NORTH CAROLINA

REPORT OF

BOATING ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES 2007



COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Division of Enforcement

State of North Carolina

Michael F. Easley/ Governor

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

William G. Ross, Jr./ Secretary

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Fred Harris /Interim Executive Director

2007 North Carolina Annual Boating Accident Report North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission 1719 Mail Service Center Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1719 "An Equal Opportunity Employer"

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➢ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Fred Harris, Interim Executive Director May 1, 2008

NORTH CAROLINA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 2007

INTRODUCTION

This annual report contains statistics extracted from boating accident reports submitted to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and boating-related information for the calendar year of 2007.

Boating accidents that occur on public waters of this state must be reported to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission if the accident results in one or more of the following:

- (a) Loss of life
- (b) A person loses consciousness or receives medical treatment, or is disabled for more than twenty-four hours
- (c) Actual physical damage to property (including vessels) is in excess of \$2,000.00
- (d) A person disappears from the vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury

The following types of boating accidents are not included in this report:

- (1) Accidents involving only slight injury or property damage of less than \$500
- (2) Accidents which did not directly involve a vessel, its equipment, or its appendages
- (3) Cases in which the boat was used solely as a platform for other activities, from which a person departed safely
- (4) Homicides or suicides
- (5) Deaths that were attributed to "natural causes"
- (6) Accidents occurring on private ponds
- (7) Accidents involving commercial activity

The purpose of the accident report is to provide statistical information on the causes, frequency, and location of serious boating accidents. These statistics are analyzed to aid in determining the direction of measures to deter boating accidents.

Fred Harris Interim Executive Director

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ANNUAL BOATING STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	BOATING <u>ACCIDENTS</u>	FATAL <u>ACCIDENTS</u>	BOATS <u>REGISTERED</u>	BOATING EDUCATION <u>STUDENTS</u>
2007	169	20	371,255	5,008*
2006	217	22	370,291	3,706*
2005	215	14	362,907	3,711*
2004	138	23	336,056	3,889*
2003	182	21	351,753	3,667*
2002	173	11	357,330	6,417
2001	196	16	355,421	3,733
2000	173	19	350,436	5,925
1999	189	21	355,089	2,287
1998	251	31	342,003	2,729
1997	233	22	341,249	3,853
1996	223	21	321,150	19,899
1995	272	27	318,515	33,942
1994	206	21	311,854	36,467
1993	179	30	294,058	44,645
1992	163	21	283,450	40,236
1991	166	26	278,598	49,508
1990	198	37	274,666	56,458
1989	188	26	267,446	52,488
1988	140	24	256,264	77,300
1987	102	28	241,858	77,985
1986	130	27	229,758	77,844

*The total number of students receiving boater education certification in North Carolina in 2007 includes students certified by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons and NASBLA approved on-line courses.

ANNUAL BOATING STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	BOATING <u>ACCIDENTS</u>	FATAL <u>ACCIDENTS</u>	BOATS <u>REGISTERED</u>	BOATING EDUCATION <u>STUDENTS</u>
1985	107	39	218,019	84,890
1984	102	28	202,912	81,942
1983	108	31	192,432	79,818
1982	97	32	191,037	82,007
1981	101	34	193,600	80,287
1980	135	45	193,058	84,968
1979	143	56	191,783	84,000
1978	159	50	191,061	80,000
1977	218	60	177,254	60,000
1976	197	35	164,010	50,000
1975	192	58	123,391	50,000
1974	141	41	113,656	
1973	142	54	104,548	

2007 N. C. BOATING ACCIDENT FACTS

- ▶ 169 Total Accidents
- ▶ 149 Non-Fatal Accidents
- > 20 Fatal Accidents Resulting in 20 Fatalities
- > 230 Total of Vessels Involved in Accidents
- > 133 Persons Injured in Accidents Required Medical Treatment

Note: These Numbers Include Accidents Involving Personal Watercraft

TIMES OF DAY IN ACCIDENTS

	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Morning (0601 to 1200)	23	1	24
Afternoon (1201 to 1800)	83	15	98
Evening (1801 to 2400)	38	2	40
Night (0001 to 0600)	5	2	7
Totals	149	20	169

NUMBER OF BOATING ACCIDENTS PER WATER TYPE

<u>Water Type</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lake	72	10	82
River	12	4	16
ICW/Waterway	29	1	30
Sound	8	1	9
Creek	14	0	14
Ocean	5	0	5
Inlet	1	1	2
Channel	3	0	3
Other	5	3	8
Totals	149	20	169
			

COUNTY TOTALS

	BOATS <u>REGISTERED</u>	TOTAL <u>FATAL</u>	TOTAL <u>NON-FATAL</u>	TOTAL <u>ACCIDENTS</u>
Alamance	4,595	0	0	0
Alexander	2,342	0	0	0
Alleghany	215	0	0	0
Anson	941	0	0	0
Ashe	512	0	0	0
Avery	440	0	0	0
Beaufort	6,275	0	1	1
Bertie	1,428	0	0	0
Bladen	2,061	0	5	5
Brunswick	9,542	0	16	16
Buncombe	6,172	0	0	0
Burke	3,832	0	4	4
Cabarrus	4,397	0	0	0
Caldwell	3,309	0	2	2
Camden	971	1	0	1
Carteret	12,461	1	19	20
Caswell	895	0	0	0
Catawba	8,243	0	7	7
Chatham	2,479	1	3	4
Cherokee	1,916	0	0	0
Chowan	1,540	0	1	1
Clay	995	0	1	1
Cleveland	3,108	1	0	1
Columbus	4,727	0	2	2

	BOATS <u>REGISTERED</u>	TOTAL <u>FATAL</u>	TOTAL <u>NON-FATAL</u>	TOTAL <u>ACCIDENTS</u>
Craven	7,101	0	3	3
Cumberland	6,740	0	0	0
Currituck	3,426	0	3	3
Dare	5,824	1	5	6
Davidson	8,529	0	3	3
Davie	1,535	0	0	0
Duplin	2,428	0	0	0
Durham	4,099	0	2	2
Edgecombe	2,196	0	0	0
Forsyth	7,691	1	2	3
Franklin	2,561	0	0	0
Gaston	6,384	2	2	4
Gates	819	0	0	0
Graham	1203	0	1	1
Granville	2,275	0	0	0
Greene	1006	0	0	0
Guilford	10,379	1	0	1
Halifax	3,744	0	1	1
Harnett	3,912	0	0	0
Haywood	3,085	0	0	0
Henderson	2,801	0	0	0
Hertford	1,118	0	1	1
Hoke	981	0	0	0
Hyde	778	0	2	2
Iredell	12,704	1	6	7
Jackson	1,739	0	1	1

	BOATS <u>REGISTERED</u>	TOTAL <u>FATAL</u>	TOTAL <u>NON-FATAL</u>	TOTAL <u>ACCIDENTS</u>
Johnston	6,675	1	0	1
Jones	733	0	0	0
Lee	2,081	0	0	0
Lenoir	3,182	0	0	0
Lincoln	5,654	1	1	2
McDowell	2,087	0	5	5
Macon	1,399	0	0	0
Madison	711	0	0	0
Martin	1,591	1	0	1
Mecklenburg	17,160	0	5	5
Mitchell	386	0	0	0
Montgomery	2,806	2	6	8
Moore	3,495	0	0	0
Nash	4,174	0	1	1
New Hanover	13,661	0	9	9
Northampton	2,403	0	1	1
Onslow	7,970	0	8	8
Orange	2,765	0	0	0
Other	2,455	0	0	0
Pamlico	2,902	1	1	2
Pasquotank	2,043	0	1	1
Pender	5,094	0	2	2
Perquimans	1,586	1	0	1
Person	2,275	0	1	1
Pitt	6,328	0	0	0
Polk	719	0	0	0

