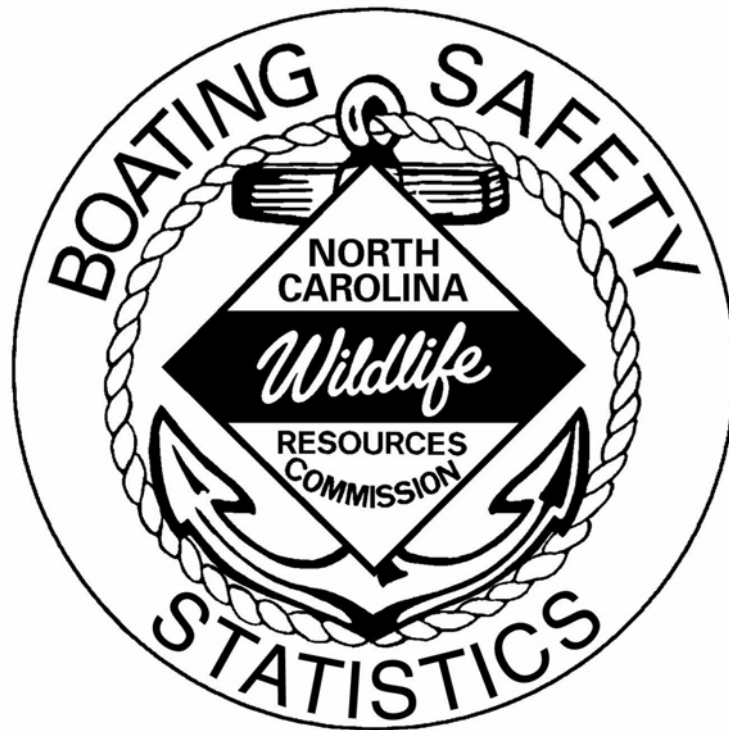


NORTH CAROLINA

REPORT OF

BOATING ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES

2005



**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

2005 North Carolina Annual Boating Accident Report

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

1719 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1719

“An Equal Opportunity Employer”

April 1, 2006

NORTH CAROLINA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS - 2005

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 2005.

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>
2005	215	14	368,636	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

**The total number of students receiving boater education certification in North Carolina in 2005 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>
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
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	----

2005 N. C. BOATING ACCIDENT FACTS

- 215 Total Accidents
- 201 Non-Fatal Accidents
- 14 Fatal Accidents Resulting in 15 Fatalities
- Total of 297 Vessels Involved in Accidents
- 134 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)	27	2	29
Afternoon (1201 to 1800)	120	8	128
Evening (1801 to 2400)	47	4	51
Night (0001 to 0600)	7	0	7
	201	14	215

NUMBER OF BOATING ACCIDENTS PER WATER TYPE

<u>Water Type</u>	<u>Non-Fatal</u>	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lake	80	6	86
River	32	3	35
ICW/Waterway	28	1	29
Sound	10	0	10
Creek	10	0	10
Ocean	3	1	4
Inlet	12	1	13
Channel	2	1	3
Other	24	1	25
	201	14	215

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>TOTAL FATALITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</u>
Alamance	3,876	0	0	0
Alexander	1,431	0	0	0
Alleghany	202	1	0	1
Anson	805	0	0	0
Ashe	381	0	0	0
Avery	337	0	0	0
Beaufort	4,727	0	7	7
Bertie	1,136	0	0	0
Bladen	1,581	0	7	7
Brunswick	6,309	0	15	15
Buncombe	5,117	0	0	0
Burke	2,805	0	1	1
Cabarrus	3,897	0	0	0
Caldwell	2,717	0	2	2
Camden	756	0	1	1
Carteret	8,333	1	24	25
Caswell	677	0	0	0
Catawba	7,001	0	5	5
Chatham	1,676	0	6	6
Cherokee	1,425	0	0	0
Chowan	1,212	0	0	0
Clay	700	0	1	1
Cleveland	2,492	0	0	0
Columbus	3,826	0	2	2

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>TOTAL FATALITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</u>
Craven	5,286	0	8	8
Cumberland	5,508	0	0	0
Currituck	2,644	0	0	0
Dare	4,211	0	15	15
Davidson	6,938	1	3	4
Davie	1,270	0	0	0
Duplin	1,959	0	0	0
Durham	3,904	0	1	1
Edgecombe	1,758	0	0	0
Forsyth	6,186	0	0	0
Franklin	1,777	0	0	0
Gaston	5,212	0	6	6
Gates	643	0	0	0
Graham	749	0	0	0
Granville	1,809	0	0	0
Greene	746	0	0	0
Guilford	8,750	0	1	1
Halifax	3,009	0	1	1
Harnett	2,999	0	0	0
Haywood	2,503	0	0	0
Henderson	2,220	0	0	0
Hertford	857	0	0	0
Hoke	741	0	0	0
Hyde	602	0	0	0
Iredell	8,782	0	11	11
Jackson	1,208	0	2	2

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>TOTAL FATALITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</u>
Johnston	5,383	2	0	2
Jones	568	0	0	0
Lee	1,769	0	0	0
Lenoir	2,763	0	0	0
Lincoln	3,908	0	3	3
McDowell	1,599	0	2	2
Macon	1,003	0	0	0
Madison	530	1	1	2
Martin	1,296	0	0	0
Mecklenburg	15,362	2	10	12
Mitchell	314	0	0	0
Montgomery	1,477	0	4	4
Moore	2,514	0	0	0
Nash	3,573	0	1	1
New Hanover	9,947	2	8	10
Northampton	1,407	0	5	5
Onslow	5,945	0	5	5
Orange	2,286	0	0	0
Other	73,021	0	0	0
Pamlico	1,875	1	6	7
Pasquotank	1,604	0	0	0
Pender	3,405	1	9	10
Perquimans	1,153	0	0	0
Person	1,573	0	1	1
Pitt	5,231	0	0	0
Polk	504	0	0	0
Randolph	4,901	0	0	0

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>BOATS REGISTERED</u>	<u>TOTAL FATALITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</u>
Richmond	1,989	0	0	0
Robeson	3,891	0	0	0
Rockingham	2,416	0	0	0
Rowan	4,648	1	1	2
Rutherford	1,776	0	1	1
Sampson	2,174	0	0	0
Scotland	997	0	0	0
Stanly	3,092	0	2	2
Stokes	1,095	0	1	1
Surry	1,446	0	0	0
Swain	779	1	1	2
Transylvania	997	0	2	2
Tyrrell	388	0	0	0
Union	3,837	0	1	1
Vance	1,674	0	1	1
Wake	18,629	0	6	6
Warren	824	1	6	7
Washington	854	0	1	1
Watauga	677	0	0	0
Wayne	3,557	0	0	0
Wilkes	1,762	0	2	2
Wilson	2,926	0	1	1
Yadkin	1,115	0	0	0
Yancey	763	0	0	0
TOTALS:	362,907	15	200	215

