



# OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 2000

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2000. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$500 must be reported.

## Comments on the year...

In 2000 there were 98 reported accidents in Oregon in which 14 boaters died. This is the fewest number of recreational boating fatalities since 1996.

In only 2 of the 14 cases where we lost a boater was the victim wearing a life jacket. In almost every situation the boater had life jackets on board but chose not to wear it. And In just about every situation the boater would have survived had they chosen to wear their life jacket.

The number of personal watercraft (PWC) accidents in Oregon dropped for the third straight year. In 2000, there were 17 PWC accidents, down from 21 in 1999 and half the record number of 34 accidents in 1997. The number of PWC accidents per registered PWC boats dropped to its lowest levels since the early 90's when there were fewer than several thousand of these craft in our waterways.

In 2000 there was only one boating fatality during the summer months of July and August. This is unusual as these two months usually account for close to one third of the year's boating fatalities. It is also unusual for us to have half of our fatalities during September and October, when in an average year the figure is generally less than 20 percent.

There were only two fatalities that involved non-motorized boats such as canoes, kayaks, and rafts. In an average year 35-40 percent of our boating fatalities occur in these kinds of boats.

Of the 14 fatalities only four of the victims were tested for alcohol and only one tested positive. Tests are not done for a number of reasons including age, body decomposition or the body was never recovered.

	Registered Boats	Accidents*	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatality Rate**
1991	177,134	110	22	1.24	.83
1992	180,138	94	9	.5	.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	.71
1997	197,315	123	19	.96	.67
1998	197,634	120	20	1.01	.65
1999	196,102	96	16	.82	.58
2000	195,691	98	14	.72	.55

## ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS – 2000

Activity	Type of Accident	Cause of Accident
At Anchor.....1	Capsizing .....6	Alcohol..... 1
Cruising .....3	Collision w/Vessel.....1	Hazardous Waters..... 3
Drifting.....1	Falls Overboard .....3	Operator Inexperience/Error..... 0
Fishing.....6	Sinking .....2	Overloading ..... 0
Paddling.....2	Collision w/Object ..... 0	Reckless Operation ..... 4
White Water Sports.....1	Unknown .....2	Weather Conditions ..... 1
Unknown .....0		Other..... 5

Craft Type	Boat Length	Month
Open Motorboat ..... 5	Less than 10' ..... 0	January..... 1
Cabin Motorboat..... 6	10'-12' ..... 2	February ..... 0
Inflatable..... 0	12'-14' ..... 1	March..... 0
Canoe/Kayak..... 2	14'-16' ..... 3	April..... 0
PWC..... 0	16'-18- ..... 3	May..... 1
Driftboat..... 0	18'-20' ..... 1	June..... 4
Sailboat..... 1	20'+ ..... 4	July ..... 0
	Unknown ..... 0	August ..... 1
		September ..... 4
		October ..... 3
		November..... 0
		December..... 0

  

Body of Water	Gender
River..... 7	Male ..... 10
Lake..... 4	Female ..... 4
Ocean..... 1	
Reservoir ..... 2	

Water Temperature	Personal Flotation Devices	Operator Age
40 & Below ..... 3	Aboard Not Used ..... 10	Under 18..... 0
41-50 ..... 3	Not Aboard..... 2	18-25 ..... 2
51-60 ..... 6	Aboard & Used..... 2	26-35 ..... 0
61-70 ..... 1	Unknown ..... 0	36-50 ..... 3
Above 70 ..... 1		Over 50..... 7
Unknown ..... 0		

### Waterbody Type

Rivers	Lakes	Ocean
Columbia River, Buoy 29	Crescent Lake	Rogue River, Bar
Columbia River, Boardman	Deer Lake	
Columbia River, RM 109	Diamond Lake	
Imnaha River, Imnaha & Horse Creek*	Haystack Reservoir	
Rogue River, Guard Hole		
Siuslaw River, S. Jetty area		

  

Bay
Tillamook Bay*

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