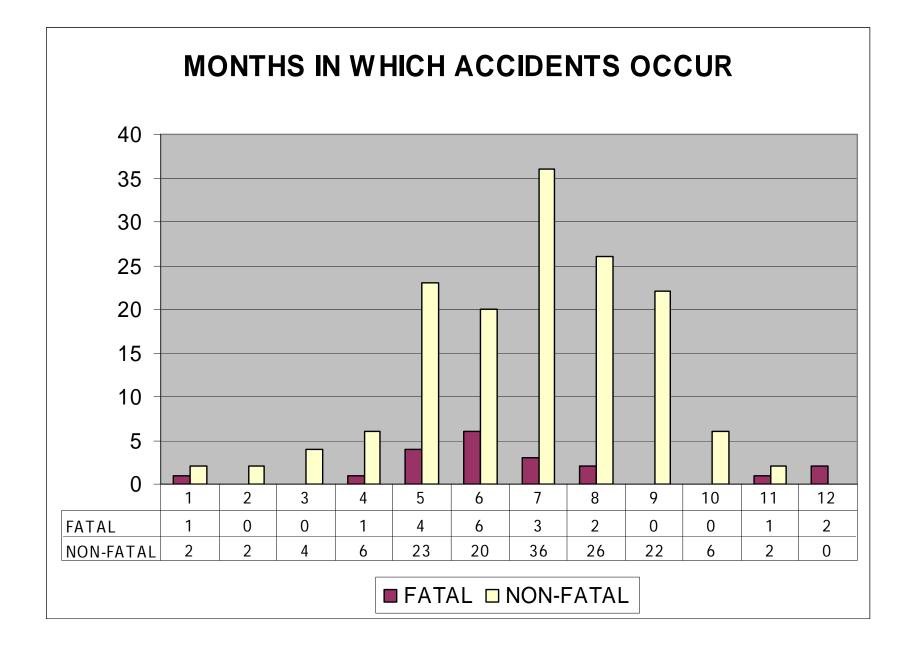
Randolph	5,462	0	1	1
COUNTY	BOATS	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	
COUNTY	REGISTERED	FATAL	NON-FATAL	ACCIDENTS
Richmond	2,219	0	0	0
Robeson	4,742	0	0	0
Rockingham	3,051	0	2	2
Rowan	5,486	0	5	5
Rutherford	2,362	1	0	1
Sampson	2,574	0	0	0
Scotland	1,068	0	0	0
Stanly	4,156	0	3	3
Stokes	1,397	0	0	0
Surry	1,779	0	0	0
Swain	1021	1	0	1
Transylvania	1,316	0	0	0
Tyrrell	496	0	0	0
Union	4,951	0	0	0
Vance	2,452	0	0	0
Wake	20,276	0	1	1
Warren	2519	1	3	4
Washington	1,042	0	0	0
Watauga	810	0	0	0
Wayne	4,123	0	0	0
Wilkes	2,159	0	0	0
Wilson	3,084	0	0	0
Yadkin	1,228	0	0	0
Yancey	693	0	0	0
TOTALS:	371,255	20	149	169

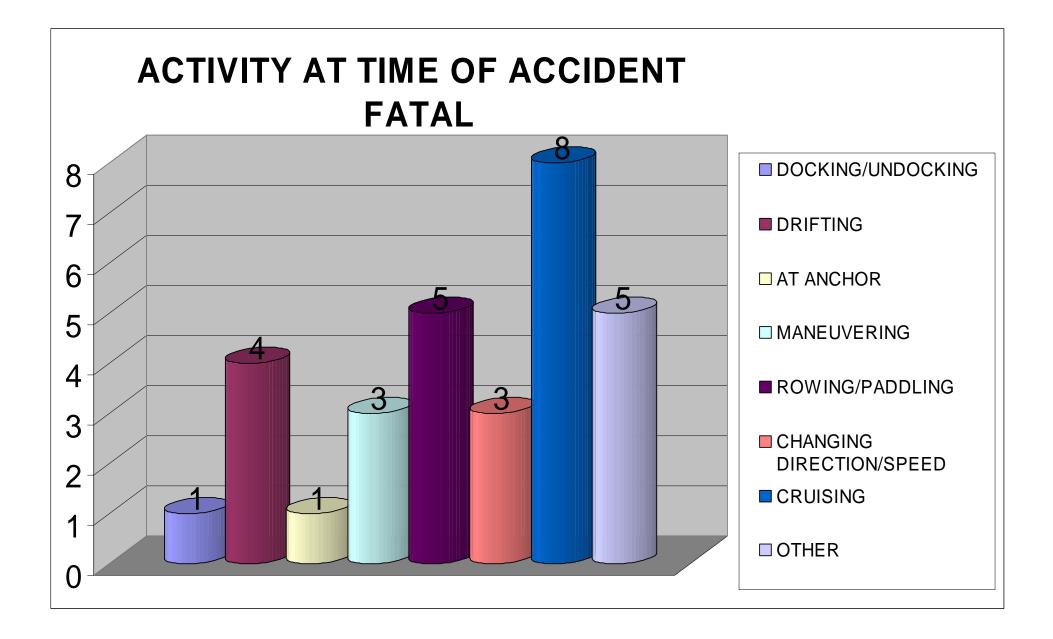
TOTAL BOATING ACCIDE			
BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
ALBEMARLE SOUND	1	0	1
ATLANTIC OCEAN	0	5	5
BACK SOUND	0	1	1
BADIN LAKE	1	4	5
BANKS CHANNEL	0	1	1
BEAUFORT INLET	1	0	1
BELEWS LAKE	0	2	2
BENNETTS CREEK	0	1	1
BOGUE SOUND	0	2	2
BROAD CREEK	0	1	1
BROWN'S INLET	0	1	1
CAPE FEAR RIVER	0	1	1
CARORA BEACH CANAL	0	1	1
CHOWAN RIVER	0	1	1
COINJOCK BAY	0	1	1
CURRITUCK SOUND	0	2	2
DOWDY'S BAY	0	1	1
FALLS LAKE/RES	0	3	3
FONTANA LAKE	0	1	1
HIGH ROCK LAKE	0	6	6
HYCO LAKE	0	1	1
ICW	1	31	32
JORDAN LAKE	1	3	4
LAKE CHATUGE	0	1	1
LAKE GASTON	1	3	4
LAKE GLENVILLE	0	1	1
LAKE HICKORY	0	2	2
LAKE JAMES	0	9	9
LAKE LUCAS	0	1	1
LAKE NORMAN	2	17	19
LAKE REIDSVILLE	1	1	2
LAKE TILLERY	1	5	6
LAKE WACCAMAW	0	1	1
LAKE WYLIE	2	1	3
LIZARD CREEK	0	1	1
MOSS LAKE	1	0	1
MTN ISLAND LAKE	0	1	1
NANTAHALA RIVER	1	0	1
NEUSE RIVER	1	2	3
NEW RIVER	0	1	1