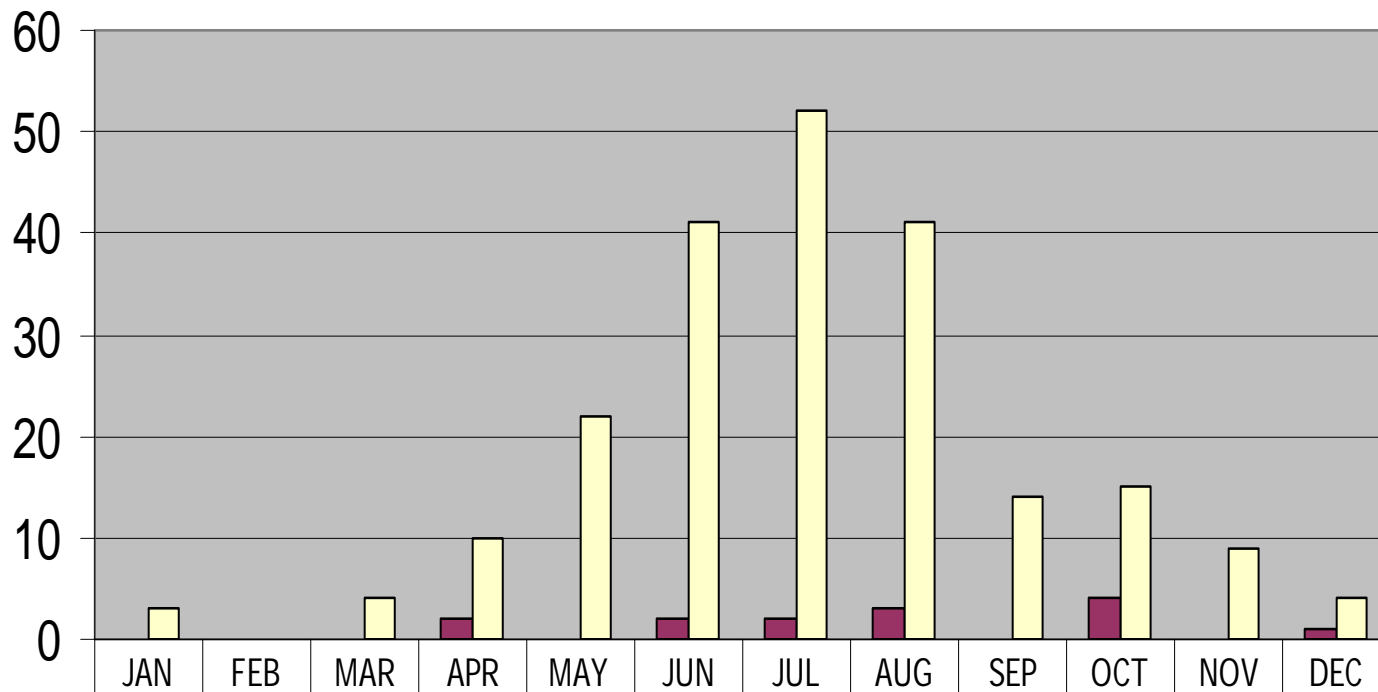
TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODY OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
ABBOTTS CREEK	0	2	2
ADAMS CREEK	0	0	0
ALBEMARLE SOUND	0	1	1
ATLANTIC OCEAN	1	3	4
BADIN LAKE	0	1	1
BANKS CHANNEL	1	5	6
BARE INLET	0	1	1
BAY RIVER	0	1	1
BEAUFORT INLET	0	3	3
BELEWS LAKE	0	1	1
BOGUE SOUND	0	2	2
BRICE'S CREEK	0	1	1
BUCKHORN RES	0	1	1
CAMDEN POINT CREEK	0	1	1
CAPE FEAR RIVER	0	6	6
CAPE LOOKOUT	0	1	1
CARDINAL LAKE	0	1	1
CAROLINA BEACH INLET	1	1	2
CASWELL BEACH	0	1	1
CATAWBA RIVER	0	1	1
CEDAR CLIFF LAKE	0	1	1
CHOCOWINITY CREEK	0	1	1
CURRITUCK SOUND	0	4	4
FALLS LAKE/RES	0	3	3
FONTANA LAKE	1	1	2
FRENCH BROAD RIVER	1	1	2
GALLANTS CHANNEL	0	2	2
HIGH ROCK LAKE	2	2	4
HYCO LAKE	0	1	1
ICW	1	25	26
JORDAN LAKE	0	6	6
KERR LAKE	0	4	4
KITTY HAWK BAY	0	1	1
LAKE CHATUGE	0	1	1
LAKE CORNELIUS	0	1	1
LAKE GASTON	1	9	10
LAKE GLENNVILLE	0	1	1
LAKE HICKORY	0	2	2
LAKE JAMES	0	2	2
LAKE LEE	0	1	1
LAKE LOOKOUT	0	1	1
LAKE LURE	0	2	2

TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS PER BODIES OF WATER

BODY OF WATER	FATAL	NON-FATAL	TOTAL
LAKE NORMAN	1	27	28
LAKE RHODISS	0	1	1
LAKE TILLERY	0	4	4
LAKE TOXAWAY	0	1	1
LAKE WACCAMAW	0	1	1
LAKE WYLIE	1	4	5
LOCKWOOD FOLLY INLET	0	1	1
LONG CREEK	0	1	1
LUMBER RIVER	0	1	1
MOREHEAD CITY WATERWAY	0	2	2
MOUNTAIN ISLAND LAKE	0	2	2
NEUSE RIVER	1	6	7
NEW RIVER	0	1	1
NORTH RIVER	0	1	1
OAK HOLLOW	0	1	1
OREGON INLET	0	2	2
ORIENTAL HARBOR	0	1	1
PAMLICO RIVER	0	4	4
PAMLICO SOUND	0	1	1
PRIVATE POND	2	0	2
RADIO ISLAND BAY	0	1	1
RICHES INLET	0	1	1
ROANOKE RIVER	0	4	4
ROANOKE SOUND	0	6	6
ROCKY MT RES	0	1	1
SHACKLEFORD BANKS	0	1	1
SHALLOTTE INLET	0	1	1
SHEARON HARRIS RES	0	1	1
SMITH CREEK	0	1	1
TAYLORS CREEK	0	4	4
TOWN CREEK	0	1	1
TRENT RIVER	0	3	3
UPPER BARTON CREEK	0	2	2
UWHARRIE RIVER	0	1	1
WADE SHORE	0	1	1
WHITE LAKE	0	4	4
TOTALS	14	201	215

