

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**REPORT OF**

**BOATING**

**ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES**

**2011**



**COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE**

**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

**COMMISSION**

**Division of Enforcement**

**State of North Carolina**

**Beverly Perdue/ Governor**

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**Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources**

**Dee A. Freeman./ Secretary**

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**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**

**Gordon Myers, Executive Director**

**2011 North Carolina Annual Boating Accident Report  
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
1717 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1717  
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# North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon Myers, Executive Director  
May, 2012

## NORTH CAROLINA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 2011

### 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 2011.

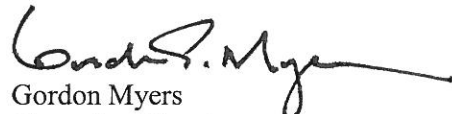
Boating accidents that occur on public waters of this state must be reported to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission if the accident results in one or more of the following:

- (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

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# ANNUAL BOATING STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BOATING ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>FATAL ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>BOATING EDUCATION STUDENTS</u>
2011	142	25	348,478	41,379*
2010	154	23	314,105	31,253*
2009	154	21	368,004	17,328*
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

*\*The total number of students receiving boater education certification in North Carolina in 2010 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>
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
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	----

## 2011 N. C. BOATING ACCIDENT FACTS

- 142 Total Accidents
- 117 Non-Fatal Accidents
- 25 Fatal Accidents Resulting in 28 Fatalities
- Total of 182 Vessels Involved in Accidents
- 80 Persons Injured in Accidents Required Medical Treatment

*Note: These Numbers Include Accidents Involving Personal Watercraft*

COUNTY TOTALS						
COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
Alamance	4,179	0	0	0		
Alexander	2,189	0	0	0		
Alleghany	224	0	0	0		
Anson	816	0	0	0		
Ashe	473	0	0	0		
Avery	414	0	0	0		
Beaufort	5,958	0	1	1		
Bertie	1,276	2	1	3		
Bladen	2,001	0	3	3		
Brunswick	9,366	0	7	7		
Buncombe	5,566	0	0	0		
Burke	3,699	0	0	0		
Cabarrus	4,195	0	0	0		
Caldwell	2,948	0	1	1		
Camden	988	0	0	0		
Carteret	12,224	1	14	15		
Caswell	842	0	0	0		
Catawba	7,842	0	6	6		
Chatham	2,551	0	0	0		
Cherokee	1,922	0	2	2		
Chowan	1,497	0	1	1		
Clay	974	0	1	1		
Cleveland	2,954	0	0	0		
Columbus	4,503	2	2	4		

COUNTY TOTALS						
COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
Craven	6,618	1	0	1		
Cumberland	6,311	0	0	0		
Currituck	3,190	2	2	4		
Dare	5,478	1	2	3		
Davidson	8,265	0	2	2		
Davie	1,557	0	0	0		
Duplin	2,223	0	0	0		
Durham	3,570	0	1	1		
Edgecombe	1,933	0	0	0		
Forsyth	6,828	0	1	1		
Franklin	2,430	0	1	1		
Gaston	5,908	0	0	0		
Gates	769	0	0	0		
Graham	1224	0	0	0		
Granville	2,119	0	0	0		
Greene	936	0	0	0		
Guilford	9,441	0	0	0		
Halifax	3,322	0	4	4		
Harnett	3,865	0	0	0		
Haywood	2,795	0	0	0		
Henderson	2,585	0	0	0		
Hertford	1,036	0	1	1		
Hoke	1065	0	0	0		
Hyde	759	0	2	2		
Iredell	12,300	0	6	6		
Jackson	1,756	0	2	2		

COUNTY TOTALS							
COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS			
Johnston	6,091	0	0	0			
Jones	683	0	0	0			
Lee	1,846	0	0	0			
Lenoir	2,788	0	0	0			
Lincoln	5,514	0	2	2			
Macon	1,294	0	1	1			
Madison	655	0	0	0			
Martin	1511	0	0	0			
McDowell	2,101	0	2	2			
Mecklenburg	15,195	0	5	5			
Mitchell	315	0	0	0			
Montgomery	2,925	1	3	4			
Moore	3,323	0	2	2			
Nash	3,825	0	0	0			
New Hanover	12,810	2	12	14			
Northampton	2,383	0	1	1			
Onslow	7,752	1	5	6			
Orange	2,557	0	0	0			
Other	1,972	0	0	0			
Pamlico	2,723	0	2	2			
Pasquotank	1,905	0	1	1			
Pender	4,973	0	4	4			
Perquimans	1,588	1	0	1			
Person	2,215	2	1	3			
Pitt	5,613	0	0	0			
Polk	665	0	1	1			
Randolph	5,228	0	0	0			

COUNTY TOTALS						
COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATAL	TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS		
Richmond	2,045	0	0	0		
Robeson	4,291	0	0	0		
Rockingham	2,899	0	0	0		
Rowan	5,477	1	0	1		
Rutherford	2,367	1	0	1		
Sampson	2,399	1	0	1		
Scotland	969	0	0	0		
Stanly	3,838	2	3	5		
Stokes	1,252	1	0	1		
Surry	1,626	0	0	0		
Swain	962	0	0	0		
Transylvania	1,215	0	0	0		
Tyrrell	492	0	0	0		
Union	4,789	0	0	0		
Vance	2,338	0	3	3		
Wake	18,369	3	4	7		
Warren	2833	0	2	2		
Washington	959	0	0	0		
Watauga	767	0	0	0		
Wayne	3,948	0	0	0		
Wilkes	1,950	0	0	0		
Wilson	2,680	0	0	0		
Yadkin	1,110	0	0	0		
Yancey	569	0	0	0		
TOTALS:	348,478	25	117	142		

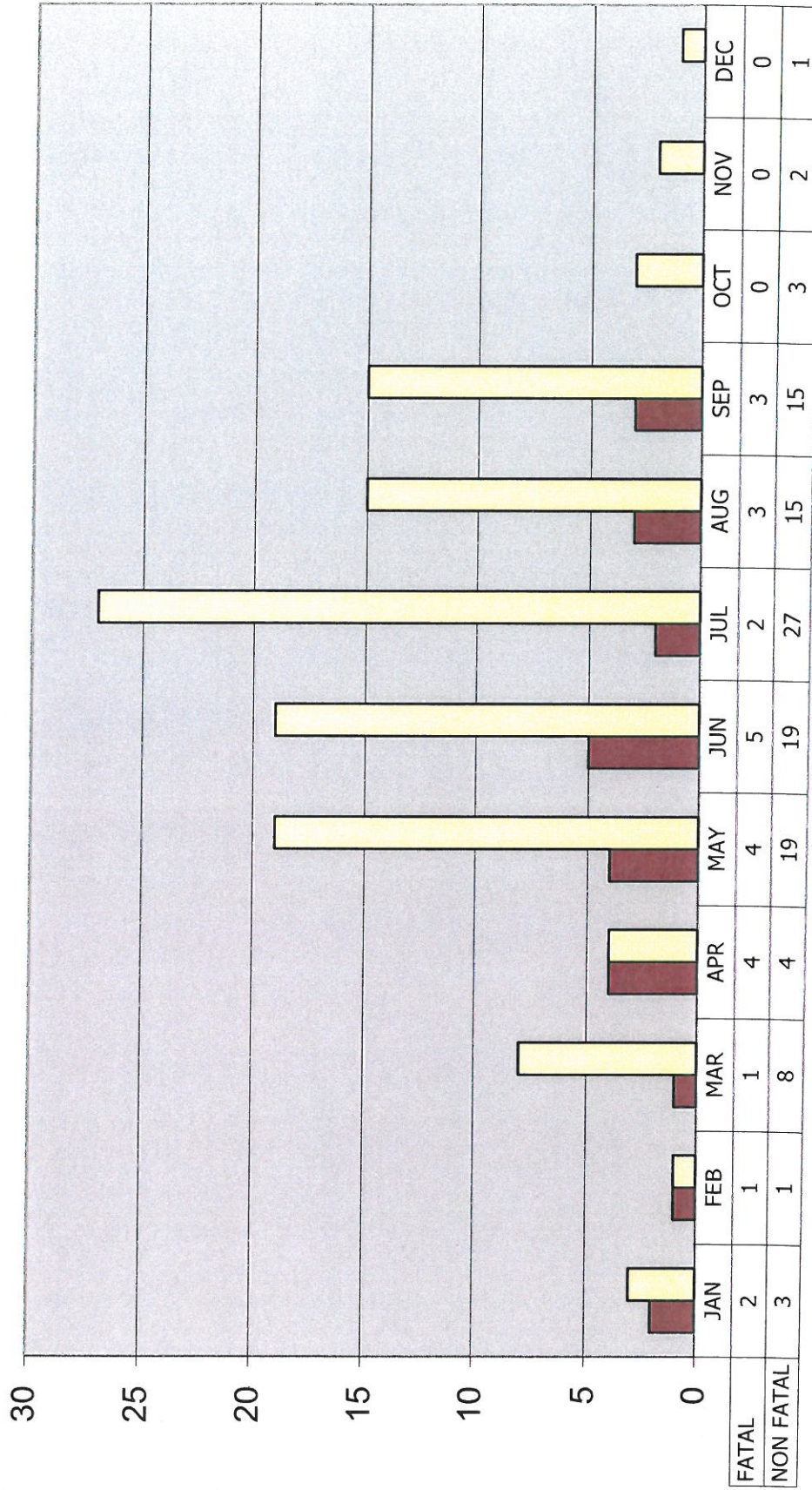
TOTAL ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER					
COUNTY		TOTAL FATAL		TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
ABBOTTS CREEK		0		0	0
ALBEMARLE SOUND		0		0	0
ALLIGATOR RIVER		0		0	0
ATLANTIC OCEAN/BEACH		0		1	1
BADIN LAKE		2		3	5
BANKS CHANNEL		0		1	1
BARDON INLET		0		1	1
BEAUFORT INLET		0		2	2
BELEWS LAKE		0		1	1
BLACK RIVER		1		0	1
BOGUE INLET/SOUND		1		2	3
BROWNS INLET		0		1	1
CAPE FEAR RIVER		1		4	5
CAROLINA BEACH INLET		0		1	1
CASHIE RIVER		2		1	3
CEDAR CLIFF LAKE		0		2	2
CHOWAN RIVER		0		1	1
CORE SOUND		0		1	1
CURRITUCK SOUND		2		3	5
FALLS LAKE		1		4	5
FIGURE 8 ISLAND CANAL		0		1	1
GALLANTS CHANNEL		0		4	4
GREEN RIVER		0		1	1
HIAWASSEE LAKE		0		2	2
HIGH ROCK LAKE		1		2	3
HYCO LAKE		0		1	1
ICW		0		18	18



