BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SAFE BOATING WEEK

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is blessed with many beautiful and accessible coastal waters, freshwater rivers, and lakes, many of which offer the freedom and ability for Georgians to use for personal recreation and enjoyment, benefitting the state economy and greatly enhancing the quality of life for Georgia residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS: An average of 650 people perish each year in boating-related or paddlecraft-related accidents in the United States. Over 75% of these fatalities are caused by drowning, which is preventable in many cases by wearing a life jacket; and

WHEREAS: By law, boaters are required to have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket on board and available for each person on the boat, and boaters are encouraged to always wear a life jacket while boating; and

WHEREAS: The growing popularity of recreational boating, paddle sports, 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, the U.S. Power Squadrons – America's Boating Club, the Georgia Chapter of the American Canoe Association, and Georgia Rivers who strive to ensure the safety of the boating public; and

WHEREAS: During 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: Georgians are encouraged to spread the message of boating safety, urging fellow boaters to participate in boating education classes (situational awareness and rules of the road), check the weather, file a float plan, stay sober, wear life jackets, 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 17-23, 2025, as 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 14th day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF

National Safe Boating Week May 2025



Photograph (Governor's Official Photographer)
L to R:

Rhodes Lee (US Power Squadrons – America's Boating Club Atlanta), Colonel Mike England (GA Department of Natural Resources), Cindy Ringwall (US Power Squadrons – America's Boating Club Atlanta), Corporal Zack Hardy (GA Department of Natural Resources), Nan Ellen Fuller (US Coast Guard Auxiliary), Deputy Commissioner Thomas Barnard (GA Department of Natural Resources), David Fuller (US Coast Guard Auxiliary), Governor Brian P. Kemp, First Lady of Georgia Marty Kemp, Lieutenant Wanda Roberts (GA Department of Natural Resources), Rena Ann Peck (Georgia Rivers), Andrea White (Georgia Rivers/ACA Southeast Regional Chair), Jack Williams (US Coast Guard Auxiliary), Corporal Brock Hoyt (GA Department of Natural Resources), and Game Warden Joe Ballard (GA Department of Natural Resources).