

ILLINOIS RECREATIONAL BOATING REPORT 2023





FOREWORD

Illinois Recreational Boating Report 2023 contains statistics on recreational boating incidents, enforcement, safety, and recreational boat registering activities. Statistical information contained in this report is based on the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23) (10/01/2022 – 09/30/2023), excluding the registered recreational boats, which are based on the calendar year 2023. This publication is a result of the coordinated effort of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those jurisdictions that investigate recreational boating incidents and enforce boating laws in Illinois.

Illinois Recreational Boating Report 2023 may be copied freely for boating safety. For questions and suggestions regarding the content and availability of the current or back issues, use the address or telephone number at the top of the page. For an electronic copy, visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/safety/Pages/IncidentReportSummaries.aspx>

Law Enforcement Creed

“To serve, protect, and educate the citizens and visitors to the state of Illinois in their outdoor recreational endeavors.”

“To be a vigilant guardian of the natural resources, public safety, and homeland security of Illinois.”

“To assist the public in their times of need; routine and emergency.”

“To educate the inadvertent violator of conservation law, by taking an appropriate level of enforcement action to achieve this goal.”

“To relentlessly pursue, with full statewide police authority, deliberate offenders and bring them before the courts for the administration of justice”

“To maintain the highest level of professional standards, integrity, and conduct.”

“THIS WE PLEDGE TO THE CITIZENS OF ILLINOIS.”



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The Illinois Boating Digest has been posted on the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/boating/Documents/BoatDigest.pdf>. The Boating Digest will no longer be available in pamphlet form. It has been converted into a PDF document for easier viewing and printing from the website.

SCOPE

Statistical information contained in this report is based on the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23) (10/01/2022 – 09/30/2023), excluding the registered recreational boats, which are based on the calendar year 2023. This report contains statistics on recreational boating incidents, registered recreational boats, boating enforcement, and information on boating safety activities. Data used to compile the recreational boating incident statistics comes from two sources: (1) Recreational Boating Incident Reports of IDNR investigations of recreational boating incidents on waters within the State; and (2) reports forwarded to the IDNR by other jurisdictions within the State. Without investigations, information would not be collected from incident reports from boat operators. Data used to compile the boating enforcement statistics comes from three sources: (1) IDNR Conservation Police Officer Daily Activity Reports, (2) CPO Operating Under the Influence Reports, and (3) reports forwarded to the IDNR by other jurisdictions within the State.

REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR BOAT INCIDENTS

Federal Regulations (33 CFR 174.121) require incident report data to be forwarded to Coast Guard Headquarters within 30 days of receipt by a state.

Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act (625 ILCS 45/6) requires the operator of a vessel involved in a collision or incident must render aid (if practical) to any affected persons and provide his name, address, and vessel information to any person injured and to the owner of any property damaged as a result of the collision or incident. Failure to comply when the incident or collision resulted in a person's death or personal injury is a Class A misdemeanor. Any person who has failed to stop or comply with this section must, as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the collision or incident occurred, report the incident to the nearest police station or sheriff's office. If the operator was hospitalized, this report must be filed within one hour of discharge. If the collision or incident involves personal injury to a person, failure to comply is a Class 4 felony. Personal injury is defined as any injury requiring treatment beyond first aid. If the collision or incident resulted in death, failure to comply is a Class 2 felony punishable by 3 – 4 years in prison.

In addition to the above requirements, whenever a boat is involved in a collision or incident causing property damage of \$2000 or more, or results in total loss of the vessel, or causes injury to any person requiring medical attention beyond first aid, a report, completed by the operator, must be made to the Department, on forms provided, within five days. All boating incidents resulting in loss of life must be reported to the Department on forms provided within 48 hours by the operator.

Boat incident reporting applies to each "vessel" used by its operator for recreational purposes or vessels that are required to be numbered and are not subject to inspection.

The term "vessel" includes every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on the water. Terms used to describe the various types of watercraft are airboat, auxiliary sailboat, cabin motorboat, canoe, houseboat, inflatable boat, kayak, open motorboat, personal watercraft, pontoon boat, raft, rowboat, and sailboat. Unmodified inner tubes have not been determined to be "vessels" to date. Thus any incident that only involves an unmodified inner tube has not been included in the statistics in the main body of this report.

Operators of motorboats involved in a boating incident resulting in serious injury or death must submit to chemical testing (breath, blood, or urine) upon request by the investigating law enforcement officer. Failure to submit to requested testing or submitting to testing but failing such testing shall result in a suspension of the motorboat operator's Illinois driver's license by the Illinois Secretary of State.

Suspension Provisions

A person's privileges to operate a watercraft may be suspended for a period of 1 to 3 years for violations of operating under the influence, careless or reckless operation, or failure to report an incident.

Further, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a watercraft when their privileges have been suspended or revoked in this state or by another state, a federal agency, or a province of Canada.

How Do I Report A Boating Violation or Boat Incident?

Your local Illinois State Police District HQ dispatch center dispatches Illinois Conservation Police Officers (CPOs). If you have a serious boating violation or boat incident to report, dial "911" immediately. Otherwise, contact your local Illinois State Police District HQ dispatch center for assistance contacting a Conservation Police Officer. A listing of Illinois State Police Districts can be found at <http://www.isp.state.il.us/>

"Reportable" Boating Incidents

A *vessel* is considered to be involved in a "boating incident" whenever a death, missing person, personal injury, property damage, or total vessel loss results from the vessel's operation, construction, seaworthiness, equipment, or machinery.

The following are examples of incident types that are used in this report:

- Grounding, capsizing, sinking, or flooding/swamping
- Falls in or overboard a vessel
- Persons ejected from a vessel
- Fire or explosions that occur while underway and while anchored, moored, or docked if the fire resulted from the vessel or vessel equipment.
- Water-skiing or other mishaps involving a towable device
- Collision with another vessel or object
- Striking a submerged object
- A person struck by a vessel, propeller, propulsion unit, or steering machinery
- Carbon monoxide exposure
- Electrocutation due to stray current related to a vessel
- Casualties while swimming from a vessel that is not anchored, moored, or docked.
- Casualties, where natural causes contributed to the death of an individual, but the determined cause of death, was drowning.
- Casualties from natural phenomena such as interaction with marine life (i.e., leaping sturgeon causes casualty to person) and interaction with nature (i.e., mountain side falls onto vessel causing casualties).
- Casualties are when a person falls off an anchored vessel.

“Non-Reportable” Boating Incidents

Not every occurrence involving a vessel is considered within the scope of the Recreational Boating Safety Program. The following occurrences involving a vessel may be required to be reported to the state but, for statistical purposes, are excluded from this report and are considered “non-reportable” boating incidents:

- A person dies, is injured, or is missing as a result of self-inflicted wounds, alcohol poisoning, gunshot wounds, or the ingestion of drugs, controlled substances, or poison.
- A person dies, is injured, or is missing as a result of an assault by another person or persons while aboard a vessel.
- A person dies or is injured from natural causes while aboard a vessel.
- A person dies, is injured, or is missing as a result of jumping, diving, or swimming for pleasure from an anchored, moored, or docked vessel.
- A person dies, is injured, or is missing as a result of swimming to retrieve an object or a vessel that is adrift from its mooring or dock, having departed from a place of inherent safety, such as the shore or pier.
- Property damage occurs, or a person dies, is injured, or is missing while preparing a vessel for launching or retrieving, and the vessel is not on the water and capable/ready for its intended use.
- Property damage occurs when a person dies, is injured, or is missing due to a fire onshore or a pier that spreads to a vessel or vessels.
- Property damage occurs to a docked or moored vessel, or a person dies, is injured, or is missing from such a vessel as a result of storms, unusual tidal or sea conditions, or when a vessel gets underway in those conditions in an attempt to rescue persons or vessels.
- Property damage occurs to a docked or moored vessel due to a lack of maintenance on the vessel.
- Property damage occurs to a docked or moored vessel due to theft or vandalism.
- Property damage occurs to a person dies or is injured, or a person is missing from a non-propelled houseboat or other vessel used primarily as a residence when such a vessel is not underway.
- Casualties that result from falls from or on docked vessels or vessels that are moored to a permanent structure.
- Casualties that result from a person climbing aboard an anchored vessel from the water or swimming near an anchored vessel.
- Fire or explosions on anchored, docked, or moored boats where the cause of the fire was not attributed to the vessel or vessel equipment.
- Casualty or damage that results when the vehicle used for trailering the vessel fails.
- Casualties or damage that occurs during incidents that only involve unmodified inner tubes.
- Casualties or damage occurs when the only vessel(s) involved are being used solely for governmental, commercial, or criminal activity.
- Casualties or damage occurs when the only vessel(s) involved are not numbered and are being used exclusively for racing.
- Casualties or damage that occur when the only vessel(s) involved are foreign vessels and thus not subject to U.S. federal reporting requirements.

RECREATIONAL BOATING STATISTICAL SUMMARY

This report summarizes the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Illinois Recreational Boating. Statistical information contained in this report is based on the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (FFY23), excluding the Certificate of Numbered Vessel Reports, which is based on the calendar year 2023.

Illinois officers investigated 70 reportable boat incidents, a 37% increase from FFY22. Thirty-seven injuries were reported in FFY 2023, a 3% increase from the previous year. A total of 12 fatalities were reported in FFY 2023, a 100% increase over the last period, resulting in roughly six deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Law Enforcement recorded 29,518 personal service hours worked on the Recreational Boating Safety Program, which accounted for 7.47% of total work hours. This was a 1% decrease from the total hours worked on the program in FFY 2022. The Office of Law Enforcement's estimated on-water hours of 10,448 showed a 40% decrease in hours worked on the water over the preceding period.

Boating enforcement activity by the Illinois Conservation Police saw an increase in the total number of citations and written warnings issued during FFY22 from the previous year. Citations increased from 591 to 717 (21.32%), and written warnings increased from 2808 to 3288 (17.09%). Operating under the influence, arrests decreased from 81 to 72 (-11%). Personal floatation devices and operating under the influence remained the top boating violations cited by officers.

The total number of registered boats continues to decline from 187,429 last year to 183,689 this year.

Boating incident reports indicate that most incidents occur between June, July, and August, on Saturday or Sunday, between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. Conditions are usually clear with good visibility, light winds, and calm water. Most incidents involve operators between the ages of twenty and forty with over one hundred hours of boating experience but little or no classroom boating safety instruction. They also involve open motorboats cruising in a careless/reckless manner, which can culminate in a collision with another boat.

- Twelve fatalities were reported in ten Illinois boating incidents.
- Five fatalities occurred during the week and seven on the weekend.
- Nine fatalities with clear conditions and calm waters.
- The winds were light to moderate, with good visibility.
- In most fatalities, the operators had no formal boat safety education.
- Two out of twelve fatalities involved alcohol/drug impairment.

Once again, the factor that would have saved lives this past season would have been for people to wear their Personal Floatation Devices (PFD). Of the twelve fatalities, eight may have survived if they had worn their PFDs.

The State of Illinois does not require a Coast Guard-approved PFD to be worn. However, persons under thirteen and operators/passengers on personal watercraft or specialty prop craft must wear a Coast Guard-approved PFD.