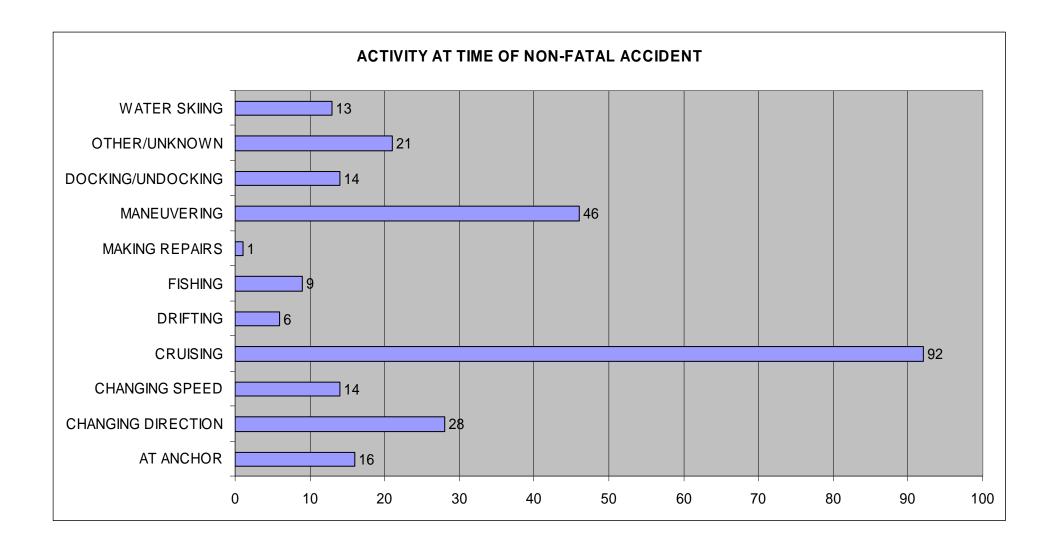
TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

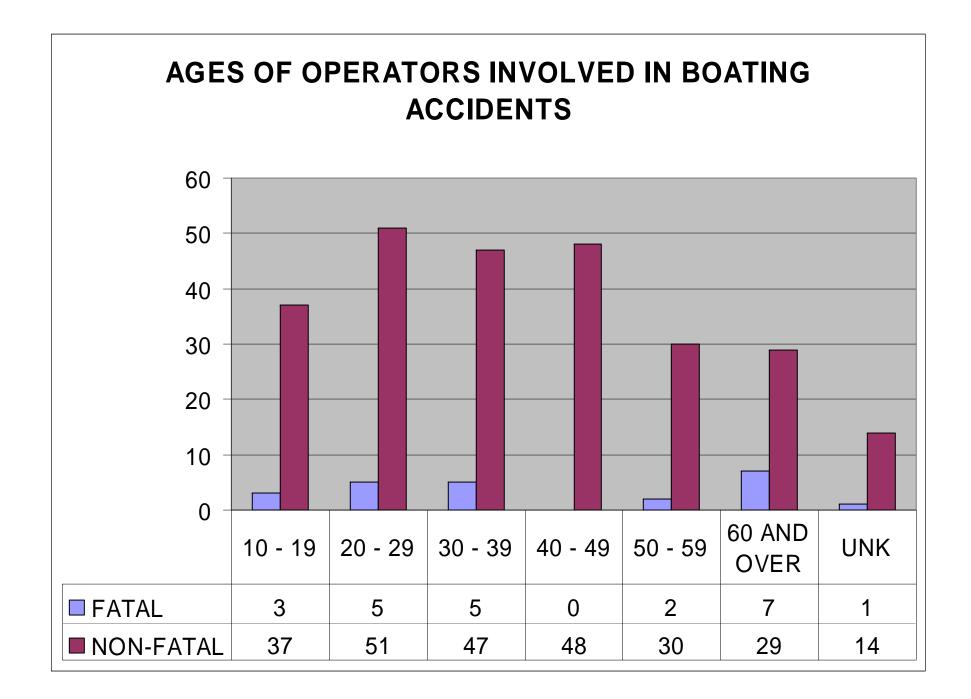
BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
OAK HOLLOW RES	1	0	1
OTHER/UNKNOWN	1	1	2
PAMLICO RIVER	0	1	1
PAMLICO SOUND	0	1	1
PEMBROKE CREEK	0	1	1
PUNGO RIVER	0	1	1
ROANOKE RAPIDS LAKE	0	1	1
ROANOKE SOUND	0	2	2
ROCKY BROAD RIVER	1	0	1
ROCKY MOUNT RES	0	1	1
SALEM LAKE	1	0	1
SANDERS CHANNEL	0	1	1
SILVER LAKE	0	1	1
SLEEPY CREEK	0	1	1
SLOCUM CREEK	0	1	1
SOUTH LAKE	1	0	1
STRAITS CHANNEL	0	1	1
SYMONDS CREEK	0	1	1
TAYLORS CREEK	0	4	4
THE STRAITS	0	1	1
TUCKERTOWN LAKE	0	2	2
WACCAMAW RIVER	0	1	1
WHITE LAKE	0	5	5
WILSON CREEK	0	1	1
TOTALS	20	149	169

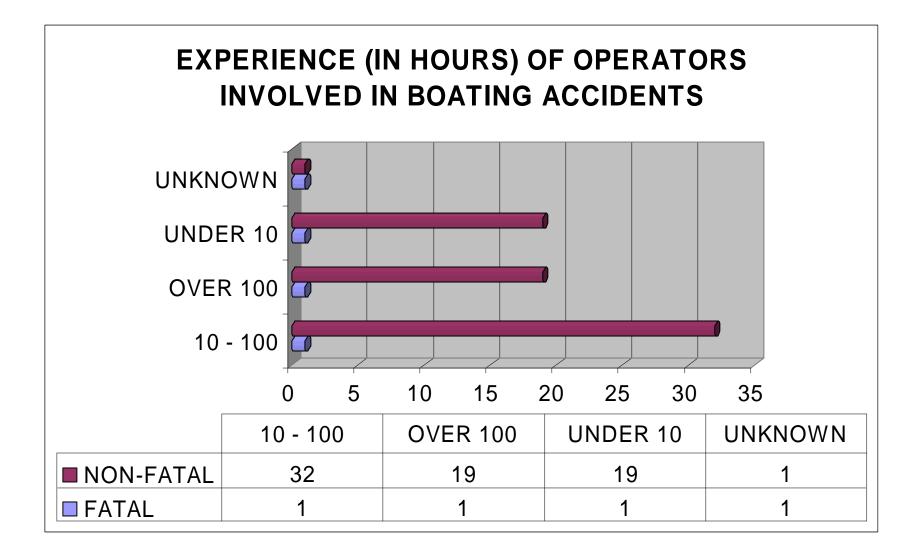
TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODIES OF WATER











RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	TYPE	# CASES AFFECTED
1	Fell or jumped overboard	9
2	Collision with vessel	5
3	Capsizing	2
3	Other	2
4	Sinking	1
4	Flooding	1

RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

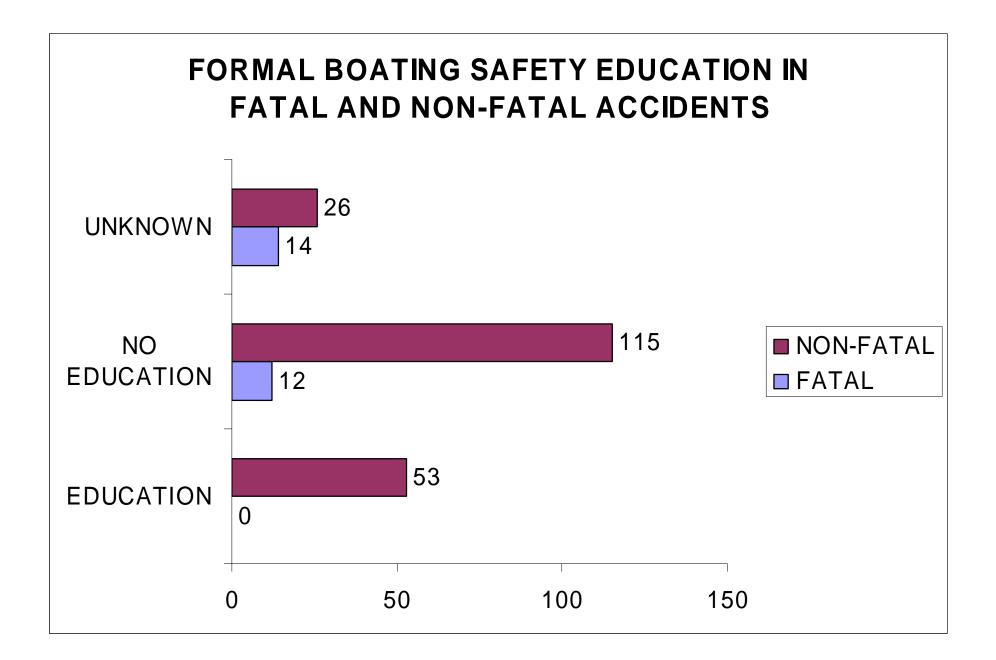
<u>RANK</u>	CAUSE	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Other	10
2	Operator inattention	6
2	Alcohol use	6
3	Hazardous waters	3
3	Overloading	3
4	Excessive speed	2
4	Sharp turn	2
4	Operator inexperience	2
4	Careless/reckless	2
5	No proper lookout	1

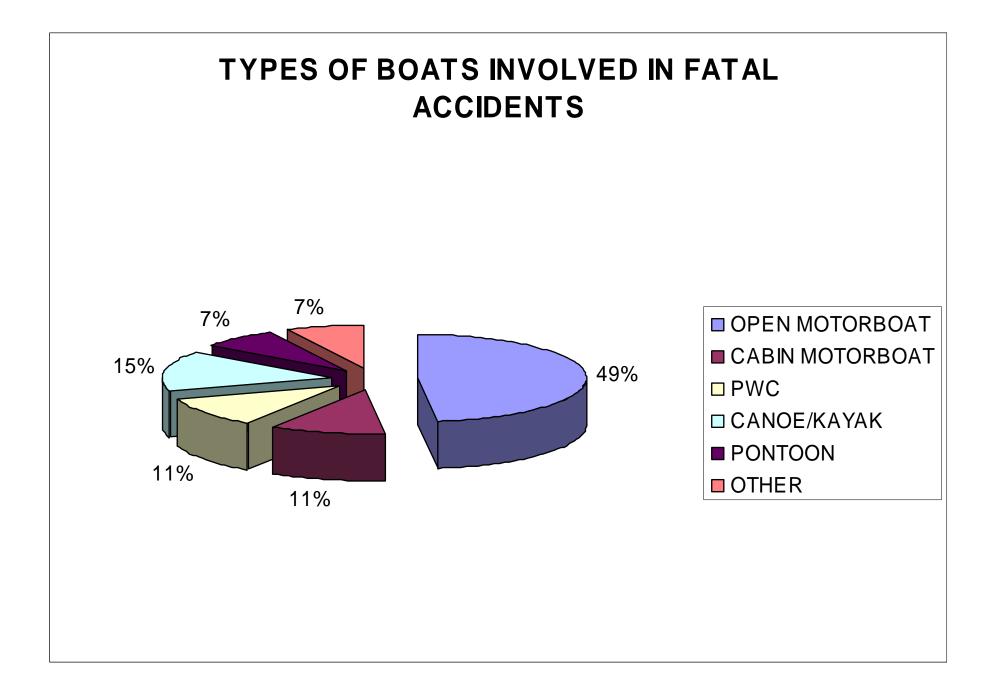
RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

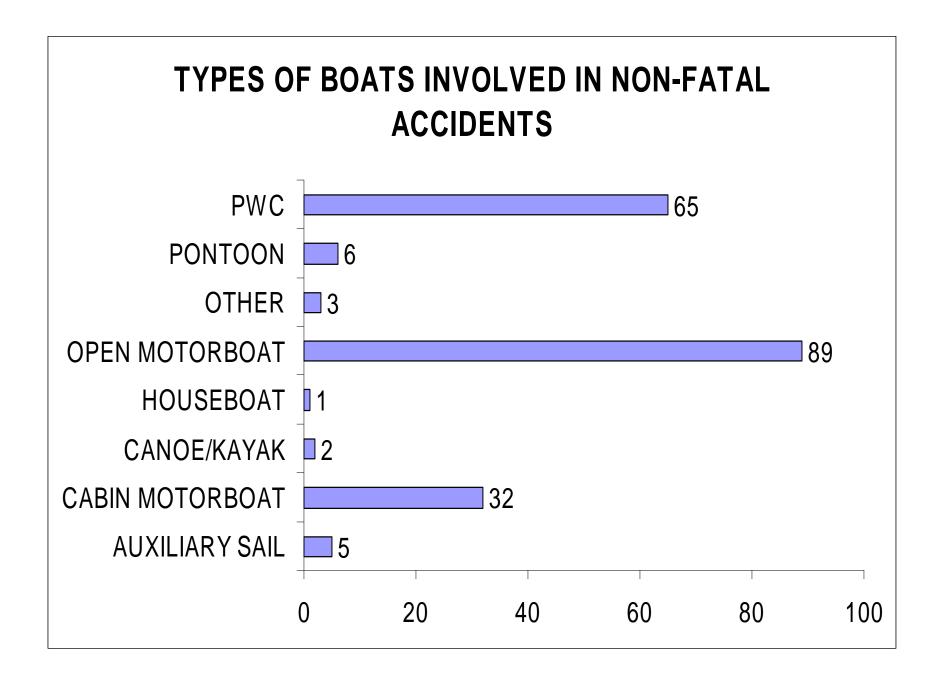
<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	# CASES AFFECTED
1	Collision with vessel	42
2	Collision with fixed object	22
3	Skier mishap	15
4	Grounding	13
4	Hit by boat/motor or propeller	13
5	Hit submerged object	10
6	Fell/jumped overboard	8
7	Falls in boat	7
8	Capsizing	6
8	Other	6
9	Sinking	3

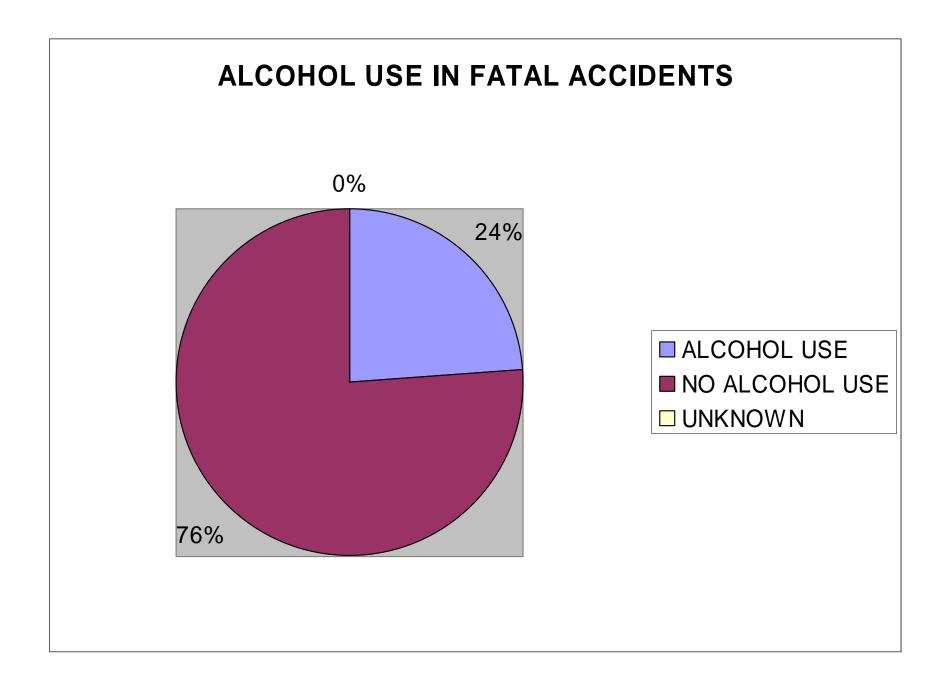
RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

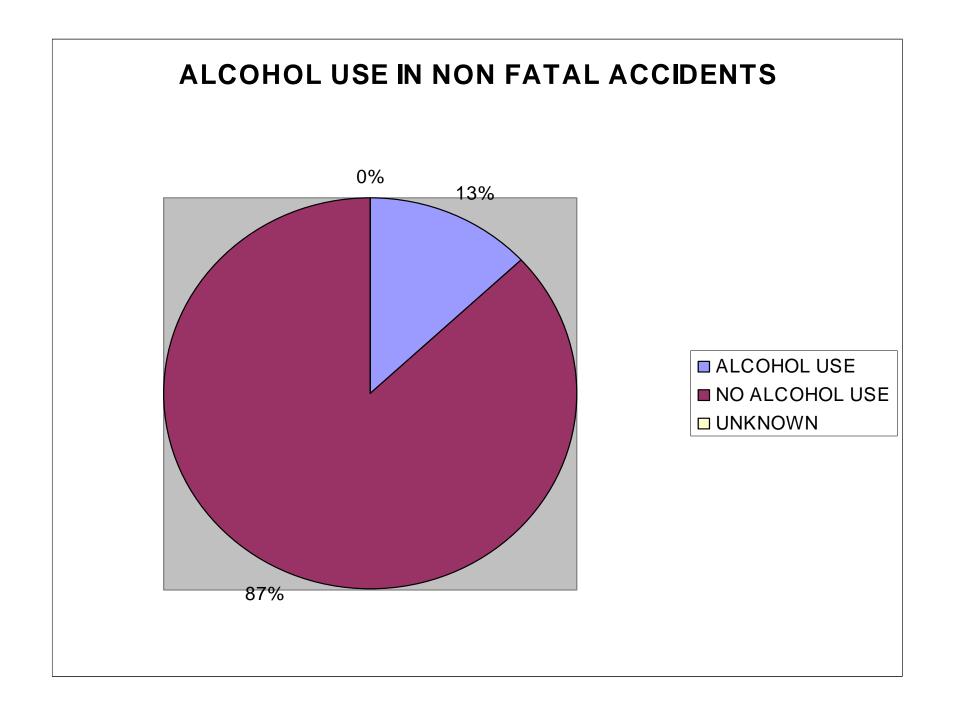
<u>RANK</u>	CAUSE	# CASES AFFECTED
1	Operator inattention	67
2	Careless & reckless operation	37
3	Other	35
4	Operator inexperience	31
5	Excessive speed	26
6	Wake	18
6	Alcohol use	18
7	No proper lookout	17
8	Hazardous waters	16
9	Fault of equipment/machinery/hull	11
10	Sharp turn	9
11	Restricted vision	7
12	Weather	6
13	Congested waters	4
14	Overloading	1

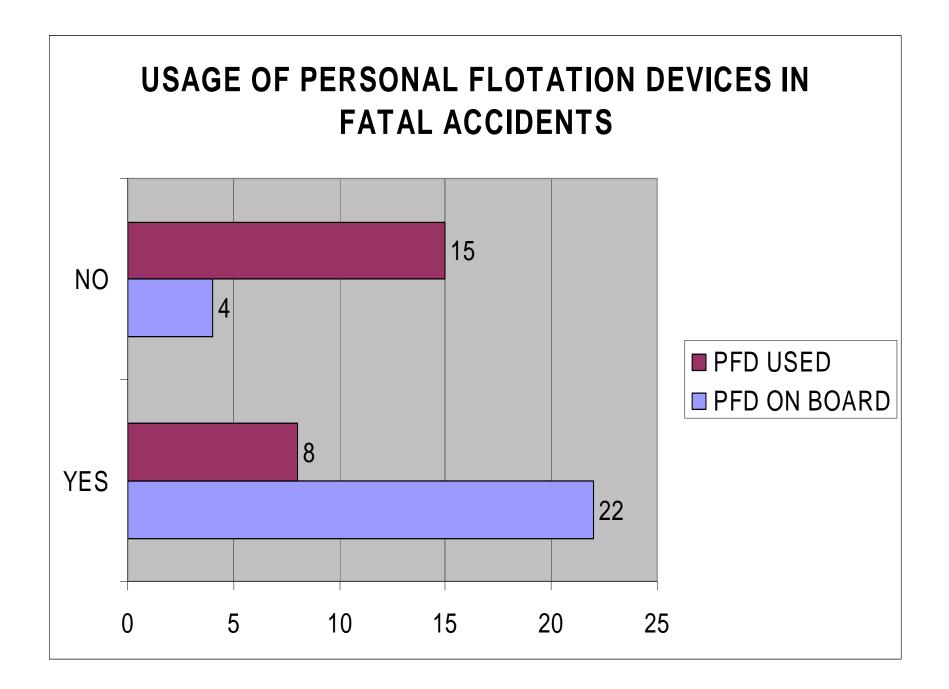


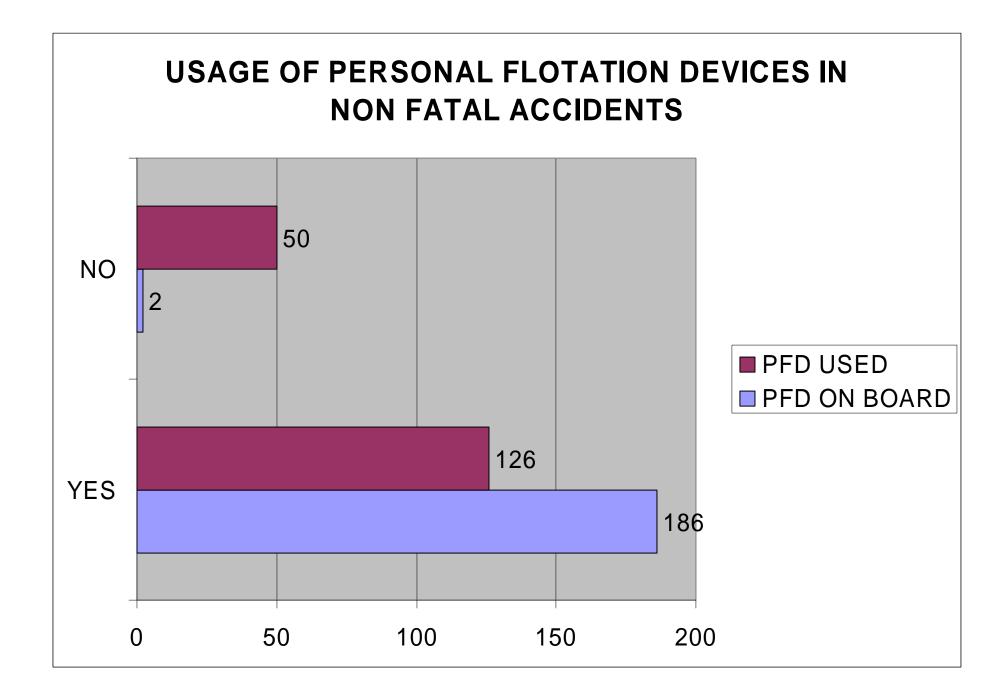












COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

Since 1982, the highest number of fatal recreational boating accidents that has occurred on North Carolina waterways was 39 fatal accidents in 1985. In 2002, the number of fatal recreational boating accidents in North Carolina was 11.

