



PROCLAMATION

Recognizing National Safe Boating Week

May 18th to 24th 2025

WHEREAS, recreational boating is an integral part of life in the City of Valdez and across Alaska, connecting residents and visitors to the natural beauty of Prince William Sound, our glacier-fed rivers, inland lakes, and rich ocean fisheries; and

WHEREAS, National Safe Boating Week, observed annually the week before Memorial Day, is a nationwide campaign to encourage safe and responsible boating practices and reduce preventable injuries and fatalities on our waterway; and

WHEREAS, the unique and often remote conditions of rural Alaska present heightened risks for boaters of all kinds—from paddle craft navigating near glaciers and kayakers on swift glacial streams, to families halibut fishing in Prince William Sound or dip netters harvesting salmon along the Copper River; and

WHEREAS, the consistent and proper use of life jackets remain the single most effective measure in preventing drowning related deaths in recreational boating accidents; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Office of Boating Safety, and community partners, including the City of Valdez Ports & Harbors Department, actively promote education, awareness, and enforcement of boating safety laws and life jacket use across all watercraft types; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dennis Fleming, Mayor of the City of Valdez, do hereby proclaim May 18th through May 24th, 2025, as

National Safe Boating Week

and urge all citizens to always wear a life jacket, practice safe boating habits, and help foster a safety-first boating culture throughout Valdez and all Alaskan waters.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the City of Valdez supports and encourages participation in

Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day

on Friday, May 16, 2025, joining the National Safe Boating Council and outdoor professionals across the nation to raise awareness of life jacket safety. Citizens are encouraged to wear a life jacket at work, take a photo, and share it on social media using the hashtag #wearyourlifejacketatworkday.

Dated the 20th day of May, 2025

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Dennis Fleming, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elise Sorum-Birk, Deputy City Clerk