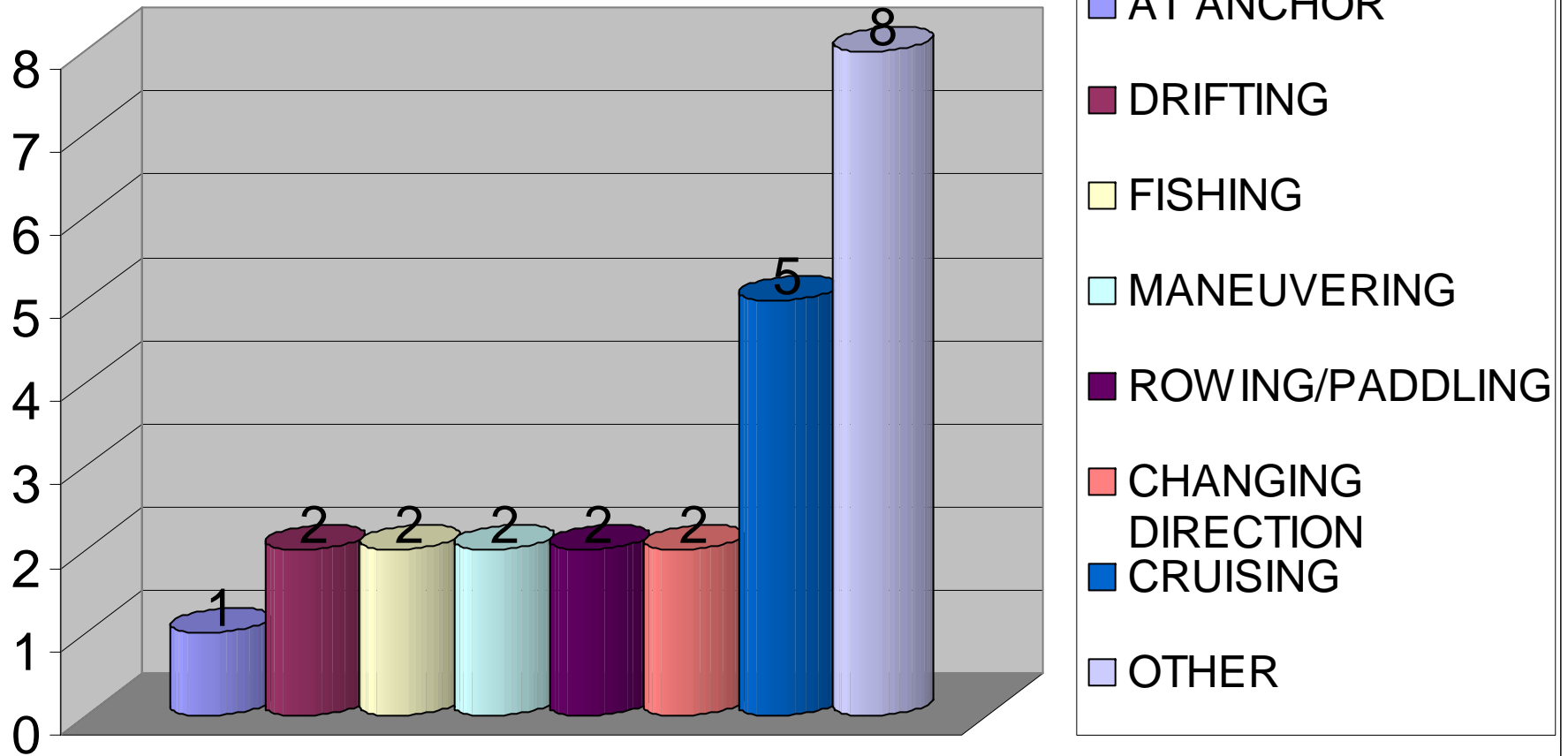
MONTHS IN WHICH ACCIDENTS OCCUR



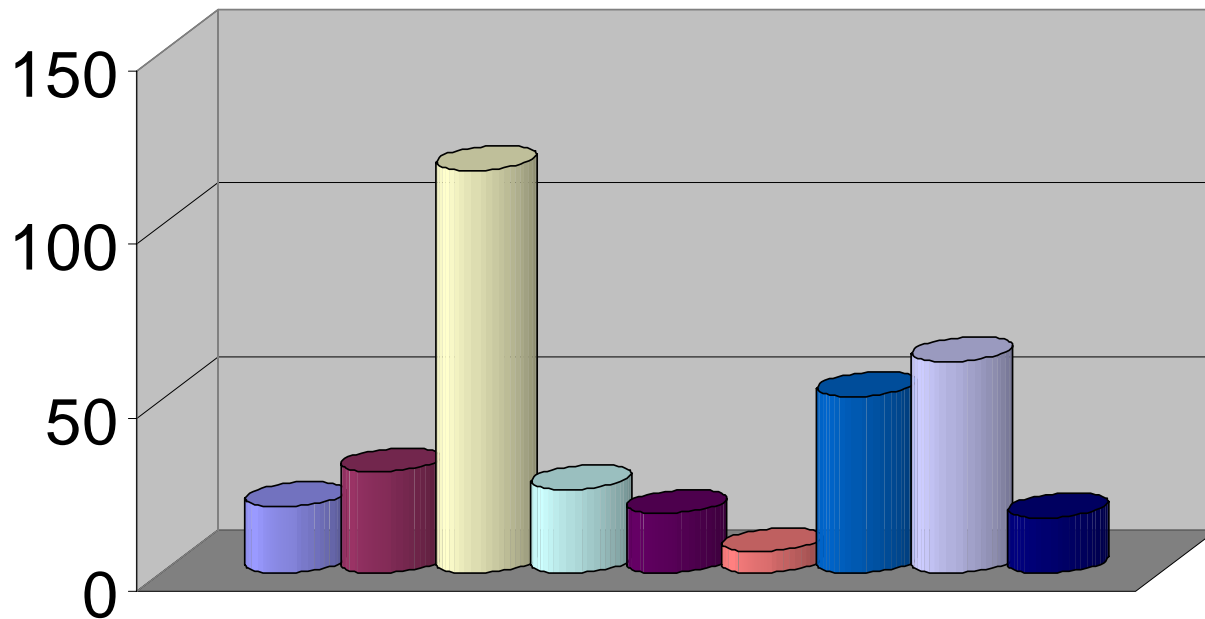
FATAL	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	3	0	4	0	1
NON-FATAL	3	0	4	10	22	41	52	41	14	15	9	4