The most proactive action a boater can take to ensure their safety on the water is to wear a Coast Guard-approved PFD of the appropriate size and in serviceable condition.

BOAT INCIDENTS & ENFORCEMENT AT A GLANCE

Year	Total Number of Incidents	Total Number of Injuries	Total Number of Fatalities	Total Number of Vessels	Total Number of Registered Boats	Total Number of Fatalities by Drowning	Conservation Police Operating Under the Influence (OUI) Arrests	Total Number of Boating Citations	Total Number of Boating Written Warnings	Total Hours Worked on the Recreational Boat Safety Program
1964	115	72	33	167	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1965	116	48	52	161	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1966	127	112	49	184	0	13	0	0	0	0
1967	113	73	44	146	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1968	122	80	56	162	0	54	0	0	0	0
1969	101	54	42	136	0	37	0	0	0	0
1970	98	58	38	133	0	31	0	0	0	0
1971	88	73	29	119	0	29	0	0	0	0
1972	94	43	39	129	0	37	0	0	0	0
1973	130	58	64	175	0	59	0	0	0	0
1974	115	62	56	152	0	52	0	0	0	0
1975	126	87	43	178	0	34	0	0	0	0
1976*	124	30	20	174	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1977*	111	18	27	159	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1978*	113	54	36	118	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1979*	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1980*	95	72	30	95	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1981*	97	NA	NA	97	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1982	109	71	28	139	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1983	97	51	17	139	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1984	118	62	39	138	0	NA	0	0	0	0
1985	105	47	30	123	0	25	0	0	0	0
1986	94	58	11	114	0	11	0	0	0	0
1987	70	63	13	82	0	12	0	0	0	0
1988	103	89	16	120	0	11	0	0	0	0
1989	97	70	14	129	0	9	0	0	0	0
1990	146	107	26	187	350,000	22	0	0	0	0
1991	179	125	31	224	362,000	23	0	0	0	0
1992	147	124	28	200	365,000	20	0	0	0	0
1993	134	94	32	163	371,000	29	57	0	0	0

BOAT INCIDENTS & ENFORCEMENT AT A GLANCE

Year	Total Number of Incidents	Total Number of Injuries	Total Number of Fatalities	Total Number of Vessels	Total Number of Registered Boats	Total Number of Fatalities by Drowning	Conservation Police Operating Under the Influence (OUI) Arrests	Total Number of Boating Citations	Total Number of Boating Written Warnings	Total Hours Worked on the Recreational Boat Safety Program
1994	157	131	17	211	381,864	15	67	0	0	0
1995	178	88	16	228	386,500	13	111	0	0	0
1996	155	90	27	214	390,000	23	93	0	0	0
1997	145	81	14	223	397,000	10	123	0	0	14,328
1998	176	107	19	249	395,500	12	75	0	0	16,048
1999	159	75	13	238	394,108	10	95	0	0	13,822
2000	155	76	14	231	370,568	11	100	0	0	11,869
2001	112	75	8	171	368,047	7	180	2,263	0	13,185
2002	135	92	23	188	364,075	13	199	1,630	0	13,369
2003	84	63	13	122	360,252	7	125	NA	0	10,827
2004	78	45	18	103	356,305	15	127	1,509	1,647	13,858
2005	115	100	16	152	342,745	12	185	1,403	NA	15,046
2006	79	66	18	119	343,591	13	229	1,882	3,307	15,866
2007	107	57	13	146	339,288	11	144	1,451	3,239	30,332
2008	120	78	13	174	336,025	10	185	1,603	3,695	39,998
2009	102	71	25	137	329,032	15	179	1,960	5,576	21,403
2010	105	76	16	145	323,191	13	155	1,853	5,438	13,363
2011	103	70	21	136	319,559	15	121	1,520	4,581	27,346
2012	101	69	19	135	312,664	15	123	1,230	3,972	50,664
2013	65	50	14	90	271,116	12	115	1,235	4,525	40,734
2014	77	54	20	98	252,094	16	159	1,504	5,127	38,275
2015	74	49	14	96	233,062	14	155	1,415	4,518	42,379
2016	73	36	11	103	248,948	10	147	1,721	5,258	42,160
2017	80	48	12	123	248,696	12	145	1,355	4,886	45,725
2018	68	34	18	91	245,621	17	132	1,045	3,753	33,844
2019	72	42	14	95	229,370	14	103	735	2,623	39,421
2020	81	36	21	113	216,175	18	102	863	3,208	24,067
2021	93	28	16	147	188,086	14	65	734	2,697	28,886
2022	52	40	6	78	187,429	5	72	591	2,808	29,794
2023	70	37	12	110	183,689	9	72	717	3,288	29,518

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

General Information

No person under ten years of age may operate a motorboat. Aged ten years and less than twelve years of age may only operate under a parent or guardian's direct control.

Who Must Take the Course?

No person born on or after January 1, 1998, unless exempted by subsection (i), shall operate a motorboat with over ten horsepower unless that person has a valid Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources or an entity or organization recognized and approved by the Department.

Persons at least 12 years of age and less than 18 years of age may only operate a motorboat if:

They have in possession a valid Boating Education Certificate of Competency issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Safety Education Division, or they are accompanied on the motorboat and under the direct control of a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian.

Throughout the year, many people operate motor-driven watercraft on Illinois waters, and many operate for the first time. So, we encourage individuals - both novice and experienced - to take the course. Each of us has the responsibility to keep this lifetime leisure activity free from tragedy and personal loss to ourselves and our fellow boaters. The Illinois Boating Education Course is offered with these objectives in mind.

The Illinois Boating Education Course consists of a minimum of eight hours of instruction. These courses cover the basics of boating safety, equipment and requirements, navigation, motorboat, registration and titling, emergency measures, and the Illinois boating laws.

The program is primarily designed to train young people over the age of 12 years old. The educational material is based on a sixth-grade reading level. Students under the age of 11 may not participate in the exam to receive certification. Students 11 years old will receive their certificate upon their 12th birthday.

Persons 12 and over completing the minimum eight hours of instruction and successfully completing the final examination will receive a State of Illinois Certificate of Competency.

Two Ways to Take the Course

Instructor-led Classes-The traditional class method is through an 8-hour instructor-led class structure. Classes may be taught in one day or over a couple of different days, usually on the weekend. The class will end with an exam to pass the class. Interested individuals may call 1-800-832-2599 or check the [List of Education Courses by County](#).

Online Self-Study Course-Students may study the course material at their own pace, completing chapter reviews along the way. At the end of the course material, the student will be required to pass an exam. Student certification will be mailed by the course provider.

Two Providers for Online Boating Safety Course and Certification:

www.Boat-Ed.com

www.BoaterExam.com

BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

Year	Traditional Classroom Course	Internet Courses	Total Number of People Issued Boat Safety Cards
2005*	2,390	732	3,122
2006	1,449	1,405	2,854
2007	1,215	1,358	2,573
2008	857	1,362	2,219
2009	874	2,037	2,911
2010*	902	2,410	3,312
2011	693	2,261	2,954
2012	712	2,016	2,728
2013	548	2,731	3,279
2014	539	2,566	3,105
2015	460	2,971	3,431
2016	561	3,275	3,836
2017	375	3,073	3,448
2018	469	3,475	3,944
2019	404	3,546	3,950
2020	0	6,007	6,007
2021	89	6,893	6,982
2022	254	4,812	5,066
2023	267	6,163	6,430
Totals	13,058	59,093	72,151

* In May 2005 Boat-Ed started

* In June 2010, BoaterExam.com started



REGISTERED RECREATIONAL BOATS

Illinois requires every watercraft, except non-powered watercraft, on waters within the jurisdiction of this State to be numbered. No person may operate, or give permission for the operation of, any watercraft on such waters unless the watercraft is numbered in accordance with the Boat Registration & Safety Act, in accordance with applicable Federal law, or in accordance with a Federally-approved numbering system of another State, and (1) the certificate of number awarded to such watercraft is in full force and effect, and (2) the identifying number set forth in the certificate of number is displayed on each side of the bow of such watercraft.

The owner of each watercraft requiring numbering by this State shall file an application for number with the Department of Natural Resources on forms approved by it. The application shall be signed by the owner of the watercraft and shall be accompanied by a fee as follows:

Transaction Fees

New and Transfer Renewal

Class 1 - All powered Watercraft less than 16 ft. except non-powered - **\$28.00**

Class 2 - 16 ft. to less than 26 ft. - **\$60.00**

Class 3 - 26 ft. to less than 40 ft. - **\$160.00**

Class 4 - 40 ft. and over - **\$210.00**

Renewal

Class 1 - All powered Watercraft less than 16 ft. except non-powered - **\$18.00**

Class 2 - 16 ft. to less than 26 ft. - **\$50.00**

Class 3 - 26 ft. to less than 40 ft. - **\$150.00**

Class 4 - 40 ft. and over - **\$200.00**

Corrected Title, Corrected Registration, Duplicate Title, Duplicate Decals, Duplicate Registration

\$7.00 for each transaction.

Title Search

\$7.00 for each Title Search.

Dealer or Manufacturer Title

\$10.00 for each transaction.

USCG Registration Fees or Renewal Fees

Class 2 - 16 ft. to less than 26 ft. - **\$50.00**

Class 3 - 26 ft. to less than 40 ft - **\$150.00**

Class 4 - 40 ft. and over - **\$200.00**

THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

REPORT OF CERTIFICATES OF NUMBER ISSUED TO

RECREATIONAL BOATS ONLY*

Motorized Vessel Types	<16	16 To <26	26 To <40	40 To 65	>65	All Lengths
Airboat	22	44	2	0	0	68
Auxiliary Sail	33	364	969	132	3	1,501
Cabin Motorboat	25	2752	3728	583	12	7,100
Houseboat	16	74	102	187	29	408
Inflatable Boat	529	64	4	0	0	597
Open Motorboat	26463	90212	2158	47	1	118,881
Personal Watercraft	17843	3128	0	0	0	20,971
Pontoon Boat	791	23122	1116	10	1	25,040
Other	3166	3462	193	28	5	6,854
Non-Motorized Vessel Types	<16	16 To <26	26 To <40	40 To 65	>65	All Lengths
Inflatable Boat	21	1	0	0	0	22
Paddlecraft	284	78	0	0	0	362
Rowboat	328	27	2	0	0	357
Sail Only	539	674	184	23	0	1,420
Other	80	26	2	0	0	108
Total Recreational Registration						
Motorized Vessel						181,420
Non-Motorized Vessel						2,269
Total						183,689

BOATING ENFORCEMENT

Top Boating Violations

Boating Citations

Type of Boating Violations	Citations
PFD Age Requirement. Less Than 13 Years Old Must Wear PFD	104
Wearable PFD (Type I, II, Or III Required)	91
Personal Flotation Devices	90
Under the Influence of Alcohol	72
Operation of Unnumbered Watercraft	66
Operating with BAC Over .08	45
Operation in No Wake Area	27
Fire Extinguisher	24
Operating W/Out Proper Lights Between Sunset/Sunrise	18
Lanyard Cut-off Switch	15
Failure to Display, Improper Display of Registration Number	14
Restricted Area, No Wake W/In 150 Feet of Public Ramp	13
Careless Operation	12
Failure to Transfer Certificate of Number	12
Passenger Location	10
Personal Watercraft – PFD Must be worn	10
Type IV PFD Onboard (16 Feet and Over)	10
Total Number of Citations Issued	717

