



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 2015

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2015. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$2,000 must be reported.

Comments on the year.....

In 2015 we had 16 people die in recreational boating accidents in Oregon. This is more than twice the fatalities we had in 2014. Our oldest victim was 81, our youngest victim, sadly, was only 4.

Only 4 of the 16 victims were wearing their life jackets. One of those 4 persons had a heart attack while water skiing, another person's lanyard got tangled in a root wad, and a third person died of hypothermia. In these three instances their life jackets were of no use. The fourth PFD wearer was the 4-year-old, who drowned in extremely rough waters in a narrow gorge. Of the 16 fatalities it is reasonable to assume that had the other 12 victims worn their life jackets, they would probably have survived their accidents.

6 of the 16 victims were in an open motor boat, 1 was on a PWC, 6 were in non-motorized boats, 2 were on paddle boards, and 1 was on a log raft.

8 of the 16 victims were over the age of 50. In 11 of the 16 fatalities the victim was the operator. In 6 of the 16 fatalities the victim was the operator and sole occupant.

The number one cause of fatal accidents this year was *Alcohol/Drugs*, followed by a tie between *Hazardous Waters* and *Operator Inexperience/Error*.

Year	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Oregon Fatalities	Fatality Rate Oregon**	U.S. Fatality Rate**	Fatalities U.S.
2005	187,640	74	15	.80	.54	697
2006	186,497	66	20	1.07	.56	710
2007	184,147	66	9	.49	.53	685
2008	180,063	60	13	.72	.56	709
2009	180,552	65	13	.72	.58	736
2010	177,634	64	12	.67	.54	672
2011	171,983	66	10	.52	.62	758
2012	169,188	74	19	.89	.54	651
2013	166,664	67	10	.60	.47	560
2014	Est. 166,700	69	7	.42	.52	610
2015	Est. 166,700	69	16	.96	-	-

(-) Figures not in yet from USCG

* It is estimated that only 10 to 15% of reportable accidents are actually reported.

** Rate per 10,000 registered boats.

(These statistics reflect recreational boaters only)

ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS – 2015

Activity	Type of Accident	Cause of Accident
Fishing..... 6	Capsizing6	Alcohol/Drugs.....5
Hunting.....0	Collision w/Fixed Object1	Force of Wave/Wake.....1
Tubing0	Collision w/Vessel0	Hazardous Waters.....3
Waterskiing.....1	Ejected from Vessel.....1	No Proper Lookout0
Windsurfing0	Falls Overboard.....4	Op. Inexperience/ Error3
Making Repairs.....0	Flooding/Swamping1	People-Bow/Gunwale/Transom..0
Starting Engine0	Sinking0	Passenger/ Skier Behavior1
Whitewater Sports4	Grounding0	Restricted Vision0
Relaxing4	Skier/Tuber Mishap1	Sudden Medical Condition.....2
Paddle Boarding1	Left Boat Voluntarily1	Weather Conditions1
Unknown0	Unknown1	Unknown0

Type of Craft	Boat Length	Month
Open Motorboat.....6	Less than 10'2	January0
Auxiliary Sailboat0	10' - 12'3	February.....0
Inflatable.....2	12' – 14'2	March1
Canoe/ Kayak3	14' – 16'3	April.....2
Personal Watercraft (PWC)1	16' – 18'2	May1
Drift boat1	18' – 20'2	June5
Paddleboard/Sailboard2	20'+1	July3
Log Raft.....1	Unknown1	August3
		September0
		October1
		November.....0
		December.....0

Body of Water	Gender
River11	Male 16
Lake 2	Female 0
Ocean 2	
Bay 1	
Reservoir 0	

Water Temperature	Age	Oprtr	Dcsd	Personal Floatation Device
Below 41° F0	Under 180..... 1			Aboard and Used *4
41° - 51° F2	18 – 252..... 1			Aboard and Not Used.....8
52° - 61° F6	26 – 352..... 3			Used But Not Worn0
62° - 70° F4	36 – 505..... 3			Not Aboard.....3
Above 70° F1	Over 507..... 8			Unknown0
Unknown3				

*1 lanyard tangled in root wad, 1 died of hypothermia,
1 had heart attack. 1 drowned-extreme rough waters

WATERWAYS ACCIDENTS OCCURRED

Rivers

Umpqua River – Crow Rapids
M Fk Willamette River – Jasper Landing
Columbia River – near Wells Island
Umpqua River – near Scottsburg Park
M Fk Willamette River–near Clearwater Pk
Rogue River – near McGregor ramp
M Fk Willamette River–near Clearwater Pk
Columbia River – South Channel

Rivers (cont.)

South Channel – near Government Is
Rogue River – Takelma Gorge
Columbia River – near Hood River

Ocean

Pacific Ocean, Port of Gold Beach
Pacific Ocean, near Newport

Lakes

Betty Lake
Diamond Lake

Bays

Tillamook Bay – North of North Jetty