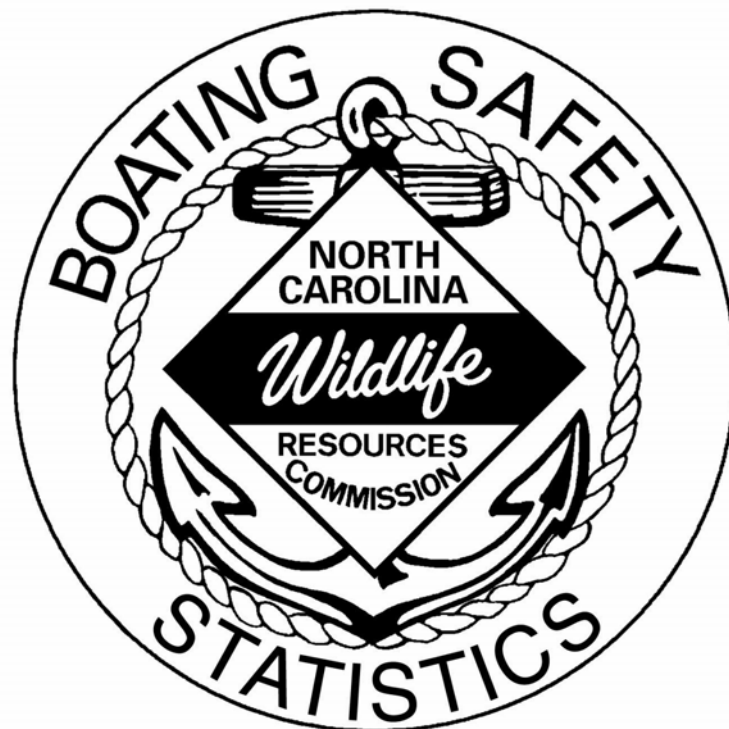


NORTH CAROLINA

REPORT OF

BOATING ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES

2004



**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

Richard B. Hamilton / Executive Director

Fred Harris / Assistant Director

2004 North Carolina Annual Boating Accident Report

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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April 1, 2005

NORTH CAROLINA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS 2004

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 2004.

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 \$500;
- (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.

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.

Richard B. Hamilton
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>
2004	138	23	336,056	1,833*
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
1985	107	39	218,019	84,890
1984	102	28	202,912	81,942

**The total number of students receiving boater education certification in North Carolina in 2003 includes students certified by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and by the U.S. Power Squadrons.*

ANNUAL BOATING STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BOATING ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>FATAL ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>BOATING EDUCATION STUDENTS</u>
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	----

2004 N. C. BOATING ACCIDENT FACTS

- 138 Total Accidents
- 115 Non-Fatal Accidents
- 23 Fatal Accidents Resulting in 23 Fatalities
- Total of 255 Vessels Involved in Accidents
- 123 Persons Injured in Accidents Required Medical Treatment

Note: These Numbers Include Accidents Involving Personal Watercraft

TIMES OF DAY IN ACCIDENTS

<u>Time</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Morning (06:01 to 12:00)	3	18	21
Afternoon (12:01 to 18:00)	13	75	88
Evening (18:01 to 24:00)	0	20	27
Night (00:01 to 06:00)	0	2	2
TOTALS	23	115	138

NUMBER OF BOATING ACCIDENTS PER WATER TYPE

<u>Water Type</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Non – Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lake	7	46	53
River	6	14	20
Waterway	1	22	23
Sound	5	12	17
Creek	1	2	3
Ocean	3	4	7
Inlet	0	10	10
Channel	0	1	1
Canal	0	0	0
Other	0	4	4
Totals	23	115	138

COUNTY TOTALS

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATALITIES	TOTAL INJURED	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
ALAMANCE	4,547	0	0	0
ALEXANDER	1,712	0	0	0
ALLEGHANY	239	1	0	1
ANSON	961	0	0	0
ASHE	462	0	0	0
AVERY	376	0	0	0
BEAUFORT	5,498	1	0	1
BERTIE	1,341	0	3	3
BLADEN	1,852	0	3	3
BRUNSWICK	7,944	4	16	20
BUNCOMBE	6,219	0	0	0
BURKE	3,302	0	2	2
CABARRUS	4,627	0	0	0
CALDWELL	3,218	0	0	0
CAMDEN	854	1	0	1
CARTERET	9,845	1	17	18
CASWELL	801	0	0	0
CATAWBA	8,389	0	2	2
CHATHAM	1,935	0	0	0
CHEROKEE	1,643	0	0	0
CHOWAN	1,434	0	0	0
CLAY	787	0	0	0
CLEVELAND	2,920	0	2	2
COLUMBUS	4,373	0	0	0
CRAVEN	6,191	0	5	5
CUMBERLAND	6,538	0	0	0
CURRITUCK	2,932	1	3	4
DARE	4,955	2	4	6
DAVIDSON	8,051	1	1	2
DAVIE	1,521	0	0	0
DUPLIN	2,193	0	0	0
DURHAM	4,749	0	0	0
EDGECOMBE	2,115	0	0	0
FORSYTH	7,194	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	2,042	0	1	1
GASTON	6,246	0	1	1
GATES	731	0	0	0
GRAHAM	895	0	1	1
GRANVILLE	2,108	0	0	0

COUNTY TOTALS

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATALITIES	TOTAL INJURED	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
GREENE	853	0	0	0
GUILFORD	10,435	0	3	3
HALIFAX	3,544	0	0	0
HARNETT	3,507	0	0	0
HAYWOOD	2,943	0	0	0
HENDERSON	2,704	0	0	0
HERTFORD	1,043	0	0	0
HOKE	871	0	0	0
HYDE	692	0	2	2
IREDELL	10,335	2	7	9
JACKSON	1,410	0	0	0
JOHNSTON	6,428	0	0	0
JONES	674	0	0	0
LEE	2,050	0	0	0
LENOIR	3,125	0	0	0
LINCOLN	4,577	0	1	1
MACON	1,171	0	0	0
MADISON	635	0	0	0
MARTIN	1,527	0	0	0
MCDOWELL	1,883	0	0	0
MECKLENBURG	18,703	0	4	4
MITCHELL	351	0	0	0
MONTGOMERY	1,753	0	3	3
MOORE	3,003	0	0	0
NASH	4,143	0	1	1
NEW HANOVER	12,017	1	5	6
NORTHAMPTON	1,705	2	2	4
ONslow	7,020	0	6	6
ORANGE	2,720	0	0	0
PAMLICO	2,193	1	0	1
PASQUOTANK	1,827	0	0	0
PENDER	4,124	0	0	0
PERQUIMANS	1,306	0	0	1
PERSON	1,791	0	0	0
PITT	6,132	0	1	1
POLK	603	1	0	1
RANDOLPH	5,738	0	0	0
RICHMOND	2,310	0	0	0

