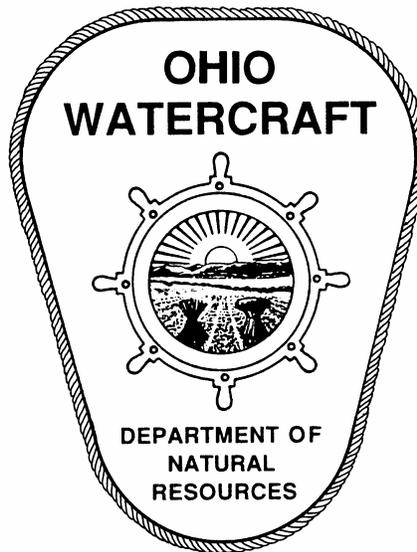


**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT**

**2007  
RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENTS**



**A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE REPORTABLE BOATING  
ACCIDENTS IN THE STATE OF OHIO FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007**

Ted Strickland, Governor

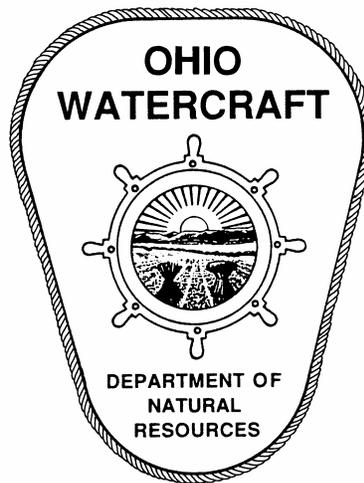
Sean Logan, Director

Pamela S. Dillon, Chief

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# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT



### A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS IN THE STATE OF OHIO FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007

June 2008

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Watercraft  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
(614) 265-6480  
<http://www.ohiodnr.com> (select "boating")

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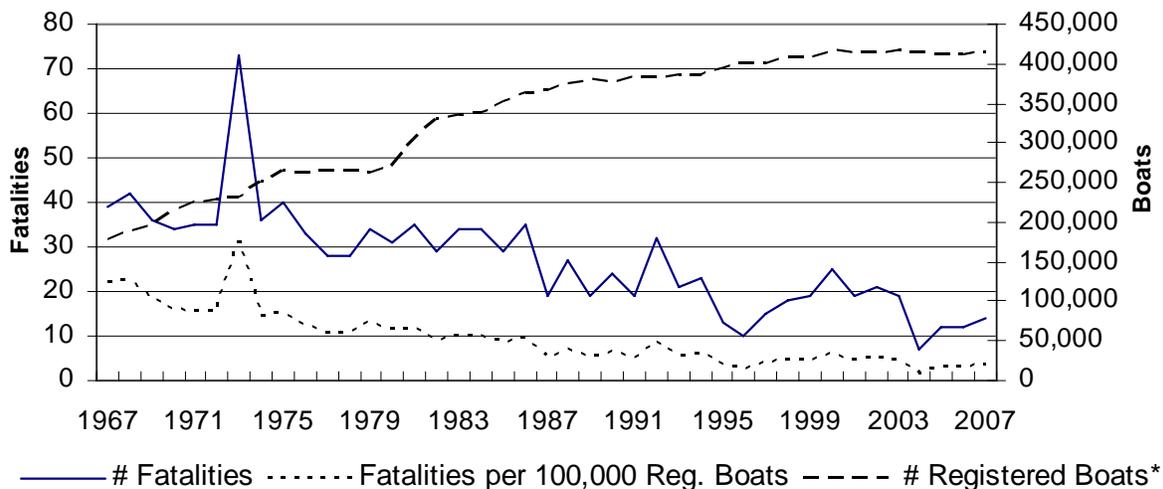
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## Introduction

In order to best utilize the state's resources, a thorough review of boating accident statistics, officer activities, and registration information is essential. In 2007, a total of 155 reports were filed for boating accidents involving 202 vessels. These accidents resulted in 80 injuries and 14 fatalities.

The ratio of boating fatalities as compared to the number of registered boats in the state increased from 2.9 fatalities per 100,000 registered vessels in 2006 to 3.4 fatalities per 100,000 registered vessels in 2007. The average over the 2003-2007 period was 3.1 fatalities per 100,000 registered boats, meeting the Division of Watercraft's established goal to reduce fatalities to a five-year average of not more than 3.2 fatalities per 100,000 registered boats.

**Ohio History of Fatalities Compared to Registered Boats**



All states and territories are required to report recreational boating accidents to the United States Coast Guard, where data is compiled nationally. This national data is available through the United States Coast Guard website at: [http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident\\_stats.htm](http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_stats.htm).

The United States Coast Guard standard for reporting accidents is established within Title 33, Section 173 of the Code of Federal Regulations. One-hundred twenty-two of the accidents in this report met those guidelines.

Section 1547.59 of the Ohio Revised Code outlines reporting requirements within the state of Ohio. The primary difference between United States Coast Guard reporting requirements and state of Ohio reporting requirements lies in the threshold for property damage. United States Coast Guard reporting requirements call for at least \$2000 in property damage to meet reporting standards, while in Ohio this threshold stands at \$500.

Complete reporting guidelines for both the United States Coast Guard and the state of Ohio can be found on pages 19-21 of this report.

