



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 1991

The following statistics were extracted from boating accident reports received by the Oregon State Marine Board for 1991 calendar year.

Comments on the year...

In 1991, 22 people lost their lives in recreational boating accidents. Ten died in non-motorized boats, eight in canoes/kayaks. In many of these cases, there were life jackets on board but they were not worn. The water was cold (less than 70 degrees) and turbulent. Once the craft capsized, the victim was unable to put a life jacket on and had little time for rescue. The Marine Board advises people to always wear a life jacket when boating on cold water and on waterways that are rough or have a strong current.

We suffered one of our worst accidents in recent years when four people drowned boating off of Depoe Bay. The accident was not witnessed and there were no survivors so the cause of the accident is unknown. However, the boat's outboard engine had a history of malfunctioning and it is probable that there was engine trouble and the 16' boat capsized.

This was the second consecutive year that there were no fatalities on the Deschutes and Clackamas Rivers. We have averaged at least one fatal accident per year on each of these two rivers.

Six of the thirteen victims who were tested for alcohol content in their blood tested positive. Others were not tested due to age, body decomposition or because their bodies were never recovered.

There were eight accidents involving personal watercraft.

10 Year Summary

Year	Registered Boats	Accidents	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate*	U.S. Fatality Rate*
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
1986	147,423	84	18	1.22	1.08
1987	153,087	101	28	1.83	1.04
1988	160,000	115	24	1.50	.91
1989	165,771	81	16	.97	.83
1990	173,572	107	7	.35	.79
1991	177,134	110	22	1.24	.83

*Rate per 10,000 registered boats

ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 1991

ACTIVITY

Cruising	1
Drifting	10
Fishing	8
Water Skiing	1
Ocean Kayaking.....	1
Tied to Dock	1

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor	11
Cabin Motor	1
Canoe/Kayak.....	8
Drift/Rowboat	1
Sail.....	0
Personal Watercraft	0
Inflatable	1

BODY OF WATER

River.....	10
Lake	2
Ocean	8
Bay	2

WATER TEMP

40 and Below	0
41 to 50 F	9
51 to 60 F	10
61 to 70 F	2
Above 70 F.....	1

RIVERS

Hagg Lake
Ketchum Lake*
Lost Creek Lake
Unity Reservoir

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing	13
Falls Overboard	1
Collision With Fixed Object....	1
Fire Explosion	1
Unknown	2

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10'.....	1
10' to 12'	2
12' to 14'	0
14' to 16'	2
16' to 18'	8
18' to 20'	3
20'+.....	1
Unknown	5

GENDER

Male	20
Female.....	2

PERSONAL FLOTATION

DEVICES

Aboard Not Used	2
Not Aboard.....	3
Aboard and Used	1
³ Not Applicable	1

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Lack of Proper Lookout.....	1
Weather Conditions.....	1
Sail Mast Hit Power Line....	1
Improper Towing	1
Unknown	3

MONTH

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

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18.....	0
18 to 25	2
26 to 35	2
36 to 50	0
Over 50	3

RIVERS

Willamette River, near Wallace Park

BAYS

Coos Bay, near Fossil Point

**Two Killed*