



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 1992

The following statistics were extracted from boating accident reports received by the Oregon State Marine Board for 1992 calendar year.

Comments on the year...

1992 was the second safest year on record as nine people died in recreational boating accidents. 22 people died in 1991 while boating. The record low was set in 1990 when seven boaters perished in accidents.

1992 was only the second year in the last 20 when Oregon's fatality rate, .50 deaths per 10,000 registered boats, was lower than the national rate.

On a less positive note, accidents involving personal watercraft reached a record high. Personal watercraft were involved in 14 accidents, including two deaths. The two fatalities matched the combined total number of personal watercraft deaths for all previous years.

Of the nine victims, four were wearing life jackets. At close to 50%, this is an unusually high percentage of boaters to die with a life jacket on. The reason for this statistical oddity is that three of the four victims were killed when they were hit by a boat. In these situations a life jacket offers little protection. In an average year 80 to 85 percent of recreational boating deaths involve drowning, almost all preventable if a life jacket is worn.

For the third consecutive year there were no fatalities on the Deschutes and Clackamas Rivers. We have averaged at least one fatality per year on each of these two rivers.

We do not have much information on alcohol involvement in 1992's fatal accidents. Most victims were not tested for alcohol due to age, body decomposition or because their bodies were never recovered.

10 Year Summary

| Year | Registered Boats | Accidents* | Fatalities | Oregon Fatality Rate** | U.S. Fatality Rate** |
|------|------------------|------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 |
| 1992 | 180,138 | 94 | 9 | .50 | .74 |

*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 - 1992

ACTIVITY

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Cruising | 4 |
| Fishing | 3 |
| At Anchor | 1 |
| Swimming..... | 1 |

TYPE CRAFT

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Open Motor | 6 |
| Pers. Watercraft..... | 2 |
| Drift/Rowboat | 1 |
| Canoe/Kayak..... | 0 |
| Sail..... | 0 |
| Inflatable | 0 |
| Cabin Motorboat | 0 |

BODY OF WATER

| | |
|-------------|---|
| River..... | 4 |
| Lake | 1 |
| Ocean | 4 |
| Bay | 0 |

WATER TEMP

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 40 and Below | 0 |
| 41 to 50 F | 2 |
| 51 to 60 F | 3 |
| 61 to 70 F | 3 |
| Above 70 F..... | 1 |
| | 3 |

RIVERS

Columbia River, E of 205 Bridge
 Columbia River, Hammond
 N. Umpqua River, Amacher Pk
 Willamette River, Sellwood Pk

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Capsizing | 3 |
| Collision With Vessel..... | 2 |
| Sinking..... | 1 |
| Hit by Boat/Prop..... | 1 |
| Unknown | 2 |

BOAT LENGTH

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

GENDER

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Male | 7 |
| Female..... | 2 |

PERSONAL FLOTATION

DEVICES

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Aboard Not Used | 5 |
| Not Aboard..... | 0 |
| Aboard and Used | 4 |
| Unknown..... | 0 |

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

Ocean

Columbia River Bar*
 Nehalem Bar
 Rogue River Bar

LAKES

Copeland Pond, Grants Pass

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Hazardous Waters | 3 |
| Op. Inexperience/Error..... | 2 |
| Undersized Boat..... | 1 |
| No Proper Lookout..... | 1 |
| Unknown | 2 |

MONTH

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

OPERATOR AGE

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Under 18..... | 1 |
| 18 to 25 | 1 |
| 26 to 35 | 1 |
| 36 to 50 | 3 |
| Over 50 | 3 |

**Two Killed*