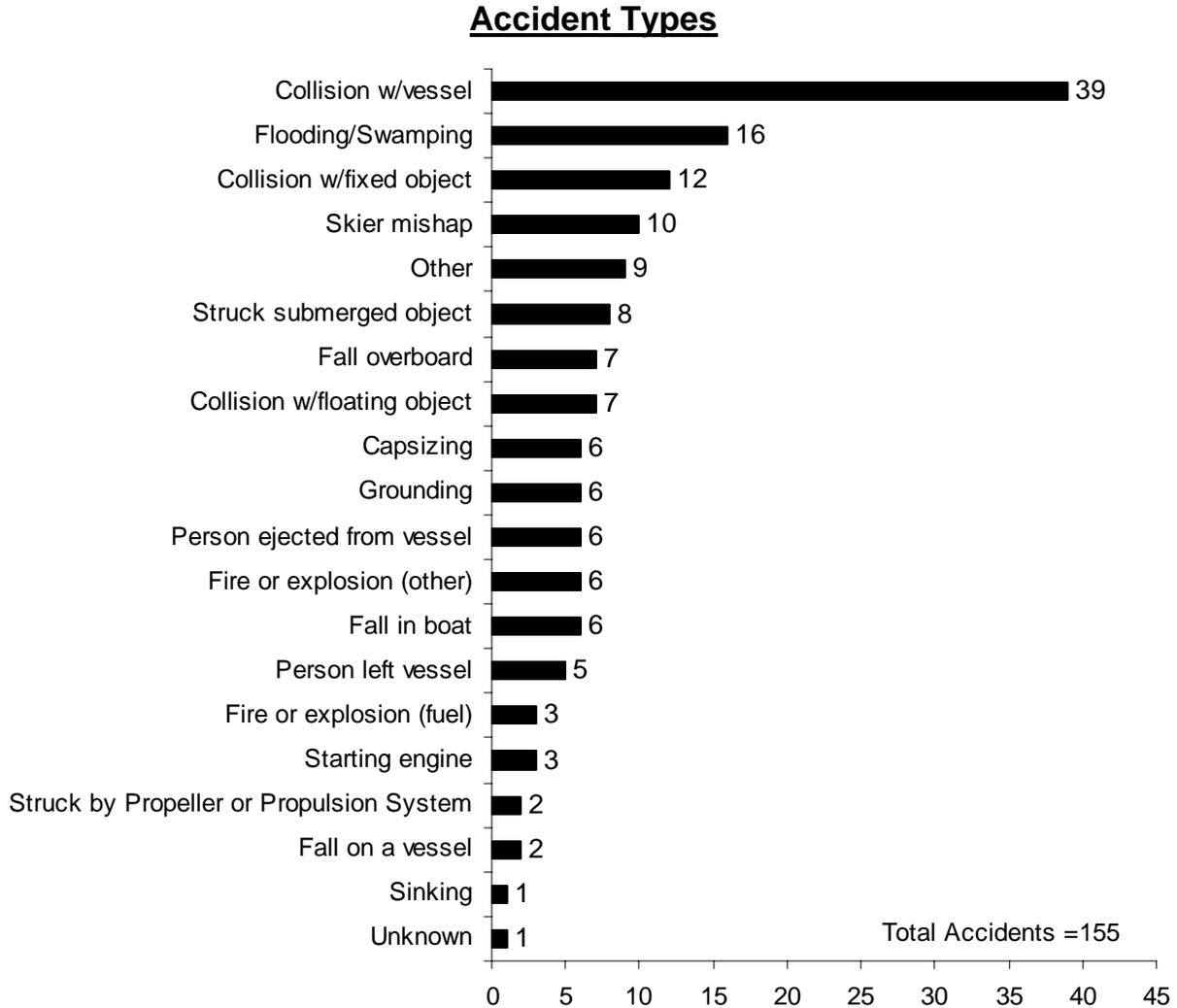
## Ohio Boating Accidents 1967-2007

Year	# Fatalities	# Accidents	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Registered Boats*	Fatalities per 100,000 Reg. Boats
1967	39	109		26	177,458	22.0
1968	42	93	115	22	188,075	22.3
1969	36	89	109	7	195,594	18.4
1970	34	84	103	11	212,405	16.0
1971	35	97	125	21	224,806	15.6
1972	35	97	124	12	226,424	15.5
1973	73	145	174	33	231,379	31.5
1974	36	138	170	14	250,304	14.4
1975	40	101	127	29	263,109	15.2
1976	33	133	155	24	262,937	12.6
1977	28	128	155	11	265,765	10.5
1978	28	163	220	26	263,366	10.6
1979	34	94	130	59	260,229	13.1
1980	31	97	131	43	270,092	11.5
1981	35	100	131	45	304,880	11.5
1982	29	114	148	52	330,126	8.8
1983	34	125	164	58	334,423	10.2
1984	34	178	236	78	338,184	10.1
1985	29	208	277	71	351,394	8.3
1986	35	226	288	55	361,883	9.7
1987	19	251	323	78	366,289	5.2
1988	27	215	262	67	375,194	7.2
1989	19	170	202	64	380,412	5.0
1990	24	124	166	53	378,249	6.3
1991	19	168	219	98	383,136	5.0
1992	32	156	205	58	382,218	8.4
1993	21	136	187	65	384,048	5.5
1994	23	176	236	102	385,206	6.0
1995	13	294	405	118	394,885	3.3
1996	10	263	366	121	398,388	2.5
1997	15	198	280	85	399,888	3.8
1998	18	228	296	100	407,688	4.4
1999	19	232	313	115	407,347	4.7
2000	25	191	261	82	416,798	6.0
2001**	19	176	247	90	414,658	4.6
2002	21	191	249	82	414,060	5.1
2003	19	160	226	83	415,597	4.6
2004	7	143	190	59	412,248	1.7
2005	12	166	230	96	410,445	2.9
2006	12	143	173	69	410,245	2.9
2007	14	155	202	80	413,156	3.4

\*\* United States Coast Guard boating fatality criteria changed

\* Includes numbered and alternative recreational vessels

## 2007 Ohio Boating Accidents



Collisions between vessels resulted in 25% (39) of the reportable accidents in 2007, an increase of 9% as compared to the previous year. These collisions involved 39% (79) of the vessels, and accounted for \$1,033,017 (43%) in boat damages, 18% (14) of the injuries, and 3 (21%) of the fatalities. Careless/Reckless Operation was cited most frequently as the primary cause of these accidents, accounting for 7 (18%) of the vessel collision incidents in 2007.

The Division of Watercraft continues to focus on decreasing incidents of flooding/swamping and capsizing of small vessels (less than 18 feet), as well as falls overboard from these vessels. Combined, these three types of accidents accounted for 19% (29) of the reportable accidents for 2007, resulting in 12 injuries (15%) and 50% (7) of the fatalities. Of the vessels involved in these incidents, there were 5 canoes, 2 kayaks, 12 open motorboats, 5 cabin motorboats, 1 paddle/pedal boat, 2 personal watercraft, 1 rowboat, and 1 pontoon boat. The two primary causes for these types of accidents were Operator Inexperience (24%) and Improper Loading (14%).

