



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 1997

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 1997. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$500 must be reported.

Comments on the year...

There were 123 reported recreational boating accidents in 1997. These accidents resulted in 19 fatalities, more than double the total in 1996 and the highest since 1993.

Fourteen of the nineteen fatalities involved capsizing or a fall overboard. In almost any given year, these two accident types will account for a majority of fatalities.

Although there were no fatalities in 1997 involving personal watercraft (PWC), PWC accidents rose to an all time high of 34, as the craft continued to grow in popularity.

Of the 19 total fatalities, only 3 victims were wearing their life jackets. Ten of the victims who were not wearing life jackets had them on board the boat.

Eight of nineteen fatalities involved non-motorized vessels. Five of the eight involved canoes and one a kayak. Both of these small craft overturn easily, so it is very important to wear a life jacket while in these types of vessels. Four of the victims in the canoe and kayak accidents were not wearing their life jackets, and 3 of these 4 were not carrying them on board at the time of the accident.

Fourteen of the victims were tested for alcohol. Of these, 8 tested negative, 2 tested positive but well below the legal limit of .08, and four tested above the legal limit.

	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatality Rate**
1988	160,000	115	24	1.50	.91
1989	165,771	81	16	.97	.83
1990	173,572	107	7	.35	.79
1991	177,134	110	22	1.24	.83
1992	180,138	94	9	.50	.74
1993	184,007	85	25	1.36	.71
1994	188,792	121	10	.53	.69
1995	191,915	144	18	.94	.71
1996	195,080	115	8	.41	.59
1997	197,315	123	19	.96	.67

*It is estimated that only 10 to 15 percent of reportable accidents are actually reported
**Rate per 10,000 registered boats

ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 1997

ACTIVITY

At Anchor.....	2
Cruising.....	7
Drifting.....	3
Fishing.....	2
Paddling.....	1
Waterskiing.....	1
Unknown.....	3

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing.....	12
Collision w/Boat.....	2
Fall Overboard.....	2
Sinking.....	1
Grounding.....	1
Unknown.....	1

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Alcohol.....	1
Hazardous Waters.....	4
Op. Inexperience/Error.....	2
Overloading.....	2
Reckless Operation.....	3
Weather Conditions.....	4
Other.....	3

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor.....	10
Cabin Motor.....	1
Inflatable.....	0
Canoe/Kayak.....	6
Pers. Watercraft.....	0
Driftboat.....	2
Sailboat.....	0

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10'.....	0
10' to 12'.....	0
12' to 14'.....	3
14' to 16'.....	2
16' to 18'.....	7
18' to 20'.....	3
20'+.....	3
Unknown.....	1

MONTH

January.....	3
February.....	0
March.....	2
April.....	2
May.....	1
June.....	2
July.....	2
August.....	5
September.....	0
October.....	0
November.....	2
December.....	0

BODY OF WATER

River.....	12
Lake.....	5
Ocean.....	2
Bay.....	0

SEX

Male.....	14
Female.....	5

WATER TEMP

40 and Below.....	0
41 to 50 F.....	4
51 to 60 F.....	6
61 to 70 F.....	5
Above 70 F.....	1
Unknown.....	3

PERSONAL

FLOTATION DEVICES

Aboard Not Used.....	10
Not Aboard.....	5
Aboard and Used.....	3
Unknown.....	1

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18.....	1
18 to 25.....	3
26 to 35.....	4
36 to 50.....	7
Over 50.....	4

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

RIVERS

Columbia R., Dodson
 Columbia R., Hat
 Rock Park
 Columbia R., Sundial
 Columbia R., N. Ptld.
 Hrbr.
 John Day R., river mile
 one

RIVERS-CONT.

McKenzie R., Helfrich
 Landing
 Rogue R., Blossom Bar
 Rogue R., Copper
 Canyon*
 Santiam R., Lyons
 Willamette R., N. of St.
 John's Brdg.

OCEAN

N. of Seal Rock*

LAKES

Devils Lake*
 Fern Ridge Reservoir
 Green Peter Reservoir
 Siltcoos Lake

* Two Died