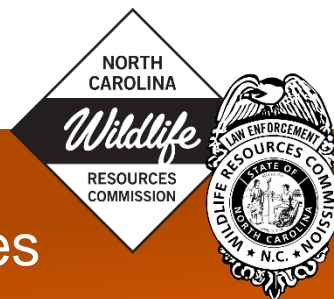




2020



North Carolina Report of Boating Accidents and Fatalities

**Compiled and Published by the
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Law Enforcement Division**



State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper/Governor

**NC Department of
Environmental Quality**

Elizabeth Biser/Secretary

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director



2020 North Carolina Annual Boating Accident Report

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717**



☐ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☐

Cameron Ingram, Executive Director
July, 2021

NORTH CAROLINA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 2020

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 2020.

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 included in this report:

- (1) Grounding, capsizing, sinking, or flooding/swamping.
- (2) Falls in or overboard a vessel.
- (3) Persons ejected from a vessel.
- (4) Fire or explosions that occur while underway and while anchored, moored or docked if the fire resulted from the vessel or vessel equipment.
- (5) Water-skiing or other mishap involving a towable device.
- (6) Collision with another vessel or object.
- (7) Striking a submerged object.
- (8) A person struck by a vessel, propeller, propulsion unit, or steering machinery.
- (9) Carbon monoxide exposure.
- (10) Electrocution due to stray current related to a vessel.
- (11) Casualties where a person falls off an anchored vessel.
- (12) Casualties that result when a person departs an anchored, disabled vessel to make repairs, such as unfouling an anchor or cleaning out the intake of a jet-propelled vessel.

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) A person dies, is injured, or is missing as a result of suicide or assault by another person or persons while aboard a vessel.
- (4) A person dies or is injured from natural causes while aboard a vessel where the vessel did not contribute to the casualty.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) Property damage occurs or a person dies, is injured, or is missing as a result of a fire on shore or a pier that spreads to a vessel or vessels.
- (9) Accidents occurring on private ponds
- (10) 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.


Cameron Ingram
Executive Director

ANNUAL BOATING STATISTICS

YEAR	BOATING ACCIDENTS	FATAL ACCIDENTS	BOATS REGISTERED	BOATING EDUCATION STUDENTS
2020	187	24	390,305	21,239
2019	134	14	378,937	13,555
2018	192	30	378,142	14,761*
2017	117	13	358,171	17,000*
2016	147	22	367,225	22,169*
2015	166	21	289,236	20,317*
2014	130	23	302,713	6,262*
2013	143	17	304,658	16,877*
2012	151	23	309,489	35,532*
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
1990	198	37	274,666	56,458
1989	188	26	297,446	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

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

** The number of vessels registered is no longer used for this publication

Boating Statistics 1973 – 1980

For this time period, there was an average of:



166 boating accidents



50 fatal boating accidents



157,345 boats registered



68,161 boating education students

COUNTY TOTALS

County	Total Fatal	Alcohol Related Fatal*	Total Non-Fatal	Alcohol Related Non-Fatal*	Total Accidents
Alexander	0	0	3	0	3
Beaufort	0	0	5	0	5
Bertie	0	0	1	0	1
Brunswick	2	1	9	0	11
Burke	0	0	1	0	1
Caldwell	0	0	1	0	1
Carteret	1	0	13	2	14
Caswell	0	0	2	0	2
Catawba	1	1	7	1	8
Chatham	1	1	4	1	5
Cherokee	1	0	0	0	1
Chowan	0	0	2	0	2
Clay	0	0	1	0	1
Columbus	1	0	1	0	2
Craven	0	0	2	1	2
Currituck	1	0	2	0	3
Dare	2	0	9	1	11
Davidson	1	0	4	0	5
Forsyth	0	0	2	0	2
Gaston	0	0	2	1	2
Graham	1	0	2	0	3
Halifax	0	0	1	0	1
Hertford	0	0	1	0	1
Hyde	0	0	3	0	3
Iredell	3	3	19	2	22
Jones	0	0	1	0	1
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	1
Macon	0	0	2	0	2
McDowell	1	1	1	1	2
Mecklenburg	0	0	10	0	10
Mitchell	1	0	0	0	1
Montgomery	0	0	1	0	1
Nash	0	0	1	0	1
New Hanover	1	0	13	1	14
Northampton	0	0	2	0	2
Onslow	1	0	4	0	5
Pender	0	0	4	0	4
Perquimans	0	0	1	0	1

Person	0	0	4	2	4
Pitt	0	0	2	0	2
Rockingham	1	0	3	1	4
Rowan	0	0	1	0	1
Rutherford	0	0	2	0	2
Stanly	2	0	2	0	4
Stokes	0	0	1	1	1
Tyrrell	0	0	1	0	1
Vance	0	0	1	0	1
Wake	0	0	5	1	5
Warren	0	0	2	0	2
Washington	0	0	1	0	1
Wayne	1	0	0	0	1
Yadkin	1	0	0	0	1
TOTALS:	24	7	163	16	187

* these numbers are included on the 2020 NC BOATING ACCIDENT FACT SHEET

ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

COUNTY	TOTAL FATAL	ALCOHOL RELATED FATAL*	TOTAL NON-FATAL	ALCOHOL RELATED NON-FATAL*	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
ALBEMARLE SOUND	0	0	2	0	2
ALLIGATOR RIVER	0	0	1	0	1
ATLANTIC OCEAN	0	0	5	0	5
BADIN LAKE	1	0	2	0	3
BANKS CHANNEL	0	0	1	0	1
BATH CREEK	0	0	2	0	2
BEAUFORT INLET	0	0	1	0	1
BECKYS CREEK	0	0	1	0	1
BELEWS LAKE	1	0	6	2	7
BOGUE SOUND	0	0	1	0	1
BRADLEY CREEK	0	0	2	1	2
CAROLINA BEACH INLET/YACHT BASIN	1	0	1	0	2
CHEOAH RIVER	0	0	1	0	1
CHOCOWINITY BAY	0	0	1	0	1
CHOCOWINITY RIVER	0	0	2	0	2
CORE SOUND	0	0	1	0	1
CROATAN SOUND	0	0	1	1	1
CURRITUCK SOUND	2	0	1	0	3
DUTCHMANS CREEK	1	0	0	0	1
FALLS LAKE	0	0	5	1	5
HARBOR CHANNEL	0	0	1	0	1
HIGH ROCK LAKE	1	0	3	0	4
HIAWASSEE LAKE	1	0	0	0	1
HYCO LAKE	0	0	5	2	5
ICW	3	0	19	0	22
JORDAN LAKE	1	1	2	1	3
KERR LAKE/RESERVOIR	0	0	1	0	1
LAKE CHATUGE	0	0	1	0	1
LAKE FONTANA	0	0	2	0	2
LAKE GASTON	0	0	4	0	4
LAKE HICKORY	0	0	5	0	5
LAKE JAMES	1	1	2	1	3
LAKE LURE	0	0	2	0	2
LAKE NORMAN	4	4	32	3	36
LAKE TILLERY	1	0	2	0	3
LAKE WYLIE	0	0	4	1	4
LUMBER RIVER	1	0	1	0	2