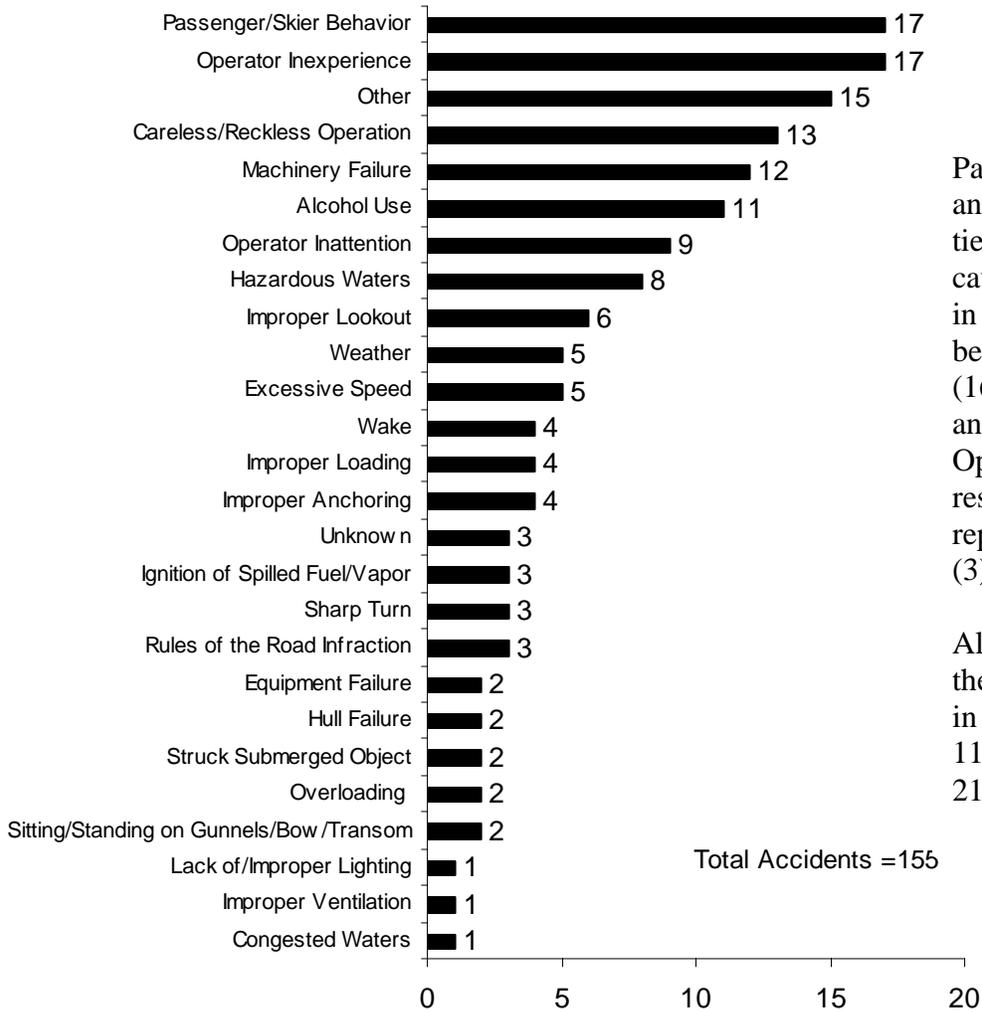
### Accident Types by Boat Type

Accident Type	Unknown/ Commercial	Auxiliary Sail	Cabin Motorboat	Canoe/Kayak	Houseboat	Jet Boat	Open Motorboat	Paddle/Pedal	Pontoon	PWC	Rowboat	Sail Only
Capsizing	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collision with Fixed Object	1	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0
Collision with Floating Object	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Collision with Vessel	3	3	21	0	0	1	16	0	9	21	1	4
Fall Overboard	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0
Fall in Boat	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Fall on a Vessel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fire or Explosion (Fuel)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fire or Explosion (Other)	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Flooding/Swamping	0	0	4	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	1	0
Grounding	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	2	2	2
Person Ejected from Vessel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Person Left Vessel	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Sinking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Skier Mishap	0	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Starting Engine	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Struck by Propeller/Prop System	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Struck Submerged Object	0	1	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Vessels</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

### Vessels, Injuries, and Fatalities by Accident Type

Accident Type	# Vessels	# Injured	# Fatalities
Collision with Vessel	79	14	3
Flooding/Swamping	16	2	2
Other	15	6	0
Collision with Fixed Object	12	8	0
Skier Mishap	10	10	0
Struck Submerged Object	8	0	0
Collision with Floating Object	8	3	0
Fall Overboard	7	4	3
Capsizing	6	6	2
Grounding	6	2	0
Fall in Boat	6	6	0
Fire or Explosion (Other)	6	1	0
Person Ejected from Vessel	6	7	0
Person Left Vessel	5	3	2
Fire or Explosion (Fuel)	3	2	0
Starting Engine	3	2	0
Struck by Propeller/Prop System	2	2	0
Fall on a Vessel	2	2	0
Sinking	1	0	0
Unknown	1	0	2

## Accident Causes



Passenger/Skier Behavior and Operator Inexperience tied as the top ranking causes for boating accidents in 2007. Passenger/skier behavior resulted in 20% (16) of the reported injuries and 7% (1) of the fatalities. Operator Inexperience resulted in 6% (5) of the reported injuries and 21% (3) of the fatalities

Alcohol Use was reported as the primary causative factor in 11 accidents resulting in 11% (9) of the injuries and 21% (3) of the fatalities.

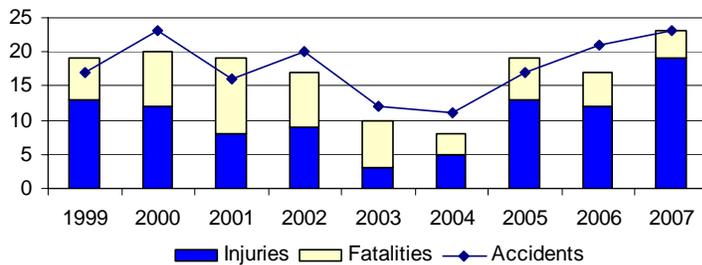
## Actions at the Time of the Accident

<u>Operation</u>		<u>Activity</u>	
Cruising	53	Pleasure Boating	92
Drifting	29	Docked/Docking	30
Tied to dock/moored	21	Fishing	29
Changing direction	21	Unknown	23
Docking/Leaving Dock	20	Water Tubing	8
Changing speed	10	Water Skiing	8
At anchor	10	Racing	3
Changing Speed and Direction	9	Making Repairs	3
Towing	8	Swimming	2
Rowing/Paddling	8	Whitewater Sports	2
Sailing	5	Hunting	1
Being towed	4	Commercial Activity	1
Launching	3		
Unknown	1		

## Accident Cause by Accident Type

Primary Cause for Vessel	Capsizing	Collision with Fixed Object	Collision with Floating Object	Collision with Vessel	Fall Overboard	Falls in Boat	Fall on a Vessel	Fire or Explosion (Fuel)	Fire or Explosion (Other)	Flooding/Swamping	Grounding	Other	Person Ejected from Vessel	Person Left Vessel	Person Struck by Boat	Sinking	Skier Mishap	Starting Engine	Struck by Propeller/Prop System	Struck Submerged Object	Swimming from Vessel	Unknown
Alcohol Use	0	4	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Careless/Reckless Operation	0	1	1	12	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congested Waters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Failure	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Excessive Speed	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazardous Waters	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Hull Failure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ignition of Spilled Fuel/Vapor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Improper Anchoring	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Loading	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Lookout	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Improper Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lack of/Improper Lighting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Machinery Failure	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operator Inattention	1	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operator Inexperience	0	1	2	9	2	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other/No Cause	0	0	1	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Overloading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger/Skier Behavior	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	1
Rules of the Road Infraction	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sharp Turn	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sitting/Standing on the Gunnel/Bow/Transom	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wake	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Weather	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Vessels</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