Boating Written Warnings

Type of Boating Violations	Written Warnings
Personal Flotation Devices	573
Battery Covers	556
Fire Extinguisher	533
Operation of Unnumbered Watercraft	408
Operation of Motorboat Without Horn or Whistle	225
Lanyard Cut-Off Switch	224
Type IV PFD On Board (16 Feet and Over)	122
Operation in No Wake Area	108
Operating W/Out Proper Lights Between Sunset/Sunrise	74
Failure to Display, Improper Display of Registration Number	69
Displaying Orange Flag While Towing Person	63
Passenger Location	62
Restricted Area, No Wake W/In 150 Feet of Public Ramp	45
Failure to Display Valid Registration Decal	40
Total Number of Written Warnings Issued	3288

Boating Violations - Citations

Chapter / Act / Section	Number of Citations	Violation
625 45 2-4A	0	Resistance to Officers
625 45 2-4B	0	Failure to Obey Direction of Police Officer
625 45 3-1	66	Operation of Unnumbered Watercraft
625 45 3-1.5	1	No Water Usage Stamp (Non-Powered Watercraft)
625 45 3-3	4	Failure to Display, Improper Display of Registration Number
625 45 3-4	0	Failure to Notify Dept Of Destruction/Sale/Transfer
625 45 3-5	12	Failure to Transfer Certificate of Number
625 45 3-7	0	Loss of Certificate of Number/Registration Decal
625 45 3-9	14	Failure to Display Valid Registration Decal
625 45 3-11	0	Falsify/Alter Certificate of Number or Water Usage Stamp
625 45 3-13	0	Failure to Attach HIN To Watercraft
625 45 3A-12	2	Failure to Transfer Title
625 45 3A-14	0	Failure to Transfer Title-Dealer
625 45 3A-15	0	Failure to Make Application of Title
625 45 3A-17	0	Failure to Transfer Title-Individual
625 45 3A-20A	0	Operating W/O Certificate of Title
625 45 3A-20B	2	Sell/Transfer W/O Certificate
625 45 3A-20C	0	Failure to Surrender Title
625 45 3A-21A	0	Alter, Forge, or Counterfeit Manufacturer's or Importer's Certificate
625 45 3A-21F	0	Possess, Buy, Receive, Sell Boat W/Out HIN
625 45 3C-1A	3	Abandoning A Watercraft
625 45 4-1	90	Personal Flotation Devices
625 45 4-1A	91	Wearable PFD (Type I, II, Or III Required)
625 45 4-1B	10	Personal Watercraft – PFD Must Be Worn
625 45 4-1C	10	Type IV PFD On Board (16 Feet and Over)
625 45 4-1D	0	Type V PFD Approved for Activity Used
625 45 4-1E	0	No PFD on Boat for Peron being Towed
625 45 4-1F1	3	PFDs Accessible
625 45 4-1F2	0	PFDs Serviceable Condition
625 45 4-1F3	1	PFDs Appropriate Size
625 45 4-1F4	1	PFDs Legibly Marked with USCG Number
625 45 4-1I	104	PFD Age Requirement. Less Than 13 Years Old Must Wear PFD
625 45 4-2	18	Operating W/Out Proper Lights Between Sunset/Sunrise
625 45 4-3A	0	Failure to Equip Boat W/Muffler System
625 45 4-3B	0	Mufflers-Exceeding Noise Level
625 45 4-4	6	Operation of Motorboat Without Horn or Whistle
625 45 4-5	24	Fire Extinguisher
625 45 4-6	0	Carburetor Arrestor
625 45 4-9	0	Sealing of Marine Heads
625 45 4-10	6	Battery Covers
625 45 4-11	15	Lanyard Cut-Off Switch
625 45 4-12	0	Visual Distress Signals
625 45 5-1	12	Careless Operation
625 45 5-2A	2	Reckless Operation/Aggravated Reckless Operation
625 45 5-2B	1	Reckless Operation with Great Bodily Harm

Boating Violations - Citations

Chapter / Act / Section	Number of Citations	Violation
625 45 5-3	2	Interference with Navigation
625 45 5-4A	6	Overloading Motorboat
625 45 5-4B	0	Capacity Plate
625 45 5-5	0	Incapacity of Operator
625 45 5-6	0	Overpowering
625 45 5-7	13	Restricted Area, No Wake W/In 150 Feet of Public Ramp
625 45 5-12	27	Operation in No Wake Area
625 45 5-13A	0	Passing
625 45 5-13B	2	Crossing
625 45 5-13C	1	Overtaking
625 45 5-13D	0	Right of Way Violation
625 45 5-14	2	Towing of Persons
625 45 5-14A	6	Competent Observer, Vessel Capacity – 3 Persons
625 45 5-14B	0	Half Hour Before to Half Hour after Towing Water Skier
625 45 5-14E	6	Displaying Orange Flag While Towing Person
625 45 5-16A 1	0	Operating Under the Influence Alcohol/Drugs
625 45 5-16A 1 a	45	Operating with BAC Over .08
625 45 5-16A 1 b	72	Under the Influence of Alcohol
625 45 5-16 A 1 c	1	Under the Influence of Drugs
625 45 5-16 A 1 d	0	Under Combined Influence of Alcohol/Drugs
625 45 5-16A 1 e	0	Any Amount of Drug in Persons Blood or Urine
625 45 5-16 E	0	Owner Permitting OUI Operation
625 45 5-18	6	Youthful Operators
625 45 5-18G 1	2	Failure to show safety certificate
625 45 5-19	0	Skin Diving 150ft Shoreline/Diver's Flag
625 45 5-20	5	Operation of PWC Between the Hours of Sunset/Sunrise
625 45 5-21	10	Passenger Location
625 45 5-22B	1	Failure to Yield to Emergency Watercraft Upon Approach
625 45 5-22C	0	Failure to Yield to Emergency Watercraft When Stationary
625 45 6-1	1	Failure to Render Aid After Incident/Provide Information
625 45 6-1A	4	Failure to Render Assistance in an Incident
625 45 6-1 A 1	0	Failure to Report Incident Within 1 Hour
625 45 7-1	5	License Required-Passenger for Hire/Boat Rental
625 45 7-7	0	License/Tag/Weight Fail to Display/Rental Boat
625 45 7-8	2	Livery-Failure of Owner to Provide Safety Equip
625 45 7-9	0	Registration/Per Article III
625 45 7-10	0	Unlawful Rental Of Pwc
625 45 11A-1	0	Catch-All For Violations Of Boat Code & Authority For Ad Rules.
TOTAL VIOLATIONS	717	

Boating Violations - Written Warnings

Chapter / Act / Section	Number of Written Warnings	Violation
625 45 2-4A	0	Resistance to Officers
625 45 2-4B	0	Failure to Obey the Direction of the Police Officer
625 45 3-1	408	Operation of Unnumbered Watercraft
625 45 3-1.5	8	No Water Usage Stamp (Non-Powered Watercraft)
625 45 3-3	69	Failure to Display, Improper Display of Registration Number
625 45 3-4	0	Failure to Notify Dept Of Destruction/Sale/Transfer
625 45 3-5	18	Failure to Transfer Certificate of Number
625 45 3-7	0	Loss of Certificate of Number/Registration Decal
625 45 3-7.5	0	Failure to Replace Lost/Destroyed Water Usage Stamp
625 45 3-9	40	Failure to Display Valid Registration Decal
625 45 3-11	0	Falsify/Alter Certificate of Number or Water Usage Stamp
625 45 3-13	0	Failure to Attach HIN To Watercraft
625 45 3A-12	0	Failure to Transfer Title
625 45 3A-14	0	Failure to Transfer Title-Dealer
625 45 3A-15	0	Failure to Make Application of Title
625 45 3A-17	0	Failure to Transfer Title-Individual
625 45 3A-19	0	Failure to surrender the title to Department for Junk or salvaged watercraft
625 45 3A-20A	1	Operating W/O Certificate of Title
625 45 3A-20B	0	Sell/Transfer W/O Certificate
625 45 3A-20C	0	Failure to Surrender Title
625 45 3A-21A	0	Alter, Forge, or Counterfeit Manufacturer's or Importer's Certificate
625 45 3A-21D	0	Use False Name or Address, Conceal Facts in Application for Title
625 45 3A-21F	0	Possess, Buy, Receive, Sell Boat W/Out HIN
625 45 3A-21G	0	Destroy, Remove, Cover, Alter or Deface HIN
625 45 3A-21H	0	Possess, Buy, Sell, Exchange the title to Watercraft that is junk or salvage
625 45 3C-1A	0	Abandoning A Watercraft
625 45 4-1	573	Personal Floatation Devices
625 45 4-1A	4	Wearable PFD (Type I, II, Or III Required)
625 45 4-1B	2	Personal Watercraft – PFD Must Be Worn
625 45 4-1C	122	Type IV PFD On Board (16 Feet and Over)
625 45 4-1D	2	Type V PFD Approved for Activity Used
625 45 4-1E	1	Water skier, aquaplanes, etc.
625 45 4-1F1	0	PFDs Accessible
625 45 4-1F2	0	PFDs Serviceable Condition
625 45 4-1F3	4	PFDs Appropriate Size
625 45 4-1F4	1	PFDs Legibly Marked with USCG Number
625 45 4-1I	28	PFD Age Requirement. Less Than 13 Years Old Must Wear PFD
625 45 4-2	74	Operating W/Out Proper Lights Between Sunset/Sunrise
625 45 4-3A	0	Failure to Equip Boat W/Muffler System
625 45 4-3B	0	Mufflers-Exceeding Noise Level
625 45 4-4	225	Operation of Motorboat Without Horn or Whistle
625 45 4-5	533	Fire Extinguisher
625 45 4-6	0	Carburetor Arrestor
625 45 4-7	0	Ventilators

