



## Oregon Recreational Boating Fatality Statistics – 2024

The following statistics were taken from boating incident reports received by the State Marine Board for 2024. Incidents involving death, injury, or boat and/or property damage of \$2,000 or more must be reported.

Oregon had 19 recreational boating fatalities in 2024 – six more than the 13 in 2023. The oldest victim was 72 and the youngest was 11 years of age; with five women and 14 men.

Four of the 19 victims were wearing life jackets. Of those four, two involved towed watersports where one was being pulled on a tube and was swung into another boat and the operator of another didn't realize where the wakeboarder was and accidentally was pulled into the propeller. Three fatalities involved one boat in which two of the three were trapped in the boat when it capsized due to heavy weather. Four out of the 19 fatalities involved alcohol. Of the 19 fatalities it is likely that 16 of the victims would have survived their incidents had they worn a life jacket.

Six of the 19 fatalities were in non-motorized boats; 10 were in motorized boats (three fatalities in one boat). Eight of the 19 fatalities were over 50 years old; nine were between the ages of 26 to 50; one between the ages of 18 to 25, and one was under 18 years of age. The victims in four of the 19 fatalities were the operator and sole occupant on the boat; 10 were passengers; and five were the operator. The three of the four sole-occupant fatalities were in a non-motorized boat.

The primary cause of fatal incidents this year were capsizing. The primary, secondary and tertiary contributing factors this year were operator inattention, heavy weather, and a tie between operator inexperience and hazardous water.

Year	Registered Boats	Incidents*	Oregon Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate**	U.S. Fatalities	U.S. Fatality Rate**
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	164,838	91	26	15.8	767	6.5
2021	163,060	42	18	11.0	658	5.5
2022	155,229	52	16	10.3	636	5.4
2023	152,440	60	13	8.5	564	4.9
2024	151,956	43	19	12.5	-	-

(-) 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 – 2024

Activity	Type of Incident	Contributing Factors
Fishing/Crabbing ..... 6	Capsizing .....8	Alcohol/Drugs.....2
Cruising..... 0	Collision w/Fixed Object .....0	Force of Wave/Wake.....1
Tubing..... 1	Collision w/Subm. Obj .....0	Op. Inattention .....4
Wakeboarding..... 1	Ejected from Vessel.....1	Improper Lookout .....1
Windsurfing ..... 0	Falls Overboard .....4	Op. Inexperience/ Error.....4
Paddling.....3	Flooding/Swamping .....0	Hull Failure .....1
Sailing ..... 1	Person Left Voluntarily.....1	Improper Loading .....1
Whitewater Paddling ..... 1	Watersports .....2	Hazardous Water.....2
Floating..... 1	Caught on a Snag.....1	Sharp Turn .....1
Other ..... 4	Other .....0	Overloading.....1
Unknown ..... 1	Unknown .....0	Other .....1
Type of Boat	Boat Length	Month
Open Motorboat ..... 9	Less than 10' .....1	January .....1
Cabin Motorboat ..... 1	10' – 11.9' .....1	February .....0
Inflatable ..... 2	12' – 13.9' .....2	March .....0
Kayak ..... 1	14' – 15.9' .....3	April .....0
Canoe ..... 1	16' – 17.9' .....2	May.....0
Personal Watercraft (PWC) ..... 0	18' – 19.9' .....3	June .....6
Drift/Rowboat ..... 1	20' or more.....4	July .....6
Sailboat..... 1	Unknown .....1	August .....3
Stand-up Paddleboard ..... 1		September .....2
		October.....1
		November.....0
		December .....0
Body of Water	Gender	
River ..... 14	Male ..... 14	
Lake/Reservoir ..... 2	Female.....5	
Ocean ..... 0		
Bay..... 1		
Bar Crossings..... 2		
Marina .....0		
Water Temperature	Age	Optr
Below 41° F..... 0	Under 18 ..... 0..... 1	Pass
41° - 51° F ..... 2	18 – 25 ..... 0..... 1	
52° - 61° F ..... 6	26 – 35 ..... 0..... 3	
62° - 70° F ..... 7	36 – 50 ..... 6..... 0	
Above 70° F ..... 0	Over 50 ..... 3 ..... 5	
Unknown ..... 2		
		Life Jackets
		Worn..... 4
		Not Worn.....14
		Inflatable Worn ..... 1
		Not Aboard..... 0
		Not Applicable ..... 0

### Waterways Incidents Occurred

Rivers	Bar Crossings/Bays	Lakes/Reservoirs
Columbia River – near Sauvie Island	Winchester Bay	Diamond Lake
Columbia River – near Lemon Island	Rogue Bar	Little Cultus Lake
Columbia River – near Tri-Club & MP 213	Columbia River Bar	
S. Umpqua River – near Elk Island		
Nehalem & Trask Rivers		
Rogue River – Two-mile Rapids		
Willamette River – Buena Vista Ferry		
Willamette River – near Hawthorne Bridge		
Willamette River – Newberg Pool		