FATAL
 NON-FATAL

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT FATAL



ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT NON-FATAL



AT ANCHOR

CHANGING DIRECTION

CRUISING

DRIFTING

FISHING

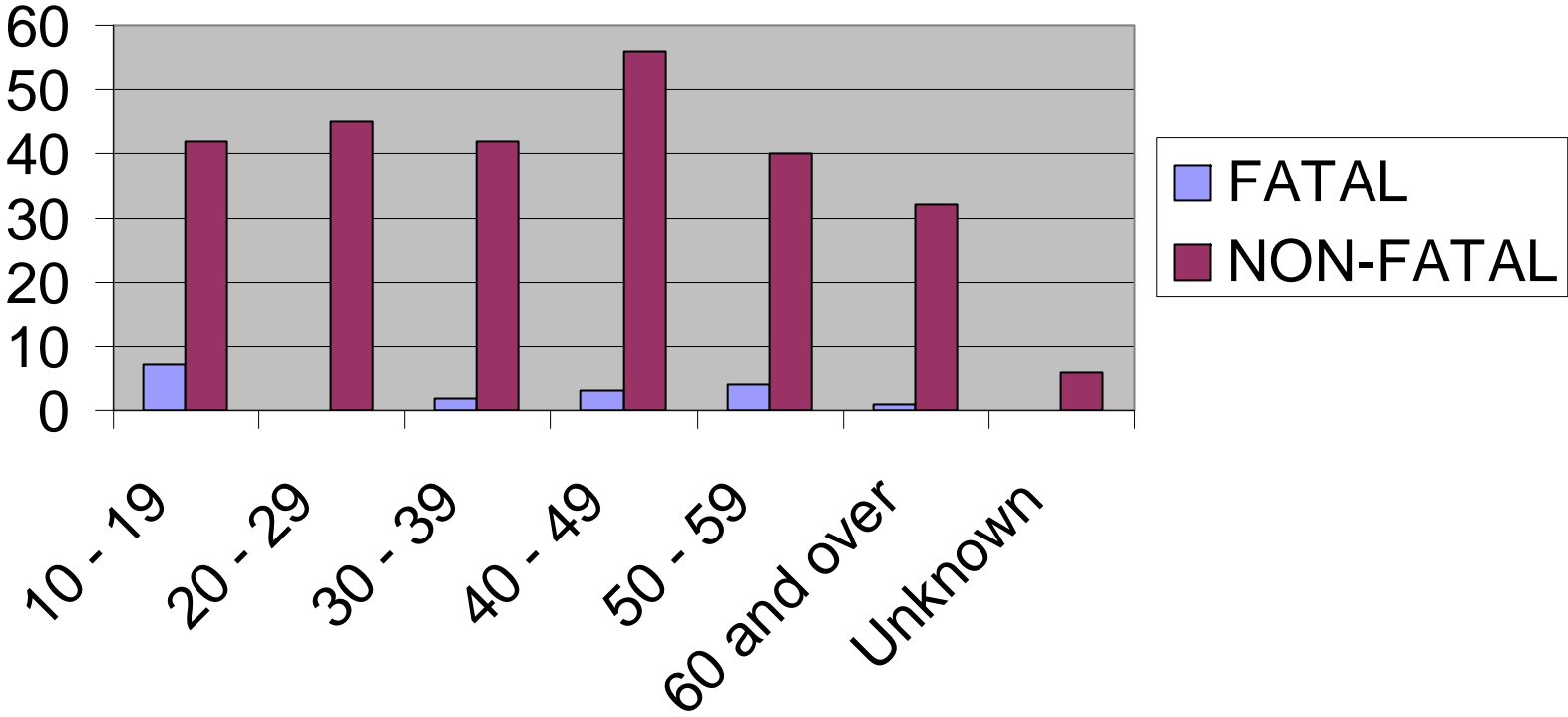
MAKING REPAIRS

MANEUVERING

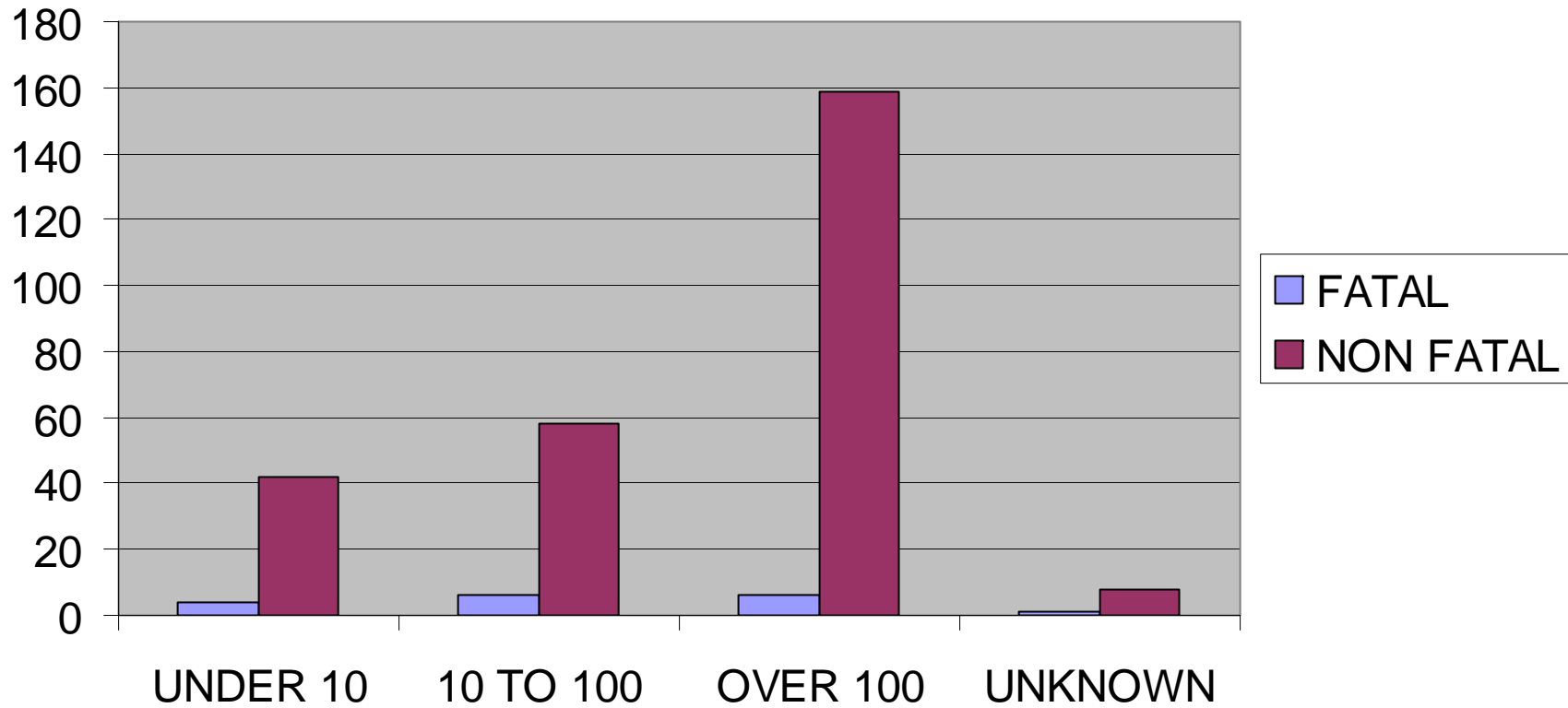
OTHER

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	5
1	Capsizing	5
2	Collision with vessel	2
3	Collision with fixed object	1
3	Other	1

RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator Inexperience	5
2	Fault of equipment/machinery	4
3	Hazardous waters	3
3	Alcohol use	3
3	Overloading	3
3	Operator inattention	3
4	Restricted vision	2
5	Other	1
5	Sharp turn	1
5	Excessive speed	1
5	No proper lookout	1

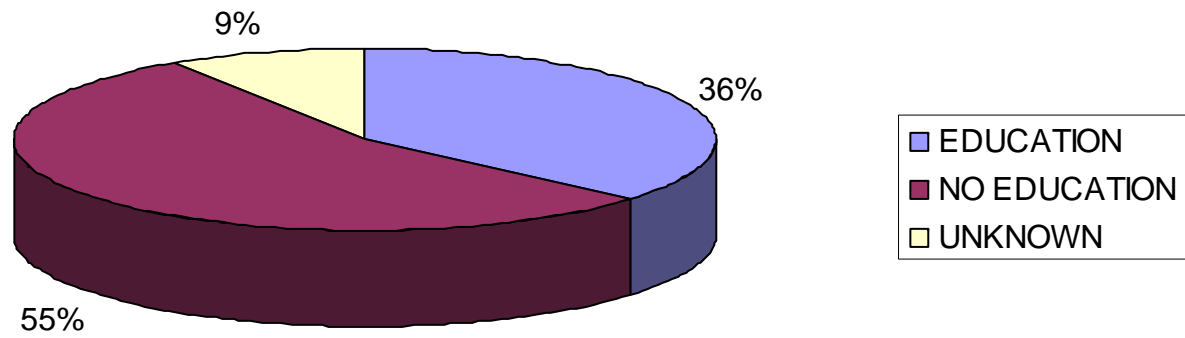
RANKING OF LEADING TYPES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	79
2	Collision with fixed object	33
3	Capsizing	14
4	Fell/jumped overboard	11
5	Other	9
6	Falls in boat	5

