

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard in the 1st District is promoting the safe operation of all vessels, especially paddle craft, corresponding with National Safe Boating Week May 22nd through May 28th 2010 and throughout the boating season months; and

WHEREAS, Because kayaking and all other paddling sports are growing faster than any other outdoor activity — on land or water, the number of recreational boating fatalities involving non-motorized vessels less than 20 feet in length, consisting mostly of paddlers in kayaks and canoes, has increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, Over 80% of non-motorized vessel fatalities are the result of capsizing, or a fall overboard and sudden cold-water immersion, which leads to rapid drowning, and in 90% of those deaths, the people were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 75% of reported recreational boating deaths involve operators of paddle craft who had received no boating safety instruction; and

WHEREAS, Because new paddlers may not be aware of the numerous risks involved with paddling, such as the immediate effects of sudden cold-water immersion, the power of tidal waters, or how fast weather can change, a vast majority of paddle craft deaths are those of beginners and could be easily avoided with training in basic paddling skills and boating safety; and

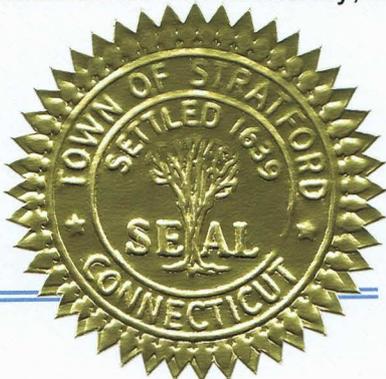
WHEREAS, The agencies that promote the safety of boaters on Stratford's waters, including the Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission, the Stratford Police Marine Unit, the Stratford Fire Marine Unit, the Stratford Harbor Master and USCG - AUX Flotilla 24-02 urge the owners of all vessels, especially paddle craft, to enroll in safe boating courses, wear life jackets, and operate their vessels safely.

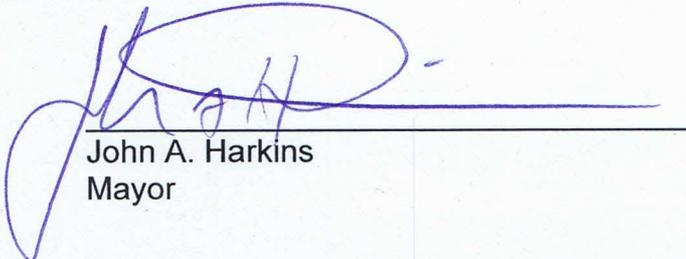
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN A. HARKINS, Mayor, do hereby proclaim the months of May through October in the year 2010 as

SAFE BOATING AND PADDLE SMART MONTHS

in the Town of Stratford, and invite all citizens to increase their awareness of boating safety by obtaining training and understanding the importance of life jacket use.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Town of Stratford this Wednesday, May 12th, 2010.




John A. Harkins
Mayor

offering more from forest to shore