A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 63% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2017 calendar year occurred in 10 Florida counties.

The information on the following pages represents a breakdown of the accident data from each of these top 10 counties. The graphs show the type of vessels involved, the length, the primary cause of each accident and the primary type of accident for each county. There is also a map of each county with points designating the accident locations.

The information found in this section will provide a basis for future boating safety awareness efforts implemented by the FWC Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section.
Florida Top 10 Counties of Boating Accidents during 2017

Legend
- Fatal Accident (37)
- Accident with Injury (179)
- Accident without Injury (267)
Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County during 2017

**Legend**
- Red circle: Fatal Accident (6)
- Blue circle: Accident with Injury (39)
- Green circle: Accident without Injury (51)
## 1. Monroe County

### Type of Vessel

- **Open motorboat**: 56
- **Personal watercraft**: 30
- **Cabin motorboat**: 28
- **Pontoon boat**: 3
- **Sail (aux power)**: 9
- **Houseboat**: 2
- **Rowboat (Jon)**: 1
- **Other**: 3

### Vessel Length (in feet)

- **Less than 12**: 31
- **12 - 16**: 3
- **17 - 21**: 20
- **22 - 26**: 20
- **27 - 40**: 32
- **41 - 65**: 19
- **66+**: 3
- **Unknown**: 4

### Primary Cause of Accident

- **No proper lookout/watch**: 24
- **Improper lookout/watch**: 11
- **Excessive speed**: 10
- **Weather**: 8
- **Machine failure**/**fuel eruption**: 7
- **Falling off boat**: 6
- **Drinking**: 6
- **Drinking while operating**: 5
- **Motor failure**: 5
- **Lack of propeller guards**/**fire**: 4
- **Improper lighting**: 2
- **Operating a vessel**: 2
- **Fire/explosion**: 1
- **Other**: 1

### Primary Type of Accident

- **Collision with vessel**/**object**: 27
- **Fishing (wading, etc.)**: 17
- **Falling on PWC**: 10
- **Infant in water**: 7
- **Falling into water**: 6
- **Falls overboard**: 6
- **Fire/explosion (non-fuel)**: 5
- **Fighting wake/propeller**: 4
- **Other**: 2
- **Fishing**: 2
- **Fall in boat**: 1
- **Fire/explosion (fuel)**: 1
- **Stuck underwater object**: 1
- **Object by the prop**: 1

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Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County during 2017

Legend
- Fatal Accident (5)
- Accident with Injury (29)
- Accident without Injury (42)
2. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**TYPE OF VESSEL**

- Airboat: 4
- Other: 5
- Sail (aux power): 9
- Personal watercraft: 30
- Cabin motorboat: 34
- Open motorboat: 34

**VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)**

- Unknown: 3
- 66+: 4
- 41 - 65: 19
- 27 - 40: 31
- 22 - 26: 8
- 17 - 21: 13
- 12 - 16: 6
- Less than 12: 32

**PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT**

- No proper lookout/distracted attention: 16
- Operator inexperience: 13
- Carelessness/recklessness: 9
- Other: 6
- Machinery failure: 5
- Weather: 4
- Hull failure: 4
- Accidental spilling of fuel or vapor: 4
- Failure to yield: 2
- Excessive speed: 2
- Improper anchoring: 1
- Hazardous water: 1
- Collisions with vessel: 1
- Collision with fixed object: 1
- Falling off boat: 1
- Falls overboard: 1
- Passenger ejection: 1
- Fall of PWC: 1
- Collisions: 1
- Other: 1

**PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT**

- Collision with vessel: 28
- Collision with fixed object: 12
- Falling off boat: 9
- Falls overboard: 5
- Passenger ejection: 4
- Fall of PWC: 4
- Vessel damage: 4
- STRUCK BY drag anchor: 2
- Screwing: 2
- Other: 2
- Grounding: 1
- Sinking: 1
- Stocked by gillnet: 1

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Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County during 2017

**Legend**

- **Fatal Accident** (3)
- **Accident with Injury** (12)
- **Accident without Injury** (48)

Map document created by FWC DLE GIS
3. BROWARD COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Pontoon boat: 2
- Other: 3
- Sail (aux power): 3
- Airboat: 7
- Personal watercraft: 9
- Cabin motorboat: 48
- Open motorboat: 28

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Unknown: 2
- 66+: 9
- 41 - 65: 29
- 27 - 40: 24
- 22 - 26: 14
- 17 - 21: 6
- 12 - 16: 8
- Less than 12: 8

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- No proper lookout/observation: 14
- Machanical failure: 12
- Navigational failure: 9
- Operator/ingr: 8
- Vicinity of navigation marker: 4
- Other: 3
- Ignition of fuel vapor: 2
- Alcohol use: 2
- Vision obstructed: 2
- Off course steering: 2
- Failure to wear harness: 1
- Engine failure: 1
- Equipment failure: 1
- Congested water: 1
- Careless/unknow: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 25
- Collision with fixed object: 10
- Pounding (overturn): 6
- Vessel enter wake (encroach): 4
- Fire/explosion (prevalent): 4
- Flip overboard: 4
- Fall from boat: 2
- Fail to wear PWC: 2
- Grounding: 1
- Stuck by bridge: 1
- Capsize: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County during 2017

Legend
- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (20)
- Accident without Injury (23)
4. Pinellas County

**Type of Vessel**

- Pontoon boat: 1
- Sail (only): 1
- Airboat: 1
- Houseboat: 1
- Other: 3
- Sail (aux power): 5
- Cabin motorboat: 6
- Personal watercraft: 23
- Open motorboat: 24

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Unknown: 2
- 66+: 1
- 41 - 65: 6
- 27 - 40: 6
- 22 - 26: 7
- 17 - 21: 13
- 12 - 16: 7
- Less than 12: 23

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 13
- Operation: 5
- Sharp turn: 4
- Sudden change in weather: 4
- Machinery failure: 3
- Stray of occupant behavior: 2
- Off course steering: 2
- Alcoholic off: 2
- Vision obstructed: 2
- Ignition of fuel/ vapor: 1
- Hull failure: 1
- Excessive speed: 1
- Other: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 13
- Filling (over): 5
- Fall of PWC: 4
- Falls on vessel: 4
- Grounding: 3
- Struck underwater object: 3
- Other: 2
- Short circuit: 1
- Stab by vessel (person): 1
- Fire explosion (fuel): 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County during 2017

Legend
- Red: Fatal Accident (9)
- Blue: Accident with Injury (14)
- Green: Accident without Injury (20)
5. Lee County

Type of Vessel

- Houseboat: 1
- Canoe/kayak: 1
- Other: 2
- Pontoon boat: 4
- Sail (aux power): 5
- Personal watercraft: 8
- Cabin motorboat: 14
- Open motorboat: 25

Vessel Length (in feet)

- Unknown: 1
- 66+: 3
- 41 - 65: 8
- 27 - 40: 18
- 22 - 26: 9
- 17 - 21: 7
- 12 - 16: 3
- Less than 12: 11

Primary Cause of Accident

- No proper look-out/attention: 12
- Alcohol use: 6
- Operator inexperience: 6
- Machinery failure: 4
- Weather: 3
- Other: 3
- Violation of navigation rule: 2
- Careless/reckless: 2
- Skid or unstable: 1
- Stern/tail: 1
- Hull failure: 1
- Equipment failure: 1
- Congested waters: 1

Primary Type of Accident

- Collision with vessel: 11
- Collision with fixed object: 9
- Overturned/marking: 9
- Vessel wake damage: 3
- Fall in boat: 2
- Grounding: 2
- Other: 2
- Fall on PWC: 1
- Capsizing: 1
- Fire/explosion (nonfuel): 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County during 2017

Legend

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (11)
- Accident without Injury (27)
6. Palm Beach County

Type of Vessel

Vessel Length (in feet)

Primary Cause of Accident

Primary Type of Accident
Known Locations of Accidents in Okaloosa County during 2017

Legend
- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (21)
- Accident without Injury (11)
7. Okaloosa County

**Type Of Vessel**

- Personal watercraft: 20
- Open motorboat: 14
- Cabin motorboat: 4
- Pontoon boat: 3
- Other: 3

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12: 20
- 12-16: 7
- 17-21: 7
- 22-26: 10
- 27-40: 7
- 41-65: 4
- 66+: 1
- Unknown: 1

**Primary Cause Of Accident**

- Other: 1
- Collision with fixed object: 6
- Collision with floating object: 5
- Falling overboard: 4
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 4
- Fire/explosion (person): 4
- Struck by boat (person): 1
- Struck by object (person): 1
- Fall in boat: 1
- Capsizing: 1
- Struck by vessel: 1

**Primary Type Of Accident**

- Other: 1
- Collision with fixed object: 6
- Collision with floating object: 4
- Falling overboard: 4
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 4
- Fire/explosion (person): 4
- Struck by boat (person): 1
- Struck by object (person): 1
- Fall in boat: 1
- Capsizing: 1
- Struck by vessel: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Collier County during 2017

**Legend**

- **•** Fatal Accident (1)
- **○** Accident with Injury (13)
- **⊙** Accident without Injury (17)

Map document created by FWC DLE GIS
8. Collier County

**Type of Vessel**

- Open motorboat: 24
- Personal watercraft: 10
- Cabin motorboat: 4
- Airboat: 1
- Pontoon boat: 1
- Sail (aux power): 1
- Other: 1

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12: 9
- 12 - 16: 8
- 17 - 21: 12
- 22 - 26: 5
- 27 - 40: 5
- 41 - 65: 2
- 66+: 1
- Unknown: 1

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Drunk: 4
- Head-on collision: 3
- Loss of control: 3
- Wide angle collision: 2
- Damage to another vessel: 2
- Falling overboard: 2
- Ignition of fuel vapors: 2
- Unknown: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collisions (same party): 8
- Collisions (outside party): 7
- Vessel make damage: 4
- Failure to use life jacket: 3
- Contact with fixed object: 2
- Grounding: 2
- Capsizing: 2
- Struck by drag net: 1
- Fall in boat: 1