Boating Violations - Written Warnings

Chapter / Act / Section	Number of Written Warnings	Violation
625 45 4-8	0	Sirens and flashing lights-Unlawful use
625 45 4-10	556	Battery Covers
625 45 4-11	224	Lanyard Cut-Off Switch
625 45 4-12	26	Visual Distress Signals
625 45 5-1	8	Careless Operation
625 45 5-2	1	Reckless Operation/Aggravated Reckless Operation
625 45 5-2A	0	Reckless Operation of Watercraft
625 45 5-2B	0	Reckless Operation with Great Bodily Harm
625 45 5-3	2	Interference with Navigation
625 45 5-4A	14	Overloading Motorboat
625 45 5-4B	1	Capacity Plate
625 45 5-5	1	Incapacity of Operator
625 45 5-6	1	Overpowering
625 45 5-7	45	Restricted Area, No Wake W/In 150 Feet of Public Ramp
625 45 5-12	108	Operation in No Wake Area
625 45 5-13A	0	Passing
625 45 5-13B	1	Crossing
625 45 5-13C	0	Overtaking
625 45 5-13D	0	Sailboats and Rowboats
625 45 5-14	15	Waterskiing
625 45 5-14A	13	Competent Observer, Vessel Capacity-3 Persons
625 45 5-14B	0	Hours for Skiing
625 45 5-14E	63	Displaying Orange Flag While Towing Person
625 45 5-16A	0	Operating Under the Influence
625 45 5-16A 1	0	Operating Under the Influence Alcohol/Drugs
625 45 5-16A 1 a	0	Operating with BAC Over .08
625 45 5-16A 1 b	0	Under the Influence of Alcohol
625 45 5-16 A 1 c	0	Under the Influence of Drugs
625 45 5-16 A 1 d	0	Under the Combined Influence of Alcohol/Drugs
625 45 5-16A 1 e	0	Any Amount of Drug in a Person's Blood or Urine
625 45 5-16 E	0	Owner Permitting OUI Operation
625 45 5-18	17	Youthful Operators
625 45 5-18G 1	3	Youthful Operators - Violation – Petty Offense
625 45 5-19	0	Skin Diving 150ft Shoreline/Diver's Flag
625 45 5-20	8	Operation of PWC Between the Hours of Sunset/Sunrise
625 45 5-21	62	Passenger Location
625 45 5-22B	2	Failure to Yield to Emergency Watercraft Upon Approach
625 45 5-22C	0	Failure to Yield to Emergency Watercraft When Stationary
625 45 6-1	0	Failure to Render Aid After Incident/Provide Information
625 45 6-1 A	0	
625 45 6-1 A 1	0	Failure to Report Incident Within 1 Hour
625 45 7-1	1	License Required-Passenger for Hire/Boat Rental
625 45 7-7	1	License/Tag/Weight Fail to Display/Rental Boat
625 45 7-8	1	Livery-Failure of Owner to Provide Safety Equip

Boating Violations - Written Warnings

Chapter / Act / Section	Number of Written Warnings	Violation
625 45 7-9	0	Registration/Per Article III
625 45 7-10	0	Unlawful renting of PWC
625 45 11A-1	0	A catch-all for violations of boat code & authority for ad rules.
TOTAL VIOLATIONS	3288	

Boating Patrol Log Report

Year	Boat Inspections	Vessels Assisted	Persons Assisted	Boat Registration Inspections	Citations	Written Warnings	Recreational Boat Safety Hours
2012	20,015	543	1,688	566	1,230	3,972	50,664
2013	17,512	418	714	228	1,235	4,525	40,734
2014	15,070	302	549	264	1,504	5,127	38,275
2015	15,280	375	550	306	1,415	4,518	42,379
2016	16,937	386	506	189	1,721	5,258	42,160
2017	15,710	372	529	171	1,355	4,886	45,725
2018	11,921	220	351	146	1,045	3,753	33,844
2019	8,624	201	297	136	735	2,623	39,421
2020	11,700	233	355	125	863	3,208	24,067
2021	12,133	275	287	215	734	2,697	28,886
2022	9,161	247	347	225	591	2,808	29,794
2023	10,197	252	271	201	717	3,288	29,518

Boat Registration Inspections are conducted when the owner attempts to register a vessel and the title, registration, or hull identification number is missing or in question. Officers will physically inspect the vessel to confirm the information and conduct investigations into the transfer of titles. The officer will then complete an inspection, either approving or denying the title/registration of the vessel.

Operating Under the Influence (OUI) Arrests

Year	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V	Total
2012	25	26	22	22	28	123
2013	29	21	21	7	37	115
2014	34	47	25	27	26	159
2015	39	45	35	18	18	155
2016	29	54	16	20	28	147
2017	52	63	53	18	56	242
2018	49	28	24	4	27	132
2019	26	32	8	9	28	103
2020	39	19	9	15	20	102
2021	19	13	4	5	24	65
2022	35	12	3	10	12	72
2023	24	6	9	15	23	77
Total	734	664	410	399	502	2,709

Boating Incidents and Alcohol/Drug Use

	OUI Arrests	Injuries			Fatalities			Vessels		
Year	Total Number of OUI Arrests	Primary Cause Alcohol/Drug Use	Total Number of Injuries	Percentage Involving Alcohol/Drug use	Primary Cause Alcohol/Drug Use	Total Number of Fatalities	Percentage involving Alcohol/Drug Use	Primary Cause Alcohol/Drug Use	Total Number of Vessels	Percentage Involving Alcohol/Drug Use
2000	174	7	76	9.21%	1	14	7.14%	7	231	3.03%
2001	241	10	75	13.33%	2	23	8.70%	11	171	6.43%
2002	275	5	92	5.43%	3	8	37.50%	8	188	4.26%
2003	188	9	63	14.29%	5	13	38.46%	12	122	9.84%
2004	189	2	45	4.44%	5	18	27.78%	7	103	6.80%
2005	278	8	100	8.00%	2	16	12.50%	12	152	7.89%
2006	302	11	66	16.67%	5	18	27.78%	13	119	10.92%
2007	190	3	57	5.26%	1	13	7.69%	7	146	4.79%
2008	185	1	78	1.28%	1	13	7.69%	4	174	2.30%
2009	215	9	71	12.68%	2	25	8.00%	12	137	8.76%
2010	204	10	76	13.16%	6	16	37.50%	16	145	11.03%
2011	176	13	70	18.57%	8	21	38.10%	17	136	12.50%
2012	209	0	69	0.00%	10	19	52.63%	0	135	0.00%
2013	182	3	50	6.00%	3	14	21.43%	8	90	8.89%
2014	215	10	54	18.52%	6	20	30.00%	15	98	15.31%
2015	166	1	49	2.04%	6	14	42.86%	10	96	10.42%
2016	175	3	36	8.33%	3	11	27.27%	11	103	10.68%
2017	263	2	48	4.17%	3	12	25.00%	7	123	5.69%
2018	132	1	34	2.94%	4	18	22.22%	9	91	9.89%
2019	104	5	42	11.90 %	7	14	50.00%	9	95	9.47%
2020	117	3	36	12.00%	7	21	33.33%	10	113	8.85%
2021	76	1	28	3.57%	4	16	25.00%	5	147	3.40%
2022	81	5	40	12.50%	0	6	0.00%	3	78	3.84%
2023	72	11	37	29.73%	3	12	25.00%	9	110	8.18%

Recreational Boat Incident Report

Total Number of Vessels	110	Total Number of Registered Boats	183,689
Total Number of Incidents	70	Number of Incidents per 100,000 Registered Boats	38.1
Total Number of Injuries	37	Number of Injuries per 100,000 Registered Boats	20.1
Total Number of Fatalities	12	Number of Fatalities per 100,000 Registered Boats	6.5

Fatalities--Cause of Death

Boating Fatalities		
Cause of Death	Number of Fatalities	Percent of Fatalities
Drowning	9	75.0%
Trauma	3	25.0%
Totals	12	100%

Fatalities -- Life Jacket Use

Status	Number of Fatalities	Percent of Fatalities
Life Jacket Worn	1	8.3%
Life Jacket Not Worn	11	91.7%
Totals	12	100%

Fatalities -- Cause of Death and Life Jacket Use

Life Jacket Use Status			
Cause of Death	Worn	Not Worn	Unknown
Drowning	0	9	0
Trauma	1	2	0
Totals	1	11	0

Fatalities -- Vessel Type

Boating Fatalities		
Vessel Type	Number of Fatalities	Percent of Fatalities
Cabin Motorboat	2	16.7%
Canoe	1	8.3%
Open Motorboat	6	50.0%
Personal Watercraft	1	8.3%
Pontoon Boat	2	16.7%
Totals	12	100%

Fatalities -- Vessel Type and Life Jacket Use

Life Jacket Use Status			
Vessel Type	Worn	Not Worn	Unknown
Cabin Motorboat	0	2	0
Canoe	0	1	0
Open Motorboat	0	6	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Pontoon Boat	0	2	0
Totals	1	11	0

Injuries – Injury Cause Primary

Injury Cause Primary	Number of Injuries	Percent of Injuries
Fire	4	10.8%
Impact with Boat	18	48.6%
Impact with Fixed / Floating Object	8	21.6%
Impact with Water	4	10.8%
Struck by Boat	1	2.7%
Struck by Propeller	2	5.4%
Totals	37	100%

Injuries – Injury Cause Primary and Life Jacket Use

Injury Cause Primary	Life Jacket Use Status		
	Worn	Not Worn	Unknown
Fire	1	3	0
Impact with Boat	4	14	0
Impact with Fixed / Floating Object	0	8	0
Impact with Water	4	0	0
Struck by Boat	1	0	0
Struck by Propeller	0	2	0
Totals	10	27	0

Injuries – Primary Type of Injury

Primary Type of Injury	Number of Injuries	Percent of Injuries
Amputation	2	5.4%
Back Injury	1	2.7%
Broken Bones	5	13.5%
Burns	4	10.8%
Contusion	7	18.9%
Dislocation	1	2.7%
Head Injury	3	8.1%
Hypothermia	3	8.1%
Internal Injuries	1	2.7%
Laceration	8	21.6%
Neck Injury	1	2.7%
Other	1	2.7%
Totals	37	100%

Incidents by Month (10/01/2022 – 09/30/2023)

Month	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0
March	1	2	0	1
April	3	3	1	4
May	11	3	1	17
June	8	2	0	14
July	22	14	6	32
August	14	8	1	25
September	8	5	3	12
October	2	0	0	3
November	1	0	0	2
December	0	0	0	0
Total	70	37	12	110

Incidents by Day of Week

Day of Week	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Sunday	12	8	0	19
Monday	9	7	1	13
Tuesday	9	3	3	13
Wednesday	2	1	1	2
Thursday	4	0	0	6
Friday	7	5	1	11
Saturday	27	13	6	46
Total	70	37	12	110

Incidents by Time of Day

Time	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
12:01 A.M. – 6:00 A.M.	4	5	1	7
6:01 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	9	5	2	11
12:01 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.	37	16	8	59
6:01 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.	20	11	1	33
Total	70	37	12	110

Incidents by Water Conditions

Water	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Calm (Waves Less Than 6")	48	26	9	75
Choppy (Waves 6" - 2')	18	11	3	30
Rough (Waves 2' – 6')	2	0	0	2
Very Rough (Waves greater than 6')	1	0	0	1
Unknown	1	0	0	2
Total	70	37	12	110

Incidents by Weather Conditions

Weather	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Clear	60	26	9	94
Cloudy	9	11	3	14
Unknown	1	0	0	2
Total	70	37	12	110

Incidents by Wind Conditions

Wind	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Light (0-12 Mph)	37	20	7	56
Moderate (13-24 Mph)	28	14	5	45
Strong (25-54 Mph)	4	3	0	7
Unknown	1	0	0	2
Total	70	37	12	110

Incidents by Visibility

Visibility	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Fair	4	9	1	5
Good	64	27	11	102
Poor	1	1	0	1
Unknown	1	0	0	2
Total	70	37	12	110

Incident Causes/Contributing Factors (Primary Cause/Factor)