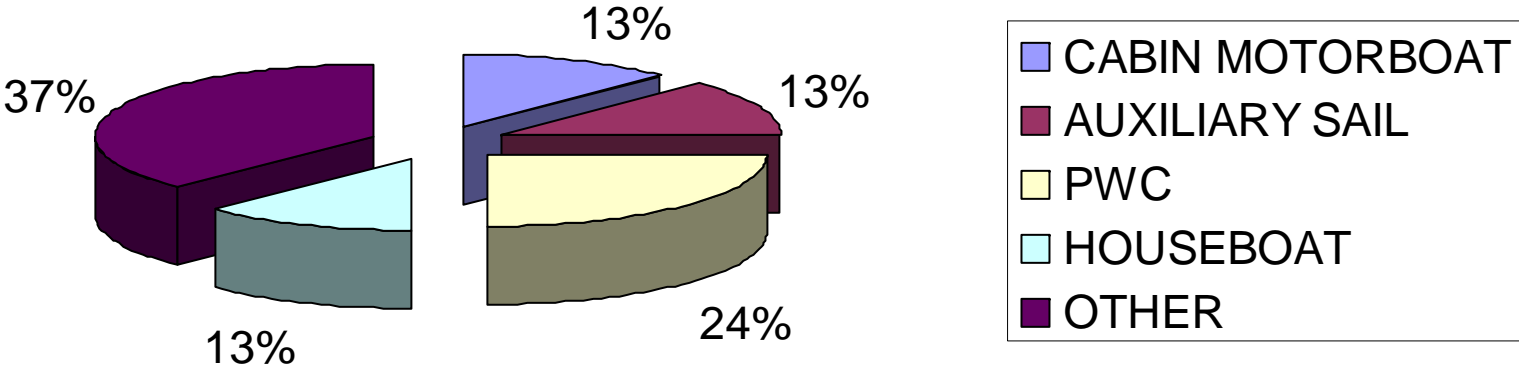
RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator inattention	91
2	Operator inexperience	67
3	Careless & reckless operation	50
4	Hazardous waters	43
5	Excessive speed	38
6	Other	36
7	No proper lookout	29
8	Wake	21
9	Fault of equipment/machinery	18
10	Alcohol use	14
11	Sharp turn	13
12	Restricted vision	11
13	Weather	9
14	Overloading	5

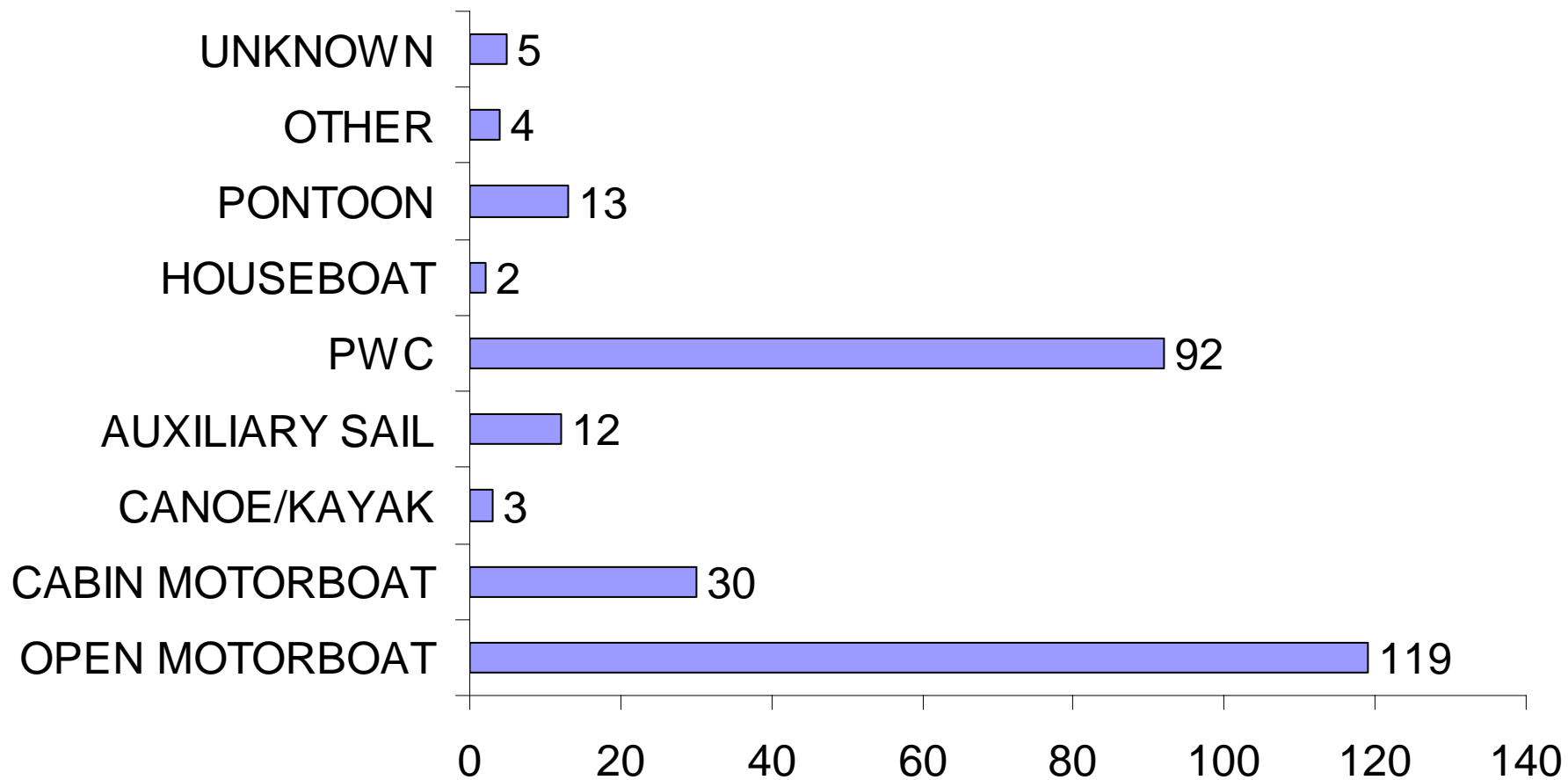
FORMAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IN FATAL AND NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS



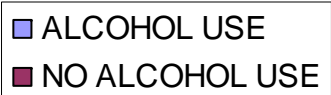
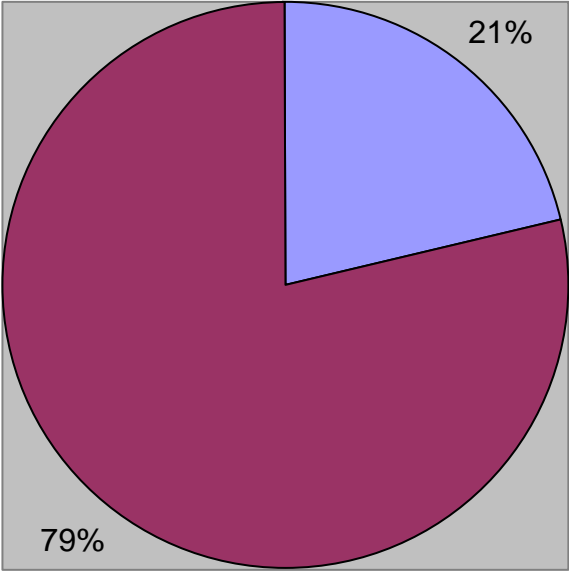
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



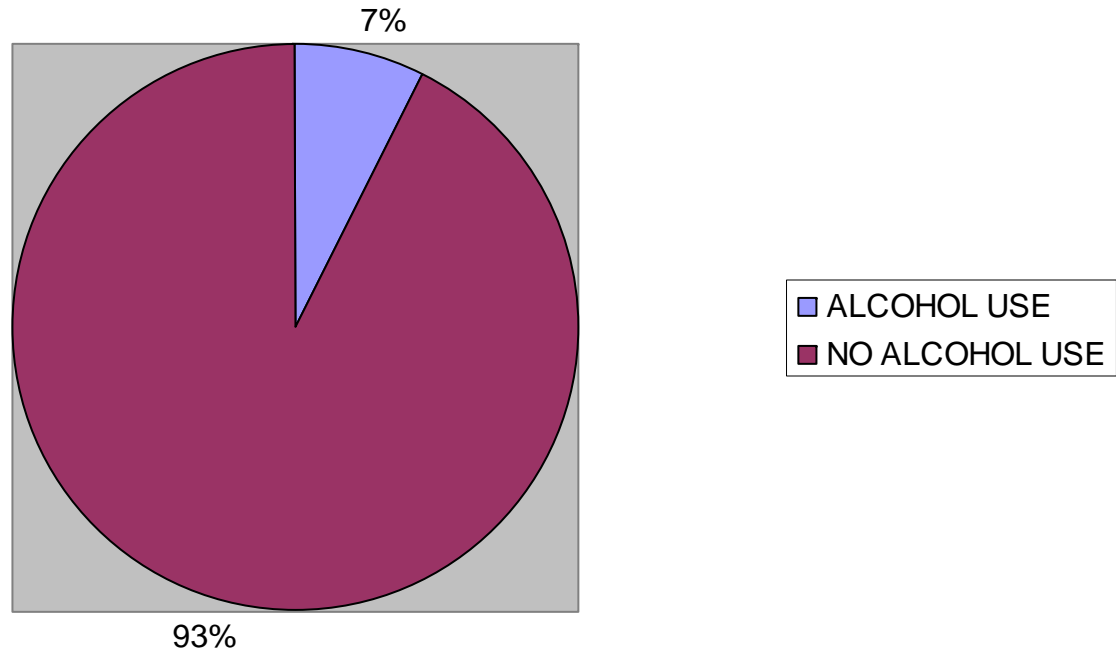
TYPES OF BOATS INVOLVED IN NON FATAL ACCIDENTS



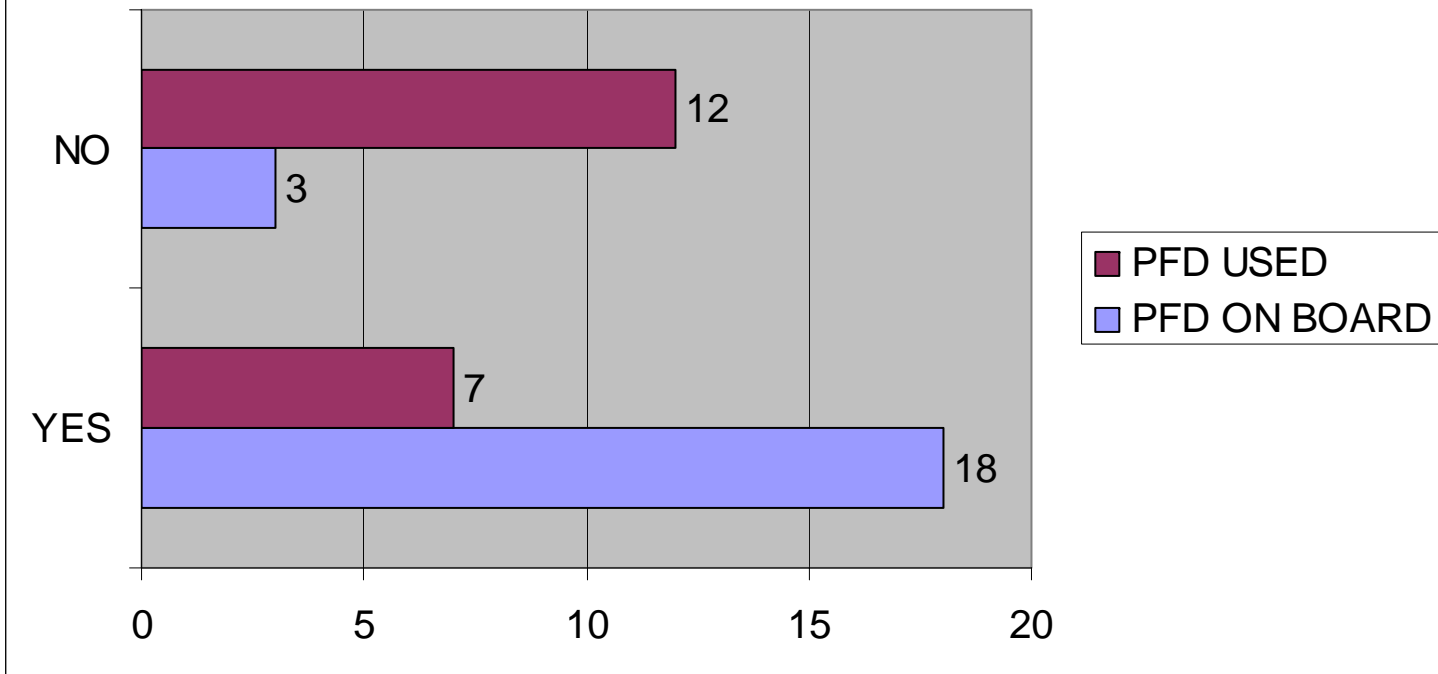
ALCOHOL USE IN FATAL ACCIDENTS



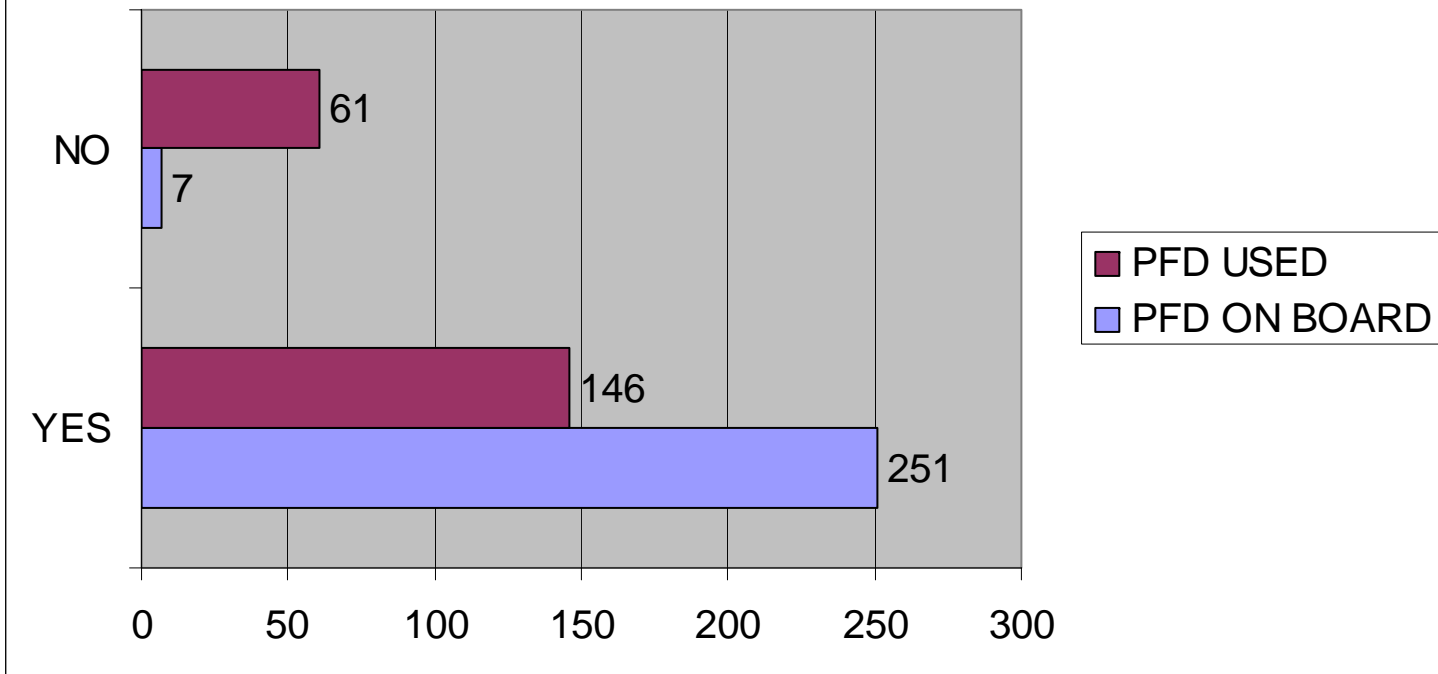
ALCOHOL USE IN NON FATAL ACCIDENTS



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 2002, the number of fatal recreational boating accidents in North Carolina was 11.

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

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

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

***Operator Inattention* was the number one *cause* of non-fatal recreational accidents from 1990 to 2003. In 2004, *Careless & Reckless Operation* was the number one *cause*. In 2005, *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 2005, the number two *cause* was *Operator Inexperience*.

2005 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENT FACTS

- ⇒ **70 Personal Watercraft Accidents**
- ⇒ **94 Personal Watercraft Operators Involved**
- ⇒ **7 of the Personal Watercraft Were Rental Units**
- ⇒ **48 Persons Injured in Personal Watercraft Accidents Required Medical Treatment**
- ⇒ **31,526 Personal Watercrafts registered in North Carolina**

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS REGISTERED
IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2005**

COUNTY	# REGISTERED
ALAMANCE	412
ALEXANDER	231
ALLEGHANY	9
ANSON	83
ASHE	18
AVERY	50
BEAUFORT	408
BERTIE	94
BLADEN	104
BRUNSWICK	325
BUNCOMBE	589
BURKE	213
CABARRUS	508
CALDWELL	310
CAMDEN	60
CARTERET	447
CASWELL	72
CATAWBA	1314
CHATHAM	126
CHEROKEE	143
CHOWAN	73
CLAY	140
CLEVELAND	279
COLUMBUS	206
CRAVEN	306
CUMBERLAND	459
CURRITUCK	295
DARE	325
DAVIDSON	1041
