



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has countless stunning waterways, from the coastal waters of the Long Island Sound to the Great Lakes of Erie and Ontario, from the mighty Hudson River to the shimmering Finger Lakes; and

Whereas, traditionally the month of May marks the beginning of the boating season, when millions of visitors and residents begin heading out to enjoy New York's magnificent rivers, lakes and coastal waters, which offer endless recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages – from a relaxing canoe ride or a kayak trip on a tranquil lake to a offshore fishing expedition, or an exhilarating rafting adventure on one of our many whitewater rivers; and

Whereas, each year, residents and visitors to New York's waterfront communities enjoy safe recreational boating with their friends and families, spending almost \$2 billion annually, which generates a positive impact on the State's economy; and

Whereas, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation strives to ensure safe and enjoyable boating recreation for more than 500,000 registered power boats and tens of thousands of additional manual and sail-powered watercraft that have access to the State's outstanding water resources; and

Whereas, all boaters and participants in water activities should be aware of the risks that exist upon the water and are reminded to practice safe and responsible habits, including completing a safe boating course, wearing a life jacket, properly equipping and inspecting their vessel, maintaining a prudent speed, and never mixing alcohol with boating; and

Whereas, increasing awareness of the risks and precautions through education programs makes boating safer for everyone involved, and boaters are encouraged to sign up for classes that teach boating safety procedures; and

Whereas, New York State will continue to work with our partners – including the United States Coast Guard, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, the National Safe Boating Council, and many state and local law enforcement units, along with other boating safety enthusiasts – as we join in the observance of National Safe Boating Week and support its worthy goals;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, hereby proclaim May 17-23, 2008 as

SAFE BOATING WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixth day
of May in the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson

Governor

[Signature]

Secretary to the Governor