Primary Cause/Factor	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Alcohol/Drug Use	11	3	9
Careless/Reckless Operation	9	3	23
Congested Waters	0	0	2
Did Not Contribute	1	0	30
Equipment Failure	0	0	1
Excessive Speed	1	1	3
Force of Wake	1	0	1
Hull Failure	0	0	1
Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapors	4	0	1
Improper Anchoring	0	0	1
Machinery Failure	0	0	3
No Proper Lookout	0	0	1
Operator Inattention	2	0	11
Operator Inexperience	3	0	6
Other – Failure to wear a safety lanyard	2	0	1
Other – Low water	0	0	1
Passenger/Skier Behavior	1	1	2
Rules of Road Infraction	0	0	4
Sharp Turn	0	0	1
Standing/Sitting in an Inappropriate Position	1	0	2
Swimming Ability	0	1	1
Unknown	0	3	2
Weather	1	0	3
Total	37	12	110

Incident Types (Primary Type)

Type of Incident	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Capsizing	0	0	2
Collision with Another Vessel	7	1	64
Collision with Fixed Object	12	1	10
Collision with Floating Object	0	0	4
Collision with Submerged Object	3	0	5
Falls Overboard	3	1	3
Fire or Explosion (Fuel)	4	0	2
Flooding/Swamping	0	0	2
Grounding	2	2	2
Occupant Impacts Vessel	1	0	1
Person Departed Vessel	0	3	3
Person Ejected from A Vessel	2	1	3
Person Impacts Vessel	1	0	2
Struck by Motor or Propeller	1	0	1
Towed Watersport Mishap	1	1	2
Unknown	0	2	4
Total	37	12	110

Incidents by Vessel Type

Type of Vessel	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Auxiliary Sail	0	0	4
Cabin Motorboat	8	2	16
Canoe	1	1	2
Houseboat	0	0	2
Kayak	2	0	1
Open Motorboat	15	6	42
Personal Watercraft	7	1	17
Pontoon Boat	4	2	24
Towboat	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	1
Total	37	12	110

Vessel Operation at the Time of Incident

Vessel Operation	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
At Anchor	0	0	4
Changing Direction	2	0	3
Changing Speed	0	0	3
Changing Speed, Changing Direction	0	1	2
Changing Speed, Cruising	0	0	1
Changing Speed, Cruising, Changing Direction	1	0	2
Changing Speed, Cruising, Drifting	0	0	1
Changing Speed, Docking, Undocking	0	0	1
Changing Speed, Drifting	1	0	1
Cruising	24	3	37
Cruising, Changing Direction	3	3	8
Docking/Undocking	0	0	12
Docking/Undocking, Changing Direction	0	0	1
Docking/Undocking, Launching	0	0	1
Docking/Undocking, Sailing	0	0	1
Docking/Undocking, Tied to Dock/Mooring	0	0	1
Drifting	1	3	6
Other-Pulling Tubers, Cruising, Changing Direction	1	0	1
Other – Tubing, Changing Speed, Cruising	1	0	1
Other – Wake Surfing, Cruising	0	0	1
Rowing/Paddling	3	0	2
Tied to Dock / Mooring	0	0	18
Unknown	0	2	2
Total	37	12	110

Incidents by Vessel Length in Feet

Vessel Length in Feet	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Unknown	0	1	2
Less Than 16 Feet	11	3	22
16 Feet To < 26 Feet	19	4	53
26 Feet To < 40 Feet	7	4	25
40 Feet To 65 Feet	0	0	7
> 65 Feet	0	0	1
Total	37	12	110

Operator Boating Safety Education

Operator Education	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
State Course	7	1	24
U.S.C.G.	0	0	1
None	19	9	59
Unknown	11	2	26
Total	37	12	110

Operator's Overall Boating Experience (in Hours)

Operator Experience	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Under 10 hours	6	1	10
10 - 100 hours	8	4	35
Over 100 hours	16	6	40
Unknown	7	1	25
Total	37	12	110

Incidents by Operator Age

Operator Age	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
0 To 10 Years	0	0	0
11 To 20 Years	2	1	5
21 To 30 Years	9	0	12
31 To 40 Years	13	1	13
41 To 50 Years	5	3	17
51 To 60 Years	3	0	24
61 To 70 Years	3	5	17
71 To 80 Years	2	1	5
81 Years or More	0	1	1
Unknown	0	0	16
Total	37	12	110

Incident Statistics by Body of Water

Body of Water	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Apple Canyon Lake	1	0	0	2
Bangs Lake	1	0	0	2
Carlyle Lake	2	0	0	3
Channel Lake	2	0	0	4
Chicago River	2	0	0	4
Crab Orchard Lake	1	0	0	1
Des Plaines River	1	0	0	2
Dunn's Lake	1	1	0	2
East Fork Lake	1	0	1	1
Fox River	5	5	2	6
Grass Lake	2	0	0	2
Illinois River	6	4	0	13
Kankakee River	1	1	0	2
Kinkaid Lake	1	1	1	1
Lake Catherine	1	0	1	1
Lake Decatur	1	0	0	3
Lake Marie	1	0	0	2
Lake Michigan	13	6	3	20
Lake of Egypt	1	0	0	2
Lake Sara	1	1	0	1
Lake Shelbyville	2	3	0	2
Lake Springfield	1	0	0	2
Lake Wildwood	1	0	0	2
Miltmore Lake	1	1	0	2
Mississippi River	5	3	1	6
Nippersink River	1	0	0	1
Otter Lake	1	0	0	1
Petite lake	2	1	0	4
Pistakee Lake	5	5	0	8
Private Strip Mine Lake	1	0	2	1
Sangamon River	1	2	0	1
Spring Lake	1	0	0	2
Twin Lakes	1	1	1	2
Total	70	37	12	110

Body of Water Broken Down by County

Body of Water	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Apple Canyon Lake				
Jo Daviess County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Bangs Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Carlyle Lake				
Clinton County	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Channel Lake				
Lake County	2	0	0	4
Subtotal	2	0	0	4
Chicago River				
Cook County	2	0	0	4
Subtotal	2	0	0	4
Crab Orchard Lake				
Williamson County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Des Plaines River				
Will County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Dunn's Lake				
Lake County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
East Fork Lake				
Richland County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Fox River				
Lake County	1	1	0	1
McHenry County	4	4	2	5
Subtotal	5	5	2	6
Grass Lake				
Lake County	2	0	0	2
Subtotal	2	0	0	2
Illinois River				
Jersey County	1	0	0	2
La Salle County	4	4	0	9
Putnam County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	6	4	0	13
Kankakee River				
Kankakee County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2

Body of Water Broken Down by County

Body of Water	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Kinkaid Lake				
Jackson County	1	1	1	1
Subtotal	1	1	1	1
Lake Catherine				
Lake County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Lake Marie				
Macon County	1	0	0	3
Subtotal	1	0	0	3
Lake Michigan				
Cook County	12	6	3	18
Lake County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	13	6	3	20
Lake of Egypt				
Johnson County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lake Sara				
Effingham County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Lake Shelbyville				
Shelby County	2	3	0	2
Subtotal	2	3	0	2
Lake Springfield				
Sangamon County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lake Wildwood				
Marshall County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Miltmore Lake				
Lake County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Mississippi River				
Calhoun County	2	2	0	3
Hancock County	1	0	1	1
Rock Island County	1	1	0	1
Union County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	5	3	1	6
Nippersink Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Otter Lake				
Macoupin County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1

Body of Water Broken Down by County

Body of Water	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Petite Lake				
Lake County	2	1	0	4
Subtotal	2	1	0	4
Pistakee Lake				
Lake County	4	5	0	6
McHenry County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	5	5	0	8
Private Strip Mine Lake				
Peoria County	1	0	2	1
Subtotal	1	0	2	1
Rock River				
Ogle County	1	1	0	1
Winnebago County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	2	2	0	2
Sangamon River				
Cass County	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	1	2	0	1
Spring Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Twin Lakes				
Edgar County	1	1	1	2
Subtotal	1	1	1	2
Total	70	37	12	110

Incident Statistics By County

County	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Calhoun	2	2	0	3
Cass	1	2	0	1
Clinton	2	0	0	3
Cook	14	6	3	22
Edgar	1	1	1	2
Effingham	1	1	0	1
Hancock	1	0	1	1
Jackson	1	1	1	1
Jersey	1	0	0	2
Jo Daviess	1	0	0	2
Johnson	1	0	0	2
Kankakee	1	1	0	2
LaSalle	4	4	0	9
Lake	19	9	1	31
Macon	1	0	0	3
Macoupin	1	0	0	1
Marshall	1	0	0	2
McHenry	5	4	2	7
Ogle	1	1	0	1
Peoria	1	0	2	1
Putnam	1	0	0	2
Richland	1	0	1	1
Rock Island	1	1	0	1
Sangamon	1	0	0	2
Shelby	2	3	0	2
Union	1	0	0	1
Will	1	0	0	2
Williamson	1	0	0	1
Winnebago	1	1	0	1
Totals	70	37	12	110

Counties Broken Down by Body of Water

County	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Calhoun County				
Mississippi River	2	2	0	3
Subtotal	2	2	0	3
Cass County				
Sangamon River	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	1	2	0	1
Clinton County				
Carlyle Lake	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Cook County				
Chicago River	2	0	0	4
Lake Michigan	12	6	3	18
Subtotal	14	6	3	22
Edgar County				
Twin Lakes	1	1	1	2
Subtotal	1	1	1	2
Effingham County				
Lake Sara	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Hancock County				
Mississippi River	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Jackson County				
Kinkaid Lake	1	1	1	1
Subtotal	1	1	1	1
Jersey County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Jo Daviess County				
Apple Canyon Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Johnson County				
Lake of Egypt	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Kankakee County				
Kankakee River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2

Counties Broken Down by Body of Water

County	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Lake County				
Bangs Lake	1	0	0	2
Channel Lake	2	0	0	4
Dunn's Lake	1	1	0	2
Fox River	1	1	0	1
Grass Lake	2	0	0	2
Lake Catherine	1	0	1	1
Lake Marie	1	0	0	2
Lake Michigan	1	0	0	2
Miltmore Lake	1	1	0	2
Nippersink Lake	1	0	0	1
Petite Lake	2	1	0	4
Pistakee Lake	4	5	0	6
Spring Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	19	9	1	31
La Salle County				
Illinois River	4	4	0	9
Subtotal	4	4	0	9
Macon County				
Lake Decatur	1	0	0	3
Subtotal	1	0	0	3
Macoupin County				
Otter Lake	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Marshall County				
Lake Wildwood	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
McHenry County				
Fox River	4	4	2	5
Pistakee Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	5	4	2	7
Ogle County				
Rock River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Peoria County				
Private Strip Mine Lake	1	0	2	1
Subtotal	1	0	2	1

Counties Broken Down by Body of Water

County	Number of Incidents	Number of Injuries	Number of Fatalities	Number of Vessels
Putnam County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Richland County				
East Fork Lake	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Rock Island				
Mississippi River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Sangamon County				
Lake Springfield	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Shelby County				
Lake Shelbyville	2	3	0	2
Subtotal	2	3	0	2
Union County				
Mississippi River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Will County				
Des Plaines River	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Williamson County				
Crab Orchard Lake	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Winnebago County				
Rock River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Total	70	37	12	110