MASONS INLET	1	0	2	0	3
MAYO LAKE	0	0	1	0	1
MOREHEAD CITY CHANNEL	0	0	1	1	1
MOTTS CHANNEL	0	0	1		1
MOUNTAIN ISLAND LAKE	0	0	2		2
NANTAHALA LAKE	0	0	2		2
NEUSE RIVER	1	0	1		2
NEW RIVER	0	0	2		2
NEWPORT RIVER	0	0	1		1
NOLICHUCKY RIVER	1	0	0		1
ONSLOW BAY	0	0	1		1
PAMLICO SOUND	0	0	3		3
ROANOKE RIVER	0	0	2		2
ROANOKE SOUND	0	0	3		3
ROCKY MOUNT RESERVOIR	0	0	1		1
SHEARON HARRIS LAKE/RESERVOIR	0	0	2		2
SHINGLE LANDING CREEK	0	0	1		1
SHINN CREEK	0	0	1		1
TAR RIVER	0	0	2		2
TAYLORS CREEK	0	0	2	1	2
TRENT RIVER	0	0	2	1	2
WACCAMAW RIVER	1	1	0		1
WHALE HEAD BAY	0	0	1		1
WICCACON RIVER	0	0	1		1
WRIGHTS CREEK	0	0	2		2
YACHT CLUB MARINA	0	0	1		1
YADKIN RIVER	1	0	1		2
YEOPIM CREEK	0	0	1		1
*TOTALS:	24	7	163	16	187

*These numbers are included on the 2020 NC BOATING ACCIDENT FACT SHEET

2020 NC BOATING ACCIDENT FACTS

187 Total accidents
163 Total non-fatal accidents
24 Total fatal accidents

Non-Fatal Accidents

253 Total vessels involved
113* People injured requiring medical treatment
15 Alcohol-related accidents

Fatal Accidents

27** Total fatalities
7 Alcohol-related accidents
27 Total vessels involved in fatal accidents

Note: These Numbers Include Accidents Involving Personal Watercraft

*of the 113 people injured, 15 were affected by alcohol use

**of the 27 fatalities, 7 people were affected by alcohol use

RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

RANK	TYPE	# ACCIDENTS AFFECTED
1	Departed vessel voluntarily	4
2	Fall or jumped overboard	3
2	Capsizing	3
2	Collision with fixed object	3
2	Other/Unknown	3
3	Collision with vessel	2
4	Grounding	1

RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

(most accidents have more than one cause)

RANK	CAUSE	# ACCIDENTS AFFECTED
1	*Other/Unknown/Undetermined	16
2	Alcohol use/drug use impairment	6
3	Hazardous waters	3
3	Operator inexperience	3
4	Occupant behavior	2
4	Excessive speed	2
4	Not wearing PFD	2
5	Careless and reckless	1
5	Improper lookout/loading	1
5	Operator inattention	1

*Other = unknown, undetermined, medical condition, carbon monoxide poisoning, weather, etc.

RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

RANK	TYPE	# ACCIDENTS AFFECTED
1	Collision with vessel	50
2	Collision with fixed/floating object	25
3	*Other/Unknown	12
4	Flooding/swamping	9
5	Struck by vessel/propeller/motor/lower unit	8
6	Grounding	7
6	Struck submerged object	7
7	Ejected from vessel	5
7	Capsizing	5
7	Fall overboard	5
8	Skier mishap	4
9	Fall in vessel	3
10	Fire/explosion (fuel)	2

RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

(most accidents have more than one cause)

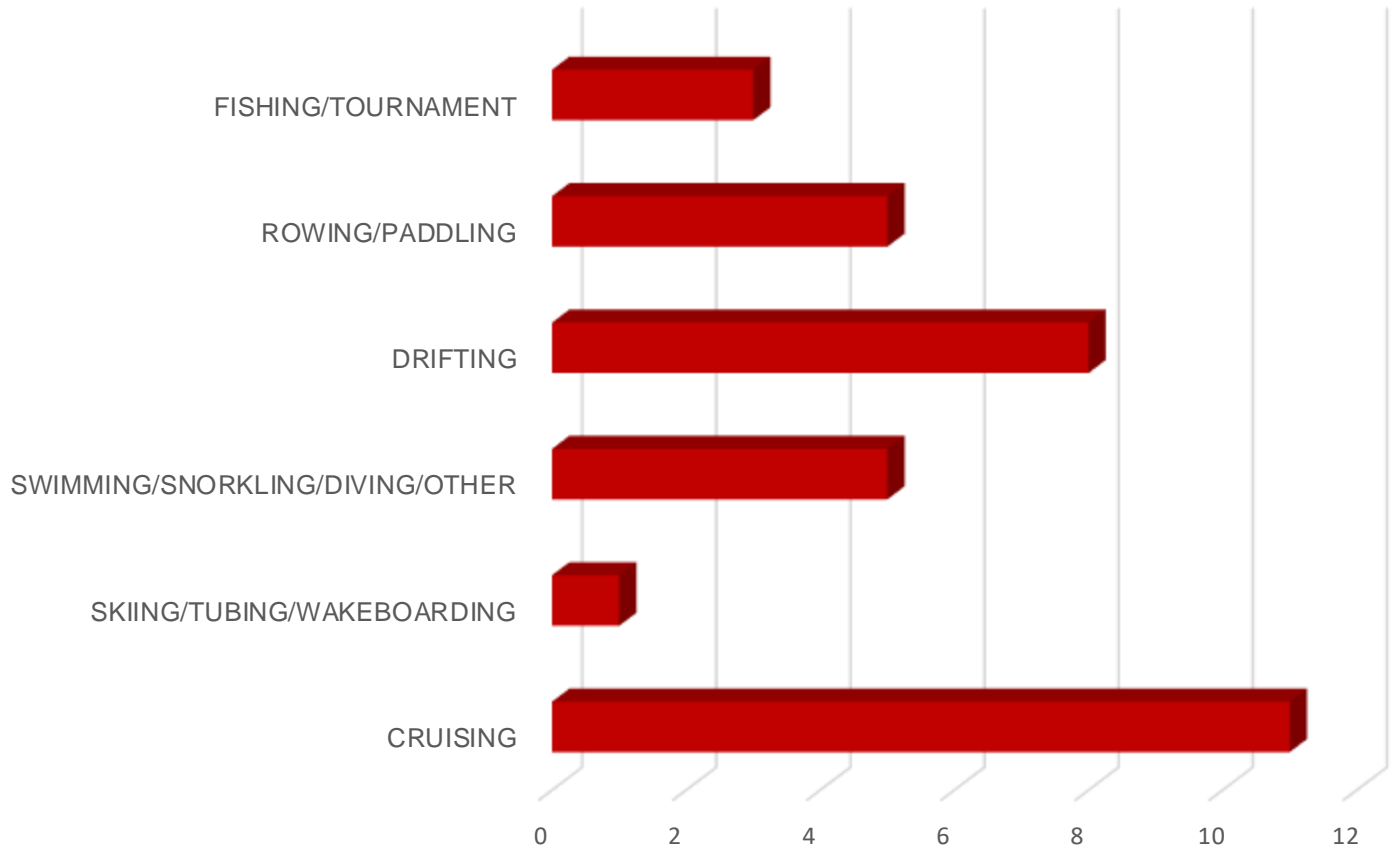
RANK	CAUSE	# ACCIDENTS AFFECTED
1	Other/Unknown/Undetermined	61
2	Operator inattention	43
3	Careless and reckless operation	32
4	Improper/No proper lookout	27
5	Operator inexperience	24
6	Navigation rules violation/infracton	23
7	Wake	18
8	Alcohol use/impairment	16
9	Fault of machinery/equipment/hull	15
10	Excessive speed	14
11	Congested/Hazardous waters	12
12	Sharp turn	9
13	No/improper lights	5
14	Improper anchoring/loading	2