In 1982 there were 191,037 vessels registered in North Carolina. In 2002 there were 357,330 vessels registered in North Carolina.

In 2001 the US Coast Guard ranked North Carolina 15th nationally in total number of recreational boating fatalities.

Collision with Vessel has remained the number one *type* of non-fatal recreational boating accident in North Carolina since 1990.

Operator Inattention was the number one *cause* of non-fatal recreational accidents from 1990 to 2003. In 2004, *Careless & Reckless Operation* was the number one *cause*. In 2007, *Operator Inattention* was the number one cause.

From 1990 to 2001, the number two *Cause* of non-fatal accidents was *Operator Inattention*. In 2004, the number two *cause* was *Operator Inattention* and *Operator Inexperience*. In 2007, the number two *cause* was *Careless & Reckless Operation*..

2006 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENT FACTS

- \Rightarrow 48 Personal Watercraft Accidents
- \Rightarrow 68 Personal Watercraft Operators Involved
- \Rightarrow 7 of the Personal Watercraft Were Rental Units
- ⇒ 42 Persons Injured in Personal Watercraft Accidents Required Medical Treatment
- \Rightarrow 46,777 Personal Watercrafts registered in North Carolina

COUNTY TOTALS

	PWC'S	PWC	
COUNTY	REGISTERED	ACCIDENTS	
Alamance	625	()
Alexander	403	()
Alleghany	19	()
Anson	108	()
Ashe	28	(C
Avery	59	()
Beaufort	570	()
Bertie	134	()
Bladen	163	()
Brunswick	627	C	9
Buncombe	819	()
Burke	372	1	1
Cabarrus	724	()
Caldwell	430	-	1
Camden	88	()
Carteret	652	2	2
Caswell	121	()
Catawba	1,780	3	3
Chatham	194	3	3
Cherokee	209	()
Chowan	109	()
Clay	239	()
Cleveland	399	()
Columbus	270	(C
Craven	486	1	1
Cumberland	657	(C
Currituck	445	1	1
Dare	556	2	4
Davidson	1,479	1	1
Davie	195	()
Duplin	151	()
Durham	558	()
Edgecombe	140	()
Forsyth	1,270	(C
Franklin	337	()
Gaston	839	()
Gates	26	(C
Graham	148	(C
Granville	286	()

COUNTY	PWC'S REGISTERED	PWC <u>ACCIDENTS</u>
	REGISTERED	ACCIDENTS
Greene	75	0
Guilford	1,650	0
Halifax	694	0
Harnett	394	0
Haywood	517	0
Henderson	377	0
Hertford	68	0
Hoke	79	0
Hyde	31	0
Iredell	3,152	2
Jackson	231	0
Johnston	645	0
Jones	41	0
Lee	214	0
Lenoir	243	0
Lincoln	1,177	0
McDowell	231	1
Macon	221	0
Madison	102	0
Martin	73	0
Mecklenburg	3,582	2
Mitchell	36	0
Montgomery	583	5
Moore	314	0
Nash	555	0
New Hanover	863	0
Northampton	548	0
Onslow	705	3
Orange	321	0
Other	306	0
Pamlico	166	0
Pasquotank	179	0
Pender	275	2
Perquimans	192	0
Person	360	1
Pitt	668	0
Polk	49	0
Randolph	851	0
Richmond	224	0

COUNTY	PWC'S <u>REGISTERED</u>	PWC <u>ACCIDENTS</u>
Robeson	347	0
Rockingham	316	0
Rowan	806	2
Rutherford	190	0
Sampson	177	0
Scotland	73	0
Stanly	600	1
Stokes	137	0
Surry	206	0
Swain	66	0
Transylvania	105	0
Tyrrell	28	0
Union	663	0
Vance	341	0
Wake	3,136	0
Warren	583	3
Washington	100	0
Watauga	112	0
Wayne	411	0
Wilkes	239	0
Wilson	282	0
Yadkin	100	0
Yancey	52	0
TOTALS:	46,777	48

RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

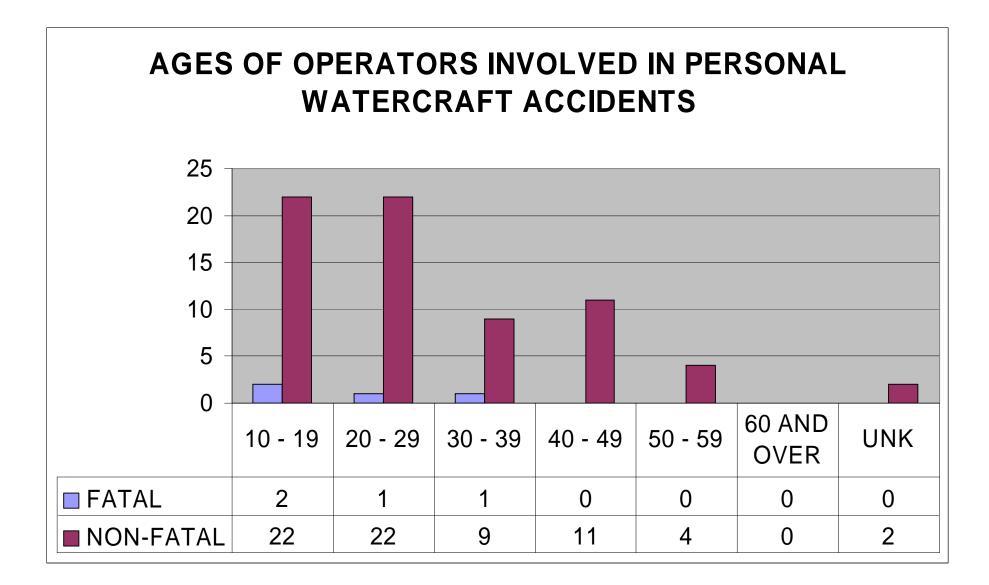
<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	# CASES AFFECTED
1	Collision with vessel	23
2	Other	7
3	Falls overboard	6
3	Collision with fixed object	6
4	Struck by boat	2
5	Fire/explosion	1
5	Grounding	1

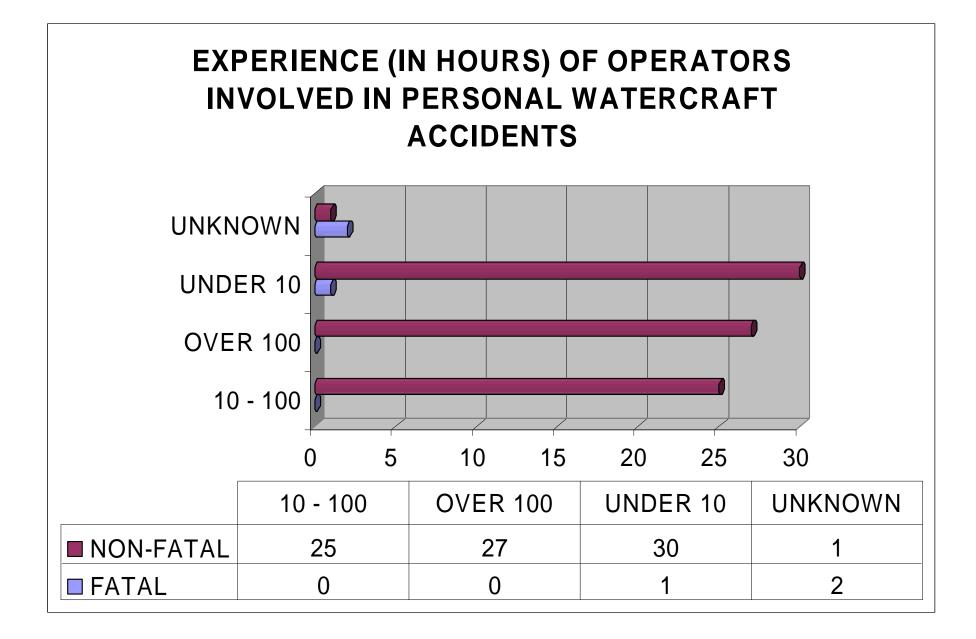
RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

