



Safe Boating Campaign
National Safe Boating Council
outreach@safiboatingcouncil.org
www.safiboatingcampaign.com

Annual Awareness Survey

Commissioned by National Safe Boating Council
Conducted by WHP Research

BACKGROUND

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is a catalyst for recreational boating safety and promoting a safe boating experience through educational programs, resources, tools, creative messages, and instructor training. NSBC's Safe Boating Campaign is an annual boating safety campaign that promotes responsible boating and the value of voluntary life jacket wear by recreational boaters. The Wear It tagline, now in its 14th year, continues to be incorporated into NSBC's Safe Boating Campaign.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

NSBC would like to gain insights that might be helpful in improving the Safe Boating Campaign and provide better understanding of the attitudes and behaviors regarding life jacket wear. Specifically, the research objectives are to:

- Collect self-reported life jacket wear
- Determine reasons for wearing or not wearing a life jacket
- Understand boaters' attitudes toward safety
- Gain reactions to ideas that might convince boaters to increase wear of life jackets
- Measure awareness of the Safe Boating Campaign image

In addition to gaining the above knowledge, through the data collection outreach effects and surveying, NSBC also will be promoting safe boating and building awareness of the Safe Boating Campaign and image.

METHODOLOGY

A hybrid research approach was undertaken:

- 1) A quantitative online survey
- 2) Follow-up qualitative phone interviews

For the quantitative phase, WHP Research with input from NSBC designed and programmed an online survey, which is the third year of using this approach. In prior years, data was collected through on-site intercepts. This year's research results will be compared to past two years' results on total and the past year by groups.

To qualify for the survey, an individual must have participated in a recreational boating activity during the 2018, 2019 or 2020 boating season (excluding commercial boats) and must be 18 years of age or older.



NSBC communicated and promoted the survey through emails, social media and partner outreach. To encourage participation, respondents providing contact information would have a chance to win a NSBC prize.

A total of 1,724 surveys were completed between April 30 and September 15, 2020, taking a participant an average of 6 minutes.

- 2,461 entered the survey
- 2,125 qualified to participate and started the survey
- 1,724 completed the survey (83% completion rate among those who qualified)

Participants are from Canada and every U.S. state, except for Wyoming. See Appendix A for number of surveys completed by state.

For the qualitative phase, WHP Research recruited, scheduled and moderated four phone interviews, each lasting at most 30 minutes, with boaters who wear their life jackets “rarely” or “sometimes” and expressed interest in participating in an interview at the end of the online survey. As a thank you for their time, participants received a West Marine gift card and NSBC boating items. See Appendix B for the qualitative results summary.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Safe Boating Campaign, promoted by the Wear It tagline, continues to have a **positive impact** on boaters’ **behavior** regarding safety.

- Those aware of the campaign image are significantly more likely to wear life jackets “always or most of the time” compared to those unaware.
- The number of participants who recognize the image has increased significantly from 60% in 2018 to 79% in 2020.
- Life jacket wear (“always or most of the time” has also increased significantly from 56% in 2018 to 69% in 2020.

The Safe Boating Campaign also continues to have a positive impact on boaters’ **behaviors and attitudes** regarding safety.

- Significantly more boaters who are aware of the image agree with the safety statements versus those who are unaware.
- Boaters who are aware of the image are significantly more likely to wear a life jacket because they “feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it’s a safe practice” and “it’s automatic – I wouldn’t boat without it on.”

Barriers to life jacket wear are no laws requiring wear, uncomfortable jackets, forgetting or not thinking about wearing one, and/or simply not wanting to wear one.

Motivators to increase life jacket wear among those who wear them “rarely or never” are a law requiring boaters to wear life jackets, having life jackets that are more comfortable or less bulky, having life jackets that are easy to use/wear, and awareness of boating accidents where wearing a life jacket saved lives. These reasons have been the top ones for several years.



Based on this year's results, the following suggestions are offered:

- Continue the Safe Boating Campaign, devoting more resources to raise awareness and increase life jacket wear across North America.
- Continue to promote the campaign at boat launching sites, docks, yacht clubs, boating stores, and in other locations that boaters use.
- Provide boaters with decals and other new and exciting materials to encourage them to raise awareness and promote boating safety to others.
- Replace and update signage which reminds boaters to wear life jackets, especially at rental sites and bodies of water where life jacket wear is required by law (e.g., for children and personal watercraft/manual boaters).
- Support life jacket wear requirements for personal watercraft/manual boats on all bodies of water and among boaters during races or competitions.
- Provide newer and more comfortable life jackets for complimentary use, especially among personal watercraft/manual boat users and renters.
- Continue to promote the campaign virtually and create a buzz, using YouTube videos, e-newsletters, social media efforts and on the safeboating.com website.
- Continue to share boating stories emphasizing how life jackets have saved lives, reminding boaters to wear them, and informing boaters about how inflatable life jackets are more comfortable to wear than buoyant life jackets.
- Continue to collaborate with manufacturers to expand the distribution, promotion, and affordability of inflatable life jackets.
- Promote life jacket wear through role modeling (e.g., boating instructors, groups and parents wearing them as a family when boating with children).
- Reach out to those producing advertising and television/movies to ensure that boaters in the media are shown wearing life jackets, portraying life jacket usage as routine behavior.
- Continue surveys, increasing awareness of the campaign and its image, and promoting safety.

For next year's survey, the following suggestions are offered:

- Increase efforts to gain survey participation among those under 55 years old.
- Analyze results by age groups, comparing 2020 to 2021.
- Analyze results by those working in boating industry/boating educators versus those not, comparing results from 2020 (when the question was added) to 2021.
- Determine whether to keep the new questions from 2020 and/or replace with new questions to provide new insights.
- Review survey to determine if any questions could be eliminated, to reduce its length.



KEY FINDINGS

- **Boaters who recognize the campaign image** are significantly more likely than those who are unaware to:
 - Wear their life jackets “always or most of the time” (73 percent).
 - Wear their life jackets because they “feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it’s a safe practice” and say, “it’s automatic – wouldn’t boat without it on.”
 - Agree with the statements: “I try to boat safely and responsibly at all times”; “I believe drowning fatalities related to boating accidents would be dramatically reduced if more people wore life jackets”; “I worry about other boaters and their unsafe practices”; “It is important for me as a boater to encourage others to wear life jackets at all times when boating or fishing”; and “I have been involved in a situation this boating season where a life jacket was useful or needed.”
- **The top two barriers to using life jackets** are “I am not required to wear one by law” (significantly the highest among boaters not using a personal watercraft or manual boat) and “a life jacket is uncomfortable” (top reason among those using a personal watercraft or manually propelled vessel). Participants explain that life jackets are too hot, interfere with their activities, might not fit properly, are not needed in calm or low water, or are using a large boat.
- **Boaters who wear their life jackets “always or most of the time”** are significantly more likely than other boaters to:
 - Recognize the campaign image (83 percent).
 - Wear their life jackets because they “feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it’s a safe practice” (64 percent); “it’s automatic – I wouldn’t boat without it on” (60 percent); and “have heard of situations where a life jacket has saved a life” (39 percent).
 - Be least likely than other boaters to select the statement: “I wear a life jacket when conditions or weather is bad or expected to worsen” as a reason for wearing them (25 percent versus 65 percent of “sometimes” and 67 percent of “rarely/never” wear life jackets).
 - Agree with the statements: “I try to boat safely and responsibly at all times”; “I believe drowning fatalities related to boating accidents would be dramatically reduced if more people wore life jackets”; “I worry about other boaters and their unsafe practices”; “It is important for me as a boater to encourage others to wear life jackets at all times when boating or fishing”; and “I have been involved in a situation this boating season where a life jacket was useful or needed.”
- Having a law requiring boaters to wear life jackets and/or more comfortable or less bulky life jackets would **motivate more boaters to wear life jackets more often**. In addition, some participants said having a life jacket that was easy to use/wear would convince them to wear their life jackets more often.
 - All boat owners, participating in this year’s survey, own life jackets, with 39 percent of them owning inflatable life jackets.
 - Among those not owning a boat, 81 percent own a buoyant and/or inflatable life jacket.
 - Among all participants, 16 percent said that being in “a boating accident where the wear of a life jacket saved my life or the life of someone else” is a motivator.



- **Results from new questions that were added this year are:**

- COVID-19 has impacted the frequency of boating for six out of ten boaters, with about half of them saying they will go more often and about half of them saying they will go less often this year. Those who wear life jackets “always or most of the time” are most likely to say, “less often” (31 percent) while those who wear life jackets “rarely or never” are most likely to say, “more often” (31 percent).
 - From the qualitative interviews, the increase in frequency might be due to boating being an attractive socially distant activity. The decline in frequency might be due to boaters bringing their boats to their docks/piers later than usual this year.
- A new possible reason for wearing life jackets was added this year: “I am a real boater.” More than one-fourth (27 percent) select this as a reason. Participants who wear life jackets “always or most of the time” are significantly more likely to select this reason (35 percent) than those who wear life jackets “sometimes” (8 percent) or “rarely” (3 percent).
- A new possible reason for not wearing life jackets was added this year: “I don’t want to wear a life jacket.” In total, 16 percent select this as a reason. Participants who wear life jackets “rarely or never” are significantly more likely to select this reason (29 percent) than those who wear life jackets “sometimes” (14 percent) or “most of the time” (6 percent).
- A new motivator to wear life jackets was added this year: “If the boat operator was wearing a life jacket.” In total, 16 percent select this as a reason. Those who wear life jackets “most of the time” (21 percent) or “sometimes” (17 percent) are significantly more likely to select this reason than those who wear life jackets “rarely or never” (11 percent).
- Almost one-half (49 percent) of the participants have worn an inflatable life jacket. Those who wear life jackets “always or most of the time” (52 percent) or “sometimes” (47 percent) are significantly more likely to have worn an inflatable than those who wear life jackets “rarely” (36 percent).
- One-fourth of the participants work in the boating industry or are boating educators. They are significantly more likely to recognize the campaign image and wear life jackets “always or most of the time” compared to others.

When comparing results to the prior year(s), the following differences are noted:

- Awareness levels of the campaign image have significantly increased year-to-year, with 79 percent recognizing the image this year versus 69 percent in 2019 and 60 percent in 2018.
- Significant increases in life jacket wear are also noted year-to-year, with 69 percent of this year’s participants saying they “always or most of the time” wear life jackets versus 66 percent in 2019 and 56 percent in 2018.
 - Some of this increase versus last year might be attributed to a larger number of participants who used person watercrafts or manually propelled vessels, which have higher life jacket wear (88 percent) than those in other boats (56 percent).
- Consistent to last year, 91 percent of boaters participating feel that people who wear life jackets are most likely to be “responsible boaters.”
- Boaters’ estimate of the percentage of boaters, like themselves, that wear life jackets when boating has remained stable (on average 41 percent).



- Agreement with the “reasons for wearing life jacket” statement: “A child is on board” decreased significantly, from 24 percent in 2019 to 15 percent in 2020, which can be attributed to fewer participants with children in this year’s survey.
 - One attitudinal statement declined: “I am a very strong swimmer” (from 67 percent in 2019 to 59 percent in 2020).
- Two reasons that would convince boaters to wear life jackets more often decreased from last year and from 2018: “A law requiring boaters to wear life jackets” and “If I had a life jacket that was more comfortable or less bulky.”
 - Three additional statements also decreased from last year: “I was in a boating accident where the wear of a life jacket saved my life or the life of someone else”; “If life jackets were provided for free”; and “If I had a life jacket that was more stylish.”
- About seven out of ten participants are boat operators, stable with last year (69 percent in 2020 and 67 percent in 2019).
 - Among boat operators, 57 percent always require their passengers to wear life jackets which is the same as last year (58 percent).
 - Among those who do not require their passengers to wear life jackets, the most often mentioned reason is “I am not required to by law” (49 percent), a significant decline from those giving that reason in 2019 (57 percent).
- Consistent to last year, 30 percent of non-owners of boats said they rented a boat the last time they went boating. Those using personal watercrafts or manually propelled vessels are most likely to rent (47 percent).
- Participants in the 2020 survey were significantly more likely than 2019 and 2018 participants to have most recently used a manually propelled vessel, and less likely to have used an open powerboat versus 2019.
- Ownership of inflatables increased from last year, with 30 percent owning an inflatable in 2019 to 38 percent in 2020, which is consistent to ownership in 2018 (37 percent).
- This year’s participants are similar to 2018 on many other aspects. Compared to 2019, they skew male, older, and are significantly less likely to have children under 18 years of age. In addition, they are significantly less likely to have learned about the survey via social media compared to last year (73 percent in 2020 versus 86 percent in 2019).

DETAILED FINDINGS

Recognize Image

Significantly more participants recognize the campaign image this year than last year (79% for 2020 versus 69% for 2019), a consecutive year-to-year increase since 2018 (60%). Those wearing their life jackets “always or most of the time” are significantly more likely to recognize the image than all other boaters. The increase in awareness holds true across all boaters, regardless of the frequency in which they wear their life jackets.



Recognize Image

| | Total | | | 2019 Wear Life Jacket | | | 2020 Wear Life Jacket | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never |
| | <i>(2427)</i> | <i>(1923)</i> | <i>(1873)</i> | <i>(1279)</i> | <i>(315)</i> | <i>(329)</i> | <i>(1307)</i> | <i>(280)</i> | <i>(286)</i> |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 60 | 69 | 79 | 75 | 61 | 55 | 83 | 75 | 68 |
| No | 36 | 23* | 15* | 17 | 32 | 38 | 12* | 19* | 26* |
| Not sure | 5 | 8 | 6* | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 |

- = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)
- * = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

As would be expected, participants who work in the boating industry are significantly more likely to recognize the campaign image than others (95 percent versus 74 percent, respectively).

Recognize Image

| | 2019 Work in Industry | | 2020 Work in Industry | |
|----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| | <i>(260)</i> | <i>(1544)</i> | <i>(424)</i> | <i>(1300)</i> |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 85 | 67 | 95 | 74 |
| No | 12 | 25 | 4* | 19* |
| Not sure | 4 | 8 | 1* | 7 |

- = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)
- * = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Life Jacket Wear

About seven out of ten participants (69 percent) wear life jackets “always or most of the time,” which is significantly higher than in 2019. The number of boaters who wear life jackets “rarely or never” (16 percent) is statistically the same as last year. Among those aware of the image, 73 percent indicate that they wear their life jacket “always or most of the time” versus 58 percent who are not aware of the image.

Compared to last year, boaters who do not recognize the image are significantly more likely to “always” wear their life jackets (36 percent in 2019 versus 44 percent in 2020).



Life Jacket Wear

| | Total | | | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> |
| | (2522) | (1986) | (1999) | (1329) | (594) | (1487) | (386) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Top Two Boxes | 56 | 66 | 69 | 72 | 54 | 73 | 58 |
| Always | 41 | 49 | 52 | 56 | 36 | 55 | 44 |
| Most of the time | 15 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 14 |
| Sometimes | 17 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 21 | 14 | 18 |
| Bottom Two Boxes | 27 | 17* | 16 | 14 | 25 | 13 | 24 |
| Rarely | 18 | 12* | 11 | 10 | 16 | 9 | 15 |
| Never | 9 | 6* | 5 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 9 |

■ = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

□ = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Like past years, those using a personal watercraft (PWC) or manually propelled vessel are significantly more likely to wear life jackets “always or most of the time” (88 percent) versus those using other boats (56 percent). For some PWC/manual boaters, life jacket wear is required.

Life Jacket Wear

| | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | Type of Boat | | Type of Boat | |
| | <u>PWC/Manual</u> | <u>Others</u> | <u>PWC/Manual</u> | <u>Others</u> |
| <i>Number answering:</i> | (661) | (1377) | (799) | (1200) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Top Two Boxes | 88 | 57 | 88 | 56 |
| Always | 73 | 39 | 74 | 37 |
| Most of the time | 15 | 18 | 14 | 19 |
| Sometimes | 8 | 20 | 7 | 21 |
| Bottom Two Boxes | 5 | 23 | 5 | 23 |
| Rarely | 3 | 15 | 4 | 15 |
| Never | 1 | 8 | 1 | 7 |

■ = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

□ = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Those who work in the industry are significantly more likely to wear life jackets (81%) than those who do not (67%). Having children and owning a boat does not impact life jacket wear.



Life Jacket Wear

| | Children <18 Years | | Own Boat | | Work in Industry | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| <i>Number answering:</i> | (393) | (1336) | (1476) | (270) | (424) | (1300) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Top Two Boxes | 72 | 70 | 70 | 73 | 81 | 67 |
| Always | 56 | 53 | 54 | 54 | 67 | 50 |
| Most of the time | 15 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 14 | 17 |
| Sometimes | 11 | 15 | 14 | 16 | 11 | 16 |
| Bottom Two Boxes | 17 | 14 | 16 | 11 | 8 | 17 |
| Rarely | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 12 |
| Never | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

Reasons for Wearing Life Jackets

“**I feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it’s a safe practice**” (53 percent) and “**It’s automatic – I wouldn’t boat without it on**” (45 percent) are most often selected as reasons for wearing a life jacket.

Those aware of the image are significantly more likely to “**feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it’s a safe practice**” and to say “**it’s automatic – I wouldn’t boat without it on**” than boaters not aware of the image.

Results are consistent to last year on most aspects, but significantly fewer boaters wear life jackets because they are “**required to wear a life jacket by law**” or “**a child is on board.**”



Reasons for Wearing Life Jackets

| | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | Recognize Image | | Recognize Image | |
| | <u>(2260)</u> | <u>(1851)</u> | <u>(1872)</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> |
| <i>Number answering and excludes those who say "never wear":</i> | | | | <i>(1276)</i> | <i>(538)</i> | <i>(1430)</i> | <i>(353)</i> |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I feel safest when wearing a life jacket / it's a safe practice | 57 | 53* | 53 | 55 | 49 | 55 | 48 |
| It's automatic - I wouldn't boat without it on | NA | 42 | 45 | 48 | 30 | 47 | 40 |
| Conditions or weather are bad or expected to worsen | 48 | 37* | 36 | 33 | 45 | 35 | 37* |
| I have heard of situations where a life jacket has saved a life | 29 | 36 | 34 | 38 | 34 | 35 | 29 |
| I am a real boater | NA | NA | 27 | NA | NA | 30 | 18 |
| I am required to wear a life jacket by law | 23 | 25 | 21* | 25 | 26 | 22 | 18* |
| A child is on board | NA | 24 | 15* | 22 | 29 | 15* | 15* |
| I know someone who was in a boating accident | 9 | 12 | 11 | 14 | 10 | 13 | 6* |
| I am not a good swimmer or do not know how to swim | 9 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| I signed a pledge to wear a life jacket | 7 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Other reasons | 14 | 7* | 9 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 7 |

 = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

 = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Consistent to last year, among those who “always or most of the time” wear a life jacket when boating, their primary reason for doing so is they “**feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it’s a safe practice**” (64 percent). Among those wearing life jackets “sometimes or rarely,” their primary reason to wear a life jacket is “**when conditions or weather is bad or expected to worsen.**”



Reasons for Wearing Life Jackets

| Number answering and excludes those who say "never wear": | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Wear Life Jacket | | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | <u>Always/Most</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely</u> | <u>Always/Most</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely</u> |
| | (1304) | (320) | (227) | (1360) | (312) | (209) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I feel safest when wearing a life jacket / it's a safe practice | 66 | 31 | 7 | 64 | 32 | 11 |
| It's automatic - I wouldn't boat without it on | 59 | 3 | 1 | 60 | 3 | 3 |
| Conditions or weather are bad or expected to worsen | 23 | 67 | 70 | 25 | 65 | 67 |
| I have heard of situations where a life jacket has saved a life | 43 | 26 | 11 | 39* | 23 | 14 |
| I am a real boater | NA | NA | NA | 35 | 8 | 3 |
| I am required to wear a life jacket by law | 28 | 15 | 18 | 23* | 16 | 20 |
| A child is on board | 23 | 32 | 19 | 13* | 19* | 22 |
| I know someone who was in a boating accident | 16 | 6 | 3 | 13* | 7 | 3 |
| I am not a good swimmer or do not know how to swim | 11 | 6 | 2 | 8* | 9 | 7 |
| I signed a pledge to wear a life jacket | 12 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Other reasons | 6 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 11 |

- = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)
- * = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Personal watercraft/manually propelled boaters are significantly more likely to wear a life jacket because they **"feel safest when wearing a life jacket/it's a safe practice"** (60 percent) than other boaters (47 percent). Results are consistent to last year.

Boaters on other vessels are significantly more likely (44 percent) than personal watercraft/manually propelled boaters (24 percent) to indicate that they **"wear a life jacket when conditions or weather is bad or expected to worsen"** as a primary reason.



Reasons for Wearing Life Jackets

| | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Type of Boat | | Type of Boat | |
| | (2260) | (1851) | (1872) | PWC/Manual | Others | PWC/Manual | Others |
| <i>Number answering (excludes "never wear"):</i> | | | | (598) | (1253) | (784) | (1088) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I feel safest when wearing a life jacket / it's a safe practice | 57 | 53* | 53 | 61 | 49 | 60 | 47 |
| It's automatic - I wouldn't boat without it on | NA | 42 | 45 | 56 | 35 | 58 | 35 |
| Conditions or weather are bad or expected to worsen | 48 | 37* | 36 | 26 | 42 | 24 | 44 |
| I have heard of situations where a life jacket has saved a life | 29 | 36 | 34 | 41 | 34 | 36 | 32 |
| I am a real boater | NA | NA | 27 | NA | NA | 27 | 27 |
| I am required to wear a life jacket by law | 23 | 25 | 21* | 34 | 20 | 26* | 17 |
| A child is on board | NA | 24 | 15* | 19 | 27 | 10* | 19* |
| I know someone who was in a boating accident | 9 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 11 | 10* | 11 |
| I am not a good swimmer or do not know how to swim | 9 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 6* | 9 |
| I signed a pledge to wear a life jacket | 7 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 8 | 7* | 9 |
| Other reasons | 14 | 7* | 9 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 9 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Some of the "other reasons" for wearing life jackets are:

- "As an adult, wearing a life jacket can have a positive impetus on children."
- "Because I fish alone a lot of the time... no one coming to save [me]."
- "I am a professional kayak outfitter and a certified marine surveyor. I feel a moral responsibility to both my clients and community to be ready to assist in any emergency. Have saved a few people in serious situations."
- "I want to return to my family!"
- "It just makes good sense."
- "It's like a seat belt. I always wear it."

See Appendix C for full list of comments.

People who Wear Life Jackets

Most everyone (91 percent) indicate that people who wear life jackets are most likely to be "**responsible boaters.**" Those who wear a life jacket "always or most of the time" are significantly more likely to select this answer choice than other boaters. Results mirror 2019 results, when the question was added.



People who wear life jackets are most likely to be:

| Number answering: | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | Wear Life Jacket | | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | (1991) | (2013) | Always/Most (1313) | Sometimes (329) | Rarely/Never (344) | Always/Most (1375) | Sometimes (312) | Rarely/Never (312) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Responsible boaters | 91 | 91 | 95 | 90 | 76 | 95 | 91 | 74 |
| Bad swimmers | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| Boat operators | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| New boaters | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other reasons | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 10 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level
 = Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level

Reasons for Not Wearing Life Jackets

“I am not required to wear one by law” is most often selected as the reason for not wearing a life jacket (29 percent), a significant decline from prior years. Although results exclude boaters who said they “always” wear life jackets, 41 percent of boaters who “most of the time” wear life jackets select “not applicable: I always wear a life jacket.”

Reasons for Not Wearing Life Jackets

| Number answering (excludes "always wear"): | | | | Wear Life Jacket (2019) | | | Wear Life Jacket (2020) | | |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Most of time | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | Most of time | Sometimes | Rarely/Never |
| | (1424) | (977) | (917) | (325) | (318) | (334) | (326) | (312) | (298) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I am not required to wear one by law | 41 | 38 | 29* | 16 | 39 | 59 | 10 | 30 | 48 |
| A life jacket is uncomfortable | 32 | 27* | 22* | 18 | 31 | 30 | 13 | 25 | 29 |
| Not applicable: I always wear a life jacket. | NA | 14 | 18 | 34 | 6 | 1 | 41 | 9 | 3 |
| I forget to wear it or just don't think about wearing one | 20 | 18 | 16 | 19 | 21 | 13 | 17 | 20 | 11 |
| I don't want to wear a life jacket | NA | NA | 16 | NA | NA | NA | 6 | 14 | 29 |
| I don't need to wear a life jacket because I'm a strong swimmer | 7 | 11 | 7* | 5 | 12 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| I'm not asked to wear a life jacket by the boat owner or someone else | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| A life jacket is not stylish or "cool" | 2 | 3 | 1* | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| I don't want to spend money on a life jacket or can't afford one | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other reasons | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 19 | 17 | 26 | 25 | 13 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level
 = Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level
 = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)
 * = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Personal watercraft/manually propelled boaters’ top reason for not wearing a life jacket is because “a life jacket is uncomfortable” (29 percent). Boaters on other vessels are significantly more likely (31



percent) than personal watercraft/manually propelled boaters (21 percent) to not wear a life jacket because **“I am not required to wear one by law.”**

Reasons for Not Wearing Life Jackets

| Number answering (excludes "always wear"): | Type of Boat | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| | <u>PWC/Manual</u> | <u>Others</u> |
| | (197) | (720) |
| | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> |
| I am not required to wear one by law | 21 | 31 |
| A life jacket is uncomfortable | 29 | 20 |
| Not applicable: I always wear a life jacket. | 14 | 19 |
| I forget to wear it or just don't think about wearing one | 13 | 17 |
| I don't want to wear a life jacket | 18 | 15 |
| I don't need to wear a life jacket because I'm a strong swimmer | 11 | 6 |
| I'm not asked to wear a life jacket by the boat owner or someone else | 5 | 7 |
| A life jacket is not stylish or "cool" | 1 | 0 |
| I don't want to spend money on a life jacket or can't afford one | 1 | 1 |
| Other reasons | 32 | 18 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

Some of the “other reasons” for not wearing life jackets are:

- “Always wear it unless we are driving slow by shore.”
- “Bulky, non-ergonomically made life jackets impede boating actions, rowing, fishing, etc. at times on calm waters.”
- “Choose not to.”
- “Doesn't fit or its beyond gross.”
- “Florida heat...”
- “Hinders my ability to operate the vessel.”
- “I kayak in small ponds and shallow slow-moving rivers.”
- “I'm inside the cabin of my boat.”
- “Larger boat (charter fishing, fairy, cruise)”
- “Party or charter boats”
- “The boat is anchored or stationary.”

See Appendix C for full list of comments.



Boating Safety Attitudes

Almost all participants (98 percent) agree with the statement, “**I try to boat safely and responsibly at all times.**” Results have remained consistent from year-to-year.

The statements with the least agreement are “**I have been involved in a situation where a life jacket was useful or needed**” (52 percent, but still a high number) and “**I am a very strong swimmer**” (59 percent).

Those aware of the image are significantly more likely to agree with most statements than those unaware of the image.

Boating Safety Attitudes (% Strongly Agree/Agree Somewhat)

| | | | | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | Recognize Image | | Recognize Image | |
| | (2315) | (1881) | (1820) | Yes | No/Unsure | Yes | No/Unsure |
| Total sample size: | | | | | | | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I try to boat safely and responsibly at all times | 99 | 98 | 98 | 99 | 96 | 99 | 97 |
| I believe drowning fatalities related to boating accidents would be dramatically reduced if more people wore life jackets | 92 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 89 | 95 | 86 |
| I worry about other boaters and their unsafe practices | 91 | 90 | 89 | 93 | 85 | 91 | 80* |
| It is important for me as a boater to encourage others to wear life jackets at all times when boating or fishing | 74 | 76 | 77 | 83 | 62 | 80* | 65 |
| I am a very strong swimmer | 64 | 67 | 59* | 68 | 65 | 59* | 61 |
| I have been involved in a situation where a life jacket was useful or needed. | 50 | 49 | 52 | 53 | 40 | 55 | 42 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)



Safe boating practices are also higher among those wearing their life jackets more often than those who are not, consistent with results from last year and prior years. Compared to 2019, fewer participants indicate they are **“very strong swimmers.”** Conversely, more 2020 participants who wear their life jackets “rarely or never” said they **“have been involved in a situation this boat season where a life jacket was useful or needed”** versus 2019 participants (36% versus 28%, respectively).

Boating Safety Attitudes (% Strongly Agree/Agree Somewhat)

| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|---|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Wear Life Jacket | | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never |
| <i>Total sample size:</i> | (1257) | (306) | (318) | (1274) | (268) | (278) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| I try to boat safely and responsibly at all times | 100 | 96 | 94 | 99 | 98 | 95 |
| I believe drowning fatalities related to boating accidents would be dramatically reduced if more people wore life jackets | 98 | 86 | 76 | 98 | 87 | 80 |
| I worry about other boaters and their unsafe practices | 94 | 85 | 81 | 92* | 85 | 78 |
| It is important for me as a boater to encourage others to wear life jackets at all times when boating or fishing | 93 | 55 | 30 | 92 | 53 | 29 |
| I am a very strong swimmer | 64 | 70 | 75 | 59* | 57* | 62* |
| I have been involved in a situation this boating season where a life jacket was useful or needed | 56 | 40 | 28 | 57 | 46 | 36 |

- = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)
- * = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)



Ways to Motivate Boaters to Wear Life Jackets

Having “a law requiring boaters to wear life jackets” (42 percent) or “a life jacket that was more comfortable or less bulky” (40 percent) would motivate some boaters to wear life jackets. These two reasons continue to remain as the top motivators to wear life jackets, but the percentage of participants selecting these choices has dropped significantly versus 2019 among boaters not using personal watercrafts or manually propelled vessels.

Other motivators to wear life jackets also declined in importance this year: “I was in a boating accident where the wear of life jacket saved my life or the life of someone else,” “If life jackets were provided for free,” and “If I had a life jacket that was more stylish.”

Motivators to Wear Life Jackets

| | Total | | | 2019 Type of Boat | | 2020 Type of Boat | |
|---|--------|-------|-------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | PWC/Manual | Others | PWC/Manual | Others |
| | (1283) | (906) | (968) | (152) | (754) | (180) | (631) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Number answering (excludes “always wear”): | | | | | | | |
| A law requiring boaters to wear life jackets | 49 | 47 | 42* | 36 | 49 | 37 | 43* |
| If I had a life jacket that was more comfortable or less bulky | 50 | 51 | 40* | 54 | 51 | 53 | 36* |
| If I had a life jacket that was easy to use/wear | 37 | 33 | 29 | 37 | 32 | 33 | 28 |
| I was in a boating accident where the wear of a life jacket saved my life or the life of someone else | 19 | 21 | 16* | 24 | 20 | 16 | 16 |
| If the boat operator was wearing a life jacket | NA | NA | 16 | NA | NA | 13 | 17 |
| Hearing or seeing reminders to wear a life jacket | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 11 | 16 |
| Being educated on boat safety and the use of life jackets | 12 | 12 | 12 | 18 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| If life jackets were provided for free | 11 | 16 | 8* | 24 | 15 | 10* | 8* |
| Signing a pledge card agreeing to wear a life jacket | 11 | 7* | 6 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| If I had a life jacket that was more stylish | 6 | 10 | 5* | 16 | 8 | 7* | 4* |
| Seeing well-known celebrities or athletes wearing life jackets when boating | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Not applicable, I always wear a life jacket | 11 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 12* |
| Other responses | 9 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 11 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to 2018 for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to 2018 for respective number(s)



Among those who wear a life jacket “most of the time,” having “**a life jacket that was more comfortable or less bulky**” would be their greatest motivator (37 percent), but this motivator declined significantly from 2019 (49 percent).

Among those who wear a life jacket “sometimes” or “rarely/never” having “**a law requiring boaters to wear life jackets**” would be their greatest motivator (47 percent and 48 percent, respectively).

Motivators to Wear Life Jackets

| | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|---|------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Wear Life Jacket | | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never |
| <i>Number answering (excludes "always wear"):</i> | (301) | (301) | (304) | (293) | (254) | (264) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| A law requiring boaters to wear life jackets | 36 | 47 | 58 | 32 | 47 | 48* |
| If I had a life jacket that was more comfortable or less bulky | 49 | 53 | 52 | 37* | 44* | 40* |
| If I had a life jacket that was easy to use/wear | 34 | 36 | 29 | 29 | 36 | 22 |
| I was in a boating accident where the wear of a life jacket saved my life or the life of someone else | 16 | 21 | 26 | 15 | 17 | 18* |
| If the boat operator was wearing a life jacket | NA | NA | NA | 21 | 17 | 11 |
| Hearing or seeing reminders to wear a life jacket | 24 | 14 | 8 | 22 | 14 | 8 |
| Being educated on boat safety and the use of life jackets | 20 | 11 | 7 | 19 | 13 | 4 |
| If life jackets were provided for free | 21 | 16 | 12 | 10* | 9* | 6* |
| Signing a pledge card agreeing to wear a life jacket | 8 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| If I had a life jacket that was more stylish | 11 | 9 | 9 | 5* | 4* | 5 |
| Seeing well-known celebrities or athletes wearing life jackets when boating | 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Not applicable, I always wear a life jacket | 22 | 3 | 1 | 29 | 2 | 2 |
| Other responses | 4 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 11 | 14 |

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- = Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level
- = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)
- * = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)



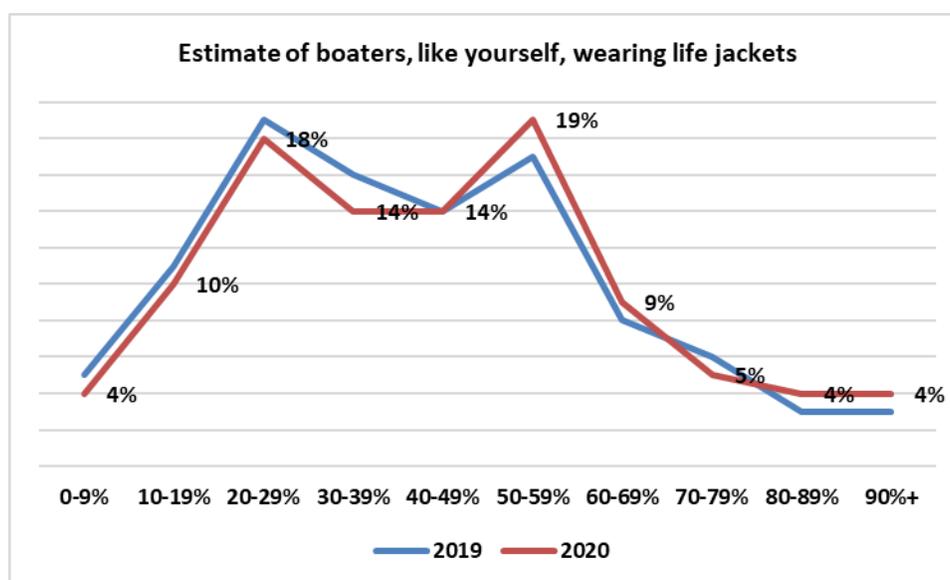
Boaters mention the following aspects which might convince them or others to wear a life jacket more often:

- "Better functionality and larger sizes. I have a 68" chest; it's hard to find a good fit with decent accessories."
- "Cost. The co2 cartridges are expensive and go out-of-date."
- "If I have almost drowned."
- "If it was mandatory and if the majority of boaters did it."
- "it's my choice. It is not the government's job to protect me from my choices."
- "I am not sure if there is anything that would convince me to wear a life jacket. As the weather deteriorates, I put it on."

See Appendix C for full list of comments.

Estimate of Boaters Wearing Life Jackets

Boaters estimate that on average 41 percent of boaters, like themselves, wear life jackets when boating. Results are similar to 2019.



(Percentages shown are 2020.)



Participant Profile: Boating

Frequency of Boating

About one-third of participants are boating or expected to boat less often this year. For the first time in three years, more boaters indicated less often (32 percent) than more often (26 percent).

Frequency of Boating

| | Total | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Number answering: | (2266) | (1809) | (1746) |
| | % | % | % |
| More often | 28 | 31 | 26* |
| About the same | 50 | 45 | 42 |
| Less often | 21 | 24 | 32 |

* = Significantly lower than prior year

= Significantly higher than prior year

Impact of COVID-19 on Frequency of Boating

When asked about their expected frequency of boating due to COVID-19 (an earlier question in the survey than the frequency of boating question shown above), most participants said COVID-19 has “**no impact.**” Those who wear life jackets “always or most of the time” are more likely to say, “**less often,**” while those who wear life jackets “rarely or never” are most likely to say, “**more often.**”

Impact of COVID-19 on Frequency of Boating

| | Total | Wear Life Jacket | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never |
| Number answering: | (2080) | (1375) | (312) | (312) |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Top Two Boxes | 28 | 28 | 27 | 31 |
| Will likely go much more often | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Will likely go slightly more often | 13 | 12 | 12 | 16 |
| No impact | 40 | 38 | 45 | 47 |
| Bottom Two Boxes | 28 | 31 | 25 | 19 |
| Will likely go slightly less often | 16 | 17 | 16 | 13 |
| Will likely go much less often | 12 | 14 | 8 | 6 |
| No idea | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level



Type of Boat Used / Owned

The boaters who completed surveys have most recently used a human propelled vessel (37 percent), a significant increase from 2019, or an open powerboat (34 percent). They are less likely to have used other types of boats.

Three-fifths (59 percent) of the participants own a human propelled vessel, a significant increase from 2019. In addition, 44 percent own an open powerboat.

| | Boat Most Recently Used | | | Type of Boat(s) Owned | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2018 (2537) | 2019 (1997) | 2020 (2036) | 2018 (1746) | 2019 (1327) | 2020 (1474) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Open Motor Boat or Cabin Motor Boat | 45 | 49 | 45* | 49 | 62 | 56* |
| Open Powerboat | NA | 39 | 34* | NA | 50 | 44* |
| Cabin Powerboat | NA | 10 | 11 | NA | 12 | 12 |
| Human Propelled Vessel (canoe, row boat, kayak, paddle board) | 22 | 25 | 37 | 43 | 48 | 59 |
| Pontoon | NA | 14 | 9* | NA | 11 | 9 |
| Fishing boat (not commercial) | 24 | NA | NA | 31 | NA | NA |
| Sailboat | 6 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| Personal Watercraft (jet ski, wave runner) | 4 | 6 | 3* | 8 | 12 | 8* |

☐ = Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Rent Boat

Among those who do not own boats (15 percent of survey participants), three out of ten rented a boat the last time they went boating. Those using a personal watercraft or manually propelled vessel were more likely to have rented a boat than those using other types of boats. Results are statistically the same as last year.

| | Rented a Boat Last Time Boating | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | Total | | Type of Boat (2019) | | Type of Boat (2020) | |
| | 2019 (481) | 2020 (270) | PWC/Manual (154) | Others (327) | PWC/Manual (101) | Others (169) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 27 | 30 | 42 | 19 | 47 | 21 |
| No | 73 | 70 | 58 | 81 | 53 | 79 |

■ = Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level



Life Jacket Ownership

Almost all participants (97 percent) own a life jacket, an increase from 2019. The number of participants own both inherently buoyant and inflatable life jackets increased from 27 percent in 2019 to 33 percent in 2020, returning to the same percentage as in 2018.

Those with other boats (not PWC/manual boats), who are aware of image, and own boats are significantly more likely to have both types of life jackets than their counterparts. About eight out of ten (81 percent) of those not owning a boat do own life jackets.

| | Life Jacket Ownership | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------|
| | Total | | | Type of Boat | | Recognize Image | | Own Boat | |
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | PWC/Manual | Others | Yes | No/Unsure | Yes | No |
| Number answering: | (2252) | (1805) | (1736) | (712) | (1024) | (1375) | (361) | (1468) | (268) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Inherently buoyant life jackets | 55 | 63 | 59* | 71 | 51 | 56 | 70 | 61 | 49 |
| Inflatable life jackets | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| Both types | 33 | 27* | 33 | 22 | 40 | 36 | 20 | 34 | 25 |
| Do not own a life jacket | 8 | 8 | 3* | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 19 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Inflatables

From a question added in 2020, almost one-half (49 percent) of the participants have worn an inflatable life jacket. Those with other boats (not PWC/manual boats), who are aware of image, and those who wear life jackets "always or most of the time" or "sometimes" are significantly more likely to have worn an inflatable life jacket than their counterparts.

| | Have Worn Inflatables | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------|
| | 2020 | Type of Boat | | Recognize Image | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | | PWC/Manual | Others | Yes | No/Unsure | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely |
| Number answering: | (1736) | (712) | (1024) | (1375) | (361) | (1225) | (251) | (260) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 49 | 40 | 55 | 54 | 31 | 52 | 47 | 36 |
| No | 50 | 59 | 43 | 45 | 68 | 46 | 53 | 62 |
| Unsure | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level



Boat Operators

About seven out of ten participants (69 percent) are “boat operators.” Those who recognize the image and “rarely/never” wear life jackets are significantly more likely to be boat operators. For clarity, a boat operator in this year’s survey was defined as being “behind the wheel of the boat similar to a driver in a car.”

| | | Boat Operator | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | Total | | Recognize Image | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> | <u>Always/Most</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely/Never</u> |
| <i>Number answering:</i> | | (1942) | (1916) | (1487) | (386) | (1326) | (293) | (297) |
| | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | | 67 | 69 | 70 | 64 | 67 | 72 | 75 |
| No | | 33 | 31 | 30 | 36 | 33 | 28 | 25 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level

More than one-half (57 percent) of the boat operators require passengers to wear life jackets. Those who recognize the image and wear life jackets “always or most of the time” are significantly more likely to require passengers to wear life jackets at all times.

| | | Require Passengers to Wear Life Jackets at all times | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | Total | | Recognize Image | | Wear Life Jacket | | |
| | | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> | <u>Always/Most</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely/Never</u> |
| <i>Number boat operators answering:</i> | | (1307) | (1316) | (1487) | (247) | (885) | (211) | (220) |
| | | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | | 58 | 57 | 61 | 48 | 79 | 18 | 7 |
| No | | 42 | 43 | 39 | 52 | 21 | 82 | 93 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level



Those who do not require their passengers to wear life jackets are most likely to say, **“I am not required to by law.”**

| | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| <i>Number boat operators answering:</i> | (534) | (541) |
| | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> |
| I am not required to by law | 57 | 49* |
| A life jacket is uncomfortable | 16 | 14 |
| Passengers are strong swimmers | 9 | 6 |
| A life jacket is not stylish or "cool" | 3 | 1 |
| I don't want to spend money on life jackets for passengers | 1 | 0 |
| Others | 39 | 49 |

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Work in Boating Industry / Boating Educators

Added in 2020, one-fourth of the survey participants work in the boating industry or are boating educators. These individuals are significantly more likely to recognize the image and wear life jackets “always or most of the time” compared to others.

Work in Boating Industry or Boating Educator

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Recognize Image</u> | | <u>Wear Life Jacket</u> | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No/Unsure</u> | <u>Always/Most</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Rarely/Never</u> |
| <i>Number answering:</i> | (1724) | (1364) | (360) | (1216) | (249) | (259) |
| | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>%</u> |
| Yes | 25 | 30 | 6 | 28 | 18 | 14 |
| No | 75 | 70 | 94 | 72 | 82 | 86 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level



Participant Profile: Demographics

Gender

This year's participants skew male, similar to the mix in 2018.

| | Gender | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------|--|--|
| | Total | | | Recognize Image | | Wear Life Jacket | | | | |
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Yes | No/Unsure | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | | |
| Number answering: | (2250) | (1805) | (1729) | (1369) | (360) | (1221) | (249) | (259) | | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | | |
| Male | 65 | 44* | 67 | 68 | 63 | 67 | 65 | 68 | | |
| Female | 34 | 56 | 32* | 31 | 37 | 32 | 34 | 32 | | |
| Prefer not to answer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

Age

Last year's marketing efforts attracted a larger sample of participants ages 25 to 54 years versus this year and in 2018. About six out of ten participants this year were 55 years or older.

| | Age | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| | Total | | | Recognize Image | | Wear Life Jacket | | | Type of Boat | |
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Yes | No/Unsure | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | PWC/Manual | Others |
| Number answering: | (2250) | (1805) | (1729) | (1369) | (360) | (1221) | (249) | (259) | (711) | (1018) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| 18 to 24 years | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 25 to 34 | 6 | 19 | 5* | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 35 to 44 | 13 | 26 | 12* | 12 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 17 | 8 |
| 45 to 54 | 23 | 27 | 19* | 19 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 22 | 17 |
| 55 to 64 | 34 | 15* | 31 | 31 | 34 | 31 | 34 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| 65 years or older | 23 | 9* | 31 | 32 | 24 | 31 | 30 | 29 | 20 | 38 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)



Children

Only 23 percent of the participants have children under 18 years of age, similar to 2018, which can be attributed to the older age skew in 2018 and 2020.

Children Under 18 Years of Age

| | Total | | | Recognize Image | | Wear Life Jacket | | | Type of Boat | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Yes | No/Unsure | Always/Most | Sometimes | Rarely/Never | PWC/Manual | Others |
| Number answering: | (2250) | (1805) | (1729) | (1369) | (360) | (1221) | (249) | (259) | (711) | (1018) |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Yes | 24 | 49 | 23* | 22 | 26 | 23 | 18 | 26 | 28 | 19 |
| No | 76 | 51* | 77 | 78 | 74 | 77 | 82 | 74 | 72 | 81 |

= Significantly higher than respective column(s) at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher than lowest respective number at 95 percent confidence level

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

States

Boaters from all states, except Wyoming, completed a survey. The states with the most participants are New York, Virginia and Florida. Last year, Michigan and Wisconsin had large numbers of individuals completing surveys (i.e. in top three).

See Appendix A for number of completed surveys by location.

Learned about Survey

Most participants (73 percent) learned about the survey from social media, a decline from 86 percent in 2019, but similar to 2018.

How Learned about Survey

| | Total | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Number answering: | (2245) | (1804) | (1724) |
| | % | % | % |
| Social media | 72 | 86 | 73* |
| Email | 17 | 8* | 15 |
| Website | 5 | 2* | 5 |
| Membership in the National Safe Boating Council | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Event | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Others | 3 | 3 | 4 |

= Significantly higher when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

* = Significantly lower when compared to prior year for respective number(s)

See Appendix C for other ways that participants learned about the survey.



Appendix A

Number of Surveys by State

| | Percent | # | | Percent | # |
|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| New York | 13% | 258 | Kentucky | 1% | 13 |
| Virginia | 11% | 216 | Maine | 1% | 13 |
| Florida | 9% | 177 | Kansas | 1% | 12 |
| Pennsylvania | 9% | 173 | Arkansas | 0% | 8 |
| Michigan | 8% | 162 | Arizona | 0% | 7 |
| New Jersey | 8% | 154 | Idaho | 0% | 7 |
| Ohio | 7% | 133 | Louisiana | 0% | 7 |
| Connecticut | 4% | 89 | West Virginia | 0% | 7 |
| Indiana | 2% | 45 | Alaska | 0% | 6 |
| Georgia | 2% | 42 | Minnesota | 0% | 6 |
| Maryland | 2% | 42 | New Hampshire | 0% | 6 |
| California | 2% | 41 | New Mexico | 0% | 6 |
| Wisconsin | 2% | 41 | Mississippi | 0% | 5 |
| Texas | 2% | 32 | Vermont | 0% | 5 |
| North Carolina | 2% | 31 | Hawaii | 0% | 4 |
| Washington | 1% | 28 | Iowa | 0% | 4 |
| Missouri | 1% | 27 | South Dakota | 0% | 4 |
| Massachusetts | 1% | 24 | Montana | 0% | 4 |
| South Carolina | 1% | 24 | Nebraska | 0% | 3 |
| Tennessee | 1% | 24 | North Dakota | 0% | 3 |
| Illinois | 1% | 22 | Utah | 0% | 3 |
| Rhode Island | 1% | 20 | Nevada | 0% | 2 |
| Alabama | 1% | 19 | North Dakota | 0% | 2 |
| Canada | 1% | 17 | Oklahoma | 0% | 2 |
| Colorado | 1% | 16 | District of Columbia | 0% | 1 |
| Oregon | 1% | 16 | Wyoming | 0% | 0 |
| Delaware | 1% | 13 | | | |



Appendix B

Follow-Up Telephone Interviews

WHP Research completed a research study among almost 2,000 boaters to gain insights that might be helpful in improving the Safe Boating Campaign and provide better understanding of the attitudes and behaviors regarding life jacket wear.

At the end of the online survey, boaters were asked about their interest in participating in a follow-up telephone interview. Four in-depth interviews were conducted with boaters who indicated that they wear their life jacket “*sometimes*” or “*rarely*.” Interviewees represented a mix of ages with men and women from New York, Florida and Massachusetts who own and/or last used a human-propelled vessel, cabin powerboat, and/or open powerboat. Interviews lasted between 20 and 30 minutes.

Executive Summary

When boating, participants explained that they feel a range of emotions from feeling tranquil and relaxed to feeling challenged and invigorated. They are on boats most often with family members, but sometimes with friends. This year’s participants rarely went out on the water alone. They were on their boats at all times of the day and days of the week. The participants interviewed spent a minimum of 1 hour to up to 8 hours each time boating and go out from multiple times a week to a minimum of twice a month. When asked what they like most about boating, they explained:

- *I like being on the water, getting sun, diving, fishing.*
- *I love being out on the water. It's the happiest place in the world. It's such a change of pace. There's no rush. There's no traffic jams.*
- *The tranquility of being on the water. It's relaxing and invigorating.*
- *It's relaxing; it provides some mental challenges at times based on weather and conditions.*

Participants acknowledged the safety reasons for using life jackets: “They save lives.” They explained that are most likely to wear life jackets when they are using a PWC, are alone on the water, are required to wear them (e.g., rentals, ocean racing), or experience risky or rough conditions.

- *If I'm going out by myself, I always, always wear a life jacket.*
- *I will always wear a life jacket, if kayaking or rough weather.*
- *I definitely wear it when I think I'm at risk or putting myself in a risky situation.*
- *When renting, I will wear them of course if they require you to wear it.*
- *Whenever I go in the ocean [when] ocean racing, a life jacket is required. I wouldn't think of going without it.*

Participants further explained that people who wear life jackets are most likely to be responsible boaters. Two participants also said that those wearing life jackets are non-swimmers or bad swimmers.

- *Responsible boaters: I think because most people don't wear them, those who are wearing them are making a smart decision, and so I would consider them responsible for wearing life jackets.*
- *Responsible boaters: Those who wear them all the time are trying to set the example.*
- *Responsible boaters: The recreational fisherman are wearing life jackets the most. I usually see a lot of families with kids and they have them typically in life jackets.*
- *Bad swimmers: The people who choose to wear a life jacket, by and large, are bad swimmers and are not comfortable with the water.*



Boaters explained their reasons for not always wearing life jackets: uncomfortable, the water is shallow, conditions don't warrant it, on intercoastal, on a yacht, or want to get sun.

- *The bulkiness of them. From a comfort perspective, I'll kayak and having a bulky back with it on makes it uncomfortable.*
- *I don't feel the need because of the size of the vessels I'm on and the conditions don't warrant it. If it's bad weather, I'd wear it more often.*
- *I do not wear one when on intercoastal or when I'm going to sandbars or when the boat is stopped.*
- *If I'm wanting to get sun, I will not wear one.*

They further shared why others might not wear life jackets: life jackets are uncomfortable or don't fit right; other people don't think anything will happen to them, they aren't educated, or they are trying to get a tan; and for some people, it's not cool to wear a life jacket.

- *Some of the borrowed ones aren't that comfortable or don't fit right.*
- *Some people don't think they have to worry about something happening.*
- *They have a sense of security on their boat. If you have never been in a situation where you were taking on water or boat isn't working right, or boat on fire, or person overboard, until something like that happens, people are a little too comfortable. Once something like that happens, that's what it takes, unfortunately.*
- *[There has been] a lot of new boats sold this year because of Covid. It's been our observation that there's a lot of new people on the water who are lacking education. They don't understand the value, especially new boaters.*
- *I have a hard time getting friends to wear life jackets. It's a coolness type of thing.*

All four participants were aware of the campaign image. When asked about the Safe Boating Campaign, they explained:

- *I've seen it in literature. It's similar to most other campaigns – trying to educate the public. There's a lot of emphasis on wearing a life jacket.*
- *I know what the symbol means. That's about it.*
- *I see the safe boating stuff all the time. Coast guards are always advocating safety. I think there's a lot of word out there, but it's hard to get people to want to wear them.*

After hearing the explanation, participants shared:

- *I think it's an awesome campaign. I wish more people would promote it!*
- *I think that's great! I didn't hear anything in there that was not a good thing. I think I've heard it before, and I read the weekly newspaper articles from the Coast Guard and boating articles.*
- *I've seen some documentation but hadn't known where it was coming from. I never realized the U.S. Coast Guard was in charge of it.*
- *It's interesting because of the Wear It logo. I wouldn't have thought it was a campaign but an ongoing thing that is happening.*

Participants offered some suggestions for increasing their life jacket usage and/or others' usage, such as messaging/education, stories, affordability of inflatables/new designs, requirements and laws, and seeing others wearing them:

- **Messaging/education**
 - *Positive messaging on the benefits of wearing a life jacket: save lives. The negative perspective is 'that guy was stupid,' so there's a tendency to brush off the negative more easily than to see the positive. Messaging is key, rather positive or negative.*



- *More education around wearing life jackets – and having the right jacket for activities, e.g., water skiing.*
- *Having education more easily accessible, e.g., maybe have signs up around waterways. The more, the merrier and talk about life jackets and their differences.*
- *Providing information via mail about life jackets; providing statistics – something that I saw or read that would make me want to wear one more [often].*
- *It's education. Bringing to light some of these accidents. It depends on the boater and how well-educated they are, e.g., the new people who got boats and don't know how to operate them.*
- **Stories**
 - *I think one of the biggest things that promote life jacket wear is it takes like an accident to really spark somebody and: 'Oh, I should be wearing a life jacket because a friend got hurt and they weren't wearing a life jacket.' Maybe a commercial like that or if they heard a personal story. It highlights the importance.*
 - *Examples when positive outcomes [happened] because of life jackets.*
 - *Video watching – it's like driving. Something happens and even if not going far, something could happen.*
- **Affordability of inflatables / New designs**
 - *Maybe if they were cheaper, more people would buy them.*
 - *Some of the more high-tech ones are going that route (i.e. less confining), but they are pretty expensive.*
 - *The inflatable are a lot more comfortable and I'm more likely to wear something of that nature, [but] some might need to be manually activated to be inflated.*
 - *If you have a life jacket that is streamlined and comfortable*
 - *Minimize the life jacket footprint on a person will get someone to be more likely to wear it.*
 - *If more lightweight, so I wouldn't get hot; or, if see-through so you could get sun.*
 - *If they were more comfortable. If it was built-in to my T-shirt or something, so it's less intrusive and more transparent. Or a belt for paddleboarders, [so] more people would wear them.*
- **Required/Laws**
 - *The sellers are required to provide two life jackets in good quality condition in terms of how safe they are [to those buying boats].*
 - *If it was a law all the time. If it was enforced, but I don't think that is the answer.*
 - *If required to wear it, I'd wear one too.*
 - *Everybody has to take a boating class if you operate a boat. Maybe if the sellers of boats did something, but I don't see it as a requirement, but maybe that could be done down the road.*
 - *I don't think it should be made by law mandatory. I would disagree with that.*
- **Seeing others wearing them**
 - *If everyone else on boat was wearing one, I'd wear one too.*



Appendix C

People who wear life jackets are most likely to be:

Other (please specify)

Age 13 or under
Alive (2 mentions)
Alive tomorrow
All of the above (5 mentions)
Anyone under the age of 12 and bad swimmers
Aware of dangers on the water
Bad swimmers or kids are the ones who normally have them on
Bass boats
Can't swim
Children / kids (13 mentions)
Children 13 and under
Compelled to by fear, tournament rules or State laws.
Depending on activity and conditions.
Depends on the situation.
Educated (by CG Aux or Power Squadron) boaters
Educated boaters
Everybody on water
Everyone on my boat (2 mentions)
Fearful of falling in the water
Found if drowned/ die if hyperthermia
In the water/tubing and skiing
Informed boaters
just like wearing a seat belt
Kayakers
Kids under 14
Kids under 15yoa
Know where they are to get in an emergency
Law abiding boaters
Lifeguards
People in water
People other than me
People who know they should wear one
People who overestimate their abilities.
Personal preference, although some places require them
Rescued and stay alive
Responsible and educated boaters
Responsible boaters and or required by law



Responsible boaters, bad swimmers, and the operators
Responsible in the cold weather. Warm weather confident swimmers
Safe people
Scared of water
Smart
Someone on a smaller boat or in rough waters
Still alive in event of a mishap
Those who are at the age that requires them to be worn. Also, responsible adults who understand that in the blink of an eye anything can happen and it's better to be prepared.
Those who are educated on boating safety- boating instructors, those who have taken boating courses, those who are involved with boating groups where safety is priority
Those who are intelligent enough to know they should
those who respect water
Thoughtful boaters
Under 14
Water safety advocate
Water safety advocator
Young children
Younger

I wear a life jacket when boating because...?

Other (please specify)

ACA instructor, professional standard/expectation
Again, depends on conditions and activity
All of the above
Alone, or on waters for the first time, high river conditions, lakes
Always wear a life jacket in my kayak
Always when boating alone
Always when outside on deck. Never when inside in enclosed cabin.
An example for my grandkids
As a role model
As an adult, wearing a life jacket can have a positive impetus on children
Bass tournaments require them
Bean safe I can safe somebody else
Because I fish alone a lot of the time....no one coming to save my ass... better to have and not need than to need and not have.
Best safety
Boating is full of hazards and the more time I spend in a boat, the more likely I am to encounter one of them. I am a very good swimmer, but I wouldn't be if I were unconscious.
Boy scouts have taught me to "Be Prepared"
BSA Rules



By law in Pennsylvania during cold water months

Coast Guard Auxiliary

Coast Guard wears them, they are pros

Cold water

Cold water temps

Cold water, area that I have not been on before,

Depends if I'm on the lake or on the river

Depends on activity and boat

Early in year when the water is cold

Example: I'm local water safety patrol.

General safety practice. You never know what could happen. Be prepared!

God forbid something happens, it will keep your head as above water and visible. It doesn't matter how good a swimmer you are if you're unconscious

Going thru the river locks

I always carry a life jacket, when I am out for several nonprofits, I am required to wear one; where I paddle in most cases if the boat flips, I would just stand up

I always have my life jacket within easy reach, I know they can be difficult to put on in the water. I always wear it when kayaking

I ALWAYS wear a properly fitted lifejacket when on a non-motorized boat or if there is bad weather.

I am an ACA Instructor

I am a boater safety instructor

I am a firefighter and coast guard auxiliary

I am a kayak instructor and guide. I wear my life jacket at all times when on any waterway in a kayak, canoe, or panga. I require all my students, clients and friends to do the same for personal and group safety.

I am a lifeguard, but my swimming ability is irrelevant if I become unconscious

I am a member of the U S Coast Guard Auxiliary

I am a NASBLA instructor and set a good example

I am a NSBC and USPS On Water Instructor

I am a professional kayak outfitter and a certified marine surveyor. I feel a moral responsibility to both my clients and community to be ready to assist in any emergency. Have saved a few people in serious situations.

I am a Safe Boating instructor

I am a USCG licensed Captain

I am a water safety instructor

I am an example to sea scout youth and adults alike.

I am doing an activity which could become dangerous

I am in a kayak and don't trust other boats

I am participating in a water sport

I base my decision on the situation I'm in and expect to be in. I also wear an inflatable PFD when I am solo sailing.

I carry essential gear in the pockets and/or attached to the PFD

I don't want to drown again.

I don't wear one but always have one with me on my craft

I grew up on boats & learned to wear a life jacket by my father's example.



I like to set an example for my children.
I should wear one more often
I strap mine to the kayak, paddleboard
I teach boating safety and need to set an example.
I teach classes on safe boating
I teach safe boating
I teach safe boating classes and like to set an example of safety
I teach the safe boating class and must be an example to others.
I use it as an example for other boaters to follow.
I value my life
I want to return to my family!
I wear while moving
I was in an on-duty capsizing
I wear a life jacket when boating alone
I wear a pfd on whitewater, on all water prior to 5/15 and on new moving water or if I am paddling alone.
I wear a safety harness 100% of the time
I wear it on deck and during bad weather
I wear one while running the boat, while underway
I whitewater kayak
I work for boating safety, so I'd feel a little hypocritical if I didn't.
I work with Sea Scouts and I teach and model safety.
I'm a British Canoe coach and an ACA instructor. My life jacket is my 'seat belt' and I never paddle without it!
I'm the chief of Paddle craft safety for the CG Aux... it would look exceptionally bad if I were to die not wearing a PFD...
I'm towed watersports activity
If you wear it others may be more likely to reciprocate
I'm a U.S. Coast Guard Veteran and currently a State Game Warden.
I'm sailing or kayaking solo - or I'm going on deck to the bow
I'm very aware of boating accident and fatality stats in WA, including how often victims were without PFDs
In a fishing tournament you are required to wear a life jacket
In a go-fast boat
in a kayak I consider it mandatory
It is on when the big motor is running
It is the smartest (and safest) thing to do!
It just makes good sense.
It's common sense
It's my rule on the boat!!
It's smart.
It's better to have it on and not need it, than not have it on and need it.
It's like a seat belt I always wear it
It's the responsible thing to do and also to set a good example
It's the safe thing to do. Many unexpected things happen on the water.



It's the smart thing to do.
I've read of too many folks who died without a life jacket.
I've seen bad outcomes from not wearing a PFD.
Just good sense
Kayaking, smaller vessel or jet ski
life jacket are bulky, hard to cast
Life jacket save my life one time.
Life jacket saved my life once
Life Jackets do save lives. You never know when something will happen
Mandatory here for the cold-water months
member of team Coast Guard, and always wear for that reason
Member, USCG Auxiliary
My child asked me to wear it.
My dad was a coasty and always emphasized it. Wearing one reminds me of him, and happy summers with him.
My PFD is like my paddle and yak... they just work
Nighttime
Non-Swimmer
Our boat is a uscg inspected vessel, so life jackets are not required.
Our inland lake is very small, ideal for pontooning, don't go out in bad weather.
Overnight sailboat races on Lake Ontario usually require wearing a life jacket and safety harness after dark.
Paddle craft
peer pressure
Power Squadron member and we teach wearing life jackets.
Promised my wife boat alone
Putting on a lifejacket doesn't make you "a real boater" I have seen plenty of idiot's wearing pfd's.
Required in USCGAUX for patrols
Rough water
Set an example to beginners
Singlehanded sailing
Someone on board asks me to.
Strong swimmer, and I choose my venues carefully, but always wear on uncharted waters
The life jacket is attached to me but not necessarily on. However, if on a rescue mission, the life jacket is on for safety & protection. Life jackets are always worn in inclement weather or while in rough sea conditions.
The type of boat i am on determines if i wear a life jacket
Time of year that I am required to
To be a responsible boater
Type of boat, conditions, and area of operation is taken into consideration for wearing a pfd
ugcs aux commander
Uncomfortable, hot, I carry it, I'm don't go anywhere that I couldn't swim top land, or I would wear it. I often scuba when I go, don't wear it scuba diving either
Underway



USCG AUX

USCG pulls fewer dead people wearing life jackets than without from the water

Wear it when the outboard is running and in gear.

Wear when big motor is running all the time

When boating along

When I go in the ocean

When I operate my boat alone

When kayak always in 28-footer never but have plenty available and accessible.

When moving

When needed in a bad weather or situation

When paddling whitewater and when instructing

When participating in watersports

When sailboat racing always

When solo boating

When the water is cold

When the water is cold, I will wear a jacket

When told 9

When under orders for Coast Guard Auxiliary

Whitewater kayaking you'd be crazy to not wear one

Work requires me to wear while on a vessel

Working on boat and when I have to lean over side

Working with Marine Rescue

You should wear one

I do not wear a life jacket when on a boat because...? Please select all that apply.

Other (please specify)

22' pontoon boat, extremely safe

30-foot pontoon not required

A very large vessel

Again, it depends on conditions and activity

Again, sometimes I forget

Always handy never get in the water without one or anyone on my boat , all children wear them on my boat

Always in a kayak. Sometimes not in a large canoe (20'). Reason is comfort in calm water.

Always wear

Always wear it unless we are driving slow by shore.

Always wear one in my kayak.

Anchored

At race pace in 80 or 90 degrees = overheating

Better safe than sorry

Bigger boat on calm waters

Boat is tie to dock



Boat not underway

Boat size when not on high speed run.

Boating in calm shallow water within earshot of family/neighbors

Boating in shallow and calm water

Bulky, non-ergonomically made life jackets impede boating actions, rowing, fishing, etc. at times on calm waters. It's always good practice to wear a life jacket while rowing through rapids, rough waters or weather. It's also good practice to be fit & prepared for accidents & counter measure actions.

By myself underway

Calm, flat, protected lake

Choose not to.

Danger level dictates use

Depending on the circumstances.

Depending on vessel type, conditions, and area of operation. I wear a pfd when using my kick boat, kayak, sail board and when in bad weather or congested operating areas such as the Hudson river, east river, long island sound, George's bank, or other fishing grounds.

Depending on weather I might not wear but it is always within reach

Depends on activity, vessel, conditions. Good chance I'm not wearing a jacket sleeping on the houseboat

Depends on the boat, i.e. don't walk around cruise ship with life jacket on

Depends where I paddle

Doesn't fit or its beyond gross

Don't wear, depending on water conditions

Don't usually wear if at a lake where no watercraft boats can go

Don't wear it when tied up fishing

Don't wear, in rare occasions, on calm water, near shore, in good weather.

Fishing

Florida heat...

Forgot it at home

Have a flotation device available

Have gone below deck, but wear it when above deck

Have life jacket, wear it when risk is higher

Hinders my ability to operate the vessel

Hot

I adjust the kind of life jacket base on activity. Type 1 vs type 3

I always ask where they are located in the boat, most of the time i bring my own

I always have a life jacket within reach

I always have one on board. Ready to use if necessary. Also required by law here.

I always have them on board.

I always keep a life jacket on board with me if I'm not actually wearing it

I always make sure I have my life jacket before I go.

I am a strong and confident swimmer

I am boating with other people on a small inland lake in good weather and I am able to swim and keep myself afloat in the water.



I am close to land
I am getting ready to go in the water swimming
I am in a large boat > 45 feet
I am in the cockpit of a large boat, and the skipper is not wearing one.
I captain large yachts and am in the pilothouse
I carry a seat floatation device with me.
I do not wear it when I'm on my pond but always have it next to me
I do not have a good reason why i don't wear a life jacket all the time
I do when doing sports skiing. Kids do always
I don't wear a life jacket when canoeing on my small lake in the summer. I do wear it when the water is cold.
I fish small bodies of water
I get to preoccupied with things sometimes
I have been boating for 70years. Safely
I have taken it off to do something on the beach and forgot to put it back on. Once I remember it's back on.
I kayak in small ponds and shallow slow-moving rivers
I kayak on such a small pond that doesn't have debris; I could swim to the edges.
I keep one with me though
I know where jackets are and can easy access if needed
I live on my boat, so I don't wear one 'around the house' unless weather or conditions require it.
I often don't always wear one on flat water, but one is always in the boat as required by law
I paddle very shallow water sometimes and don't wear one
I pilot large yachts and charter vessels and am inside most of the time
I practice safe boating
I strap a life jacket to my paddleboard and kayak
I was in an enclosed cabin
I wear a life jacket in heavy seas or water skiing. Always have them accessible.
I wear it when boat is running and when fishing in dough waters
I wear it when deemed appropriate by conditions
I wear one in a bass boat but not on my pontoon
I wear one kayaking but not in a rowboat on a small local lake
I wear one when doing lines and fenders
I wear one when the boat is underway. But when I stop, I remove it
I wear when I feel needed when helping g smoother boater towing or swimming
I wear when under way
I will remove the life jacket when below deck
If below deck or in other area of lessened concern
If I am using the trolling motor from one location to another.
If I'm just lounging close to shore on my lake
If I'm the licensed captain on a passenger for hire (more than 6 persons), vessel, than I do not wear a life jacket
If I'm the Licensed Captain on a Passenger for Hire Vessel of more than 6 persons
If kayaking and I can stand or the bank isn't far away
if the boat is at anchor and we are just swimming, sunning, etc. i.e. the boat is not moving,



If the conditions are right and if you are far away from others boat
If weather is calm, I don't wear one.
I'm a professional Captain...never had to use them in 40 years... but they are always readily available
I'm about to jump in and swim
I'm fishing on the bow with my trolling motor
I'm inside the cabin of my boat
I'm on a big slow boat
I'm on a stable watercraft, with close access to pdf if needed.
I'm on the boat not in the water
In a hurry
in a small lake where I also swim
In cabin
In calm water less than waist deep
In shallow bay. Life jacket cumbersome but have it with me.
In the back bays I don't wear one. In calm water
inspected vessel, no life jacket needed.
Interferes with my tan
It gets very hot when kayaking
It interferes with my ability to handle the boat properly and I'm in shallow enough water to stand.
It is too warm
It's too hot
Its hot out
It's too hot in GA however the life jacket is always right by each person
I wear a life jacket when the weather turns bad or I am driving my boat
Jackets are always within immediate reach
Just to take a break, move around
Large, slow boat don't go near the lifelines
Larger boat(charter fishing, fairy, cruise)
Life jackets always available on board along with other flotation devices
Lifejacket not on, but accessible.
Looking to jump in the water and swim
Most of my boating season is in the warmer months and I am out there to also soak up some sun
most paddles are in shallow water
Mostly on calm flat water, close to shore
My boat is a 33 Ft cruiser, and I feel it is a very safe boat
My child has a life jacket on at ALL times!!
Near shore, on hot days.
No comment
No in motion
No reason
No reason not to
Not in deep water and close to shore fishing



Not necessary in good conditions, but close by if needed
Not on the lake. On the river cause of the current
Not under power, fishing on fishing boat
Not when I'm fishing
Not while fishing
Not while lake fishing
Occasionally I forget.
Occasionally I'll remove. One a hot day, under slow moving and shallow water.
Occasionally on a no wake lake will take my life jacket, but not wear it.
On a big Trawler
On a powerboat, I wear a life jacket 100% of the time. On my personal kayak in calm conditions when help is very close by, I sometimes do not wear the life jacket but always have it readily accessible and practice putting it on in the water.
On com lakes or pond and I am a good swimmer. Also, my kayak is unsinkable
On the lake in a wake boat at speeds less than 24mph
Once anchored I take it off
Once or twice close to shore on a sup mid-summer I've foregone the PFD
Only boat in familiar water near shore.
Only need it on large boats in rough weather
only when most is not in motion , but in cold weather days, it's always on
only when the boat is stopped, and I am fishing
Party fishing boat....
Party or charter boats
Pontoon only. I wear it on other boats
Power boat is over 16'
Quick trip across the 20ft canal
Rare occasions such as a quick cruise or gathering with friends
Safety first
Safety First 👍
Shallow water
Shallow water
Size of the boat might make a difference, but I still want to know where they are.
Small lake only idling around
Small lake, no wind
Sometimes it's too hot
Sometimes they aren't available
Sometimes when sailing, certain jackets can get caught in the rigging, or make it hard to maneuver.
Spring fed river, shallow and clear. Danger isn't present.
Swimming on calm waters.
Take it off to swim in calm water
Take off when swimming
Tan lines



The boat is anchored or stationary.
The boat is large enough that they just have to be available
The lakes I fish are trolling motor only, so I don't go fast.
There are plenty of available life jackets if needed
They are always near
They are always on board the vessel and I boat on a small inland lake
They are hot
Too hard to fish with one on
Too hot
Too hot, fishing from Kayak
Uncomfortable
Underway
Unless anchored and fishing when water temperatures are safe (Summer)
Unsinkable boat
Usually inside cabin, outside always
Very large boat with good railings
We have adequate supply on board, but only require a child to wear one. Very small lake/shallow lake.
Wear jacket when under way
Wear sometimes
Weather is too hot
When anchored and fishing unless there is a lot of activity
When big motor is running and rough water while fishing
When boat is stopped and I'm fishing
When boat isn't moving
When docked or just floating in the lake.
When fishing it gets in the way
When going slow in a no wake zone for an extended period of time.
When I am in a controlled situation for the purpose of teaching others paddling skills. I.e. a pool or cordoned off shallow area of a lake.
When I am not motoring.
When I believe the risk of flipping to be high, or someone in my party may need my help during an emergency.
When I'm familiar with the water environment, and the water or boat are small. If it's a J105 in the Raritan Bay, I would wear a life jacket. Big boat and deep water.
When not underway
When on larger power boats I don't wear a life jacket
When on pontoon and not moving
When sunburned
When swimming or fishing boats not moving
When the boat is not under way
When the boat is under power
When there are throwable preservers or rings aboard the boat.
When training in flat water in good weather



When we are approaching a dock and I have to help with the sails and docking lines.
When we are at anchor and having our meal. But always when there are children (1-18 years) on board.
While anchored and eating
While at anchor
While drift fishing!
While fishing
While under power
With a group kayaking on a shallow river (less than knee deep)
Working on it at the dock or in the cabin
Working. Commercial fishing

Why do you not require your passengers to wear a life jacket? Please select all that apply.

Other (please specify)

A variety of things go into that decision. I do always have them in arms reach of all passengers.

Adult choice.

Adults are not required, but the kids always wear them

Adults choice, kids must wear them

Adults. Make. Their. Own. Choice. Children must wear

Again, it depends on their capabilities and conditions

Age dependent

All adults. No alcohol available, daytime/ light

All children do wear them

All children do, adults if they would like one

All children under 10 and non-swimmers

All life jackets are readily available

Always have 12 and under wear

Always have pfd for each passenger on board and strongly recommend to wear it...

At anchor for lunch

Boat is too large

Children always wear life jackets on our boat when on deck; also, must have an adult with them

Children do but if you are of age it's your decision

Children must wear

Children only. Others can if they want to.

Commercial vessel

Conditions and activities deem usage

CONDITIONS AS PREVAIL. Then are asked to wear

Depends on conditions

Depends on conditions and or speed

Depends on conditions and the person's preferences

Depends on swimming ability of passenger

Depends on the age of the passengers



Depends on where we're boating and conditions

Didn't think about it

Don't have passengers

Don't speed and inside rails in pontoon. But always have passengers place one beside them and if under 13 years old they have to wear them at all times

Enclosed houseboat

Feel safe inside vessel

Fishing and sometimes a life jacket is restrictive or can be hot when in Florida!!

Flotation devices are available

Freedom to decide

Have it fitted and close by

Have lots of life jackets adults their choice

I advise them about safety

I advise use while on the boat however it is up to them to abide

I allow passengers to make their own choice

I allow them to decide

I always ask if they want to wear one. As passengers I don't feel it is necessary to wear one while sailing on a keelboat in calm weather. I still wear mine as I am in charge of the vessel.

I always have enough life jackets onboard for all passengers

I always have one per passenger. I leave it to the adult passenger's discretion.

I always have plenty readily available if needed

I boat alone.

I boat on a small inland lake.

I do make all children 12U at all times adults I do not while operating Wake boat V drove boats

I do not drive fast, and I am very alert

I don't have passengers

I don't have passengers

I feel that it's their choice. Life jackets are available, and they usually put one on when they see me wearing mine.

I feel the boat is being operated safely

I fish alone

I give everyone a lifejacket for the trip, they can decide to wear or not.

I give them a choice

I give them a choice

I give them life jackets when they board and allow them to decide

I give them the choice

I give them the option and or make they know where they are stored

I give them the option; life jackets are readily available on my boat

I have a one-person kayak

I have jackets available but only require them on small children

I have life jackets for everyone, they are told about them

I have them it is up to them to wear it



I have them on board and make it optional
I haven't had any passengers.
I kayak, no passengers
I leave it to the passengers unless required by law or conditions
I leave it up to the individual
I leave it up to them.
I leave up to the individual
I let passengers know the location of the life jackets it is up to them if they want to wear it By law a child must wear one at all times
I make it up to them, but I have them available
I make sure everyone has the lifejacket with them if they are a swimmer if not must wear it and all children wear a lifejacket regardless of swimming ability
I make we have them in case we need them.
I offer all passengers the option of wearing one
I offer my passengers life jackets and allow them to decide.
I offer one as a choice to wear.
I offer one to passengers if they prefer one. Also ask them about their swimming ability
I offer them to my guests
I only make children wear them
I only require kids to wear life jackets, my boat is big and slow moving, not much risk someone will fall out.
I provide them and leave it up to them, all children wear one
i put other safety measures in place
I recommend they wear pfd and make sure they have a properly sized pfd at their side.
I require all children to wear one, but don't demand adults do
I require children under 13 to wear a life jacket at all times
I require my son who is 7, all others I have one if they want it
I say it is up to their preference after going over all of the responsibilities of the vessel operator
I strongly suggest it but since it's not required by law, I don't force the issue.
I tell them where they are and leave it up to them.
I tell them where they are located and let them decide.
If a situation or emergency arises, then I require life jackets.
If conditions start to deteriorate require Pfd's be put on
If conditions warrant one
If they are adults while still fishing. If they are children, I do.
If they are under the legal age or not swimmers, I would require it
If they want to wear one, they can, I have them on the boat
I'm a boat operator, not a boat owner
In bad weather
Inspected vessel
It is my passengers decision when asked to wear it.
It is their choice. Unless it's my family. Then they must. Most people I boat with choose to wear one.
It is their option



It is their personal choice

It is their personal choice

It is their yacht and do what they want to do

It's a personal decision

It's their choice

It's their choice

It's their choice

It's their choice

It's their choice not to wear one.

It's their decision

It's there if needed

It's up to any passenger that fishes with me to wear the jacket when we are fishing. I require it when big motor is running. Kids will wear them all the time in my boat

It's their choice, life jackets are always available

It's their choice. I recommend it and make them readily available. I also keep my Type IV Throwable next to me for those that aren't wearing a life jacket.

It's their choice...bad weather I make them.

It's their choice

It's their choice, but all kids under 12, YES

Jackets out and accessible

Keep 1 on boat for everyone on boat

Keep life jackets and type 4 close and accessible

Kids always

kids and young person

Large boat

Large boat

Large boat mostly enclosed/do require children on deck to use one.

large boat, 43x15 motor yacht, all passengers are confined inside-no outside seating

Large boat, adults unlikely to need one

Leave it up to them

Life jackets and other flotation devices always available on board

Life jackets are available for all passengers at all times

Life jackets are not always necessary on a power boat.

Life jackets are readily accessible at all times.

Life jackets for everyone on board are readily available. Those who cannot swim are required to wear one.

Mainly boating on the Intracoastal within sight of shore

Most of the time it's choice

My boat is a 42' motor yacht, not likely to sink fast

My buddy is a strong swimmer and he refuses

My child ALWAYS had one on at ALL times. Adults only when swift current or deep waters, but not while riding in the boat.

My guest are adult and can decide for themselves. Usually they follow my example



- My kids wear one, other adults can make the choice for themselves
- My passenger is an adult and decides for them self
- Never have passengers
- None of the above
- Normally only when boat is moving
- Not always practical or appropriate on large deck boat in calm waters.
- Not in motion
- Not necessary in good conditions, all children must wear a life jacket on my vessel
- Not needed on large boats unless weather dictates
- Not required in playpen area
- Not when fishing
- Not while still fishing, wear while in motion
- Offered to them, their choice
- On a boat floating in safe conditions. But I require when moving or when rough conditions or if the others aren't proven strong swimmers
- On a small lake
- On calm water, near shore, in good weather I let adult make their own choice.
- One-person kayak. No one else but me.
- Only children and those who want to wear a life jacket
- Only children must wear a life jacket at all times on my boat
- Only if they want
- Only kids 16 and under are required to wear a life jacket on my vessel. I am required to have life vests for all passengers on my vessel as I do.
- Only ones required by law
- Only wear when under way
- Only when I'm going to go fast or far
- Only when the boat is not moving
- Only when the outboard is in gear.
- Only when underway
- Only when we are moving, they have them on
- Only while boat is moving
- Only while the outboard is running
- Operations dictate wearing if the lifejacket
- Our water is not deep.
- Over 28 foot. Only require children under 12 or anyone wishing to wear. Plenty accessible
- Passengers are confident that they can stay afloat if required.

- Passengers that are children are required to wear life jackets. Adults while in shallow calm waters not needed
- Personal choice
- Personal choice
- Personal discretion, though always require them for kids
- Personal preference



Personal preference

Personal preference

Pontoon boats are safer in calm waters

Regardless, children 12 and under always wear a lifejacket while on our boat.

Require pfd to be within arm's length if not worn

Require those under 12 and non-swimmers to wear one.

Same as last question, but I do offer them to passengers

Show them where the jackets are and their choice to wear it

Show them where there at, let them choose

Single person kayak

Sitting not moving, fishing

Size boat I have (40' Motor Yacht) is stable. If weather starts to come in, EVERYBODY WILL WEAR A LIFEJACKET.

Small lake not likely to have an accident

Small lake, no wind

Some are required to wear them. Depends on the situation and age

Some people don't want to wear it

Some people don't want to wear them

Some refuse

Sometimes, it is not necessary

Stupidity

Tan lines

The carriage requirement only requires boaters to carry Coast Guard approved life jackets on board, not wear them.

The life jackets are on board.

The only powerboat I currently operate is a pontoon boat.

Their choice

Their choice I have on boat.

Their choice unless under 12 years of age

Their choice unless underage then they must wear them it's the law

Their choice.

Their decision

Their discretion

Their personal choice

Their right to choose.



They are adults who make their decisions. I would prefer it be law like a seatbelt so there was no choice involved.

They are always nearby

They are free thinking people and have a choice

They are in the boat it's their choice

They are in the cabin/cockpit area of my boat

They are offered.

They are provided, but not required, unless underage

They are readily available for each adult; kids wear them.

They are seated in the cockpit or cabin

They don't want to

They don't want to

They find them cumbersome and hot. Some find it not cool looking

they have access to PDFs in my powerboat. if they are weak swimmers, I make them wear one

They know where they are if they need them

They know where they are

They refuse to wear life jackets

They want to get a tan

They're adults and can decide for themselves

They've ignored my asking for them to put it on in the past and we are always within swimming distance to shore

Thief choices

Times at anchor depending on person but never under power

Too constricting while fishing

Under 18 must wear jacket when I'm boating

Underway

Up to them unless they are children

USCG inspected vessels

Usually few other boats and I am usually trolling or fishing slowly.

Usually inside a cabin when underway

Usually not a child which are required to wear one by me

Usually on a river cruise river is packed with restaurants and homes both sides

We have life jackets on boat/pontoon

Wear them when risk is higher, i.e. bad weather

Wear when conditions require

When at anchor swimming

When boat is moving

**Which of the following, if any, do you think would convince you to wear a life jacket more often?
Please select all that apply.**

Other (please specify)



...for other boaters, better comfort and appearance might influence greater wear!

A Law requiring life jacket's being worn is long overdue and would save lives

A life jacket is a safe way to be on the water

Any moving waters

As a responsible boater the above shouldn't matter, to a new or less experienced boater the above statements may help sway or convince them to wear a life jacket.

Bad weather and cold water.

Better functionality and larger sizes. I have a 68" chest, it's hard to find a good fit with decent accessories

Cost: have two great sailing vests, the co2 cartridges are expensive and go out of date.

Depends on where, when, weather

Different boats are different requirements. Can't group all into one.

Don't wear it when we are docked by land

Each situation is different going 4 mph on a pontoon without is fine as long as you have stay seated rules and are watch for others

Fear of the weather or water temperature should be the only criterion for life jacket usage...not more laws trying to save everyone from themselves...

Fishing I wear one all time. Pontoon I wear one if I plan to get in the water run in speed if 30 or so or bad weather

Folks stop being dumb and put it on

Hazardous weather conditions, high density of boats, it make high speed boats in the vicinity

Hot and bulky

I always wear a life jacket when boating by myself.

I always wear a life jacket when outside on deck/ not inside cabin

I always wear one in my kayak. On a larger boat, I wear one depending on conditions and activities.

I always wear unless docked moored or floating in calm water

I am not sure if there is anything that would convince me to wear a life jacket. As the weather deteriorates, I put it on.

I don't know, probably nothing. I put it on if a storm comes through, and I try not to be out there in that weather anyways.

I keep it within reach. Wear in tough weather

I know when I need a life jacket. No more government! Except to require a safe boater class for new boaters.

I like being safe than sorry

I never get sail or boat alone without wearing a life jacket and have finally persuaded my husband to do the same.

I sometimes don't wear one, but it is close by

I spent the money and got a good paddling vest

I was in a canoe that tipped and was wearing a life jacket that saved my life

I was thrown from a boat without a life jacket, the boat crashed on shore.

I wear a life jacket when appropriate

I wear my life jacket during moving operations. Not while at anchor or fishing.

I wear one based on risk assessment. My boat is equipped with more than the minimum required pfd. They are used according to the requirements and based on conditions and area of operation including congestion and likelihood of danger caused by negligent vessel operations.



I wear one kayaking, but not on a 30ft boat in calm water at low speed.
I wear one when I feel i should be wearing one
I wear one when I should. Your all or nothing approach leads to less compliance.
I wear one when needed and necessary. It's not always necessary such as slowly cruising back bays.
I wear one when water is cold, weather is windy or waves/swells
I wear them when under power
I will always wear one
I will wear it when I want to
I'm a professional mariner looking into a pfd that won't alarm my passengers on my charter vessels
I'm old enough to know
If I felt unsafe on a boat - if the operator was making risky choices.
If I have almost drowned
If I were In the ICW or offshore I would definitely wear a vest in motion but on the lake, it is not a law if it is, I am unaware, and it is not enforced
If I'm alone on a boat or the weather dictates it
If inflatable life jackets were cheaper
If it was mandatory and if the majority of boaters did it
If required
If the weather changes and I will wear one
If they were cooler in hot weather and didn't hinder freedom of movement. Maybe like an inflatable belt.
I'm a canoeist/kayaker and water conditions/air temperature often determine whether I wear a life jacket.
I'm not changing. Off on paddle craft. Pfd during high speed runs on the power boat. Pfd in inclement weather and conditions. You failed to mention cold water conditions where the PFD just holds the hypothermic body.
It's my choice. It is not the governments job to protect me from my choices.
I've always worn a life jacket because they work!
Keep mine within reach.
Life jacket integrated with safety harness
Life jackets are available if needed
Life jackets currently are great and not as bulky
Life jackets save lives if you're wearing one!
Life jackets that are comfortable while paddling the boat is more affordable.
Many life jackets are inconvenient and at times u want the sun on you .
More comfortable
My child ALWAYS has one in.
NA
No
No
No convincing
None
None
None of the above
None of the above
None of the above, my personal safety is my responsibility



None of those reasons.

Nope

Not applicable, I nearly always wear a life jacket

Not necessary in good conditions, I wear it if conditions worsen

Not so hot to wear

Not sure

Not sure how to answer since it depends on the boat and circumstances

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing would change my views.

On my bass boat only when the outboard is running.

On powerboats, I properly wear a hydrostatic-release lifejacket whenever possible but will don an inherently buoyant one if that is all that is available. On paddle craft, I find that the current crop of inflatables (manual-only) are still a bit cumbersome but still much more comfortable than an inherently buoyant lifejacket.

Only in extreme circumstances

Riding in something other than a cabin boat

Safety first

Safety first... if there is passenger... quick reminder while performing check ups

Some are really hot to wear especially if you are paddling

The boat starts sinking

To have fun you have to stay alive, to stay alive, you have to stay safe.

Underway

uscg ax aux commander

Very rough weather which I avoid

Wear won most of the time

Weather and conditions, offshore, required by race committee or cruise committee

Weather dependent

When in unfamiliar locations, heavy traffic, or poor weather

When water temps are dangerously low.

When we sail to unknown waters, when winds are very powerful, when preparing to dock and tend to lines, when going on someone's else's boat, these are the times I wear a jacket. Also, when I am cold.

When wife reminds me

Will not wear on cabin cruiser

Worn when needed in certain boats

Would only use them on small boats

Where did you learn about this survey?

Other (please specify)

Facebook (32 mentions)

Facebook Group: Fort Lauderdale Sandbar Club

k38 Facebook group



US Coast Guard Auxiliary (8)
U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division Commander
I am a member of USCG Aux Flotilla 87, Englewood FL
America's boating club
Fla Paddling Trails Association
Flipboard
Friend posted on social media
Friends
From a friend that belongs to the United States Power Squadrons
Girl Scout Mariner social media
Instagram
It was on my email
Kayak buddy
On my screen
Raised with common sense and boater safety classes
RiverBills.com
Son is a boat captain
The clause blueway paddle group in FL.
Twitter
United States Power Squadron member.
USPS/Americas Boating Club
Web