*Other = unknown, undetermined, medical condition, carbon monoxide poisoning, swimming ability, etc.

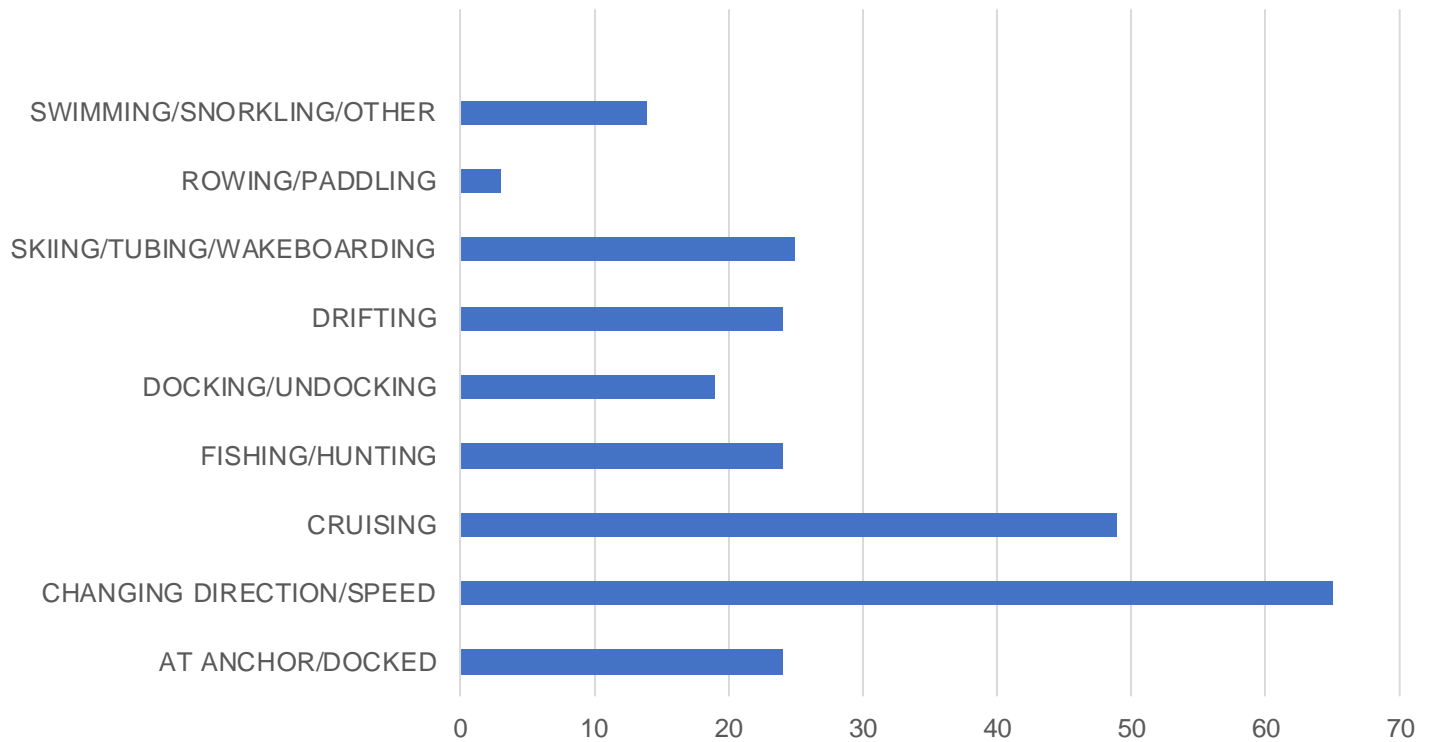
MONTHS WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCURRED FATAL AND NON-FATAL

MONTH	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
January	2	3	5
February	0	0	0
March	1	7	8
April	0	4	4
May	1	20	21
June	6	36	42
July	4	42	46
August	3	22	25
September	4	14	18
October	1	7	8
November	1	6	7
December	1	2	3
TOTALS	24	163	187

