

# Kids Don't Float Program



**U. S. Coast Guard**

**Alaska Dept. of Health & Social  
Services**

**State Office of Boating Safety**

**Alaska Safe Kids**

**Various Community Coalition  
Members!**

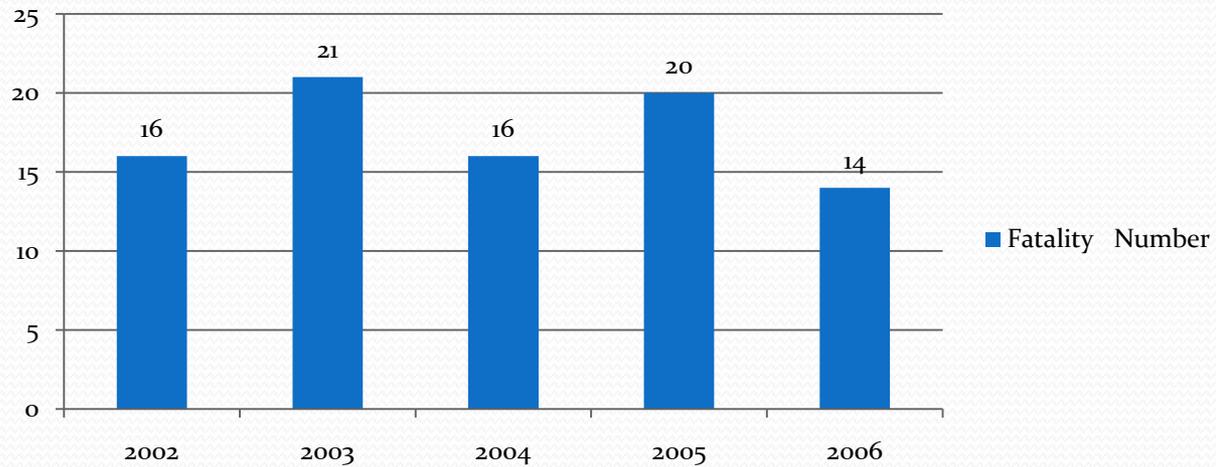
# The Need for Kids Don't Float

- 2002-2006: 87 Boating Fatalities
- Alaska: 10 Times the National Fatality Rate
- 1990-2009: 107 Children & Teens (0-14) Drowned In Alaska



# Boating Fatalities

Fatality Number  
RBS



# Fatality Characteristics

- Most fatalities occur in open skiffs or canoes
- Over 90% of fatality victims did not wear a lifejacket (PFD)
- Over half of Alaska drownings occur on lakes & rivers

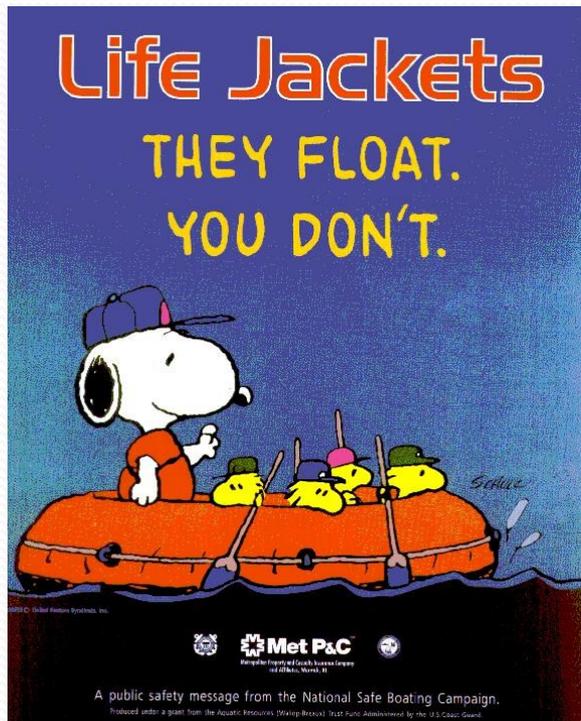
# KDF Program Overview

- Started in Homer by Community Groups
- Based on Kids Don't Fly (NY City program)
- Converted to Statewide Use in 1997
- Now in Over 500 Sites Statewide
- 2 Program Components
  - Education
  - Lifejacket Loaner Program
- At least 19 lives saved since start of program

# Who Is Involved With KDF?

- U.S. Coast Guard
- State of Alaska
  - DHSS, Section of Chronic Disease & Health Promotion
  - DNR, State Office of Boating Safety
- Alaska Safe Kids
- Homer Originating Team
- Community Leaders & Volunteers

# KDF Education Program



- Adult Education Curriculum (Manual)
- Youth Education Lesson Plan & Activities
- Peer Educator Program for High School Use

# KDF Peer Education Program

- Volunteers Train High School Students
- Trained High School Students Conduct Classes for Elementary School Students
- 1,700 classes taught from 2000-2009
- In 2009 over 11,000 students reached

# High School Training

- Set Up Training/Program With Local High School
- Students In Program Get Community Service Credit
- Hold 2-3 Hour Training Regarding PFD Use
- Students Develop Lesson Plans For Elementary Classes
- Hold a Final Organizing Session (provide packets)
- H.S. Students Perform Trainings

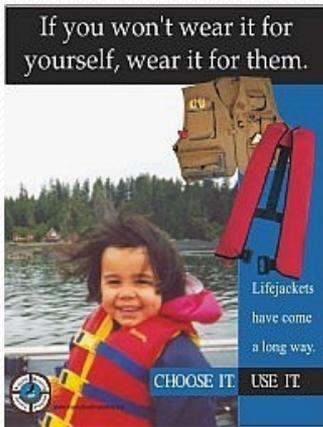
# Elementary School Training

- High School Students Schedule Sessions
- Each Group Teaches 3 Classes (30 mins.)
- Group Receives Evaluation & Credit



# Focus of Kids Don't Float Education Program

- Teach Youth About Safety
- Positive Role Modeling By Teens
- Reach All Types of Boaters/Swimmers
- Reduce Fatalities
- Learn how to swim



# KDF PFD Loaner Program



- Loaner Boards at Harbors/Boat Ramps
- Loaner Board Sponsor
- PFD's Provided by State or Local Groups
- Boaters Borrow PFD's and Return After Use
- PFD Loaner Board Use Study Showed Increase in Use

# KDF 2010 Loaner Program

- Implemented in 249 Alaskan Communities
- PFD Use 5-1500 Times Per Site
- Program Survey 2001
- Little/No PFD Loss
- Very Positive Program Comments

# KDF/Boating Safety Resources

- KDF Program Manual/Kit
- AMSEA Cold Water Kids
- AMSEA Cold Water K-12 Curriculum
- Videos (USCG, DNR, AMSEA)
- Kids Don't Float – Facebook

# The KDF Future

- KDF Loaner Boards at All Harbors/Lakes/Rivers
- Education in All Alaska Schools
- Involvement By All Alaska Communities
- Eliminate Drowning Fatalities



# KDF & Boating Safety

## Point of Contact

### **Loaner Board Program:**

Maria Bailey, State Injury Prevention  
(907) 465-4170

[Maria.bailey@alaska.gov](mailto:Maria.bailey@alaska.gov)

### **Education Program:**

Joseph McCullough, Alaska Boating Safety  
(907) 269-8704

[Joseph.McCullough@alaska.gov](mailto:Joseph.McCullough@alaska.gov)

Mike Folkerts, USCG Boating Safety  
(907) 463-2297

(800)478-6381 (in Alaska)

[Michael.R.Folkerts@uscg.mil](mailto:Michael.R.Folkerts@uscg.mil)