

Re: HF2419 Life jackets for children aboard watercraft required to have reflective material

Lifejackets currently are approved for use in the USA by the US Coast Guard

Per Mustang Survival, maker of search and rescue gear including lifejackets used by many governmental agencies, they currently make no state-specific lifejackets.

Question: why would the state of Minnesota want to get into the business of approving lifejackets? How would law treat inflatable belt or suspender style lifejackets?

Comment: as a long time user of lifejackets I believe the best and highest quality youth lifejackets are made in Europe though they are not USCG approved; many USA racers wear race-specific life jackets which are also not USCG approved; inflatable lifejackets are allowed in the USA though MN law has not kept up with technology. Boat registration in MN has not kept up with technology.

Most common nonmotorized boat on the water is a 10' kayak that is unregistered.

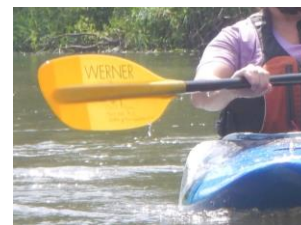
Recommendation: form a working group to update Minnesota's watercraft safety and registration regulations consisting of:

- USCoast Guard, currently approves lifejackets in the USA, and/or US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- American Canoe Association, oldest watercraft educational organization in the country
- Wenonah or Northstar Canoe (MN canoe manufacturers)
- MN DNR
- MN legislature
- MN Sheriff's Association (performs S&R in most of MN)

Unregistered kayak from WI in MN



Unregistered <10' adult kayak



No lifejacket or unfastened lifejacket