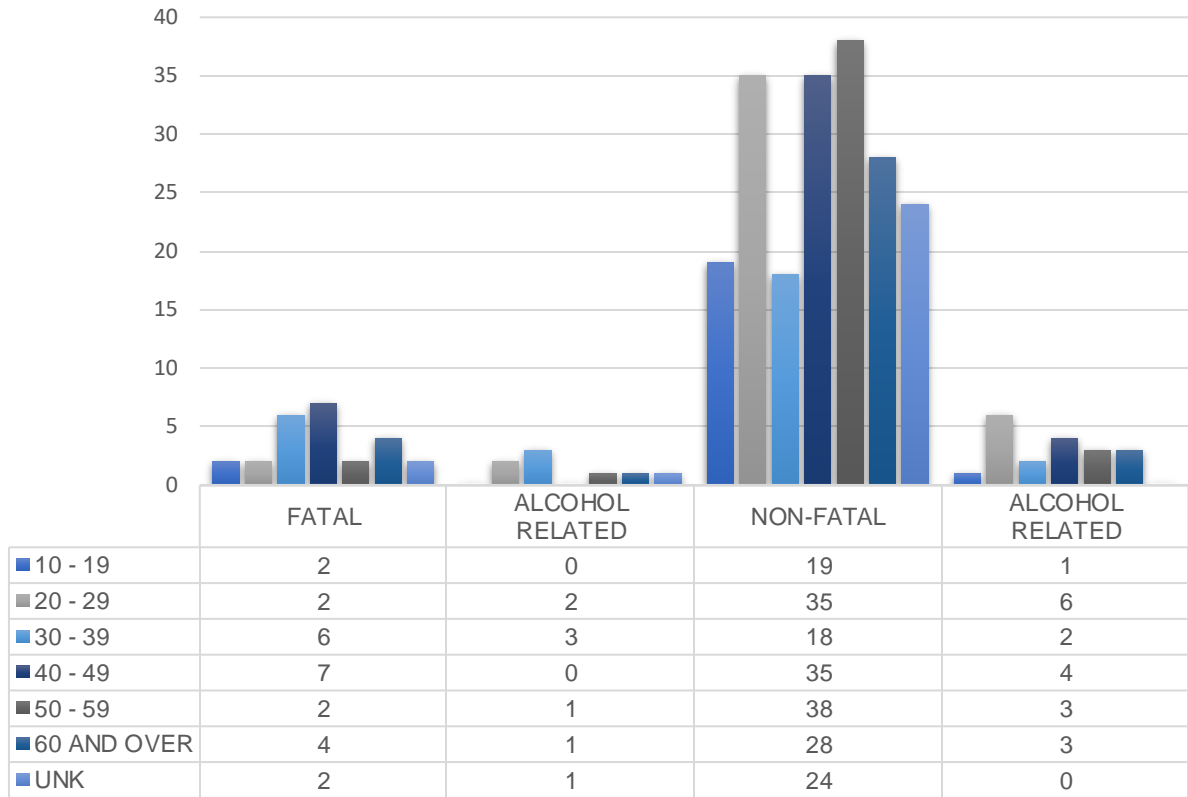
ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT - FATAL



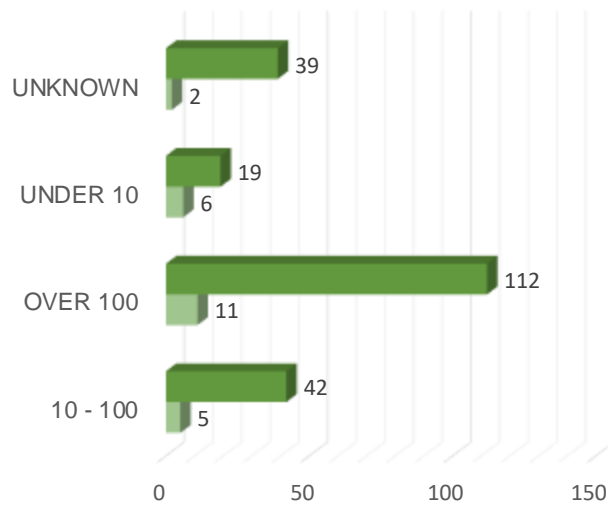
ACTIVITY AT TIME OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENT NON-FATAL



AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS

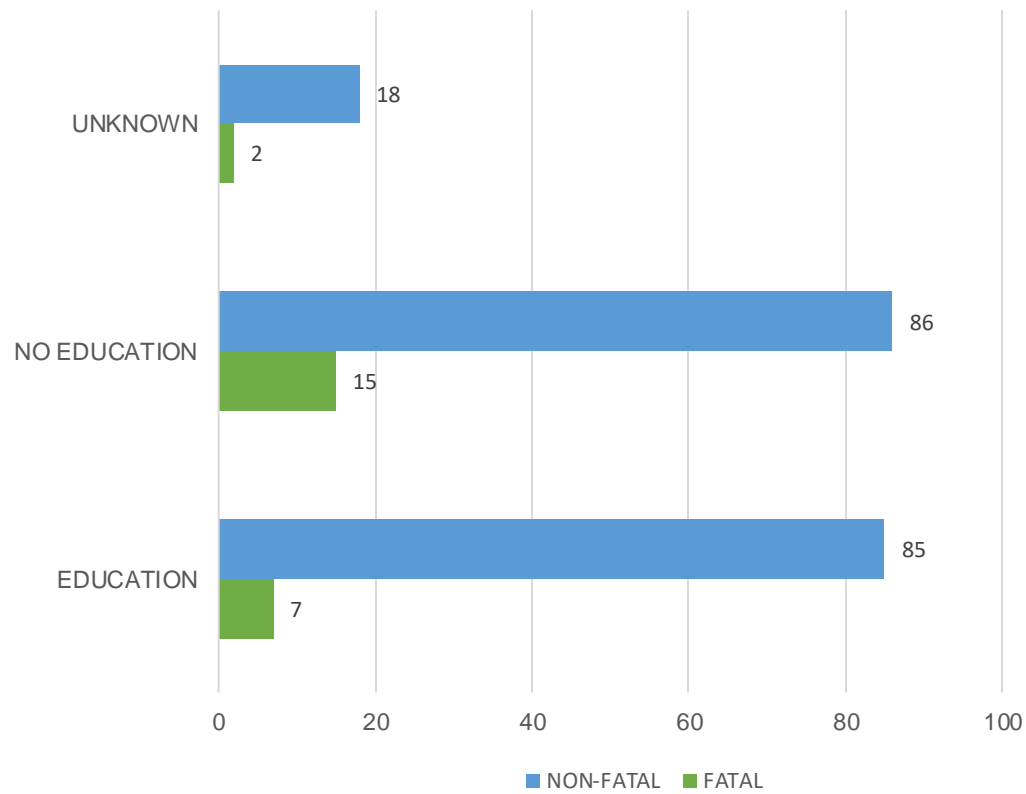


EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS

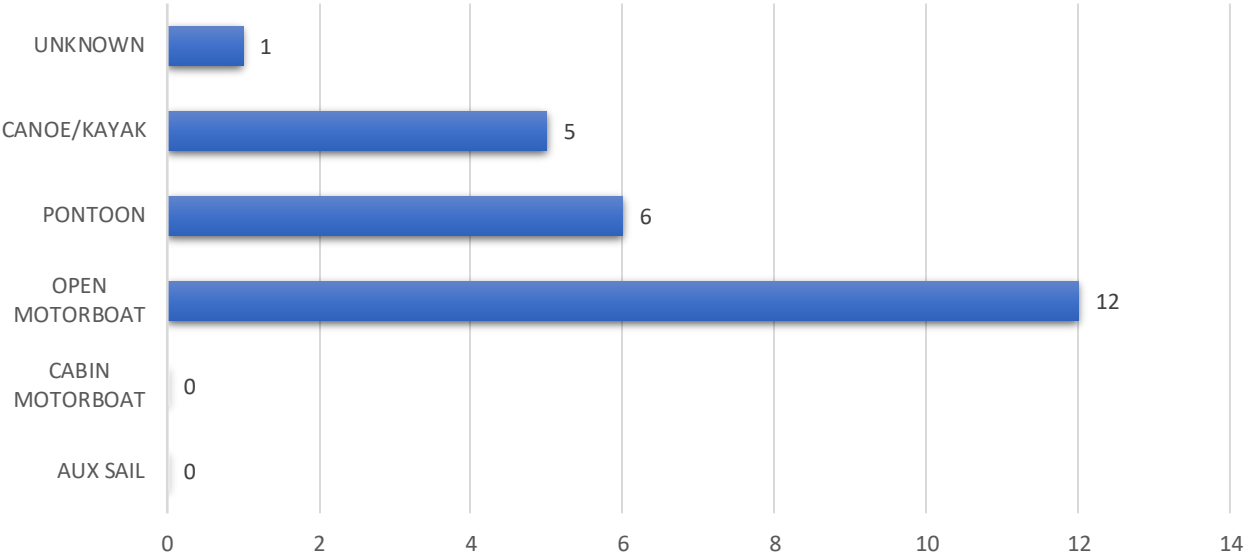


	10 - 100	OVER 100	UNDER 10	UNKNOWN
■ NON-FATAL	42	112	19	39
■ FATAL	5	11	6	2

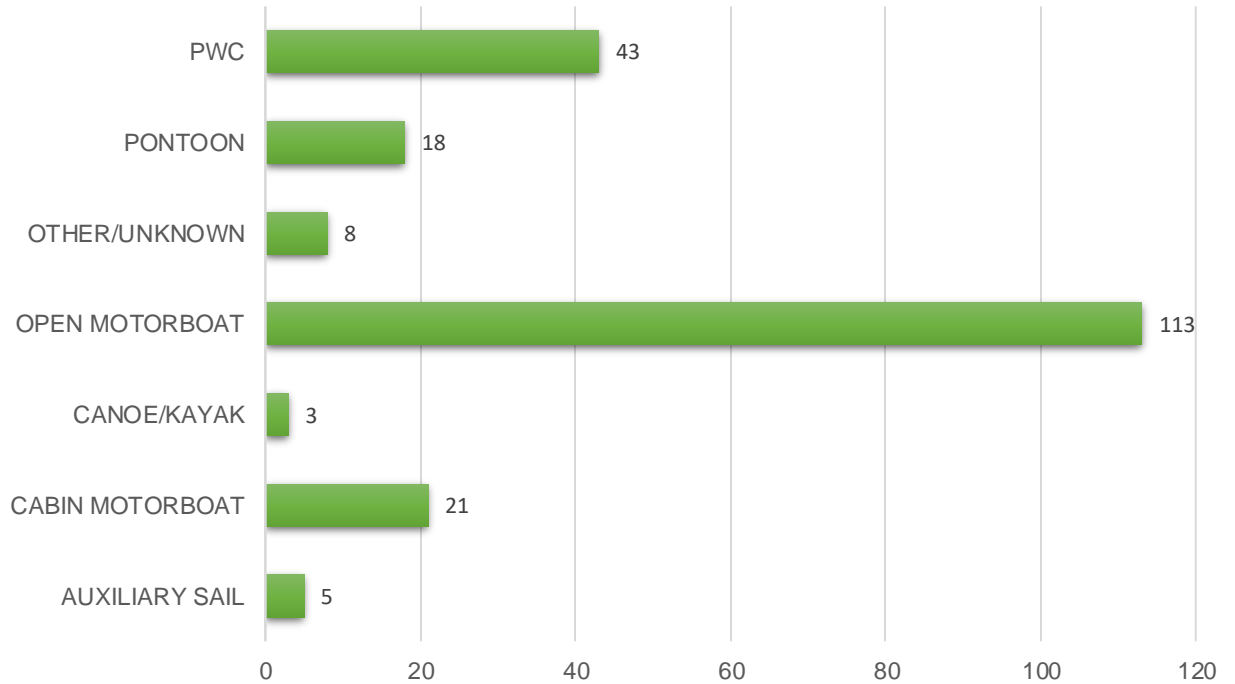
FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL BOAT ACCIDENTS