COUNTY TOTALS

COUNTY	BOATS REGISTERED	TOTAL FATALITIES	TOTAL INJURED	TOTAL ACCIDENTS
ROBESON	4,424	0	0	0
ROCKINGHAM	2,858	0	1	1
ROWAN	5,587	1	3	4
RUTHERFORD	2,164	0	1	1
SAMPSON	2,549	0	0	0
SCOTLAND	1,170	0	0	0
STANLY	3,678	0	2	2
STOKES	1,292	0	0	0
SURRY	1,722	0	0	0
SWAIN	924	0	0	0
TRANSYLVANIA	1,211	0	0	0
TYRRELL	419	1	1	2
UNION	4,476	0	3	3
VANCE	1,931	0	0	0
WAKE	22,022	1	4	5
WARREN	944	0	3	3
WASHINGTON	1,010	0	0	0
WATAUGA	770	0	0	0
WAYNE	4,268	0	0	0
WILKES	2,096	1	1	2
WILSON	3,502	0	0	0
YADKIN	1,331	0	0	0
YANCEY	913	0	0	0
TOTALS	336,056	23	115	138

TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
ABBOTTS CREEK	0	1	1
ADAMS CREEK	0	0	0
ALBEMARE SOUND	1	0	1
ALBEMARLE SOUND	0	1	1
ATLANTIC OCEAN	3	4	7
BACK SOUND	0	1	1
BADIN LAKE	0	3	3
BANKS CHANNEL	0	0	0
BARDERS INLET	0	3	3
BEAUFORT INLET	0	0	0
BELEWS LAKE	0	1	1
BLOUNTS BAY/PAMLICO RIVER	1	0	1
BOGUE SOUND	1	4	5
BOILING SPRINGS LAKE	1	0	1
CAPE FEAR RIVER	0	0	0
CASHIE RIVER	0	3	3
CATAWBA RIVER	0	1	1
CHOWAN RIVER	0	0	0
CROATAN SOUND	0	0	0
CROATAN SOUND/ MANNS HARBOR	0	0	0
CURRITUCK SOUND	1	2	3
FALLS LAKE	1	0	1
FALLS OF THE NEUSE RES.	0	2	2
FALLS OF THE NEUSE RESEVOIR	0	0	0
FIGURE 8 ISLAND CHANNEL	0	1	1
FONTANA LAKE	0	1	1
GALLANTS CHANNEL	0	0	0
GREEN RIVER	1	0	1
HIGH ROCK LAKE	2	3	5
HIWASSEE LAKE	0	0	0
HOOP HOLE CREEK	0	0	0
HYCO LAKE	0	0	0
ICW	0	17	17
ICW/ BOGUE SOUND	0	1	1
INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY	1	7	8
JOHN H. MUSS LAKE	0	2	2
JORDAN LAKE	0	0	0

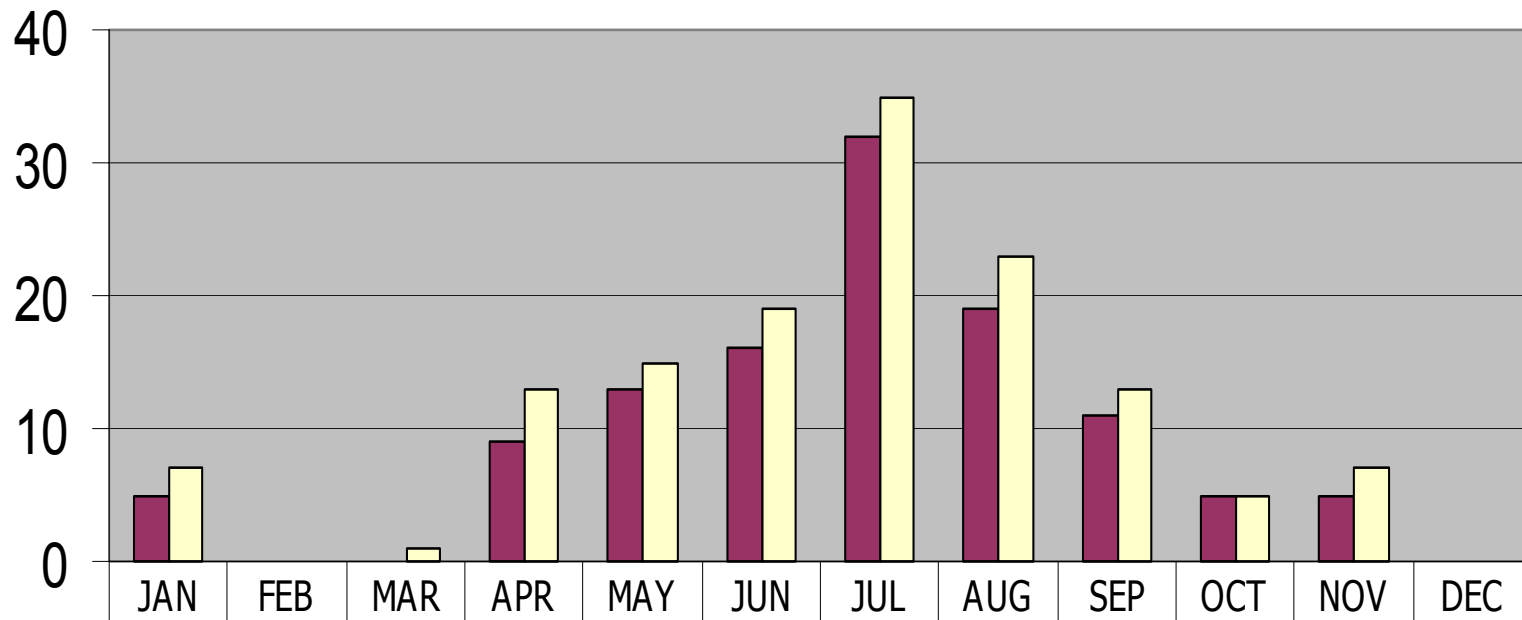
TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
KERR LAKE	1	0	1
KERR SCOTT LAKE	0	0	0
LAKE BRANDT	0	3	3
LAKE CHATUGE	0	0	0
LAKE GASTON	0	4	4
LAKE GLENVILLE	0	0	0
LAKE HICKORY	0	0	0
LAKE JAMES	0	0	0
LAKE LOOK OUT	1	0	1
LAKE LURE	0	1	1
LAKE MONROE	0	3	3
LAKE NORMAN	1	14	15
LAKE RHODISS	0	0	0
LAKE RHODISS	0	1	1
LAKE ROYALE	0	1	1
LAKE TILLERY	0	2	2
LAKE WHEELER	0	1	1
LAKE WYLIE	0	1	1
LITTLE SWIFT CREEK	0	1	1
LOCKWOOD FOLLY INLET	0	1	1
NEUSE RIVER	0	4	4
NEW RIVER	1	0	1
NORTH LANDING RIVER	0	2	2
NORTH RIVER	1	0	1
NORTH RIVER THOROFARE	0	0	0
OCRACOKE INLET	0	2	2
OREGON INLET	0	0	0
PAMLECO SOUND	0	1	1
PAMLICO RIVER	0	0	0
PAMLICO SOUND	2	0	2
PERQUIMANS RIVER	0	0	0
PUNGO CREEK	0	0	0
ROANOKE RIVER	2	1	3
ROANOKE SOUND	0	2	2
SHALLOTTE INLET	0	4	4
SHEARON HARRIS LAKE	0	1	1
SOUTHPORT MARINA	0	0	0
TAR RIVER	0	1	1
TAR RIVER RESERVOIR	0	1	1

TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
TAYLORS CREEK	0	1	1
TUCKERTOWN LAKE	0	0	0
UPPER BROAD CREEK	1	0	1
W. KERR SCOTT RESERVOIR	0	1	1
WHITE LAKE	0	3	3
TOTALS	23	115	138

