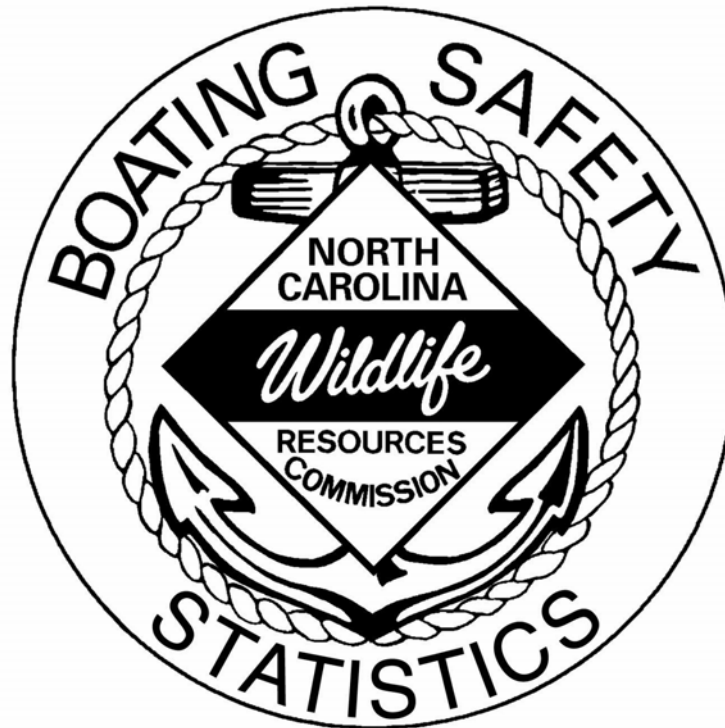


NORTH CAROLINA

REPORT OF

BOATING ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES

2008



**COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE
NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES
COMMISSION**

Division of Enforcement

State of North Carolina

Beverly Perdue/ Governor

**Department of Environment
and Natural Resources**

Dee A. Freeman./ Secretary

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

2008 North Carolina Annual Boating Accident Report

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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May 1, 2009

NORTH CAROLINA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 2008

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 2008.

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 \$2,000.00
- (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.

Gordon Myers
Executive Director

ANNUAL BOATING STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BOATING ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>FATAL ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>BOATING EDUCATION STUDENTS</u>
2008	157	18	325,491	4,363*
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 2008 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>	<u>BOATING ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>FATAL ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>BOATING EDUCATION 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	----

2008 N. C. BOATING ACCIDENT FACTS

- 157 Total Accidents
- 139 Non-Fatal Accidents
- 18 Fatal Accidents Resulting in Fatalities
- 216 Total of Vessels Involved in Accidents
- 124 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	3	26
Afternoon (1201 to 1800)	76	13	89
Evening (1801 to 2400)	34	2	36
Night (0001 to 0600)	6	0	6
Totals	139	18	157

NUMBER OF BOATING ACCIDENTS PER WATER TYPE

<u>Water Type</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lake	77	8	85
River	16	3	19
ICW/Waterway	19	4	23
Sound	11	0	11
Creek	6	2	8
Ocean	1	1	2
Inlet	5	0	5
Channel	0	0	0
Other	4	0	4
Totals	139	18	157

COUNTY TOTALS

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
Alamance	3,947	0	0	0
Alexander	2,062	0	3	3
Alleghany	202	0	0	0
Anson	817	0	0	0
Ashe	423	0	0	0
Avery	395	0	0	0
Beaufort	5,611	2	1	3
Bertie	1,221	0	0	0
Bladen	1,814	0	1	1
Brunswick	8,386	0	10	10
Buncombe	5,406	0	0	0
Burke	3,308	0	0	0
Cabarrus	3,871	0	0	0
Caldwell	2,777	0	2	2
Camden	914	0	0	0
Carteret	11,110	1	8	9
Caswell	775	0	0	0
Catawba	7,185	1	8	9
Chatham	2,150	1	3	4
Cherokee	1,698	0	2	2
Chowan	1,377	0	1	1

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
Clay	909	0	1	1
Cleveland	2,662	0	0	0
Columbus	4,133	1	2	3
Craven	6,345	0	2	2
Cumberland	6,024	0	0	0
Currituck	3,090	1	1	2
Dare	5,226	0	12	12
Davidson	7,404	0	5	5
Davie	1,347	0	0	0
Duplin	2,127	0	0	0
Durham	3,493	1	0	1
Edgecombe	1,812	0	0	0
Forsyth	6,759	0	0	0
Franklin	2,255	0	1	1
Gaston	5,509	1	5	6
Gates	697	0	0	0
Graham	1014	0	0	0
Granville	1,955	0	1	1
Greene	873	0	0	0
Guilford	9,011	0	0	0
Halifax	3,203	0	1	1

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
Harnett	3,495	0	1	1
Haywood	2,707	0	0	0
Henderson	2,442	0	0	0
Hertford	907	0	1	1
Hoke	917	0	0	0
Hyde	701	0	0	0
Iredell	11,308	0	9	9
Jackson	1,539	0	0	0
Johnston	5,786	0	0	0
Jones	625	0	0	0
Lee	1,765	0	0	0
Lenoir	2,743	0	0	0
Lincoln	5,062	1	3	4
McDowell	1,855	0	2	2
Macon	1,248	0	1	1
Madison	627	0	0	0
Martin	1,308	0	0	0
Mecklenburg	14,988	0	3	3
Mitchell	313	0	0	0
Montgomery	2,495	0	3	3
Moore	2,954	0	0	0
Nash	3,616	0	0	0

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
New Hanover	12,089	2	9	11
Northampton	2,100	0	1	1
Onslow	7,149	2	2	4
Orange	2,402	0	0	0
Other	2,039	0	0	0
Pamlico	2,536	0	4	4
Pasquotank	1,819	0	0	0
Pender	4,533	0	2	2
Perquimans	1,484	0	0	0
Person	1,989	0	2	2
Pitt	5,543	0	1	1
Polk	625	0	0	0
Randolph	4,676	0	0	0
Richmond	1,886	1	0	1
Robeson	4,055	0	0	0
Rockingham	2,695	0	2	2
Rowan	5,046	1	3	4
Rutherford	2,038	0	1	1
Sampson	2,252	0	0	0
Scotland	918	0	0	0
Stanly	3,651	1	1	2
Stokes	1,191	0	2	2

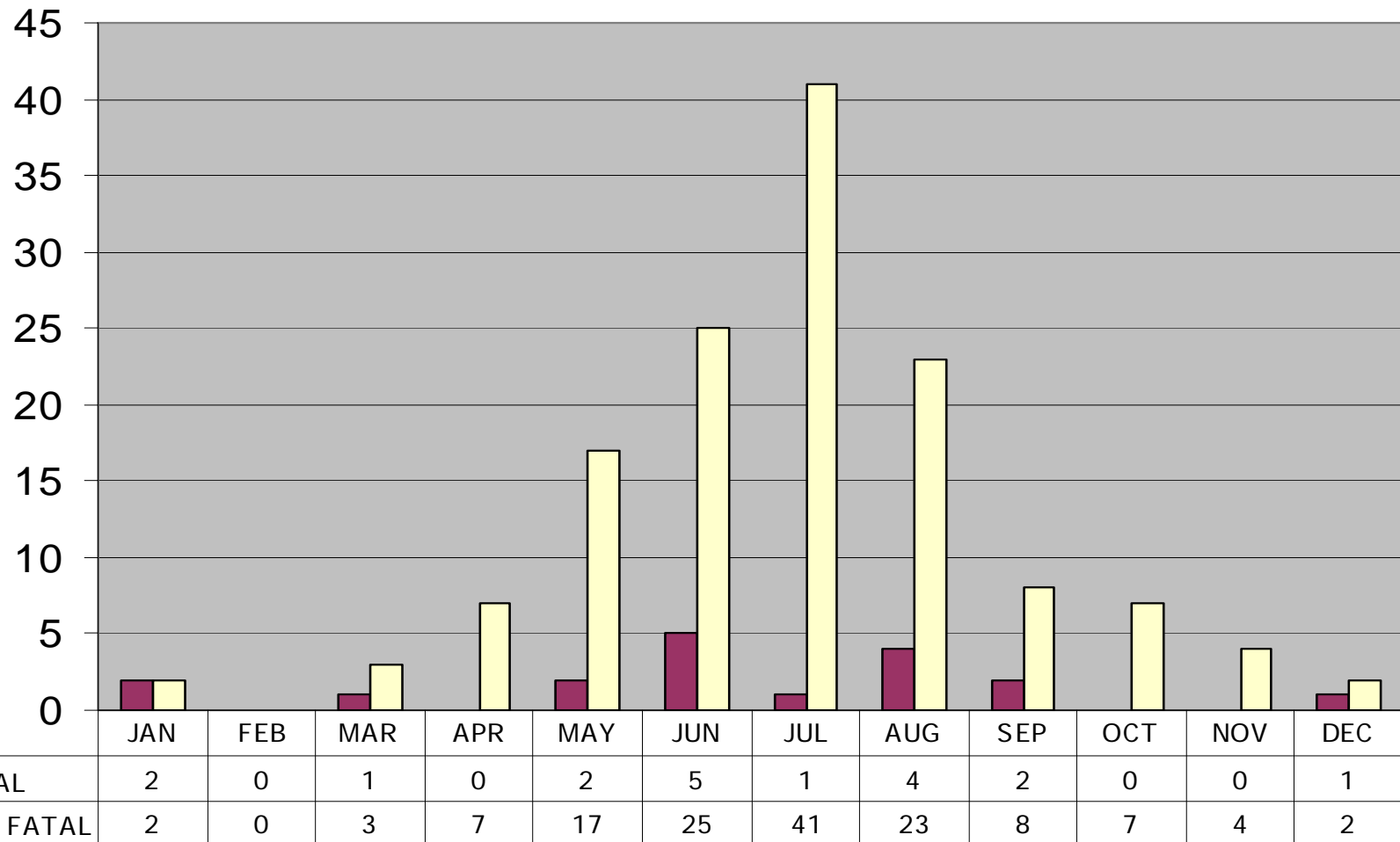
COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
Surry	1,561	0	0	0
Swain	918	0	2	2
Transylvania	1,182	0	0	0
Tyrrell	455	0	2	2
Union	4,345	0	0	0
Vance	2,183	1	2	3
Wake	17,860	0	3	3
Warren	2290	0	3	3
Washington	900	0	0	0
Watauga	727	0	0	0
Wayne	3,487	0	3	3
Wilkes	1,881	0	1	1
Wilson	2,623	0	0	0
Yadkin	1,083	0	0	0
Yancey	582	0	0	0
TOTALS:	325,491	18	139	157

TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODIES OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
ALBEMARLE SOUND	0	1	1
ALLIGATOR RIVER	0	1	1
ATLANTIC OCEAN	1	1	2
BADIN LAKE	1	0	1
BAY RIVER	0	2	2
BELEWS LAKE	0	3	3
BOGUE SOUND	0	2	2
BROAD CREEK	0	1	1
CAPE FEAR RIVER	0	3	3
CAPPS CREEK	0	1	1
CAROLINA BEACH	0	1	1
CAROLINA BEACH INLET	0	3	3
CAROLINA LAKE	0	1	1
CHOWAN RIVER	0	2	2
CURRITUCK SOUND	0	1	1
DUTCH SECOND CREEK	1	0	1
FALLS LAKE	1	2	3
FONTANA LAKE	0	2	2
HIGH ROCK LAKE	0	8	8
HYCO LAKE	0	2	2
ICW	4	19	23
JORDAN LAKE	1	3	4
KERR LAKE	1	4	5
KITTY HAWK BAY	0	1	1
LAKE CHATUGE	0	1	1
LAKE GASTON	0	4	4
LAKE HICKORY	1	5	6
LAKE HIWASSEE	0	2	2
LAKE JAMES	0	2	2
LAKE LURE	0	1	1
LAKE NORMAN	1	20	21
LAKE REIDSVILLE	0	1	1
LAKE RHODISS	0	1	1
LAKE ROYALE	0	1	1
LAKE TILLERY	0	4	4
LAKE WACCAMAW	1	2	3
LAKE WHEELER	0	1	1
LAKE WYLIE	0	3	3
LOCKWOOD FOLLY INLET	0	1	1

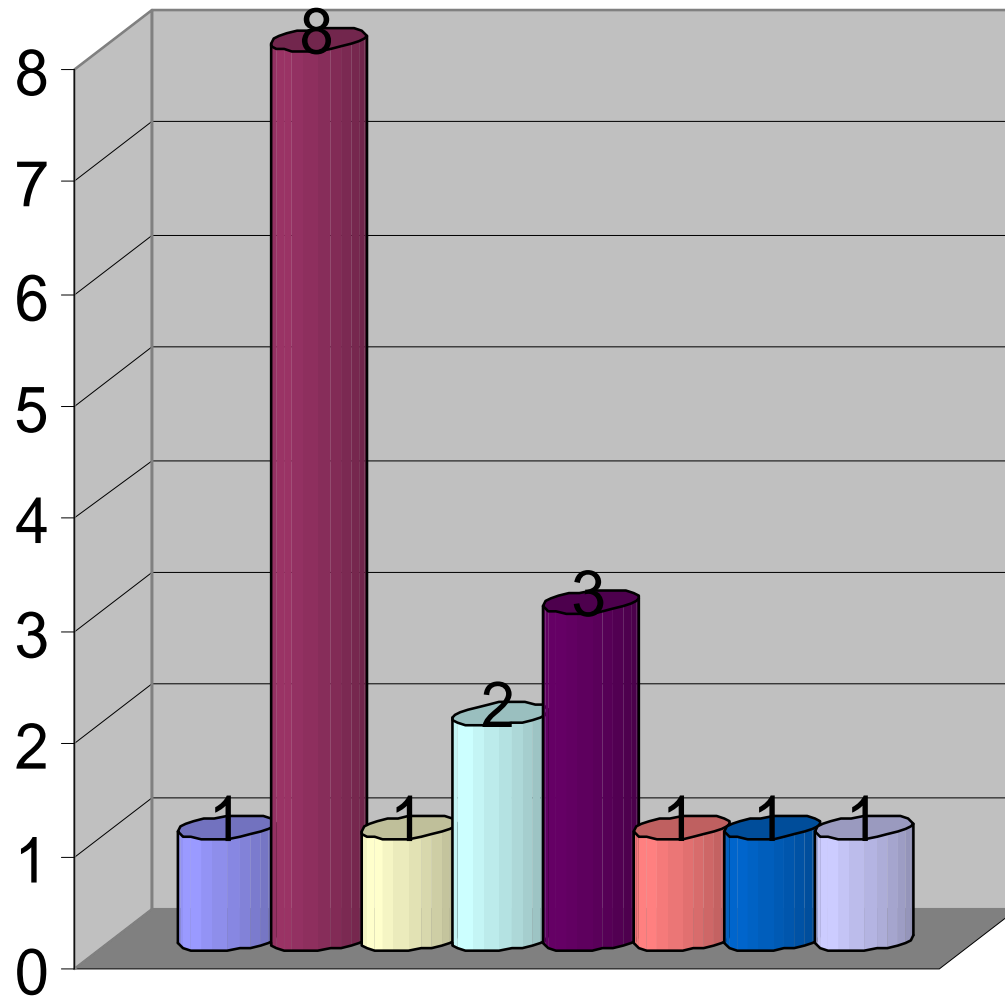
BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
MORGANS CREEK	0	1	1
MTN ISLAND LAKE	1	4	5
NANTAHALA LAKE	0	1	1
NEUSE RIVER	0	4	4
NEW RIVER	1	0	1
OREGON INLET	0	1	1
PAMLICO RIVER	1	1	2
PAMLICO SOUND	0	2	2
PEE DEE RIVER	1	0	1
PUNGO CREEK	1	0	1
ROANOKE RIVER	0	1	1
ROANOKE SOUND	0	6	6
SHALLOTTE RIVER	0	1	1
SMITH CREEK	0	1	1
SLOCUM CREEK	0	1	1
SMITH CREEK	0	1	1
TAR RIVER	0	1	1
TAYLORS CREEK	0	1	1
TOTAL	18	139	157

MONTHS IN WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCUR



FATAL
 NON FATAL

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT FATAL



AT ANCHOR

CRUISING

DRIFTING

FISHING

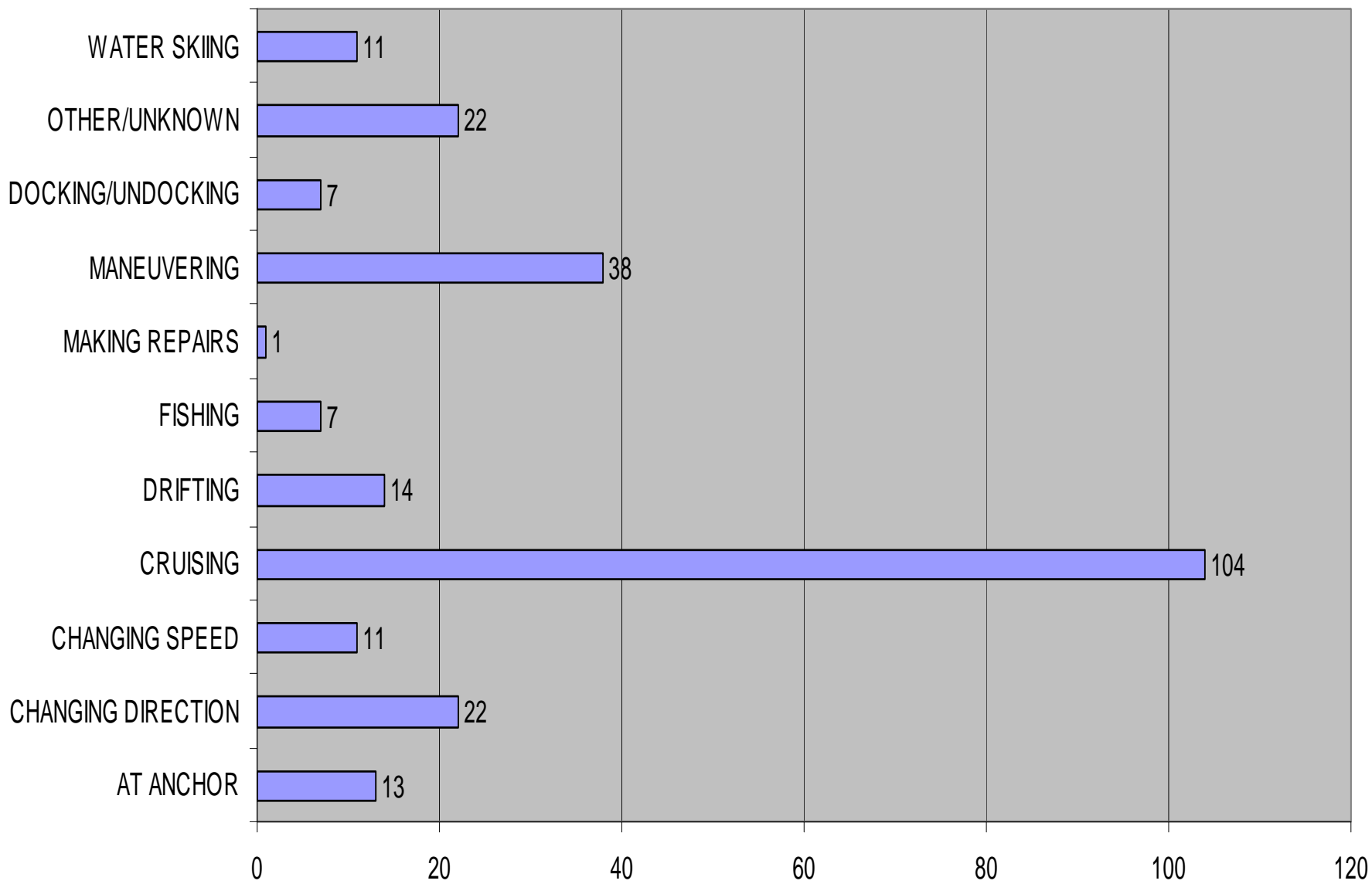
MANEUVERING

OTHER

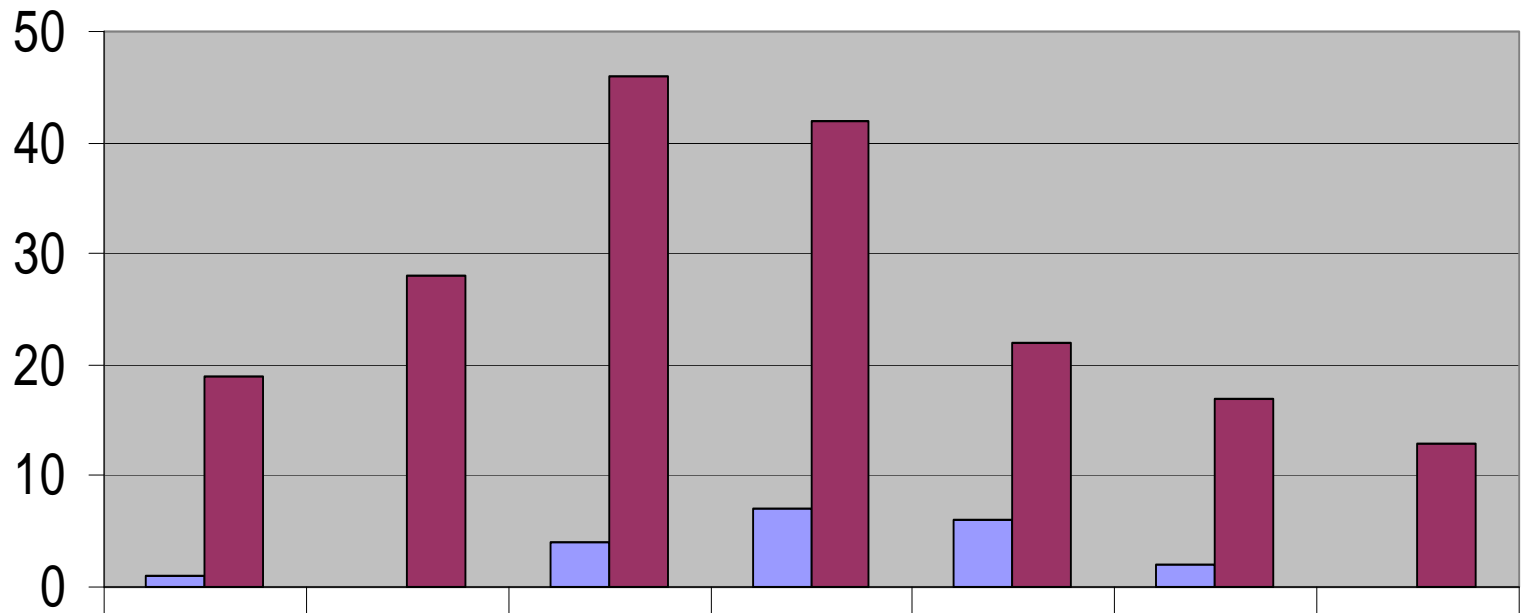
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WATER SKIING