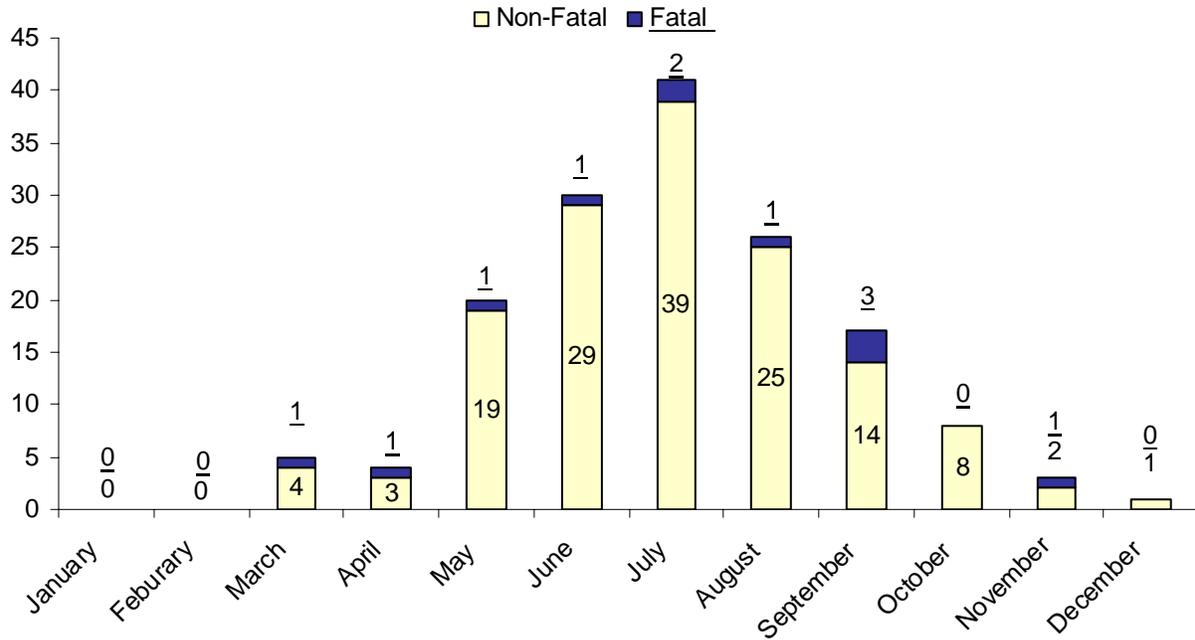
## Alcohol Involved: Accidents – Injuries – Fatalities



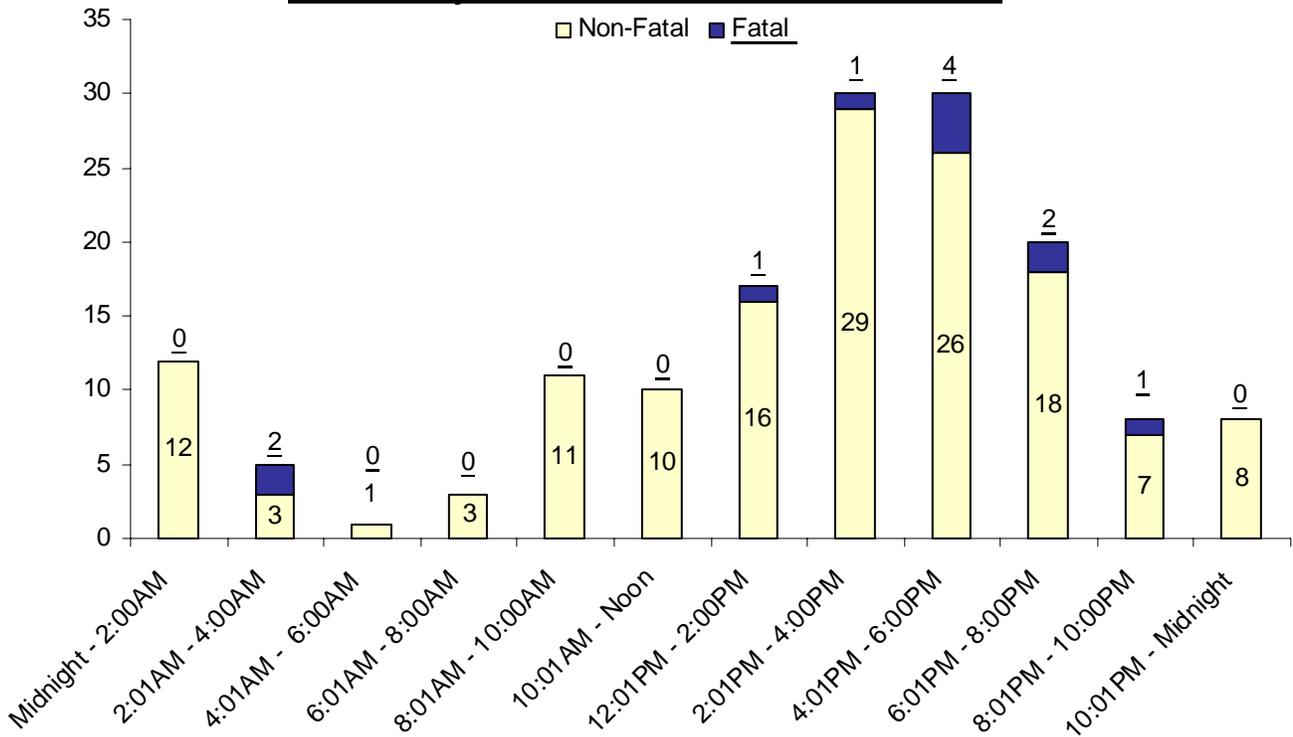
In addition to those accidents where alcohol was listed as the primary cause, there were an additional 13 accidents in 2007 that were alcohol involved (defined as an accident where there is evidence or a reasonable likelihood that alcohol was consumed by any of the boat's occupants). These accidents accounted for 10 of the reported injuries (13%) and 1 of the reported fatalities (7%).

