



## Boaters hit the water as May Long Weekend marks start of boat season

*Boating BC urges safety first during Safe Boating Awareness Week*

**For Immediate Release  
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**Vancouver, B.C.** – As boaters across British Columbia prepare for the official start of the 2017 boating season this long weekend, Boating BC is urging boaters to put safety first.

National Safe Boating Awareness Week is May 20<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the launch of the boating season, and Boating BC President Don Prittie says boating is both safe and easy.

“Every year we see more and more people take up boating as a fun, safe and easy activity to explore our province,” says Prittie. “We’re optimistic that the 2017 boating season will be as active as ever. With over 27,000 kilometers of coastline and hundreds of lakes and rivers we have a simple message for British Columbians: Get out on the water but do it safely.”

Prittie says there are easy and affordable safe boating courses available online and around the province and everyone on the water should remember some basic tips:

- Always wear a properly fitted personal flotation device.
- Never drink and boat.
- Keeping emergency kits, navigation equipment and distress equipment onboard at all times.
- Check weather conditions and patterns before leaving and during your trip.
- Create a float plan before you leave so friends or family know where you’re going.

For more safety tips go to: <https://www.boatingbc.ca/cpages/safe-boating>

For great ideas on where to boat in British Columbia go to: <https://www.boatingbc.ca/cpages/boating-destinations>

Provincially, recreational boating contributed \$1.3 billion in GDP last year, and an increasing number of British Columbian’s enjoyed getting out on the water whether by paddleboard, kayak, yacht or sailboat.

For more information on Boating BC, visit: <https://www.boatingbc.ca/>

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**About Boating BC Association:** Boating BC Association, the voice of recreational boating in BC, is comprised of 320 member companies that represent all aspects of the boating industry. As owners of the Vancouver International Boat Show, the Association strives to ensure the industry remains strong – working closely with all levels of government, cultivating marine career opportunities and promoting safe, responsible boating and access to waterways across B.C.

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*Because BC is better on a boat!™*