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I am a past commander of the Wawenock Sail & Power Squadron and a NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) certified safe boating instructor. I am currently teaching America's Boating Course at Brunswick High School.

I have been teaching this course for over 15 years and cannot remember a class where I have not been asked why the State of Maine requirements for wearing a PFD are less than the Coast Guard's. I do not have a satisfactory answer for that question. We recommend that all boaters wear a PFD when underway pointing out that by the time you know you need it, it is too late to put it on.

I like to think that the many hours I have donated to teaching boating safety have saved a life or two. It is a mathematical certainty that moving the age for children to wear a PFD up two years will save a child's life and perhaps several. I cannot imagine a down side to this action that could offset that benefit.

Thank you for your time,
Pete Asquith