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Media Advisory: Alabama, Florida and Georgia Host Joint Press Conference for National Safe Boating Week

WHAT: In recognition of National Safe Boating Week, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's Marine Patrol Division, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division invite media to a joint press conference. The event will highlight important boating safety messaging for those who enjoy the waterways in these three popular boating destinations.

WHEN: May 22, 2025, 10 a.m. CST

Vessel ride-alongs with law enforcement will be available following the press conference.

WHERE:

Lakepoint State Park

104 Lakepoint Drive
Eufaula, AL 360271

WHY: National Safe Boating Week 2025 takes place May 17–23. Each agency prioritizes the safe enjoyment of our waterways and will deliver critical safety messaging aimed at reducing boating accidents, injuries, and fatalities.

Key Statistics & Quotes

- **Alabama:**

In 2024, Alabama law enforcement responded to:

- Five drownings
- 66 BUIs (Boating Under the Influence)
- 103 boating incidents resulting in 61 injuries and 13 fatalities

"In recognition of National Safe Boating Week and as we head into the busy Memorial Day weekend, we urge everyone to make water safety a top priority. While Alabama, Georgia and Florida each have unique boating laws, our shared message is clear - safety comes first," said **ALEA Secretary Hal Taylor**. "We're extremely proud for the opportunity to be included in this important partnership with our neighboring states that will enable us all to protect lives and promote responsible boating across the Southeast."

- **Georgia:**

In 2024, Georgia law enforcement responded to:

- 57 drownings
- 259 BUIs (Boating Under the Influence)
- 137 boating incidents resulting in 52 injuries and 20 fatalities

"Our agencies all serve different states, and we may have slightly different boating laws, but I know that all three agencies have the same goal when it comes to boating safety," said **Col. Mike England, Director of Georgia DNR's Law Enforcement Division**. "We

want our citizens and visitors to enjoy our waterways, and we want them to do it safely. Our unified goal is for everyone to go home safely at the end of the day.”

- **Florida:**

With over a million registered vessels in Florida and hundreds more coming in for recreational activities from all over the country, Florida compiles a Boating Accident Statistical Report each year. The full report can be found by visiting [MyFWC.com/boating/safety-education/](https://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/) and scrolling down to the “Boating Accident Statistical Reports

“We are proud to work alongside our partners in Alabama and Georgia to keep boaters safe,” said **Col. Brian Smith, Director of FWC’s Division of Law Enforcement**. “Safe boating doesn’t stop at the state line. By working together and sharing what we’ve learned, we can better educate the boating public and ensure that everyone on our waterways understands the safety measures that are essential to enjoying a great day on the water — and making it safely back to the boat ramp.”

BACKGROUND:

National Safe Boating Week is observed annually during the week leading up to Memorial Day Weekend. The campaign promotes responsible boating practices, aiming to prevent accidents and fatalities through public education and increased awareness ahead of the summer boating season.

Ride-along slots are limited — RSVPs are highly encouraged.

RSVP / MEDIA CONTACT:

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