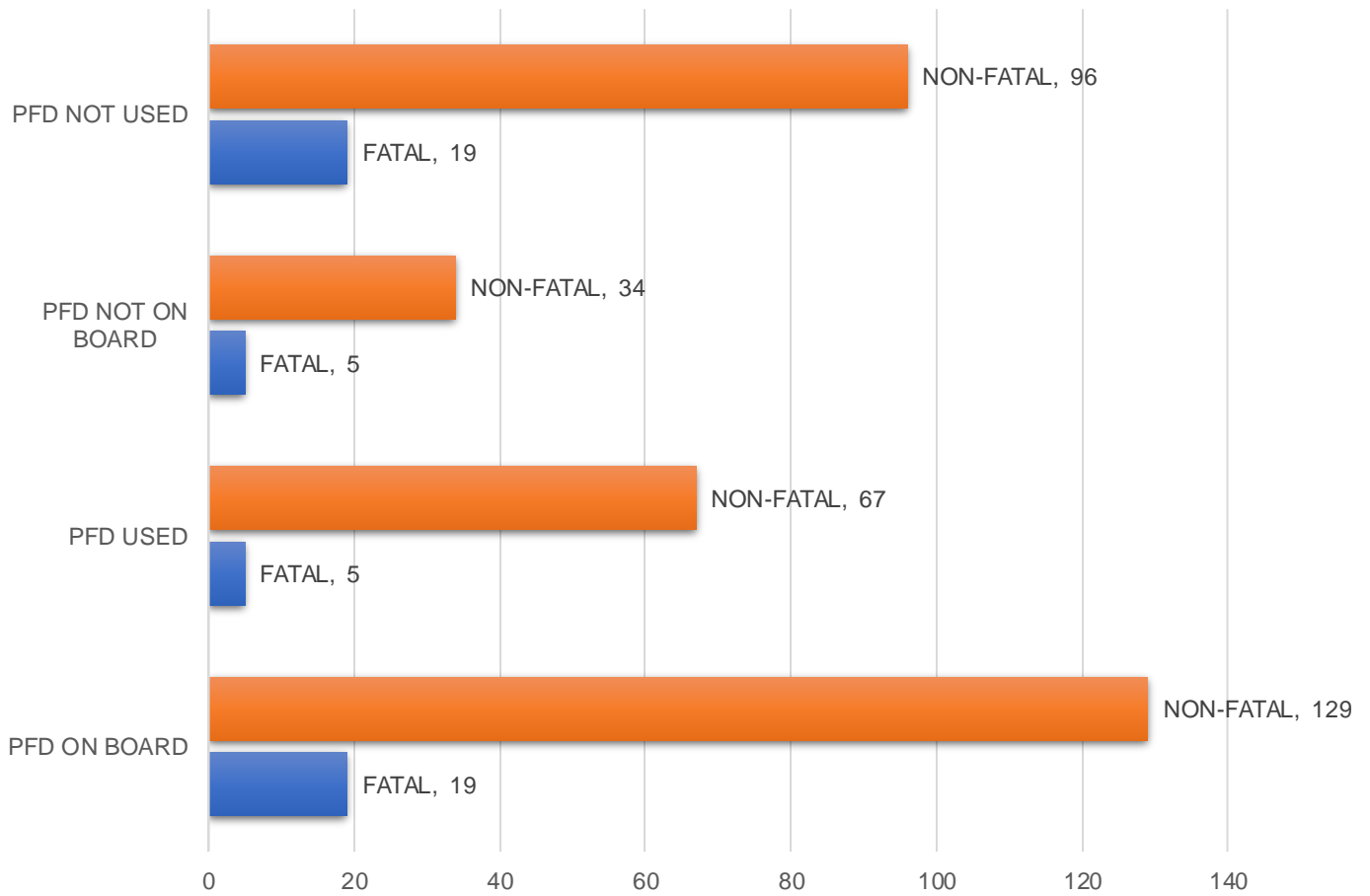
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



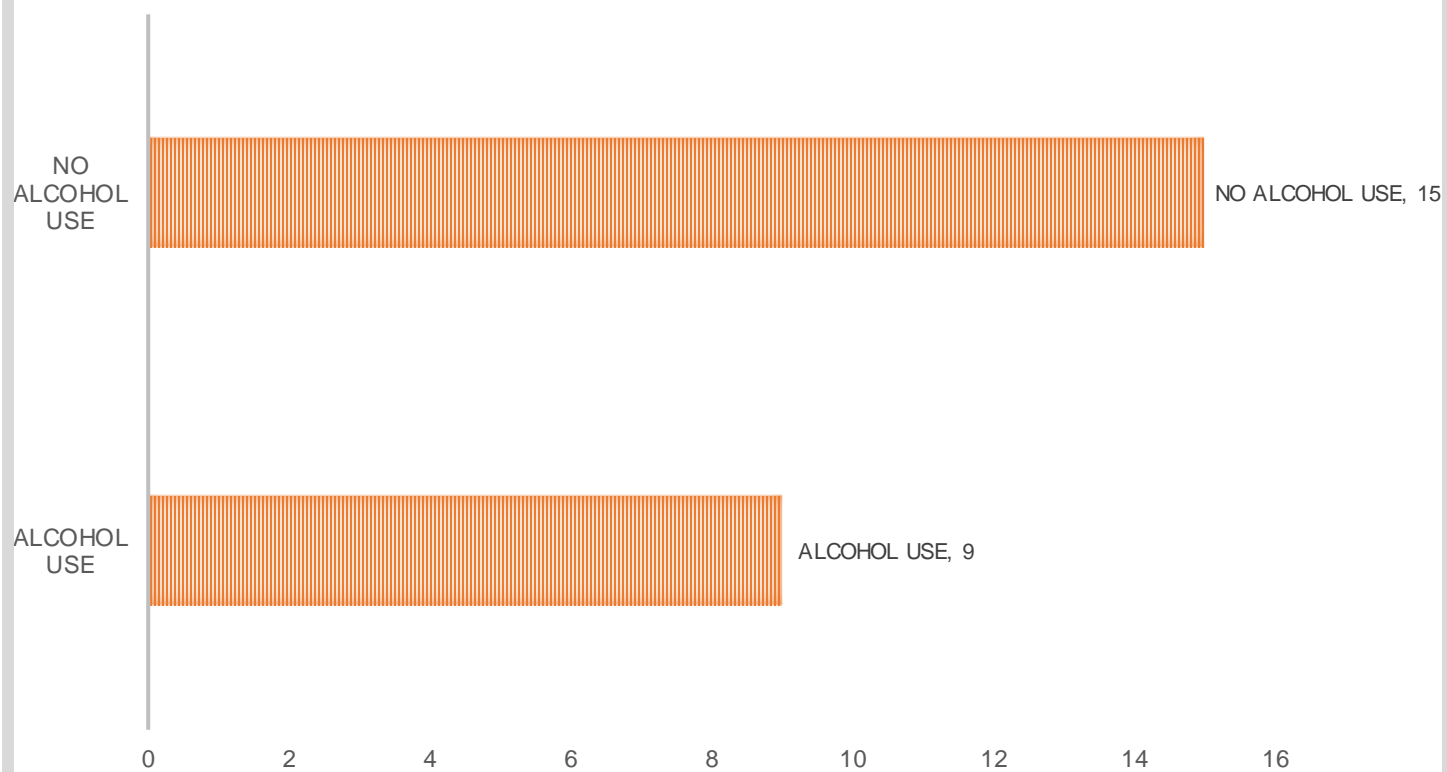
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