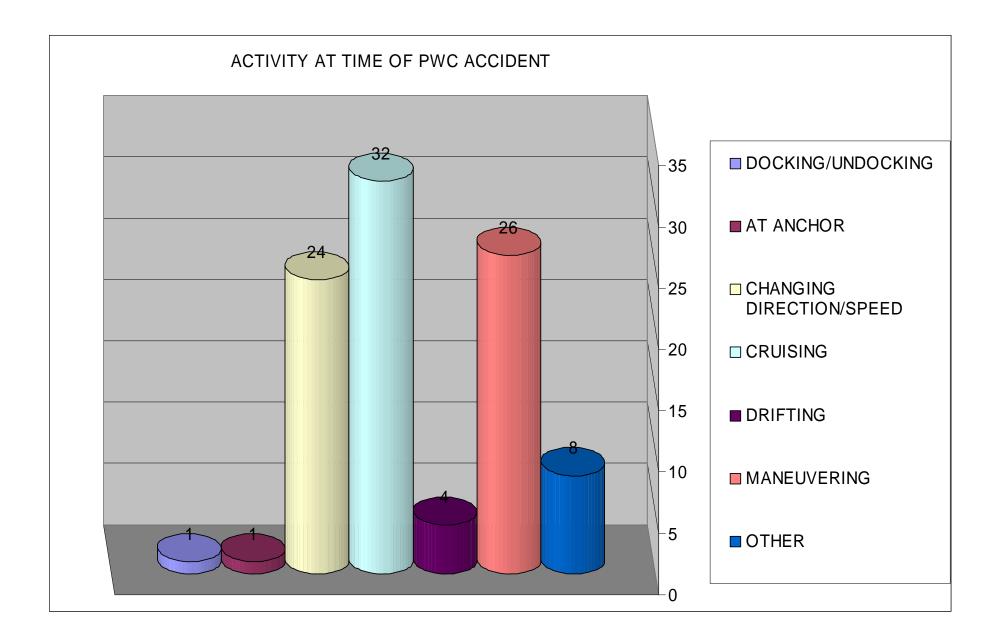
<u>RANK</u>	CAUSE	# CASES AFFECTED
1	Operator inattention	24
2	Operator inexperience	21
3	Careless/reckless operation	20
4	Excessive speed	13
5	Sharp turn	8
6	Wake	7
7	Other	4
8	No proper lookout	2
8	Fault of machinery/equipment	2
8	Congested waters	2
9	Restricted vision	1
9	Hazardous waters	1

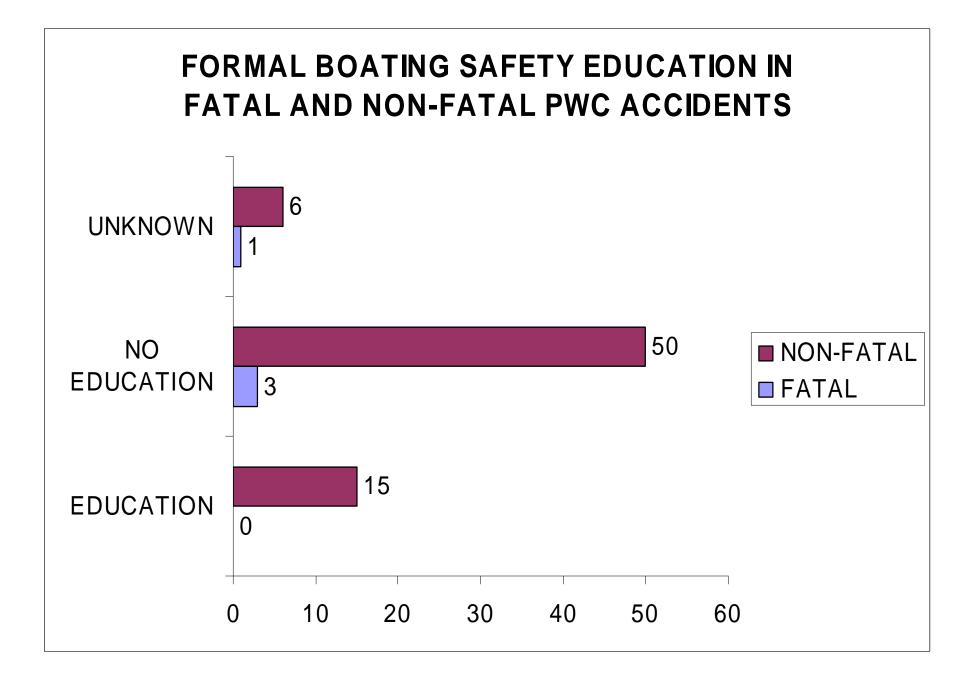
TOTAL PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS PER BODIES OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	# OF ACCIDENTS
Atlantic Ocean	2
Badin Lake	2
Banks Channel	1
Bogue Sound	1
Coinjock Bay	2
Currituck Sound	2
High Rock Lake	3
Hyco Lake	1
ICW	12
Jordan Lake	3
Lake Gaston	3
Lake Hickory	1
Lake James	1
Lake Norman	6
Lake Tillery	4
Neuse River	1
Pamlico Sound	1
Roanoke Sound	1
Sanders Channel	1
TOTAL	48









GLOSSARY

The following definitions were considered, drafted and approved by the Coast Guard and by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. These definitions of terms used in recording boating accident statistics are presented here to provide a better understanding of the data in this report.

Aluminum Hull – Includes those hulls of aluminum or aluminum alloys.

Anchored – Held in place in the water by an anchor; includes "moored" to a buoy or anchored vessel and "dragging anchor."

At Dock – Secured to a fixed or floating structure; but excludes while being fueled.

Being Towed – In the tow of another vessel.

Burns (or scalds) – Injuries caused by contact with, or exposure to, hot surfaces or substances such as cooking ranges, lights, motors, wiring, liquids, etc. (Does not include burns or scalds received as a result of a fire, explosion or other vessel casualty.)

Cabin Motorboat – Motorboats on which a cabin is constructed which can be completely closed by means of doors or hatches. Large cabin motorboats, even though referred to as yachts, are considered cabin motorboats for classification purposed.

Capsizing – When a vessel overturns, the bottom must become uppermost, except in the case of a sailing boat. If a sailboat overturns, (capsizes), it will normally lie on its side. (A spilling out of persons, except in the case of a sailboat, without completely overturning the boat is a "falling overboard," not a capsizing.)

Collision with Another Vessel – Any striking together of two or more vessels, regardless of operation at time of the accident, is a collision. (Also includes colliding with the tow of another vessel, regardless of the nature of the tow, i.e., surfboard, ski ropes, skier, etc.)

Collision with Fixed Object – The striking of any fixed object, above or below the surface of the water except the bottom. (The striking of rocks, reefs, shoals, etc. on the bottom is a "grounding.")

Conditions or Causes not Otherwise Classified – The majority of these accidents will be "freak" or "odd ball" accidents, which cannot be classified under any of the other causes. (May be caused by such things as lightning, clothing getting caught in controls, etc.)

