

PROCLAMATION



State of Florida
Collier County
City of Marco Island

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK May 16 – May 22, 2026

WHEREAS, Florida leads the nation with over 1 million registered vessels across the state. Collier County registered over 25,000 vessels in 2024. Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) reported 685 boating accidents in Florida in 2024 with 81 fatalities, including 11 accidents reported in Collier County with 3 fatalities. Florida has the dubious distinction of leading the Nation in boating accidents; and

WHEREAS, the US Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 86 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures such as carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when on the water, we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience on the water throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, 556 people died in boating-related accidents in the United States, the lowest number in 50 years, and most of these accidents were caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they been wearing properly fitted life jackets.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is proclaimed by the City Council of the City of Marco Island, Florida, that May 16-22, 2026, be designated as National Safe Boating Week in Marco Island.

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 18th day of May 2026

Darrin Palumbo, Chairman

ATTEST

Joan Taylor, City Clerk