

On Monday afternoon, Washington Mayor Donald Sadler signed a Proclamation declaring May 17 to 23, 2025 as Safe Boating Week in Washington/Beaufort County to coordinate with the National Safe Boating Council's "Wear It" Campaign dedicated to raising the public's awareness of boating safety and in particular the importance of wearing lifejackets.



Pictured to the left beside Mayor Sadler is Bill Davis, Vessel Safety Inspection Chair, and to the right Bob Vecchi, Education Officer, of America's Boating Club of the Pamlico; a unit of the United States Power Squadrons® known as America's Boating Club®. The Squadron's mission is to provide local public educational and safety programs as well as free boat inspections for all types of vessels ensuring boaters meet NC requirements.

Most recreational power boaters, sailors, personal water craft and fishermen are by now either on the water or making preparations to enjoy the enormous river/bay resources we are blessed to have in the Washington area. The theme of the National Safe Boating Campaign is "Wear It".

US Coast Guard's latest published recreational accident reports show that 75% of fatal boating accident victims due to drowning. Of those drowning victims, 87% were not wearing a life jacket. It is clear that hundreds of those might have been saved had they worn a life jacket. It is further reported that 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive

nationally approved boating safety instruction. In particular, boating navigation rules were a contributing factor in 53% accidents, 34% deaths and nearly 60% of injuries.

America's Boating Club of the Pamlico will kick off National Safe Boating Week

- **May 17 at the Marine Flea Market**, Chocowinity Fire/EMS Spring Heat Car & Truck Show on 3831 US-17. Look for us as we further spotlight the importance of safe boating. Squadron members will provide information concerning safety requirements, North Carolina state boating regulations, boating education as well as a sign-up for your free 2025 Vessel Safety Inspections by certified VSC Inspectors.
- **May 24 at Haven's Garden Boat Ramp** – Inspectors will be available 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM to conduct your FREE Vessel Safety Inspection as you prepare to launch...it only takes 20 minutes.

Let us help you get ready to enjoy your time on the water and boat with confidence!

For more information and education opportunities available through your local America's Boating Club of the Pamlico visit our website at www.pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org

