



**Oregon State Marine Board  
in partnership with the  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators  
Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee  
and the U.S. Coast Guard**

### **Accident Reporting Terms and Definitions**

*Building consensus around standardized terms and definitions in boating accident reporting*

This lists types and “sub-types” and is provided to you to improve consistency in accident and SAR reporting. Use these descriptions for reporting any type of boating incident, fatality or search-and-rescue case.

This listing was approved by NASBLA membership in 2013. The basic framework of 12 boat types is to be set in regulation for state accident reporting requirements. The additional sub-types listed here are for optional use but will greatly enhance our understanding of what specific types of boats are involved in specific types of incidents.

**OPEN MOTORBOAT:** A boat equipped with propulsion machinery and having an open load carrying area that does not have a continuous deck to protect it from the entry of water.

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**Bass Boat:** *Generally, an outboard powered boat designed for inland bass fishing or inshore fishing; usually distinguished by a small, two or three occupant cockpit with decking covering most of the rest of the boat; the decking typically has built-in sockets for the insertion of pedestal fishing seats for use only when the boat is still or moving slowly; usually propelled additionally by a bow-mounted electric trolling motor.*



**Center Console:** *A single-decked open hull boat where the console is in the center of the boat. The deck surrounds the console so that a person can walk all around the boat from stern to bow with ease.*



**Runabout:** *A boat with a deck covering the bow, with an offset helm, conventional seating and windshield, and typically between 17 and 30 feet in length.*



**Runabout-Bow Rider:** *A boat with an open bow area and seats in front of an offset helm station, with conventional seating and windshield, and typically between 17 and 30 feet in length.*

**OPEN MOTORBOAT (continued):** A boat equipped with propulsion machinery and having an open load carrying area that does not have a continuous deck to protect it from the entry of water.

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**Runabout-Low Profile:** A closed bow boat, with low freeboard/transom, shallow V configuration, powered by a large engine, and typically between 17 and 30 feet in length.



**Ski Boat:** A boat with a shallow draft V bottom hull; typically inboard powered; designed primarily for towed watersports



**Wakeboard Boat:** A boat with a shallow draft V bottom hull; typically inboard powered; designed primarily for wakeboarding; typically has a wakeboard tower and some type of adjustable variable onboard ballast system or adjustable transom tab in order to create larger wakes.



**Deck Boat:** A boat with large open spaces in the interior and plenty of seating, typically with a deep-V or tri-hull construction. If closed cylinder buoyancy, see **PONTOON BOAT**.

**OPEN MOTORBOAT (continued):** A boat equipped with propulsion machinery and having an open load carrying area that does not have a continuous deck to protect it from the entry of water.

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**Jon/Utility Boat:** *An open, lightweight boat, usually constructed of aluminum and usually with bench seats.*



**Offshore Performance Powerboat (Open Style):** *A high performance boat of open fiberglass construction with a deep V or catamaran offshore racing hull; usually 30 to 50 feet long; relatively narrow in beam and generally equipped with two or more powerful engines.*



**Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RIB/RHIB):** *A relatively light-weight boat constructed with a solid, shaped hull and flexible or foam-filled tubes around much of the boat's perimeter.*



**Open Motorboat (unspecified):** *Boat does not fit any of the Open Motorboat Sub-Type descriptions.*

**CABIN MOTORBOAT:** *A boat propelled by propulsion machinery and providing enclosed spaces inside its structure.*

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**Cabin Cruiser:** *A boat with a cabin that can be completely closed by means of doors or hatches.*



**Cuddy Cabin Cruiser:** *A boat with a small cabin, galley, head, and berth; typically, the cuddy is not tall enough to stand in.*



**Offshore Performance Powerboat (Cuddy Cabin Style):** *A high performance cabin boat of fiberglass construction with a deep V or catamaran offshore racing hull; usually 30 to 50 feet long; relatively narrow in beam and generally equipped with two or more powerful engines.*



**Cabin Motorboat (unspecified):** *Boat does not fit any of the Cabin Motorboat Sub-Type descriptions*

**PADDLECRAFT:** *A boat powered only by its occupants, using a single- or double-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches, or similar arrangements.*

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**Canoe-Unspecified:** *A boat typically pointed upwards at both ends and open on top; propelled by single-bladed paddles.*



**Canoe-Whitewater version:** *A boat designed for whitewater; propelled by single-bladed paddles; generally has more bow and stern curvature (rocker) and supplemental flotation, in the form of bow, stern or center air bags, than its flat-water counterpart; may be outfitted for tandem, solo or both.*



**Canoe-Decked version:** *A boat propelled by single-bladed paddles; has a spray-skirt to enclose the open portion of the canoe; the paddler kneels in it and uses a canoe paddle.*



**Kayak-Whitewater version:** *A boat designed for whitewater; propelled by double-bladed paddles; generally has more bow and stern curvature (rocker), which aids in maneuverability; generally uses a spray-skirt; generally, a shorter kayak, but*

**PADDLECRAFT (continued):** A boat powered only by its occupants, using a single- or double-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches, or similar arrangements.