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENT

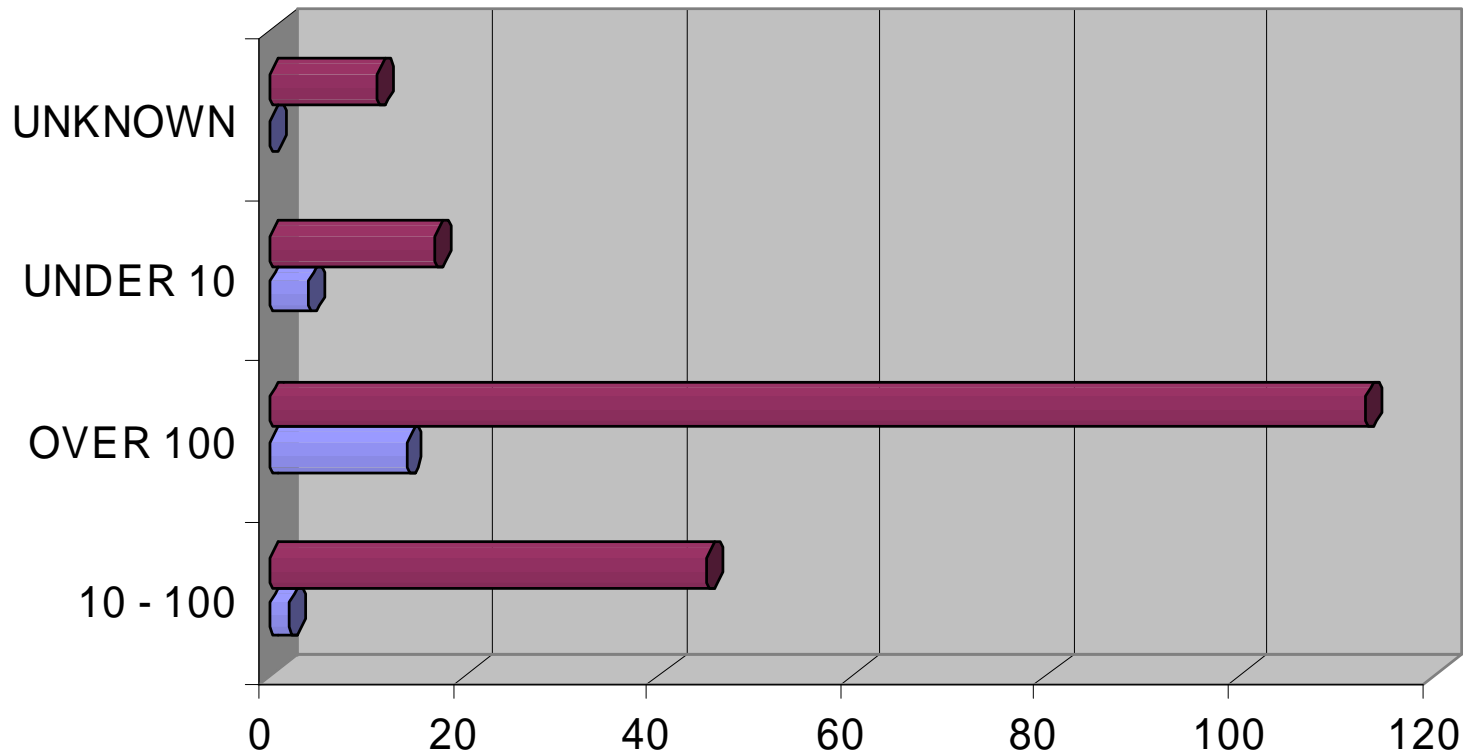


AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS



■ FATAL	1	0	4	7	6	2	0
■ NON-FATAL	19	28	46	42	22	17	13

EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS



	10 - 100	OVER 100	UNDER 10	UNKNOWN
■ NON-FATAL	45	113	17	11
■ FATAL	2	14	4	0

RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

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

RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Other	9
2	Operator inattention	4
2	Alcohol use	4
2	Operator inexperience	4
3	Sharp turn	3
4	Hazardous waters	2
4	Weather	2
5	Overloading	1
5	Careless/reckless	1
5	No proper lookout	1

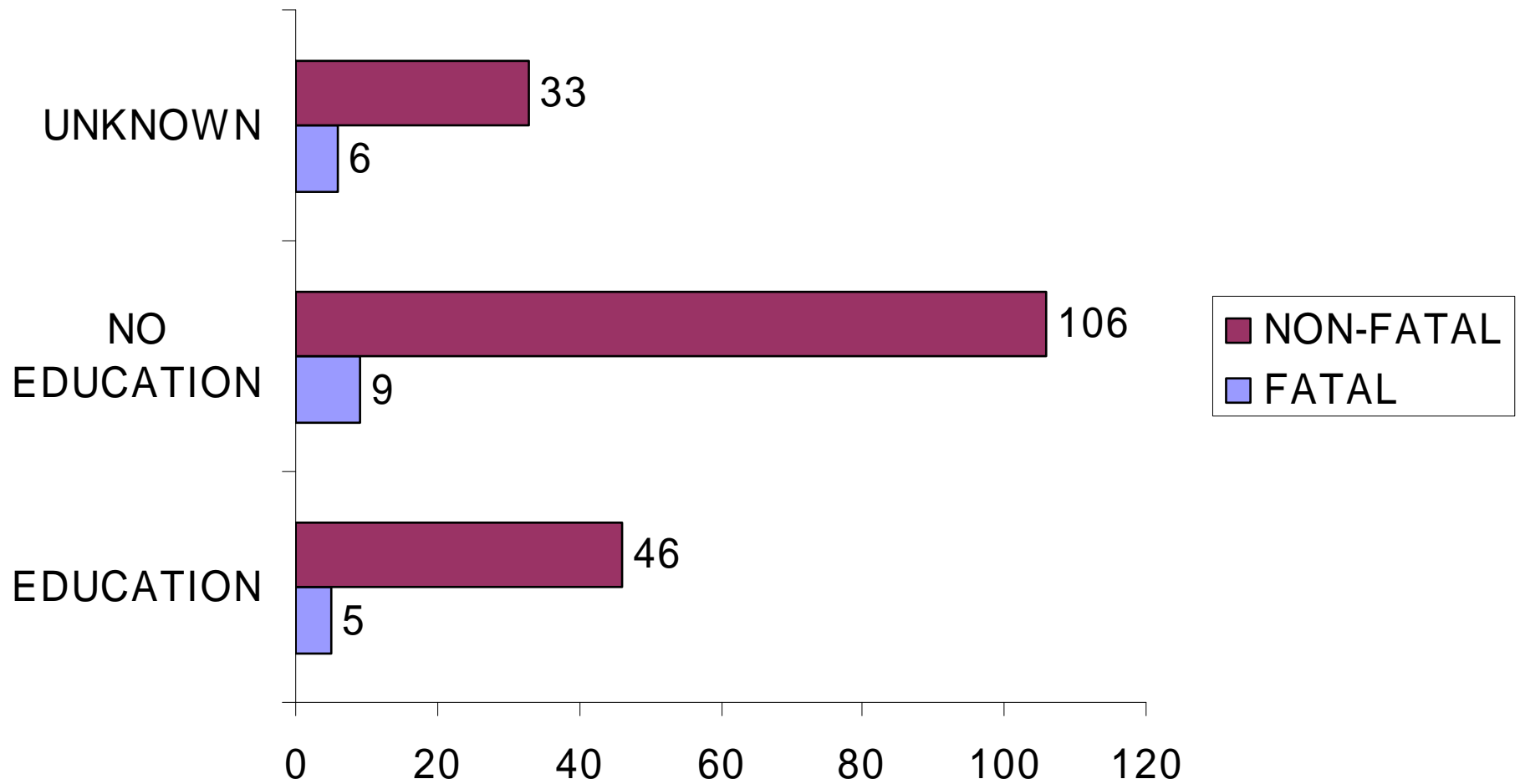
RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	41
2	Collision with fixed object	25
3	Falls overboard	15
4	Hit by boat/motor or propeller	10
5	Skier mishap	8
6	Grounding	7
7	Capsizing	6
7	Other	6
8	Falls in boat	5
8	Sinking	5
9	Fire or explosion (fuel)	4
9	Fire or explosion (other than fuel)	4
10	Hit submerged object	3

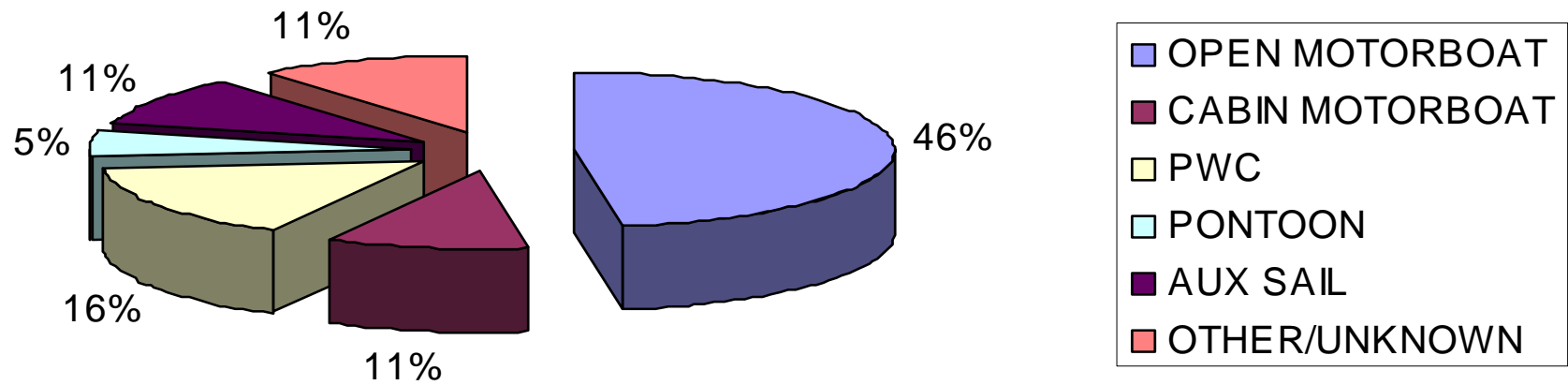
RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator inattention	54
2	Careless & reckless operation	37
3	Excessive speed	26
4	Wake	25
5	Operator inexperience	24
6	Other	22
7	No proper lookout	18
8	Hazardous waters	15
9	Alcohol use	14
10	Fault of equipment/machinery/hull	12
10	Sharp turn	12
11	Weather	11
12	Restricted vision	7
13	Congested waters	6
14	No/Improper lights	5
15	Overloading	2
16	Falls overboard	1