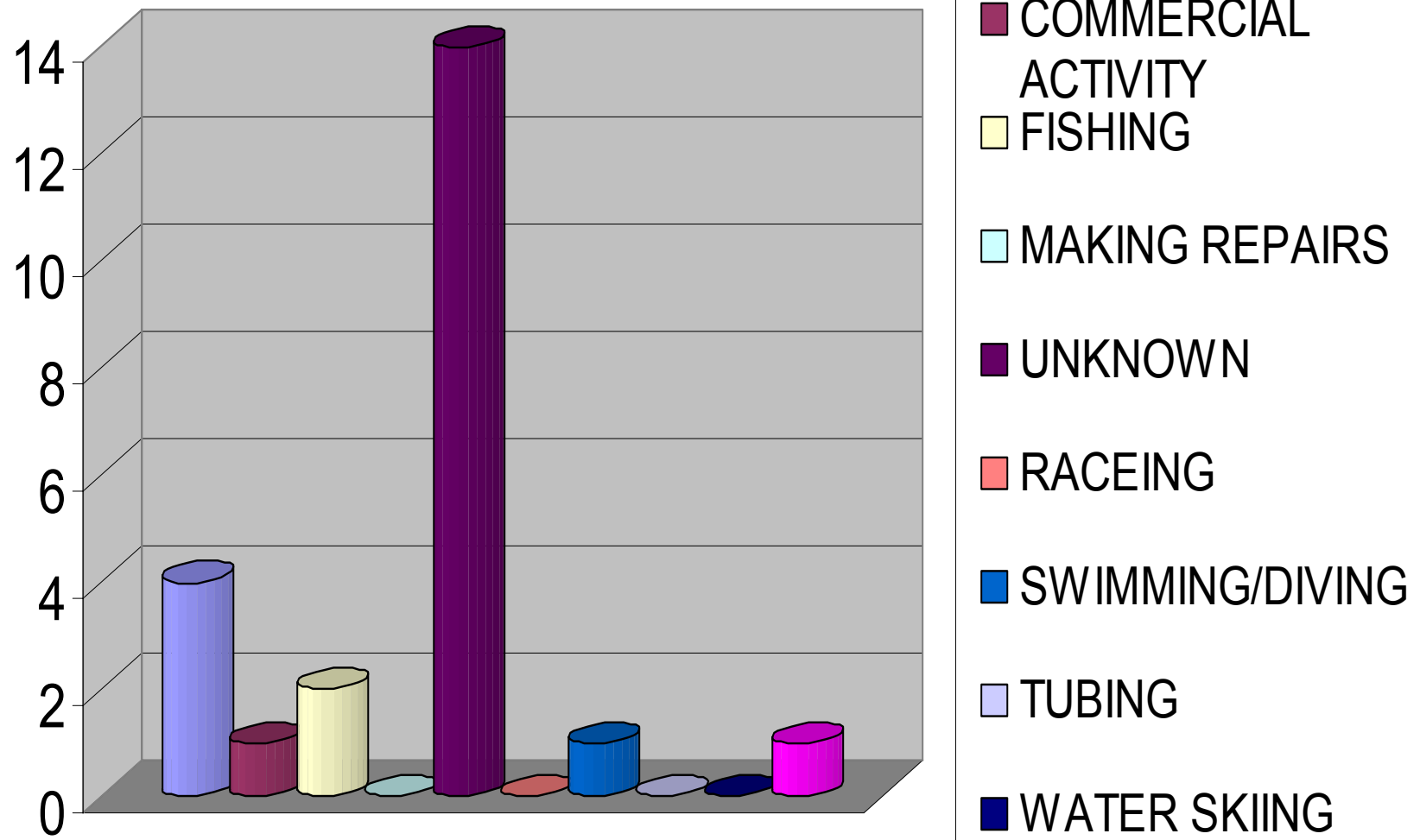
MONTHS IN WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCUR



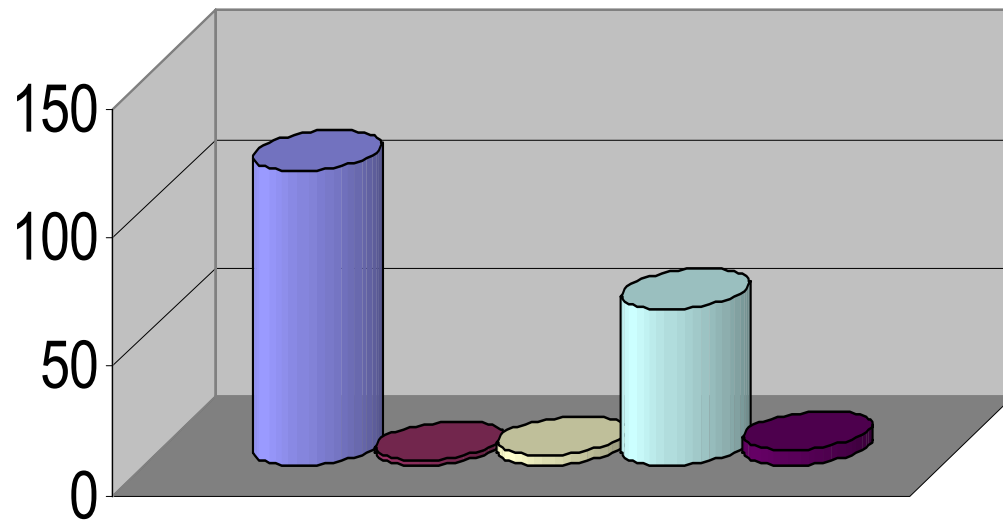
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FATAL	5	0	0	9	13	16	32	19	11	5	5	0
NON-FATAL	7	0	1	13	15	19	35	23	13	5	7	0