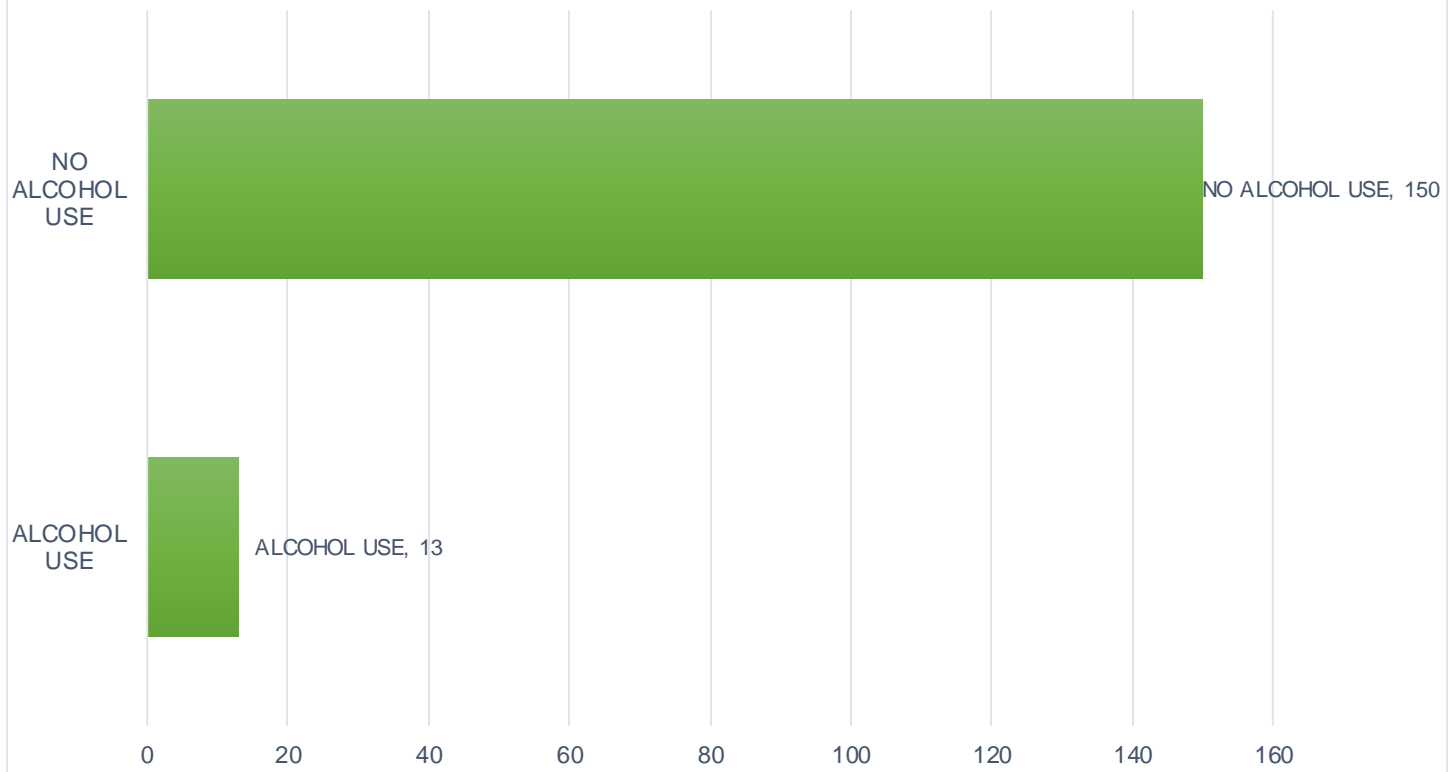
USAGE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS



ALCOHOL USE IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



ALCOHOL USE IN NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



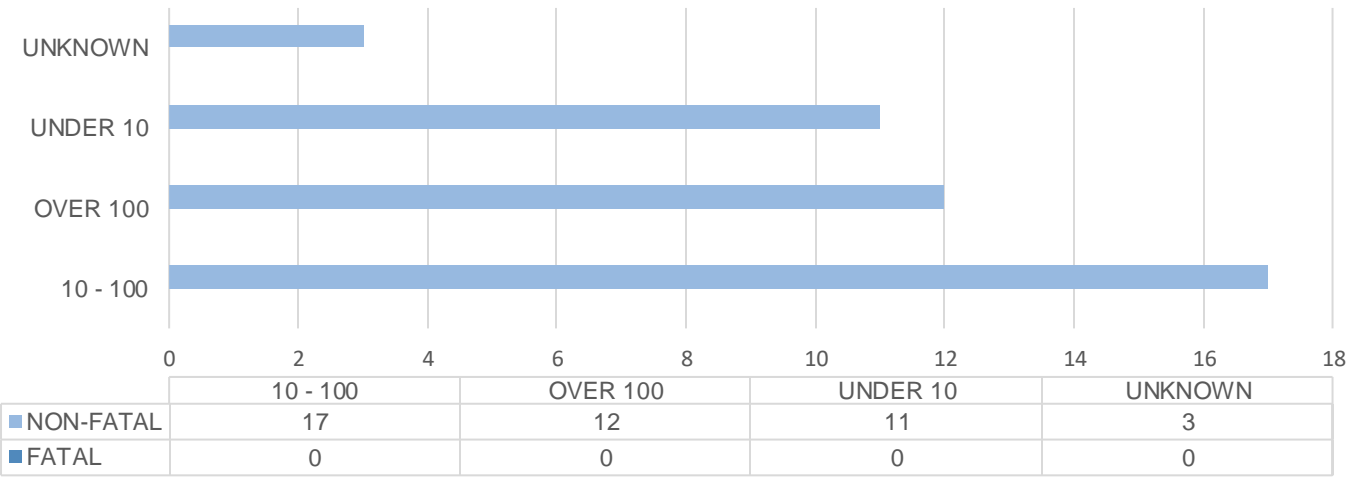
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

COUNTY	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
Beaufort	0	1	1
Brunswick	0	2	2
Carteret	0	1	1
Catawba	0	2	2
Clay	0	1	1
Currituck	0	1	1
Davidson	0	1	1
Gaston	0	1	1
Iredell	0	6	6
Lincoln	0	1	1
Macon	0	2	2
Mecklenburg	0	2	2
Northampton	0	1	1
Pender	0	1	1
Person	0	1	1
Rockingham	0	1	1
Stanly	0	1	1
Vance	0	1	1
Wake	0	2	2
Warren	0	1	1
TOTALS:	0	30	30

