



Oregon Recreational Boating Incident Statistics – 2020

The following statistics were taken from boating incident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2020. Incidents involving death, injury, or boat and/or property damage of \$2,000 or more must be reported.

Oregon had 27 recreational boating fatalities in 2020 - nine more than 2019 and the most since 1987. The oldest victim was 73 and the youngest was six.

Seven of the 27 victims were wearing life jackets. Of those seven: two on stand-up paddle boards died when their ankle leashes snagged debris in moving water entrapping them; one victim’s life jacket was not the appropriate sized and slipped off; and one victim’s life jacket was not fastened correctly. Three fatalities involved minors and were unique: a 13-year-old girl died when a portion of a tree fell on her while she relaxed on an anchored boat; a six-year-old boy playing in a marked swim area was killed when hit by a runaway PWC; and a 13-year-old boy, playing in a slow-no-wake zone, died after being hit by the propeller of a motorboat operated by an intoxicated person. Of the 27 fatalities it is likely that 17 of the victims would have survived their incidents had they been wearing a life jacket.

Thirteen of the 27 fatalities were in non-motorized boats; 13 were in motorized boats (two fatalities in one boat). Seventeen of the 27 fatalities were 50 years old and older; four were six to 18 years old; and six were the age 19 to 49. The victims in 13 of the 27 fatalities were the operator and sole occupant on the boat; six were passengers; six were the operator; and two were not aboard the boat that struck them. Of the 13 sole-occupant fatalities, 11 were in non-motorized boats.

The primary cause of fatal incidents this year was split between operator inexperience and hazardous waters; however, there were 14 fatalities for which a specific cause was not determined.

Year	Registered Boats	Incidents*	Oregon Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatalities	U.S. Fatality Rate**
2010	177,634	60	11	6.19	672	5.4
2011	171,983	66	10	5.81	758	6.2
2012	169,188	70	19	11.23	651	5.4
2013	166,664	59	12	7.20	560	4.7
2014	161,358	61	7	4.29	610	5.2
2015	168,175	65	15	8.92	626	5.3
2016	156,168	82	19	12.17	701	5.9
2017	168,933	60	12	7.10	658	5.5
2018	168,100	65	17	10.1	633	5.3
2019	165,253	62	18	10.9	613	5.2
2020	-	96	27	-	-	-

(-) Figures not in yet from USCG

* Non-fatal incidents are severely under-reported

** Rate per 100,000 registered boats

(These statistics reflect recreational boaters only)

Analysis of Fatal Boating Incidents – 2020

Activity	Type of Incident	Cause of Incident
Fishing/Crabbing.....3	Capsizing11	Alcohol/Drugs..... 2
Cruising.....6	Collision w/Fixed Object.....0	Force of Wave/Wake..... 3
Tubing.....1	Collision w/Subm. Obj0	Op. Inattention..... 5
Waterskiing.....0	Ejected from Vessel1	No Proper Lookout 0
Windsurfing0	Falls Overboard5	Op. Inexperience/ Error..... 2
Paddling.....11	Flooding/Swamping.....0	Sharp Turn..... 1
Starting Engine.....0	Person Left Voluntarily.....2	Overloading..... 0
Whitewater Sports1	Improper Anchoring0	Hazardous Water..... 3
Relaxing.....2	Sudden Medical.....1	Heavy Weather 1
Other.....0	Other5	Other6
Unknown.....0	Unknown.....1	Unknown 3

Type of Boat	Boat Length	Month
Open Motorboat.....8	Less than 10'3	January 0
Cabin Motorboat1	10' – 11.9'7	February 0
Inflatable2	12' – 13.9'2	March 1
Kayak7	14' – 15.9'2	April 3
Canoe.....1	16' – 17.9'4	May 4
Personal Watercraft (PWC)1	18' – 19.9'3	June 2
Pontoon Boat.....2	20' or more3	July 3
Inflatable w/motor.....1	Unknown.....2	August 8
Stand-up Paddleboard.....3		September 1
		October..... 1
		November..... 1
		December 2

Body of Water	Gender
River11	Male.....21
Lake/Reservoir11	Female..... 6
Ocean 1	
Bay..... 2	
Bar Crossings 1	

Water Temperature	Age	Oprtr	Dcsd	Life Jackets
Below 41° F.....0	Under 18 1..... 3			Aboard and Used 6
41° - 51° F2	18 - 25 1..... 0			Aboard and Not Used.....17
52° - 61° F7	26 - 35 1..... 0			Inflatable Worn 1
62° - 70° F4	36 - 50 2..... 3			Not Aboard 0
Above 70° F4	Over 50 14 2			Not Applicable..... 3
Unknown7				

Waterways Incidents Occurred

Rivers	Bar Crossings/Bays	Lakes/Reservoirs
Santiam River	Nestucca River Bar	Scout Lake
Columbia River – Hayden Island	Netarts Bay	Detroit Lake
Columbia River – Near Lotus Isle		Klamath Lake
Willamette River – Elk Rock Island		Diamond Lake
Willamette River – @ I-5		Foster Lake
Rogue River – Huntley Park		Ten Mile Lake
Pudding River		Lake Billy Chinook
Deschutes River – Wapinitia Rapids		Fall Creek Reservoir
Necanicum River		Henry Hagg Lake