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**Kayak-Unspecified:** A boat propelled by double-bladed paddles, by one or more seated individuals facing the direction of travel.



**Kayak-Recreational version:** A boat propelled by double-bladed paddles; typically has a large cockpit with or without a provision for sealing the opening to the body of the occupant (i.e. spray-skirt); typically less than 12 feet in length, with wider beam and larger cockpit than a touring version kayak.



**Kayak-Touring version:** A boat propelled by double-bladed paddles; typically has built-in storage capacity for gear and provision for sealing the cockpit opening to the body of the occupant with a water-tight spray-skirt; normally longer and more slender in construction than a recreational version kayak. (Includes sea kayaks)



**Kayak-Sit-on-top version:** A boat that one sits on top of, not inside of; propelled by double-bladed paddles; has a sealed, watertight deck surface into which seats and features might be molded; does not have an opening that can be sealed around the occupant, but may have thigh straps.

**PADDLECRAFT (continued):** *A boat powered only by its occupants, using a single- or double-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches, or similar arrangements.*

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**Paddleboard:** *A boat, similar in appearance to a surfboard, but may vary significantly in length; intended to be propelled with a single- or double-bladed paddle.*



**Paddlecraft (unspecified):** *Boat does not fit any of the Paddlecraft Sub-Type descriptions.*



**INFLATABLE BOAT:** *A boat that uses air-filled flexible fabric for buoyancy. (If equipped with mechanical propulsion, see OPEN MOTORBOAT.)*

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**Whitewater Raft:** *A boat designed for use on whitewater, consisting of very durable, multi-layered rubberized (hypalon) or vinyl fabrics (PVC) with independent air chambers; may be steered with paddles at the stern or with central helm oars.*



**Inflatable Boat (unspecified):** *Boat does not fit the Whitewater Raft Sub-Type description.*



**Inflatable Kayak:** *Boat does not fit the Whitewater Raft Sub-Type description.*

**SAIL ONLY:** *A boat propelled only by sails.*

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**Sailboat:** *A boat with sail as its only method of propulsion.*



**Kiteboard:** *A boat, similar in appearance to a surfboard, with or without foot-straps or bindings, combined with a large controllable kite to propel the rider and board across the water.*



**Sailboard:** *A boat, similar in appearance to a surfboard, equipped with a swivel mounted mast and sail not secured to a hull by guys or stays.*



**Sail Only (unspecified):** *Boat does not fit any of the Sail Only Sub-Type descriptions.*

**SAIL ONLY (continued):** *A boat propelled only by sails.*

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**AUXILIARY SAIL:** *A boat with sail as its primary method of propulsion and mechanical propulsion as its secondary method.*

**ROWBOAT:** *An open boat manually propelled by oars.*

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**Drift Boat:** *A boat with a wide, flat bottom for low draft; flared sides; a narrow, flat transom and a pointed bow; specialized to run rapids on rivers. Some have motors.*



**Rowing Shell:** *A light, long, narrow racing boat for rowing by one or more persons.*



**Rowboat (unspecified):** *Boat does not fit any of the Rowboat Sub-Type descriptions.*

**OTHER:** *If the boat does not fit any of the descriptions above, enter another term for the boat that best describes it.*

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**PERSONAL WATERCRAFT:** *A boat propelled by a water-jet pump or other machinery as its primary source of motive power and designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the boat, rather than sitting or standing within the boat's hull. [Includes tethered water thrust equipment.]*



**PONTOON BOAT:** *A boat with a broad, flat deck that is affixed on top of closed cylinders which are used for buoyancy, the basic design of which is usually implemented with two rows of floats as a catamaran or with three rows of floats as a trimaran. [If typical deep-V or tri-hull construction, see **OPEN MOTORBOAT - Deck Boat.**]*



**AIRBOAT:** *A boat that is typically flat-bottomed and propelled by an aircraft-type propeller powered by an engine.*



**HOUSEBOAT:** *A motorized boat that is usually non-planing and designed primarily for multi-purpose accommodation spaces with low freeboard and little or no foredeck or cockpit.*

**OTHER (continued):** *If the boat does not fit any of the descriptions above, enter another term for the boat that best describes it.*

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**Amphibious Vehicle:** *A motorized, wheeled vehicle that can be operated as a boat.*



**Hovercraft:** *A boat capable of moving over water or land on a cushion of air created by downward directed fans powered by engine(s).*



**Pedal Boat:** *A boat mechanically propelled by paddles, worked by one or more operators' feet and legs.*

**NON-BOATS:** *These items are not defined as boats.  
This list is not exhaustive.*

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**Inner Tube**



**Island**



**Air Mattress**



**Pool Toy**

*\*While generally NOT considered a boat, using a paddle or other device to provide propulsion and steering may change its designation. Exemption: If LE determines it's being used as a means of conveyance" it may be treated as a "boat"*