Fatal Boat Incidents Statistical Summary

Incident Number	Fatality Number	Date/Time	Day of Week	Water Body	County	Number of Injured	Number of Vessels	PFD Use	Cause of Death	Age	Victim Activity	Weather/Visibility	Water Conditions	Wind Conditions
1	1	04/11/2023 9:21 AM	Tuesday	Mississippi River	Hancock	0	1	No	Drowning	69	Fishing	Clear/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)
2	2	05/31/2023 7:02 PM	Wednesday	Kinkaid Lake	Jackson	1	1	No	Drowning	80	Recreational Cruising	Clear/ Good	Choppy (Waves 6" – 2')	Moderate (7-14 Mph)
3	3	07/04/2023 1:20 PM	Tuesday	Lake Michigan	Cook	0	1	No	Drowning	43	Swimming	Clear/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)
4	4	07/08/2023 1:30 PM	Saturday	Private Strip Mine Lake	Peoria	0	1	No	Drowning	67	Fishing	Cloudy/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)
	5	07/08/2023 1:30 PM	Saturday	Private Strip Mine Lake	Peoria	0	1	No	Drowning	67	Fishing	Cloudy/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)
5	6	07/15/2023 4:00 PM	Saturday	Twin Lakes	Edgar	0	2	Yes	Trauma	50	Recreational Cruising	Clear/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Moderate (7-14 Mph)
6	7	07/22/2023 3:53 PM	Saturday	Lake Catherine	Lake	0	1	No	Drowning	52	Swimming	Clear/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)
7	8	07/28/2023 2:40 AM	Friday	Lake Michigan	Cook	6	1	No	Drowning	20	Recreational Cruising	Clear/ Good	Choppy (Waves 6" – 2')	Moderate (7-14 Mph)
8	9	08/14/2023 4:03 PM	Monday	East Fork Lake	Richland	0	1	No	Drowning	79	Skiing	Clear/ Good	Choppy (Waves 6" – 2')	Moderate (7-14 Mph)
9	10	09/05/2023 8:25 AM	Tuesday	Lake Michigan	Cook	0	1	No	Drowning	38	Swimming	Clear/ Good	Choppy (Waves 6"-2')	Moderate (7-14 Mph)
10	11	09/30/2023 9:30 AM	Saturday	Fox River	McHenry	0	1	No	Trauma	62	Recreational Cruising	Clear/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)
	12	09/30/2023 9:30 AM	Saturday	Fox River	McHenry	0	1	No	Trauma	61	Recreational Cruising	Clear/ Good	Calm (Waves < 6")	Light (0-6 Mph)

Fatal Boat Incidents Statistical Summary

Incident Number	Fatality Number	Date/Time	Type of Incident Primary	Vessel Type	Vessel Length	Cause of Incident Primary	Operator Age	Operator Education	Operator Experience	Vessel Operations
1	1	04/11/2023 9:21 AM	Falls Overboard	Canoe	17'	Unknown	69	None	10 to 100 Hours	Drifting
2	2	05/31/2023 7:02 PM	Ejected from Vessel	Open Motorboat	18'	Sharp Turn	80	None	Over 100 Hours	Cruising
3	3	07/04/2023 1:20 PM	Departed Vessel Voluntarily	Open Motorboat	22'	Swimming Ability	42	State Course	Over 100 Hours	Cruising
4	4/5	07/08/2023 1:30 PM	Capsizing	Open Motorboat	12'	Unknown	67	None	Unknown	Fishing
5	6	07/15/2023 4:00 PM	Collision with Vessel	Personal Watercraft (PWC)	10'	Careless/Reckless Operation	50	None	Under 10 Hours	Cruising
6	7	07/22/2023 3:53 PM	Departed Vessel Voluntarily	Pontoon Boat		Alcohol Use	20	Unknown	Unknown	Drifting
7	8	07/28/2023 2:40 AM	Collision with Fixed Object	Cabin Motorboat	31'	Alcohol Use	38	Unknown	Over 100 Hours	Cruising
8	9	08/14/2023 4:03 PM	Skier Mishap	Pontoon Boat	25'	Passenger/Skier Behavior	62	None	10 to 100 Hours	Cruising
9	10	09/05/2023 8:25 AM	Departed Vessel Voluntarily	Cabin Motorboat	26'	Alcohol Use	44	None	Over 100 Hours	Drifting
10	11/12	09/30/2023 9:30 AM	Grounding	Open Motorboat	33'	Careless/Reckless Operation	62	None	Over 100 Hours	Cruising

Fatal Boat Incident Narratives

- 1) On 4/11/23 at approximately 9:21 AM, according to a witness, the victim was in the Mississippi River attempting to retrieve his canoe. The victim had been fishing prior to falling overboard and it is unknown the cause of the incident. However, the victim was not wearing a PFD. The victim's body was recovered the following morning near mile marker 368 in Hancock County. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
4/11/2023	1	Unknown	Swimming Ability	
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 2) On 05/31/23 at approximately 7:00 PM, the victim and spouse were cruising on Kinkaid Lake. Her husband was operating the boat and the two traveled between the spillway and main marina. On the second lap, the victim made a sharp, arcing left turn at a high rate of speed. Both the victim and spouse were ejected from the boat. Both the victim and spouse were conscious while in the water. They treaded water for approximately 5 minutes before a passing pontoon boat approached their position and attempted to provide PFDs to the distressed couple. As the spouse secured a PFD, the victim disappeared below the surface of the water. The spouse was taken to Carbondale Memorial Hospital via Ambulance. The spouse sustained a fractured left femur. The victim's body was located on 6/01/2023 at approximately 2:57 PM in approximately 55 feet of water. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
5/31/2023	1	Sharp Turn	Excessive Speed	Swimming Ability
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 3) On 07/04/23 at approximately 1:20 PM, vessel one was traveling north bound on Lake Michigan near Centennial Park in Winnetka, Illinois. Vessel one was traveling at idle speeds about 100 feet offshore when the four children in tow tipped the Nautica Innertube. All four children in the water were wearing coast guard approved life jackets. The victim observed his 5-year-old daughter having a difficult time reaching the innertube. The victim voluntarily departed the stopped vessel in an effort to help his daughter. The victim was not wearing a personal floatation device and began to struggle. The boat operator noticed the kids struggling as well. He pulled his engine cut off lanyard and entered the water, leaving a passenger in operation of the vessel. The operator assisted the remaining children in the water back onto the innertube. The operator turned his attention to the victim who was beginning to display signs of physical distress and panic. The passenger, still in operation of the vessel, hailed a passing vessel to help assist the victim in the water. With the efforts of individuals on the passing vessel, and the operator, the group was successful in assisting the victim back into the vessel he departed from. Aboard the assisting vessel was a doctor, who immediately began attempting CPR on the victim who had taken in too much water. At this time, an Officer of Winnetka Police had swam 100 feet out to the vessel and boarded. He and the doctor performed CPR until the vessel was beached on centennial park beach and Winnetka Fire took over. The victim was transported to Evanston Hospital where at 2:00 PM he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
7/04/2023	1	Swimming Ability		
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 4) On 7/8/2023 at approximately 1:30 PM, the property owner noticed a small vessel capsized on his lake. The property owner went to the north side of the lake to get a closer look at the vessel and discovered the victim floating face down in the lake near the shoreline. Upon discovery, he called 911 from his cell phone to notify Peoria County emergency personnel, who then responded to the scene. A 12' aluminum jon boat with 2 adult male occupants who were reported to be fishing. The vessel was powered by an electric trolling motor attached to the stern of the vessel. PFDs were not worn by either victim. The watercraft had no valid registration and no PFDs or boat safety equipment were located at the scene. Peoria County emergency personnel recovered one victim from the lake and initiated lifesaving measures with negative results. On the morning of 07/09/2023, emergency personnel from the Peoria County Sheriff's Office and Peoria Fire Department Dive Team located and recovered a second male drowning victim from the bottom of the lake near the location of the capsized vessel. The Peoria County Coroner's report documents the cause of death as drowning for both victims.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
7/08/2023	2	Unknown		
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 5) On 07/15/2023, at approximately 4:00 PM, the victim and a friend were out test-driving their Jet-Skis near the east boat ramp at Twin Lakes in Paris, IL. As both the victim and friend were underway, the friend was following approximately 10-15 yards behind the victim, took a right turn headed south out of the victim's wake getting splashed in the face with water and when he looked up he observed the victim make a sharp right turn heading west, resulting in the friend smashing into the victim ejecting both from their personal watercrafts. A bystander rushed over to render aid to both the victim and friend, helped them to shore, called 911, and applied a makeshift tourniquet out of a T-Shirt to the victim's leg. The victim was transported by way of helicopter to Carle Hospital in Urbana, Illinois, sustaining a compound fracture to his leg. The friend was transported to the local Paris Community Hospital due to minor injuries sustained to his mouth and right hip area. The victim died on 07/24/23 at Carle Hospital as a result of his injuries. The cause of death was Multi-Organ Failure, Circulatory Collapse, and Severe Bowel Ischemia.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
7/15/2023	1	Careless/Reckless Operation	Operator Inattention	Operator Inexperience

- 6) On 07/22/2023, the victim had been consuming alcoholic beverages while drifting on the North side of Lake Catherine. The victim jumped off the boat wearing pants and wool socks and did not resurface. The victim's body was located by Antioch Fire on 7/24/23 in Lake Catherine. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
07/22/2023	1	Alcohol Use		
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 7) On 07/28/2023 at approximately 2:42 AM one victim died and six other victims were injured when their vessel struck the breakwall leaving the play pen on Lake Michigan. One of the occupants through MUHQ cameras, the occupant was trying to swim to shore from the breakwall. MUHQ directed rescue personnel to the occupant trying to swim to shore. One of the passengers advised the boat hit a rock and flipped over and 6 out of the 7 occupants were able to get to the breakwall. The dive team observed the victim trapped in the vessel; however, due to the weather, they were unable to recover the victim. The following day, the victim was recovered by the dive team. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
07/28/2023	1	Alcohol Use	Drug Use	Careless/Reckless Operation
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 8) On 08/14/2023 at approximately 4:03 PM a 911 call came through to Richland County dispatch from The victim's spouse in regards to a boating accident. The spouse stated that she was operating the watercraft (pontoon) between 10-15 mph while her husband and 11-year-old great-granddaughter were on the tube she was towing. While tubing, the tow rope broke causing both subjects to fall into the water. The great-granddaughter was wearing a life jacket but the victim was not. When the spouse noticed what had occurred, the great-granddaughter was screaming frantically in the water but the victim did not resurface and was not seen again. On 08/16/2023 the victim was recovered by the dive team. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
8/14/2023	1	Passenger/Skier Behavior	Operator Inattention	No Proper Lookout
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 9) On 9/5/23 at approximately 08:25 AM the boat operator and two passengers were drifting on Lake Michigan. Two passengers left the vessel to swim in Lake Michigan. The passenger stated that the victim went under the water after approximately two minutes of swimming. The passenger was treading water for approximately 20 minutes before being able to get onboard the boat. The boat operator was unaware that the two passengers voluntarily left the boat to swim. The boat was not anchored and was drifting at the time of the victim's disappearance. On 09/09/23 the victim's body was recovered. The toxicology report revealed the victim had alcohol and drugs present in his system. The cause of death was drowning.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
09/05/2023	1	Alcohol Use	Drug Use	Swimming Ability
Failure to Wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD)				

- 10) On 09/30/2023, a boat was traveling northbound along the Fox River, just south of the Snuggery Restaurant in McHenry. According to witnesses, the operator was traveling at a high rate of speed and then abruptly turned around in a figure S before hitting the western shoreline at an approximate 90-degree angle, causing the boat to become airborne before striking the ground approximately 60 feet from the initial shoreline impact. Both occupants were ejected from the boat and the boat rolled over, causing the entire top portion of the boat to become separated from the hull. The female occupant was pinned underneath the hull and died on the scene. The male operator was transported to Advocate Condell Medical in Libertyville where he later died.