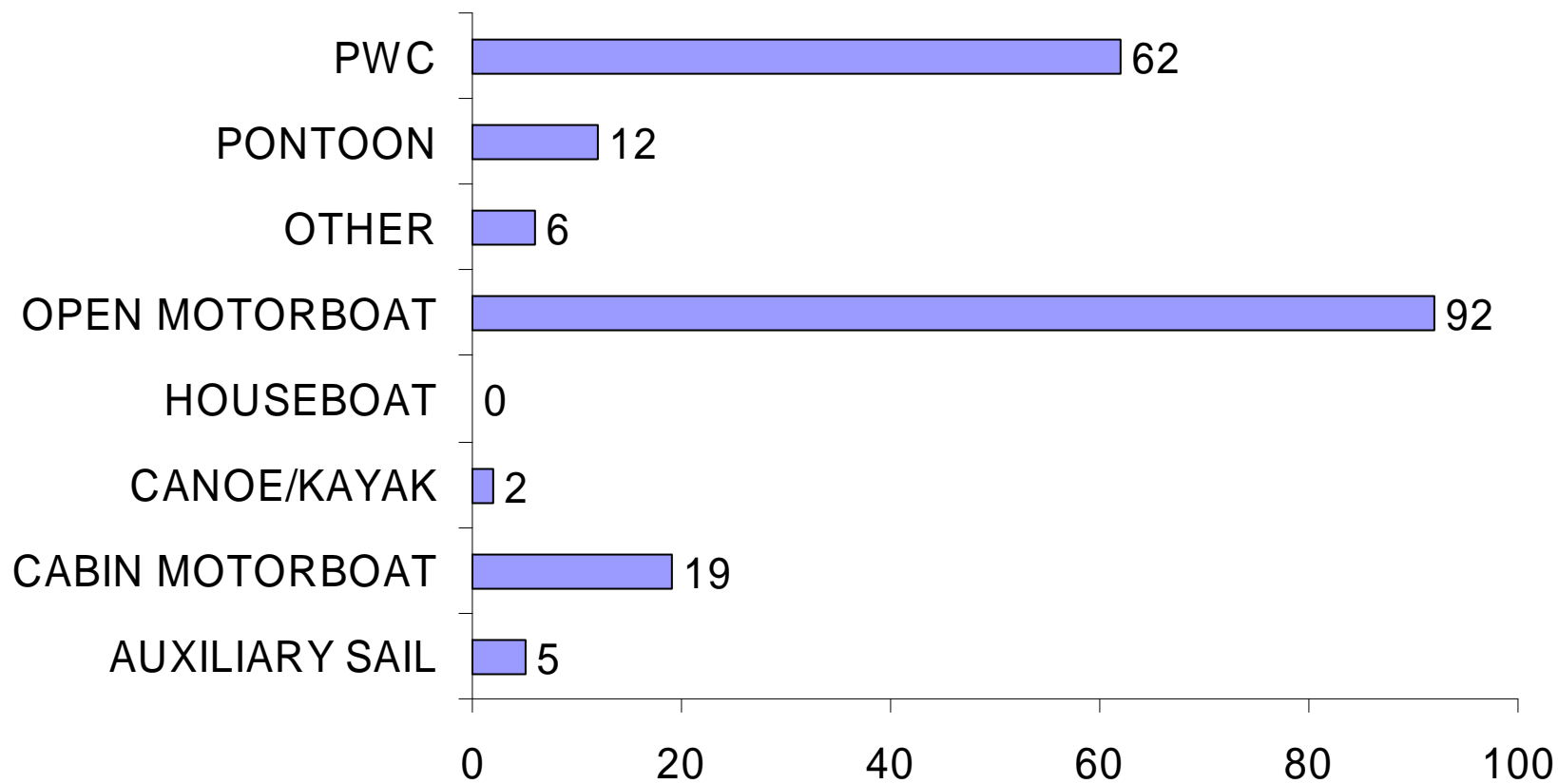
FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



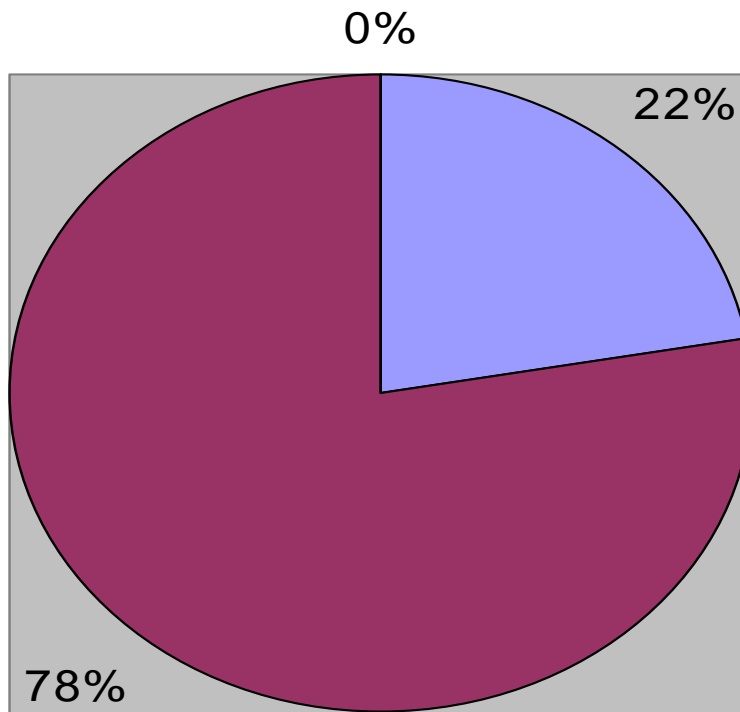
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



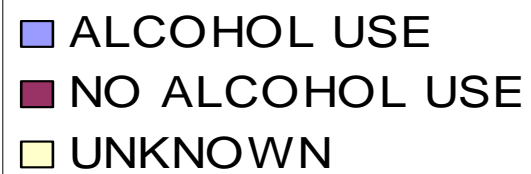
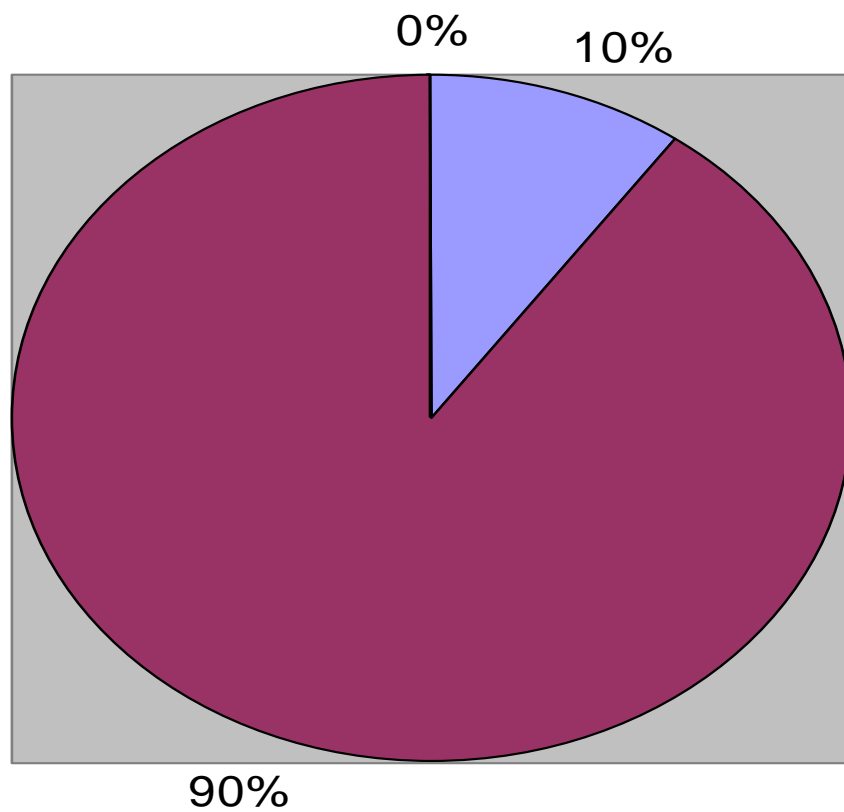
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