Cruising – Proceeding normally, unrestricted; an absence of drastic rudder or engine changes.

Crushing (pinching) – Where the victim is injured in this manner by a vessel or its appurtenance. (Such injury might occur while docking, handling lines, doors, hatches, weights, etc.)

Disappearance of Boat – Where a vessel is lost other than by theft, but the circumstances are not known.

Disappearance of Person – Where, from the circumstances, there is a presumption of death, but the body is not found and/or the circumstances are not known.

Documented Vessel – A vessel five net tons or over, 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 cannot be numbered.

Drifting – Underway, but proceeding over the bottom without used of engines, oars or sails; being carried along only by the tide (current) and/or wind.

Excessive Drinking – Immoderate indulgence in intoxicating beverages to such an extent that the use of one's faculties is materially impaired.

Excessive Speed – Speed above that which a reasonable and prudent person would have operated under the circumstances then existing. It is not necessarily a speed in excess of a posted limit.

Falls Overboard – Falls from the vessel, which result in injury or death.

Falls Within Boat – Any slip, trip, or fall on board or within the vessel resulting in injury or death.

Fault of Equipment – Improper or unsafe installation; inadequacy, but not lack of such equipment.

Fault of Hull – Defect of hull material, design, or construction.

Fault of Machinery – Defect in machinery or material, design or construction; faulty installation by manufacturer, malfunctioning, corrosion, deterioration, absence of safety devices, fault steering gear, etc.

Fault of Operator – Includes the following specific faults: speeding, overloading; improper loading, not properly seating occupants of boat; no proper lookout; carelessness; failure to heed weather warning; operating in a congested area; not observing the Rules of the Road; unsafe fueling practices; lack of experience; ignorance of aids of navigation; lack of caution in an unfamiliar area of operation; improper installation or maintenance of a hull, unseaworthy craft; operating a motorboat near persons in the water, starting engine with clutch engaged or throttle advanced; irresponsible boat handling such as quick, sharp turns.

Fault of Other Persons – Same as faults listed for operator, but attributed to persons such as guests, skiers, bridge tenders, etc.

Fiberglass (Plastic) Hull – Includes those hulls of fiberglass 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 or Explosion of Fuel – Accidental combustion of liquids including they're vapors, or other substances, such as wood or coal, which are on board as vessel fuel.

Flooding – Filling with water, regardless of method of ingress, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain upon the surface.

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

Grounding – When a vessel runs aground, strikes or pounds upon rock, reefs, or shoals, stranding it.

Hazardous Waters – Unusual water hazards such as rips, breakers, bar shoals, rapids and obstructions.

Hull Construction – That material which constitutes the majority of the shell of the vessel.

Improper Loading – Where faulty loading (includes weight shifting) of the vessel caused instability, limited maneuverability, dangerously reduced freeboard, etc., and thereby caused the accident.

Inboard – Where the primary propulsion at the time of the casualty was an engine located within and permanently attached to the hull.

Inboard Outboard – Also referred to as inboard/out drive. Regarded as inboard because the power unit is located inside the boat.

Maneuvering – Changing of course, speed, or similar boat handling action during which a high degree of alertness is required or the boat is hazarded because of the operation.

Motorboat – Any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery, not more than sixty-five feet in length.

Motor Vessel – Any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery (other than steam), more than sixty-five feet long.

Non-tidal Waters – All rivers above the point affected by tides, and all inland lakes, streams, ponds, creeks, etc.

No Proper Lookout (i.e., no proper watch) – The failure of the operator to perceive the danger because no one was serving as lookout, or the person so serving failed in that regard. Also includes inattention on the part of the operator.

Numbered Vessel – Any undocumented vessel numbered by (1) a State with an approved numbering system or (2) the Coast Guard, under the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971.

Oceans – Those waters affected by tidal action outside the inland tidal waters.

Open Motorboat – Craft of open construction specifically built for operating with a motor; boats canopied or fitted with temporary partial shelters.

Other Casualties to vessel – All vessel casualties not otherwise classified.

Other Crafts – All type crafts not listed, i.e., racing hydroplanes, kayaks, airboats, houseboats, pontoon boats, rafts, etc.

Other Fault of Operator – All irresponsible and/or unsafe boat handling acts not specifically classed.

Other Fire and/or Explosion – Accidental burning or explosion of any material on board, except vessel fuels or their vapors. (Includes electrical fires.)

Other Hull Material – Any material not included in the specific classifications, i.e., hides, canvas, etc.

Other Personnel Casualties – Includes all other personal casualties involving deaths or injuries where a vessel casualty is not involved.

Other Propulsion – Includes all mechanical propulsions other than by water propeller, such as airboats, jet propulsion (using gas vapor thrust), water jet, etc. Also includes the various methods of propelling a craft manually (oars, manual paddle-wheels, etc.) and by sail.

Other, While Underway – Includes all other activities while underway, such as rowing, in a navigation lock, etc. Also includes "unknown" while underway.

Overloading – Where excessive loading of the vessel caused instability, limited maneuverability, dangerously reduced freeboard, etc., and thereby caused the accident.

Outboard – The classification includes "portable" engines. Some are so large as to preclude portability in its true sense but they are considered "outboard" because they are not "permanently" affixed to the structure of the craft. Also, includes all "outboard" motors regardless of the method or location used to mount the engine, i.e., motor wells, "kicker pits," motor pockets, etc.

Personal Casualties - Those accidents in which there was no actual damage to the vessel.

Personal Watercraft – A Personal Watercraft (PWC) is a small vessel which uses an outboard or propeller-driven motor, or an inboard motor powering a water jet pump, as its primary source of motive power and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on, or being towed behind the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

Rowboat or Canoe – Crafts of open constructions designed primarily to be propelled manually. Includes "dugouts" but not "kayaks."

Rules of the Road – Statutory and regulatory rules governing navigation of vessels.

Sailboat or Auxiliary – Crafts intended to be propelled primarily by sail, regardless of size or type.

Sinking – Where the vessel loses enough buoyancy to settle below the surface of the water.

Steel Hull – Those hulls of sheet steel or steel alloy. Does not include those with steel ribs and wood, canvas or plastic hull coverings.

Striking 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, i.e., logs, debris, etc.

Struck by Boat or Propeller – Striking of a victim who is outside of the boat, but not necessarily a swimmer.

Swamping – Filling with water, regardless of method of ingress, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain upon the surface.

Towing Skier – Self-explanatory. Includes surfboards, sleds, discs, and other devices, as well as skis, on which a person can be towed behind a boat.

Vessel Casualties (as opposed to personnel casualties) – All of those accidents which result in actual damage to the boat, regardless of extent of damage and regardless of whether persons were injured, killed, or other property was damaged.

Wood Hull – Includes those hull of plywood, wood planked, or any other wood fiber in its natural consistency. Also includes those of wooden constructions that have been "sheathed" with fiberglass or sheet metal.

TAKE A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS (NASBLA) APPROVED BOATING SAFETY COURSE.

FOR AVAILABLE COURSES VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES:

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at <u>www.ncwildlife.org</u>, Click "Online Services" Or Call 919-707-0030

US Power Squadron at <u>www.usps.org</u>. Or call 1-888-FOR USPS 1-888-367-8777

US Coast Guard Auxiliary at <u>www.uscgaux.org</u>. Or call 1-800-336-BOAT (1-800-336-2628).

Boat US online <u>free course</u> at <u>www.boatus.com</u>. 1-800-336-2628

Boat Ed online course at <u>www.boat-ed.com/nc</u>. 1-800-830-2268 (there is a charge for this course)