## Accident Times

### Month for Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents

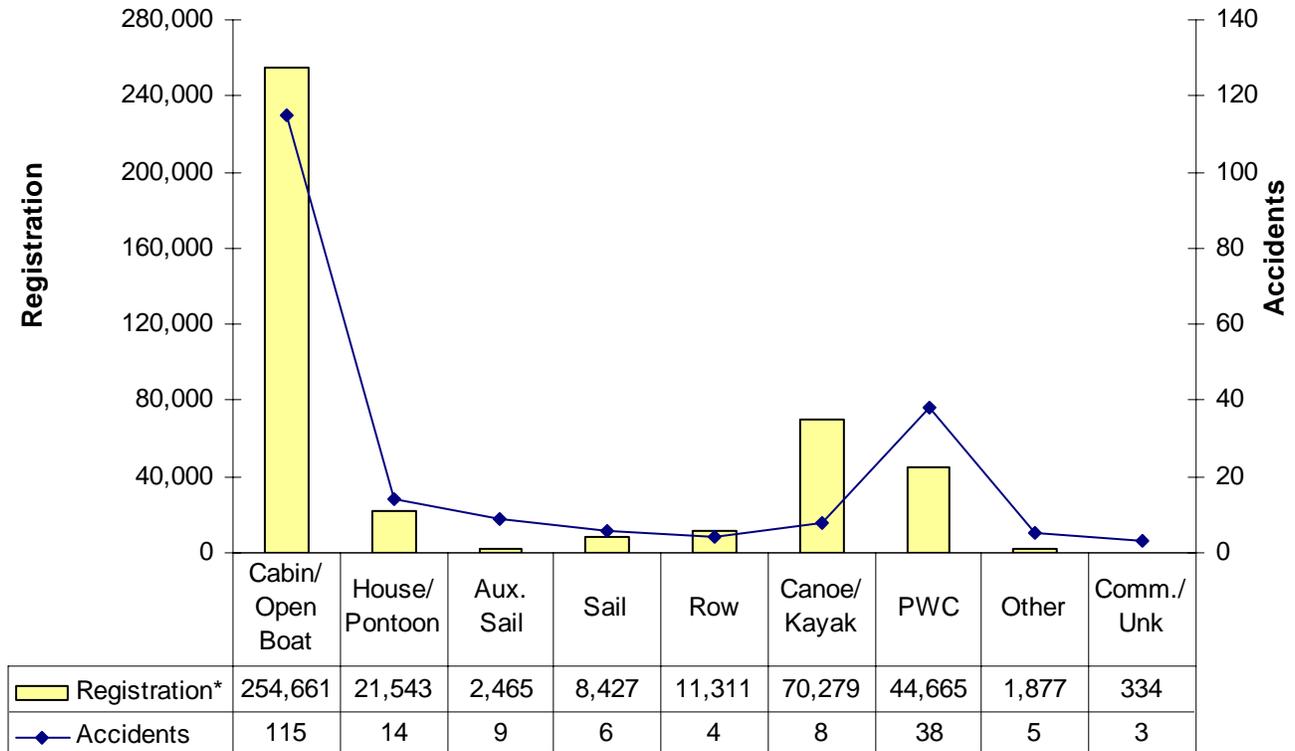


### Time of Day for Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents



## Vessel Data

### Registrations and Accidents by Boat Type



\* Includes all recreational, commercial, and documented vessels.

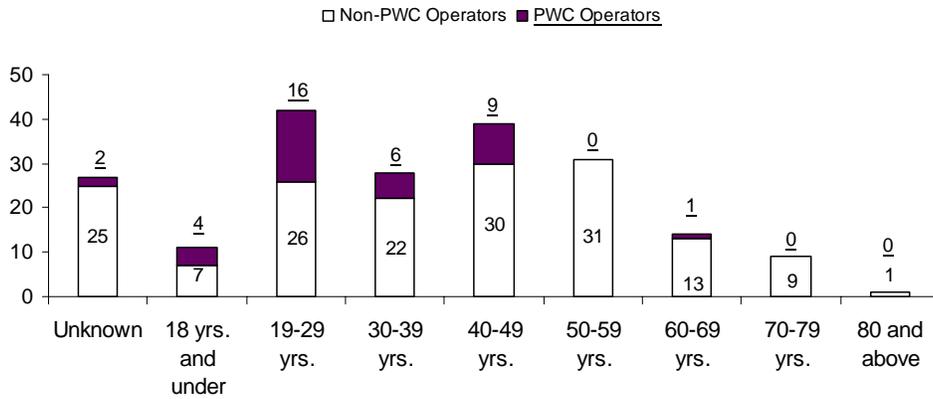
### Boat Operator versus Ownership

	Owner Unknown	Operator Unknown	Owner Operated	Borrowed	Rented
Unknown/Commercial	2	0	1	0	0
Auxiliary Sail	1	3	5	0	0
Cabin Motorboat	8	8	24	12	0
Canoe/Kayak	0	0	1	5	2
Houseboat	0	0	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	5	0
Open Motorboat	7	2	31	21	2
Pontoon	0	4	5	3	1
PWC	1	1	9	24	3
Row	1	0	3	0	0
Sail Only	2	1	1	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>8</b>

The owner and operator were known/identified for 161 of the vessels involved in accidents in 2007. Approximately 40% of all vessels involved in accidents in 2007 (202) were operated by someone other than the owner of the vessel.

## Operator Data

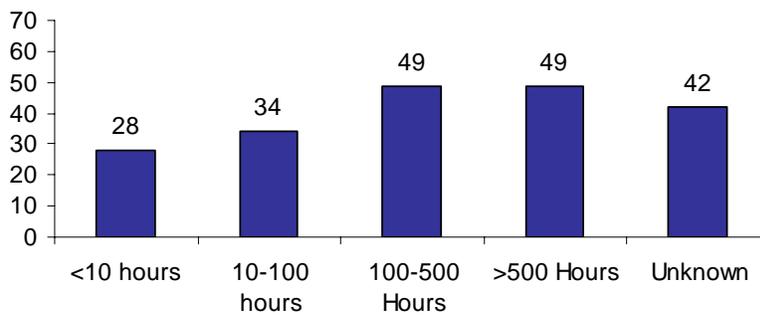
### Operator Age



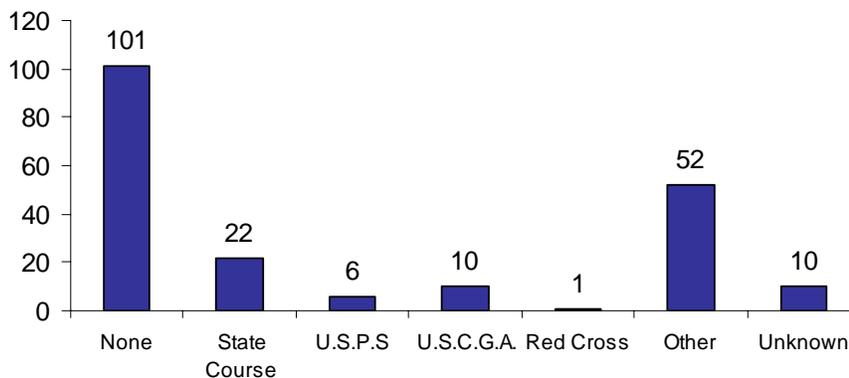
The age of 175 of the operators involved in accidents in 2007 was reported. The average age for these 175 operators was 41.1 years.

The average age of PWC operators was 31.3 years; the average age for all other operator types was 43.6 years.

### Operator Experience

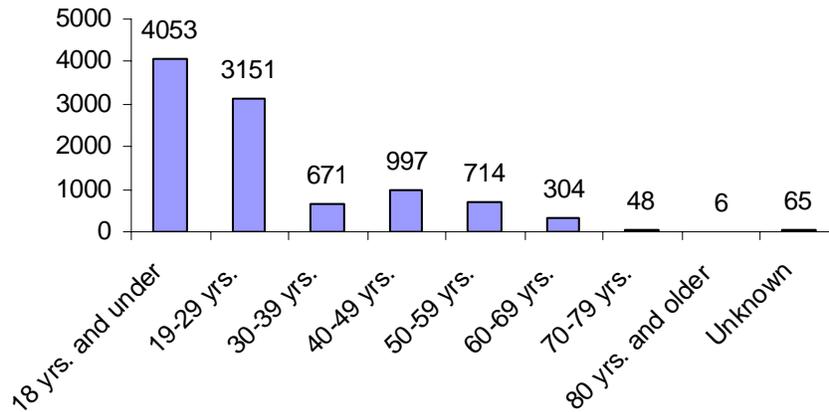


### Operator Education



## Education Certificates

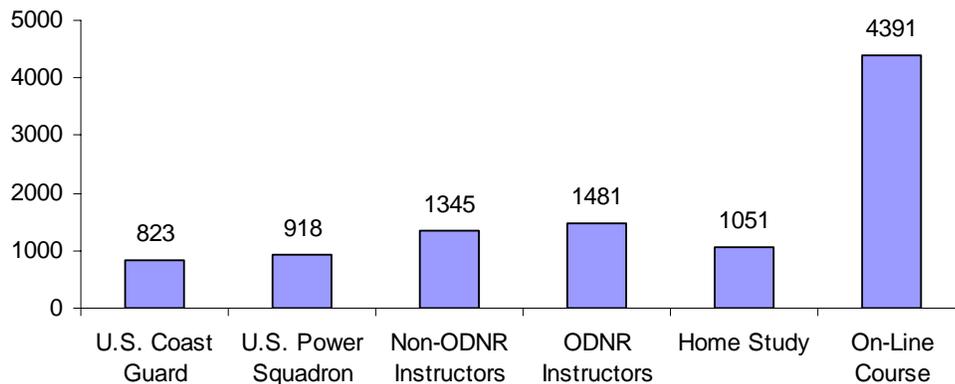
### Age for Education Certificates Issued 2007



Since 2000, Ohio law has required persons who operate a vessel with a motor greater than 10 horsepower, and born on or after January 1, 1982, to pass a boating safety exam.

In 2007, there were 37 operators involved in accidents that were affected by this law; 19 (51%) had not passed the required exam. Seven of these non-certified operators were operating a PWC, 6 were operating open motorboats, 1 was operating a cabin motorboat, 2 were operating canoes, 2 were operating paddle/pedal boats, and 1 was operating a rowboat

### Education Certificates Issued by Organization 2007

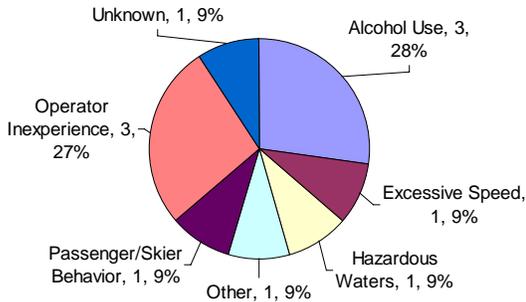


A total of 10,009 education certificates were issued in 2007. Sixty-eight percent (6840) of those certified fell within the required age group.

## Fatality Data

Body of Water	County	Capsizing	Collision with Fixed Object	Collision with Vessel	Fall Overboard	Flooding/ Swamping	Other/ Unknown	Person Left Vessel
Big Darby Creek	Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burton Lake	Geauga	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
East Fork Reservoir/ Harsha Lake	Clermont	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Farm Pond	Ashtabula	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lake Erie	Lorain	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Lake Shawnee	Greene	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ohio River	Brown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Private Quarry	Portage	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sandy Lake	Portage	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Walhonding River	Coshocton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

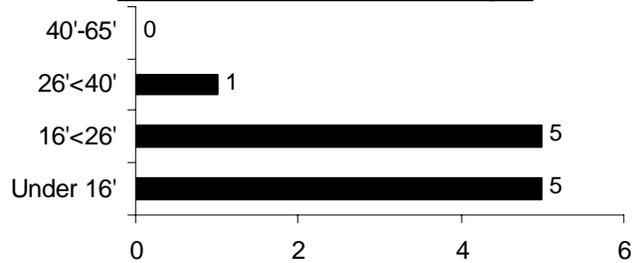
### Fatal Accident Causes



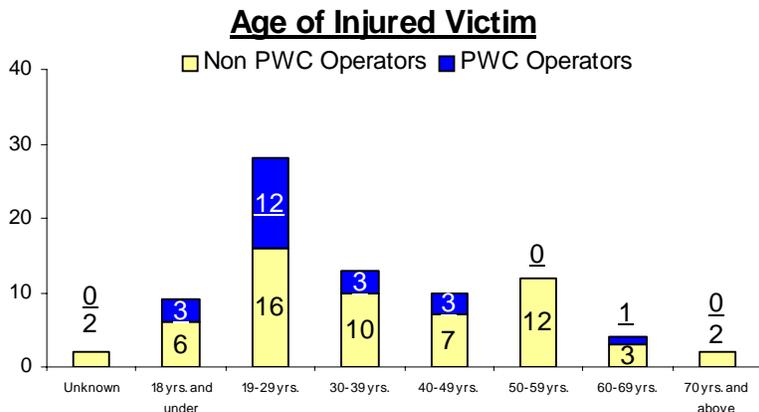
In 2007, there were 11 fatal accidents resulting in 14 fatalities. The vessels involved in these accidents included 2 cabin motorboats, 3 canoes, 1 houseboat, 3 open motorboats, and 2 paddle/pedal boats. At least six of the operators did not own the vessel involved in the fatal boating accident, and none of the operators were reported as having taken a boating education course.

The cause of death in twelve of the fourteen fatalities was drowning; the two remaining fatalities were the result of impact/ trauma (1), and heart attack (1). Twelve of the fourteen victims were not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) prior to the incident. The victims ranged in age from 4 to 74, with the average age being 36.

### Fatal Accident Boat Length

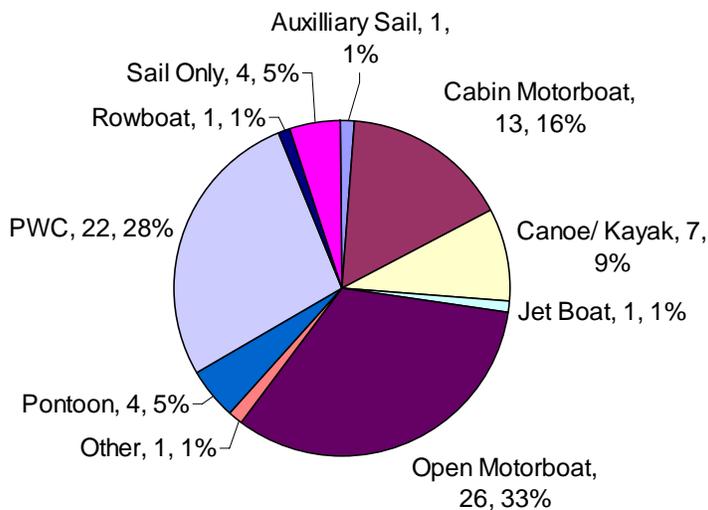


## Injury Data



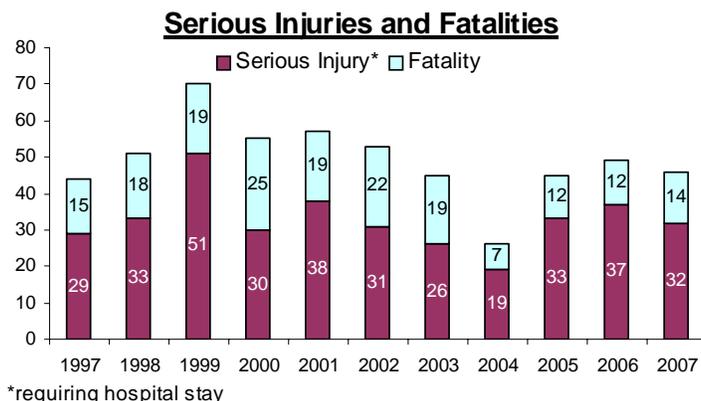
<u>Activity</u>	<u># Injuries</u>
Pleasure Boating	44
Water Skiing/Tubing	14
Other	6
Fishing	5
Starting Engine	4
Whitewater Sports	3
Hunting	2
Swimming/Diving	1
Racing	1

### Boat Type Involved in Injuries



There were 80 injuries requiring medical treatment beyond first aid reported in 2007. Collisions with a vessel or a fixed object accounted for 28% (22) of these injuries, while skier mishaps accounted for 13% (10) of the injury incidents. The top-ranked causes for accidents resulting in an injury were passenger/skier behavior (16, 20%), and alcohol (9, 11%).

There were 76 vessels involved in accidents that resulted in the 80 injuries. The boater education background was reported for 66 of those operators; 64% (42) reported they had not participated in a boater education program.



## 2007 Boating Accidents by Body of Water and Accident Type

Body of Water	Total Vessels	Capsizing	Collision w/ fixed object	Collision w/ floating object	Collision w/ vessel	Fall in boat	Fall on a vessel	Fall overboard	Fire or explosion (fuel)	Fire or explosion (other)	Flooding/Swamping	Grounding	Other	Person ejected from vessel	Person left vessel	Person struck by boat	Sinking	Skier mishap	Starting engine	Struck by Propeller or Propulsion System	Struck submerged object	Unknown
Alum Creek Reservoir	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Apple Valley Lake	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashtabula River	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berlin Reservoir	4	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Big Darby Creek	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Big Walnut River	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckeye Lake	9	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burton Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C J Brown Reservoir/ Buck Creek Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caesar Creek Res.	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Candlewood Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cuyahoga River	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Creek Reservoir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Delaware Reservoir	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Dillon Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
East Fork Reservoir /Harsha Lake	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Farm Pond	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Lake St. Mary's	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Indian Lake	7	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Erie	83	0	7	3	39	3	1	2	1	4	6	4	4	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	0
Lake Mohawk	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Shawnee	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesville Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Miami River	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maumee River	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mosquito Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Muskingum River	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio River	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Olentangy River	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Body of Water	Total Vessels	Capsizing	Collision w/ fixed object	Collision w/ floating object	Collision w/ vessel	Fall in boat	Fall on a vessel	Fall overboard	Fire or explosion (fuel)	Fire or explosion (other)	Flooding/Swamping	Grounding	Other	Person ejected from vessel	Person left vessel	Person struck by boat	Sinking	Skier mishap	Starting engine	Struck by Propeller or Propulsion System	Struck submerged object	Unknown
O'Shaughnessy Reservoir	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paint Creek Reservoir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pipe Creek	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pleasant Hill	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portage Lakes	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Private Pond	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Private Quarry	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pymatuning Lake	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Fork Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salt Fork Lake	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sandusky River	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandy Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scioto River	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seneca Lake	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Springfield Lake	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twin Lakes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vermilion River	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walhonding River	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Branch Reservoir	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wolf Run Lake	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Vessels</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>

## 2003-2007 Boating Accident Summary by Body of Water

Body of Water	# Accidents	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities	Total Vessel Damages	Total Property Damages
5 Rivers Metroparks	2	4	2	0	\$2,175.00	\$0.00
Alum Creek Reservoir	31	35	16	1	\$35,014.00	\$23,100.00
Apple Valley Lake	3	4	2	0	\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00
Ashtabula River	4	6	0	0	\$50,052.00	\$0.00
Atwood Lake	2	3	2	0	\$135.00	\$100.00
Auglaize River	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Beaver Creek	1	2	0	0	\$700.00	\$0.00
Berlin Reservoir	12	17	5	0	\$23,321.00	\$2,350.00
Big Darby Creek	2	2	2	1	\$500.00	\$500.00
Big Walnut River	1	1	1	0	\$300.00	\$0.00
Buckeye Lake	17	21	9	1	\$15,698.00	\$295.00
Burr Oak Lake	2	2	0	0	\$3,100.00	\$0.00
Burton Lake	1	1	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
C J Brown Res/Buck Creek Lake	8	8	1	2	\$11,001.00	\$850.00
Caesar Creek Reservoir	22	27	17	0	\$10,550.00	\$0.00
Candlewood Lake	3	3	3	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chagrin River	3	4	1	0	\$5,500.00	\$0.00
Charles Mill Reservoir	2	2	2	0	\$100.00	\$0.00
Choctaw Lake	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cowan Lake	3	5	1	0	\$1,775.00	\$0.00
Crystal Lake	1	1	0	1	\$50.00	\$0.00
Cuyahoga River	8	10	1	2	\$33,660.00	\$5,000.00
Deer Creek Reservoir	13	16	3	0	\$16,857.00	\$0.00
Delaware Reservoir	10	11	6	0	\$9,949.00	\$1,575.00
Dillon Lake	3	4	2	0	\$2,250.00	\$0.00
East Fork Reservoir/Harsha Lake	20	25	14	2	\$25,450.00	\$600.00
Eastwood Lake	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emerald Lake	1	2	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Farm Pond	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Findlay Reservoir #2	1	1	0	0	\$800.00	\$0.00
Geauga Lake	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$500.00
Grand Lake St. Mary's	29	36	9	2	\$41,709.00	\$2,450.00
Grand River	2	2	3	0	\$3,400.00	\$0.00
Great Miami River	10	11	3	4	\$18,400.00	\$6,300.00
Griggs Reservoir	1	1	0	0	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Hargus Lake	1	1	1	0	\$80.00	\$0.00
Hocking River	1	1	0	0	\$0.00	\$800.00
Huron River	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indian Lake	28	43	14	0	\$29,176.00	\$3,450.00
Jackson Lake	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ladue Reservoir	1	1	2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake Buckhorn	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake Erie	292	393	144	16	\$4,160,168.00	\$158,150.00
Lake Lakengren	2	4	2	0	\$998.00	\$0.00

Body of Water	# Accidents	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities	Total Vessel Damages	Total Property Damages
Lake Lorelei	3	4	4	0	\$13,200.00	\$1,500.00
Lake Mohawk	2	2	3	0	\$250.00	\$0.00
Lake Otto	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake Shawnee	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake Wapusun	1	1	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lake White	3	3	4	0	\$6,300.00	\$0.00
Leesville Lake	1	1	1	0	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Little Miami River	3	3	2	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mad River	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Maumee River	29	42	14	2	\$86,224.00	\$4,500.00
Michael J. Kirwan	1	2	0	0	\$500.00	\$0.00
Mohican River	2	2	1	1	\$1,100.00	\$150.00
Mosquito Lake	14	18	6	2	\$18,938.00	\$1,295.00
Muskingum River	6	7	6	1	\$29,920.00	\$0.00
Nettle Lake	1	2	0	0	\$2,689.00	\$0.00
Ohio River	37	62	20	2	\$316,409.00	\$19,200.00
Olentangy River	2	2	2	1	\$600.00	\$0.00
O'Shaughnessy	1	2	0	0	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
Paint Creek Reservoir	5	5	2	1	\$12,500.00	\$0.00
Piedmont Lake	3	5	0	1	\$1,748.00	\$0.00
Pipe Creek	1	1	0	0	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Hill	7	10	10	0	\$12,996.00	\$0.00
Pond	2	2	0	2	\$150.00	\$0.00
Portage Lakes	12	19	3	2	\$34,001.00	\$7,850.00
Portage River	2	3	1	0	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Private Lake	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Private Pond	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Private Quarry	1	2	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pymatuning Lake	2	2	4	0	\$500.00	\$500.00
Rocky Fork Lake	9	11	0	1	\$28,800.00	\$500.00
Rocky River	4	7	2	0	\$7,100.00	\$30.00
Salt Fork Lake	10	13	4	0	\$21,750.00	\$600.00
Sandusky River	8	12	3	0	\$36,100.00	\$300.00
Sandy Lake	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scioto River	3	3	3	1	\$1,200.00	\$300.00
Seneca Lake	7	9	3	0	\$14,474.00	\$7,100.00
Springfield Lake	2	4	0	0	\$4,300.00	\$0.00
St. Joe River	1	1	0	0	\$300.00	\$150.00
Tappan Lake	3	4	2	1	\$100.00	\$0.00
Tuscarawas River	2	2	2	0	\$11,200.00	\$0.00
Twin Lakes	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vermilion River	5	11	0	0	\$29,300.00	\$590.00
Walborn Reservoir	1	1	1	0	\$20.00	\$0.00
Walhonding River	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$100.00
West Branch Reservoir	12	14	5	0	\$39,162.00	\$0.00

Body of Water	# Accidents	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities	Total Vessel Damages	Total Property Damages
Wingfoot Lake	1	1	0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wolf Run Lake	1	1	1	0	\$0.00	\$50.00
<b>Five-Year Total</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$5,268,599.00</b>	<b>\$251,735.00</b>

**State of Ohio Recreational Boating Accident Guidelines**  
**The Ohio Revised Code, Section 1547.59 states:**

The operator of a vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty, so far as the operator can do so without serious danger to the operator's own vessel, crew, and passengers, shall render to other persons affected by the collision, accident, or other casualty such assistance as may be practicable and as may be necessary in order to save them from or minimize any danger caused by the collision, accident, or other casualty. The operator also shall give the operator's name, address, and identification of the operator's vessel in writing to any person injured and to the owner of any property damaged in the collision, accident, or other casualty.

Any person who renders assistance at the scene of a collision, accident, or other casualty involving a vessel is not liable in a civil action for damages or injury to persons or property resulting from any act or omission in rendering assistance or in providing or arranging salvage, towage, medical treatment, or other assistance, except that the person is liable for willful or wanton misconduct in rendering assistance. Nothing in this section precludes recovery from any tortfeasor causing a collision, accident, or other casualty of damages caused or aggravated by the rendering of assistance.

In the case of collision, accident, or other casualty involving a vessel, the operator thereof, if the collision, accident, or other casualty results in loss of life, personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid, or damage to property in excess of five hundred dollars, shall file with the chief of the division of watercraft a full description of the collision, accident, or other casualty on a form prescribed by the chief. The report so filed shall be used for statistical purposes only and shall not be admissible for any purpose in any civil, criminal, or administrative action at law.

If the operator of the vessel involved in a collision, accident, or other casualty is incapacitated, the investigating law enforcement officer shall file the required form as prescribed by the chief.

## U.S. Coast Guard Reportable Recreational Boating Accident Guidelines

Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 173, Subpart C, Casualty and Accident Reporting, applies to vessels that are used by their operators for recreational purposes, or that are required to be numbered (including those documented for pleasure), except for those vessels required by law to have a Certificate of Inspection. A casualty or accident report must be submitted to the reporting authority if an occurrence involving these vessels or their equipment results in one or more of the following:

- I.
  - a. A person dies; or
  - b. A person is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid (i.e., treatment at a medical facility or by a physician other than at the accident scene); or
  - c. Damage to the vessel and other property totals more than \$2,000 or there is a complete loss of the vessel; or (Note: the reporting threshold under 1547 ORC remains \$500)
  - d. A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury.
- II. Examples of accidents that are considered reportable as boating accidents, and that might have been prevented or their effects mitigated by specific components of a boating safety program (i.e., by boating courses, public information campaigns, law enforcement, development and enforcement of boat construction or equipment standards, etc.):
  - a. grounding
  - b. capsizing
  - c. flooding/swamping
  - d. falls within or overboard a vessel
  - e. person(s) ejected from a vessel
  - f. person leaves a vessel that is underway to swim for pleasure
  - g. person leaves a vessel in an attempt to retrieve a lost item, another person or another vessel
  - h. sinking
  - i. fire or explosion
  - j. skier mishap
  - k. collision with another vessel or object
  - l. striking a submerged object
  - m. the vessel, propeller, propulsion unit, or steering machinery strikes a person
  - n. carbon monoxide asphyxiation

III. The following are examples of occurrences directly or indirectly involving a vessel that are generally considered to be outside the scope of a boating safety program and, therefore, are **non-reportable** as boating accidents. While they may or may not be reported in a state on a boating accident report, they are not included in Boating Statistics published annually by the U.S. Coast Guard.

- a. A person dies or is injured from self-inflicted wounds, alcohol poisoning, ingestion of drugs, controlled substances or poison; or from gunshot wounds.
- b. A person dies or is injured from assault by another person or persons while aboard a vessel.
- c. A person dies or is injured from natural causes while aboard a vessel.
- d. A person dies or is injured while swimming for pleasure from a vessel that is not underway (the vessel is anchored, moored or docked)

The following are **reportable** boating accidents involving a swimmer, a recreational vessel and its operation:

- 1. a person dies or is injured while swimming because of carbon monoxide asphyxiation;
  - 2. a person dies or is injured while swimming because a vessel is improperly connected to a shore power and resultant electrical current enters the water causing electrocution;
  - 3. a person dies or is injured after leaving a vessel that is underway to swim for pleasure because the vessel is not anchored, moored or docked and the vessel drifts away from the swimmer and the swimmer is unable to get back to the vessel.
- e. A person dies or is injured in swimming to retrieve an object or a vessel that is adrift from its mooring, having departed from the shore or pier.
  - f. A person dies or is injured after falling or jumping from a swim raft that is moored or anchored for use as a swimming platform or other purpose.
  - g. A person dies, is injured, or property damage occurs while preparing a vessel for launching or retrieving a vessel and the vessel is not in or upon the water.
  - h. Damage, injury or death results from a fire on shore or a pier that spreads to a vessel or vessels.
  - i. A person dies, is injured, or property damage results from an "ice boat" accident. An 'ice boat' is a device which is designed to travel primarily over the ice on lakes and rivers on runner/blades, carrying at least one person and using a sail for propulsion. It is not designed for use nor has the ability to navigate on open water.

j. Damage, injury or death on a docked or moored vessel resulting from storms, unusual tidal, sea or swell conditions; or when a vessel gets underway in those conditions in an attempt to rescue persons put in peril.

k. Damage to a docked or moored vessel due to theft or any vandalism.

l. Deaths, injury or damage on a docked, moored or anchored non-propelled houseboat or other vessel used primarily as a permanent residence.

m. A person dies or is injured while using underwater breathing apparatus (i.e. snorkeling or scuba diving) and the vessel did not contribute to the casualty.