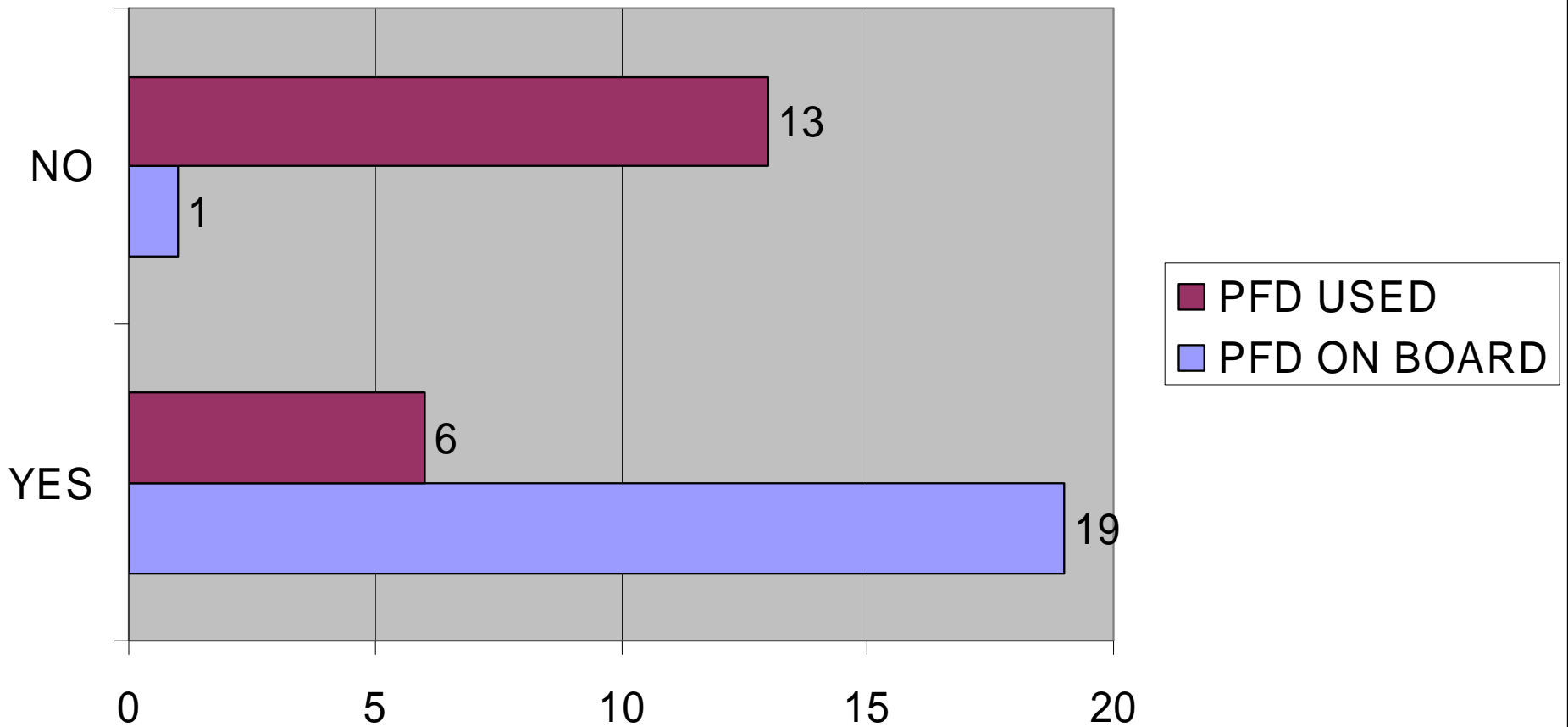
ALCOHOL USE IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



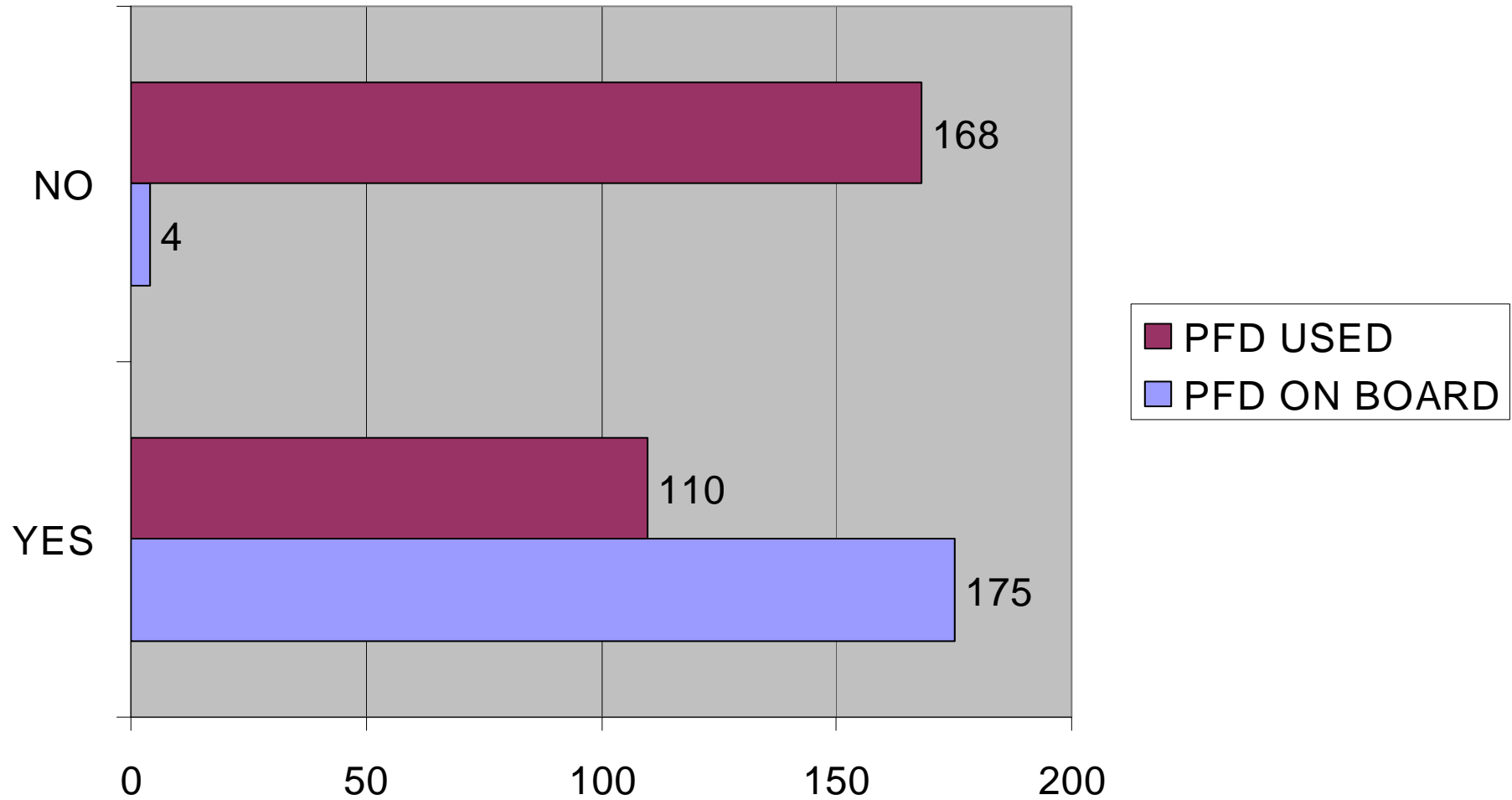
ALCOHOL USE IN NON FATAL ACCIDENTS



USAGE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



USAGE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES IN NON FATAL ACCIDENTS



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 2008, the number of fatal recreational boating accidents in North Carolina was 18.

**In 1982 there were 191,037 vessels registered in North Carolina.
In 2008 there were 325,491 vessels registered in North Carolina.**

In 2007 the US Coast Guard ranked North Carolina 11th 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 2006. In 2004, *Careless & Reckless Operation* was the number one *cause*. In 2007 and 2008, *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 and 2008, the number two *cause* was *Careless & Reckless Operation*..