DAVIE	164
DUPLIN	119
DURHAM	436
EDGECOMBE	118
FORSYTH	853
FRANKLIN	188
GASTON	568
GATES	15
GRAHAM	53
GRANVILLE	224

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS REGISTERED
IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2005**

COUNTY	# REGISTERED
GREENE	60
GUILFORD	1166
HALIFAX	450
HARNETT	251
HAYWOOD	372
HENDERSON	247
HERTFORD	57
HOKE	44
HYDE	13
IREDELL	1890
JACKSON	113
JOHNSTON	492
JONES	17
LEE	148
LENOIR	209
LINCOLN	751
MACON	146
MADISON	57
MARTIN	69
MCDOWELL	162
MECKLENBURG	2799
MITCHELL	22
MONTGOMERY	212
MOORE	239
NASH	401
NEW HANOVER	632
NORTHAMPTON	196
ONSLOW	449
ORANGE	237
PAMLICO	90
PASQUOTANK	129
PENDER	165
PERQUIMANS	105
PERSON	225
PITT	521
POLK	32
RANDOLPH	688
RICHMOND	184
ROBESON	242
ROCKINGHAM	195

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS REGISTERED
IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 2005**

COUNTY	# REGISTERED
ROWAN	543
RUTHERFORD	132
SAMPSON	136
SCOTLAND	65
STANLY	372
STOKES	86
SURRY	154
SWAIN	44
TRANSYLVANIA	75
TYRRELL	17
UNION	472
VANCE	191
WAKE	2256
WARREN	118
WASHINGTON	64
WATAUGA	68
WAYNE	355
WILKES	149
WILSON	234
YADKIN	90
YANCEY	50
TOTAL	31526

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

<u>RANK</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Collision with vessel	30
2	Struck by boat	2

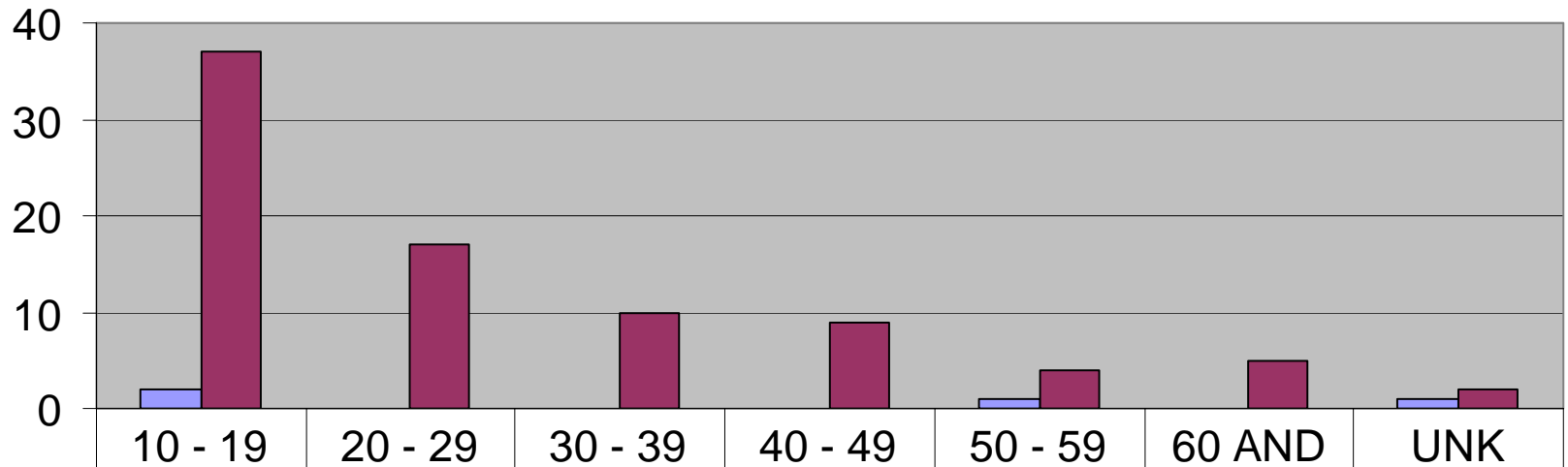
**RANKING OF LEADING CAUSES OF
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u># CASES AFFECTED</u>
1	Operator inattention	29
2	Careless & reckless operation	20
3	Operator inexperience	19
4	Excessive Speed	9
5	No proper lookout	6
6	Sharp turn	5
7	Other	3
8	Restricted vision	2
8	Alcohol use	2
8	Fault of machinery/equipment	2
9	Congested waters	1
9	Hazardous waters	1

