

Marty Rutherford
Acting Commissioner
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1400
Anchorage, AK 99501
dnr.alaska.gov



Elizabeth Bluemink
Communications
Coordinator

907.269.8434
elizabeth.bluemink@alaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2016

Celebrate Safe Boating Week with “Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day”

(Anchorage, AK) – The Alaska Office of Boating Safety invites all Alaskans to celebrate Safe Boating Week, May 21-27, by participating in “Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day” on Wednesday, May 25. The goal of “Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day” is to increase awareness of the versatility and comfort of today’s modern life jacket designs.

“Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day” participants are encouraged to post pictures on the Alaska Boating Safety Program [Facebook page](#) or post them to Instagram with the hashtags #lifejackets and #wearit. Anchorage participants are invited to wear their life jackets and join the Office of Boating Safety from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, in the Atwood building courtyard located at 7th and E Street, for a group photo and the annual life jacket fashion show.

Governor Walker’s [proclamation of Safe Boating Week](#) issued on May 17 encourages all Alaskans to be safe while enjoying boating this season.

While boating is an important part of the Alaska lifestyle, every year some people lose their lives in boating accidents. Five out of six Alaska boating fatalities are a cold water immersion-related drowning, following a sudden vessel capsizing, swamping or fall overboard. Nine out of ten who died were not wearing a life jacket or were never found. For more information, visit [PledgeToLive.org](#)

“Most victims are adult males. Many could have survived if they had simply been wearing a life jacket. Even on calm, sunny, clear blue sky days, Alaska boaters of all experience levels should commit to always wearing a life jacket when in an open boat or on deck,” said Jeff Johnson, State Boating Law Administrator.

The Alaska Office of Boating Safety, located within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, works to promote safe, enjoyable boating, with an emphasis on education. Resources for boaters can be found at [www.alaskaboatingsafety.org](#)

CONTACT: Kelli Toth, 907-240-6314, Kelli.Toth@alaska.gov

###