INCIDENT_DATE	TOTAL_DECEASED	CAUSE_PRIMARY	CAUSE_SECONDARY	CAUSE_TERTIARY
09/30/2023	2	Careless/Reckless Operation	Excessive Speed	Sharp Turn

Glossary

Airboat - A vessel that is typically flat-bottomed and propelled by an aircraft-type propeller powered by an engine.

At Anchor - Held in place in the water by an anchor; includes “moored” to a buoy or anchored vessel and “dragging anchor”.

Auxiliary Sail - A vessel with sail as its primary method of propulsion and mechanical propulsion as its secondary method.

Cabin Motorboat - A vessel propelled by propulsion machinery and providing enclosed spaces inside its structure.

Canoe - A small narrow boat propelled by paddles. Canoes usually are pointed at both bow and stern and are normally open on top but can be covered.

Capsizing - Overturning of a vessel.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - Death or injury resulting from an odorless, colorless gas generated from auxiliary boat equipment (stoves, heaters, refrigerators, generators, hot water heaters, etc.), another boat’s exhaust, or the exhaust of the vessel on which persons were either aboard or in close proximity.

Collision with Fixed Object - The striking of any fixed object above or below the surface of the water.

Collision with Floating Object - Collision with any waterborne object above or below the surface that is free to move with the tide, current, or wind, except another vessel.

Collision with Commercial/Governmental/Recreational Vessel - Any striking together of two or more vessels, regardless of operation at the time of the incident, is a collision.

Collision with Submerged Object - A boat’s collision with any waterborne or fixed object that is below the surface of the water.

Congested Waters - Where the body of water is either too small or narrow to safely accommodate the number of boats on it.

Cruising - Proceeding normally, unrestricted, with an absence of drastic rudder or engine changes.

Departed Vessel - An incident where a person voluntarily disembarks a vessel by his/her own will (i.e., by diving off, jumping in), as opposed to a case where the person is forcefully ejected by a change in the vessel speed and/or direction.

Documented Vessel - A vessel of five or more net tons owned by a citizen of the United States and used exclusively for pleasure with a valid marine document issued by the Coast Guard. Documented vessels are not numbered.

Drifting - Underway but proceeding over the bottom without the use of engines, oars, or sails; being carried along only by the tide, current, or wind.

Electrocution - Death or injury resulting from an electrical current that comes in contact with water causing electrocution of the victim.

Excessive Speed - Speed above that which a reasonable and prudent person would have operated under the conditions that existed. It is not necessarily a speed in excess of a posted limit.

Failure to Vent - Prior to starting the engine, failure to turn on the powered ventilation system that brings in “fresh air” and expels gasoline vapors from the engine compartment.

Fall in Vessel - Any operator or passenger who slips, trips, or falls on board or within the vessel.

Falls Overboard - Any operator or passenger who falls off of the vessel.

Fiberglass hull - Hulls of fiber-reinforced plastic. The laminate consists of two basic components, the reinforcing material (glass filaments) and the plastic or resin in which it is embedded.

Fire/Explosion (fuel) - Incidental combustion of vessel fuel, liquids, including their vapors, or other substances such as wood.

Fire/Explosion (other) - Incidental burning or explosion of any material onboard except vessel fuels or their vapors.

Flooding/Swamping - Filling with water, regardless of method of ingress, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

Force of Wave/Wake - The track in the water of a moving boat; commonly used for the disturbance of the water (waves) resulting from the passage of the boat's hull.

Fueling - Any stage of the fueling operation; primarily concerned with the introduction of explosive or combustible vapors or liquids on board.

Grounding - Running aground of a vessel, striking or pounding on rocks, reefs, or shoals; stranding.

Hazardous Waters - Rapid tidal flows (the vertical movement of water) and/or currents (the horizontal flow of water) resulting in hazardous conditions in which to operate a boat.

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

Hull Failure - Defect or failure of the structural body of a vessel (i.e., hull material, design, or construction), not including superstructure, masts, or rigging.

Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapor - Incidental combustion of vessel fuel, liquids, and/or their vapors.

Improper Anchoring - Where a boat is either in the process of being anchored incorrectly or incorrectly held in place in the water by an anchor.

Improper Loading - Loading, including weight shifting, of the vessel causing instability, limited maneuverability, or dangerously reduced freeboard.

Improper Lookout - No proper watch; the failure of the operator to perceive danger because no one was serving as a lookout, or the person so serving failed in that regard. Every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and the risk of collision.

Inboard - An engine mounted inside the confines of a vessel that powers a drive shaft that turns a water jet impeller or that runs through the bottom of the hull and is attached to a propeller at the other end.

Inflatable - A vessel that uses air-filled flexible fabric for buoyancy.

Kayak - A small boat with a cockpit that is propelled by a double-bladed paddle by a sitting paddler.

Inadequate On-board Navigation Lights - Insufficient and/or improper lights shown by a boat that indicate course, position, and occupation, such as fishing or towing.

Machinery Failure - Defect and/or failure in the machinery or material, design or construction, or components installed by the manufacturer involved in the mechanical propulsion of the boat (e.g., engine, transmission, fuel system, electric system, and steering system).

Missing or Inadequate Navigation Aids - The absence of or ineffective presence of navigation aids.

Motorboat - Any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery.

Navigation Rules Violation - Violation of the statutory and regulatory rules governing the navigation of vessels.

Numbered vessel - An undocumented vessel numbered by a state with an approved numbering system under Chapter 123 of title 46, U.S.C.

Open Motorboat - A vessel 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.

Operator Inattention - Failure on the part of the operator to pay attention to the vessel, its occupants, or the environment in which the vessel is operating.

Operator Inexperience - Lack of practical experience or knowledge in operating a vessel or, more particularly, the vessel involved in the incident.

Outboard - An engine with a propeller or water jet integrally attached, which is usually mounted at the stern of a vessel.

Overloading - Excessive loading of the vessel causing instability, limited maneuverability, dangerously reduced freeboard, etc.

Paddlecraft - A vessel 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.

People on Gunwale, Bow, or Transom - Standing/Sitting on the upper edge of the side of a boat, usually on a small projection above the deck; and/or standing/sitting on the most forward part of the boat; and/or standing/sitting on the back of the boat.

Person Struck by Vessel - A person is struck by a boat.

Person Struck by Propeller - A person is struck by the propeller, propulsion unit, or steering machinery.

Personal Watercraft - A vessel 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 vessel rather than sitting or standing within the vessel's hull.

Pod drive - An engine mounted in front of the transom of a vessel and attached through the bottom of the hull to a steerable propulsion unit.

Pontoon Boat - A vessel 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 atrimaran.

Restricted Vision - A vessel operator's vision is said to be restricted when it is limited by a vessel's bow high trim or by glare, sunlight, bright lights, a dirty windshield, spray, a canopy top, etc.

Rowboat - An open vessel manually propelled by oars.

Sail (only) - A vessel propelled only by sails.

Sharp Turn - An immediate or abrupt change in the boat's course of direction.

Sinking - Losing enough buoyancy to settle below the surface of the water.

Skier Mishap - Skier mishap is defined by persons (1) falling off their water skis, (2) striking a fixed or submerged object, or (3) becoming entangled or struck by the tow line. Also includes mishaps involving inner tubes and other devices on which a person can be towed behind a boat.

Standup Paddleboard - A vessel, typically 7' – 15' in length with enough width and flotation to stay afloat without momentum while boarded, that is propelled by a standing operator with the use of a single or double-bladed paddle.

Starting in Gear - The boat's engine is started with the transmission in forward or reverse.

Steel hull - Hulls of sheet steel or steel alloy, not those with steel ribs and wood, canvas, or plastic hull coverings.

Sterndrive - An engine, powering a propeller through a series of shafts and gears, mounted in front of the transom of a vessel and attached through the transom to a drive unit that is similar to the lower unit of an outboard; and may also be known as an inboard-outdrive or an inboard-outboard.

Sudden Medical Condition - An incident where a person on a vessel experiences an unexpected medical condition.

Towing - Engaged in towing any vessel or object other than a person.

Weather - As a contributing factor of an incident, "Weather" is supposed to signify a stormy or windy condition, usually connoting rough or high seas and dangerous operating conditions.

Wood Hull - Hulls of plywood, molded plywood, wood planking, or any other wood fiber in its natural consistency, including those of wooden construction that have been "sheathed" with metal.

Watercraft Frequently Asked Questions

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Questions

Duplicate/Lost Decals or Titles

I have misplaced my watercraft title and wish to sell my boat; what do I do?

Will you be selling the boat to someone who is going to title and register it here in Illinois? If so, you can download the watercraft power of attorney form from our website:

[Watercraft Power of Attorney Form](#)

Complete this form and give it to the buyer; it replaces the lost Illinois title.

If you will be selling the boat to someone who will be titling and registering the boat out of state, then you will need to order a duplicate title:

Please refer to the link below to apply for a duplicate title. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

I have lost my title; how can I obtain another one?

To replace one which is lost, stolen, destroyed, or mutilated (Surrender original title if later recovered)

Please refer to the link below to apply for a duplicate title. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

I lost my registration card; how do I obtain a new one?

Duplicate Registration Card:

To replace one which is lost, stolen, destroyed, or illegible:

Please refer to the link below to apply for a duplicate registration card. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

I lost my registration card and have moved; how do I obtain a new card and change my address?

Please refer to the link below to apply for a corrected registration card. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

I lost my decals; how do I obtain another set? I had my boat painted, and they had to remove my decals; how can I obtain replacements?

Duplicate Decals:

To replace those which are lost or destroyed.

Please refer to the link below to apply for duplicate decals. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

What is the fee for a duplicate and/or corrected watercraft titles, registration cards, and decals?

- Duplicate and Corrected Titles: \$7.00
- Title Search: \$7.00
- Duplicate, and Corrected Registration Cards: \$5.00
- Duplicate Decals: \$5.00

Questions Regarding Applications

Why is my Online transaction still in pending status?

