

WHEREAS; boating is a popular recreational activity enjoyed by millions of Americans, including many Wisconsinites, who use boating as an opportunity to explore and appreciate the state’s bountiful lakes, rivers, streams, and other waterways; and

WHEREAS; it is essential that all boaters adhere to safe boating practices and procedures, which include carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating; and

WHEREAS; each year, hundreds of people die in boating-related accidents across the nation, and according to the National Safe Boating Council, approximately 76 percent of these fatalities are caused by drowning, often associated with an overwhelming majority of victims not wearing a life jacket; and

WHEREAS; most boating accidents are caused by human error and not by the boat, equipment, or other environmental factors, underscoring the importance of practicing boat safety; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated national, state, and local partners in encouraging all Wisconsinites to familiarize themselves with lifesaving boat safety tips to ensure that all boaters can have a safe and fun experience on the water this summer and throughout the year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 16 through 22 2026 as

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 8th day of May 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State