FATAL
 NON-FATAL

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT FATAL



ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT NON-FATAL



OTHER

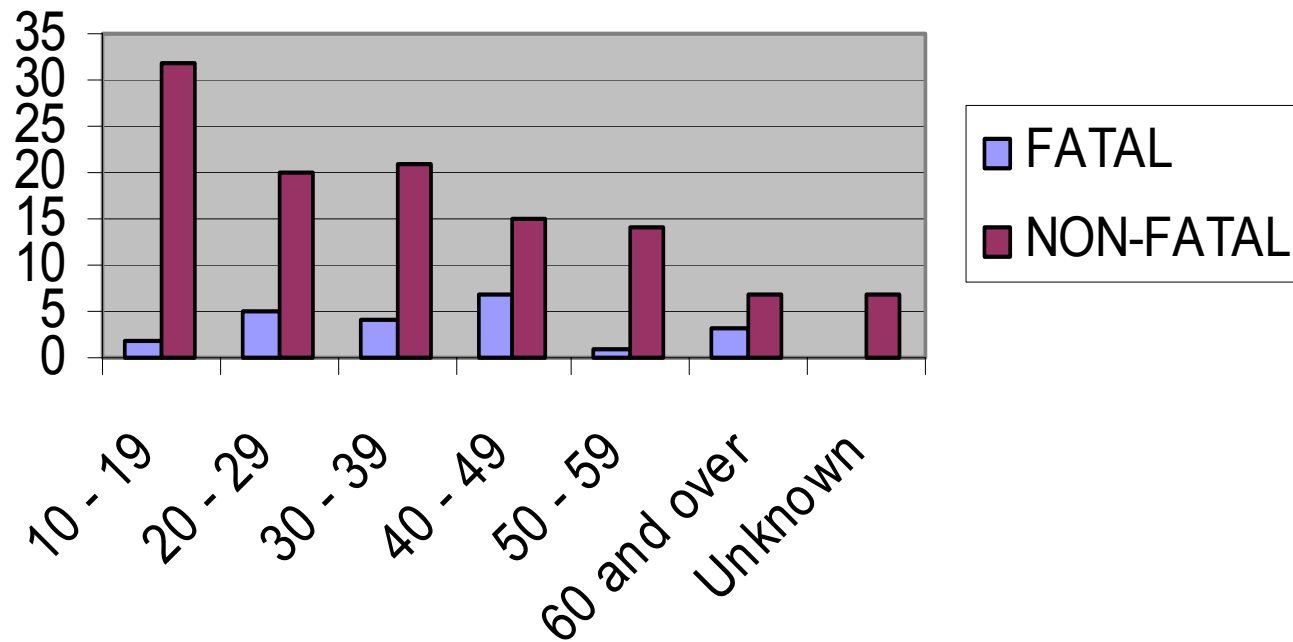
SWIMMING/DIVING

TUBING

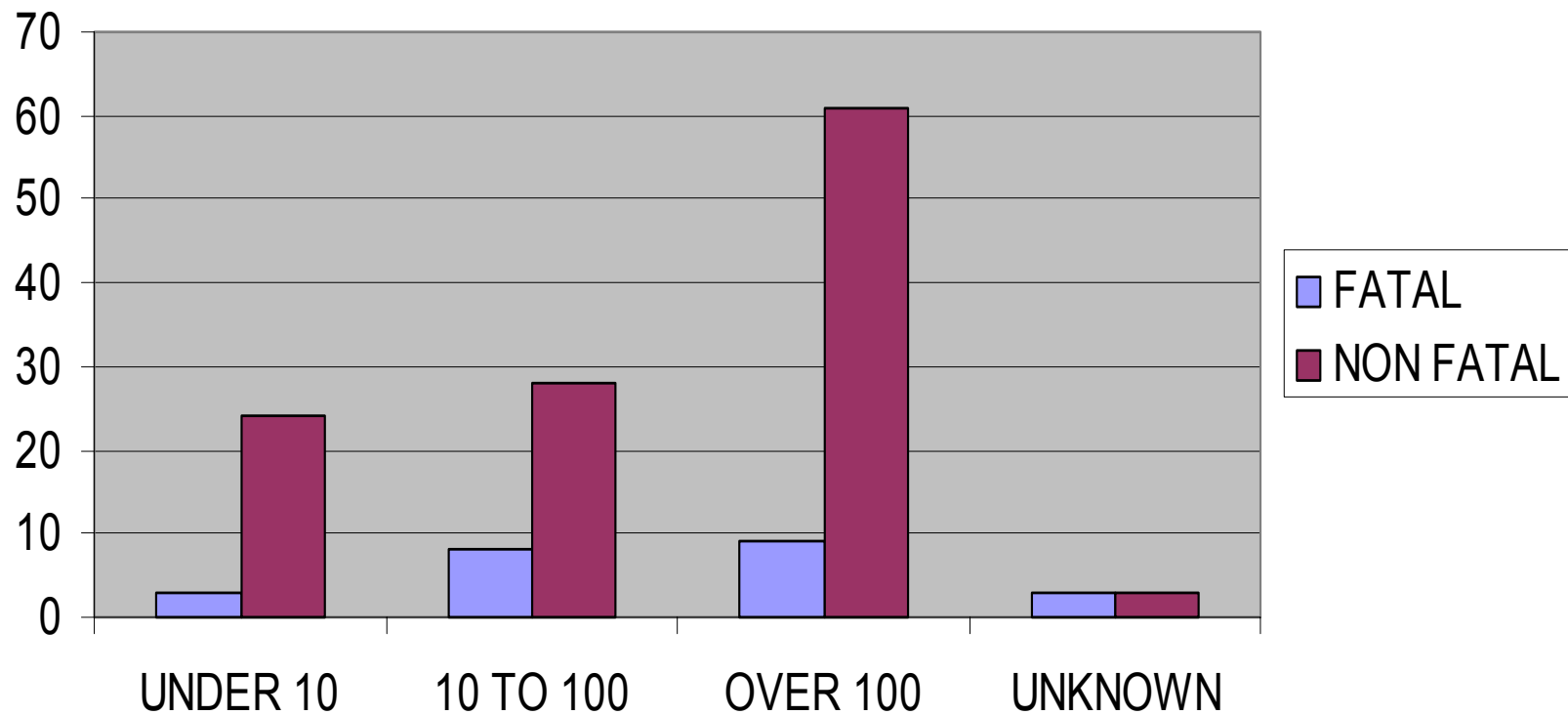
UNKNOWN

WATER SKIING

AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS



EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS) OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN BOATING ACCIDENTS



RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Fell or jumped overboard	9
2	Capsizing	5
3	Collision with fixed object	3
3	Other	3
4	Falls in boat	1

RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Hazardous waters	7
2	Alcohol use	6
3	Overloading	5
3	Weather	5
4	Other	4
5	Operator inattention	3
5	Operator inexperience	3
5	Unknown	3
6	Careless & reckless operation	2
6	Sharp turn	2
6	Drug use	2
7	Excessive speed	1
7	Wake	1
7	No proper lookout	1
7	Fault of equipment	1

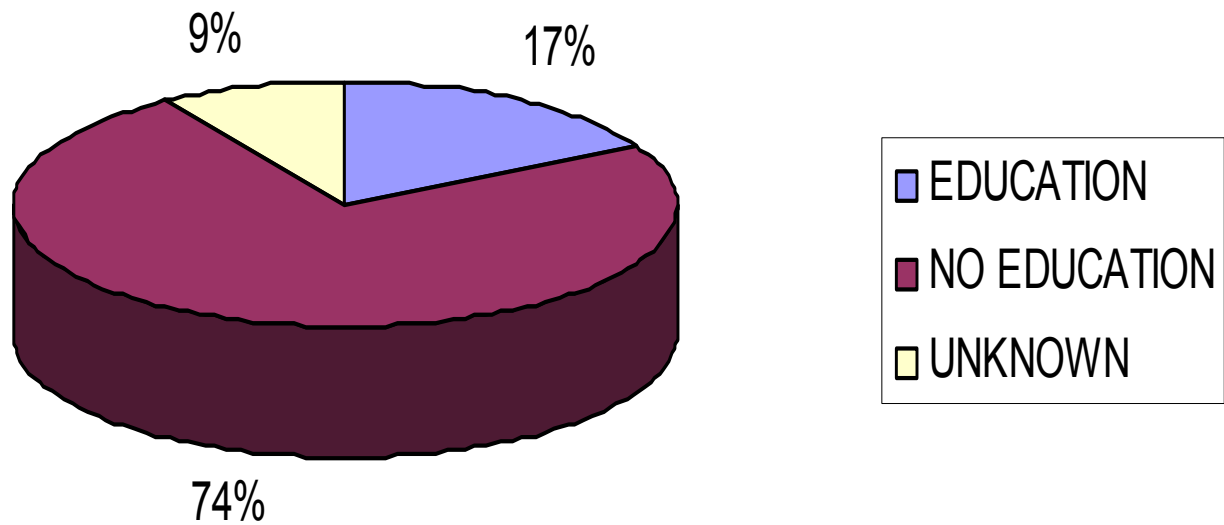
RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	47
2	Collision with fixed object	26
3	Capsizing	17
4	Struck by boat/motor/propeller	14
5	Other	11
6	Falls overboard	10
7	Struck submerged object	7
8	Falls within boat	5
	Flooding/swamping	5
9	Skier mishap	4
	Sinking	4
	Fire/explosion (fuel)	4
10	Collision with floating object	3
11	Grounding	2