IMPORTANT: Before IDNR can complete your watercraft application process, your supporting documentation **MUST** be uploaded to your account and then mailed with your customer number and a copy of the receipt page to:

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources - IDNR Headquarters
Attn: Watercraft/Snowmobile
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

Please do not submit an Online transaction if you have already mailed in a paper application.

Have you received my watercraft paper application, and is it being processed?

Please provide the microfilm number (example 0022 030 2365) printed on the front of the cashed check or money order made payable to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that was mailed in with your watercraft application. We can locate your paperwork with that number.

Where do I mail my watercraft application?

All paperwork should be mailed together in one envelope to:

IDNR - Watercraft
PO Box 19226
Springfield, IL 6794-9226

To whom do I make my check payable for my watercraft title/registration?

Please make your check or money order payable to IDNR.

I have moved and have not received my title, registration card, or decals.

At this time, the paperwork has not been returned to our office by the USPS. Once issued, it takes approximately six weeks for them to be returned. Please refer to the link below to check our postal returns.

[Returned Registrations](#)

Or, if you need to apply for a corrected title and registration card along with duplicate decals, please refer to the link below. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

How long does it take for my application to be processed?

Approval time for your Online transaction is approximately four weeks if all original, required supporting documents have been uploaded to your account and then mailed to our office. Additional instructions are located on your receipt page.

I mailed my paperwork to your office last week. Have you received it?

Due to the high volume received in this office, we do not log in mail. It remains in the date received order until processed. Please allow 10 weeks for processing time before inquiring about the status of your application.

Purchasing a Watercraft

I purchased a brand new boat or a boat that was titled/registered out-of-state. What do I need to title/register the boat in my name in Illinois?

Please refer to the link below to apply for a New Illinois title/registration. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

Regulations for New Watercraft:

All watercraft other than non-powered watercraft operated on the waters within the jurisdiction of Illinois shall be registered. All registered watercraft over 21 ft. in length are required to be titled.

State law requires that the purchaser of a watercraft shall complete and submit an application to the Department of Natural Resources for registration/titling within 15 days after purchase.

Tax Notice - Watercraft purchased new or used from manufacturers, lending institutions, or dealers are subject to tax. Effective September 1, 2004, tax is owed when a watercraft (class 2, 3, 4 and personal watercraft [PWC], i.e., Jet-skis) are acquired by gift, donation, transfer, or non-retail purchase if the watercraft will be used in Illinois. You must contact the Illinois Department of Revenue at (800) 732-8866 or (217) 782-3336 for instructions before submitting an application.

IMPORTANT: Before IDNR can complete your watercraft application process, your supporting documentation **MUST** be mailed with Customer Number (*example* ***-***-***) to:

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources - IDNR Headquarters
Attn: Watercraft/Snowmobile
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

New Watercraft Registration Application:

1. Must surrender the original properly endorsed 'Manufacturer's Statement of Origin' (MSO).
2. Previously registered or titled watercraft [in another state], you must surrender the original registration card and original title (if titled).
3. Previously United States Coast Guard (USCG) documented Watercraft transferring to a titled watercraft must surrender a copy of the USCG deletion letter and bill of sale.
4. United States Coast Guard documented with out-of-state registration and wishing to remain documented; please provide the USCG documented paperwork (which should be in your name) and bill of sale.

I purchased a boat that has no hull ID number or previous registration. What do I do?

All watercraft having no valid hull ID number or previous registration are required to be inspected prior to applying for title and registration. Please refer to the link below to contact your local Conservation Police Officer.

[District Conservation Police Officer Phones and Emails](#)

I purchased a boat from someone who had it titled/registered in Illinois. How do I transfer it into my name?

Please refer to the link below to apply for a Transfer Renewal of the watercraft title/registration. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

Regulations for Transfer Renewal:

All watercraft other than non-powered watercraft operated on the waters within the jurisdiction of Illinois shall be registered. All registered watercraft over 21 ft. in length are required to be titled.

State law requires that the purchaser of a watercraft shall complete and submit an application to the Department of Natural Resources for registration/titling within 15 days after purchase.

Tax Notice - Watercraft purchased new or used from manufacturers, lending institutions, or dealers are subject to tax. Effective September 1, 2004, tax is owed when a watercraft (class 2, 3, 4 and personal watercraft [PWC], i.e., Jet-skis) are acquired by gift, donation, transfer, or non-retail purchase if the watercraft will be used in Illinois. You must contact the Illinois Department of Revenue at (800) 732-8866 or (217) 782-3336 for instructions before submitting an application.

Please scan and upload the following documents related to the watercraft:

1. For previously registered or titled watercraft [within IL], the original title (if titled) and registration card must be surrendered to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
2. For previously United States Coast Guard (USCG) documented watercraft, surrender a copy of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) documentation issued in your name.
3. Bill of Sale/Purchase Agreement
4. Complete the Illinois Department of Revenue (ST-556, RUT-25, or RUT-75) tax form and a check payable to IDOR. If paid electronically, please include a copy of the Verification page

IMPORTANT: Before IDNR can complete processing your application, you **must** mail all supporting documentation with Customer Number (example ***-***-***) to:

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources - IDNR Headquarters
Attn: Watercraft/Snowmobile
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

I purchased a watercraft that was titled in Illinois, and one of the owners listed on the title is deceased, and the boat was not titled in joint tenancy. What do I need to transfer the title/registration into my name?

- Original Illinois Title
- Copy of the death certificate
- A watercraft small estate affidavit **OR** letter of office **OR** an attorney's affidavit
- Tax paperwork

Where can I go to purchase my watercraft title, registration card, and/or decals over the counter?

Watercraft title and registration are not available over the counter at any Illinois Department of Natural Resources office. All watercraft applications and Online transactions are processed and approved in the Springfield office.

I made a boat. How do I get it titled/registered?

All homemade watercraft are required to be inspected prior to applying for title and registration. Please refer to the link below to contact your local Conservation Police Officer.

[District Conservation Police Officer Phones and Emails](#)

Renewing a Watercraft

How can I renew my watercraft registration?

- Renewals can be completed by phone at 866.716.6550.
- Renewals can be completed Online. Please refer to the link below. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

I renewed my watercraft registration Online or over the phone; will I receive a new registration card and decals?

You will receive a new registration card and two IL decals in the mail within three weeks of renewing.

Watercraft Regulations and Tax Questions

Do I have to title my boat?

Titling is optional for watercraft under 22 feet in length. Registration requirements have not changed. All watercraft powered by machinery (this includes trolling motors) or sail are required to be registered in Illinois.

What class is my boat?

- Class 1- All powered watercraft less than 16 ft. and all motorized canoes, kayaks, and paddleboats, regardless of length.
- Class 2 – 16 ft. to less than 26 ft.
- Class 3 – 26 ft. to less than 40 ft.
- Class 4 – 40 ft. and over

How much does it cost to title/register my boat?

Watercraft **under 22 feet in length** applying for registration only will pay the renewal fee. A \$2.00 processing fee will be added to all watercraft application transactions.

Class	New/Transfer Renewal	Renewal
	(With Title)	
Class 1	\$28.00	\$18.00
Class 2	\$60.00	\$50.00
Class 3	\$160.00	\$150.00
Class 4	\$210.00	\$200.00
USCG	New/Transfer/Renewal	
Class 2	\$50.00	
Class 3	\$150.00	
Class 4	\$200.00	

Do I still need to purchase a water usage stamp for my canoe/kayak?

The law that took effect on June 1, 2018, repealed the requirement of the water usage stamp for non-powered watercraft. The water usage stamp is no longer available for purchase.

Unpowered watercraft are not required to be registered in Illinois. Unpowered vessels are sailboats or vessels that are paddled, poled, or rowed. You may choose to register your unpowered watercraft.

Titling is optional for all watercraft under 22 feet in length.

Watercraft registration requirements have not changed. All watercraft powered by machinery (this includes trolling motors) or sail are required to be registered in Illinois.

Please contact the site you will be visiting for their specific rules, regulations, and possible additional fees or permits.

I have not yet received my watercraft title, registration card, or decals. Can I still go boating?

Yes. Please keep the temporary permit copy of the watercraft application you completed or the Online receipt page with you while boating in Illinois until your paperwork is processed.

I purchased a boat without a title. How can I title the boat in my name?

Please provide the IL registration number for the watercraft, along with the seller's name(s). If the boat was previously titled, you are required to surrender the original, properly endorsed watercraft certificate of title issued in the seller's name(s) when applying for title/registration.

What equipment is required for me to legally operate my watercraft?

Please refer to the Handbook of Illinois Boating Laws and Responsibilities, available at the link below.

[Boat Digest](#)

How can I add a lien holder to my watercraft title? How can I remove an owner from my watercraft title?

Corrected Title:

To add, change, or remove a lienholder, correct information, or remove an owner.

(adding an owner means the application must be completed as a transfer renewal)

Surrender the current title properly endorsed

Please refer to the link below to apply for a corrected title. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

Where do I mail my tax form?

Your completed tax form for the boat and motor, along with the separate payment to the Illinois Dept. of Revenue, must be mailed in with your required supporting documents to the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.

General Questions

How can I obtain the history of a watercraft I previously owned in order to apply for a Captain's license?

To obtain information regarding previous owners, lienholders, etc.

- Search is subject to confidentiality limitations as determined by IDNR
- A letter stating you are needing the information in order to apply for a Captain's License
- The fee is \$7.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page.**

[Title Search - Boating \(illinois.gov\)](#)

How can I find out who owns a boat and if there is a lien holder on record?

Title Search:

To obtain information regarding previous owners, lienholders, etc.

- Search is subject to confidentiality limitations as determined by IDNR
- The fee is \$7.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page.**

[Title Search - Boating \(illinois.gov\)](#)

My boat has been scrapped, junked, or destroyed; what do I need to do?

Boat Scrapped, Junked, or Destroyed

- The Department of Natural Resources must be notified within 15 days if a watercraft is scrapped, junked, or destroyed.
- Surrender current title; NO fee required.

The owner must surrender the title, and such boat will not be registered or titled again.

Please refer to the link below to list your watercraft as scrapped/junked/destroyed. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

A customer owes me storage and/or repair fees for their boat. What can I do?

Please refer to the link below:

[Abandoned Watercraft Storage Lien](#)

How do I register my USCG-documented vessel?

Please refer to the link below to apply. If you need further assistance or have additional questions, please contact the call center at 866-716-6550. Watercraft title/registration is not available over the counter at any Natural Resources office. Thank you.

[Online Application System](#)

To register with Illinois, you would need the following:

- Copy of the certificate of documentation issued in your name.
- Rut- 75 if purchased from an individual; if purchased from an out-of-state dealer, then you would complete a Rut -25, or the Illinois dealer would complete an ST 556.
- 2 copies of the bill of sale
- Tax fee payable to the Illinois Department of Revenue

Can you send me a map of the Mississippi River?

Please contact the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for river maps.

I found a boat abandoned at the side of the road, and I want to title and register it in my name or obtain a salvage title.

The State of Illinois does not issue salvage watercraft titles. If you find an abandoned boat, please contact your local law enforcement. Please refer to the link below regarding abandoned watercraft and Labor/Storage Liens.

[Abandoned Watercraft Storage Lien](#)