TOTAL ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER					
COUNTY		TOTAL FATAL		TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
KERR LAKE		0		3	3
LAKE AUMAN		0		1	1
LAKE CHATUGE		0		1	1
LAKE GASTON		0		5	5
LAKE HICKORY		0		1	1
LAKE JAMES		0		2	2
LAKE LOOKOUT		0		1	1
LAKE LURE		1		0	1
LAKE NORMAN		0		17	17
LAKE RHODHISS		0		1	1
LAKE ROYALE		0		1	1
LAKE TILLERY		1		3	4
LAKE WACCAMAW		0		2	2
LAKE WHEELER		2		0	2
LEES CUT		0		1	1
LITTLE RIVER		1		0	1
MASONBORO INLET		1		1	2
MAYO LAKE		2		0	2
MEHERRIN RIVER		0		1	1
MOTTS CHANNEL		1		0	1
NANTAHALA LAKE		0		1	1
NEUSE RIVER		0		2	2
NEW RIVER		1		1	2
OREGON INLET		1		0	1
PAGES CREEK		0		1	1
PAMLICO SOUND		0		2	2

TOTAL ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER					
COUNTY		TOTAL FATAL		TOTAL NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
PASQUOTANK RIVER		0		1	1
PELITER CREEK		0		1	1
PEMBROKE LAKE		1		0	1
PINNACLE WATERSHED		1		0	1
PUNGO RIVER		0		1	1
ROANOKE RIVER		0		2	2
SHACKLEFORD BANKS		0		1	1
SHEARON HARRIS RES/LAKE		0		1	1
SHINNS CREEK		0		1	1
WACCAMAW RIVER		1		0	1
WHITE LAKE		0		2	2
WOOD LAKE		0		1	1
TOTALS:		25		117	142

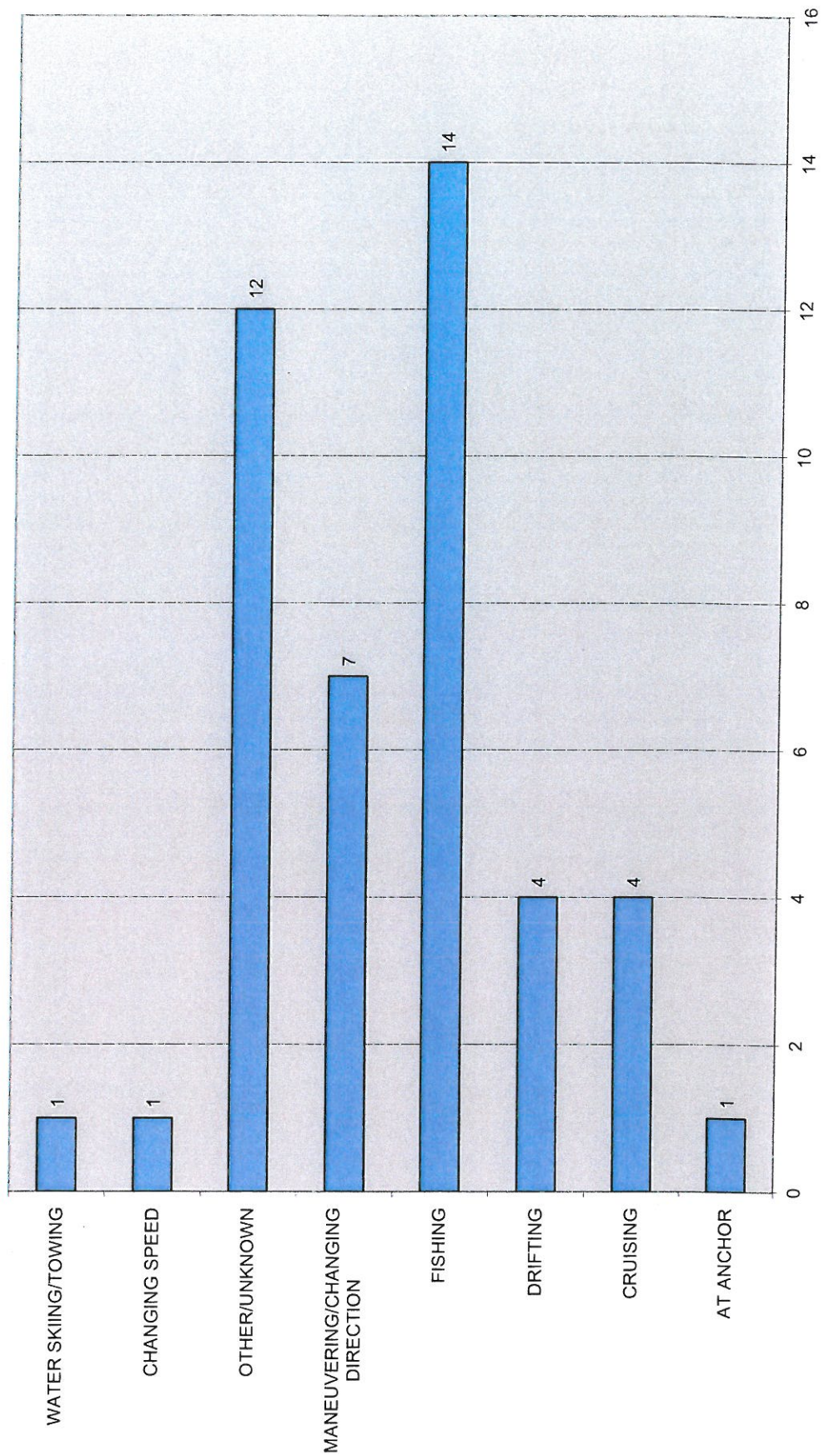
# MONTHS IN WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCUR



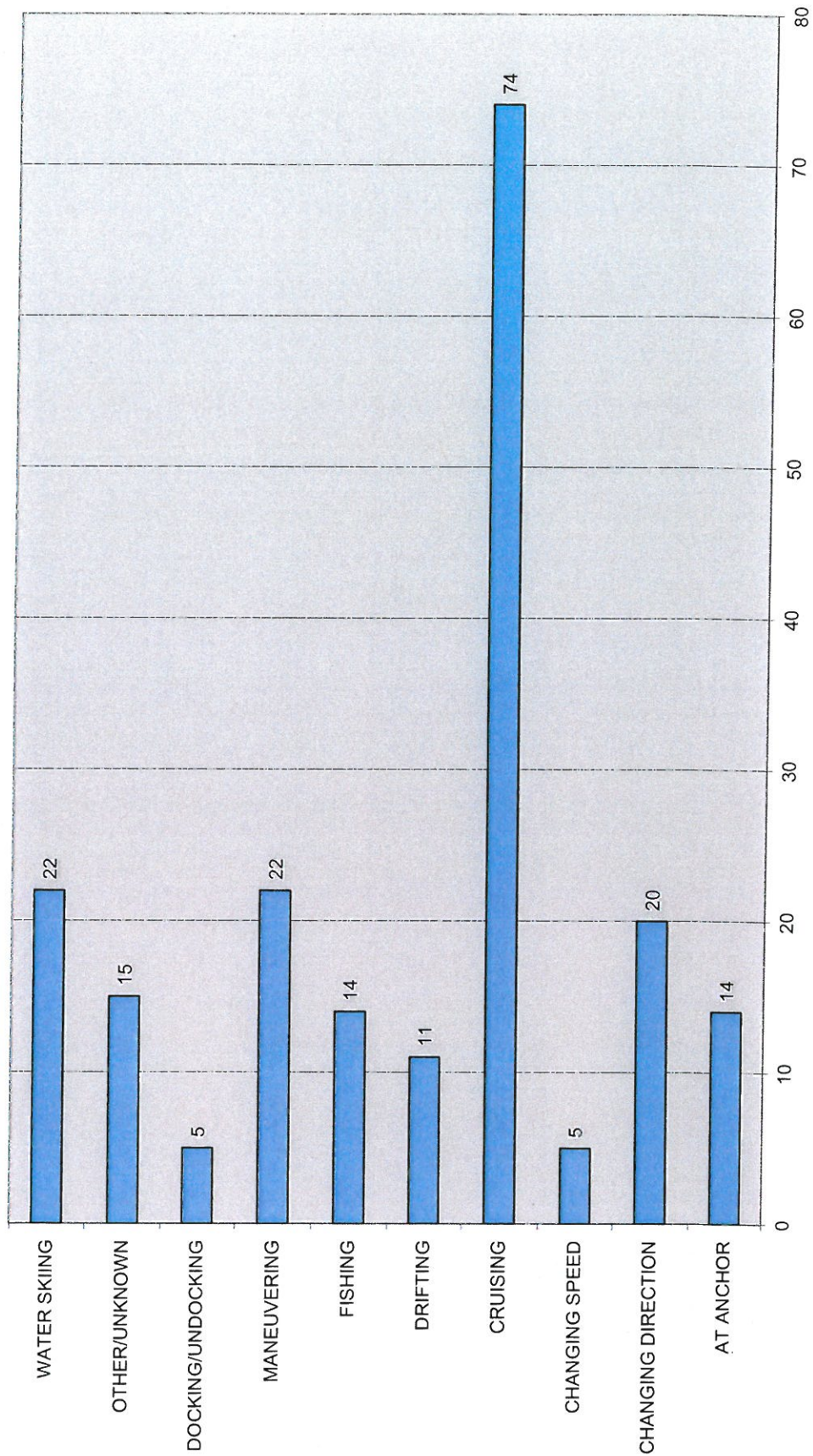
■ FATAL    □ NON FATAL



ACTIVITY AT TIME OF FATAL ACCIDENT

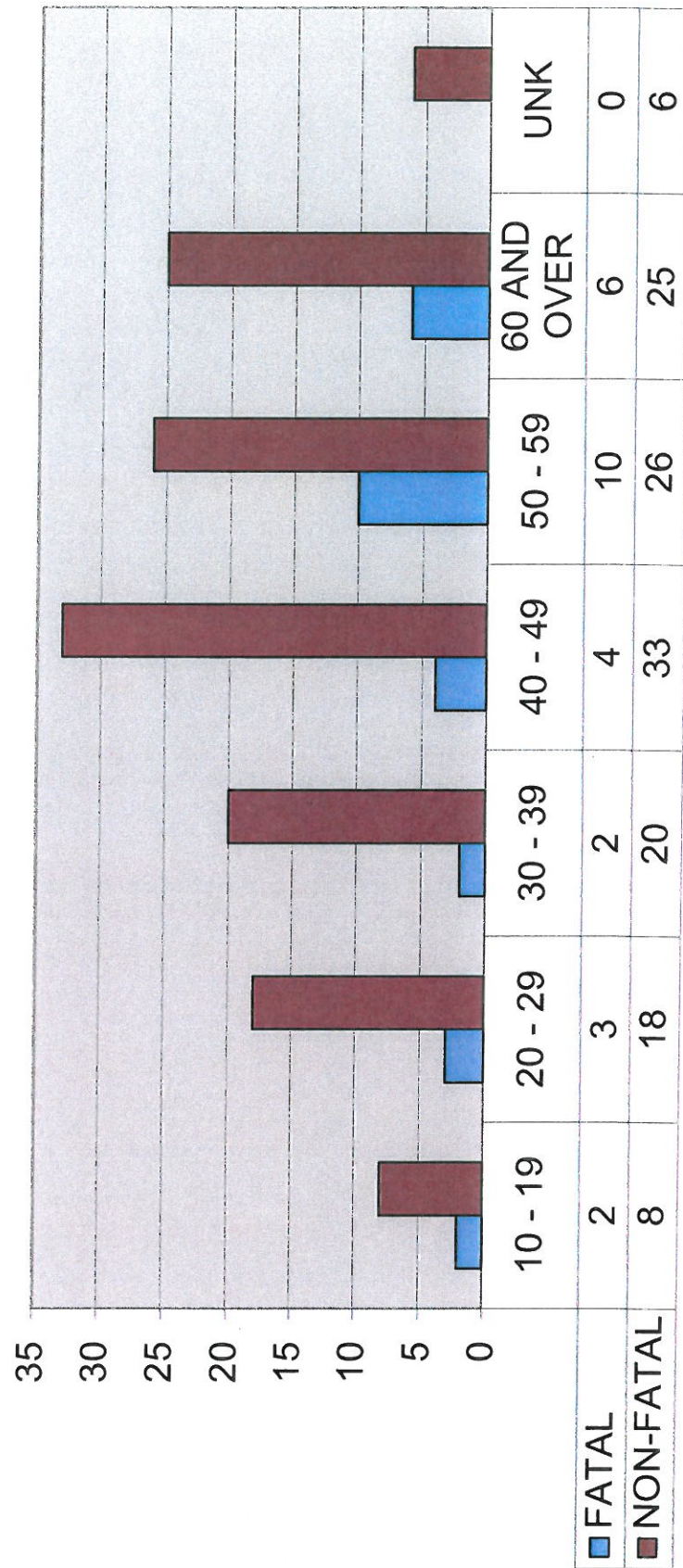


ACTIVITY AT TIME OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENT

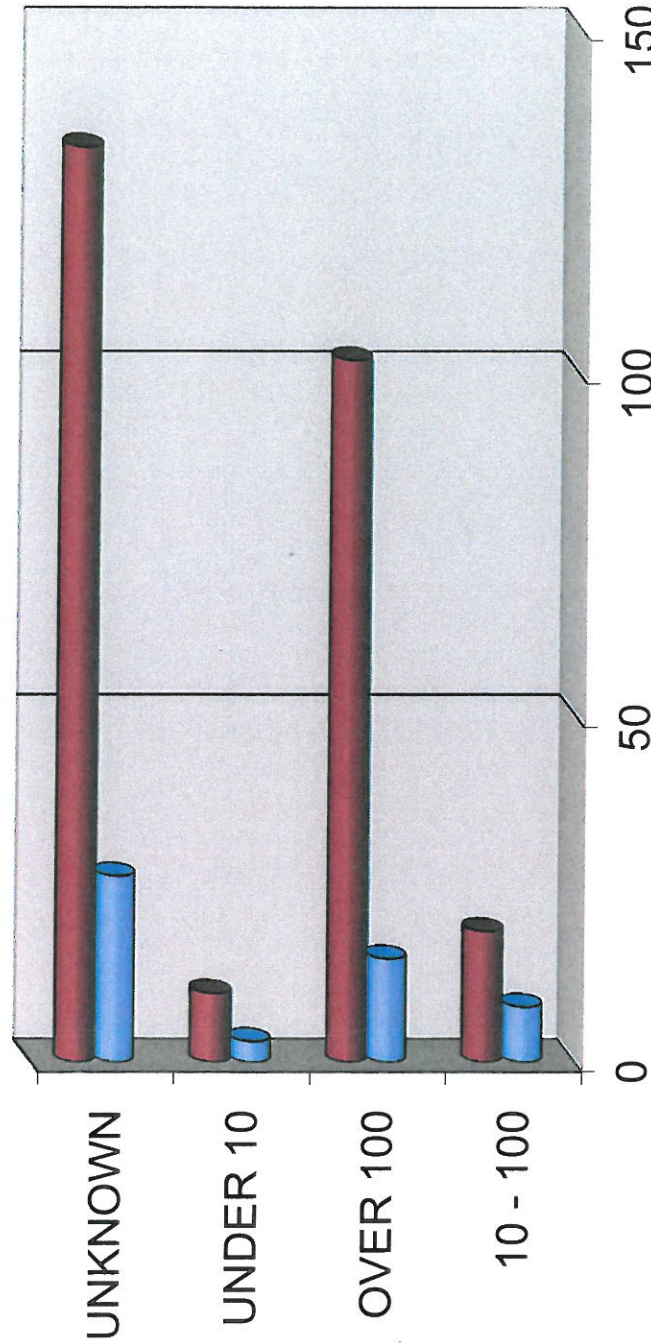




## AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS



# **EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS**



	10 - 100	OVER 100	UNDER 10	UNKNOWN
■ NON-FATAL	19	102	10	133
■ FATAL	8	15	3	27

## **RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

<b><u>RANK</u></b>	<b><u>TYPE</u></b>	<b><u># CASES AFFECTED</u></b>
1	Fell or jumped overboard	15
2	Other	8
3	Capsizing	4

