



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 1985

The following statistics were extracted from boating accident reports received by the Oregon State Marine Board for 1984 calendar year.

Comments on the year...

In 1985, 23 people were killed in recreational boating accidents. Since 1980, we have lost fewer than 24 boaters per year. This compares to an average of over 31 boaters per year during the 1970's.

Of the 23 fatalities, only 5 bodies were tested for blood alcohol content*. Of the 5 tested, 3 had blood alcohol levels above .08 (the legal level of intoxication on Oregon's highways). The average blood alcohol content for the 3 was .23.

Research indicates that alcohol is a factor in 60% of all recreational boating accidents.

This past August we suffered our worst single boat accident this decade when 5 people lost their lives on the Columbia River Bar. The Marine Board strongly advises boaters to wear a life jacket whenever they boat on or near the bar and the ocean.

*Most victims were not tested because they were never recovered or their bodies were too decomposed to get an accurate reading.

10 Year Summary

Year	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate*	U.S. Fatality Rate*
1976	115,880	152	41	3.54	1.65
1977	118,485	115	23	1.94	1.65
1978	124,069	134	31	2.50	1.64
1979	139,965	134	41	2.93	1.69
1980	133,877	110	23	1.72	1.59
1981	136,999	121	26	1.90	1.36
1982	137,625	123	20	1.45	1.30
1983	138,131	80	23	1.67	1.35
1984	140,145	113	26	1.86	1.13
1985	143,373	95	23	1.60	1.16

*Rate per 10,000 registered boats

ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 1985

ACTIVITY

Cruising	3
Drifting	8
Drifting, Fish	1
At Anchor Fish.....	1
Cruising, Fish.....	3
At Anchor	0
Water Skiing	0
Cruising, Sailing.....	0
Cruising, Hunting	0
Racing	0
Drifting, Hunting	1
Other.....	1
Unknown	5

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor	9
Cabin Motor	5
Canoe/Kayak.....	5
Auxiliary Sail.....	0
Inflatable	1
Rowboat.....	3
Sail.....	0

BODY OF WATER

River.....	14
Lake	3
Ocean	6
Bay	0

WATER TEMP

40 and Below	6
41 to 50 F	4
51 to 60 F	13
61 to 70 F	0
Above 70 F.....	0

RIVERS

Clackamas River, mi. Post 36
 Columbia River, W. of Meglar Bridge
 Columbia River, near Mitchell Pt. *
 Columbia River, near Sauvie Island
 Columbia River, near Svensen Island
 Deschutes River, Sherar's Falls
 John Day River (N. Fork) 4 mi. N. of Monument *
 Multnomah Channel near Rocky Pt. Moorage
 Nehalem River, Nehalem Falls
 Rogue River, E. of Rogue River Bridge
 Willamette River, near Newberg
 Willamette River, Oregon City Falls

*Two Killed

**Five Killed in Accident

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing	11
Falls Overboard	4
Collision w/Fixed object	1
Swamping/Flooding.....	1
Collision w/Vessel	0
Struck by Boat or Propeller....	0
Grounding	0
Sinking.....	0
Collision w/Floating Object	0
Fire/Explosion	1
Unknown	5
Other	0

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10'	1
10' to 12'	2
12' to 14'	3
14' to 16'	1
16' to 18'	8
18' to 20'	8
20'+.....	0

GENDER

Male	22
Female.....	1

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Aboard Not Used	14
Not Aboard.....	7
Aboard and Used	2
Insufficient Number	0

LAKES

Dorena Reservoir
 Salmonberry Lake
 Woahink Lake

OCEAN

Columbia River Bar near Clatsop Spit**
 Netarts Bar

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Op. Inexperience.....	6
Overloading.....	1
Hazardous Waters.....	3
Passenger Movement.....	3
Fault of Other Operator	0
Fault of Machinery	1
Leaning Over Stern	0
Riding on Bow.....	0
Stern Anchoring	0
Weather Conditions.....	0
Alcohol.....	1
Oar Broke.....	1
Unknown	7

MONTH

January.....	0
February.....	3
March	1
April.....	5
May	1
June.....	1
July	0
August.....	9
September.....	1
October	1
November	1
December.....	0

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18.....	1
18 to 25	3
26 to 35	5
36 to 50	3
Over 50	4
No Operator	0
Unknown	1