Boating Injuries
SB17-15568: On Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at approximately 1:50 pm, a boating allision occurred in Panther Creek in Collier County. An 18-foot-Alumitech airboat was heading Northwest in Panther Creek at a high rate of speed when the vessel struck a tree on the port side of the vessel’s cage causing the operator to lose control of the vessel. The vessel came to rest 28 yards up the creek after the port bow ran up onto mangrove roots and capsized, ejecting all seven occupants into the creek. Four persons were injured as a result of the accident.
2017 Injury Data

Total Injuries Recorded 2013-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered Vessels</th>
<th>Injury Rate</th>
<th>Number of Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>944,162</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>931,450</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>915,713</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>899,635</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>896,632</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Injury Rate – Number of injuries per 100,000 recreational registered vessels

Types of Injury

- Shock: 1
- Dislocations: 2
- Teeth and jaw: 3
- Hypothermia: 4
- Amputation: 4
- Spinal injury: 5
- Neck injury: 6
- Internal injuries: 10
- Not specified: 17
- Back injury: 17
- Sprain/strain: 18
- Burns: 19
- Head injury: 39
- Broken bone(s): 81
- Contusions: 101
- Laceration: 110

*766 accidents involving 437 injuries
2017 Injury Data

On August 15 2017, a 21-foot-motorboat, operated by 30-year-old male, was headed into Tavernier Creek from the bayside. There were three additional occupants in the motorboat.

The motorboat entered Tavernier Creek on plane from the bayside and struck the mangroves ejecting all persons onboard. All four men onboard suffered minor injuries (contusions, lacerations, and abrasions). The combination of speed and engine angle compromised the vessel’s ability to steer properly. While attempting to make a sharp left turn to follow the creek, the vessel lost grip and ultimately impacted the mangroves.

Victim Statistics (Injured)

Swimmers 14 / 3%
Operators 189 / 43%
Occupants 234 / 54%

*766 accidents involving 437 injured

Victim Statistics (Swimming Ability)

Could not swim 113 / 26%
Could swim 324 / 74%

Victim Statistics (PFD Use)

Not wearing PFD 275 / 63%
Wearing PFD 162 / 37%