## **RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS**

<b><u>RANK</u></b>	<b><u>CAUSE</u></b>	<b><u># CASES AFFECTED</u></b>
1	Other	22
2	Weather	4
3	Hazardous waters	3
3	Operator inattention	3
3	Operator inexperience	3
4	Alcohol use	2
4	Fault of machinery/equipment/hull	2
5	Careless/reckless	1
5	Sharp turn	1



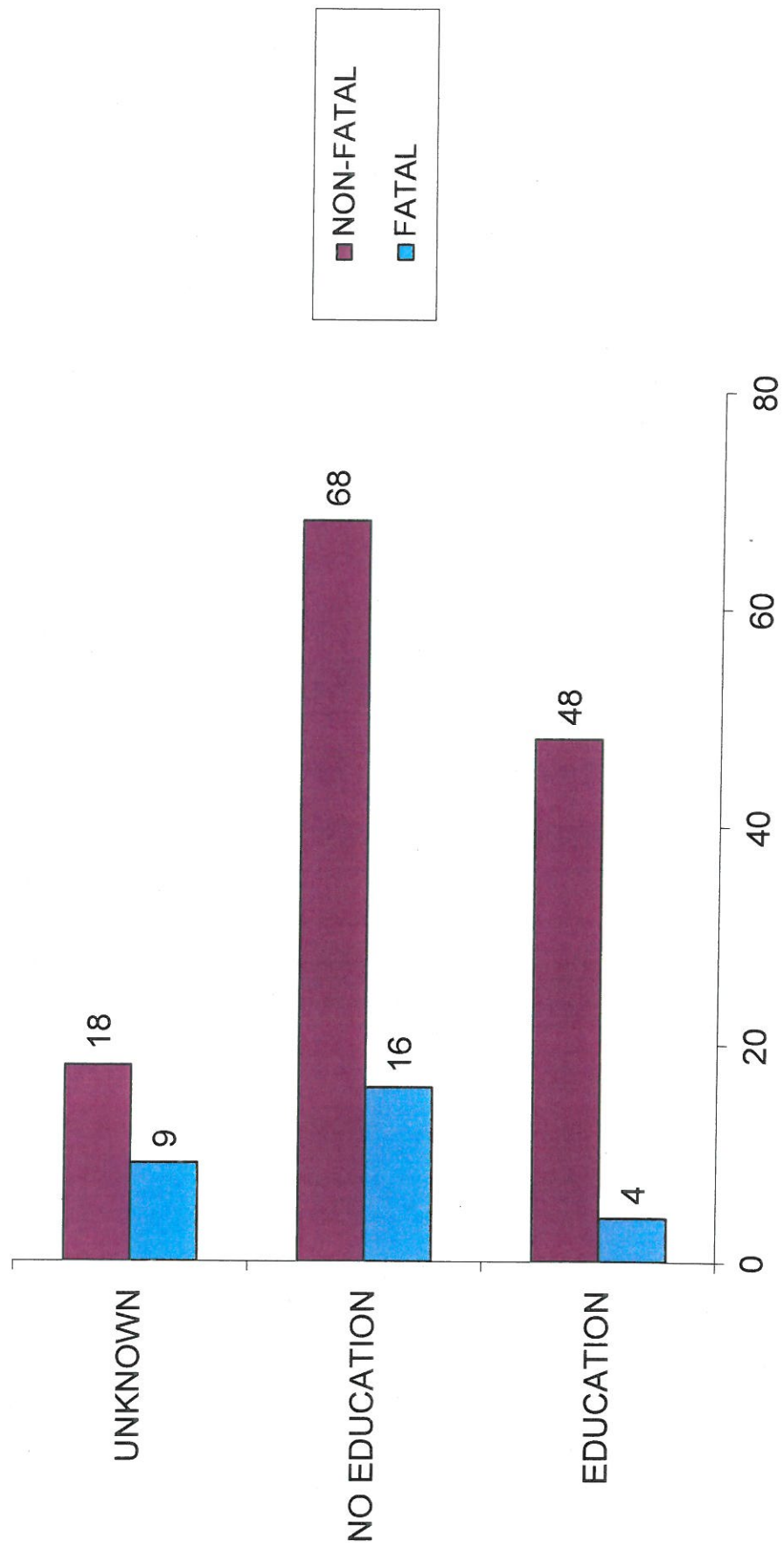
## RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	25
2	Collision with fixed/floating object	15
3	Other/unknown	12
4	Skier mishap	11
5	Sinking	10
6	Falls overboard	8
6	Capsizing	8
7	Grounding	7
8	Struck submerged object	6
8	Struck by boat	6
9	Hit by motor/propeller	5
10	Fire/explosion (fuel)	4
10	Falls in boat	4
11	Fire/explosion (other than fuel)	1

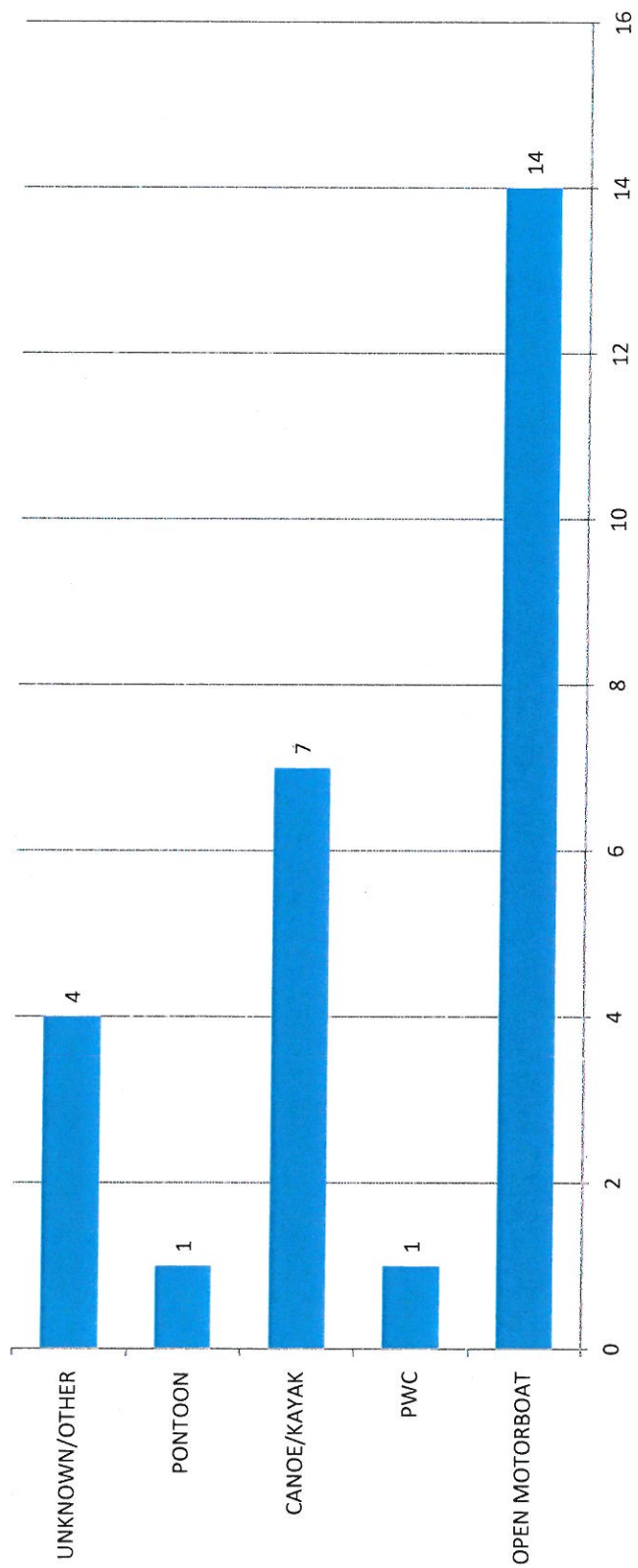
## RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator inattention	44
2	Hazardous/congested waters	29
3	Careless/reckless	23
4	Other/unknown	19
5	Operator inexperience	17
6	Fault of machinery/equipment/hull	16
6	Excessive speed	16
7	No proper lookout	13
8	Alcohol/drug use	12
9	Wake	11
10	Sharp turn	10
11	Weather	9
12	Restricted vision	7
13	Improper loading/anchoring	5
14	Ignition of fuel/vapor	3
15	No/improper lights	2