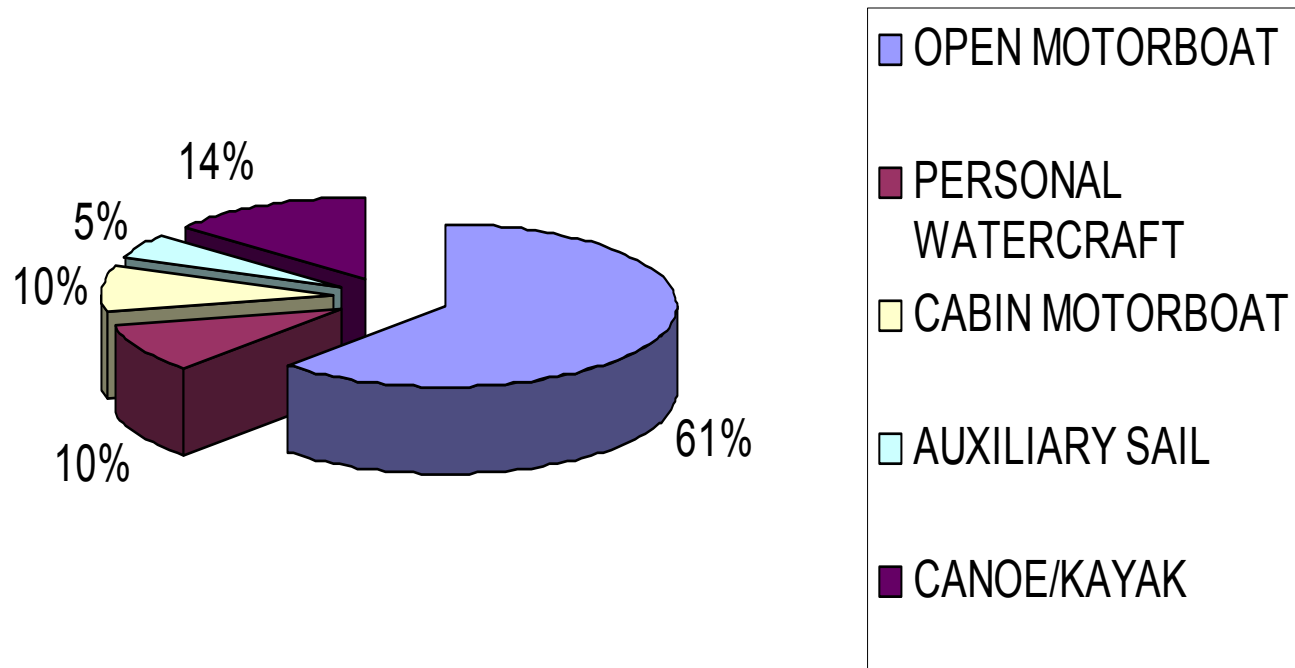
RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Careless & reckless operation	50
2	Operator inattention	47
	Operator inexperience	47
3	Excessive speed	37
4	Hazardous waters	25
5	Wake	24
6	No proper lookout	16
7	Other	15
	Sharp turn	15
8	Alcohol use	14
	Machinery failure	9
9	Fault of equipment	8
10	Weather	7
11	No/improper lights	6
12	Restricted vision	5
	Congested waters	5
13	Overloading	4
	Ignition of fuel/vapor	4
	Failure to vent	4
14	Fault of hull	3
	Improper loading	3
15	Dam/lock	2
	Current	2
16	Equipment failure	1

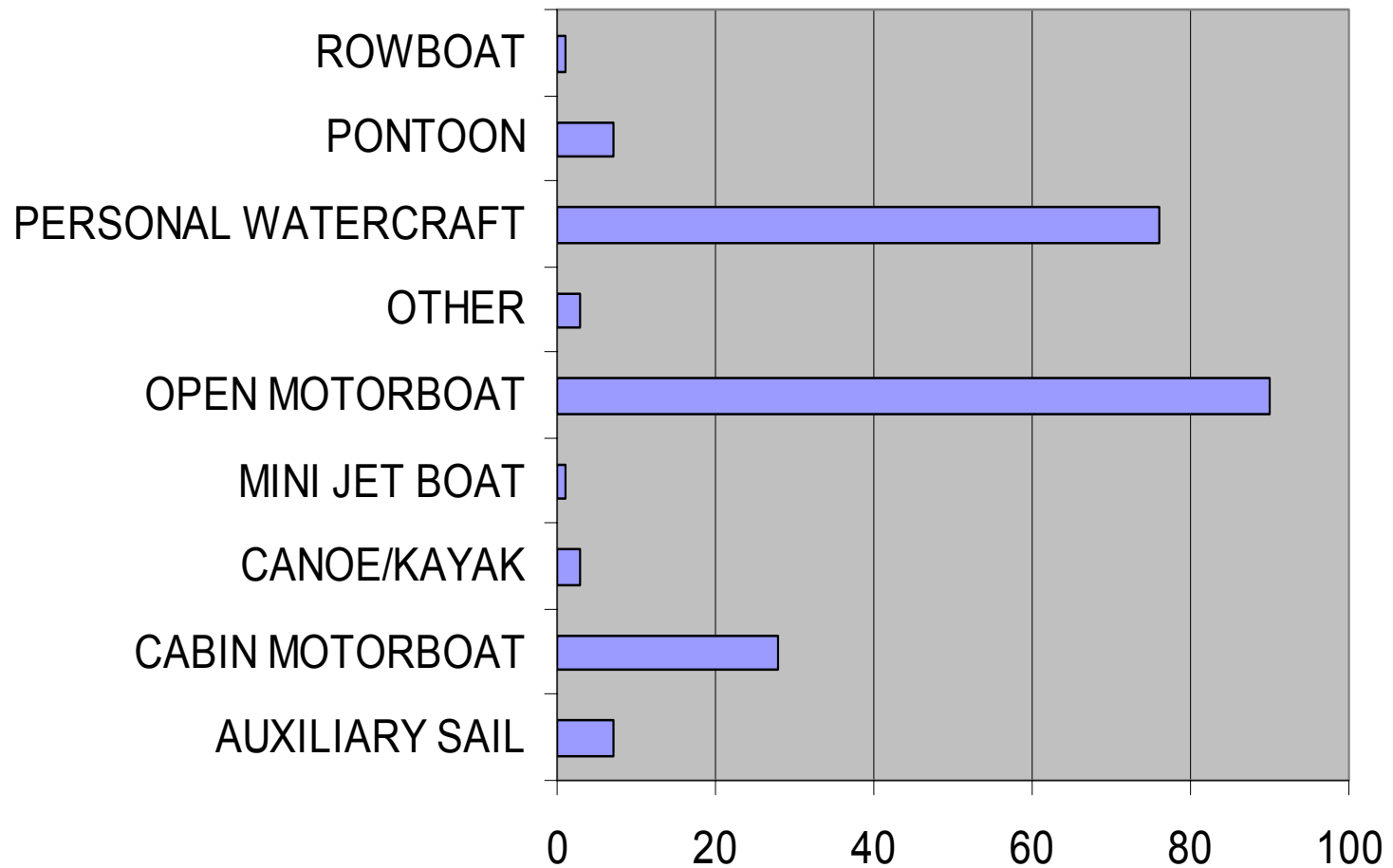
FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