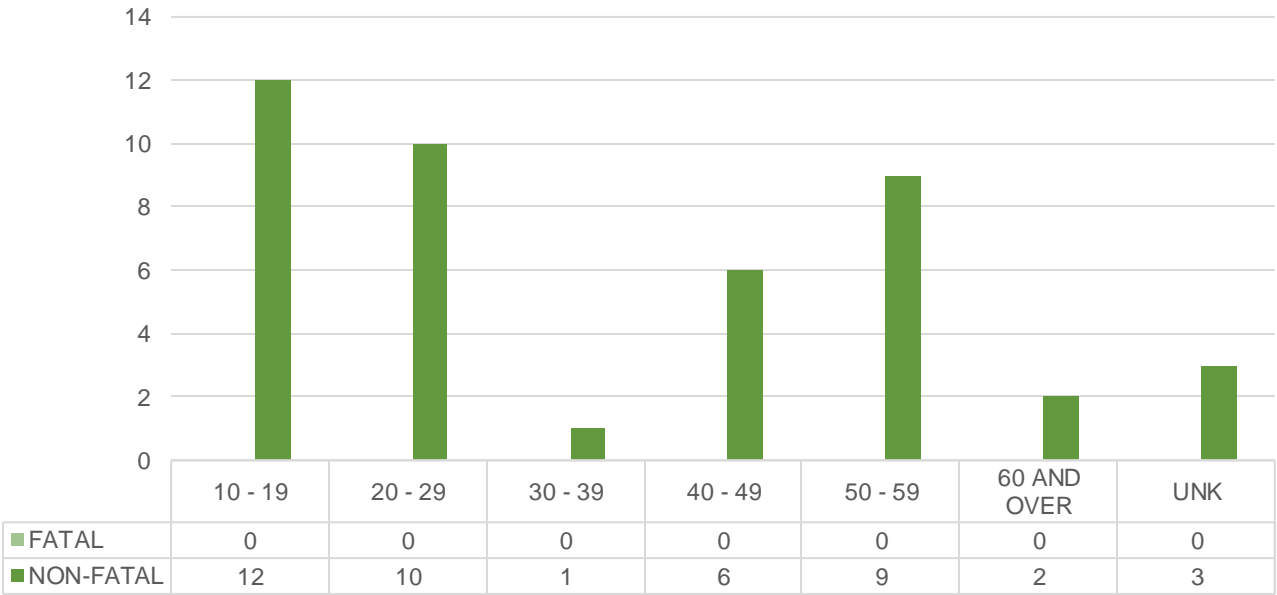
TOTAL PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS
BADIN LAKE	0	1	1
BELEWS LAKE	0	1	1
BOGUE SOUND	0	1	1
CHOCOWINITY BAY	0	1	1
FALLS LAKE	0	2	2
HIGH ROCK LAKE	0	1	1
ICW	0	3	3
KERR LAKE	0	1	1
LAKE CHATUGE	0	1	1
LAKE GASTON	0	2	2
LAKE NORMAN	0	11	11
LAKE WYLIE	0	1	1
MAYO LAKE	0	1	1
NANTAHALA LAKE	0	2	2
WHALE HEAD BAY	0	1	1
TOTAL	0	30	30

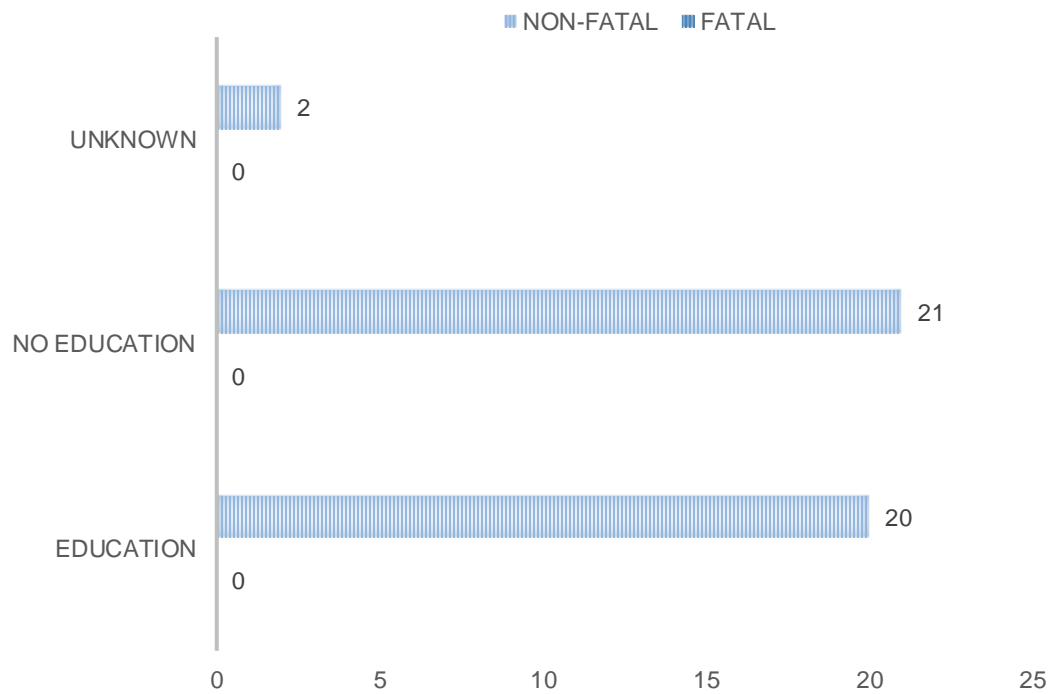
EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS



AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN
PWC ACCIDENTS



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



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 use 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 their 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 websites:

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at www.ncwildlife.org,

From the home page click on “Boating” then “Laws and Safety” then on “Boating Education Courses” located in the “At Your Service” box; choose either an Instructor Led Course and search for the class using your zip code, or the “Online Courses” tab and visit one of the listed websites. The Instructor Led Courses taught by NCWRC Instructors is a proctored course that must be taken in person.

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

US Coast Guard Auxiliary- <http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/>

Public Education Classes – Find by Zip Code

The National Public Education Calendar Database provides a single, unified national database that holds and displays all public education courses taught by our various flotillas nationwide. In addition, a Zip Code search permits members of the general public to enter a Zip Code of interest and find all public education courses being taught within a selected distance from that Zip Code.

For other “online” NASBLA approved Boating Education Courses, visit the following website links (links are also available on www.ncwildlife.org)

[Boat Ed](#)

[Boater Exam](#)

[Boat US Foundation](#)

[America's Boating Course](#)

[Aceboater](#)

[BOATSmart](#)

[Boat Tests 101](#)

Replacement Boater Education Cards: For any Boater Education course taken “online”, please go to the website link where the course was completed to request a replacement card.