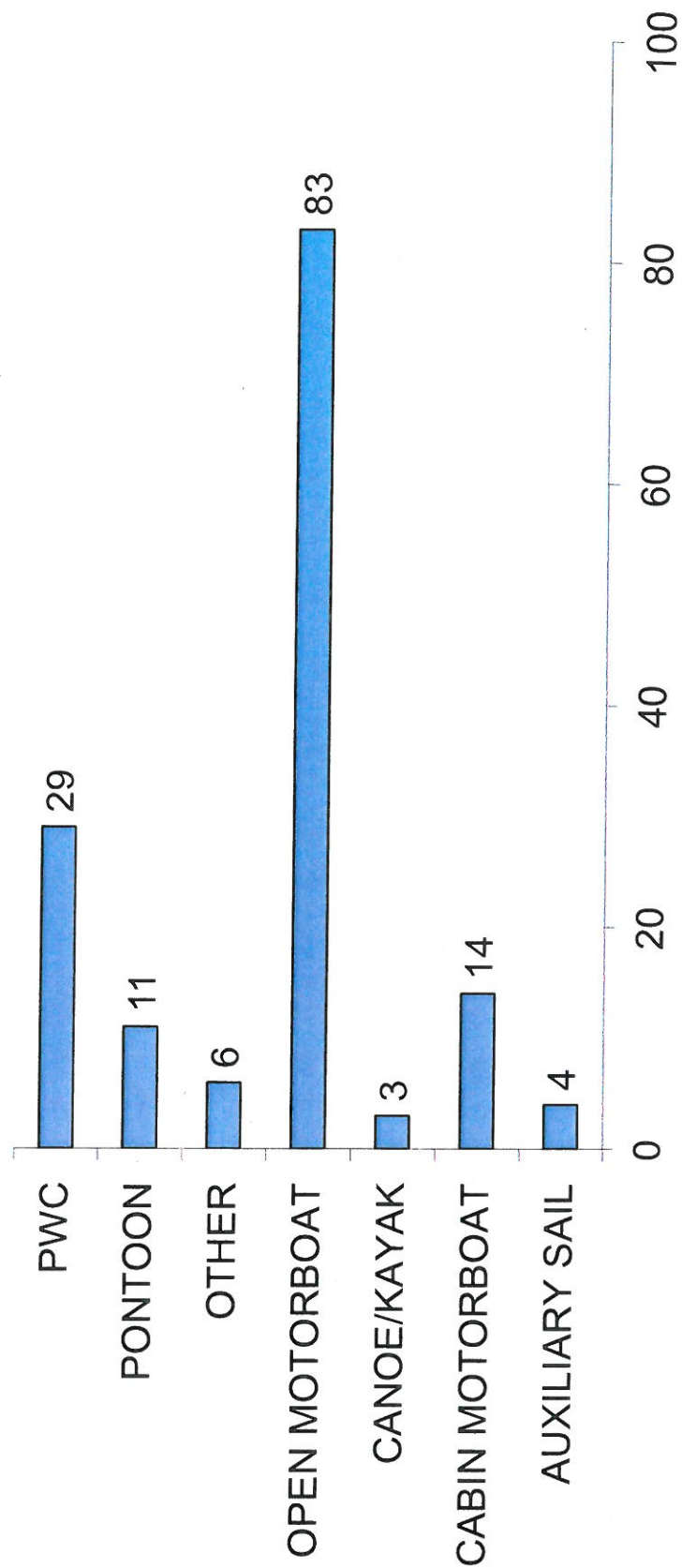
# FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



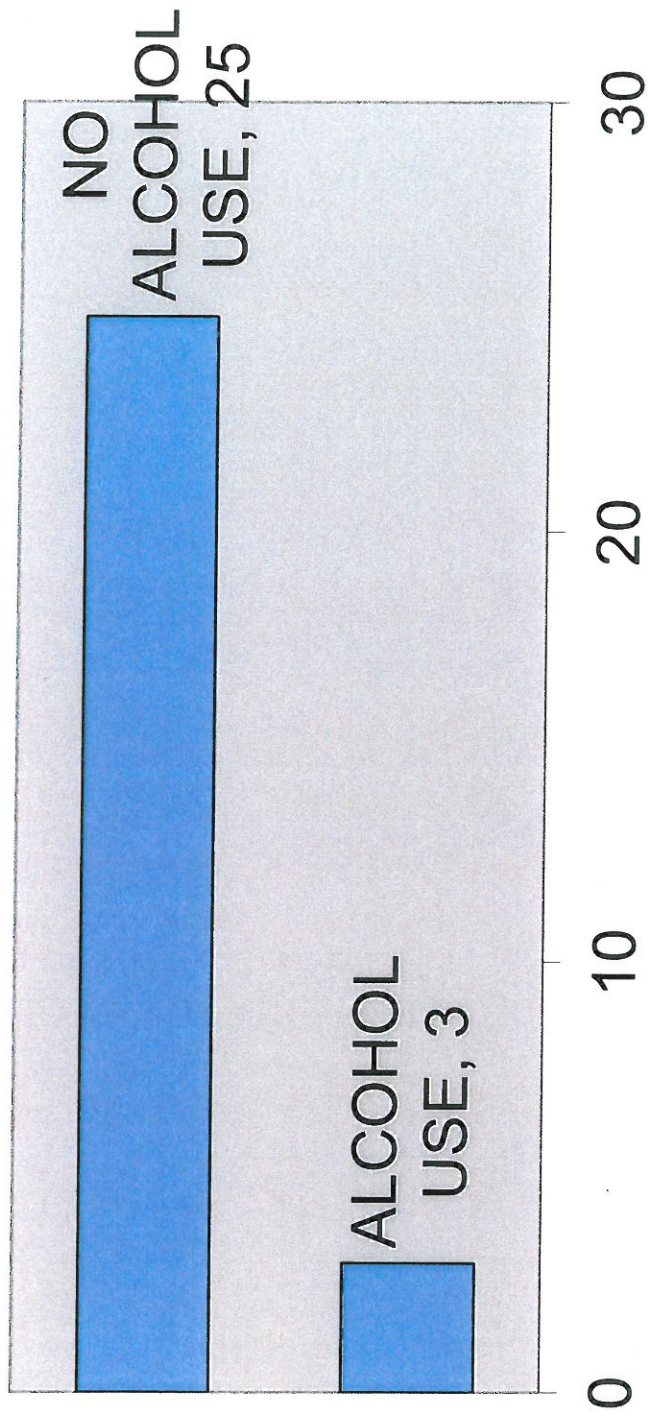
### TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



## TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

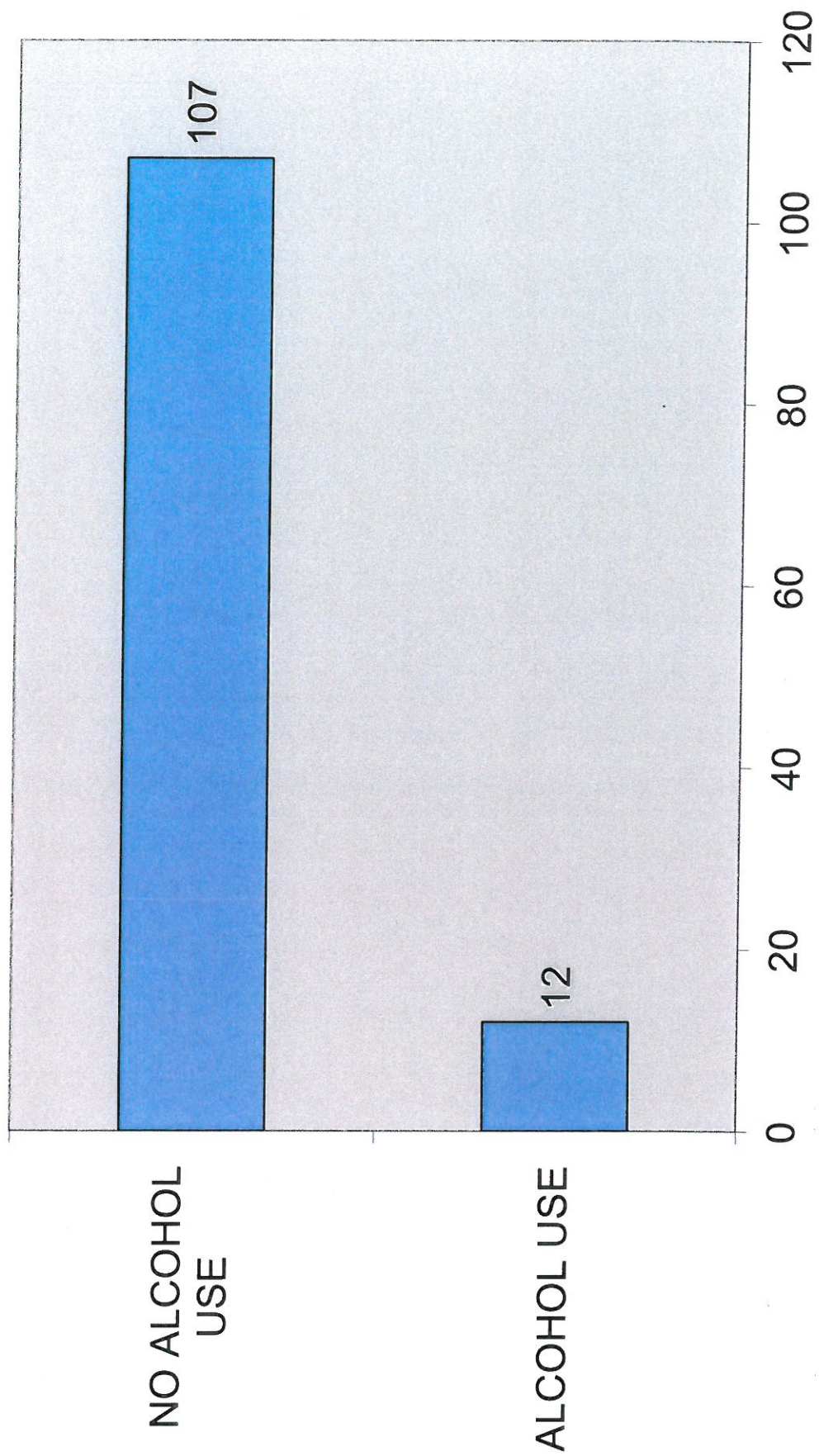


## ALCOHOL USE IN FATAL ACCIDENTS

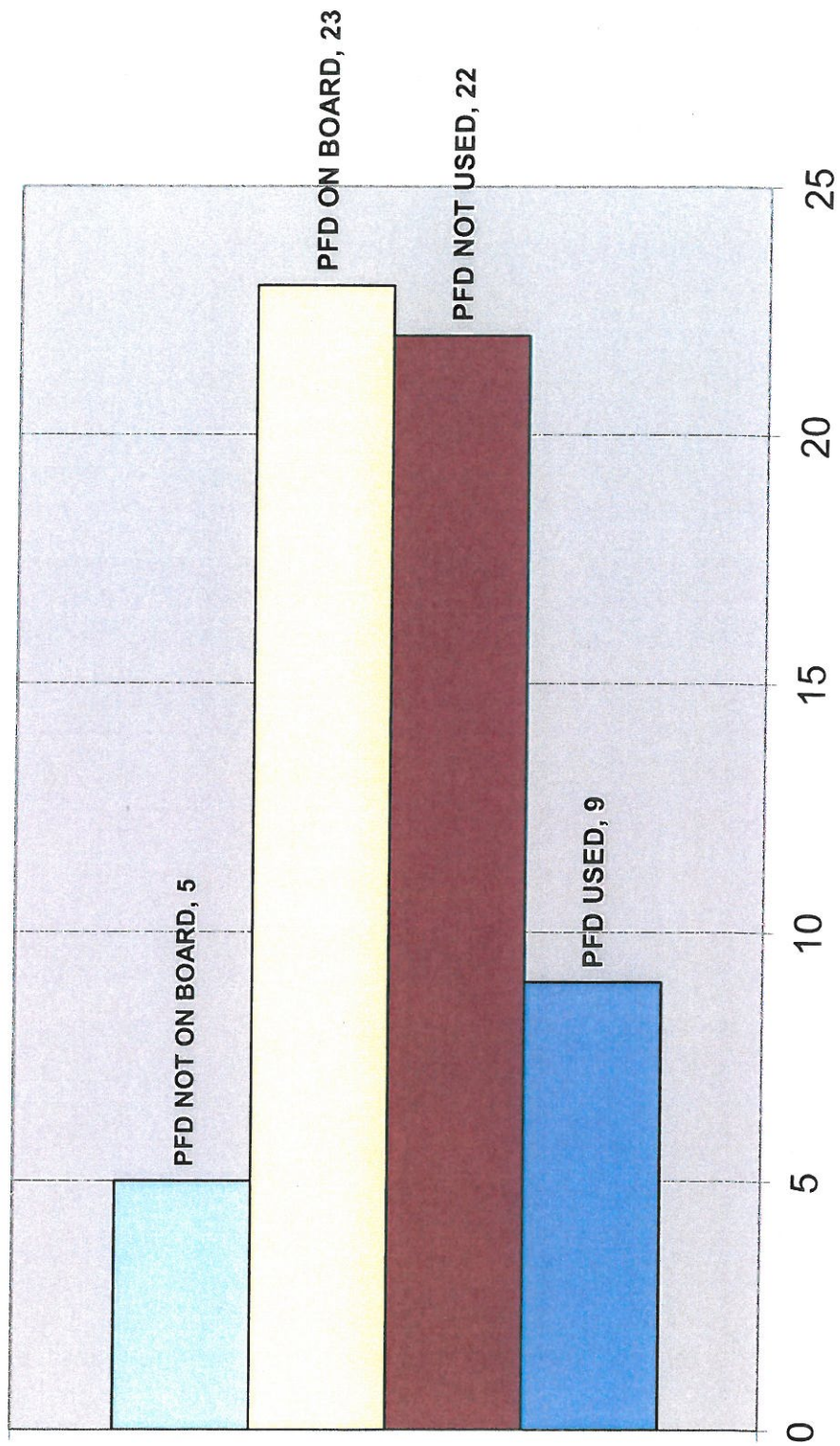




## ALCOHOL USE IN NON FATAL ACCIDENTS

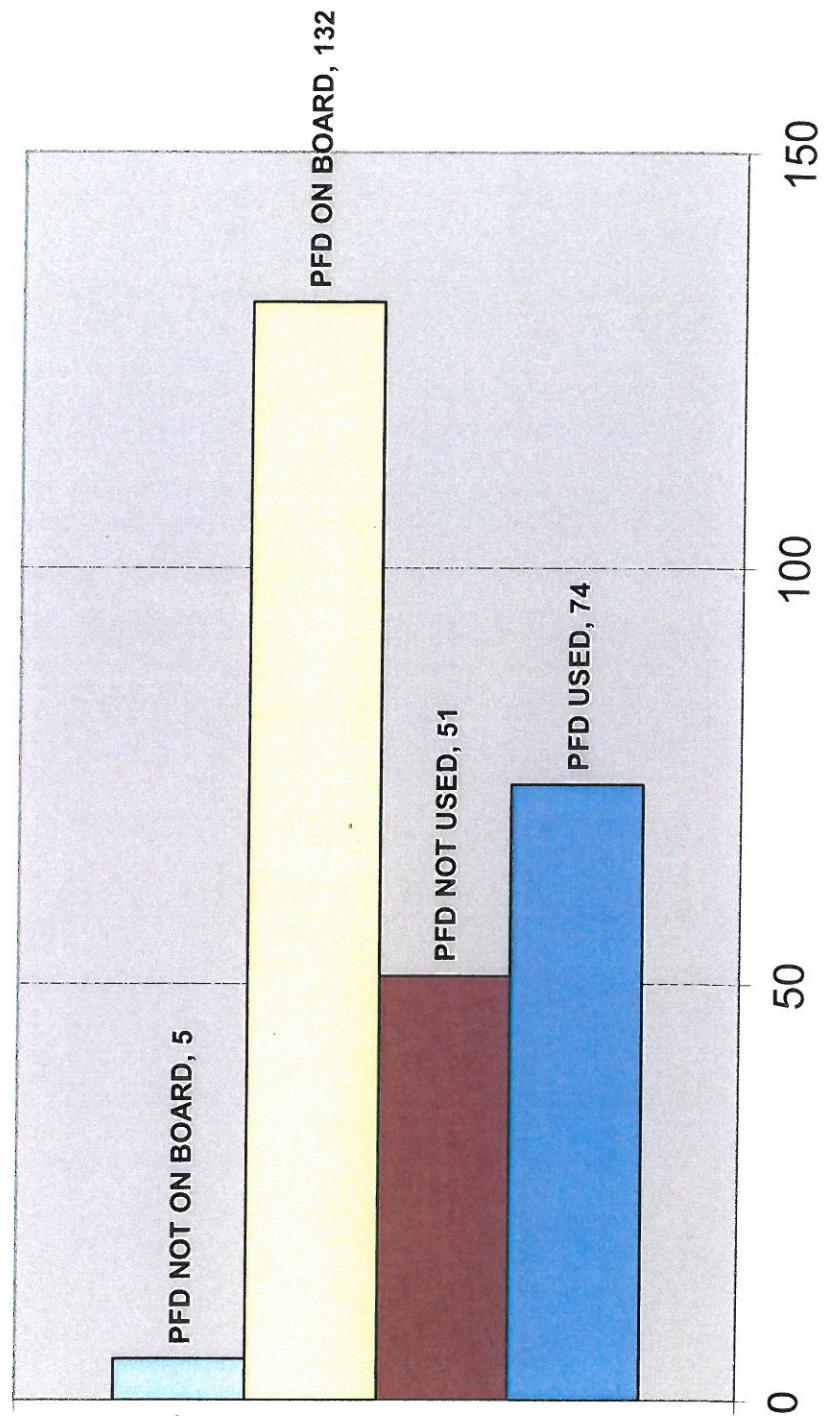


## USAGE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES IN FATAL ACCIDENTS





## 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 2011, the number of fatal recreational boating accidents in North Carolina was 25.

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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, 2008, 2010 and 2011 *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, 2008 and 2010, the number two *cause* was *Careless & Reckless Operation*. In 2011, the number two *cause* was *Hazardous/congested waters*.

PWC COUNTY TOTALS			
COUNTY	PWC'S REGISTERED	PWC ACCIDENTS	
Alamance	518	0	
Alexander	391	0	
Alleghany	24	0	
Anson	93	0	
Ashe	39	0	
Avery	52	0	
Beaufort	522	0	
Bertie	119	1	
Bladen	137	1	
Brunswick	653	3	
Buncombe	802	0	
Burke	428	0	
Cabarrus	738	0	
Caldwell	395	0	
Camden	101	0	
Carteret	744	1	
Caswell	125	0	
Catawba	1,667	3	
Chatham	263	0	
Cherokee	229	0	
Chowan	122	0	
Clay	219	1	
Cleveland	415	0	
Columbus	258	0	
Craven	460	0	
Cumberland	671	0	
Currituck	390	0	
Dare	565	1	
Davidson	1,549	1	
Davie	199	0	
Duplin	145	0	
Durham	460	0	
Edgecombe	137	0	
Forsyth	1,225	0	
Franklin	311	0	
Gaston	815	0	
Gates	26	0	
Graham	132	0	
Granville	253	0	

PWC COUNTY TOTALS			
<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PWC'S REGISTERED</u>	<u>PWC ACCIDENTS</u>	
Greene	63	0	
Guilford	1,532	0	
Halifax	624	0	
Harnett	358	0	
Haywood	464	0	
Henderson	364	0	
Hertford	78	0	
Hoke	87	0	
Hyde	21	0	
Iredell	3,166	3	
Jackson	257	2	
Johnston	582	0	
Jones	27	0	
Lee	200	0	
Lenoir	195	0	
Lincoln	1,228	0	
Macon	214	0	
Madison	116	0	
Martin	86	0	
McDowell	240	0	
Mecklenburg	3,293	1	
Mitchell	27	0	
Montgomery	688	1	
Moore	331	0	
Nash	514	0	
New Hanover	791	1	
Northampton	589	0	
Onslow	678	0	
Orange	308	0	
Other	267	0	
Pamlico	151	0	
Pasquotank	199	0	
Pender	266	0	
Perquimans	221	0	
Person	338	1	
Pitt	554	0	
Polk	34	0	
Randolph	810	0	
Richmond	202	0	

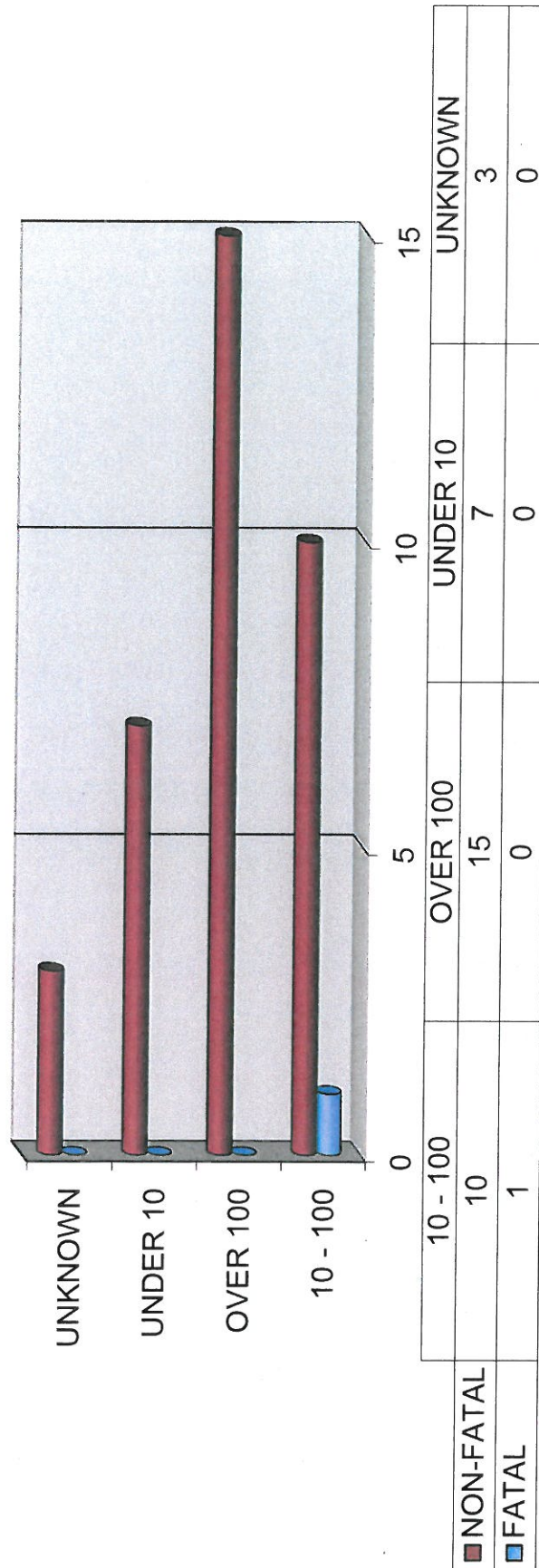
PWC COUNTY TOTALS			
<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PWC'S REGISTERED</u>	<u>PWC ACCIDENTS</u>	
Robeson	381	0	
Rockingham	342	0	
Rowan	778	0	
Rutherford	248	0	
Sampson	142	0	
Scotland	65	0	
Stanly	570	0	
Stokes	127	0	
Surry	222	0	
Swain	76	0	
Transylvania	92	0	
Tyrrell	43	0	
Union	756	0	
Vance	315	2	
Wake	2,822	0	
Warren	730	0	
Washington	99	0	
Watauga	120	0	
Wayne	356	0	
Wilkes	259	0	
Wilson	287	0	
Yadkin	105	0	
Yancey	45	0	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>45,535</b>	<b>23</b>	

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

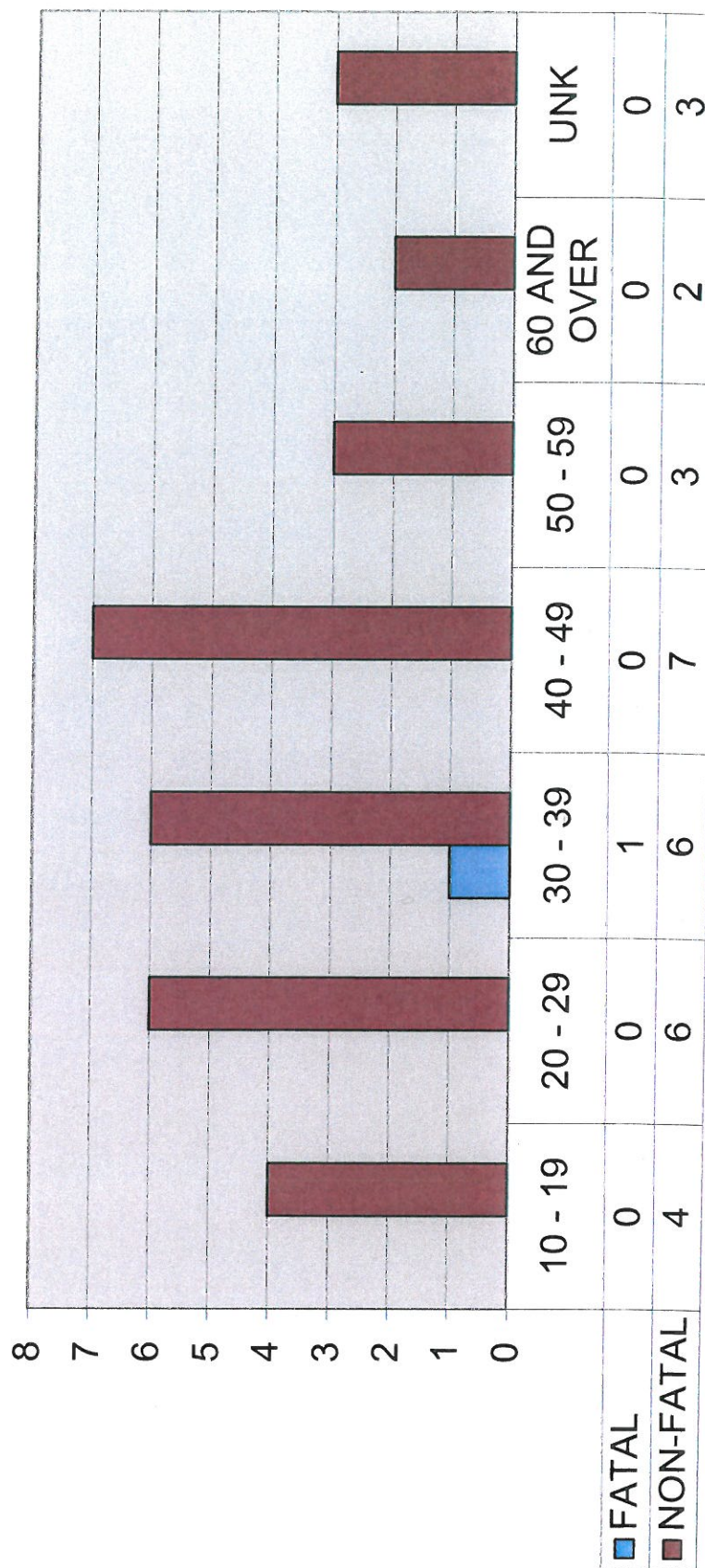
<b><u>BODY OF WATER</u></b>	<b><u># OF ACCIDENTS</u></b>
CEDAR CLIFF LAKE	2
CURRITUCK SOUND	1
HIGH ROCK LAKE	1
HYCO LAKE	1
ICW	5
KERR LAKE	2
LAKE CHATUGE	1
LAKE HICKORY	1
LAKE NORMAN	6
LAKE ROYALE	1
LAKE TILLERY	1
WHITE LAKE	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>



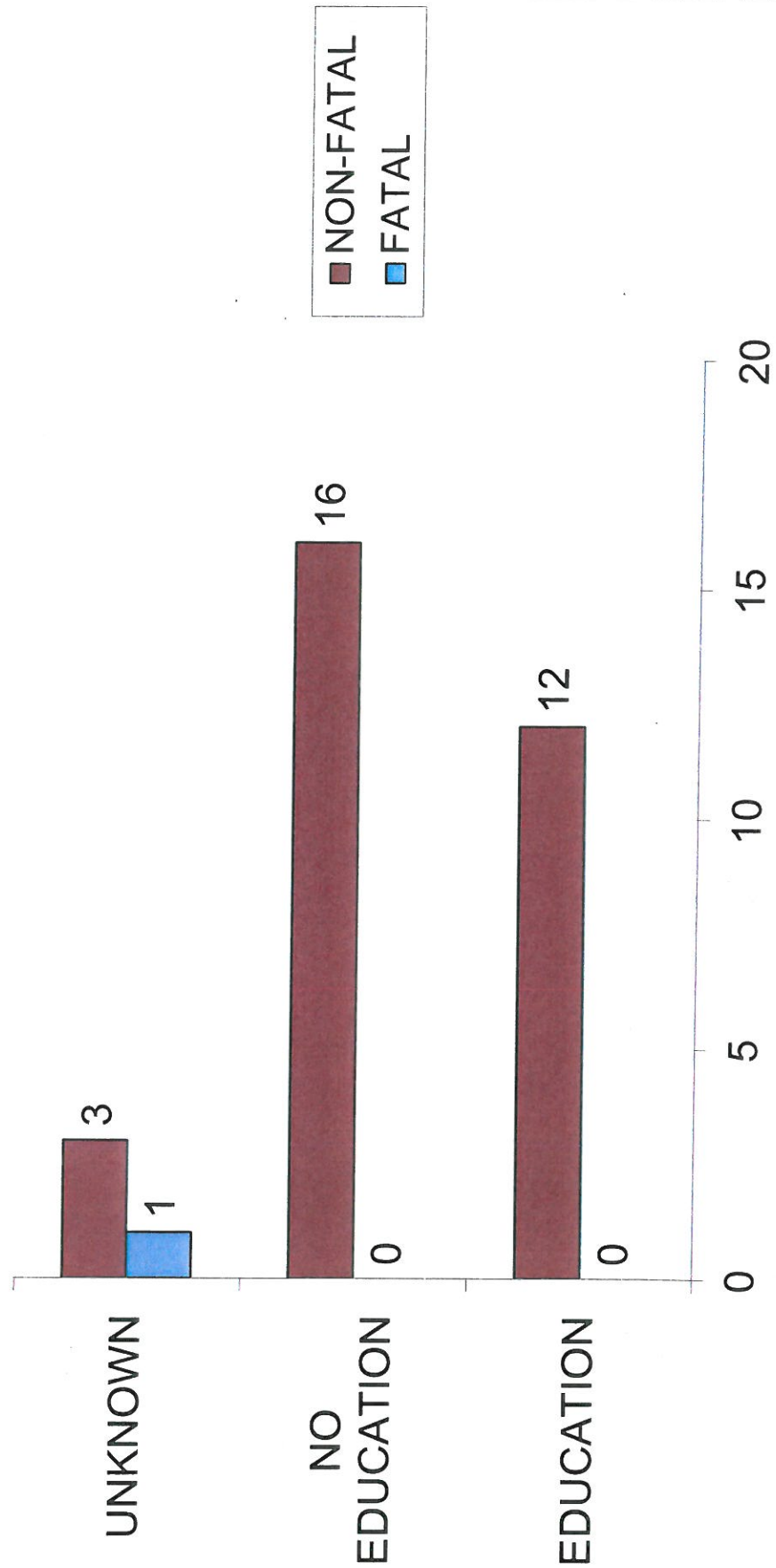
# **EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS**



# **AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PWC ACCIDENTS**

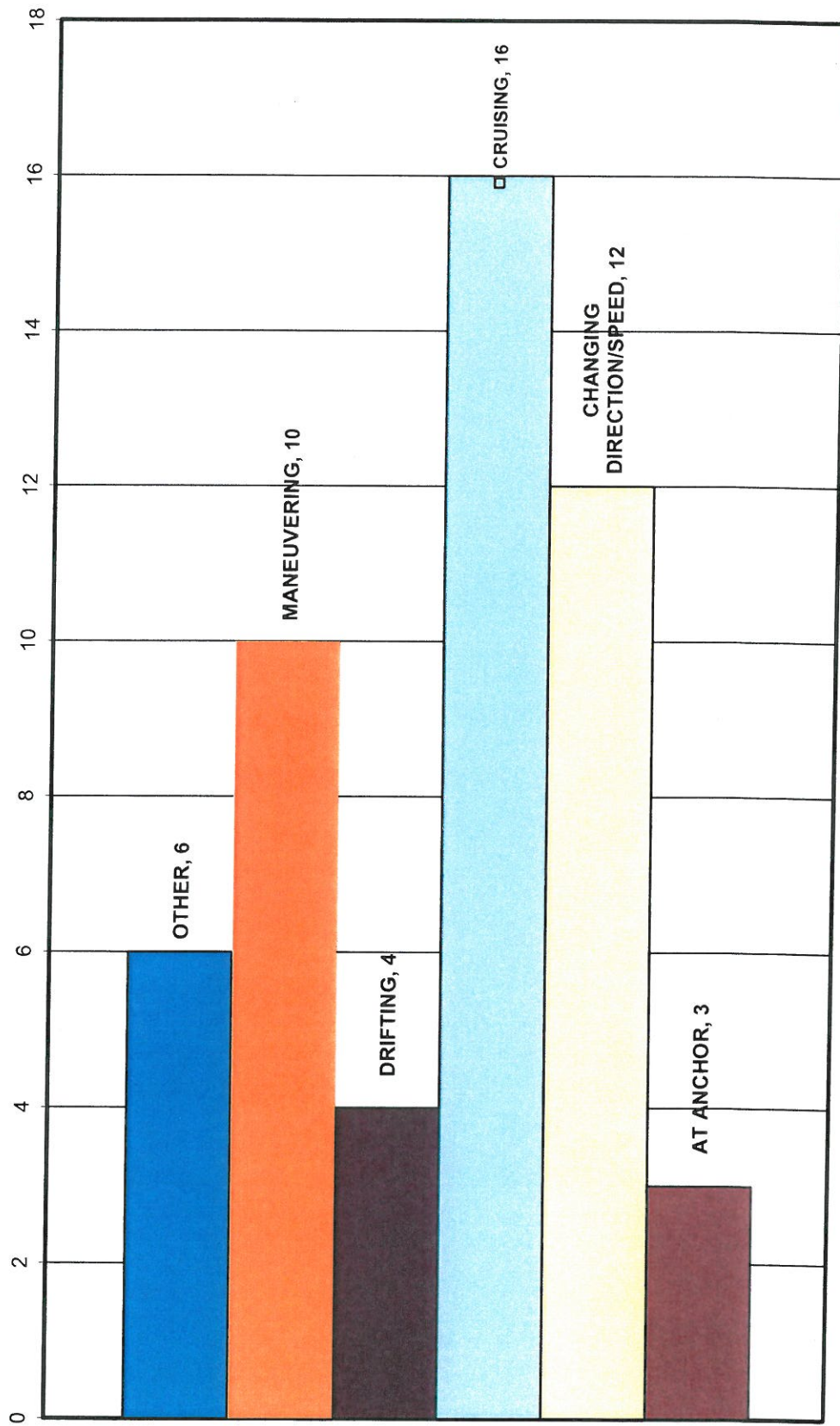


## FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL PWC ACCIDENTS





# ACTIVITY AT TIME OF PWC ACCIDENT



## 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](http://www.ncwildlife.org). From the Home page, click on "Boating Education Courses" Or Call 919-707-0030 (this is a proctored course that must be taken in person)

US Power Squadron at [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org). Or call 1-888-FOR USPS  
1-888-367-8777

US Coast Guard Auxiliary at [www.uscgaux.org](http://www.uscgaux.org). Or call  
1-800-336-BOAT (1-800-336-2628).

**For other "online" NASBLA approved Boating Education Courses, visit the following website links:**

[www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com). 1-800-336-2628

[www.boat-ed.com/nc](http://www.boat-ed.com/nc). 1-800-830-2268

[www.boaterexam.com](http://www.boaterexam.com).

[www.amboat.com](http://www.amboat.com).

[www.boatingbasicsonline.com](http://www.boatingbasicsonline.com)

[www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/default.htm?WT.mc\\_id=400082](http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/default.htm?WT.mc_id=400082)

[www.americasboatingcourse.com](http://www.americasboatingcourse.com)

[www.lmservice.org](http://www.lmservice.org) (Lighthouse Marine Service)

<http://pwcsfetyschool.com>

**REPLACEMENT CARDS:** for any Boater Education Class taken "online", you will need to go back to the website link where the course was taken to obtain a replacement card.

