



# OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 2003

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2003. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$2,000 must be reported.

## Comments on the year...

In 2003 there were 74 reported recreational boating accidents in Oregon, in which 18 people (.91 per 10,000 registered boaters) died.

Of the 18 fatalities only 4 people were wearing their lifejackets. Most of the victims would have survived had they worn their lifejacket.

Of the 18 fatalities 11 happened while the boaters were fishing. More than 60% of the boating activity in Oregon is fishing.

The ‘Type’ of accident that claimed 10 lives was ‘Capsizing’. Most fatalities involve ‘Capsizing’ or ‘Falls Overboard.’

One unusual thing to note was the number of fatalities late in the year. We lost five boaters from October to December which is more than we lost from May to July, three of our heavier boating months. Usually once we get past September, boating activity and accidents/fatalities drop off considerably.

	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatality Rate**
1994	188,792	121	10	.53	.69
1995	191,915	144	18	.94	.71
1996	195,080	115	8	.41	.71
1997	197,315	123	19	.96	.67
1998	197,634	120	20	1.01	.65
1999	196,102	98	16	.82	.58
2000	194,828	100	14	.72	.55
2001	194,615	70	14	.72	.53
2002	194,582	80	16	.82	.58
2003	197,591	74	18	.91	.55

## ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 2003

Activity	Type of Accident	Cause of Accident
At Anchor.....0	Capsizing ..... 10	Alcohol..... 0
Crabbing.....2	Collision w/Vessel..... 0	Hazardous Waters..... 1
Cruising .....0	Collision w/Floating Object ..... 1	Improper Anchoring..... 0
Kayaking.....1	Falls Overboard .....0	Op. Inexp./Error..... 5
Fishing..... 11	Sinking .....0	Overloading ..... 3
Hunting.....0	Grounding ..... 1	Reckless Operation ..... 0
Relaxing .....2	Unknown .....6	Restricted Vision..... 0
Whitewater Sports.....0		Weather Condition..... 2
Unknown .....2		Other.....6
		Unknown..... 1
Craft Type	Boat Length	Month
Open Motorboat ..... 7	Less than 10' ..... 1	January..... 0
Cabin Motorboat..... 4	10'-12' .....6	February ..... 0
Inflatable..... 0	12'-14' .....0	March..... 2
Canoe/Kayak..... 3	14'-16' .....5	April ..... 1
PWC..... 0	16'-18-..... 2	May ..... 1
Driftboat..... 4	18'-20' ..... 1	June ..... 1
Sailboat ..... 0	20'+ ..... 3	July ..... 2
	Unknown .....0	August ..... 6
		September ..... 0
		October ..... 2
		November ..... 2
		December ..... 1
Body of Water	Gender	
River..... 7*	Male ..... 15	
Lake..... 4*	Female .....3	
Ocean..... 2*		
Reservoir ..... 2		
Bay ..... 0		
*2 Died		
Water Temperature	Personal Flotation Devices	Operator Age
40 & Below ..... 0	Aboard Not Used ..... 14	Under 18..... 0
41-50 ..... 5	Not Aboard.....0	18-25 ..... 2
51-60 ..... 6	Aboard & Used ..... 4	26-35 ..... 4
61-70 ..... 0	Used But Not Worn.....0	36-50 ..... 4
Above 70 ..... 0	Unknow .....0	Over 50 ..... 8
Unknown ..... 7		
Waterbody Type		
Rivers	Lakes	Ocean
Clackamas River, Promontory Park	Clear Lake, North End*	Pacific Ocean, S. Jetty Chetco River Mouth*
Columbia River, Channel Mrkr. 46	Klamath Lake, Off Lakeshore Dr.	Pacific Ocean, Del Ray Beach
Columbia River, Buoy 10	Private Irrigation Pond, Central Point	*2 Died
McKenzie River, Mile Post 15	Triangle Lake, Middle of Lake	
Rogue River, Port of Gold Beach*	*2 Died	
Umpqua River, 10 miles E. of Elkton		
Umpqua River	Reservoir	
*2 Died	Plat 1 Reservoir, 150 ft. from shore	
	Wickiup Reservoir, Middle of Lake	