



Proclamation #16-106

National Safe Boating Week

May 21, 2016 to May 27, 2016

For nearly 90 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, we want to bring special attention to this pastime and remind recreational boaters of a few tips to ensure that they and their loved ones are safe and responsible while exploring our nation's waterways.

Proper planning for a day of boating begins even before leaving the home. Getting a free vessel safety check and taking a safe boating course at the beginning of the boating season, filing a float plan with a trusted family member or friend, and checking the weather before boating are key steps to an enjoyable time boating. Every boater should wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times while boating. Drowning remains the number one cause of death for recreational boaters each year, and the majority of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents are not wearing a life jacket. Safe and responsible boating includes never operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and knowing basic navigation rules.

Year-round, people continue to enjoy all that our natural environment has to offer through the joy of boating. National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water.

WHEREAS, on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; approximately three-fourths of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and 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, today's life jackets are more comfortable, more attractive, and more wearable than styles of years past.

THEREFORE, I, **Robert F. Childs, Mayor of the Town of Surferside Beach**, do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign (Wear It!) and proclaim **May 21-27, 2016 as National Safe Boating Week** and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating, and I urge all those who boat to "Wear It!" and practice safe boating habits. d

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT SO PROCLAIMED this 13th day of May 2016.

s/

The Hon. Robert F. Childs
Mayor, Town of Surferside Beach

(SEAL)

Attest: s/

Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk