



Oregon Recreational Boating Fatality Statistics – 2021

The following statistics were taken from boating incident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2021.
Incidents involving death, injury, or boat and/or property damage of \$2,000 or more must be reported.

Oregon had 18 recreational boating fatalities in 2021 – seven less than the 26 in 2020, which was the most since 1987. The oldest victim was 78 and the youngest was five.

Eight of the 18 victims were wearing life jackets. Of those eight: two were entrapped in a boat's cabin when it capsized; one victim took his deployed inflatable off to escape from a capsized boat; one of the victims was paddling in Class II rapids and another paddling in Class IV-V rapids. Two fatalities involved minors: a 5-year-old girl died when trapped in a boat's cabin and a 10-year-old girl died when floating down a river in an inflatable raft when she fell out without a life jacket. Of the 19 fatalities it is likely that 10 of the victims would have survived their incidents had they been wearing a life jacket.

Six of the 18 fatalities were in non-motorized boats; 12 were in motorized boats (three double fatalities in three separate boats). Twelve of the 18 fatalities were 50 years old and older; two were five to 18 years old; and four were the age 19 to 49. The victims in six of the 18 fatalities were the operator and sole occupant on the boat; six were passengers; and six were the operator. Of the six sole-occupant fatalities, three were in non-motorized boats.

The primary cause of fatal incidents this year was operator error and then was split between operator inexperience and hazardous waters; however, there were two fatalities for which a specific cause was not determined.

Year	Registered Boats	Incidents*	Oregon Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatalities	U.S. Fatality Rate**
2011	171,983	66	10	5.81	758	6.2
2012	169,188	70	19	11.23	651	5.4
2013	166,664	59	12	7.20	560	4.7
2014	161,358	61	7	4.29	610	5.2
2015	168,175	65	15	8.92	626	5.3
2016	156,168	82	19	12.17	701	5.9
2017	168,933	60	12	7.10	658	5.5
2018	168,100	65	17	10.1	633	5.3
2019	165,253	62	18	10.9	613	5.2
2020	164,838	91	26	15.8	767	6.5
2021	163,060	42	18	11.0	658	5.5

(-) Figures not in yet from USCG

* Non-fatal incidents are severely under-reported

** Rate per 100,000 registered boats

(These statistics reflect recreational boaters only)

Analysis of Fatal Boating Incidents – 2021

Activity	Type of Incident	Cause of Incident
Fishing/Crabbing..... 6	Capsizing8	Alcohol/Drugs 1
Cruising..... 2	Collision w/Fixed Object..... 0	Force of Wave/Wake 1
Tubing..... 1	Collision w/Subm. Obj 0	Op. Inattention 1
Waterskiing..... 0	Ejected from Vessel 0	No Proper Lookout..... 0
Windsurfing 0	Falls Overboard..... 3	Op. Inexperience/ Error 6
Paddling.....3	Flooding/Swamping 0	Language Barrier..... 0
Floating..... 1	Person Left Voluntarily..... 2	Improper Loading 1
Whitewater Paddling..... 2	Improper Anchoring..... 0	Hazardous Water 3
Relaxing..... 0	Sudden Medical..... 0	Heavy Weather..... 0
Other..... 0	Other..... 0	Other..... 0
Unknown..... 0	Unknown 2	Unknown 2

Type of Boat	Boat Length	Month
Open Motorboat..... 5	Less than 10' 2	January..... 0
Cabin Motorboat 2	10' – 11.9' 0	February 1
Inflatable..... 2	12' – 13.9' 2	March 2
Kayak 4	14' – 15.9' 2	April..... 0
Canoe..... 0	16' – 17.9' 1	May..... 0
Personal Watercraft (PWC) 1	18' – 19.9' 0	June 3
Pontoon Boat..... 0	20' or more 4	July 3
Aux. Sailboat..... 1	Unknown 4	August 1
Stand-up Paddleboard..... 0		September 1
		October 2
		November..... 0
		December 2

Body of Water	Gender
River 5	Male13
Lake/Reservoir 6	Female 5
Ocean 3	
Bay..... 1	
Bar Crossings 0	

Water Temperature	Age	Oprtr	Dcsd	Life Jackets
Below 41° F..... 1	Under 18.....0..... 2			Worn..... 4
41° - 51° F 2	18 – 250..... 0			Not Worn.....8
52° - 61° F..... 2	26 – 351..... 1			Inflatable Worn..... 4
62° - 70° F..... 1	36 – 502..... 0			Not Aboard..... 2
Above 70° F 3	Over 508 4			Not Applicable..... 0
Unknown 8				

Waterways Incidents Occurred

Rivers	Bar Crossings/Bays	Lakes/Reservoirs
Willamette River – Swan Island	Netarts Bay	Lake Owyhee
Minam River		Fern Ridge Lake
Columbia River – Nichols Boat Basin		Cottage Grove Res.
Rogue River – Chinook Park		Henry Hagg Lake
Deschutes River – near Lava Island		Fall Creek Reservoir
	Ocean	Eel Lake
	Pacific Ocean – near Umpqua River	
	Pacific Ocean – S. of Manzanita	
	Pacific Ocean – near Nye Beach	