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

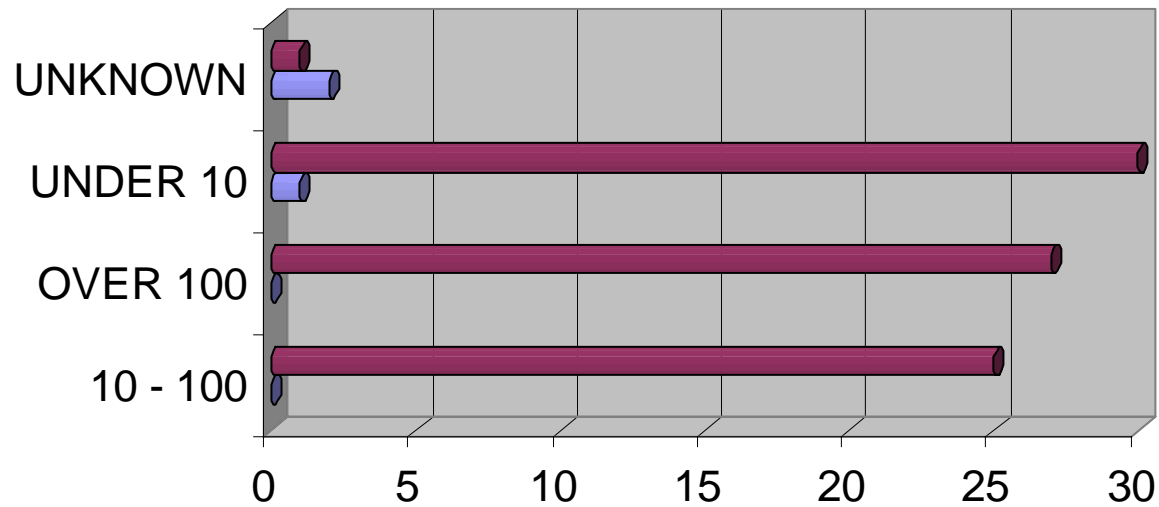
<u>BODY OF WATER</u>	<u># OF ACCIDENTS</u>
Abbott's Creek	1
Albemarle Sound	1
Atlantic Ocean	1
Banks Channel	2
Bogue Sound	2
Buckhorn Reservoir	1
Cape Fear River	2
Carolina Beach Inlet	1
Cedar Cliff Lake	1
Chocowinity Creek	1
Currituck Sound	4
Fontana Lake	1
High Rock Lake	1
Intercoastal Waterway (ICW)	7
Jordan Lake	1
Kerr Lake	4
Lake Chatuge	1
Lake Gaston	4
Lake Glenville	1
Lake Hickory	1
Lake Norman	8
Lake Tillery	2
Lake Waccamaw	1
Lake Wylie	2
Long Creek	1
New River	1
Pamlico River	1
Pamlico Sound	1
Radio Island Bay	1
Roanoke Sound	6
Shackleford Banks	1
Shalotte Inlet	1
Trent River	2
Wade Shore	1
White Lake	3
TOTAL	70

AGES OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS



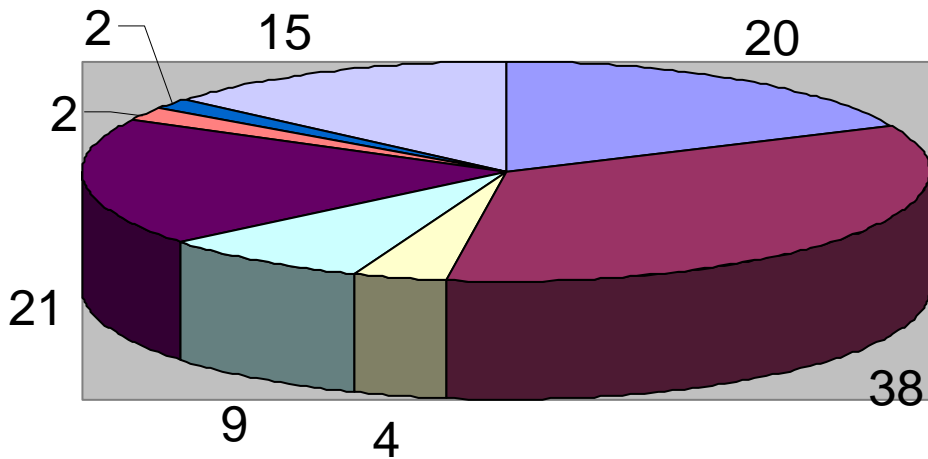
■ FATAL	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
■ NON-FATAL	37	17	10	9	4	5	2

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



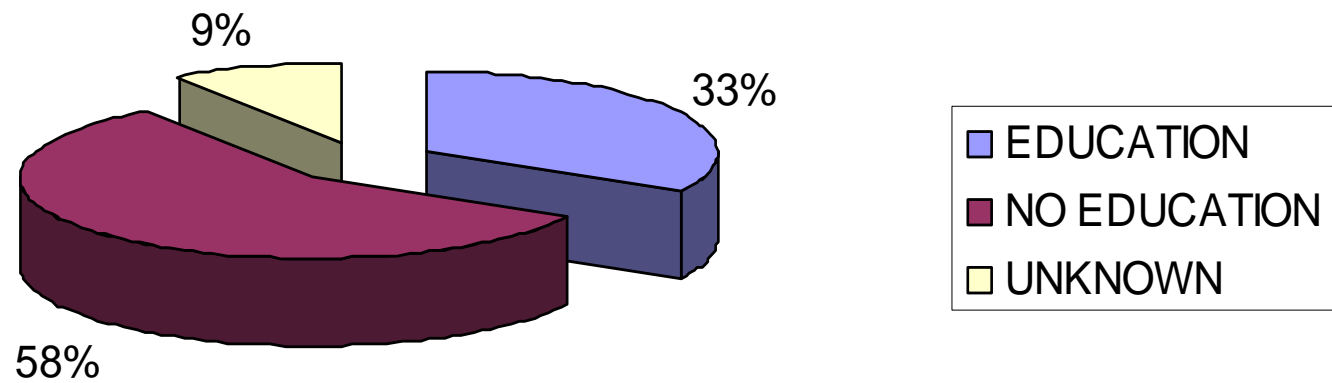
	10 - 100	OVER 100	UNDER 10	UNKNOWN
■ NON-FATAL	25	27	30	1
■ FATAL	0	0	1	2

ACTIVITY AT TIME OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENT



- CHANGING DIRECTION
- CRUISING
- DOCKING/UNDOCKING
- DRIFTING
- MANEUVERING
- MAKING REPAIRS
- WATER SKIING
- OTHER

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.

BoatEd online course at www.boat-ed.com/nc.

