



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Contact: Marcie Katcher, NOAA  
631-244-0149  
Rachel Burkholder,  
National Safe Boating Council  
703-361-4294

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**New Web Site, PSAs Promote Boating Safety and Weather Awareness**  
*National Safe Boating Week Runs May 16-22*

NOAA's National Weather Service and the National Safe Boating Council today launched a new Web site to help boaters stay safe this spring and summer. The site, <http://safeboating.erh.noaa.gov>, includes seven public service announcements for use by broadcast media outlets. National Safe Boating Week runs through May 22.

"Warm weather means more boats on the water, but it also brings the possibility of severe storms," said Jack Hayes, director of the National Weather Service. "Since weather can turn on a dime, boaters should monitor NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards before leaving the marina and continually while out on the water. Marine hazards can come in many forms, from thunderstorms to high winds, dangerous waves and swells to dense fog."

"The National Safe Boating Council is proud to be part of this new partnership with NOAA," notes Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council. "There are varying factors that help boaters stay safe – always wearing a life jacket and being aware of weather conditions are two very important aspects to safer boating."

NOAA provides a suite of products to help boaters get up-to-date weather information. In addition to point-and-click forecasts that are available to all boaters, the Web site links to the latest marine forecasting innovations and to regional marine forecast Web portals – a one stop shop for local forecasts, observations and hazards. Visit <http://safeboating.erh.noaa.gov> to learn about weather terminology and new safety statistics on what causes the most boating fatalities and what actions to take for a safe 2009 boating season.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

The National Safe Boating Council is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The NSBC presently has a membership of over 350 U.S. and Canadian organizations, all with an interest in boating safety and education.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

National Weather Service: <http://www.weather.gov>

National Safe Boating Council: <http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org>