

National Safe Boating Campaign

NEWS

***Boat Smart.
Boat Safe.
Wear It!***

ONE VOICE FOR PFDS

By Harriet Howard, DVC-AS

The Coast Guard, the Auxiliary, the National Safe Boating Council and other boating organizations all speak as one voice for life jacket use. "Wear It!" they say.

There are life jackets for adults, life jackets for kids and even life jackets for dogs! Harry, the canine mascot from Coast Guard Station New York, showed off his PFD May 26, on the Fox News broadcast, Fox & Friends. Auxiliarist Stu Soffer was featured on the program urging the viewers to wear their life jackets when aboard. "Be sure they are in good condition and fit correctly," he told them.

Life jackets have been on the scene for many years. They evolved from the single blocks of wood worn by Norwegian sailors to today's inflatable flotation devices. Now there are customized life jackets for hunting, angling and paddling, water skiing and other outdoor water sports. No matter what type of PFD it is, "There are no excuses for not wearing one," says the National Safe Boating Council.

During NSBW, many of our public affairs officers wore their life jacket when meeting the public at Wal-Mart, West Marine and other retail stores. At the dock, our vessel examiners stressed life jacket wear while performing their vessel safety checks. The recreational boating public was also encouraged to take a boating safety class and boat safely and soberly.

NSBW is officially over for the year, but our mascots, Herman the MerMan and Myrna the MerMaid remind us that every week is safe boating week. So "Wear It!"

