



PROCLAMATION

National Safe Boating Week

WHEREAS, recreational boating is a cherished activity enjoyed by more than 100 million Americans each year, and

WHEREAS, safe boating begins with proper preparation and awareness, and U.S. Coast Guard data shows that the majority of boating accidents are caused by human error, poor judgment, or lack of knowledge of safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, the use of life jackets has been proven to significantly reduce fatalities, with nearly 86 percent of recreational boating deaths preventable through proper life jacket use; and

WHEREAS, adherence to basic boating safety practices including wearing life jackets, carrying proper emergency and communication equipment, completing boating safety courses, participating in vessel safety checks, and avoiding alcohol while operating a vessel greatly enhances safety on the water; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and its state and local partners work diligently to promote and support recreational boating safety through education, outreach, and public awareness; and

WHEREAS, National Safe Boating Week serves as an important reminder to all boaters to prioritize safety and responsible practices while enjoying our coastal, inland, and offshore waters;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Cox, Mayor of the City of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, do hereby proclaim May 16 through May 22, 2026, as

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

in the City of Ocean Springs, and encourage all residents and visitors to recognize this observance by learning and practicing safe boating habits.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE
HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND
CAUSED THE SEAL OF THIS CITY
TO BE AFFIXED**