



June 2014

Dear Suffolk County Boater,

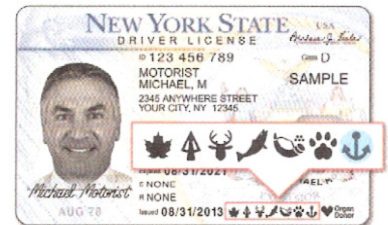
New York offers some of the best boating and fishing adventures in the country. As the boating and fishing season gets underway, I want to remind you about some important state boating law changes.

To make New York's waterways safer, state law now requires that anyone born on or after May 1, 1996, who wants to operate a motorboat obtain a Boating Safety Certificate by completing an approved eight-hour course. The new law will ensure that, over time, all recreational boaters navigating New York's waters will have the necessary knowledge required to operate a motorboat safely.

Suffolk County residents should be aware that the new state law supersedes a 2012 county boater education requirement that applied to all boaters. Now, only those born after May 1, 1996, are required to possess a Boating Safety Certificate.

The new law took effect May 1, 2014, so I encourage you to make sure the young boaters you know have signed up for an approved course. Courses may be completed and certificates obtained through the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, U.S. Power Squadrons or the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. A list of approved courses is available on the State Parks website at nysparks.com. In short, a boating safety course is a good idea for everyone but is mandatory only for those born after May 1, 1996.

For boaters who earn or have earned a Boating Safety Certificate, keeping track of it is now easier thanks to New York's new Adventure License. If you have taken an approved safe boating course and received your Boating Safety Certificate, with just a few easy steps, you can have your certification reflected as an anchor icon on your NYS Driver License, Non-Driver ID or Learner Permit. Your personalized Adventure License eliminates the need to carry a separate Boating Safety Certificate. For more information on the Adventure License — and the introduction of new custom I LOVE NY Adventure License Plates — visit licensecenter.ny.gov.



We are also working to provide boaters with more and better access to New York's waterways. The 2014-2015 state budget includes a third round of \$100 million in funding to create new public access locations and restore state marinas, boat launches, fish hatcheries, and campgrounds at our State Parks and State Lands. Featuring 2,600 miles of coastline, New York State is an exceptional place to begin a boating adventure.

Remember that fun boating is safe boating. A few simple precautions taken beforehand — including wearing a life jacket, taking a boating safety class, and avoiding alcohol while boating — can help ensure a trip stays fun from beginning to end. We also ask that you help protect the future health of New York waters by ridding your boats of potentially harmful invasive species — always remember to *clean, drain and dry* your boat after each trip. Enjoy the season!

Sincerely,

Rose Harvey
Rose Harvey
Commissioner