

SCDNR performing courtesy boat inspections Memorial Day weekend

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering free boat inspections at landings across the state throughout Memorial Day weekend.

DNR's Law Enforcement Division is holding the inspections to keep people and waterways safe during the holiday, the agency said in a recent news release.

"The Memorial Day holiday kicks off the summer boating season and is one of the busiest times of the year for South Carolina lakes and waterways, and officers want to do everything possible to keep everyone's weekend fun and safe," the agency said.

Officers will have "quick but thorough" inspections for required safety equipment and proper boat and motor registration.

Anyone who isn't in compliance with safety and registration regulations won't be ticketed during the inspection, but will have a chance to correct problems before they launch their boat.

DNR officers will also be available to answer any questions and give



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

S.C. Department of Natural Resources officers will be conducting free boat inspections throughout the state this weekend.

boaters tips about how to stay safe on the water.

Officers will be offering inspections at these local locations from 10 a.m.-noon:

- Twin Lakes Landing on Lake Hartwell in Pickens County on Saturday
- South Cove Landing on Lake Keowee in Oconee County on Sunday
- Twelve Mile Landing on Lake Hartwell in Pickens County on Monday

To report boating violations like reckless operation or an intoxicated

boat operator, call the SCDNR's toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-800-922-5431.

For a copy of South Carolina's boating regulations, information about local boating safety courses or a free float plan form, call the SCDNR Boating Safety Office at 1-800-277-4301.

BOAT SAFETY TIP

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, one half of all recreational boating fatalities happen in calm water, usually by drowning, and in most cases life jackets aren't worn.

All boats must have a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board or being towed, DNR said, but it recommends boaters actively wear them.

"Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available and the proper size for the intended wearer," DNR said for its monthly boating tip. "In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. In South Carolina, any person under 12 years of age must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD when on board a class 'A' (less than 16 feet long) boat."