COUNTY TOTALS

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PWC'S REGISTERED</u>	<u>PWC ACCIDENTS</u>
Alamance	556	0
Alexander	370	1
Alleghany	19	0
Anson	102	0
Ashe	27	0
Avery	56	0
Beaufort	545	0
Bertie	124	0
Bladen	142	0
Brunswick	624	6
Buncombe	743	0
Burke	351	0
Cabarrus	684	0
Caldwell	375	0
Camden	96	0
Carteret	623	2
Caswell	102	0
Catawba	1,592	3
Chatham	192	1
Cherokee	198	1
Chowan	109	1
Clay	222	1
Cleveland	372	0
Columbus	258	1
Craven	420	0
Cumberland	626	0
Currituck	408	0
Dare	545	6
Davidson	1,364	2
Davie	186	0
Duplin	144	0
Durham	509	1
Edgecombe	138	0
Forsyth	1,214	0
Franklin	304	1
Gaston	753	2
Gates	26	0
Graham	133	0
Granville	269	0

COUNTY TOTALS

COUNTY	PWC'S REGISTERED	PWC ACCIDENTS
Greene	63	0
Guilford	1,533	0
Halifax	619	0
Harnett	352	1
Haywood	493	0
Henderson	349	0
Hertford	63	0
Hoke	79	0
Hyde	26	0
Iredell	2,902	3
Jackson	199	0
Johnston	583	0
Jones	36	0
Lee	212	0
Lenoir	210	0
Lincoln	1,094	1
McDowell	210	0
Macon	211	1
Madison	96	0
Martin	59	0
Mecklenburg	3,201	0
Mitchell	28	0
Montgomery	554	1
Moore	300	0
Nash	513	0
New Hanover	801	2
Northampton	527	1
Onslow	655	1
Orange	298	0
Other	246	0
Pamlico	140	0
Pasquotank	173	0
Pender	258	1
Perquimans	184	0
Person	322	1
Pitt	607	0
Polk	54	0
Randolph	766	0
Richmond	194	0

COUNTY TOTALS

COUNTY	PWC'S REGISTERED	PWC ACCIDENTS
Robeson	315	0
Rockingham	314	0
Rowan	794	1
Rutherford	165	0
Sampson	161	0
Scotland	82	0
Stanly	570	0
Stokes	124	0
Surry	198	0
Swain	65	1
Transylvania	107	0
Tyrrell	35	0
Union	670	0
Vance	293	1
Wake	2,951	0
Warren	539	2
Washington	90	0
Watauga	113	0
Wayne	339	3
Wilkes	233	1
Wilson	280	0
Yadkin	92	0
Yancey	44	0
TOTALS:	43,305	51

**RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	22
2	Falls overboard	14
3	Collision with fixed object	9
4	Other	4
5	Struck by boat	2

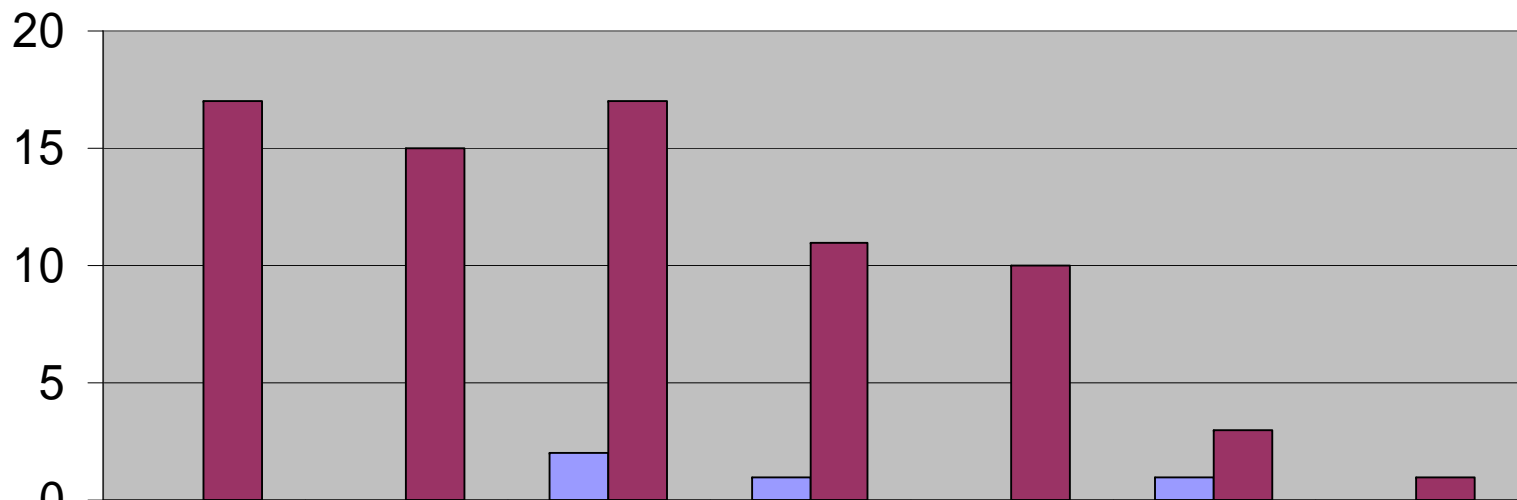
**RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator inexperience	22
2	Operator inattention	21
3	Careless/reckless operation	18
4	Excessive speed	17
5	Wake	10
6	Sharp turn	8
6	Other	8
6	No proper lookout	8
7	Hazardous waters	4
8	Congested waters	2
8	Alcohol use	2

**TOTAL PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS
PER BODIES OF WATER**

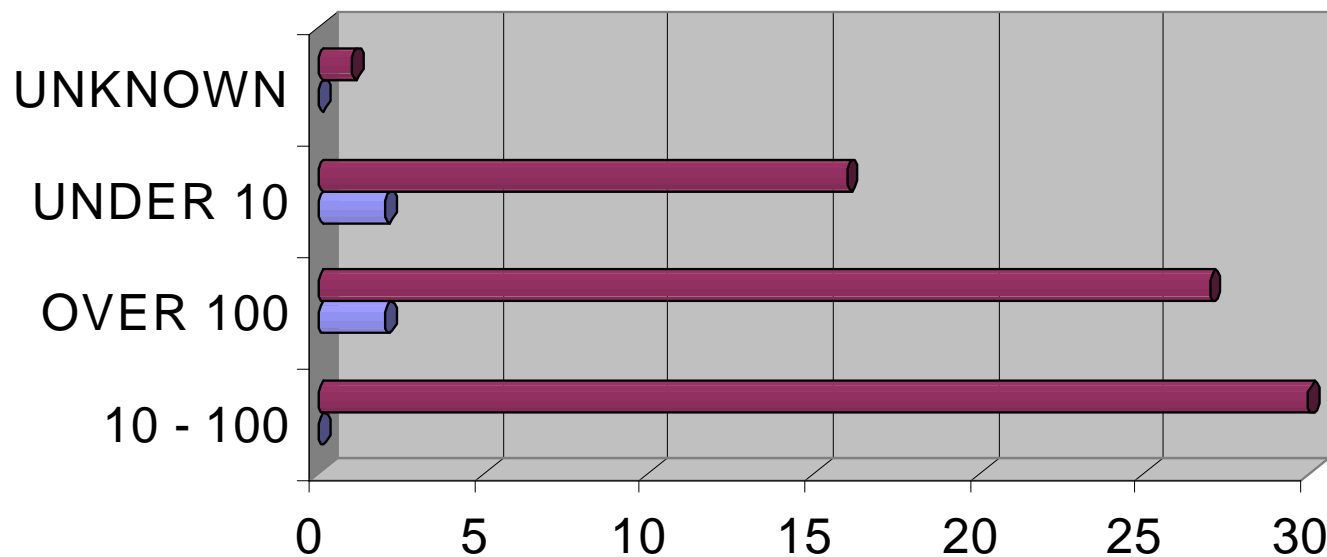
BODY OF WATER	# OF ACCIDENTS
BOGUE SOUND	1
CAPE FEAR RIVER	1
CAROLINA BEACH INLET	1
CAROLINA LAKE	1
CHOWAN RIVER	1
FALLS LAKE	1
FONTANA LAKE	1
HIGH ROCK LAKE	3
HYCO LAKE	1
ICW	9
JORDAN LAKE	1
KERR LAKE	2
KITTY HAWK BAY	1
LAKE CHATUGE	1
LAKE GASTON	3
LAKE HICKORY	2
LAKE HIWASSEE	1
LAKE NORMAN	6
LAKE ROYALE	1
LAKE TILLERY	1
MTN ISLAND LAKE	2
NANTHALA LAKE	1
NEUSE RIVER	3
PAMLICO SOUND	1
ROANOKE SOUND	5
TOTAL	51

AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PWC ACCIDENTS



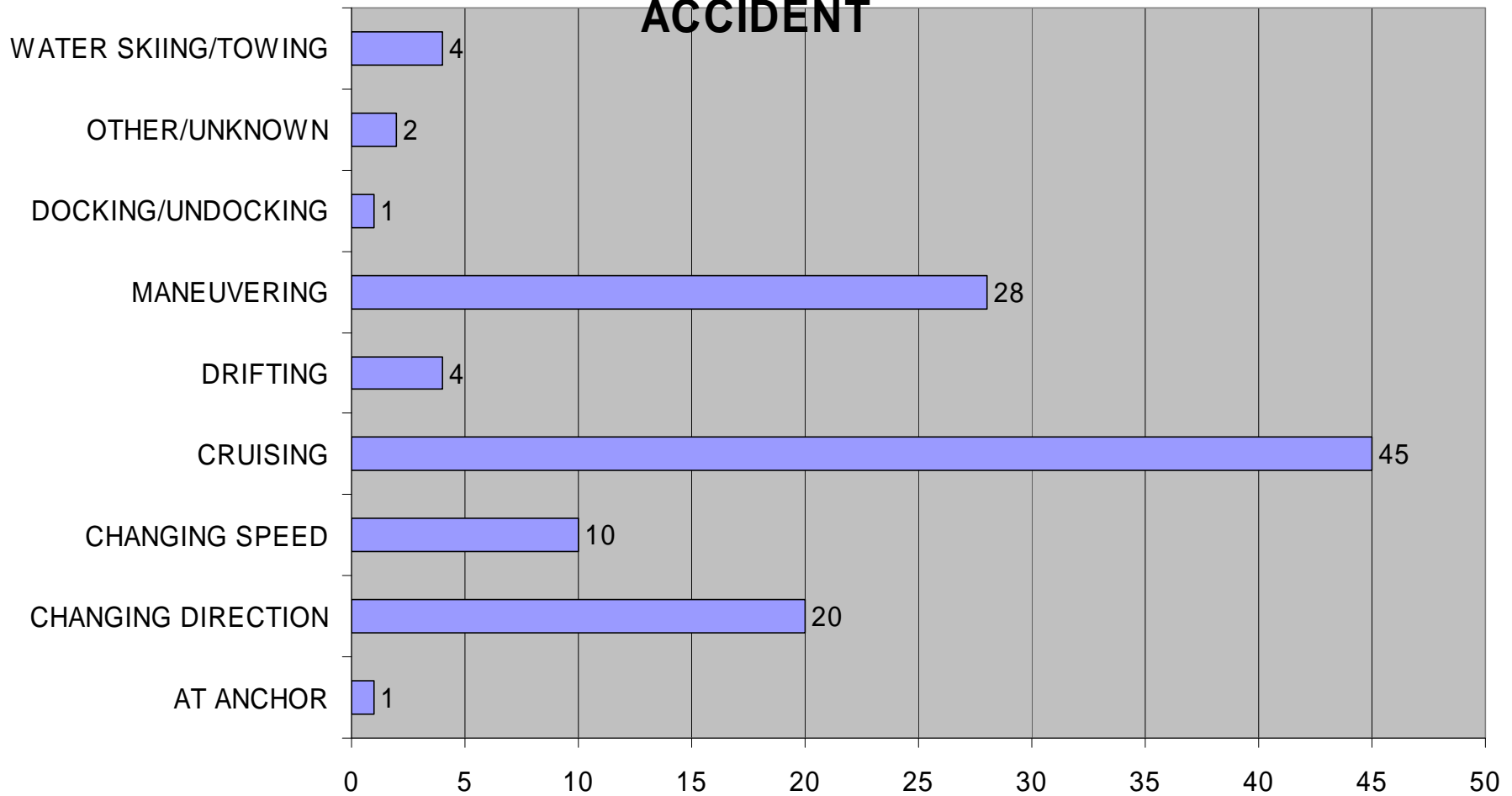
	10 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 AND OVER	UNK
■ FATAL	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
■ NON-FATAL	17	15	17	11	10	3	1

EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

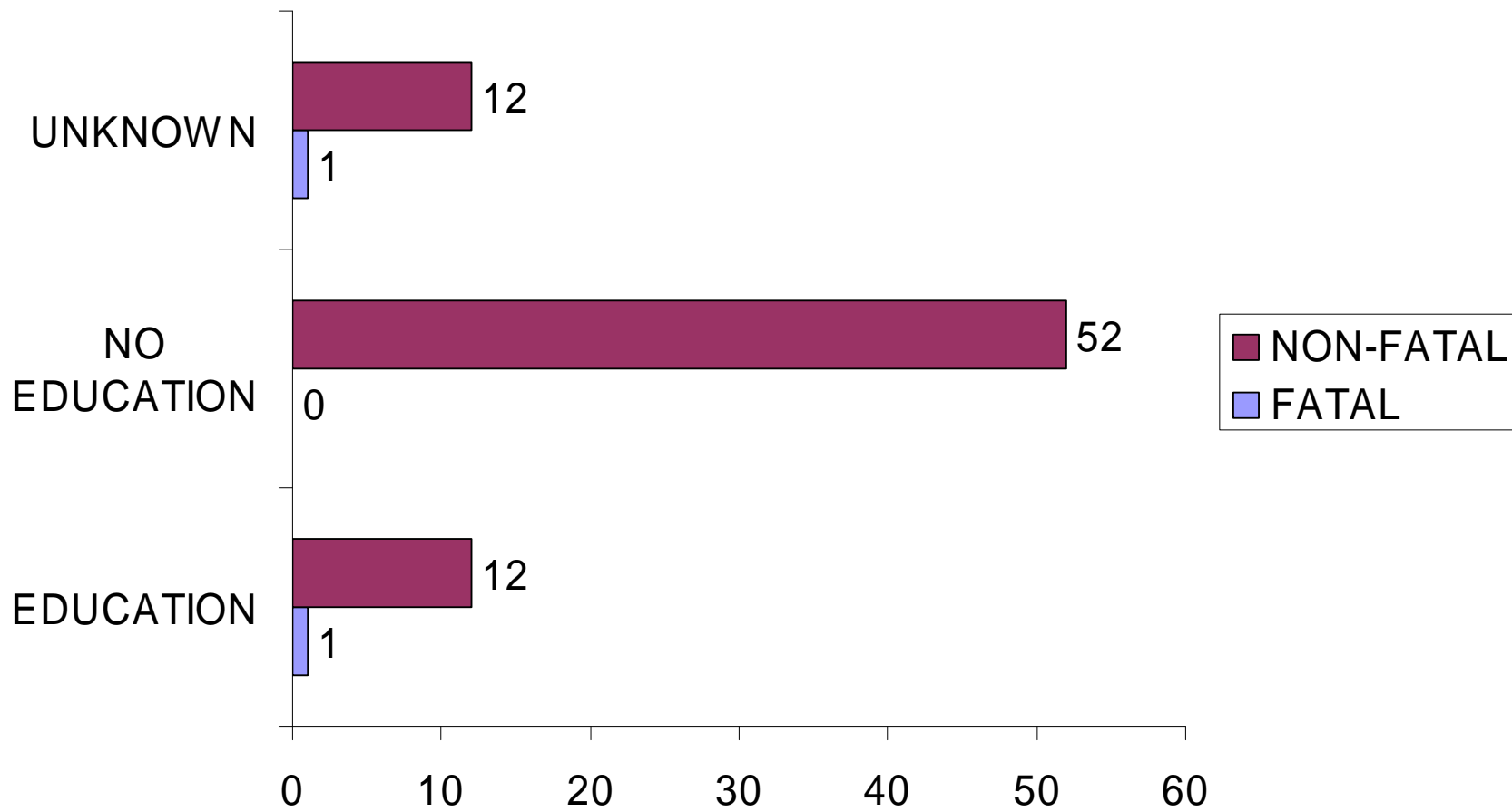


	10 - 100	OVER 100	UNDER 10	UNKNOWN
■ NON-FATAL	30	27	16	1
■ FATAL	0	2	2	0

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENT



FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL PWC ACCIDENTS



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 purposes.

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 www.ncwildlife.org,
Click "Online Services." Or Call
919-707-0030**

**US Power Squadron at www.usps.org. Or call
1-888-FOR USPS (1-888-367-8777)**

**US Coast Guard Auxiliary at www.uscgaux.org. Or call
1-800-336-BOAT (1-800-336-2628).**

**Boat US online free course at www.boatus.com.
1-800-336-2628**

**BoatEd online course at www.boat-ed.com/nc.
1-800-830-2268 (there is a charge for this course)**

