



# OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 2012

The following statistics were taken from boating accident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2012. Accidents involving death, injury, or property damage exceeding \$2,000 must be reported.

## Comments on the year.....

2012 was a very bad year. 19 people died in recreational boating accidents in Oregon. This almost equals the fatality count for 2006 and is almost double the fatality count for 2011.

Only 8 of the 19 victims were wearing their life jackets. 3 of those 8 people got tangled in debris, 1 was tubing and impacted rocks and 2 died of hypothermia, so their PFD's were of little to no help. It is reasonable to assume, however, that had the other 11 victims worn their life jackets most would have survived their accidents.

6 of the 19 victims were in open motor boats, 2 were on personal watercraft, 1 was on an auxiliary sailboat, 9 were in non-powered craft and 1 was in a set of three inner tubes tied together. Over the previous ten years, on average, 45% of our fatalities were in non-motorized boats, this year it was 50%.

6 of the 19 victims were over the age of 50. In 10 of the 19 fatalities the victim was the operator. In 4 of the 19 fatalities the victim was the operator and sole occupant.

The number one type of accident for this year was *Capsizing*, followed by a tie between *Collision with a Fixed Object* and *Falls Overboard*.

| Year | Registered Boats | Accidents* | Oregon Fatalities | Fatality Rate Oregon** | U.S. Fatality Rate** | Fatalities U.S. |
|------|------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2002 | 194,582          | 80         | 16                | .82                    | .58                  | 750             |
| 2003 | 197,591          | 74         | 18                | .92                    | .55                  | 703             |
| 2004 | 190,142          | 54         | 9                 | .42                    | .53                  | 676             |
| 2005 | 187,640          | 74         | 15                | .80                    | .54                  | 697             |
| 2006 | 186,497          | 66         | 20                | 1.07                   | .56                  | 710             |
| 2007 | 184,147          | 66         | 9                 | .49                    | .53                  | 685             |
| 2008 | 180,063          | 60         | 13                | .72                    | .56                  | 709             |
| 2009 | 180,552          | 65         | 13                | .72                    | .58                  | 736             |
| 2010 | 177,634          | 64         | 12                | .67                    | .54                  | 672             |
| 2011 | 171,983          | 66         | 10                | .52                    | .62                  | 758             |
| 2012 | 169,188          | 74         | 19                | .89                    | -                    | -               |

(-) Figures not in yet from USCG

\* It is estimated that only 10 to 15% of reportable accidents are actually reported.

\*\* Rate per 10,000 registered boats.

(These statistics reflect recreational boaters only)

# ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS – 2012

| Activity                 | Type of Accident                 | Cause of Accident                 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fishing..... 4           | Capsizing .....6                 | Alcohol/Drugs.....2               |
| Hunting.....0            | Collision w/Fixed Object .....3  | Force of Wave/Wake.....2          |
| Tubing ..... 1           | Collision w/Sbmrtd Object ..2    | Hazardous Waters.....3            |
| Waterskiing..... 1       | Ejected from Vessel.....1        | No Proper Lookout ..... 1         |
| Windsurfing .....0       | Falls Overboard.....2            | Op. Inexperience/ Error .....6    |
| Making Repairs.....0     | Flooding/Swamping .....0         | People-Bow/Gunwale/Transom.. 1    |
| Starting Engine .....0   | Sinking .....0                   | Passenger/ Skier Behavior ..... 1 |
| Whitewater Sports .....5 | Grounding .....1                 | Restricted Vision .....0          |
| Relaxing .....6          | Tuber Mishap .....1              | Weather Conditions.....1          |
| Ferrying .....1          | Struck by Boat.....1             | Other .....2                      |
| Unknown ..... 1          | Left Boat Voluntarily-No PFD ..2 | Unknown .....0                    |

| Type of Craft                       | Boat Length          | Month           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Open Motorboat..... 6               | Less than 10' .....0 | January ..... 1 |
| Auxiliary Sailboat ..... 1          | 10' - 12' .....6     | February.....0  |
| Inflatable.....4                    | 12' – 14' .....2     | March ..... 1   |
| Canoe/ Kayak .....3                 | 14' – 16' * .....2   | April.....2     |
| Personal Watercraft (PWC) .....2    | 16' – 18' .....1     | May .....0      |
| Drift boat .....1                   | 18' – 20' * .....1   | June .....2     |
| Paddleboard/Sailboard .....1        | 20'+ .....3          | July .....3     |
| Inner Tubes (tied together) ..... 1 | Unknown .....2       | August .....3   |

\* Double Fatality

| Body of Water     | Gender         |
|-------------------|----------------|
| River ..... 12    | Male ..... 14  |
| Lake ..... 4      | Female ..... 5 |
| Ocean ..... 1     |                |
| Bay ..... 1       |                |
| Reservoir ..... 0 |                |

| Water Temperature    | Operator Age     | Personal Floatation Device |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Below 41° F ..... 1  | Under 18 .....1  | Aboard and Used ..... 8    |
| 41° - 51° F * .....5 | 18 – 25 .....2   | Aboard and Not Used..... 6 |
| 52° - 61° F .....1   | 26 – 35 .....1   | Used But Not Worn .....0   |
| 62° - 70° F .....2   | 36 – 50 * .....8 | Not Aboard.....5           |
| Above 70° F .....0   | Over 50 * .....5 | Unknown .....0             |
| Unknown * ..... 8    |                  |                            |

\* Double Fatality

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## WATERWAYS ACCIDENTS OCCURRED

| Rivers                                  | Rivers (cont.)                       | Lakes                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Columbia River – Wallace Island Slough  | Columbia River – Sauvie Island       | Harriett Lake – East End                |
| Chetco River – Rivers Edge RV Park      | Sandy River – near Oxbow             | Odell Lake - near Princess Creek        |
| McKenzie River – Martins Rapids         | Illinois River – near O'Brien        | Lake Billy Chinook* – Crooked River Arm |
| Rogue River – Hellsgate Canyon entrance | Columbia River * – near Rooster Rock |                                         |
| N. Umpqua River – near Copeland Creek   | * Double Fatality                    |                                         |
| Deschutes River – Lava Island Falls     |                                      |                                         |
| Willamette River – Wallace Marine Park  |                                      |                                         |
| McKenzie River – near Koosah Falls      |                                      |                                         |
|                                         | <b>Ocean</b>                         | <b>Bays</b>                             |
|                                         | Pacific Ocean – Near Goat Island     | Coos Bay Mouth – Charleston Harbor      |

\* Double Fatality