**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [Date]**

**CONTACT: [Name, Phone Number, Email Address]**

**[Organization] joins *Operation Dry Water***

**to raise awareness of the dangers of boating under the influence**

[City, STATE] ***–*** [Organization] joins the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and others in the annual [*Operation Dry Water*](http://www.operationdrywater.org/) campaign, a coordinated campaign to educate boaters about the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. During the *Operation Dry Water* three-day heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, July 3-5, boaters will see an increase in outreach, education and enforcement surrounding boating under the influence.

Alcohol use continues to be the leading known contributing factor in recreational boater deaths and a leading contributor in boating accidents.[[1]](#footnote-1) The mission of *Operation Dry Water* is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities on the water. [Organization] will be out educating boaters on ways to stay safe while on the water, which includes always boating sober and avoiding any alcohol- or drug-use prior to and while boating.

“Getting out on the water over the 4th of July weekend is an enjoyable and relaxing activity for many. We have partnered with *Operation Dry Water* to help keep boaters safe by educating operators and passengers on the dangers of boating under the influence,” said [Organization spokesperson]. “Staying sober while boating is a critical part of boating safely. Boaters should also take a boating safety education course prior to getting on the water and everyone on board should always wear a life jacket while near or on the water. We want all boaters to enjoy their time on the water in a way that allows everyone to return home safely.”

Outreach partners and volunteers will be out on the water and at marinas, working collaboratively with law enforcement to educate boaters about safe boating practices. Law enforcement will also be detecting and removing impaired operators from the water. No matter where you are boating, it is illegal to operate a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

In 2019, law enforcement officers across the nation issued a total of 9,524 citations and removed 563 impaired operators from our nation’s waterways. The [Organization] is urging boaters to enjoy this boating season and help keep everyone safe by not drinking alcohol while on the water, or operating a boat after you have consumed alcohol. Use of both legal and illegal drugs also impairs judgment and reaction time and makes it dangerous to operate any vessel.

Boaters can learn more about boating under the influence by visiting [Organization website] or [operationdrywater.org](http://www.operationdrywater.org/pledge). Operation Dry Water is coordinated nationally by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard.

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1. [2018 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics](https://uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2018.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)