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Public Information Statement  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From:         Eli Jacks  
              Acting Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: Summer Boating Safety This Summer

Many people go boating during the summer. When you're out on the water, here are some things to keep in mind:

- If you start to see clouds develop vertically, a thunderstorm may be forming. Don't wait. Head for port and safe shelter immediately.
- When you are out on the water, remember: look but don't touch. Do not touch, handle, feed, or ride on marine animals.
- Avoid contact with coral reefs. Make sure your anchor is clear of corals and don't touch them when diving.
- Carry in, carry out. This rule is not only for campsites and hiking trails. When you are out on the water or on the beach, make sure you leave no trace. Help fight the global marine debris problem.
- Hazardous surf, pollution, red tides, jellyfish and sharks are just a few of the potential dangers in our coastal waters. Know before you go. Find out local conditions and reports before entering the ocean.
- Lightning can strike from 10 miles away. Fishermen and boaters can best protect themselves against lightning injury or death by monitoring the weather and postponing outdoor activities when thunderstorms are in the forecast.
- If people can hear thunder, they are in danger of being struck by lightning.
- Register your boat's safety beacon with NOAA to help rescuers find you faster in an emergency. If you do not have a safety beacon, get one. It may save your life.

For more information, visit: [www.weather.gov/marine](http://www.weather.gov/marine).

or contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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