boating safety via safe boating courses, urging fellow boaters to check the weather, filing a float plan, following Coast Guard Regulations, and by wearing a life jacket; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 18-25, 2019 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Timothy K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF