

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Washington state boasts diverse waterways – including rivers, lakes, bays, inlets, and a dramatic ocean coastline – all of which provide exciting opportunities for recreational boaters; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in paddle sports is growing dramatically as people discover the excitement of kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding as ways in which to enjoy the beauty of Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Boating Safety Program is to ensure that boaters have a safe, secure, and enjoyable experience on the water; and

**WHEREAS**, safety education can minimize the risk of accident or injury to boaters and paddle craft users; and

**WHEREAS**, paddle craft users can stay safe by taking boater education courses, carrying appropriate safety gear, filing a float plan, avoiding operating a craft while under the influence, carefully assessing weather conditions, and wearing a life jacket; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Recreational Boating Safety Program joins the United States Coast Guard, as well as state boating partners and organizations, to promote safe boating practices;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby declare July 21-27, 2023, as

### *Paddle Safe Week*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