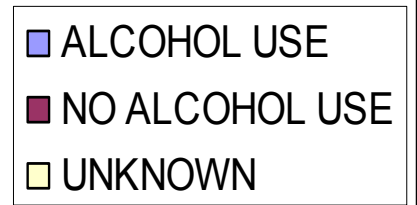
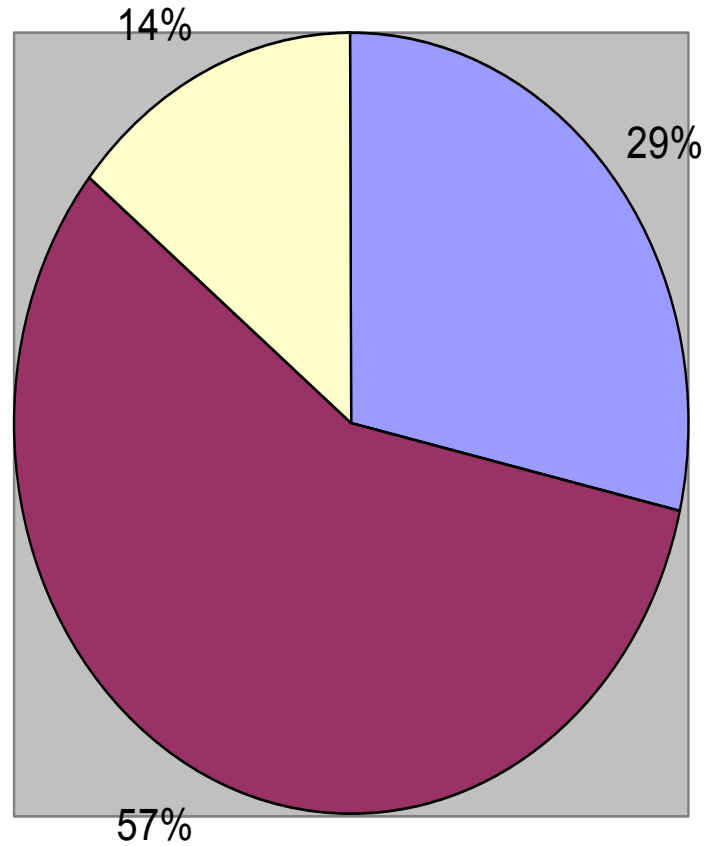
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



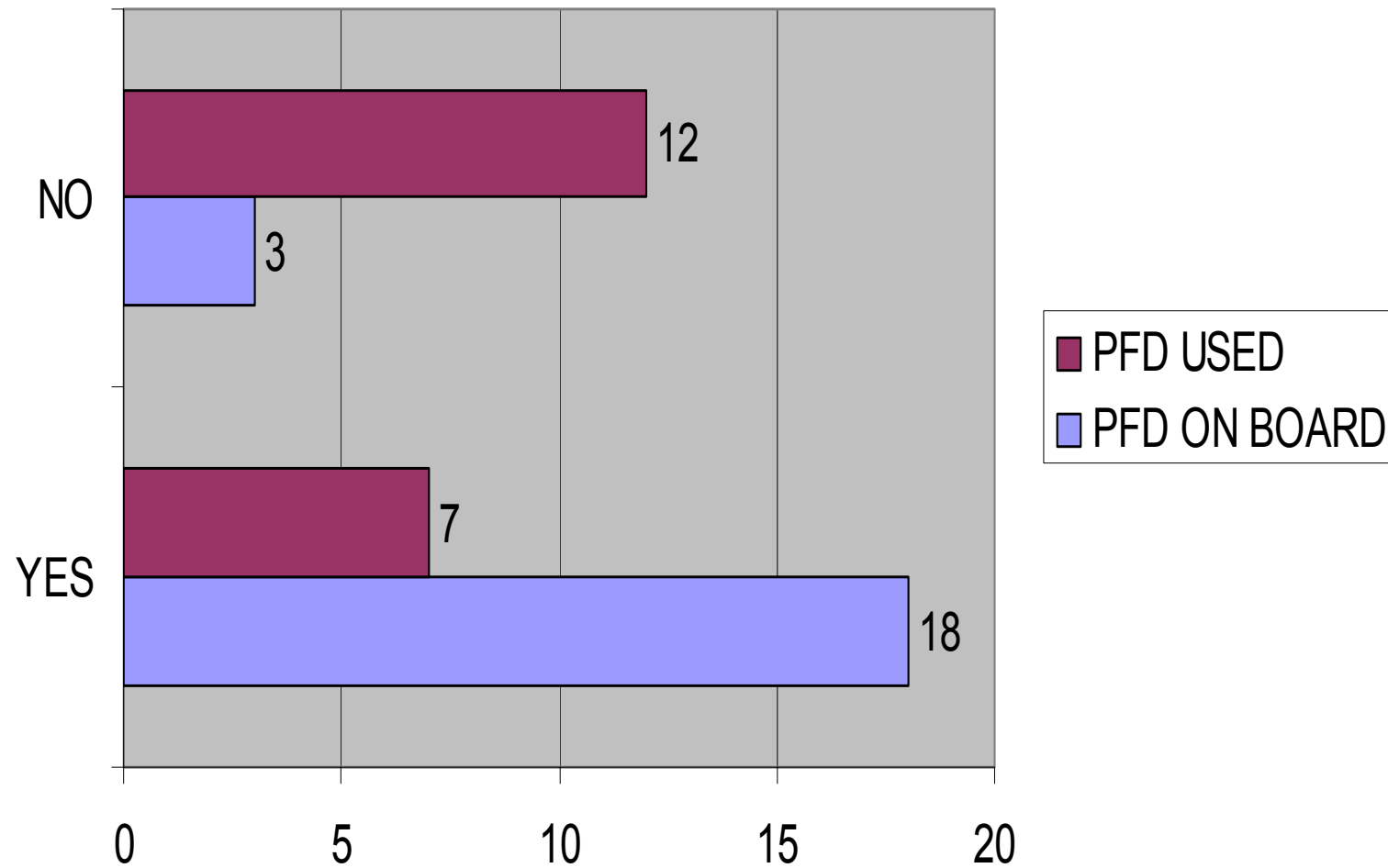
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



ALCOHOL USE IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



USAGE OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES IN 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 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*. 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*.

