

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 07-94

Calling for Voluntary Participation in Ensuring Safety in Boating and Other Ocean-related Activities

WHEREAS, much of Palau's special allure and beauty comes from its magnificent surrounding waters, Rock Islands, underwater wonders and marine life; and

WHEREAS, safety in boating and all ocean-related activities are necessary for both Palauans and our guests, to enjoy the special beauty of Palau's Rock Islands and marine world; and

WHEREAS, in the months of September and October of this year, the Republic will be hosting many special guests who will help commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the War in and Liberation of Palau, as well as help celebrate Palau's Independence Day upon the implementation of its Compact of Free Association; and

WHEREAS, these special guests to Palau will be engaged in numerous boating and other ocean-related activities, as are most of Palau's citizens, residents and growing number of visitors; and

WHEREAS, for Palau to assure the safety and enjoyment of these many special guests, our tourist visitors, and our own citizens, and for Palau to remain a desirable visitor destination, we must all help ensure safety in boating and other ocean-related activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the Republic of Palau, I hereby call for voluntary participation in helping to ensure safety in boating and other ocean-related activities for all citizens, residents, visitors and guests and suggest the following guidelines:

1. No person should operate a boat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs.
2. Boats should not be overloaded and should not transport passengers in numbers exceeding the maximum carrying capacity of the boat as set by the boat manufacturer.
3. All boats should make their best efforts to obtain basic, necessary safety equipment such as life jackets for all passengers, tool kit, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, marine radio, horn, safety flares, compass, etc.
4. No boat should be operated at night without being equipped with, and using, boat navigation lights.
5. All boats should be operated with the principles of safety, courtesy and respect foremost in mind. To abide by these principles, boat operators should always do the following:

proceed at a reasonable speed and reduce speed to five (5) knots when within one hundred (100) yards of people in the water; refrain from creating wakes that might be a hazard to other boats; maintain a sharp lookout and be alert; yield the right-of-way to loaded passenger vessels; take special care in confined waters; and file a float plan with family or friends.

6. All boats transporting our visitors and guests should be especially attentive to any special needs they may have, especially those passengers who are elderly. Special assistance with boarding and exiting the boat should be afforded them and water or other liquids should be available to them at all times.
7. All boats should be observant for others in distress and render assistance if necessary.
8. All boat operators should abide by all other commonly practiced boating and water-related safety procedures.

Let us all enjoy the special beauty of Palau's Rock Islands and marine world without mishap, and with safety foremost in mind.

SO PROCLAIMED this 31st day of August 1994 at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau