

# 2019

## Boating Accident Statistical Report



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Division of Law Enforcement

[www.MyFWC.com](http://www.MyFWC.com)



## 2019 Boating Officer of the Year



Officer Britton Corbin

Officer Britton Corbin graduated from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Academy Class 23 in June 2014. He was assigned to his childhood hometown of Okaloosa County, where he continues to serve as a patrol officer.

Officer Corbin dedicates his energy to ensuring the safety of the public and the conservation of Florida's natural resources. He views every day on patrol as an outreach opportunity, making sure he communicates with the public while displaying professionalism, honesty, and integrity. He engages young people with a smile and understands the importance of leaving them with a positive experience from their encounter with an FWC officer. Britton participates in volunteer and educational opportunities in the community. Recently he attended an event for the Destin Beach Safety Junior Lifeguards at Henderson Beach State Park. He discussed the importance of conservation, boating safety, PFD wear, and the responsibilities of being an FWC officer.

Officer Corbin exemplifies the meaning of leadership by example. His work ethic reveals his overall attitude, which is positive and contagious. He helps without being asked, accomplishes the goals he sets for himself and helps others achieve success and greatness. Britton distinguishes himself from others by seeking and accepting challenges through new learning experiences, career development courses and on-duty experience. This benefits the state, the agency, Floridians and visitors by providing a safer place for the boating public, fishermen and hunters.

Officer Corbin played a pivotal role with the success of Operation Hornet's Nest, a concentrated BUI enforcement detail at Crab Island. This very popular shallow body of water in Destin attracts thousands of boats throughout the busy summer months. He has made 18 BUI arrests in the short span of the four-month summer boating season in the region. Officer Corbin implemented a detail, joining efforts with Fort Walton Beach Police regarding public safety concerns with anchored vessels at or near the Fort Walton Beach Landing. Operation Clean Landing focused on MSD compliance on area waterways.

## 2019 Boating Educator of the Year



Dan McIntyre

Dan McIntyre has been a Coast Guard Auxiliarist since 2008. He is a veteran who served in the Coast Guard Reserve for 42 years, retiring in 2000 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, CW04. Dan was recalled to active duty in 2002 and served for another 2 1/2 years as a Performance Excellence Consultant at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has had an exemplary record of service with the Auxiliary and has earned numerous awards and promotions as he has moved up the ranks. He was finally allowed to really retire in 2005.

In 2015 Dan found his calling when he became fully engaged in the area of Recreational Boating Safety Public Education. Motivated by the increasing number of drowning fatalities among children in Florida each year, he decided to seek a solution. He researched child water-related accidents and statistics and consulted with other Coast Guard Auxiliary and organizations. He finally adapted a syllabus that had been shared by Auxiliary Flotilla 14-1. Dan then envisioned teaching children how to be safe in the water, around boats and how to respond to water emergencies. His goal was to grow more responsible boating adults by developing a simple, yet impactful course that would instill basic water safety concepts in 9-year old students. That spring, Dan partnered with the Brevard County School Board to deliver a unique course to third grade elementary school students entitled "Boats N ' Kids".

Since that humble beginning, the Brevard Schools have asked Dan to return every year with class sizes averaging 15 to 30 students. From 2015 to 2018, he served over 2,300 volunteer hours as a Recreational Boating Safety instructor or facilitator. Dan's work has resulted in the delivery of 120 "Boats N ' Kids" classes at 31 Brevard County schools that have produced 1,959 third-grade graduates. Dan achieved this level of success while also delivering a full schedule of adult and youth "About Boating Safely" classes. During that same period, he taught or facilitated 52 adult classes at 14 schools resulting in the graduation of 619 adult, and 1,533 youth graduates under the age of 17.

As a result of Dan's dedication and hard work, the "Boats' N Kids" class safety initiative has become a 7th Coast Guard Auxiliary District priority after the 2019 National Executive Board Meeting. Dan is planning for implementation of a new program with instructor activities designed for 6 to 11-year old in groups. The program will focus on life jackets, dockside safety, boating safety, environmental stewardship, and basic emergencies, designed to be taught with a team of two or more instructors. In his current position as Assistant District Staff Officer for Public Education, Dan has embarked on an ambitious plan to export this class beyond Brevard to encompass schools throughout the Auxiliary 7th District Area of Responsibility which includes Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## INTRODUCTION

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), powered by science-based leadership, is committed to creating a sustainable and healthy future for Florida's fish, wildlife, water and habitat resources. The FWC serves Floridians and visitors alike in a variety of ways, most of which revolve around our mission of managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people. The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) is perhaps the most visible tool within the FWC's "tool belt" used to meet its goal of providing healthy resources for safe, satisfied customers.

## THE DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

### **Roles and Mission**

The FWC is the only state agency in Florida tasked with the management of the state's fish and wildlife resources. As a primary responsibility, the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement focuses on enforcing regulations aimed at protecting and sustaining these resources both for their long-term well-being and the benefit of Florida's residents and visitors, all the while blending in its unique and specialized public safety role. The Division's mission is clear... "Protecting Florida's natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services."

### **Responsibilities**

The FWC Division of Law Enforcement provides protection to those who enjoy Florida's natural resources, while also enforcing resource protection and boating safety laws. Officers patrol rural, wilderness, inshore and offshore areas, and where other law enforcement agencies do not routinely patrol. FWC officers have the authority to enforce all the laws of the state and are cross-deputized to enforce federal fisheries and wildlife laws.

In the course of carrying out their broad responsibilities, FWC officers seek every opportunity to educate and introduce Floridians and visitors to the wonders of Florida's fish, wildlife, and natural resources, as well as safe boat operation and safety equipment requirements.

The Division also provides general law enforcement services as part of Florida's statewide emergency response network. Because of their unique jurisdiction and specialized training and equipment, FWC is also charged with protecting the state's waterways and critical infrastructure during times of heightened security threat levels. As seasoned first responders, FWC officers are trained to move fast and efficiently.

Moving forward into the future, FWC will continue to pursue and apply advances in technology to improve response to both conservation and general law enforcement incidents. When duty calls, FWC will always be among the first to respond, providing aid as needed. Until then, FWC will continue to lead the way in natural resource protection, proactive boating safety law enforcement and education.

### **Uniquely prepared**

On the water, in the woods and in the air, FWC law enforcement officers are uniquely situated and equipped to identify and respond to illegal activity and promote public safety, particularly in the maritime and wilderness areas.

### **Core Missions**

The FWC protects Florida's people and natural resources. The Division of Law Enforcement is an integral part of the agency and is vital in fulfilling the agency's responsibilities. These core missions reflect the unique capabilities, training and equipment our personnel use to achieve those responsibilities.

#### **Resource Protection and**

**Access:** State and federal fisheries and wildlife law enforcement. Threatened and endangered species protection. Captive and nonnative wildlife management. Habitat protection. Investigations. Education and outreach programs developing the next generation that cares.

#### **Environmental Protection:**

State and federal environmental law enforcement. Cultural and natural resources protection and preservation. State lands and water quality protection. Investigations. Education and outreach programs developing the next generation that cares.

#### **Boating and Waterways:**

Boating rules and regulation enforcement. Boating safety campaigns and education. Access to public waters. Waterway management and accurate signage. Boating accident investigations. Derelict vessel prevention and investigation. Vessel theft and title fraud investigation.

**Public Safety:** Provide a safe experience for residents and visitors engaged in outdoor activities. Interagency support and coordination. Specialized response units. Disaster response. Search and rescue. Intelligence and security. General and specialized law enforcement services. Critical incident investigations.

## Intervention equals prevention on the water

FWC officers help to ensure Floridians and visitors are safe when they are on the water. The FWC accomplishes this through proactive law enforcement by initiating boating safety, fisheries, and hunting inspections and identifying and minimizing potential navigation or environmental hazards in the waterways.

FWC's Boating and Waterways Section supports officer efforts by coordinating statewide boating safety efforts. Some examples of support include education campaigns, ensuring waterway markers are accurate and maintained, permitting and marking speed-regulated areas, coordinating initiatives aimed at removing derelict vessels and improving public boating access.

With close to a million registered vessels, Florida leads the nation in that category. As a negative consequence of high vessel numbers and our mild climate, Florida also leads the nation in the number of boating fatalities annually. The vast size of our inland, coastal and offshore patrol areas combined with a significant population of avid and diverse boaters, presents a unique and daunting challenge for FWC and our local and federal maritime enforcement partners.

## Boating education is critical

The 2019 Boating Accidents Statistical Report indicates there were 723 reportable boating accidents and 66 boating related fatalities in the calendar year. This total includes seven missing persons who at the end of 2019 have not been located or accounted for and their circumstances suggest that death or serious injury has occurred. Many of the deaths were due to victims falling overboard and drowning. A large number of the deaths could have been prevented if the victims had worn life jackets. FWC continues efforts to reduce the number of boating-related fatalities through education about the importance of wearing life jackets while boating.

Florida's current boating safety education law only applies to boaters born on or after January 1, 1988 operating a motorized vessel of 10 horsepower or greater. The face-to-face contacts by FWC officers and our partner agencies are a critical part of our outreach efforts and education to the boating public. These statistics show us that the boat operator most likely to be involved in a boating accident is a middle-age or older male who has boating experience yet has never learned the most important safety considerations by having taken a boating safety course. When officers observe boating violations or perform resource enforcement activities, they conduct boating safety inspections aimed at both identifying and preventing violations or accidents. FWC officers make boating safer and ultimately save lives.

## Safe boating is a choice

Florida is a leader in promoting boating accident prevention. The FWC, in association with the National Safe Boating Council, Bombardier Recreational Products Inc., West Marine, and the USCG has launched a statewide boating safety campaign as part of a national initiative. The "Wear It Florida" campaign encourages boaters to wear life jackets anytime they are on the water and educates boaters about the ease and convenience of inflatable life jackets. The campaign is designed to reach the public through a variety of methods including media events, exhibits, personal contacts, social media, radio and televised public service announcements.

### --- Division of Law Enforcement Values ---

#### **Integrity**

We value candor, honesty and the highest standards of ethical behavior and are committed to upholding our positions of public trust.

#### **Professionalism**

We value the skillful performance which demonstrates a clear sense of commitment and direction in an environment that encourages teamwork and innovation.

#### **Dedication**

We value the motivation and dedication with which our members serve the visitors and residents of Florida.

#### **Adaptability**

We value our unique capability to adapt and respond appropriately to diverse circumstances in all environments.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The 2019 Boating Accident Statistical Report is compiled by the Boating and Waterways Section of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. Most of the data contained in this report is gathered from boating accident investigative reports submitted by FWC officers and our marine law enforcement partners.

At the end of each calendar year, boating accident data is compiled and assembled into Florida's annual report. The FWC's Boating and Waterways Section analyzes this information and uses it to formulate proactive plans aimed at reducing the number of boating accidents and their related injuries, fatalities and property damage. This information is also reported to the USCG's Boating Safety Division in Washington, D.C., to be included in the national database consisting of data from all U.S. states and territories.

The statistics reflect data from "reportable boating accidents" that occurred in Florida. Boating accidents must meet at least one of the five criteria below to be classified as reportable:

- A person dies.
- A person disappears under circumstances that indicate possible death or injury.
- A person receives an injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid.
- There is at least \$2,000 aggregate property damage to the vessel(s) or other property.
- There is a total loss of a vessel.

The number of vessels registered in Florida increased slightly in 2019. With 961,266 registered vessels, Florida leads the nation in registered vessels. Additionally, it is estimated that up to one million non-registered vessels actively use Florida's waters, and this segment of the boating population appears to still be growing. Our waterways show the strains of congestion as each year brings more residents and visitors together to utilize our abundant water resources and enjoy Florida's boating lifestyle.



Officers Philippi and Angelis working the Gasparilla event in Tampa, January 2019. This event draws thousands of boaters annually. The FWC Gulf Sentry is pictured in the background.

## 2019 SUMMARY

### BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

- Florida leads the nation with a total number of **961,266** registered vessels in 2019.
- There were **723** reportable boating accidents in 2019.

### REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENT

- Collision with vessel was the leading type of accident with a total of **205 (28%)**.
- Towed watersport activities were involved in **9 accidents**, resulting in **1 fatality** and **12 injuries**.
- Paddlecraft (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) were involved in **21 accidents** resulting in **14 fatalities** and **13 injuries**.
- **May** was the month with the highest number of accidents (**97**).
- **Monroe County** reported the highest number of accidents and injuries (88 total accidents with seven fatalities and 57 injuries).

### REPORTABLE BOATING FATALITIES

- **58 fatal accidents** resulting in **65 fatalities**.
- **40%** of the fatal accidents resulted from **falls overboard** (23 accidents). Boaters falling overboard remains the leading type of boating fatality.
- **The leading cause of death** in fatal boating accidents was **drowning** with **43 fatalities (66%)**.
- **October** was the deadliest month in 2019 with **11 fatalities**.
- Alcohol or drug-use is reported to have played a role in **32%** boating fatalities.
- **91% (59)** of the victims of fatal boating accidents were **males**.
- **68% (44)** of the 65 operators involved in fatal accidents were **age 36 or older**.
- **67% (42)** of all vessels involved in fatal accidents in 2019 were **21 feet in length or less**.

### REPORTABLE BOATING INJURIES

- There were **324 accidents** that resulted in **453 injured persons**. The rate of injury was **47 injuries** per 100,000 registered vessels.

### REPORTABLE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

- Personal watercraft (PWC) accounted for 14% of all registered vessels in Florida.
- PWC were involved in 26% (186) of reportable boating accidents.
- **Rented PWC** represented **43% (105)** of PWC involved in accidents.
- **47% (86)** of PWC accidents involved a **collision with another vessel**.
- **36%** of PWC accidents occurred in Miami-Dade (26), Monroe (21), and Pinellas (20) counties.
- **6 fatalities** resulted from the 186 PWC accidents.
- **169** people were injured in PWC accidents.

### BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS

- FWC issued **54,472** Boating Safety Education ID Cards in 2019.
- **66%** of the cards were issued to persons born on or after January 1, 1988.
- Of the 54,472 cards issued, 39,980 were to males, 14,479 were to females. 13 did not provide their gender. An additional 266 cards were printed for lost, damaged and information changes.
- **80%** of the **operators** involved in fatal accidents had **no formal boater education**.

Boating accident statistics for 2019 were compiled on April 1, 2020. Reports received after that date were not included in the following data. In 2019, there were four missing persons reported. There has not been any updated information as to their status as of the date of this report compilation. The four missing persons have been included in the fatality data.

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# Boating Accident Review



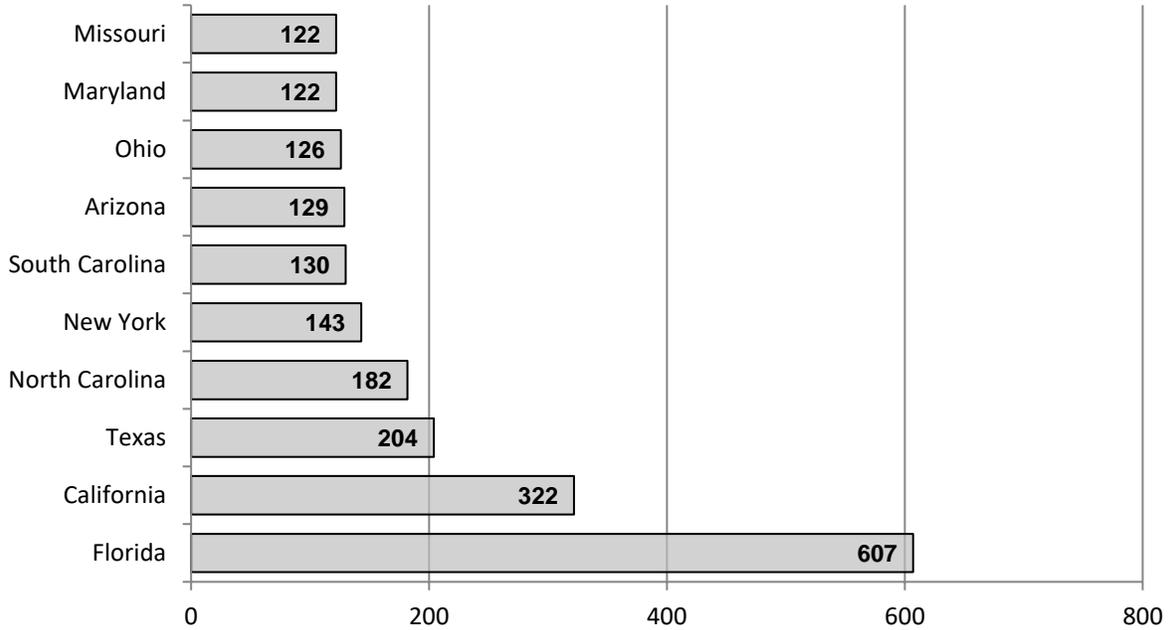
## Boating Accident Review photo detail

Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, V1 was traveling North, the occupant was sitting in front of the console and observed V2 at anchor and that they were beginning to get close to it. According to the occupant he began to shout “there’s a boat” multiple times to alert the operator. When occupant noticed they still had not changed their course, he turned to face operator who was paying attention to his son sitting next to him on his left. The occupant then voluntarily jumped off V1 to avoid the impact. V1 struck V2 on its port side near the bow which caused the cap of V2 to separate and spin 180 degrees. V2 occupant was standing on the two captain’s chairs behind the helm and was assisting V2 operator re-wire the stern light above the vessels T-top. After the impact she fell off the chairs onto the vessel’s port side and hit her forehead on an unknown object. V2 operator was standing directly behind the helm and was thrown toward the starboard side of his vessel impacting with the console and falling overboard.

## 2019 BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

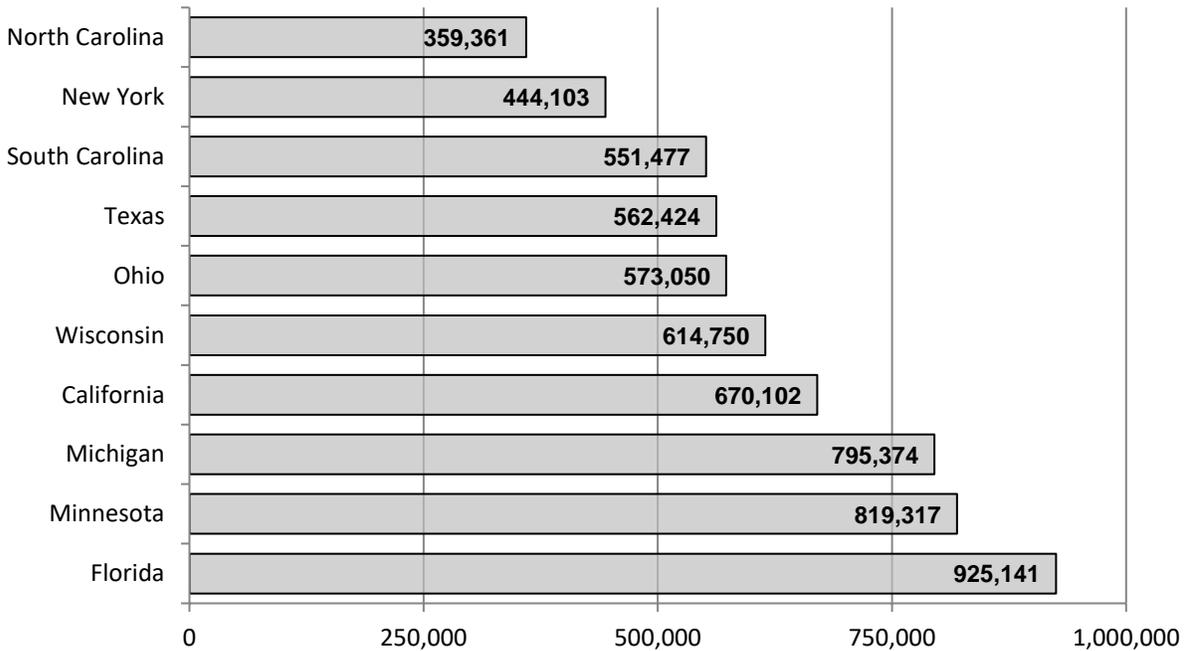
### NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS - TOP TEN STATES 2018 (RECREATIONAL)



\*Based on \$2,000 damage threshold

Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division, 2019 data not available at time of publishing

### REGISTERED VESSELS - TOP TEN STATES 2018 (RECREATIONAL)

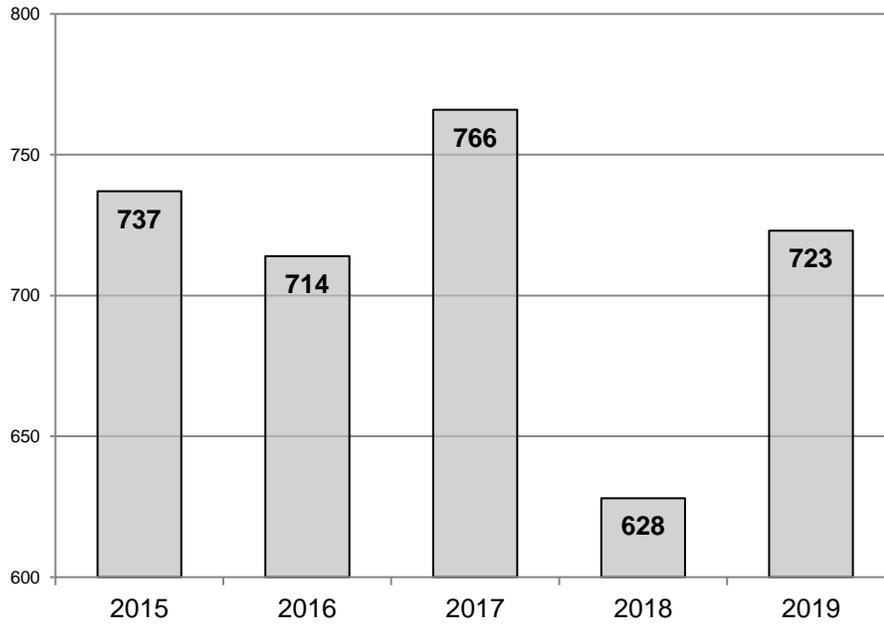


\*Totals represent number of recreationally registered vessels in 2018

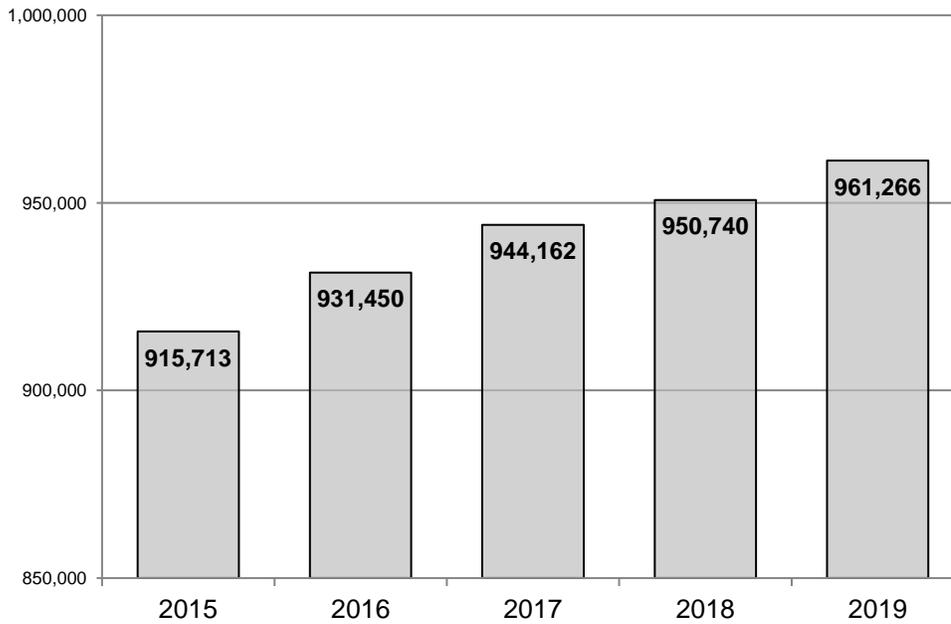
Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division

## 2019 BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

### 2015 - 2019 FLORIDA REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS



### 2015-2019 TOTAL FLORIDA REGISTERED VESSELS



\*Totals represent all currently registered vessels for that year  
Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)

# Reportable Boating Accidents



## Reportable Boating Accidents photo detail

Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

On 8/10/2019, A red 25-foot-Zodiac vessel (V2), with one occupant, was traveling southbound in the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway marked channel near channel marker 140 when it was stuck by a 19-foot McKee Craft center console (V1) with two occupants on board.

V1 was attempting to cross the ICW channel to enter a canal across from the Riverside Cafe when V1's operator failed to keep a proper lookout and clear the area before making a turn to starboard and striking V2. Both occupants of V1 were ejected from the vessel as a result of the collision. Only minor injuries were reported by V1's operator. Contributing factors to the collision are improper lookout, violation of navigation rules, and alcohol.

## 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

2019 VESSEL REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY								
County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	11,093	11,354	2	1	2	500	39	1:5,677
Baker	2,851	2,865	1	0	0	5,000	53	1:2,865
Bay	16,391	17,182	13	0	5	76,000	15	1:1,322
Bradford	2,437	2,460						
Brevard	32,743	33,942	19	5	14	91,950	11	1:1,786
<b>Broward</b>	<b>45,069</b>	<b>46,605</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,422,346</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1:1,554</b>
Calhoun	1,626	1,656						
Charlotte	22,720	23,308	9	1	3	19,800	25	1:2,590
<b>Citrus</b>	<b>16,104</b>	<b>16,775</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>75,695</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1:839</b>
Clay	12,730	12,960	4	1	3	13,750	34	1:3,240
<b>Collier</b>	<b>21,786</b>	<b>22,749</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>43,275</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1:1,083</b>
Columbia	4,409	4,459	1	0	7	5,000	56	1:4,459
Desoto	2,247	2,335	1	0	2	1,000	57	1:2,335
Dixie	2,295	2,545	2	0	2	6,000	40	1:1,273
Duval	25,553	26,220	14	0	11	105,500	14	1:1,873
Escambia	15,608	15,973	11	1	7	125,950	22	1:1,452
Flagler	5,961	6,048	5	0	4	6,000	33	1:1,210
Franklin	2,437	3,079	9	2	5	47,900	24	1:342
Gadsden	2,328	2,357						
Gilchrist	1,766	1,788	1	0	1	31,000	48	1:1,788
Glades	1,278	1,316	3	0	1	15,000	37	1:439
Gulf	2,801	3,073	2	0	1	17,000	38	1:1,537
Hamilton	922	928	1	0	6	0	54	1:928
Hardee	1,606	1,626						
Hendry	3,031	3,149	1	0	0	3,638	55	1:3,149
Hernando	10,277	10,496	2	0	0	4,600	41	1:5,248
Highlands	9,088	9,184	1	1	0	1,500	47	1:9,184
Hillsborough	39,931	40,719	15	0	10	302,300	13	1:2,715
Holmes	2,056	2,077						
Indian River	10,927	11,345	8	1	3	126,700	26	1:1,418
Jackson	4,352	4,377						
Jefferson	1,414	1,427						
Lafayette	922	930	1	0	1	500	49	1:930
Lake	21,392	21,674	10	3	5	86,450	23	1:2,167
<b>Lee</b>	<b>47,589</b>	<b>49,009</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>338,687</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1:1,043</b>
Leon	11,863	12,012	1	0	0	4,500	50	1:12,012
Levy	4,415	4,806	1	0	0	4,000	51	1:4,806

\*Accident Rate = # of Registered Vessels / # of Accidents Top ten counties in bold print. Fields that equaled zero intentionally left blank.

## 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

## 2019 VESSEL REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	1,203	1,222						
Madison	1,202	1,205	1	1	1	100	52	1:1,205
Manatee	19,554	20,365	6	2	4	26,500	31	1:3,394
Marion	19,773	20,027	5	0	4	19,700	32	1:4,005
<b>Martin</b>	<b>17,903</b>	<b>18,710</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>247,633</b>	<b>6</b>	1:624
<b>Miami-Dade</b>	<b>65,495</b>	<b>68,182</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8,794,886</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1:934</b>
<b>Monroe</b>	<b>26,040</b>	<b>28,966</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1,791,949</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1:329</b>
Nassau	6,625	6,777	2	0	2	4,100	43	1:3,389
<b>Okaloosa</b>	<b>18,607</b>	<b>19,274</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>52167</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1:838</b>
Okeechobee	4,861	5,021	1	0	0	2,000	44	1:5,021
Orange	30,001	30,500	8	1	5	34,900	27	1:3,813
Osceola	8,244	8,376	12	2	10	19,100	21	1:698
<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>35,245</b>	<b>36,358</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>979,060</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1:559</b>
Pasco	25,151	25,703	12	1	10	83,625	20	1:2,142
<b>Pinellas</b>	<b>50,562</b>	<b>52,230</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>415,800</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1:1,135</b>
Polk	28,940	29,418	6	0	3	37,918	28	1:4,903
Putnam	7,482	7,736						
Santa Rosa	15,474	15,739	13	0	13	153,020	17	1:1,211
Sarasota	22,679	23,233	16	0	15	175,500	12	1:1,452
Seminole	17,810	18,065	6	3	2	25,300	29	1:3,011
St. Johns	15,231	15,743	13	1	6	69,700	16	1:1,211
St. Lucie	12,773	13,323	12	0	2	57,200	19	1:1,110
Sumter	4,821	4,877	1	0	1	650	45	1:4,877
Suwannee	2,929	2,956	1	0	1	42,000	46	1:2,956
Taylor	3,606	3,757	2	0	0	58,289	42	1:1,879
Union	1,033	1,040						
Volusia	27,942	28,813	12	1	10	59,100	18	1:2,401
Wakulla	5,026	5,328	4	2	0	13,700	35	1:1,332
Walton	6,168	6,334	6	3	2	10,150	30	1:1,056
Washington	2,690	2,708	3	0	2	3,900	36	1:903
DHSMV	2,928	4,471						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>930,016</b>	<b>961,266</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>16,159,488</b>		<b>1:1,330</b>

\*Accident Rate =  $\frac{\text{\# of Registered Vessels}}{\text{\# of Accidents}}$

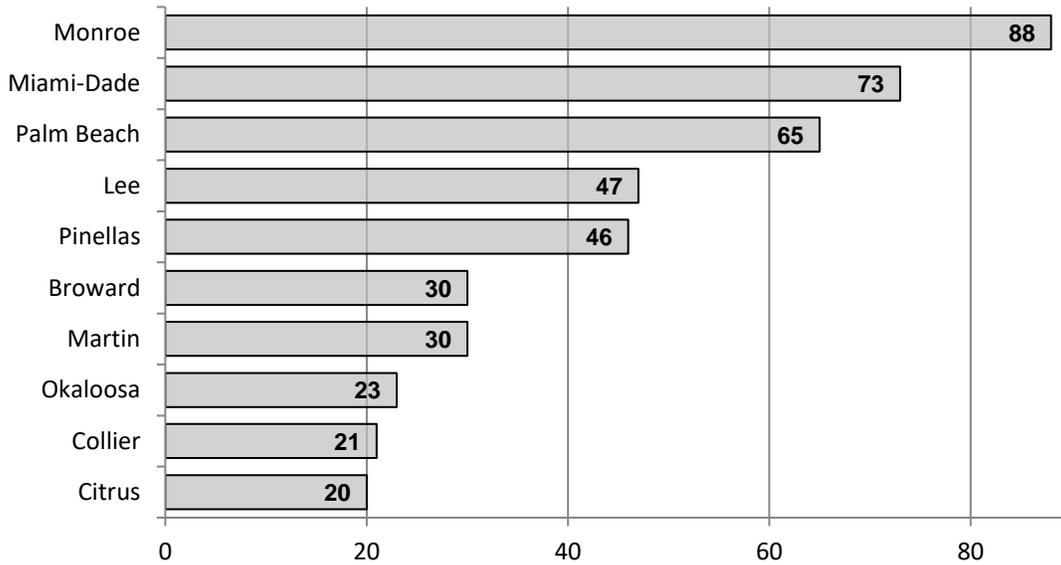
Those counties in bold print represent the top ten counties

Department of Highways Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) numbers represent registrations issued at main office instead of at the county level

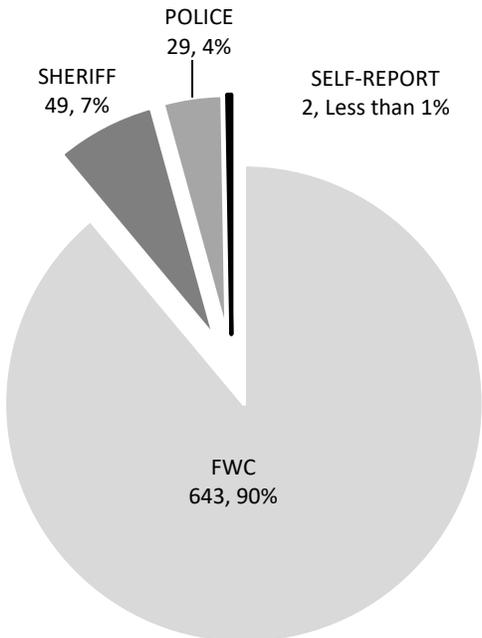
Fields that equaled zero intentionally left blank.

# 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

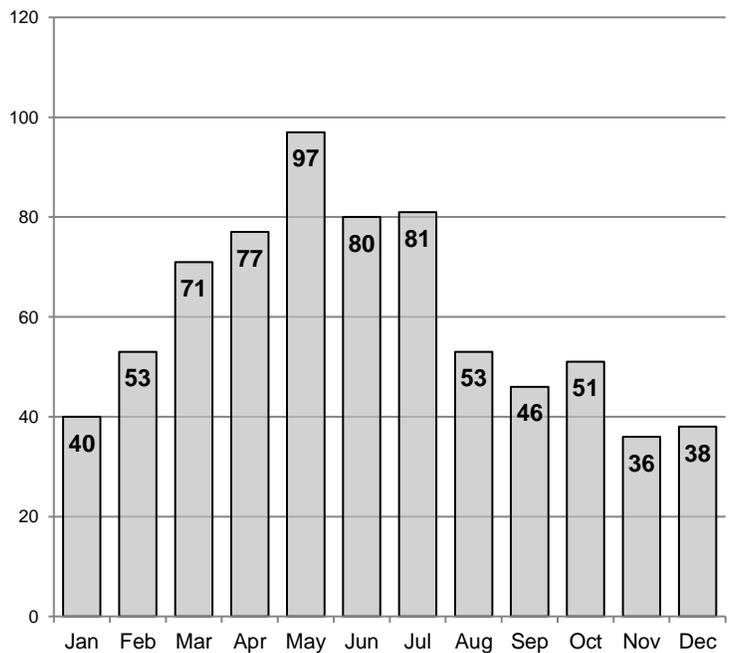
## TOP TEN COUNTIES



## INVESTIGATING AGENCY



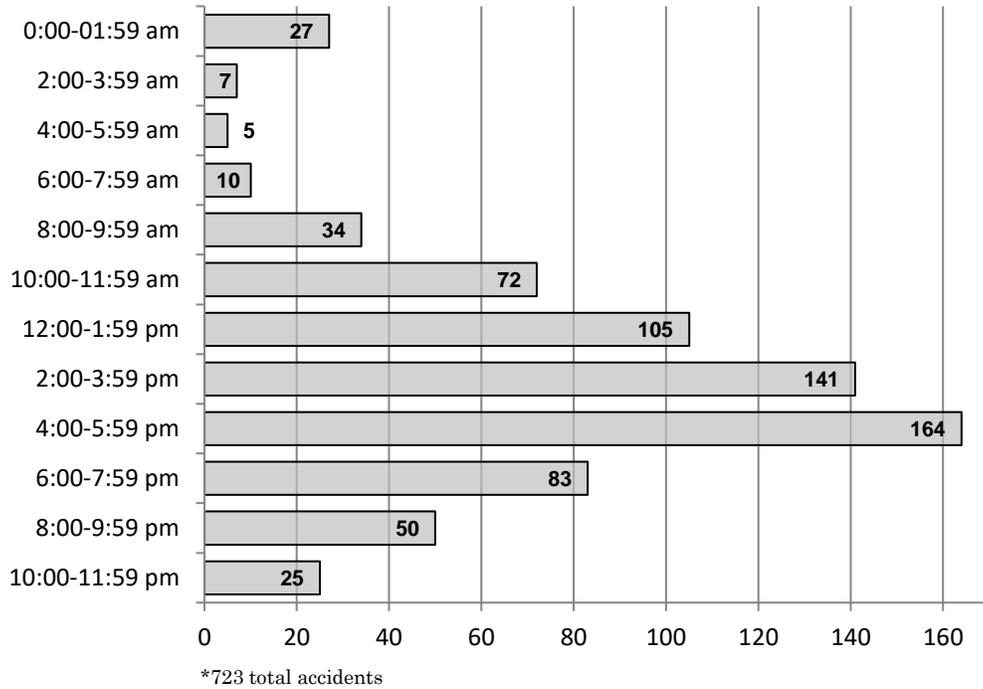
## ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



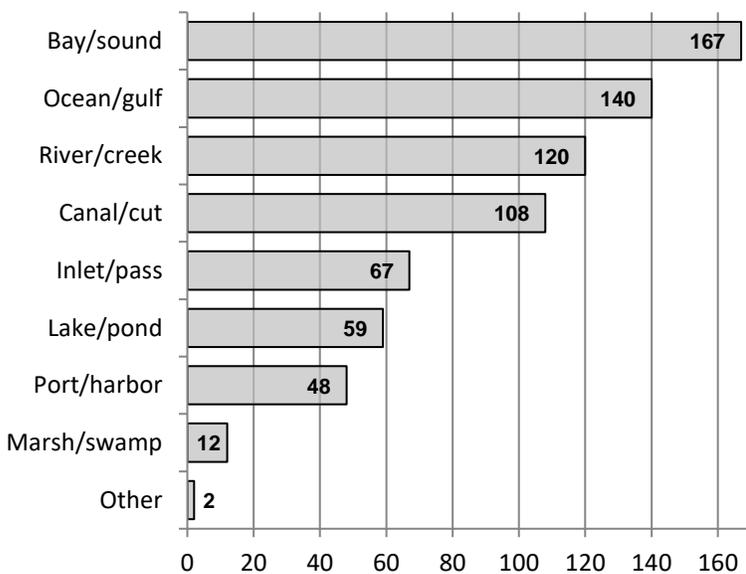
\*723 total accidents

## 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

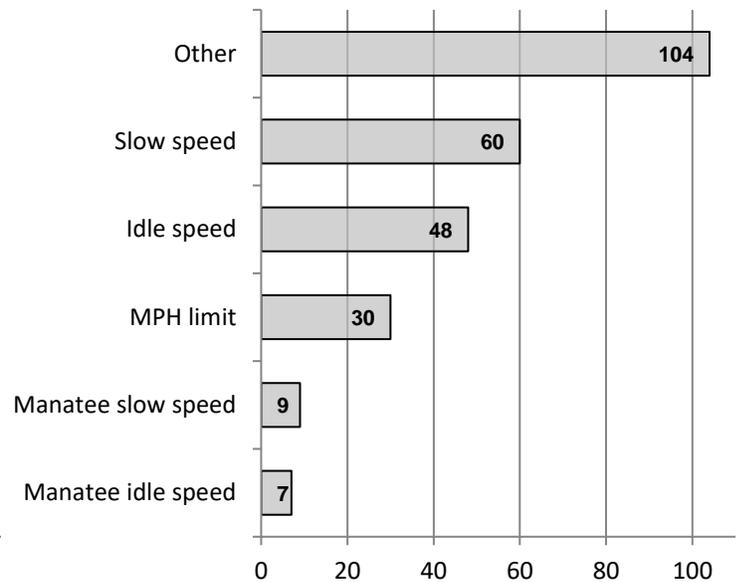
### TIME OF DAY



### ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION



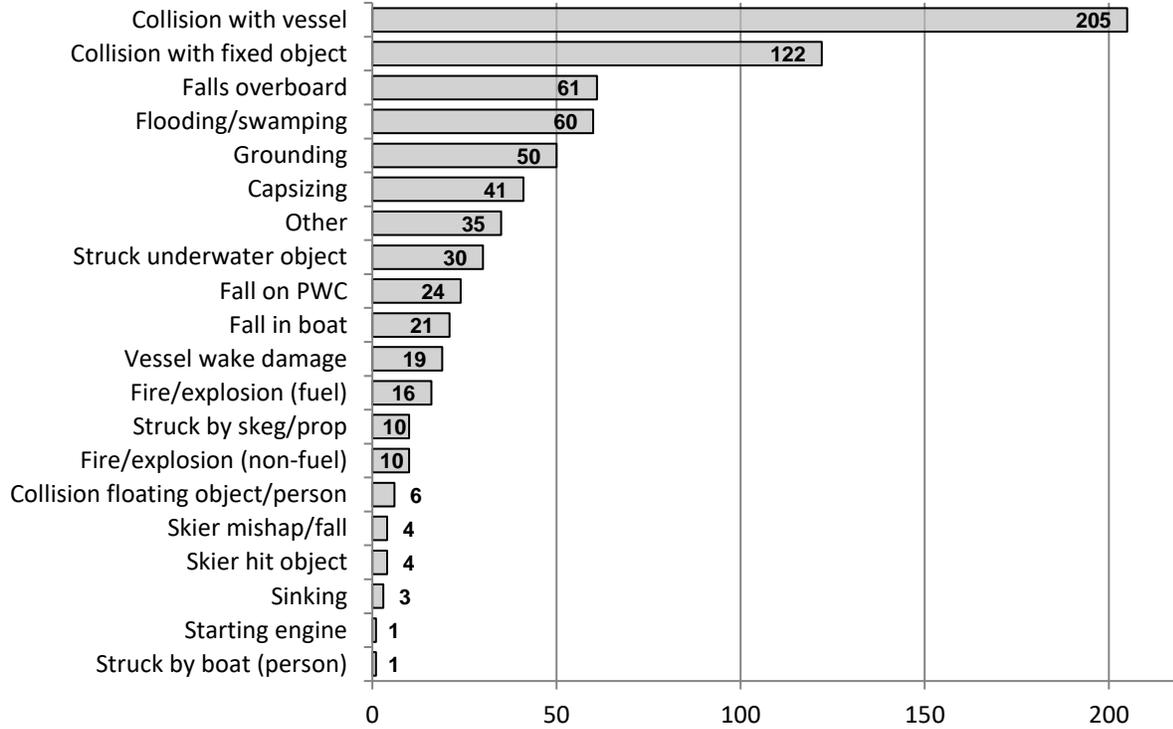
### RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



\*258 total accidents in restricted areas  
 "Other" may include areas where the regulation or local ordinance was not specified.

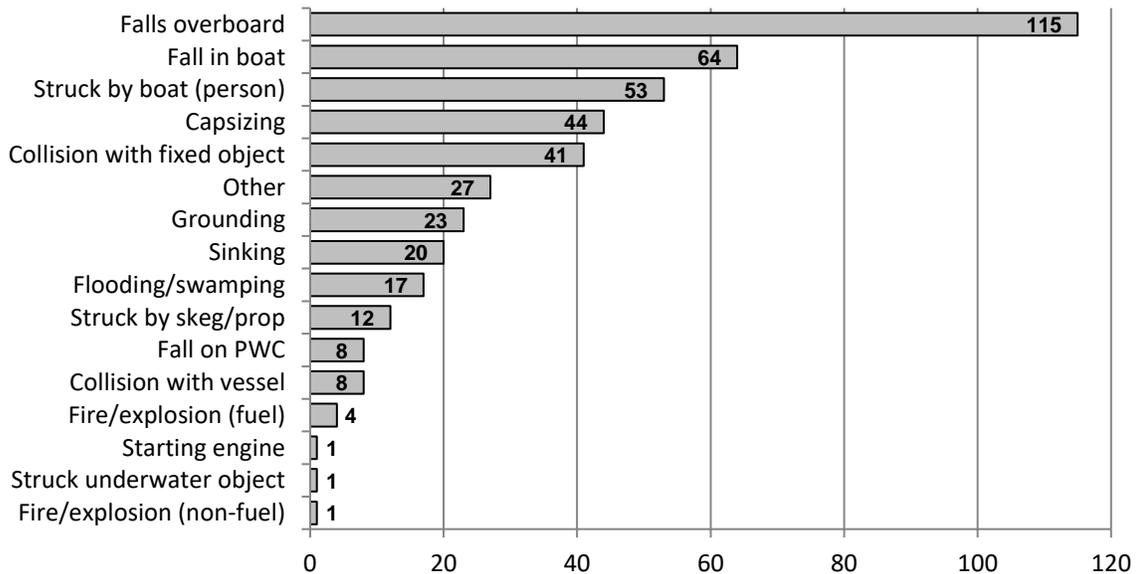
## 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

### PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



\*723 accidents involving 1,024 vessels  
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

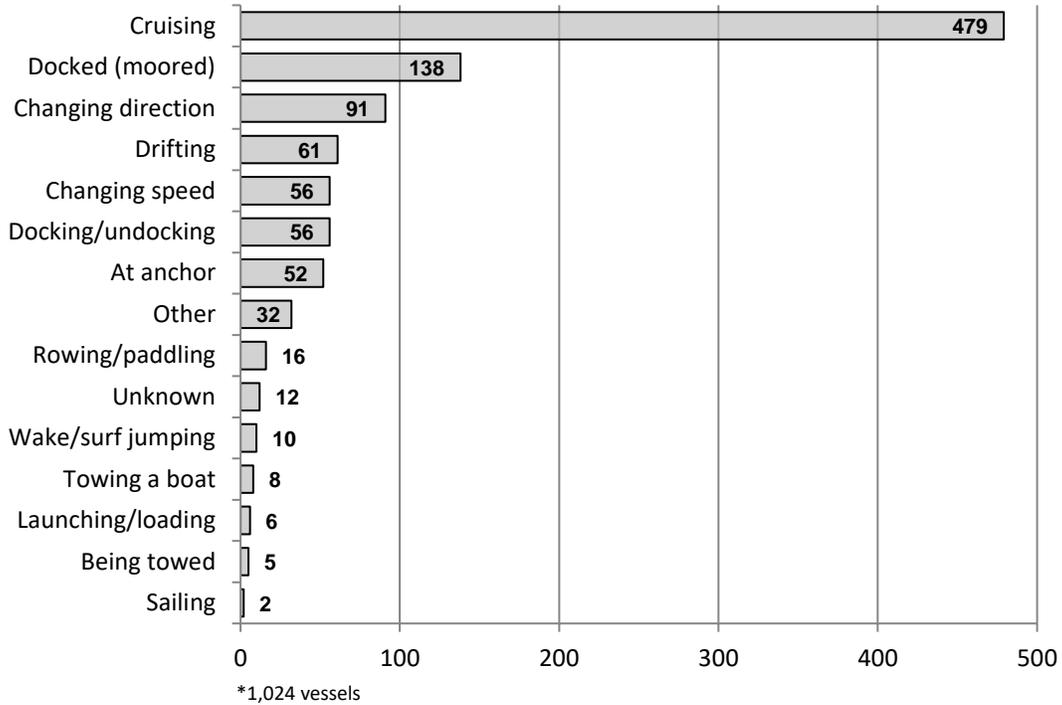
### SECONDARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



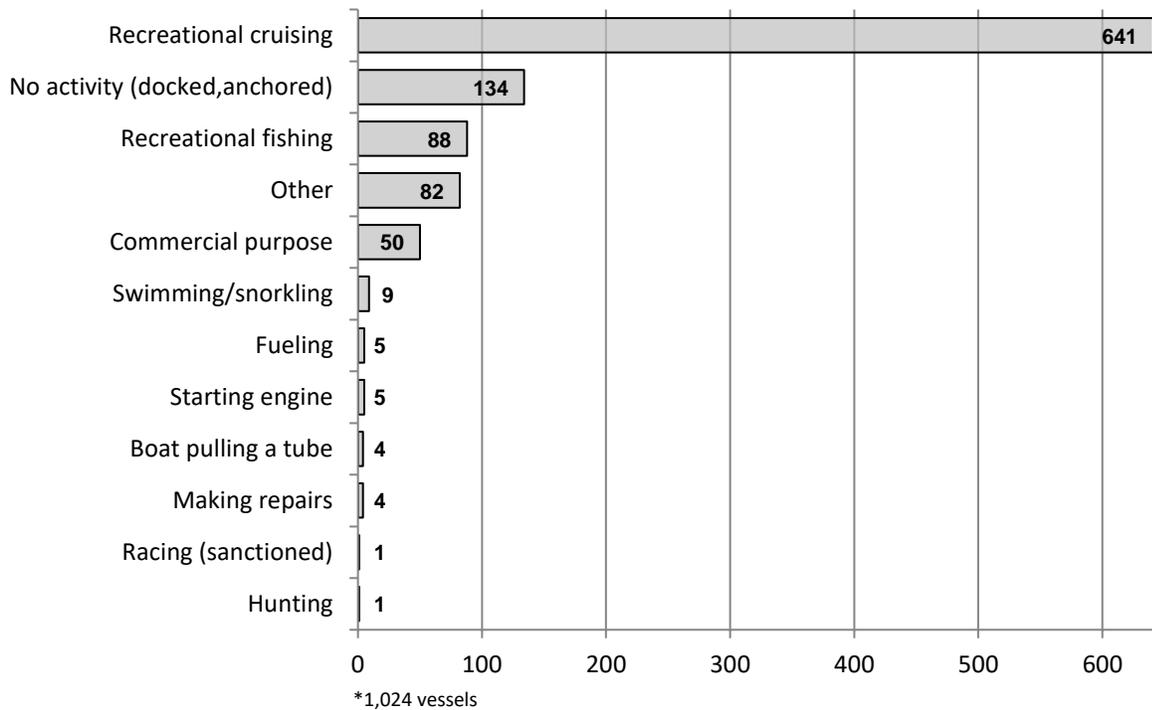
\*284 of the 723 accidents did not have a secondary type of accident

# 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

## OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

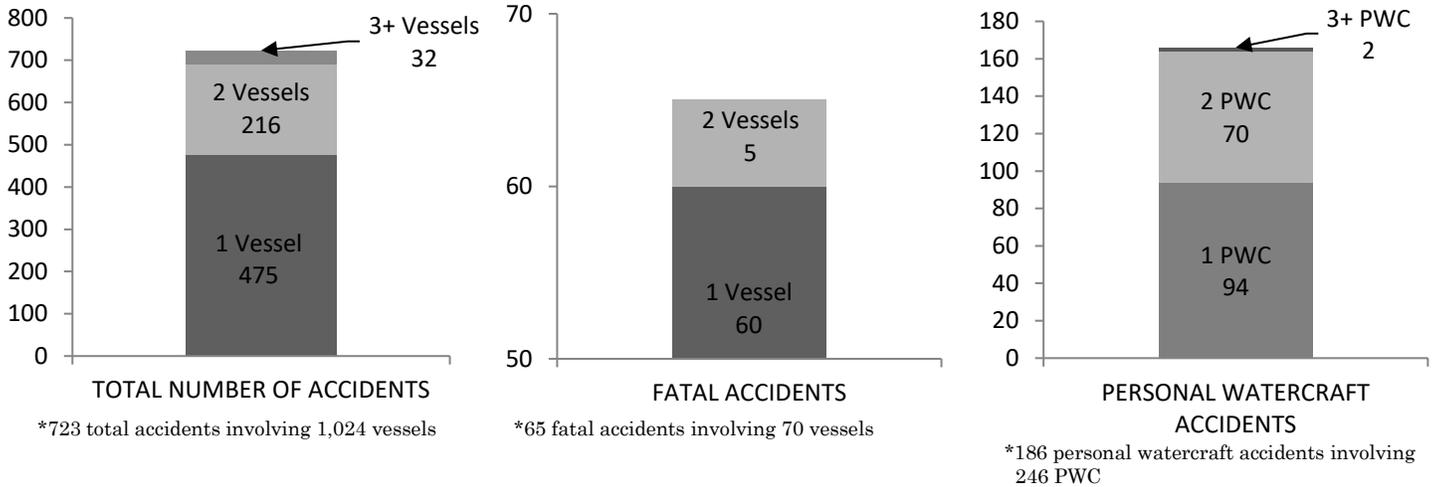


## ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

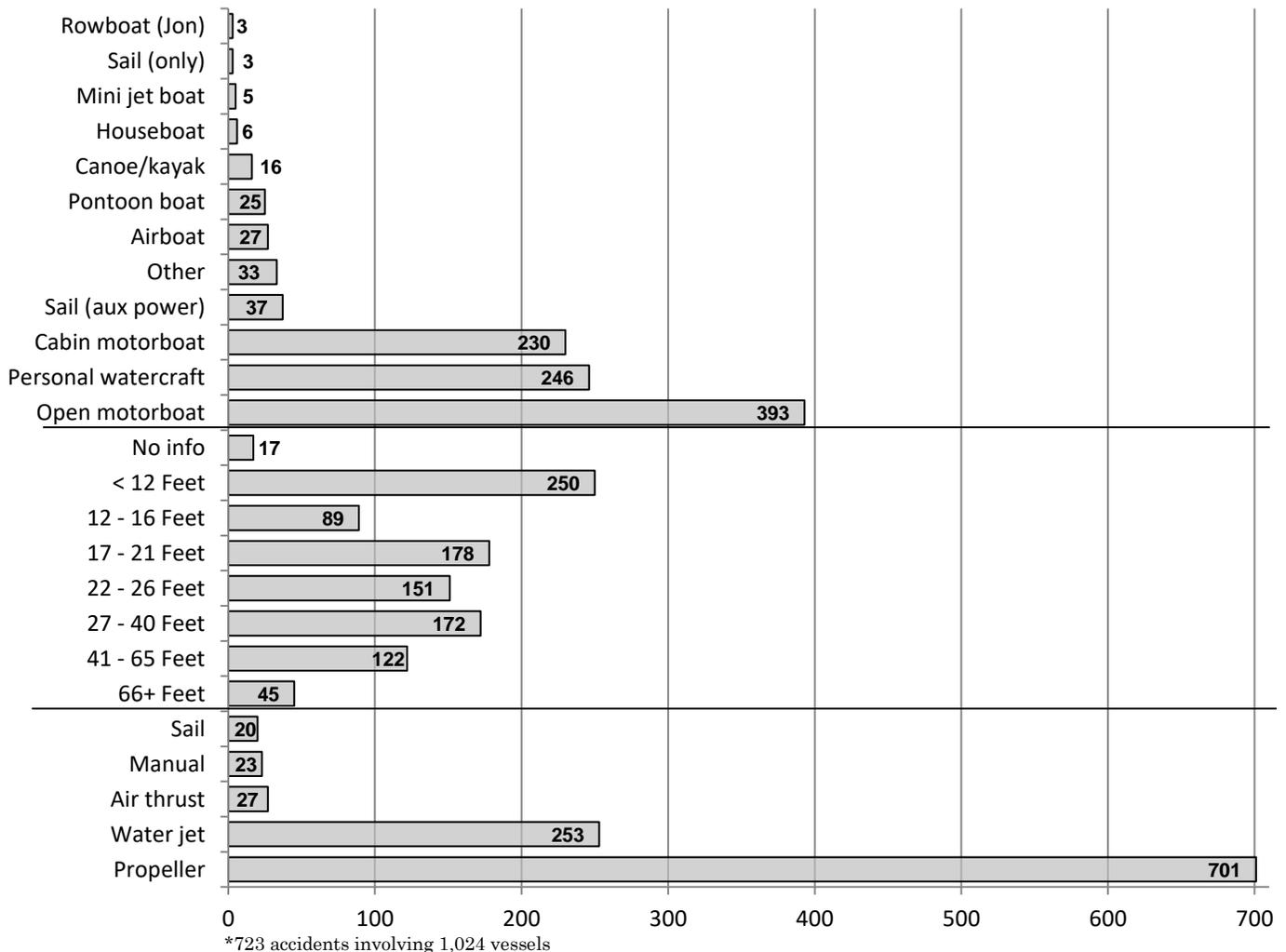


# 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

## VESSEL COUNT IN REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS

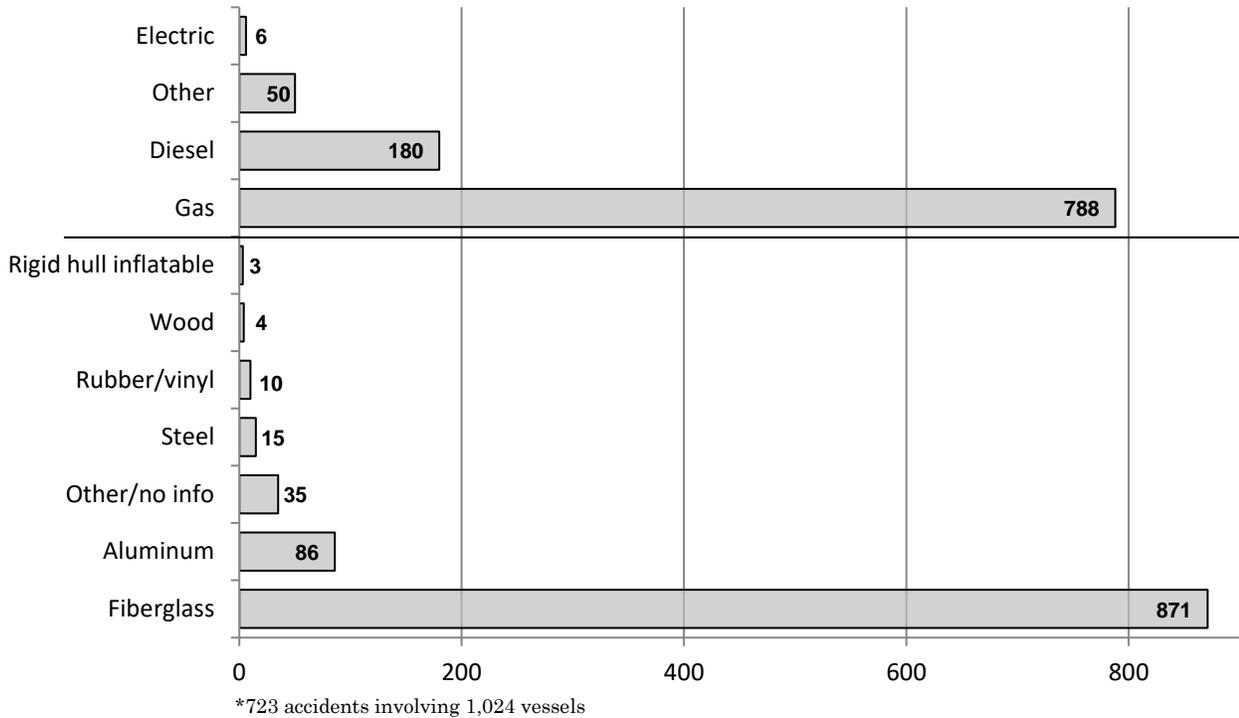


## VESSEL TYPE, LENGTH & PROPULSION

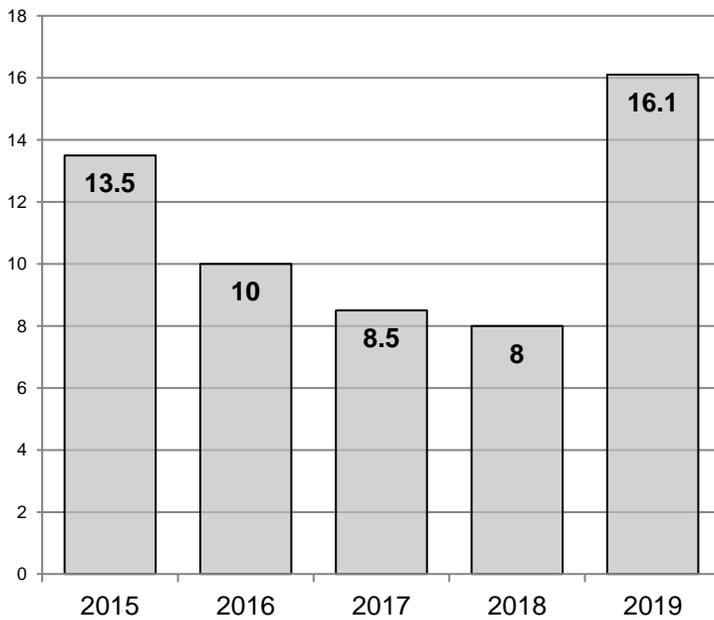


## 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

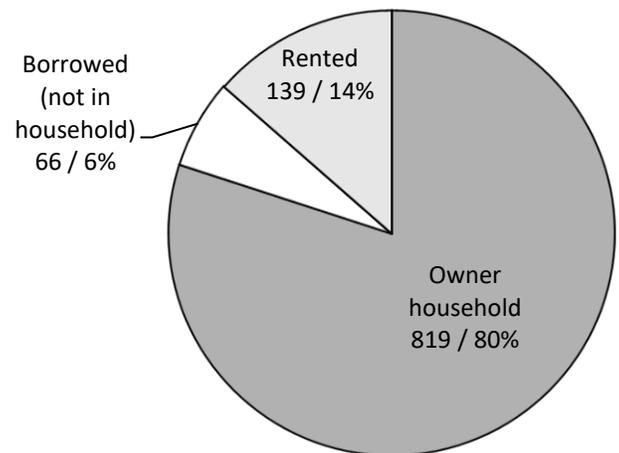
### VESSEL FUEL & HULL TYPE



### VESSEL & PROPERTY DAMAGE FIGURES (IN MILLIONS)

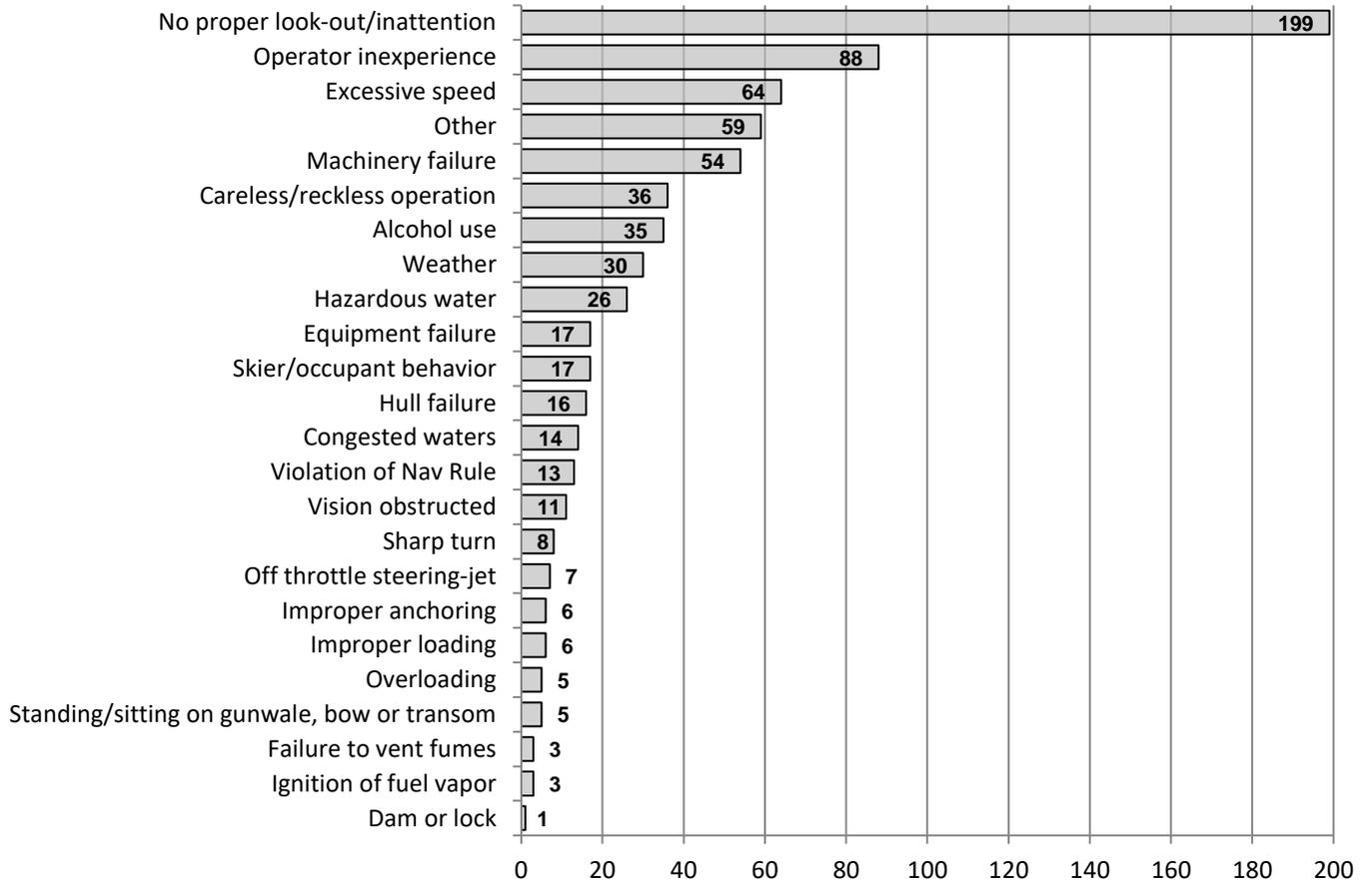


### VESSEL OWNERSHIP

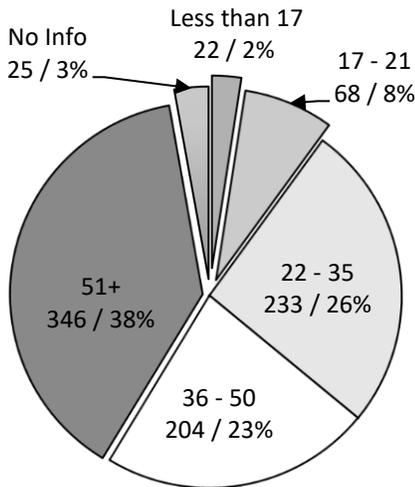


# 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

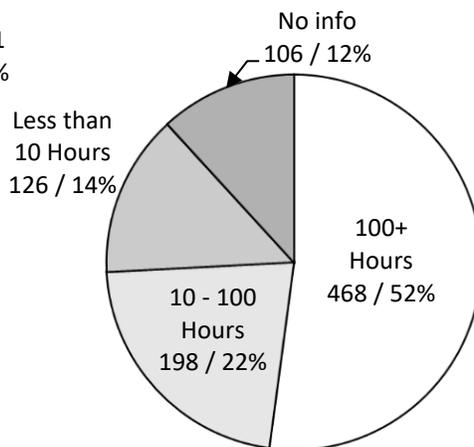
## PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



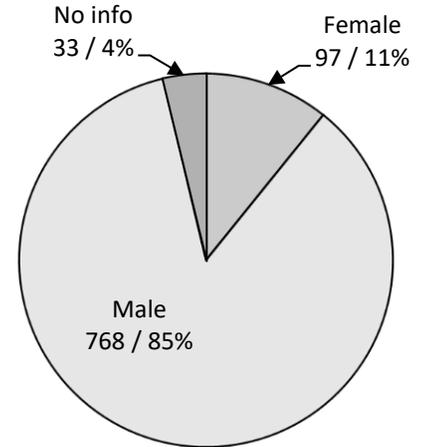
OPERATOR AGE



OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



OPERATOR GENDER

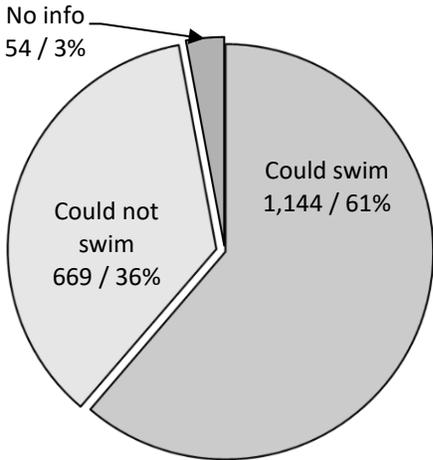


\*723 accidents involving 898 operators

Vessels may have been docked, anchored, or involved in a hit and run accident which would result in no operator information. Also, some information may not be provided by operators

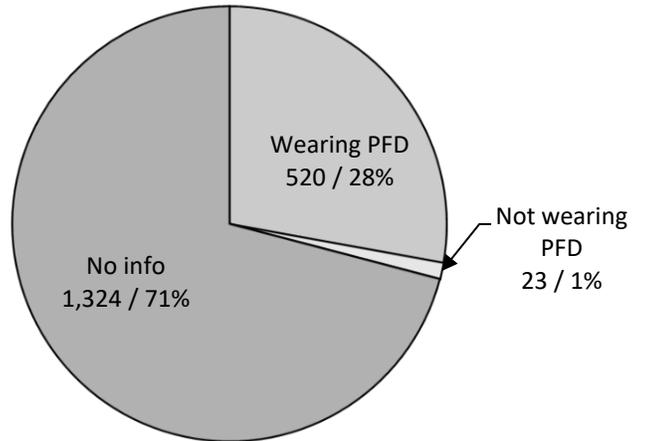
# 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

## OPERATOR/OCCUPANT SWIMMING ABILITY

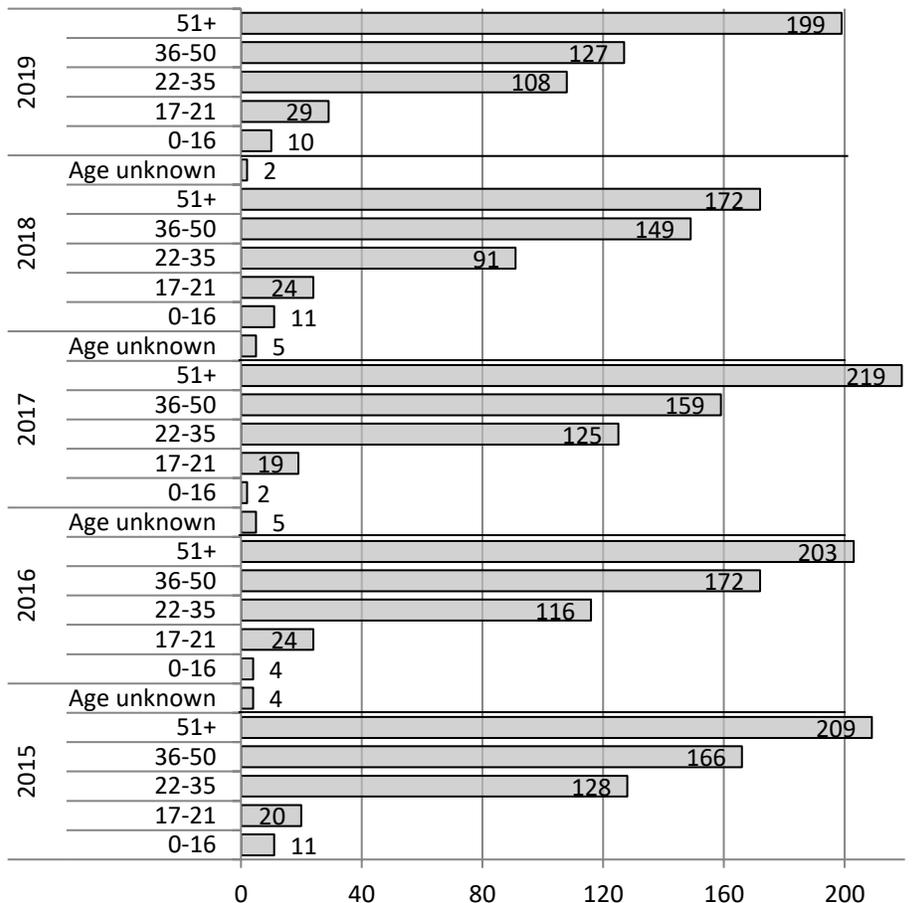


\*1,867 total occupants and operators

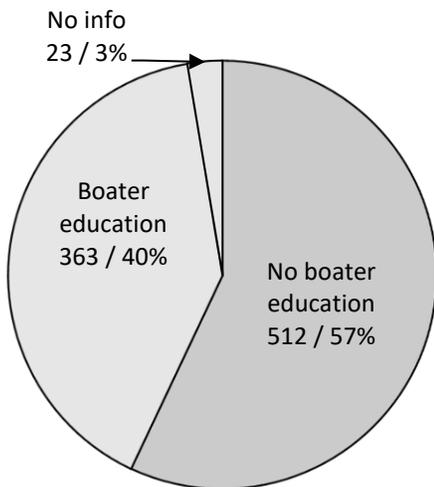
## OPERATOR/OCCUPANT PFD USE



## OPERATOR BY AGE WITH NO BOATER EDUCATION



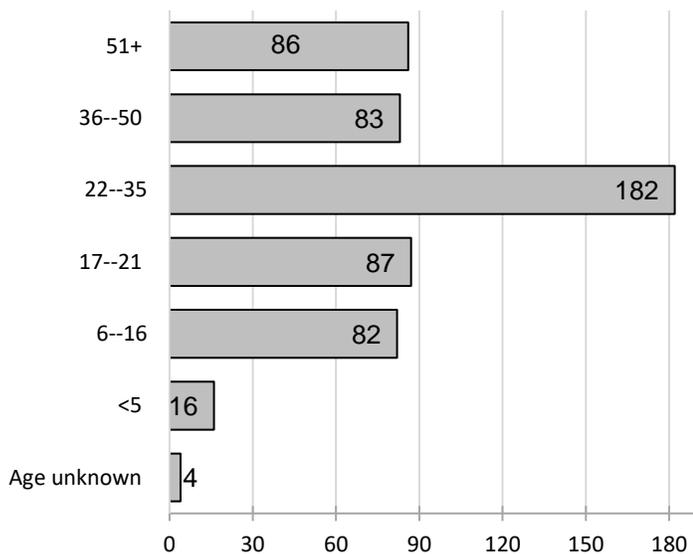
## BOAT OPERATOR EDUCATION



\*898 operators, 23 were unknown due to hit and run accidents

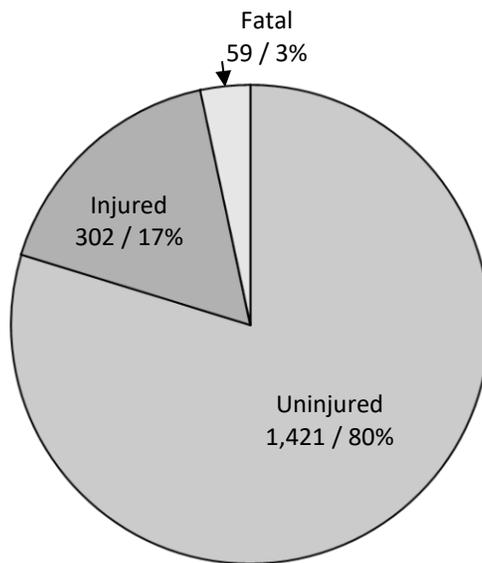
## 2019 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

### PFD WEAR BY AGE



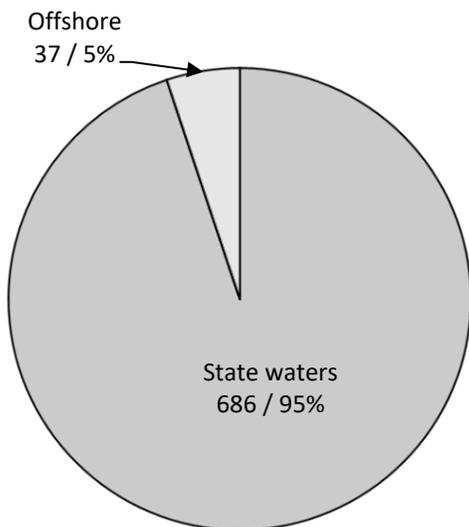
\*540 of 1,867 operators/occupants were wearing a PFD at time of the accident. One person did not provide an age

### VICTIM STATISTICS



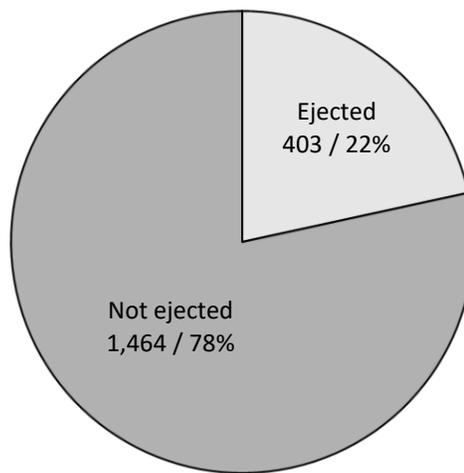
\*1,867 persons involved in vessel accidents  
1,867 operators/occupants and 4 swimmers

### STATE WATERS VS. OFFSHORE WATERS (ACCIDENTS)



\*Offshore is defined as the edge of the Gulfstream or three miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than nine miles out in the Gulf of Mexico

### VICTIM STATISTICS (EJECTED)



\*1,867 total operators and occupants



# Boating Fatalities



03/0



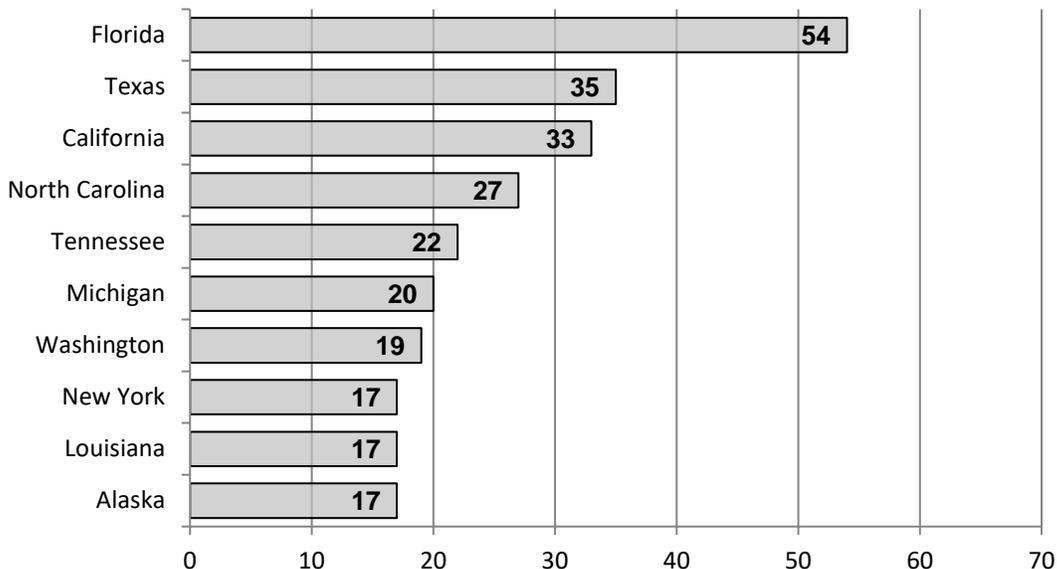
## Boating Fatalities photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

On Friday, March 8, 2019, at approximately 7:00 pm, a 21-foot-vessel was operating on a plane in Hendry Creek. While proceeding upstream, the 52-year-old operator failed to successfully navigate a turn causing the vessel to run aground and collide with several mangrove trees. The operator was ejected without wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) and later recovered floating face down in the water. He was administered CPR by Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and transported to Health Park Hospital by EMS, where he subsequently died from the extent of his injuries. According to the Medical Examiner's Office, the preliminary cause of death was drowning. Conditions that contributed to his death were blunt trauma of the head and neck. Alcohol was a contributing factor in this accident, the operator had an unlawful blood alcohol level. Toxicology confirmed elevated ethanol concentrations (0.170 g/100 ml).

## 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

### 2018 FATALITIES - TOP TEN STATES

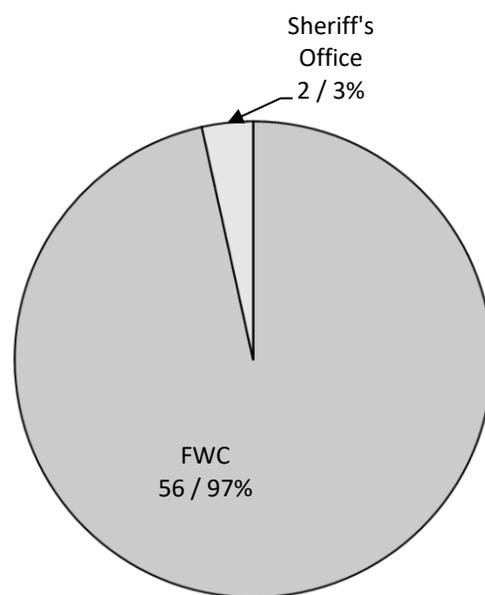


\*2019 statistics for top 10 states were not available at time of printing  
 Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division (recreational fatalities)

### FLORIDA TOTAL FATALITIES RECORDED

Year	Registered vessels	Fatality rate	Number of fatalities
2019	961,266	6.7	65
2018	950,740	6.2	59
2017	944,162	7.1	67
2016	931,450	7.2	67
2015	915,713	6	55

### INVESTIGATING AGENCY

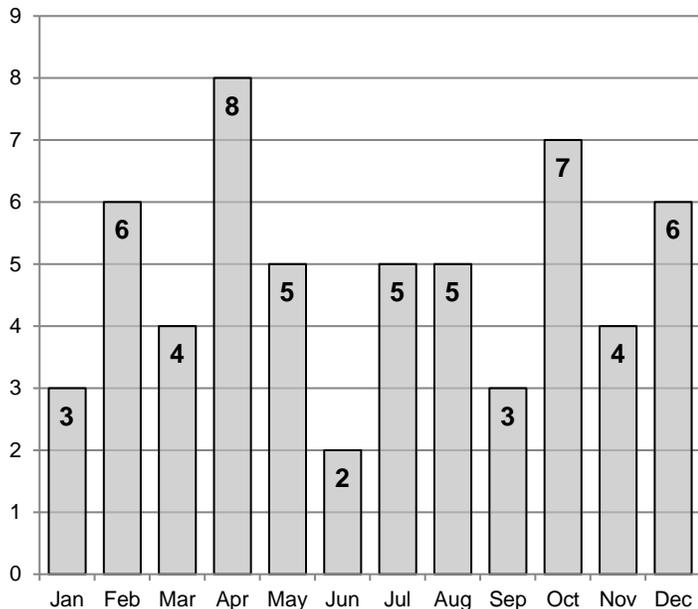


\*58 fatal accidents

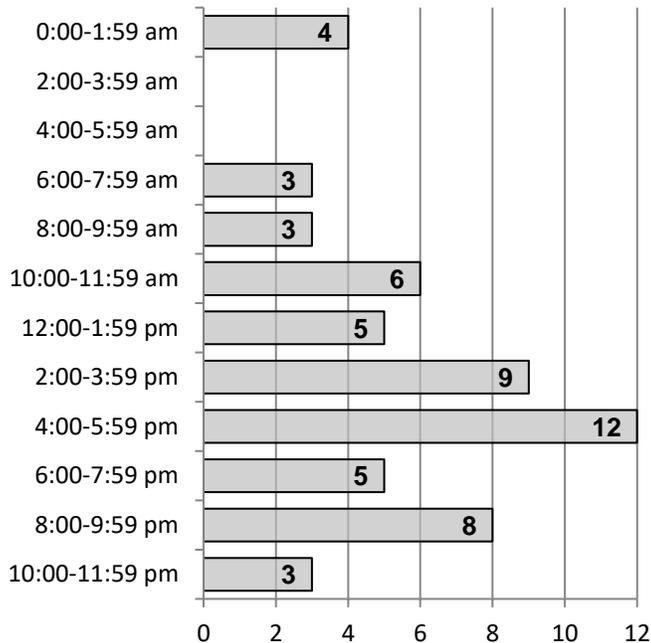
\*Fatality Rate – Number of fatalities per 100,000 registered vessels

## 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

### ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



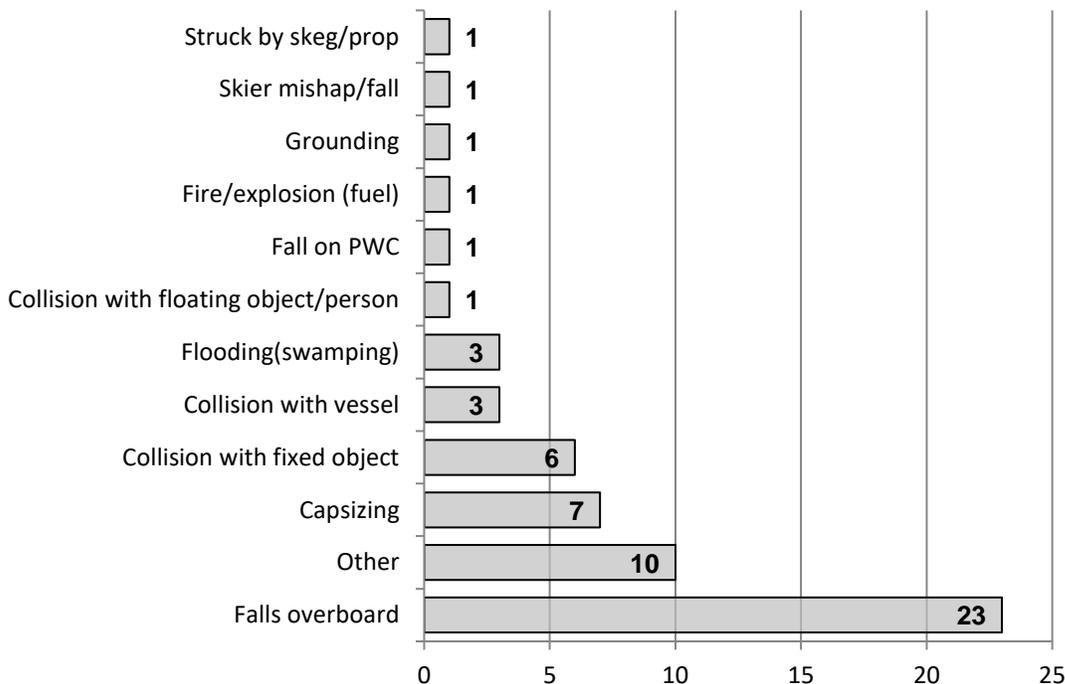
### TIME OF DAY



\*58 fatal accidents involving 65 fatalities

Fatality data includes four missing persons where their disappearance is associated with a boating accident

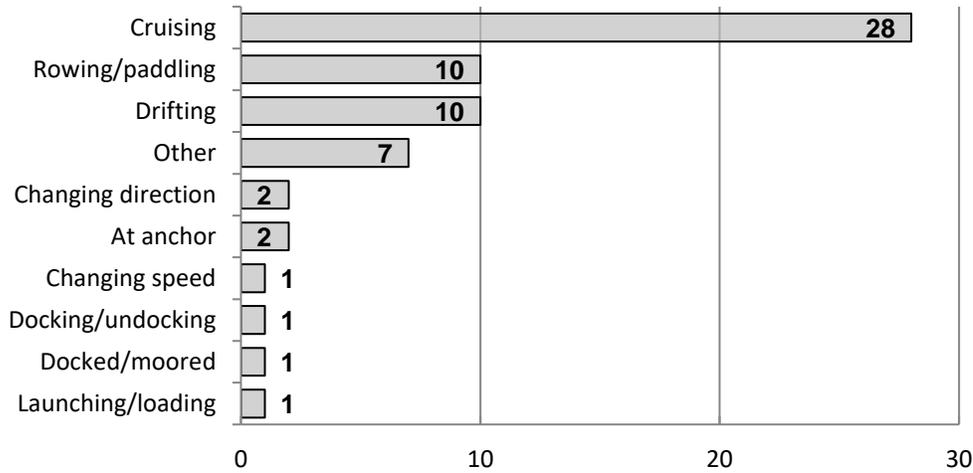
### ACCIDENT TYPES



\*58 fatal accidents involving 65 fatalities (Based on first harmful event)

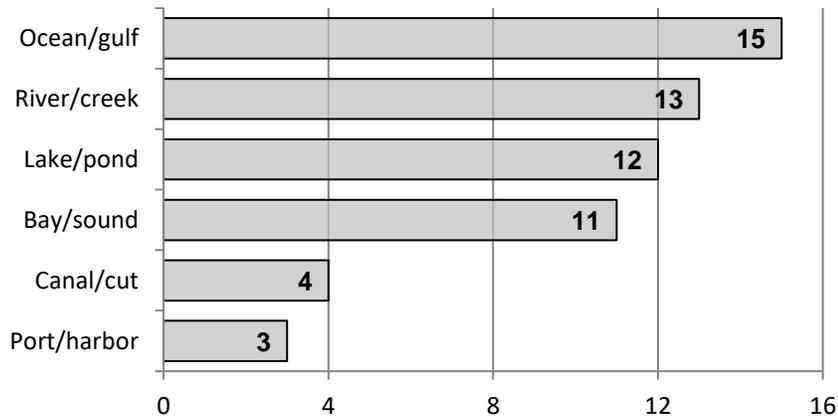
## 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

### OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

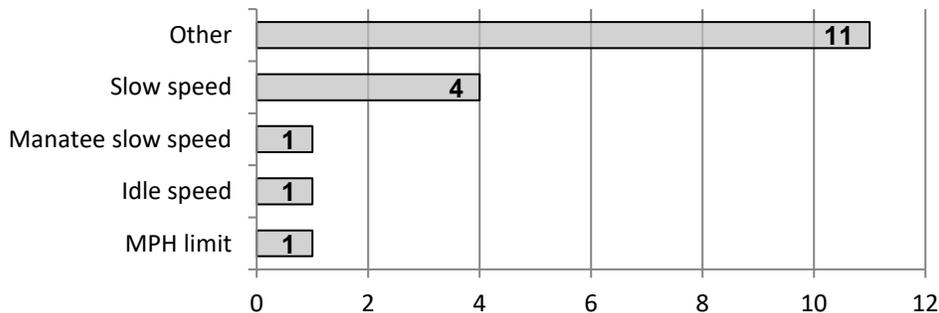


\*63 vessels involved in 58 fatal accidents with 65 victims

### ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION



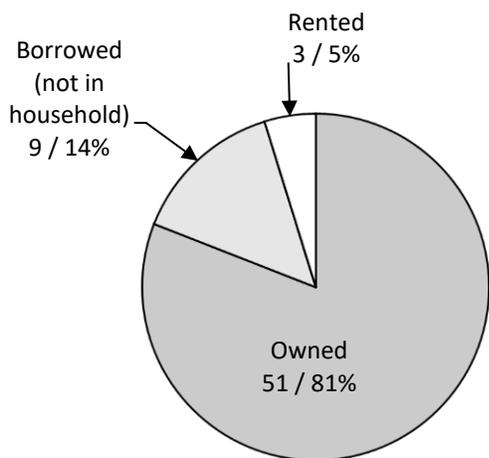
### RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



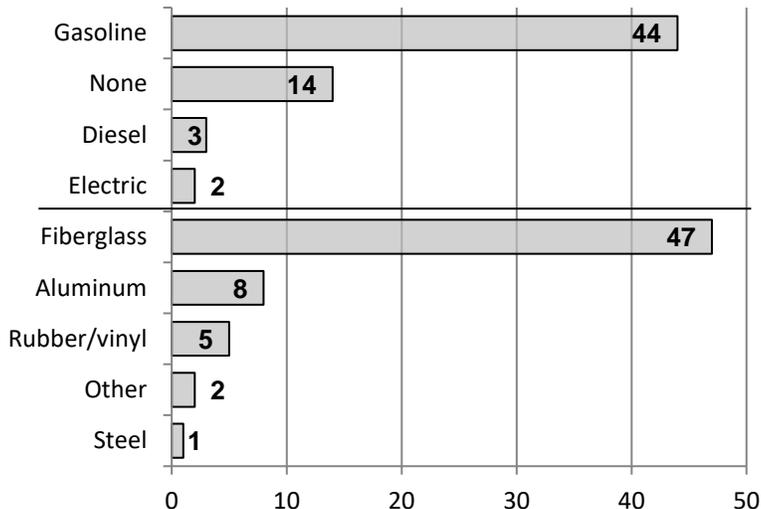
\*18 of 58 fatal accidents occurred in restricted areas. "Other" may include areas where the regulation or local ordinance was not specified.

# 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

## VESSEL OWNERSHIP

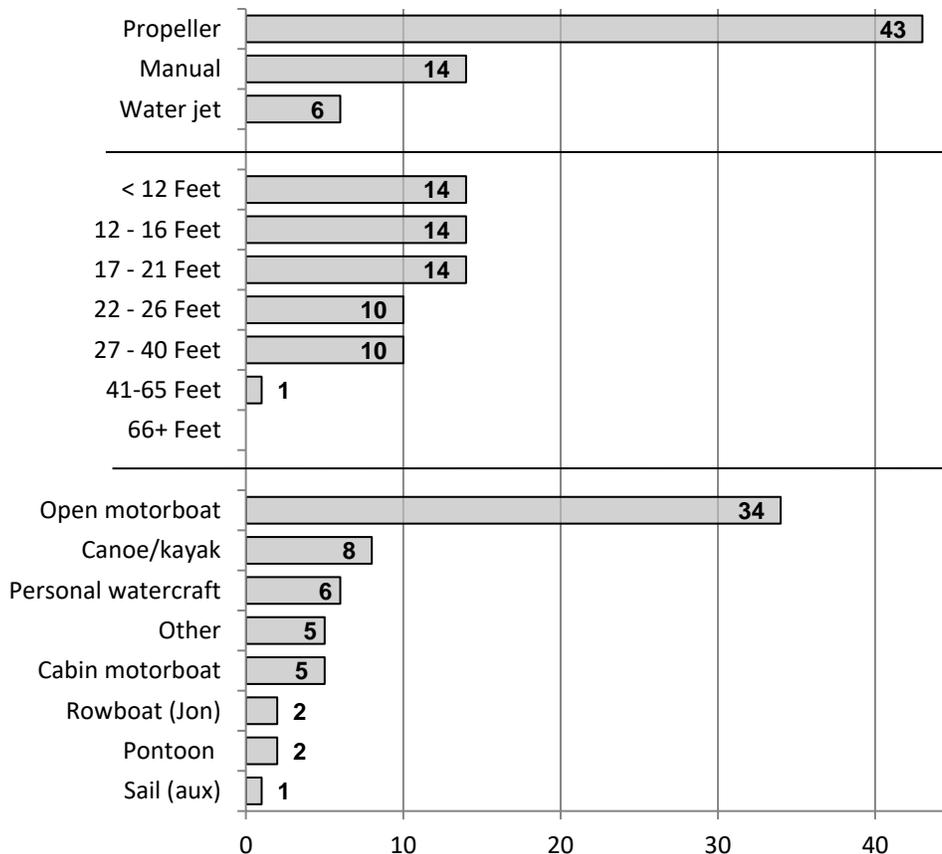


## VESSEL FUEL & HULL TYPE



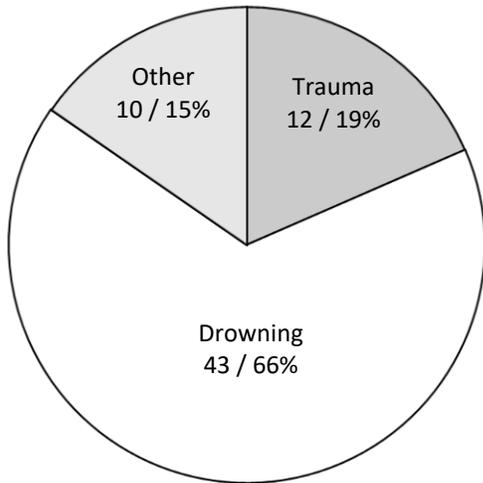
\*58 total fatal accidents involving 63 vessels

## VESSEL PROPULSION, LENGTH & TYPE



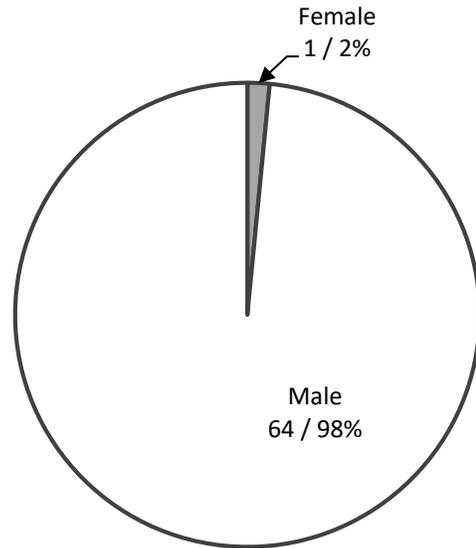
## 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH



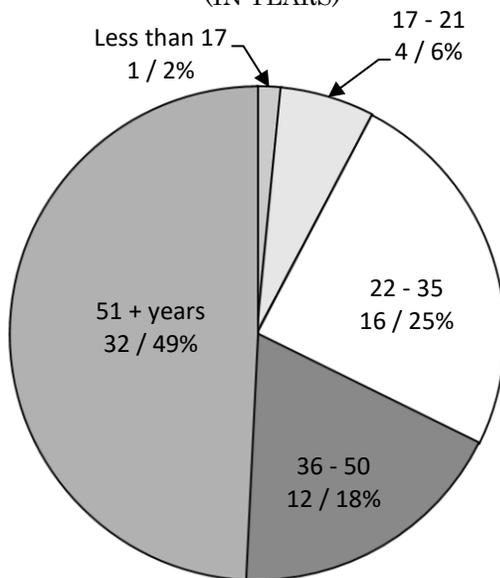
\*65 fatalities, "Other" category includes 6 missing where cause of death is unknown

### OPERATOR GENDER

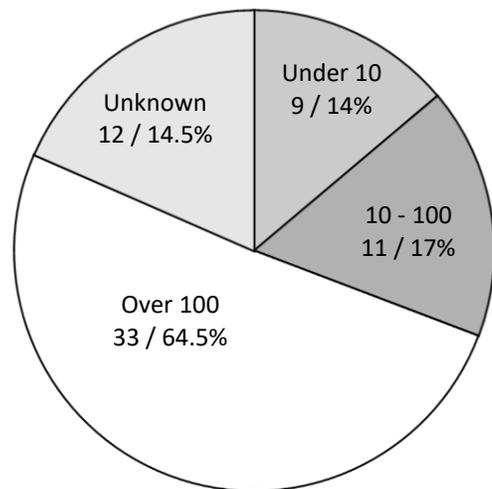


\*65 operators

### OPERATOR AGE (IN YEARS)



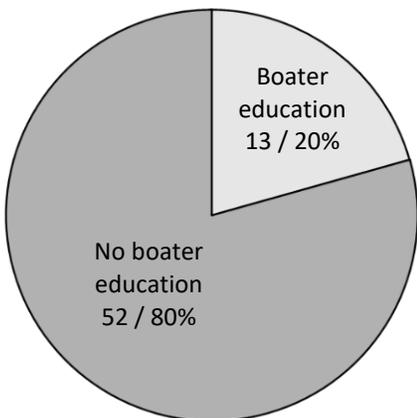
### OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (IN HOURS)



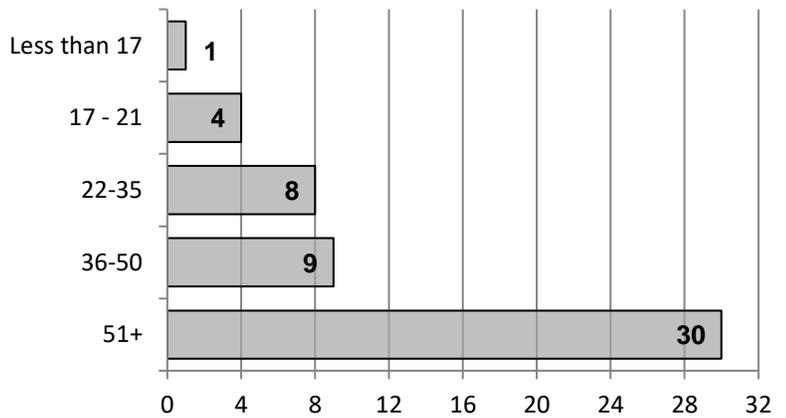
## 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

On July 28<sup>th</sup> at approximately 9:00 pm, two vessels were on the Indian River in a head on situation. V1, an 18-foot open motorboat, and V2, a 20-foot open motorboat, both turned to the east side of the river. V1 struck the port bow of V2 and ramped on to V2 striking both occupants. The 51-year-old male operator of V2 was ejected and died because of injuries at the hospital. The 53-year-old female occupant received lacerations and contusions from being struck by V1. A female occupant on V1 jumped overboard with a child before impact, she received contusions and sprains from impact with the water, the child and operator of V1 were uninjured.

### OPERATOR EDUCATION

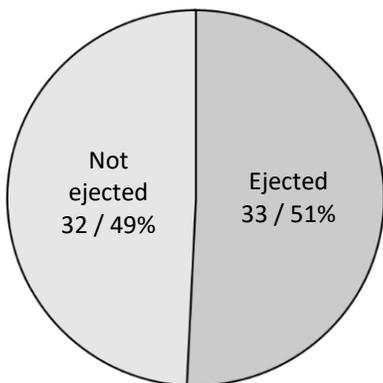


### OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT FORMAL BOATER EDUCATION

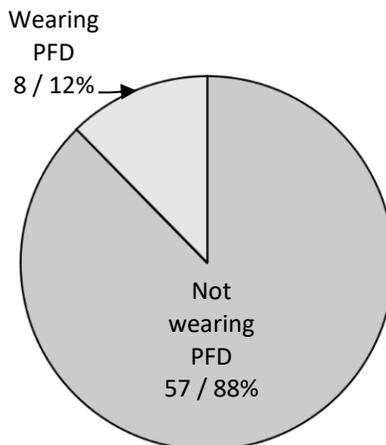


\*52 operators did not have any formal boater education

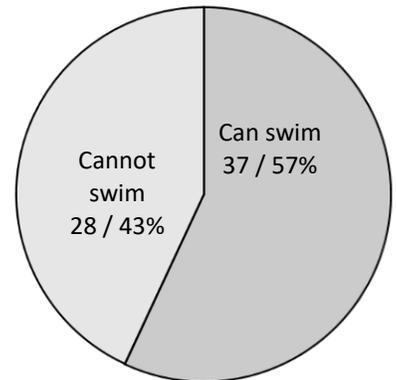
### VICTIM STATISTICS (EJECTED)



### VICTIM STATISTICS (WEARING PFD)



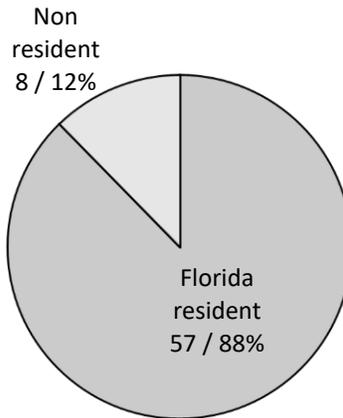
### VICTIM STATISTICS (SWIMMING ABILITY)



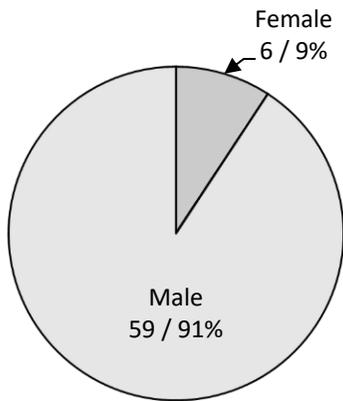
\*58 fatal accidents involving 65 victims

# 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

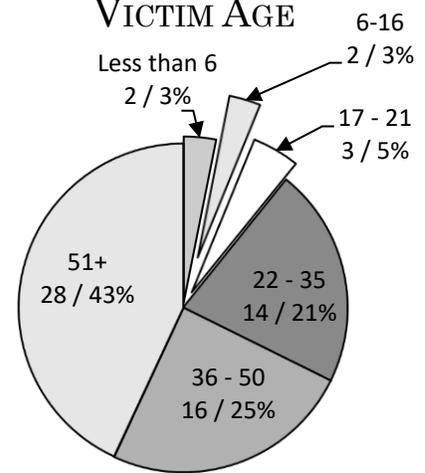
## VICTIM RESIDENCY



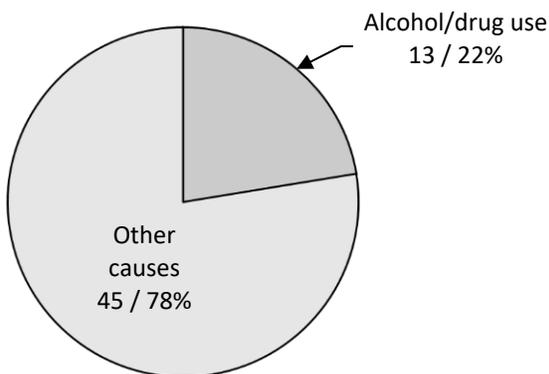
## VICTIM GENDER



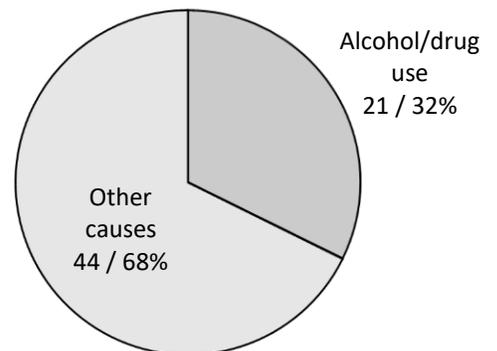
## VICTIM AGE



## ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED ACCIDENTS



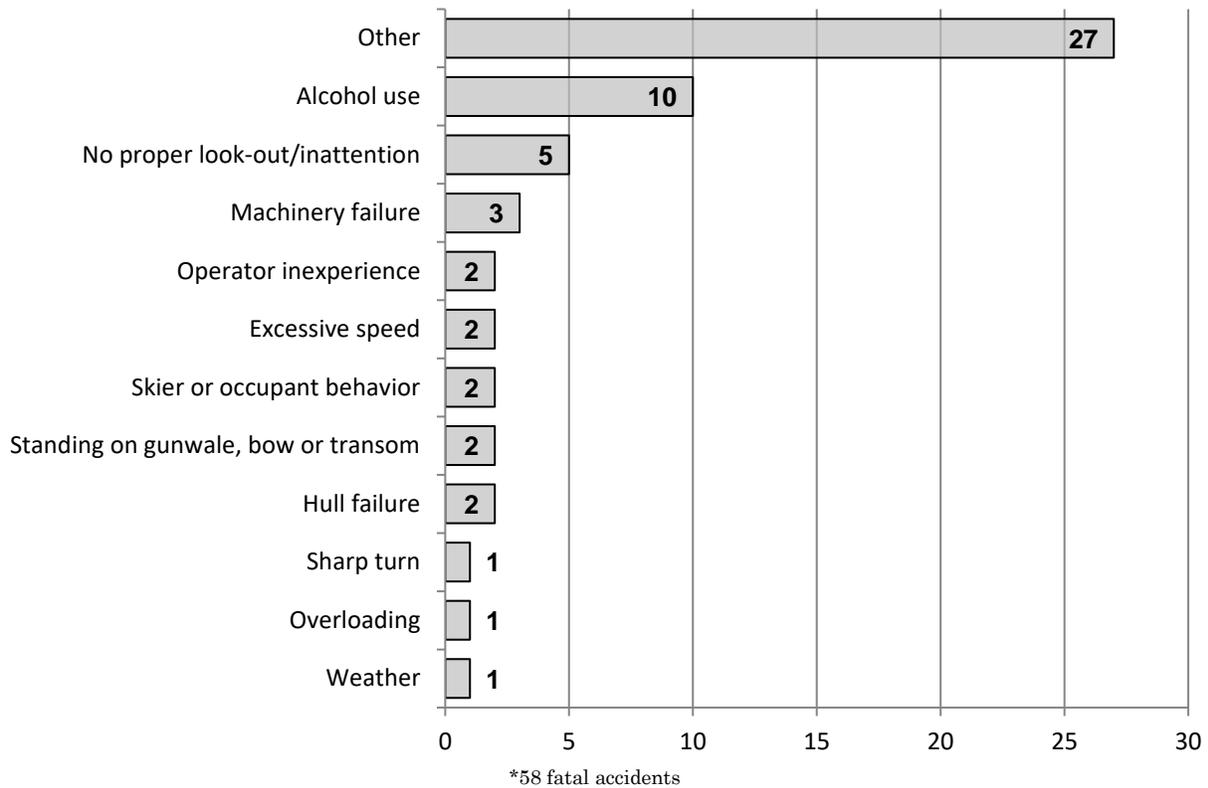
## ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED VICTIMS



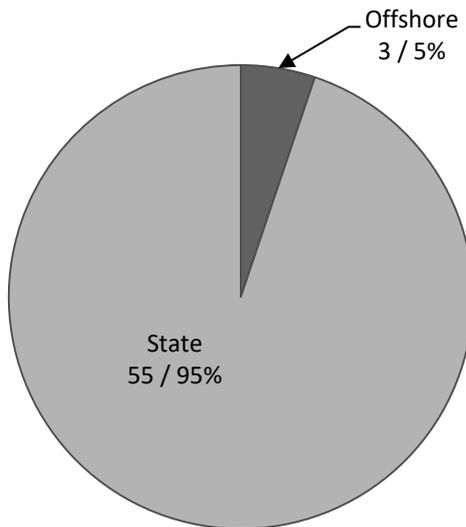
\*58 accidents involving 65 fatalities  
(Alcohol/drug related refers to any accidents in which alcohol or drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether legally impaired or not)

## 2019 BOATING FATALITIES

### PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



### STATE WATERS VS. OFFSHORE WATERS



\*Offshore defined as the edge of the Gulf Stream or three miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than nine miles out in the Gulf

# Boating Injuries



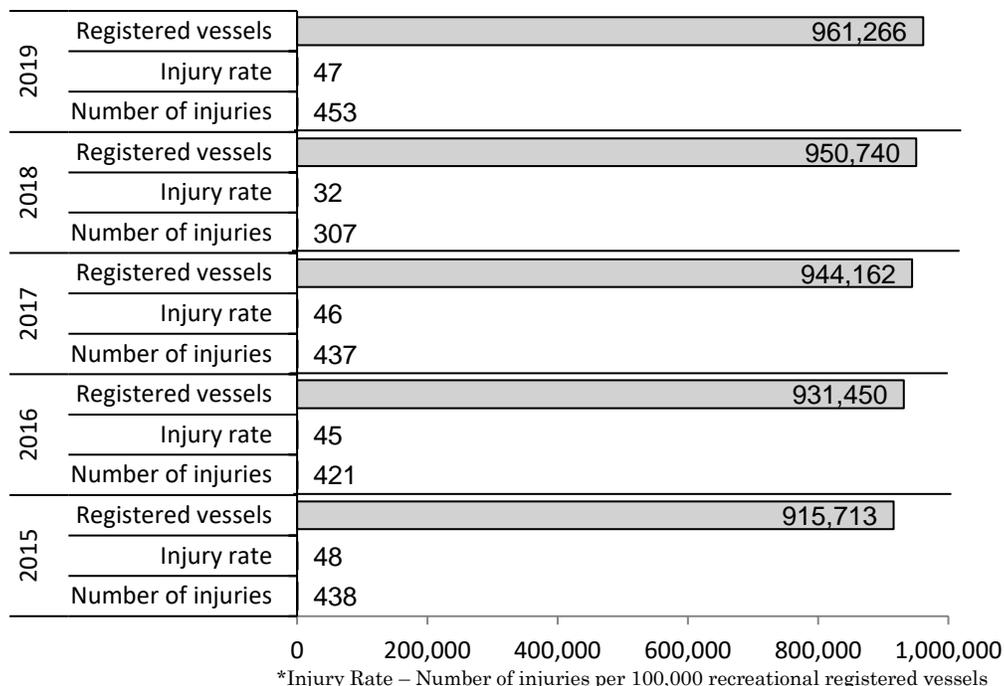
## Boating Injuries photo detail

Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

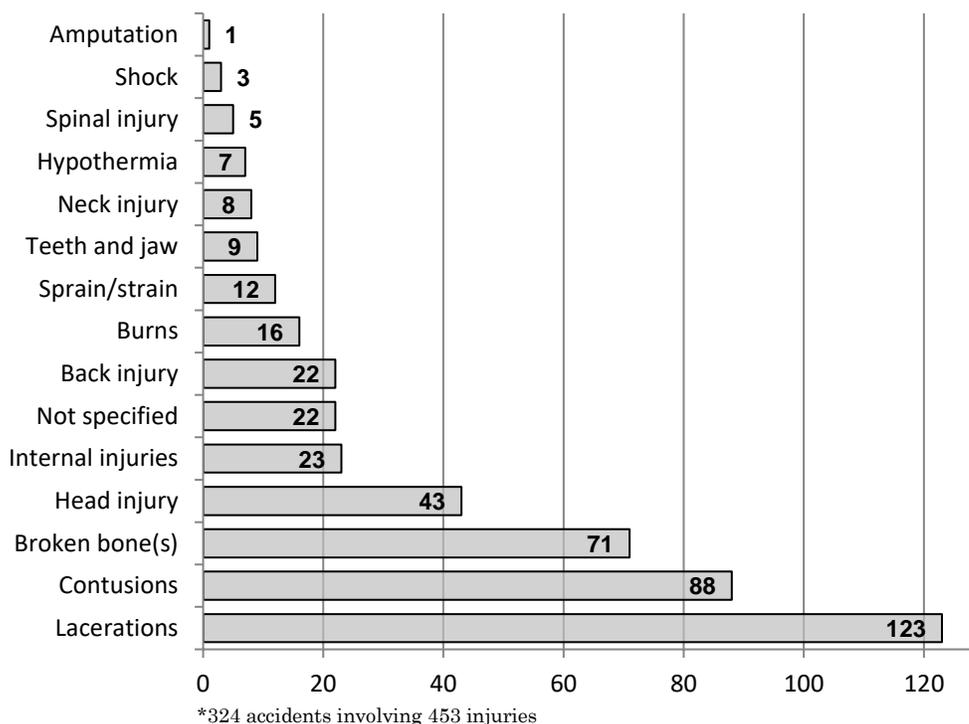
V-1 was anchored approximately nine miles E of the inlet at Montgomery Reef. V-2 was traveling at planning speed and collided with V-1. Operator of V2 said that he was putting the coordinates in his G.P.S to go to the south side of Montgomery Reef. When he looked up, he saw that he was heading toward a vessel that was in his direct path of travel. He made a sharp left turn crashing into the starboard side of V-1. He said that a young kid that was on V-1 either jumped or was ejected into the water but was able to swim back to the boat. Operator said that after he crashed into V-1, he went back to check on the other people. He exchanged information and headed back home because of the damage to his vessel.

## 2019 BOATING INJURIES

### TOTAL INJURIES RECORDED 2015-2019

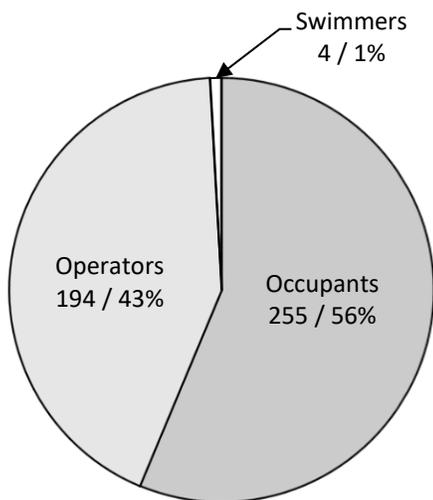


### TYPES OF INJURY



## 2019 BOATING INJURIES

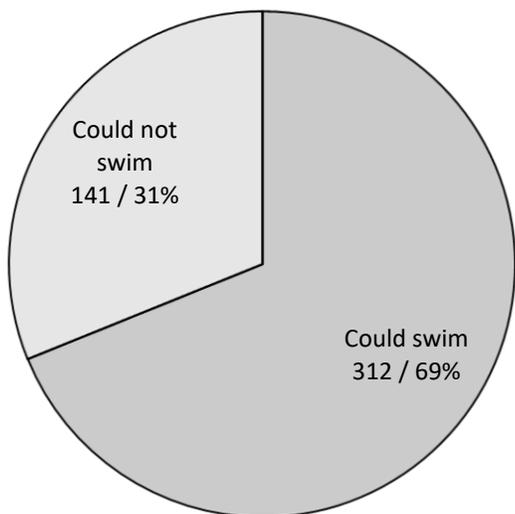
### VICTIM STATISTICS (INJURED)



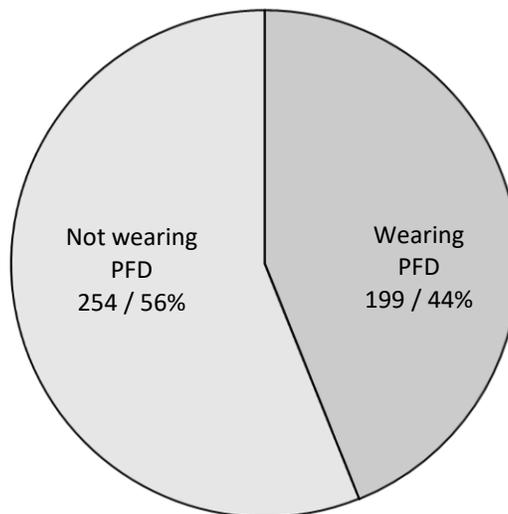
\*324 accidents involving 453 injured

On Sunday, May 13, at approximately 8:30 pm a 30-foot open motorboat was nearing the entrance to St. Andrew Bay when it struck the jetty. All persons onboard were thrown around inside the boat resulting in multiple injuries. The 27-year-old operator was able to back the boat off the jetty however due to the damage to the hull it quickly took on water and capsized in the channel. Multiple agencies had responded to the accident and everyone was recovered from the water and taken to the hospital for treatment of their injuries. Alcohol was a contributing factor in this accident.

### VICTIM STATISTICS (SWIMMING ABILITY)

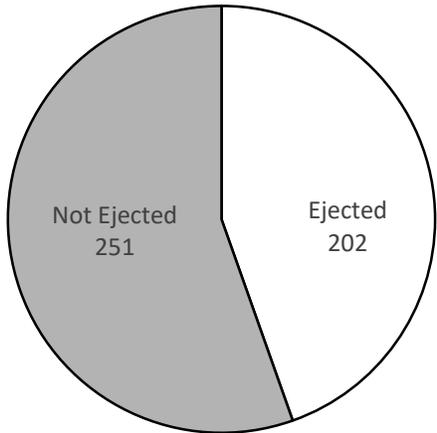


### VICTIM STATISTICS (PFD USE)

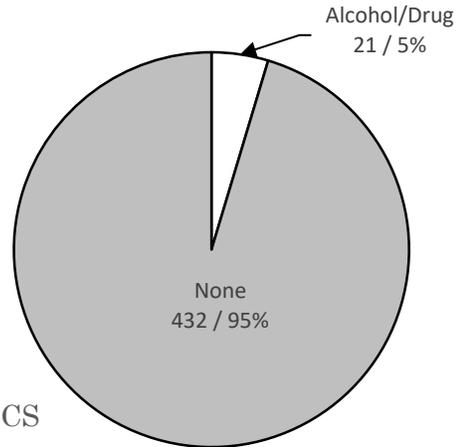


## 2019 BOATING INJURIES

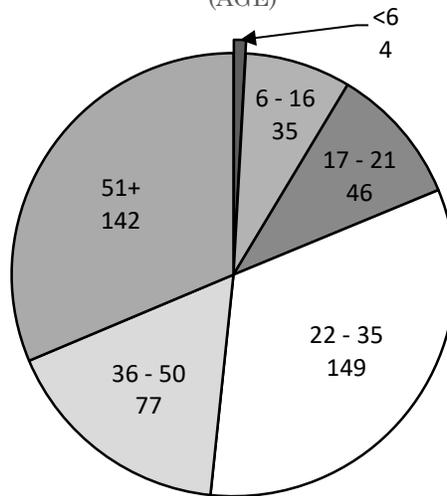
VICTIM STATISTICS  
(EJECTED)



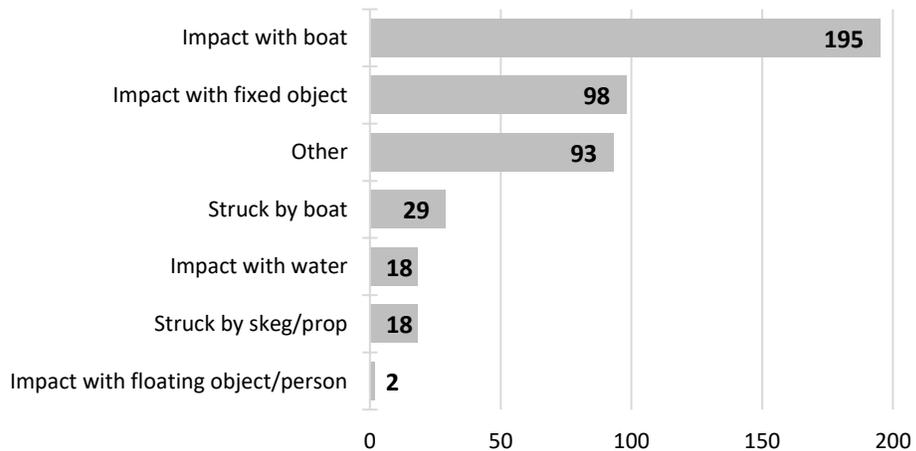
VICTIM STATISTICS  
(ALCOHOL/DRUG USE)



VICTIM STATISTICS  
(AGE)



### INJURY ACTION





# Personal Watercraft Accidents



## Personal Watercraft Accidents photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

On March 10, a small group of family and friends took a vessel and a PWC out for a day of fun in Sarasota Bay. The group headed to a local waterside restaurant for dinner. Once dinner was finished the group was going to head back to the boat ramp. A 26-year-old female in the group operated the PWC for the return trip. While traveling back to the ramp the operator was playing around by changing directions to jump wakes and waves. The group on the vessel had to turn around to get the PWC to stop and head toward the ramp. On the second attempt to redirect the vessel had the PWC in front of them to keep an eye on her. The female operator made a sharp turn on the PWC and impacted the vessel on the right side. The PWC operator was ejected upon impact. She was checked out at a local hospital for possible concussion. The PWC operator had been consuming alcohol during the day and considered to be a contributing factor in the incident.

## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	811		813	1		2	500	29	1:813
Baker	244	1	245						
<b>Bay</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1:478</b>
Bradford	288	1	289						
Brevard	3,841	21	3,869	3		3	\$11,950	17	1:1,289
<b>Broward</b>	<b>9,842</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>9,969</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>\$25,900</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1:1,424</b>
Calhoun	64	1	65						
Charlotte	1,875	55	1,930	1			\$5,000	27	1:1,930
Citrus	1,060		1,060	1		1	\$0	31	1:1,060
Clay	1,814	12	1,827						
Collier	3,459	347	3,812	5		4	\$8,300	13	1:762
Columbia	247	1	248						
Desoto	161		163						
Dixie	62		62						
<b>Duval</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>\$21,500</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1:747</b>
Escambia	1,981	28	2,015	4		5	\$6,750	16	1:504
Flagler	821		823	1		1	\$0	32	1:823
Franklin	125	15	141	1		1	\$0	33	1:141
Gadsden	85		85						
Gilchrist	135		135						
Glades	28		28						
Gulf	128	8	141						
Hamilton	30		30						
Hardee	107	3	110						
Hendry	227	2	229						
Hernando	1,303		1,306						
Highlands	1,155		1,155						
Hillsborough	6,567	30	6,605	5		7	\$12,900	11	1:1,321
Holmes	61	1	62						
Indian River	908	1	909						
Jackson	212	1	213						
Jefferson	53		53						
Lafayette	47		47	1		1	\$500	30	1:47
Lake	2,718	13	2,731	2		1	\$10,250	21	1:1,366
<b>Lee</b>	<b>5,182</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>\$51,704</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1:541</b>
Leon	724	4	728						
Levy	220		220						

\*Accident Rate =  $\frac{\text{\# of Registered Vessels}}{\text{\# of Accidents}}$  Top ten counties for PWC accidents in bold print. Fields that equaled zero intentionally left blank.

## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY									
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	33		33						
Madison	46		46						
Manatee	2,839	65	2,906						
Marion	2,148	4	2,153	2		1	\$8,200	22	1:1,077
Martin	1,800	69	1,870	5		5	\$9,600	12	1:374
<b>Miami-Dade</b>	<b>15,891</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>16,348</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>\$90,833</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1:629</b>
<b>Monroe</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$39,300</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1:118</b>
Nassau	711	8	720						
<b>Okaloosa</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>3,807</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1:381</b>
Okeechobee	242		242						
Orange	8,352	74	8,435	4		2	\$19,800	14	1:2,109
Osceola	2,378	16	2,395	3	1	4	\$2,500	19	1:798
<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>6,433</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>6,532</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>\$39,800</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1:594</b>
Pasco	4,474	18	4,492	1		1	\$0	34	1:4,492
<b>Pinellas</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>10,046</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$59,600</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1:502</b>
Polk	3,608	12	3,624	4		2	\$16,100	15	1:906
Putnam	536	1	537						
Santa Rosa	2,283	143	2,427	2		2	\$0	25	1:1,214
<b>Sarasota</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>\$53,950</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1:255</b>
Seminole	3,510	7	3,521	2		2	\$1,100	23	1:1,761
St. Johns	2,037	15	2,063	3		4	\$11,000	18	1:688
St. Lucie	1,493	5	1,498	2		2	\$0	25	1:749
Sumter	331		331						
Suwannee	201		201	1		1	\$42,000	26	1:201
Taylor	75		75						
Union	62		63						
Volusia	3,078	52	3,146	3		3	\$0	20	1:1,048
Wakulla	188		188						
Walton	766	12	783	2	1	1	\$150	24	1:392
Washington	148		148	1			\$3,500	28	1:148
DHSMV	553	6	570						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134,830</b>	<b>3,583</b>	<b>138,640</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>\$589,687</b>		<b>1:745</b>

\*Accident Rate =  $\frac{\text{\# of Registered Vessels}}{\text{\# of Accidents}}$

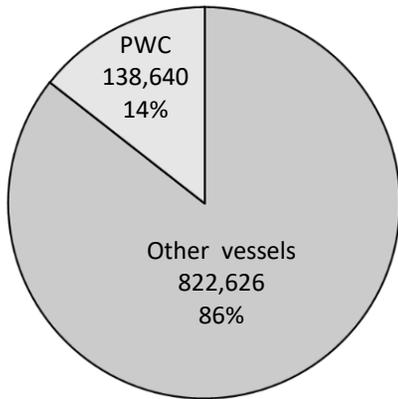
Top ten counties for PWC boating accidents in bold print

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) represent registrations issued at the main office instead of at county level

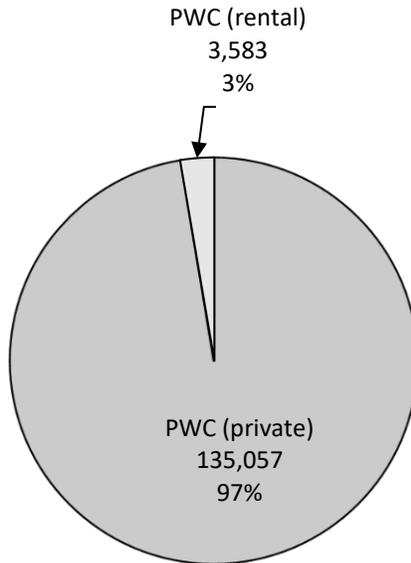
Fields that equaled zero intentionally left blank.

## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

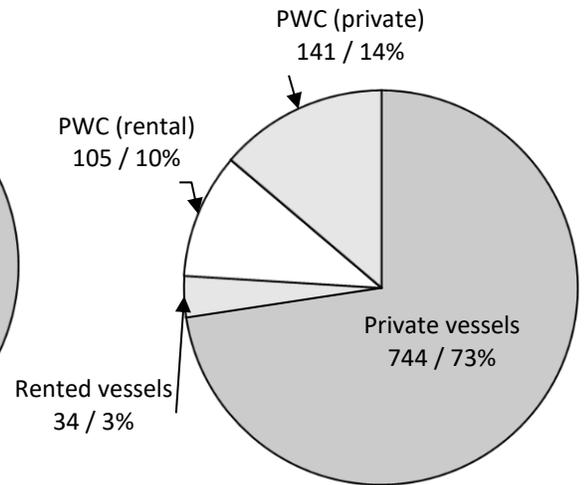
TOTAL REGISTERED PWC



PWC OWNERSHIP BY REGISTRATION

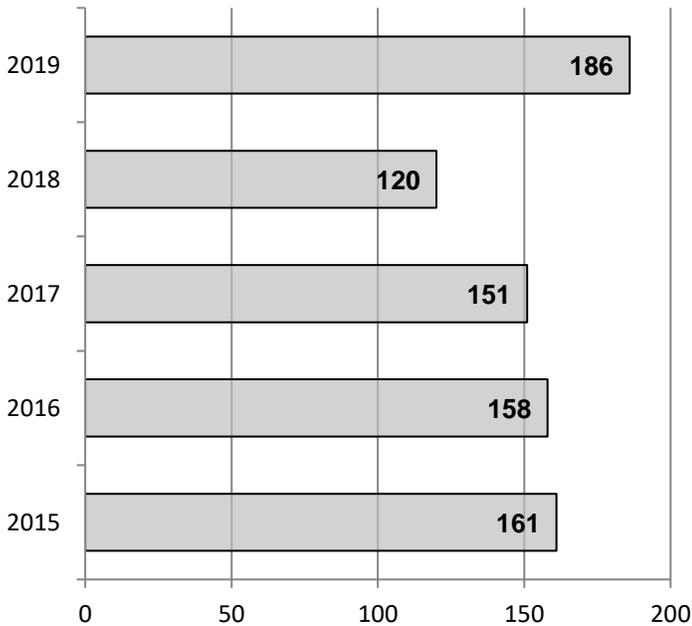


COMPARISON OF PWC TO VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS

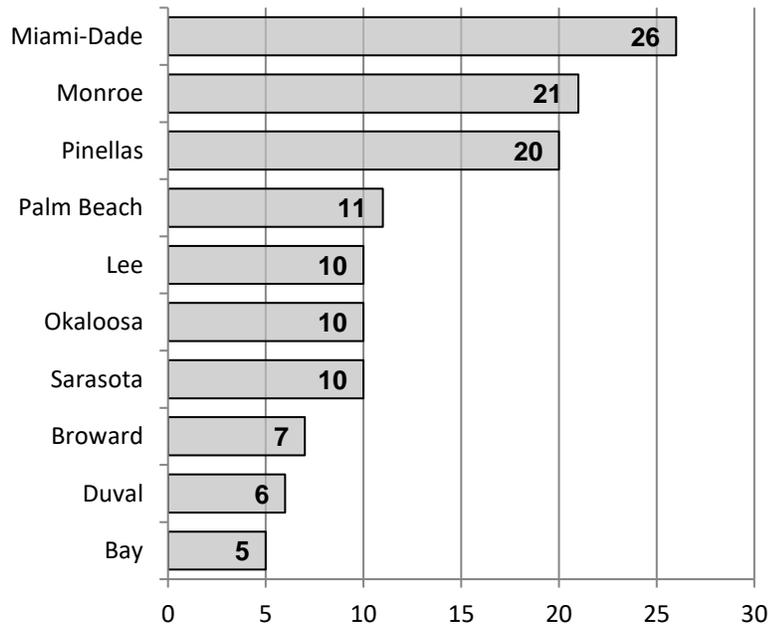


\*1,024 vessels involved in accidents

ACCIDENTS 2015-2019

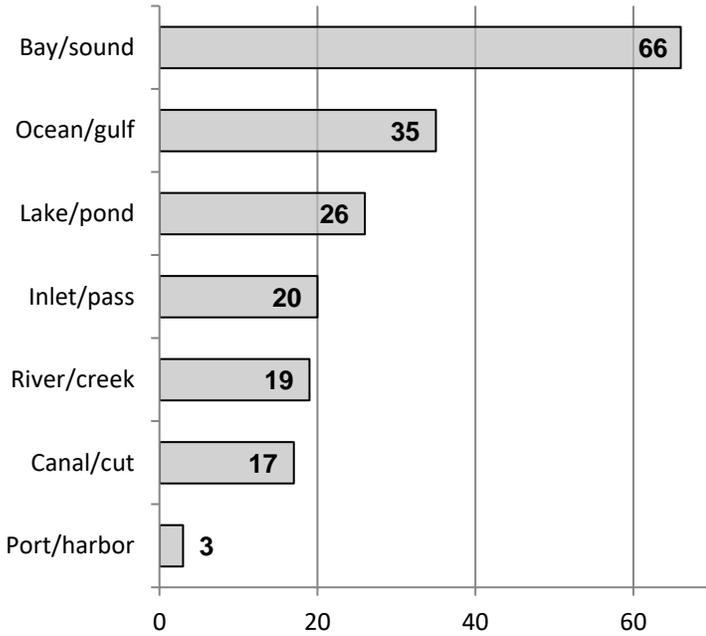


TOP TEN COUNTIES

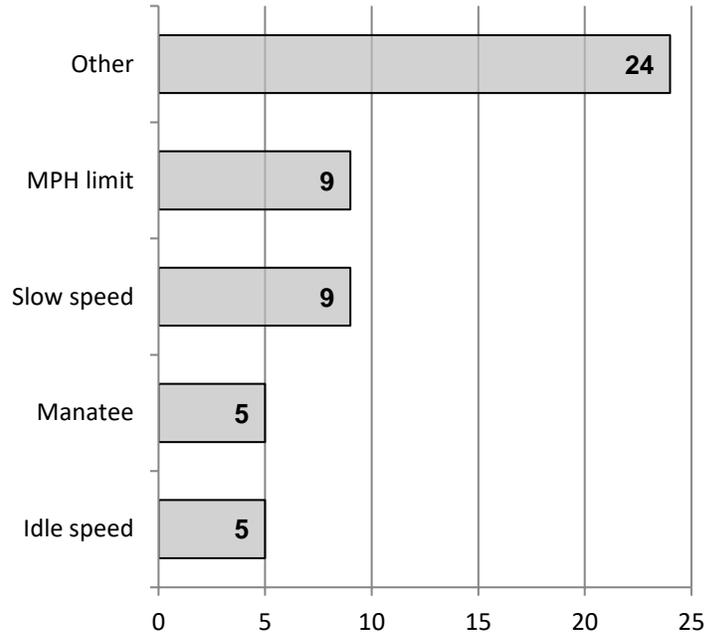


## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

### ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

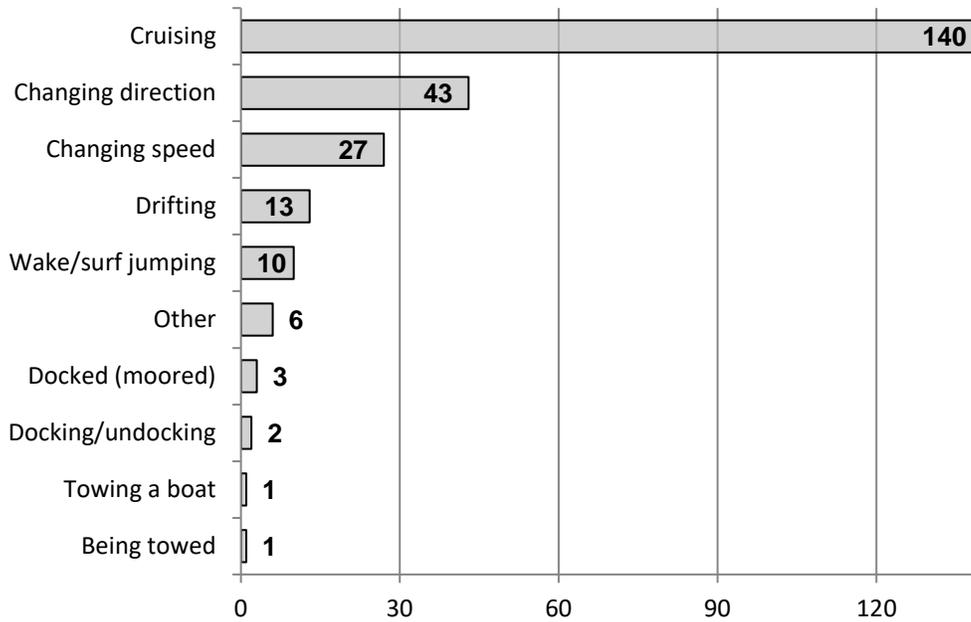


### RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



\*52 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area  
 "Other" may include areas where the regulation or local ordinance was not specified.

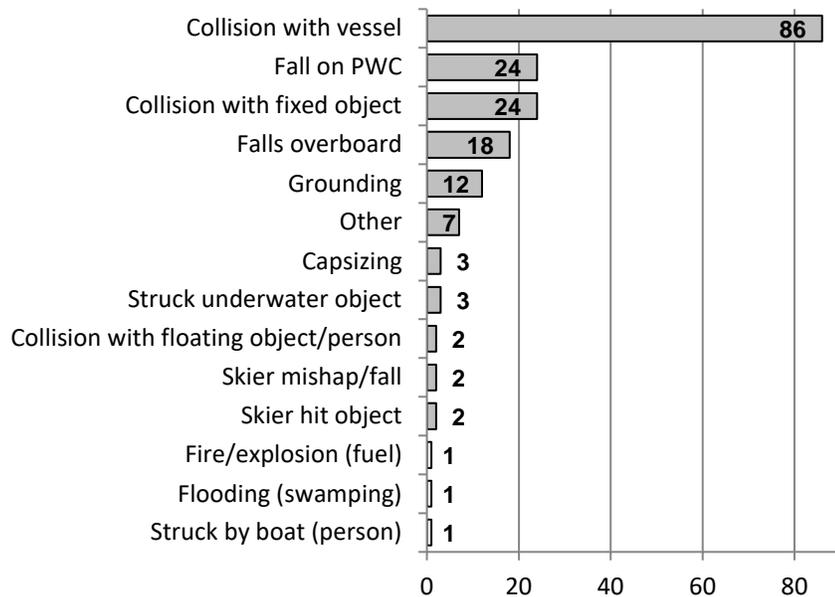
### OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



\*246 PWC involved in 186 accidents

## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

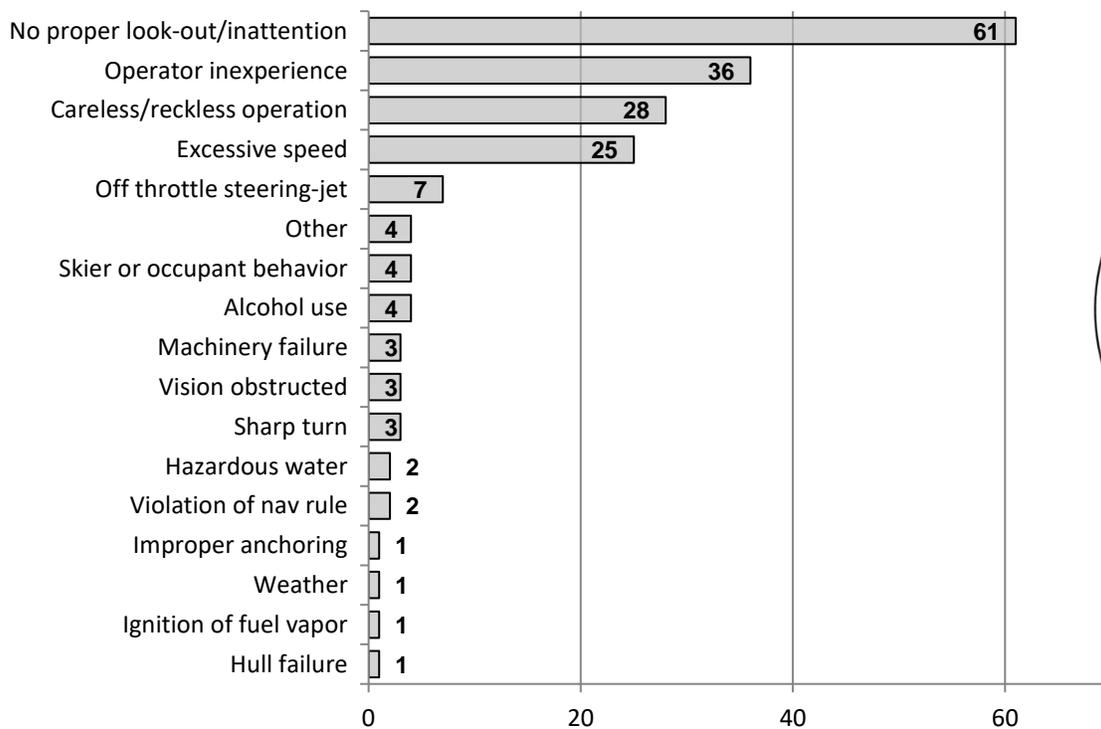
### PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



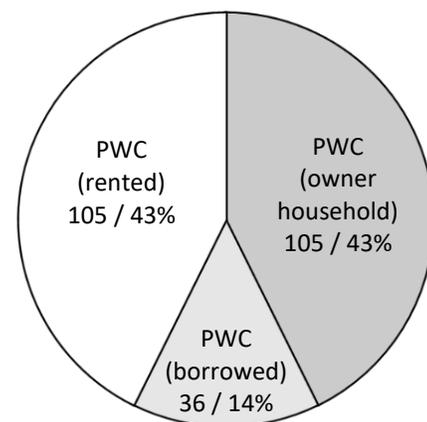
\*186 PWC accidents (Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 3:45 pm in Marathon a single PWC accident occurred. The 30-year-old male operator was traveling at a high rate of speed when he hit a boat wake and the PWC ramped off the wake. Upon landing, he hit his head on the handlebars, causing injuries to his head and neck before falling overboard. He was retrieved from the water unresponsive. CPR was performed, and he was transported to the hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

### PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY

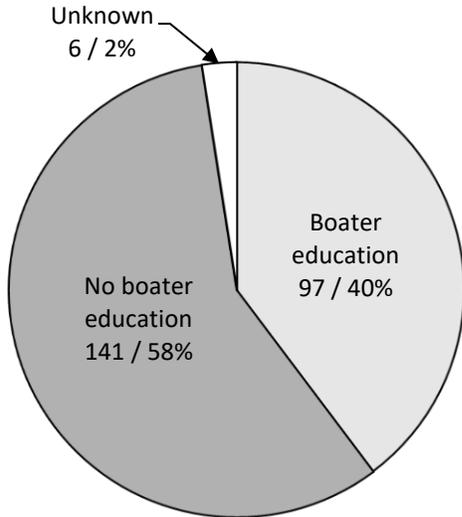


### PWC OWNERSHIP



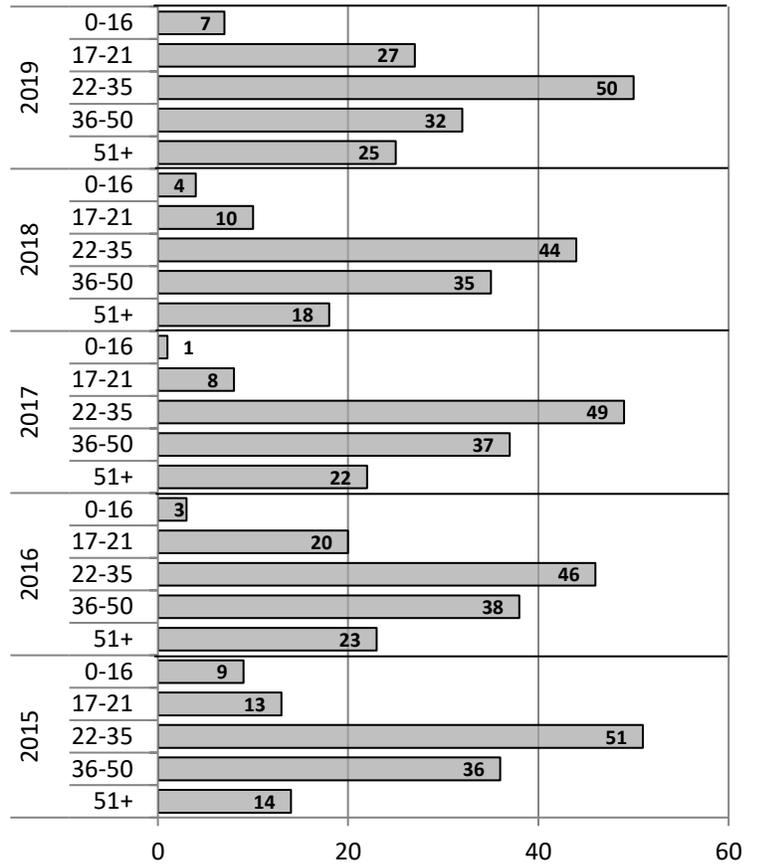
## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

### OPERATOR EDUCATION

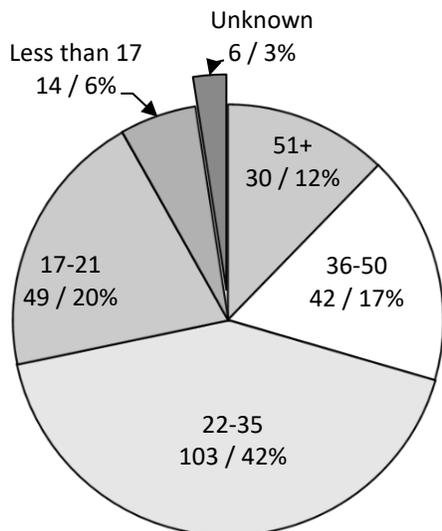


\*186 PWC accidents involving 246 PWC and 244 operators  
Operator information for 6 PWC are unknown due to hit and run accidents or no operators at time of accident

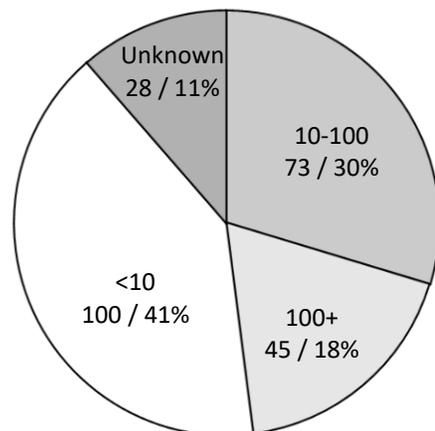
### OPERATORS BY AGE WITHOUT BOATER EDUCATION



### OPERATOR AGE

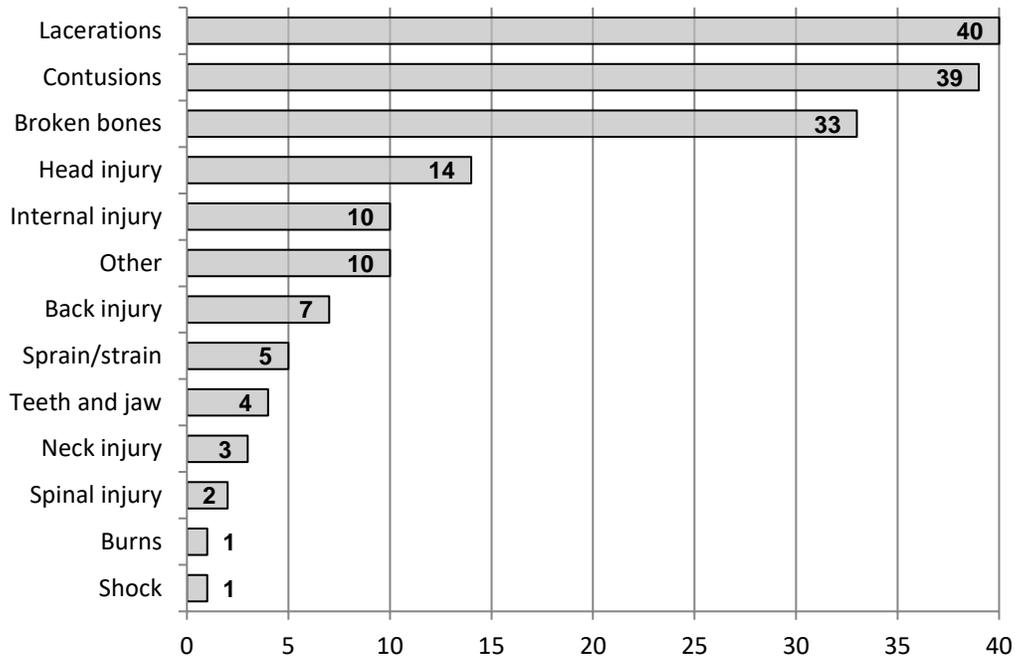


### OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



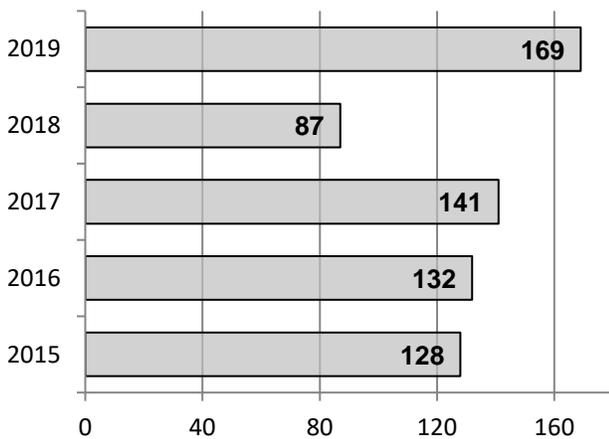
## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

### PRIMARY INJURY TYPES

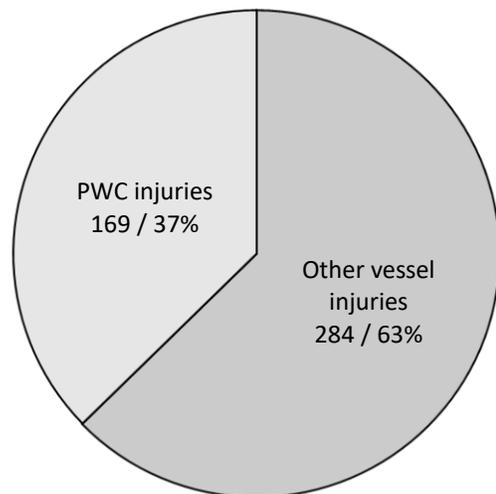


\*186 accidents involving 169 injured persons

### INJURIES 2015-2019



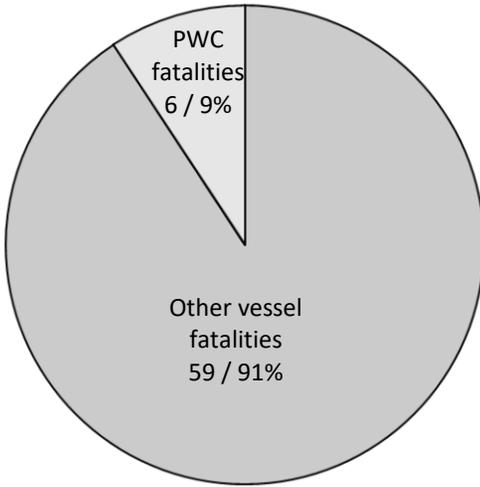
### COMPARISONS OF PWC INJURIES



\*453 injuries

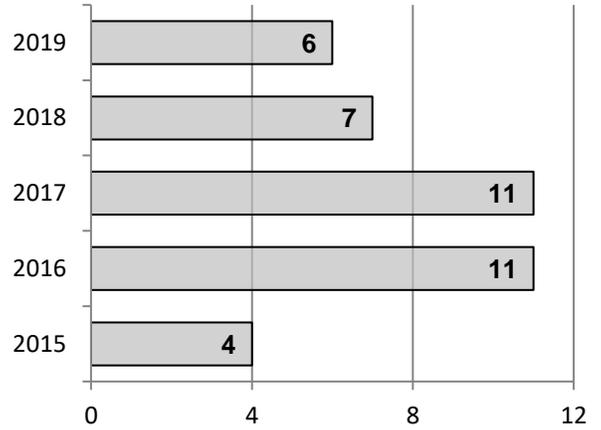
## 2019 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

### COMPARISONS OF PWC FATALITIES

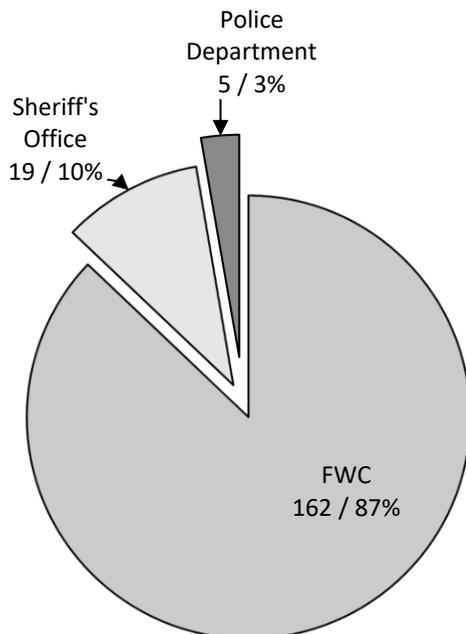


\*65 Fatalities

### FATALITIES 2015-2019

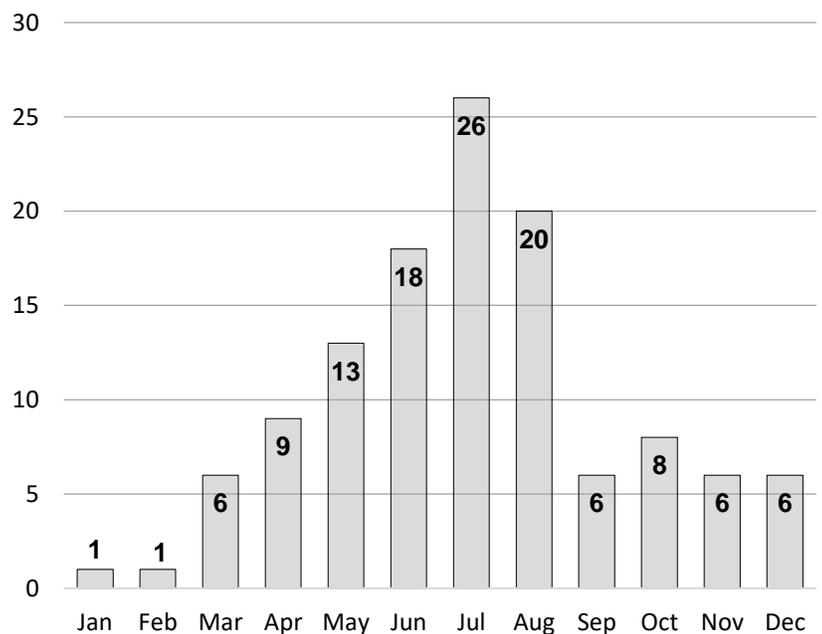


### INVESTIGATING AGENCY



\*186 PWC accidents

### ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



# Boating Education Statistics



## **Boating Education Statistics photo detail**

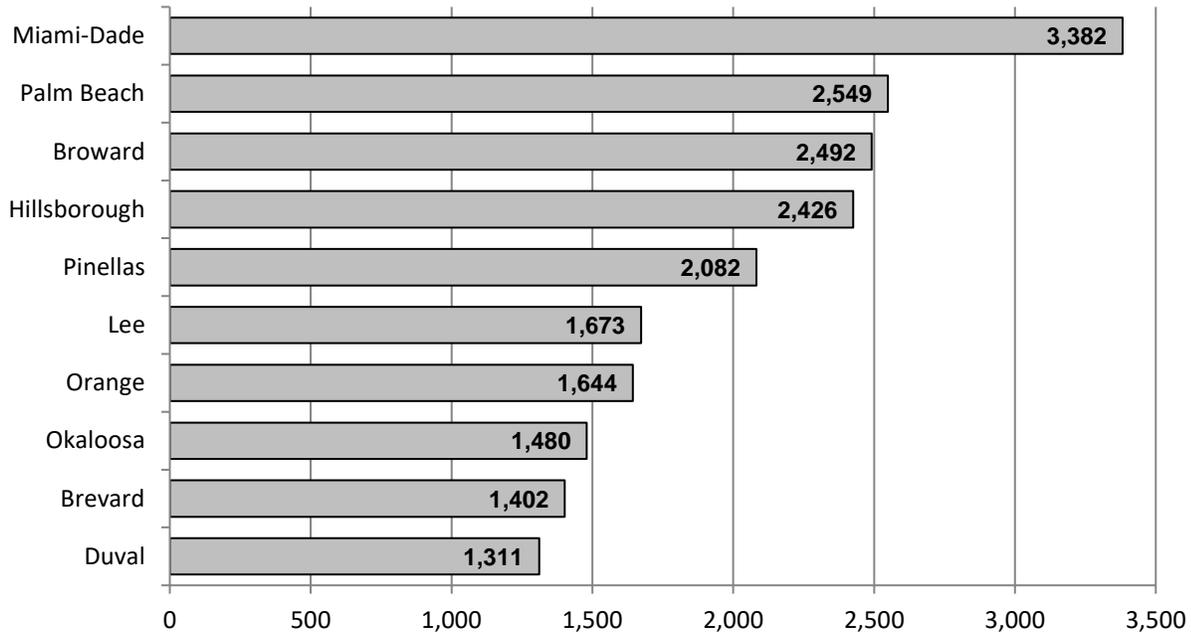
Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

Officer Ronald Washington teaching boating safety and other boat handling techniques.

Officers Arbogast and Thurkettle attended the outreach at the Boys and Girls Club in Naples. They brought a vessel for viewing and hung out with the kids after their presentation.

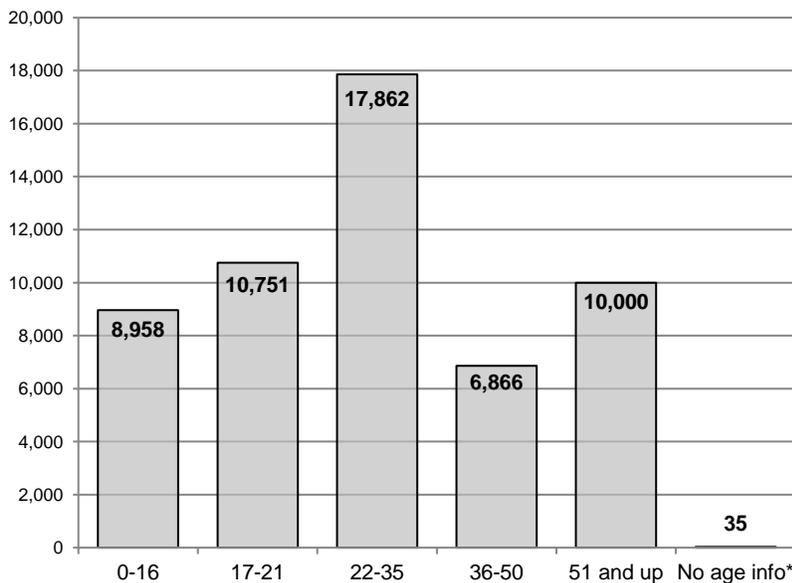
## 2019 BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS

### TOP TEN COUNTIES-BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION IDENTIFICATION (I.D.) CARDS ISSUED



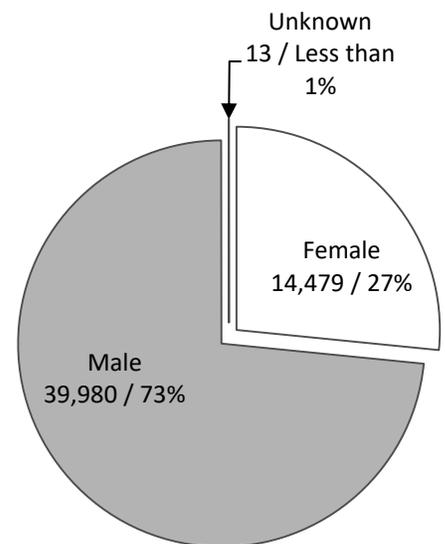
\*54,472 cards issued in calendar year 2019 (does not include temporary certificates)  
9,626 cards were issued to out-of-state residents

### BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION I.D. CARD DISTRIBUTION BY AGE



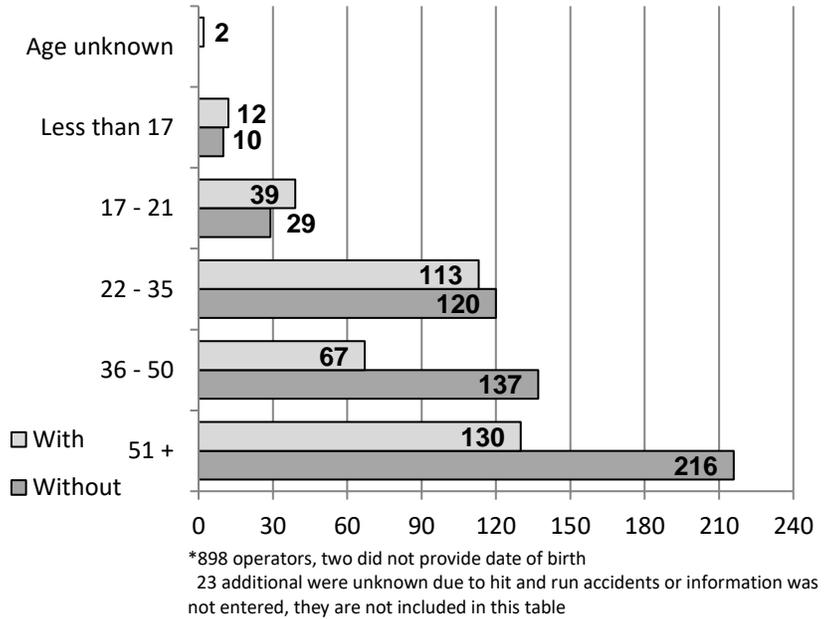
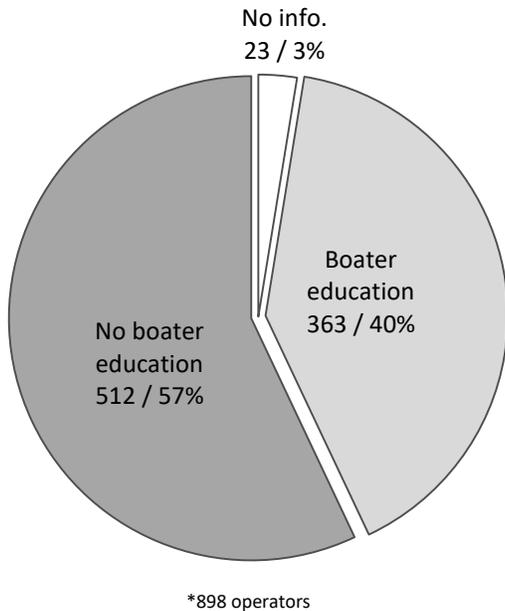
\*54,472 new cards issued. An additional 266 cards issued as reprints for lost, damaged and change of information

### I.D. CARD DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER

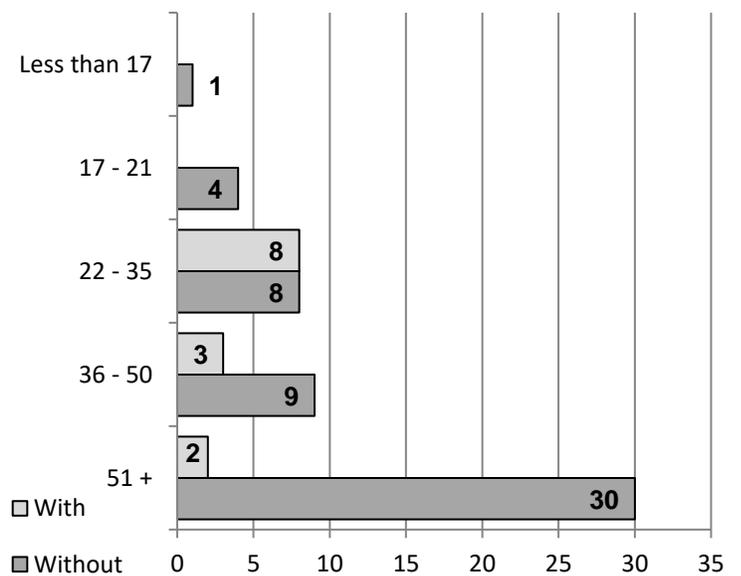
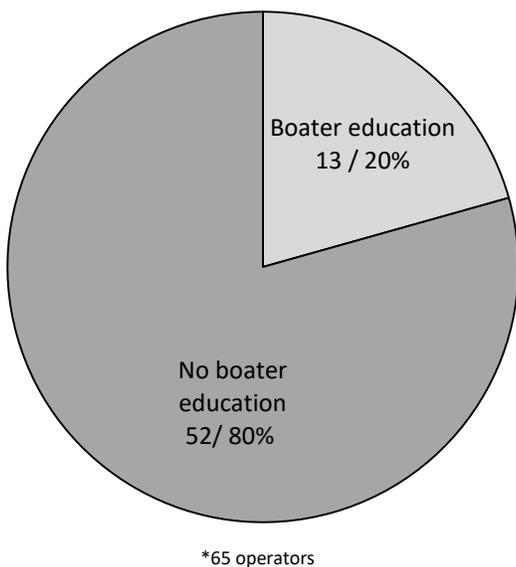


## 2019 BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS

### OPERATORS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS-EDUCATION/AGE



### OPERATORS INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS-EDUCATION/AGE



# Violation Summary



## **Violation Summary photo detail**

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

Vessel grounded on the bicycle path of the Courtney Campbell Causeway. The operator stated he was texting on his phone while underway, the operator was arrested for Boating Under the Influence (BUI) after the responding officer noticed a few indicators during their interaction.

