



June 2026 Membership Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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Island Chain of Lakes Association Boating Safety Newsletter

Safe Boating Starts With You!

As another beautiful season begins on the Island Chain of Lakes, the Island Chain of Lakes Association (ICOLA) reminds all residents and visitors that boating safety is everyone's responsibility. Whether you're fishing at sunrise, pulling skiers in the afternoon, or enjoying a sunset cruise, following basic safety practices helps ensure that our lakes remain safe and enjoyable for all.

Wear Your Life Jacket

The most important piece of safety equipment on any boat is a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket.

One wearable life jacket is required for every person on board.

Children under 13 should always wear a life jacket while underway.

Life jackets should be worn, not just stored.

Most boating fatalities occur because the victim was not wearing a life jacket.

A throwable floatation device is also required on all boats.

Slow Down and Stay Alert

The Island Chain of Lakes is enjoyed by anglers, pontoons, kayakers, swimmers, and water skiers. Operators must remain alert and operate at safe speeds.

Remember to:

Observe all posted no-wake zones.

Reduce speed near docks, shorelines, and congested areas.

Keep a lookout for swimmers and paddlecraft.

Avoid distractions such as mobile phones.

Designate a Sober Operator

Operating a boat while impaired is illegal and dangerous. Alcohol affects judgment, balance, and reaction time.

Assign a sober operator before leaving the dock.

Stay hydrated and protect yourself from the sun.

Know that boating under the influence carries the same serious penalties as driving under the influence.

Check Your Equipment Before You Launch

Before every outing, make sure your boat is equipped with:

Life jackets for all passengers

Fire extinguisher

Sound-producing device (horn or whistle)

Navigation lights

Throwable flotation device

First aid kit

Anchor and line

A quick pre-launch inspection can prevent emergencies.

Respect Other Boaters and Shoreowners

Being courteous makes the lake more enjoyable for everyone.

Keep music at a reasonable volume.

Minimize wake near shore and other boats.

Follow towing rules for water skiing and tubing.

Dispose of trash properly.

Take a Boater Safety Course

A boating safety course is one of the best ways to build confidence and improve skills. Courses cover navigation rules, emergency procedures, and state regulations.

In Case of Emergency

If an emergency occurs:

Ensure everyone is wearing life jackets.

Use your horn or whistle to signal distress.

Call 911 if needed.

Provide your location and details of the emergency.

Help Keep Our Lakes Safe

The Island Chain of Lakes is a wonderful place to live, fish, and relax. By practicing safe and responsible boating, we protect our families, friends, and neighbors while preserving the enjoyment of our lakes for generations to come.

Have a safe and enjoyable boating season!

Next and future Lake Association meetings dates, locations and times;

June 13 at Backwoods Lakeside Bar and Grill (Speaker)- 10 a.m.

July 11 at Sunny's (Brat Feed and WDNR and Rusk County Sheriff)- 11 a.m.

August 8 at Hawk's (Elections and Speaker)- 10 a.m.