



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 1998

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 1998. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$500 must be reported.

Comments on the year...

In 1998, 20 people died in recreational boating accidents in Oregon, the most in five years. The total number of reported accidents was 120.

The number of accidents involving personal watercraft fell to 22, the lowest total since 1994. Unfortunately, these accidents included two fatalities, the first since 1995.

Seven of the twenty victims were wearing life jackets, an unusually high percentage. Accidents in which people die despite wearing life jackets usually fall into a few specific categories. In white water accidents, low opportunity for self rescue, and hazards like rocks, debris and river hydraulics make wearing a life jacket no guarantee for survival. In collisions, life jackets may not protect a person from injury. Coastal accidents also claim victims wearing life jackets, for the reasons outlined below. Nevertheless, wearing a life jacket is still the best way to reduce your risk of drowning.

There were three multiple victim accidents on coastal bars in 1998. Most multiple victim accidents occur on the ocean. In coastal accidents, low opportunity for self-rescue, length of time involved in rescue and cold water temperatures can combine to work against survival.

Of the 20 victims, 9 were tested for alcohol. Four tested positive, with one testing above the legal limit. Some victims were not tested due to age, body decomposition or because the body was not recovered.

	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatality Rate**
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
1998	197,634	120	20	1.01	.65

*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 - 1998

ACTIVITY

Cruising 7
 Drifting 4
 Fishing 3
 Paddling 4
 Unknown 2

TYPE CRAFT

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

BODY OF WATER

River 9
 Lake 5
 Ocean 6
 Bay 0

WATER TEMP

40 and Below 1
 41 to 50 F 3
 51 to 60 F 3
 61 to 70 F 4
 Above 70 F 1
 Unknown 8

RIVERS

Columbia R., John Day
 Dam
 Illinois R., Green Wall*
 Owyhee R., Bull's Eye
 Rapid
 S. Umpqua R., Pickett
 Butte bridge
 S. Umpqua R., Riddle
 Umpqua R., below
 Scott Creek Ramp

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing 14
 Collision w/PWC 1
 Fall Overboard 2
 Collision w/fxd object 2
 Coll. w/floating object 1

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10' 1
 10' to 12' 3
 12' to 14' 5
 14' to 16' 1
 16' to 18' 3
 18' to 20' 3
 20'+ 4

SEX

Male 19
 Female 1

PERSONAL

FLOTATION DEVICES

Aboard Not Used 9
 Not Aboard 3
 Aboard and Used 7
 Unknown 1

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

RIVERS-CONT.

Willamette R., Junction
 City
 Willamette R., Swan
 Island

OCEAN

Alesea River Bar*
 Columbia River Bar*
 Columbia River Bar*

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Alcohol 1
 Boat Undersize for
 Conditions 1
 Excessive Speed 1
 Hazardous Waters ... 7
 Improper Anchoring . 1
 Mechanical Problem . 2
 No Proper Lookout .. 2
 Passenger Movement 1
 Weather Conditions .. 1
 Unknown 3

MONTH

January 1
 February 4
 March 2
 April 0
 May 2
 June 2
 July 1
 August 3
 September 3
 October 0
 November 2
 December 0

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18 0
 18 to 25 5
 26 to 35 2
 36 to 50 7
 Over 50 6

LAKES

Detroit Lake, Blowout
 Arm
 Detroit Lake, S. of
 Mongold Ramp
 Fern Ridge Reservoir
 Green Peter Reservoir,
 Middle Santiam Arm
 Lake Billy Chinook

*Two Died