



MARINE ENFORCEMENT ALERT!



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
620 S. Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Alert #20XX-X
June 2, 2017

OPERATION DRY WATER 2017

To all FWC Law Enforcement and our Marine Law Enforcement Partners:

Operation Dry Water (ODW), which takes place June 30 – July 2, 2017, is a campaign focused on boating under the influence (BUI) education, awareness, and enforcement. An important part of this campaign will be to let the boating public know what ODW is and why boating under the influence is dangerous. The theme for this year's event is "On the road or on the water, you're going nowhere fast while impaired." This zero-tolerance approach is meant to inform boat operators and occupants that it is NEVER safe to operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

For our law enforcement partners, if your agency would like to participate please join the Operation Dry Water team by registering your agency at this link, <http://www.operationdrywater.org/enforcement>. Please ensure you collect the statistics for your efforts and submit that data to NASBLA. There is an example form for data collection on the website.

FWC regions will not need to register and ODW results will be submitted to the Boating & Waterways Section.

Every year we have statewide boating accidents and deaths related to alcohol/drug use. For 2016 in Florida, 24% of fatal accident victims (16) were related to alcohol or drug use. Last year there was an increase in the number of alcohol/drug related accidents. ODW is a campaign launched in 2009 by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in partnership with the United States Coast Guard. The goal is to raise awareness to the hazards of Boating Under the Influence (BUI) of alcohol and drugs by using education and enforcement. We are pleased to be taking a significant role in making the initiative a success in Florida by addressing the BUI problem on our waterways. This is the 9th year for Operation Dry Water. We expect that law enforcement agencies from all 50 states will participate, and we want to make sure Florida is a leader in this effort. We would like to engage our partners, such as the SOs, PDs, and USCG, as much as possible and encourage them to be vigilant in looking for impaired boat operators.

Please take a few minutes to consider how you and your colleagues can help us better inform the boating public about the dangers of drinking and boating while also paying extra close attention to possible BUI violators.

Your participation can take many forms. Individuals and agencies can participate by communicating with the media, putting the word out to local officers to be especially attentive of potential BUI

violators or even holding BUI checkpoints or conducting BUI-targeted details. FWC will be doing statewide news releases and your efforts to work with the local media would be most welcome.

Radio spots and print advertisements are also available for free download at the Operation Dry Water website, <http://www.operationdrywater.org/campaignmaterials> along with plenty of information and talking points that can be used for media outreach.

I hope you will encourage all officers who are scheduled to work during the June 30 - July 2 time period to pay extra close attention to possible impaired boat operators and to take appropriate action. Thank you in advance for your commitment to working with us to rid our state's waters of impaired boat operators. If you have questions which I may be able to help answer, please feel free to contact me at (Insert Agency Phone Number) or (Insert Agency E-mail).

<<Insert Signature>>

EXAMPLE