2004 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENT FACTS

- ⇒ **57 Personal Watercraft Accidents**
- ⇒ **79 Personal Watercraft Operators Involved**
- ⇒ **23 of the Personal Watercraft Were Rental Units**
- ⇒ **44 Persons Injured in Personal Watercraft Accidents Required Medical Treatment**
- ⇒ **34,550 Personal Watercrafts registered in North Carolina**

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS REGISTERED
IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2004**

COUNTY	# REGISTERED
ALAMANCE	527
ALEXANDER	265
ALLEGHANY	10
ANSON	89
ASHE	20
AVERY	46
BEAUFORT	437
BERTIE	95
BLADEN	112
BRUNSWICK	360
BUNCOMBE	681
BURKE	239
CABARRUS	615
CALDWELL	338
CAMDEN	59
CARTERET	466
CASWELL	93
CATAWBA	1416
CHATHAM	148
CHEROKEE	142
CHOWAN	84
CLAY	142
CLEVELAND	311
COLUMBUS	223
CRAVEN	350
CUMBERLAND	535
CURRITUCK	303
DARE	372
DAVIDSON	1085
DAVIE	154
DUPLIN	111
DURHAM	516
EDGECOMBE	137
FORSYTH	915
FRANKLIN	203
GASTON	648
GATES	15
GRAHAM	58
GRANVILLE	247

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS REGISTERED
IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2004**

COUNTY	# REGISTERED
GREENE	61
GUILFORD	1285
HALIFAX	477
HARNETT	292
HAYWOOD	409
HENDERSON	297
HERTFORD	61
HOKE	55
HYDE	11
IREDELL	2007
JACKSON	144
JOHNSTON	549
JONES	21
LEE	172
LENOIR	211
LINCOLN	804
MACON	160
MADISON	64
MARTIN	56
MCDOWELL	166
MECKLENBURG	3046
MITCHELL	23
MONTGOMERY	225
MOORE	249
NASH	419
NEW HANOVER	625
NORTHAMPTON	239
ONSLOW	472
ORANGE	281
PAMLICO	85
PASQUOTANK	131
PENDER	171
PERQUIMANS	99
PERSON	270
PITT	569
POLK	43
RANDOLPH	710
RICHMOND	212
ROBESON	257
ROCKINGHAM	229

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS REGISTERED
IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2004**

COUNTY	# REGISTERED
ROWAN	580
RUTHERFORD	134
SAMPSON	160
SCOTLAND	73
STANLY	424
STOKES	103
SURRY	157
SWAIN	54
TRANSYLVANIA	94
TYRRELL	18
UNION	509
VANCE	224
WAKE	2516
WARREN	129
WASHINGTON	69
WATAUGA	78
WAYNE	399
WILKES	170
WILSON	281
YADKIN	97
YANCEY	57
TOTAL	34550

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

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	25
2	Falls overboard	10
3	Collision with fixed object	7
4	Struck by boat	6
5	Other	3
5	Falls within boat	3
6	Skier mishap	2
7	Collision with floating object	1

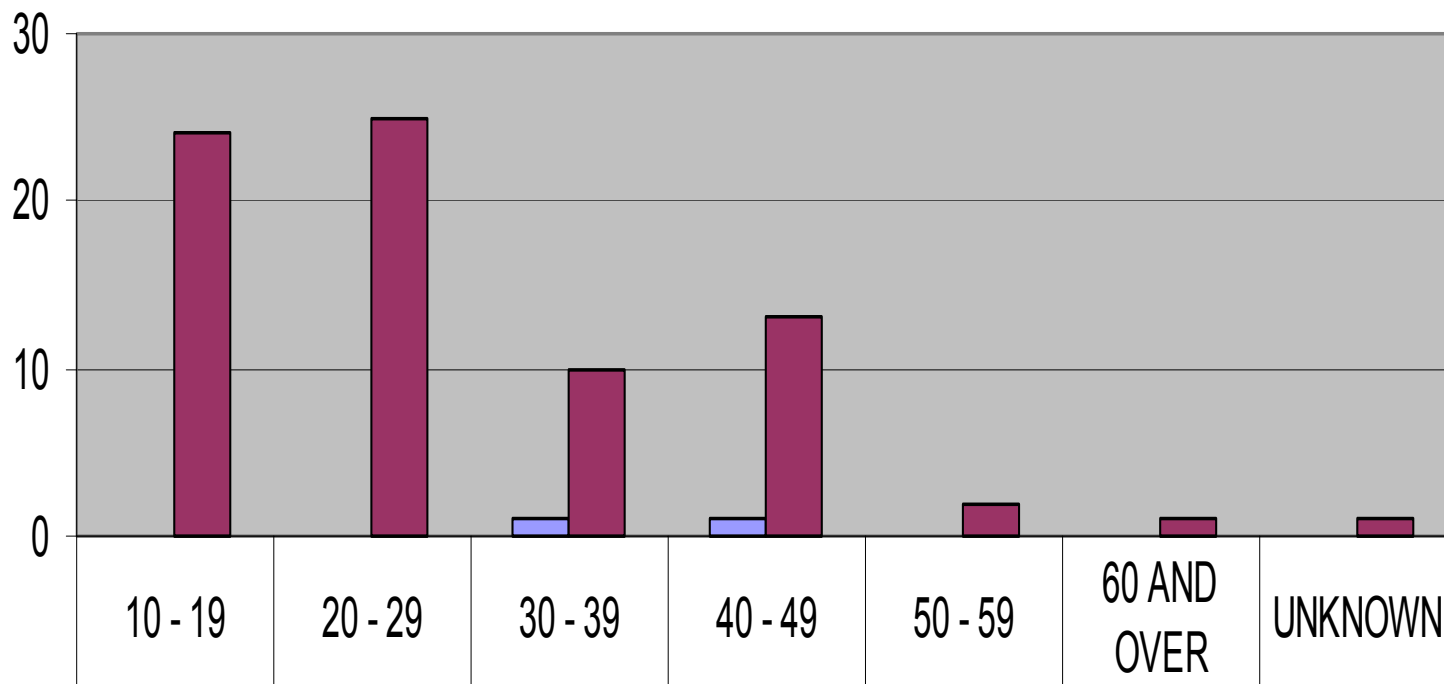
**RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator inexperience	35
2	Careless & reckless operation	28
3	Excessive speed	24
4	Operator inattention	18
5	Wake	10
6	Sharp turn	8
7	Hazardous waters	6
7	Other	6
7	No proper lookout	6
8	Restricted vision	2
8	Congested waters	2
9	Capsizing	1
9	Alcohol use	1
9	Weather	1

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

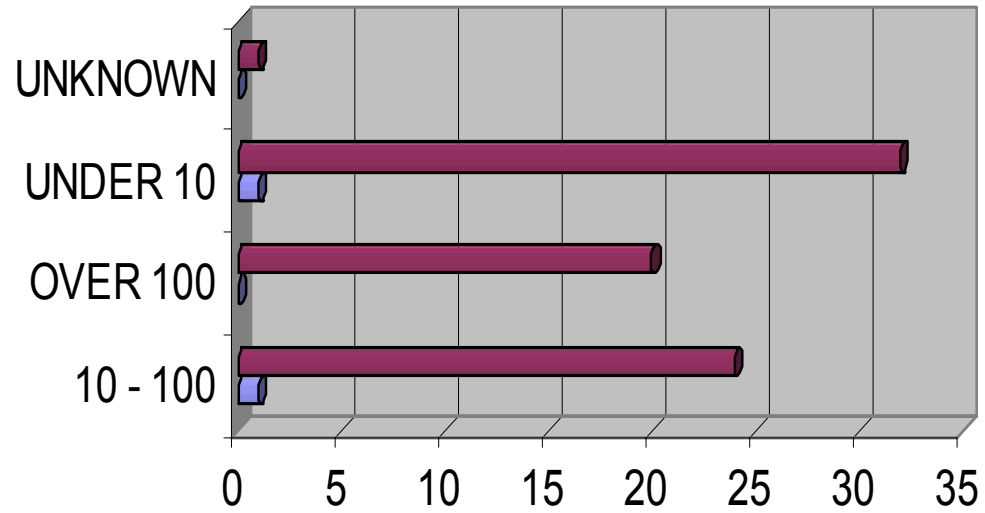
<u>BODY OF WATER</u>	<u># OF ACCIDENTS</u>
Abbott's Creek	0
Albemarle Sound	0
Atlantic Ocean	3
Badin Lake	2
Belews Lake	1
Bogue Sound	3
Currituck Sound	0
Falls Lake	1
Ginguite Creek	0
High Rock Lake	1
Hiwassee Lake	0
Intercoastal Waterway (ICW)	8
John H. Moss Lake	1
Jordan Lake	1
Kerr Lake	1
Lake Chatuge	1
Lake Gaston	2
Lake Glenville	1
Lake Lure	0
Lake Norman	10
Lake Rhodiss	2
Lake Royale	1
Lake Tillery	3
Lake Wylie	1
Lockwood Folly Inlet	1
Lookout Shoals	0
Mountain Island Lake	0
Pamlico River	0
Pamlico Sound	2
Roanoke River	0
Roanoke Sound	3
Shalotte Inlet	1
Shearon Harris Lake	0
Tar River	1
White Lake	6
TOTAL	57

AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS



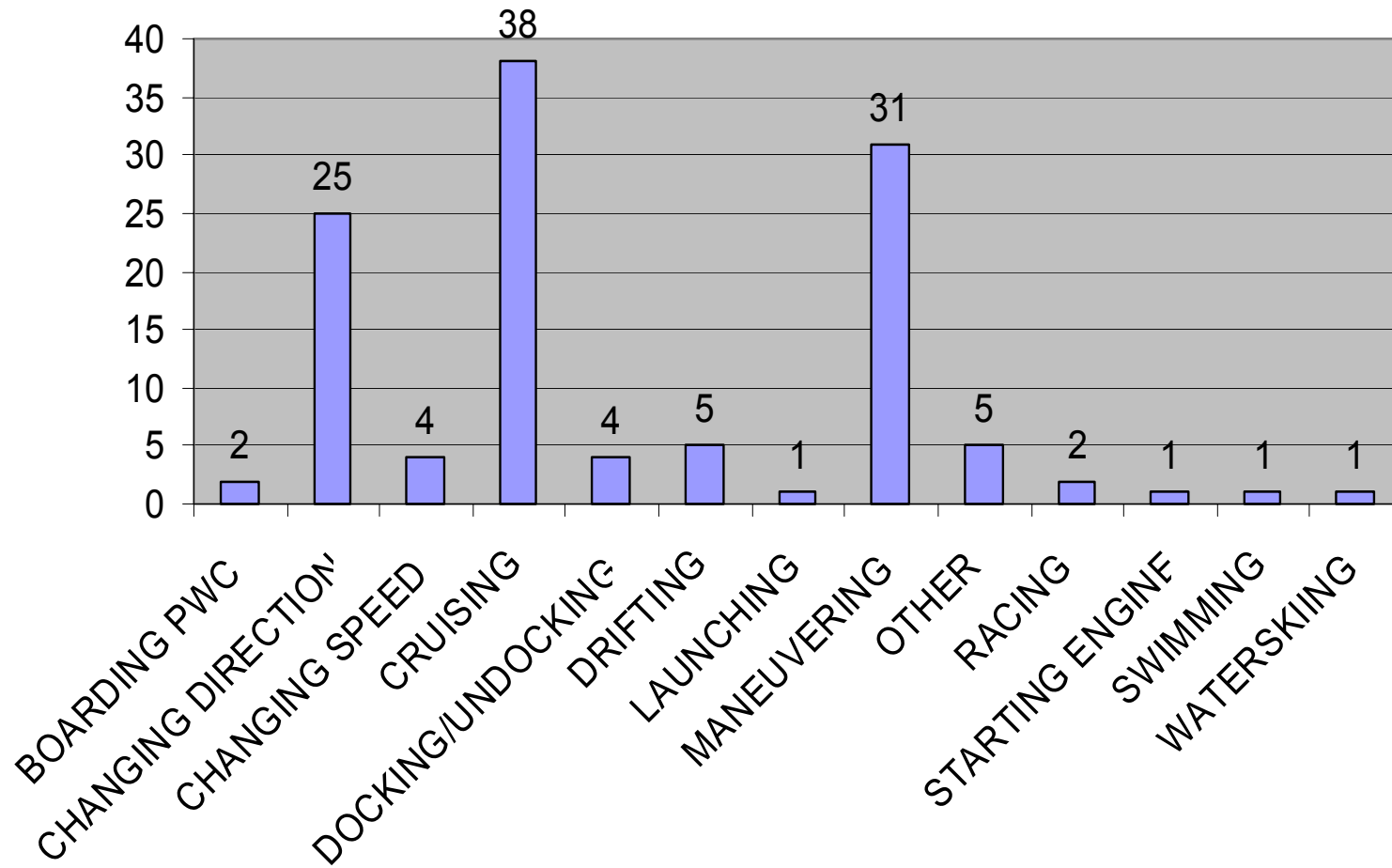
■ FATAL	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
■ NON-FATAL	24	25	10	13	2	1	1

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

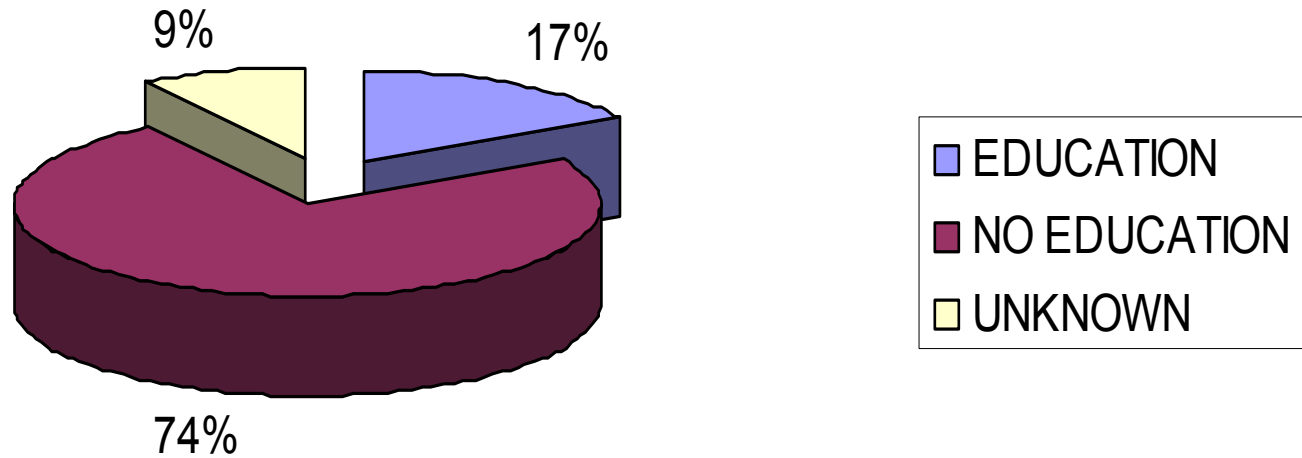


	10 - 100	OVER 100	UNDER 10	UNKNOWN
■ NON-FATAL	24	20	32	1
■ FATAL	1	0	1	0

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENT



FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT 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

