



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 1993

The following statistics were extracted from boating accident reports received by the Oregon State Marine Board for 1993 calendar year.

Comments on the year...

In 1993, 25 people died in Oregon recreational boating accidents, the most fatalities since 1987. While national fatality rate reached its lowest level ever, the Oregon fatality rate increased to nearly double the national rate.

Helping to account for the increase in fatalities was a series of coastal bar accidents in which two lives were lost, including two such accidents on the Siletz Bar. The Siletz Bar and Netarts Bar, where one person died, are considered very hazardous bars to cross.

An unusually large number of boaters lost their lives despite wearing their life jackets. Out of 25 recreational boating fatalities, nine victims wore their life jackets. Studies have shown that 85 percent of the people who drown in recreational boating accidents would have survived had they been wearing their life jacket. However, in coastal accidents, factors such as cold water, wave action, opportunity for self-rescue, and the length of time involved in rescue work against survival. In whitewater accidents, hazards including rocks, debris and strainers, and river hydraulics make wearing a life jacket no guarantee for survival. Even so, wearing a life jacket will greatly improve your chances for survival. It is still the single most important step a person can take to ensure a safe outing.

There were 12 accidents and no fatalities involving personal watercraft, a drop from 1992's numbers of 14 accidents and two fatalities.

Of the 25 victims, 14 were tested for alcohol. Six of the 14 tested positive. Some victims are not tested 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**
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
1993	184,007	85	25	1.36	.71

*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 - 1993

ACTIVITY

Cruising	6
Fishing	12
Drifting	6
Paddling.....	1

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor	10
Cabin Motorboat	7
Inflatable	5
Canoe/Kayaking	3
Sailboat	0
Personal Watercraft	0
Driftboat	0

BODY OF WATER

River.....	11
Lake	3
Ocean	9
Bay	2

WATER TEMP

40 and Below	1
41 to 50 F	9
51 to 60 F	11
61 to 70 F	4
Above 70 F	0
.....	3

RIVERS

Columbia River, Astoria
 Columbia River, N Portland Harbor
 Columbia River, Rooster Rock
 Columbia River, off Sauvie Island
 Columbia River, S of Government Island
 Deschutes River, Dillon Falls
 Deschutes River, Pringle Falls
 Molalla River, Pine Creek Bridge
 Rogue River, Blossom Bar
 Santiam River, Mill City Falls

**Two Killed*

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing	15
Collision With Floating Object.....	1
Falls Overboard	6
Collision With Fixed Object.....	1
Flooding.....	2

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10'	3
10' to 12'	0
12' to 14'	5
14' to 16'	4
16' to 18'	5
18' to 20'	2
20'+.....	6

GENDER

Male	20
Female.....	5

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Aboard Not Used	15
Not Aboard.....	1
Aboard and Used	9
Unknown.....	0

SPECIFIC LOCATIONS

Ocean

Coos Bay Bar*
 Netarts Bay Bar
 Siletz Bay Bar*
 Siletz Bay Bar*

LAKES

Lost Creek Lake
 Ten Mile Lake
 Waldo Lake

Bays

Tillamook Bay*

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Hazardous Waters	3
Op. Inexperience/Error.....	6
Weather Conditions.....	2
Alcohol.....	6
Machinery Failure	3
Passenger Movement.....	1
Other/Unknown	4

MONTH

January.....	0
February.....	0
March	1
April	1
May	2
June.....	2
July	3
August.....	5
September.....	3
October	3
November	2
December.....	3

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18.....	0
18 to 25	2
26 to 35	3
36 to 50	11
Over 50	9