

# FWC recommends lifesaving gifts for boaters!

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**Suggested Tweet: Give the gift of #safety to the #boaters in your life! @MyFWC recommends #lifejackets: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLFFWCC/bulletins/17ac830> #wearit**

## FWC recommends lifesaving gifts for boaters!

Are you struggling to pick out the right gift for the boater in your life? The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has an idea for that last-minute present under the tree: boating safety equipment. It may be the best gift you ever give – the gift of life! Every year around the holidays, fatal boating accidents occur. Many of these are preventable.

An inflatable life jacket is probably the best gift any boater could hope for during the holidays. Add either an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon or a Personal Locator Beacon under the tree and you'll be assured the boater in your life will be safer on the water.

The FWC recommends boaters wear life jackets all of the time while on the water, and the use of an inflatable life jacket makes it easy to comfortably wear one every time you go boating. There are two types of inflatables: ones that inflate automatically when a person falls into the water, and others that inflate after the wearer pulls a cord.

“A lot of people say they don't wear life jackets because they feel they're uncomfortable,” said Capt. Tom Shipp of the FWC. “However, with the inflatable models, you hardly know you have one on. A life jacket that will be worn all of the time makes a great gift.”

An Emergency Locator Beacon will make a big difference if a serious problem occurs on the water. These devices send a signal via satellite to search-and-rescue agencies so rescuers do not waste time and effort trying to locate the boaters in need; they can go directly to the beacon to provide assistance.

“People don't expect to fall overboard or that their boat will break down or sink, but it can and does happen,” said Shipp. “New technology in the form of an inflatable life jacket or an emergency beacon will improve their chances of survival and give peace of mind to family and friends.”

As the weather and water cools off, it may seem that people are not boating as much around Florida. However, due to holidays, family vacations, and water-related hunting activities, there are still plenty of boaters out and about throughout the state. This is not the time to drop your guard while on the water. People should always wear a life jacket and keep up the safe boating. Happy holidays from the FWC!

## Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program Report

12/23/2016

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), was directed by Florida's Legislature in 2009 to establish a pilot program to explore potential options for regulating the anchoring or mooring of vessels (other than live-aboard vessels) outside the marked boundaries of public mooring fields. This Legislative action was codified in Section 327.4105, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and has since become widely referred to as the "Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program."

In an effort to seek resolution of the policy debate over how much authority should appropriately be granted to local governments with respect to vessels anchoring within their jurisdictions, the Legislature created Section 327.4105, Florida Statutes, in 2009. This law established a pilot program to further explore options for local governments to regulate the anchoring of vessels outside public mooring fields. FWC, in consultation with DEP, was tasked with selecting five locations for inclusion in the pilot program to test different anchoring and mooring policies, working with the local governments from those five locations as they developed anchoring ordinances, coordinating the review of the ordinances with the greater boating public and interest groups, monitoring progress as the ordinances were implemented, and reporting findings and recommendations to Florida's Executive and Legislative branches by January 1, 2014. At the request of FWC and following the submission of the 2014 report, the Legislature extended the pilot program an additional three years, to July 1, 2017 in order to collect more data. The Legislature further required FWC to submit additional findings and recommendations by January 1, 2017. This report serves that purpose.

A copy of this report can be found at the following link: [Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program Report](#)