## 2019 BOATING VIOLATION SUMMARY

<b>2019 UNIFORM BOATING CITATION SUMMARY</b>				
CITATION	2019		2018	
	FWC	Other	FWC	Other
<b>Aids to Navigation and Regulatory Markers</b> Uniform waterway markers for safety and navigation Mooring to or damaging markers or buoys	71	38	33	4
<b>Alcohol and Drugs</b> Operation of a vessel under the influence of alcohol Operation of a vessel while impaired	617	32	536	29
<b>Boating Restricted Areas</b> Manatee protection rules Public safety rules Local ordinances	2,958	2,936	2,139	3,060
<b>Boating Safety Education</b> Boating safety education I.D. cards	809	1,134	555	883
<b>Livery Operations</b> Rental without proper safety equipment Rental without boater education Rental to persons under 18 years of age	184	76	136	27
<b>Negligent Operation of a Vessel</b> Reckless operation of a vessel Careless operation of a vessel Navigation rule violation resulting in an accident Navigation rule violation not resulting in an accident Failure to report an accident	496	252	445	128
<b>Personal Watercraft</b> Personal watercraft regulations	490	182	354	128
<b>Skiing and Diving</b> Skiing, aquaplaning and parasailing violations Dive flag violations	335	32	373	49
<b>Registration and Numbering</b> Operation of unregistered/unnumbered vessels Application, certificate, number or decal violation Special manufacturer and dealer numbers Violation relating to vessel titling Violation relating to Hull Identification Numbers	3,251	1,381	2,278	1,113
<b>Safety Equipment and Regulations</b> Equipment and lighting requirements	4,825	747	3,920	761
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>14,036</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>10,769</b>	<b>6,232</b>
<b>TOTAL VIOLATIONS RECORDED</b>	<b>20,846</b>		<b>17,001</b>	



# 2019 Top Ten Counties For Boating Accidents

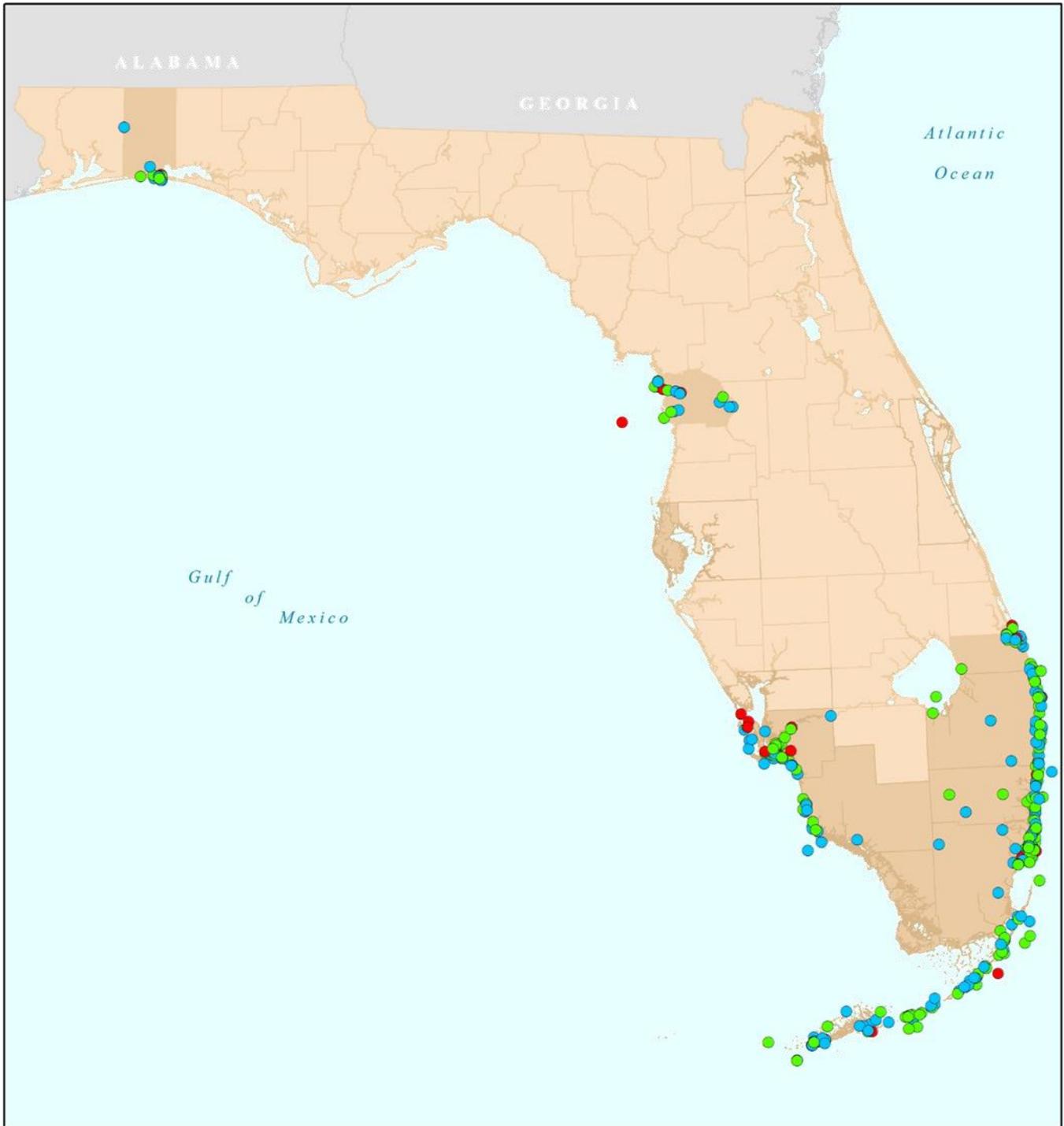


A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 61% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2019 calendar year occurred in 10 Florida counties.

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.

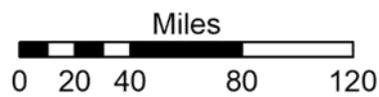
# BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICAL REPORT



## Florida Top 10 Counties of Boating Accidents during 2019

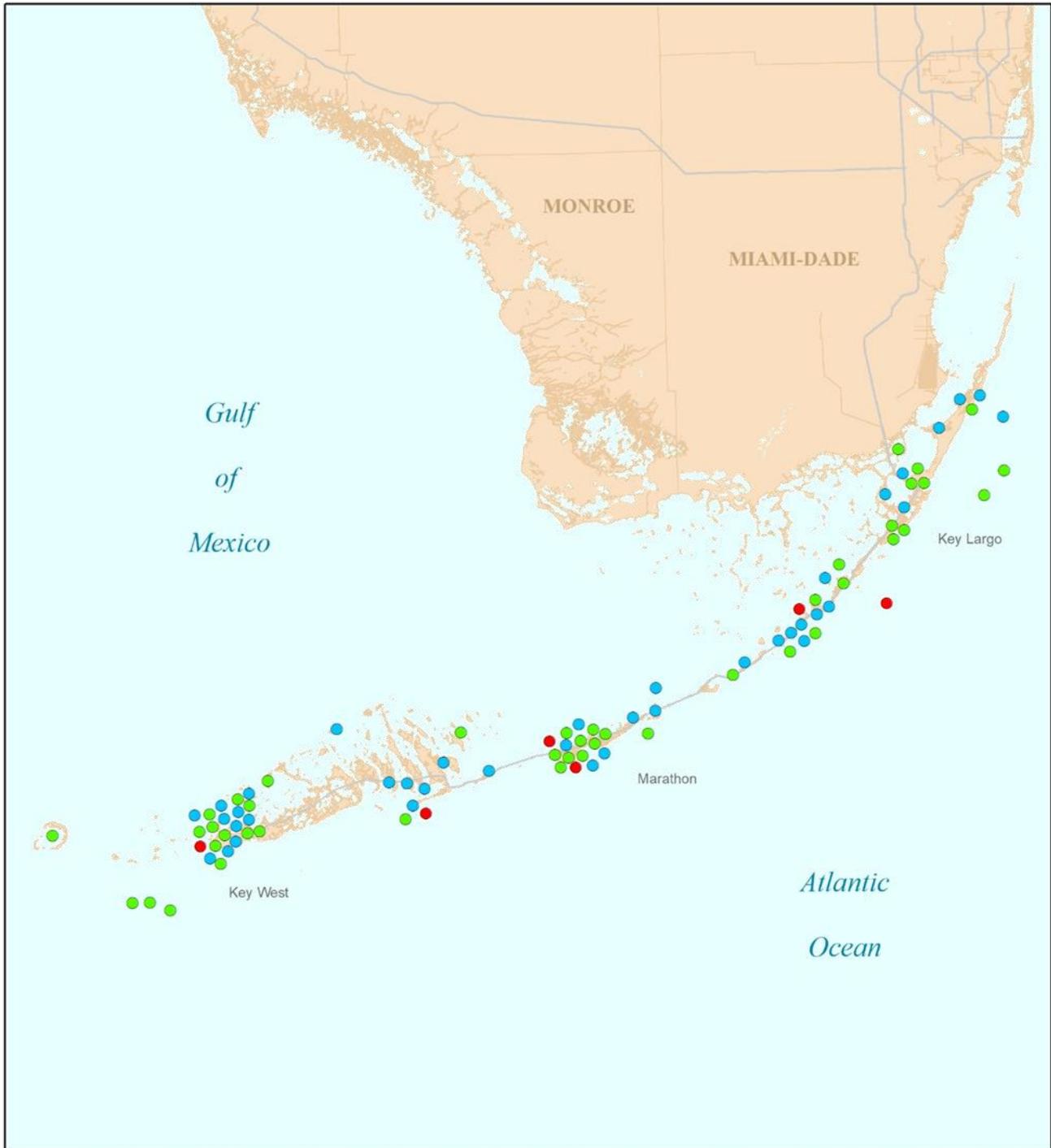
### Legend

- Fatal Accident (29)
- Accident with Injury (191)
- Accident without Injury (223)



Map document  
created by  
FWC LE GIS





Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (6)
- Accident with Injury (39)
- Accident without Injury (43)

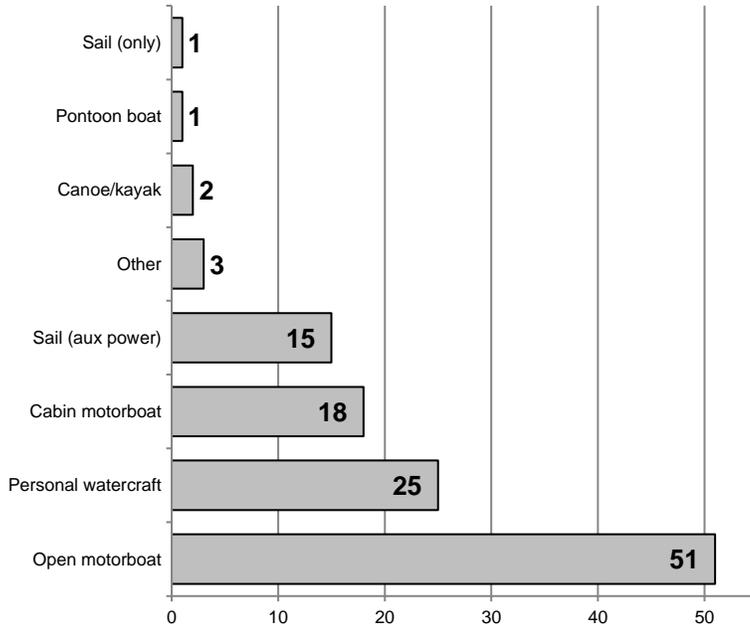


Map document  
created by  
FWC DLE GIS

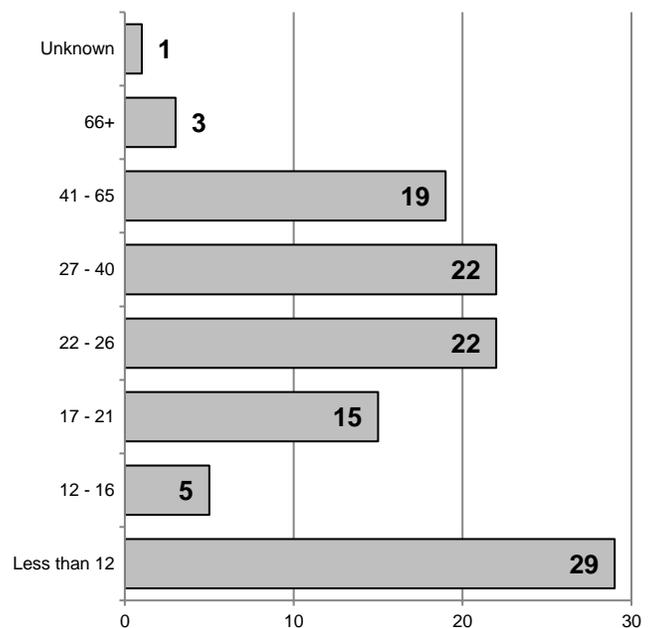


# 1. MONROE COUNTY

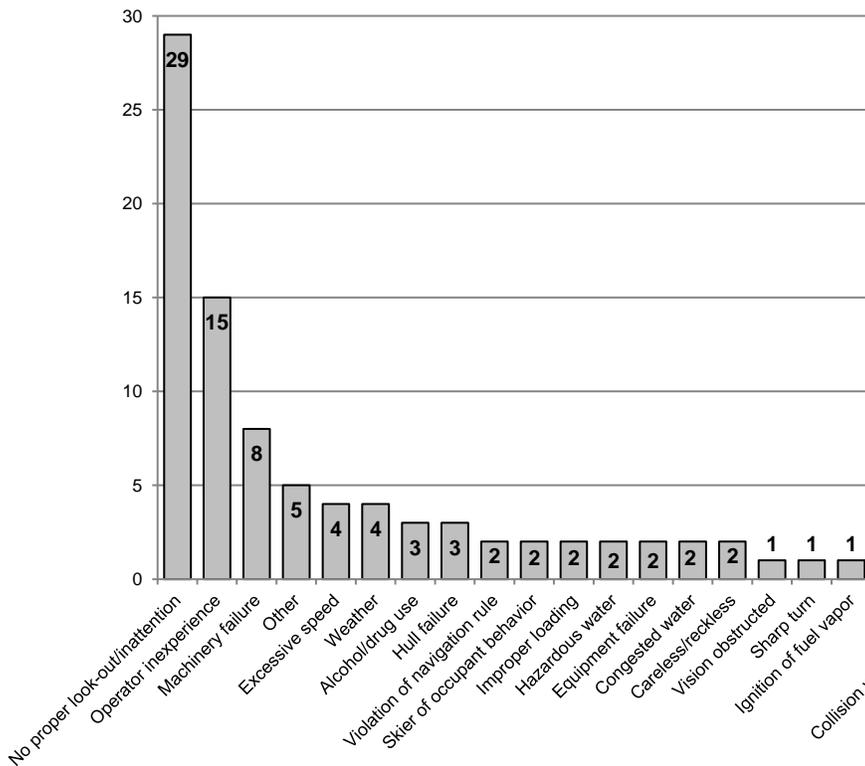
TYPE OF VESSEL



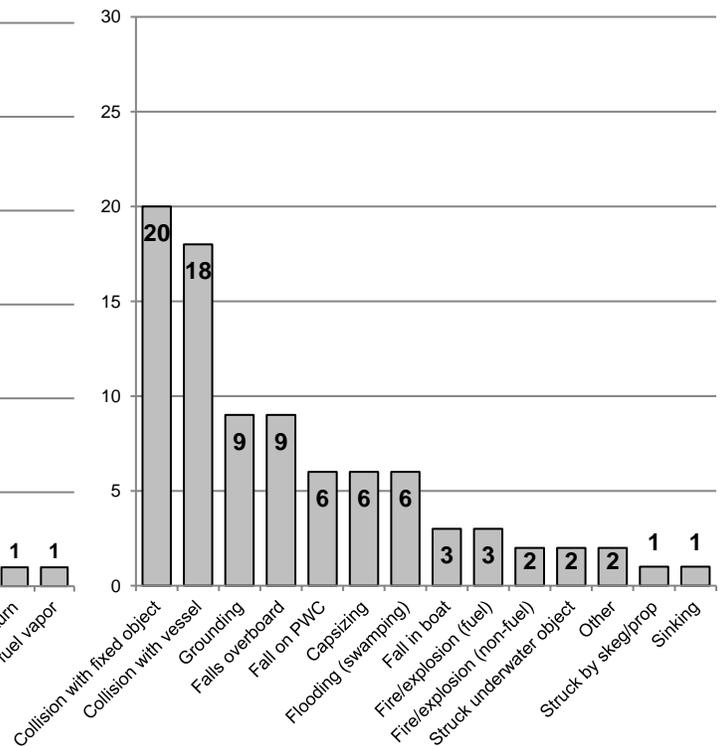
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

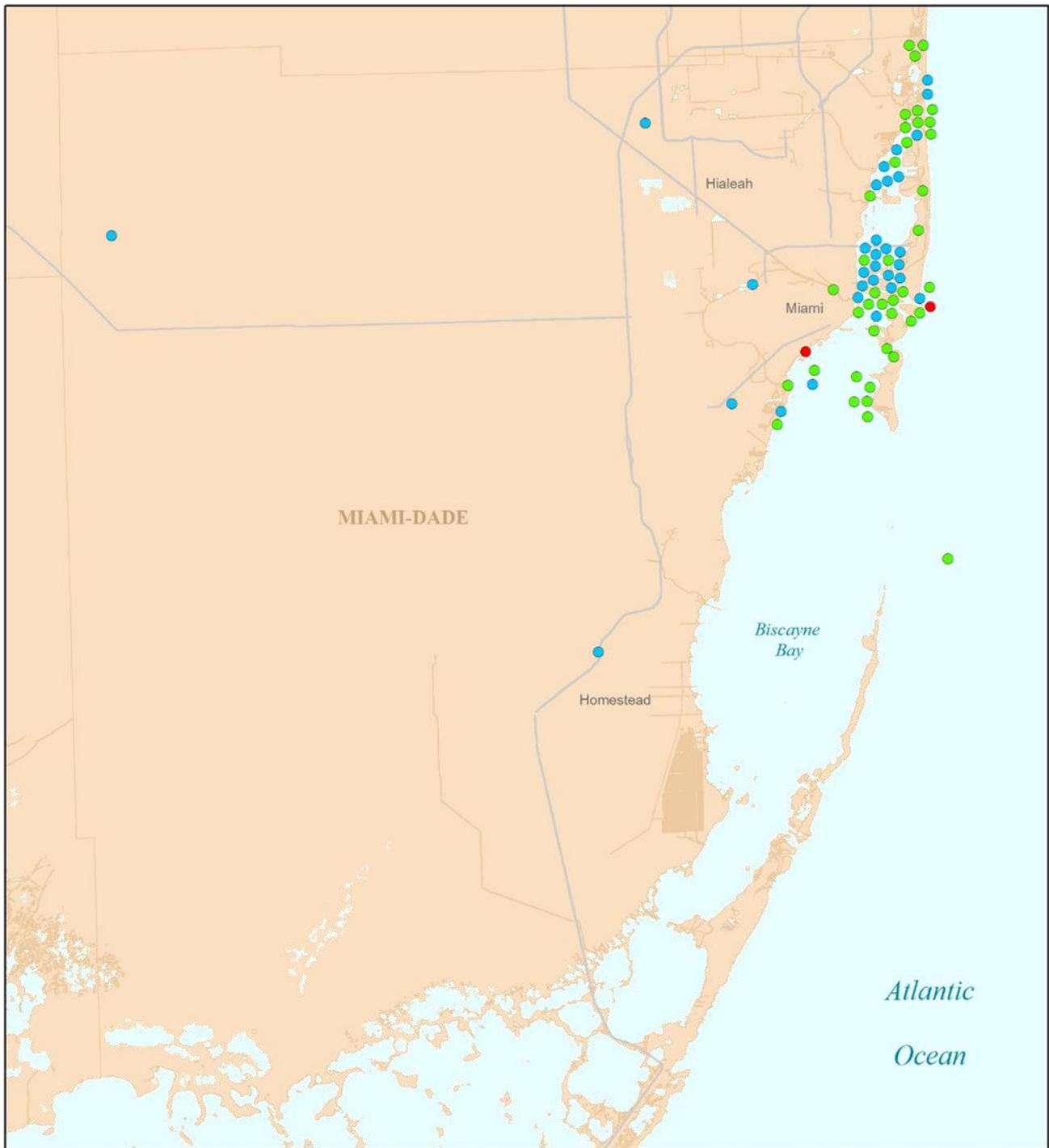


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (31)
- Accident without Injury (40)

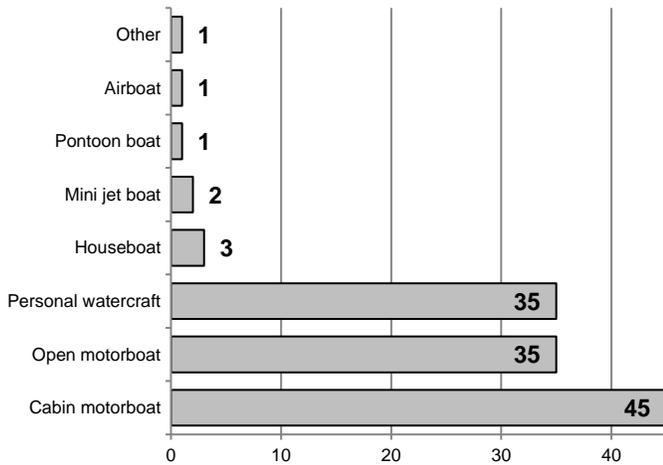


Map document  
created by  
FWC DLE GIS

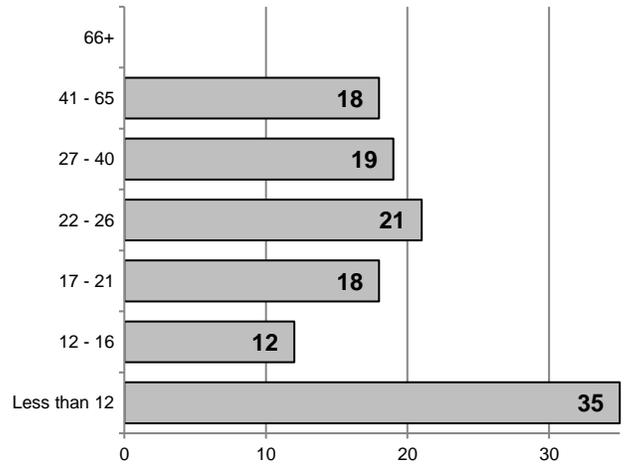


## 2. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

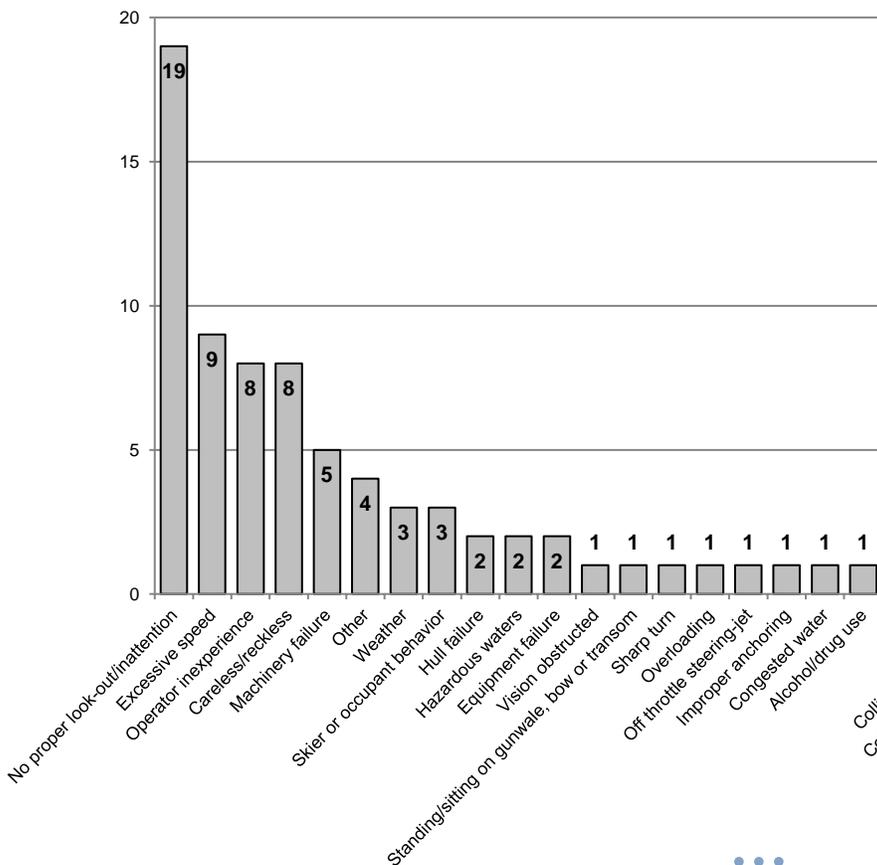
TYPE OF VESSEL



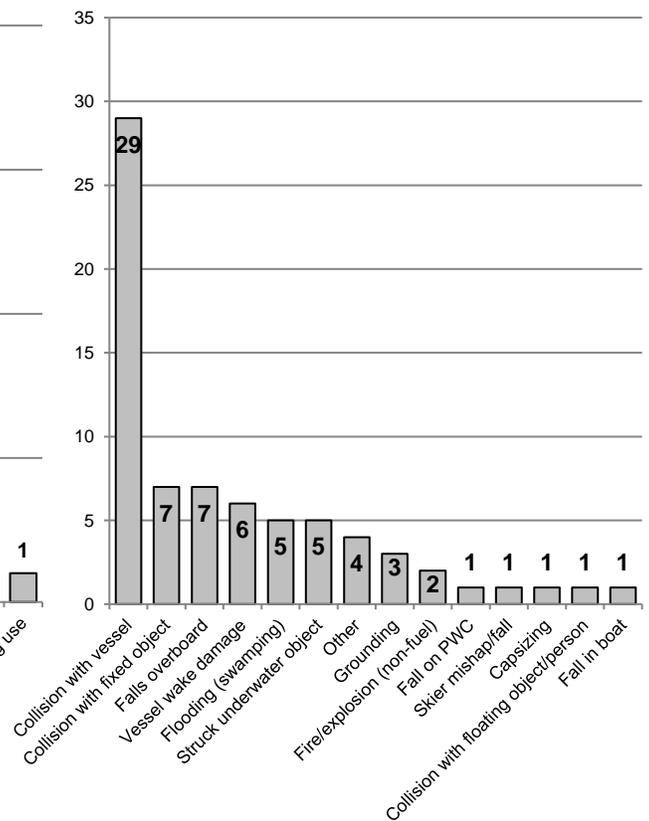
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

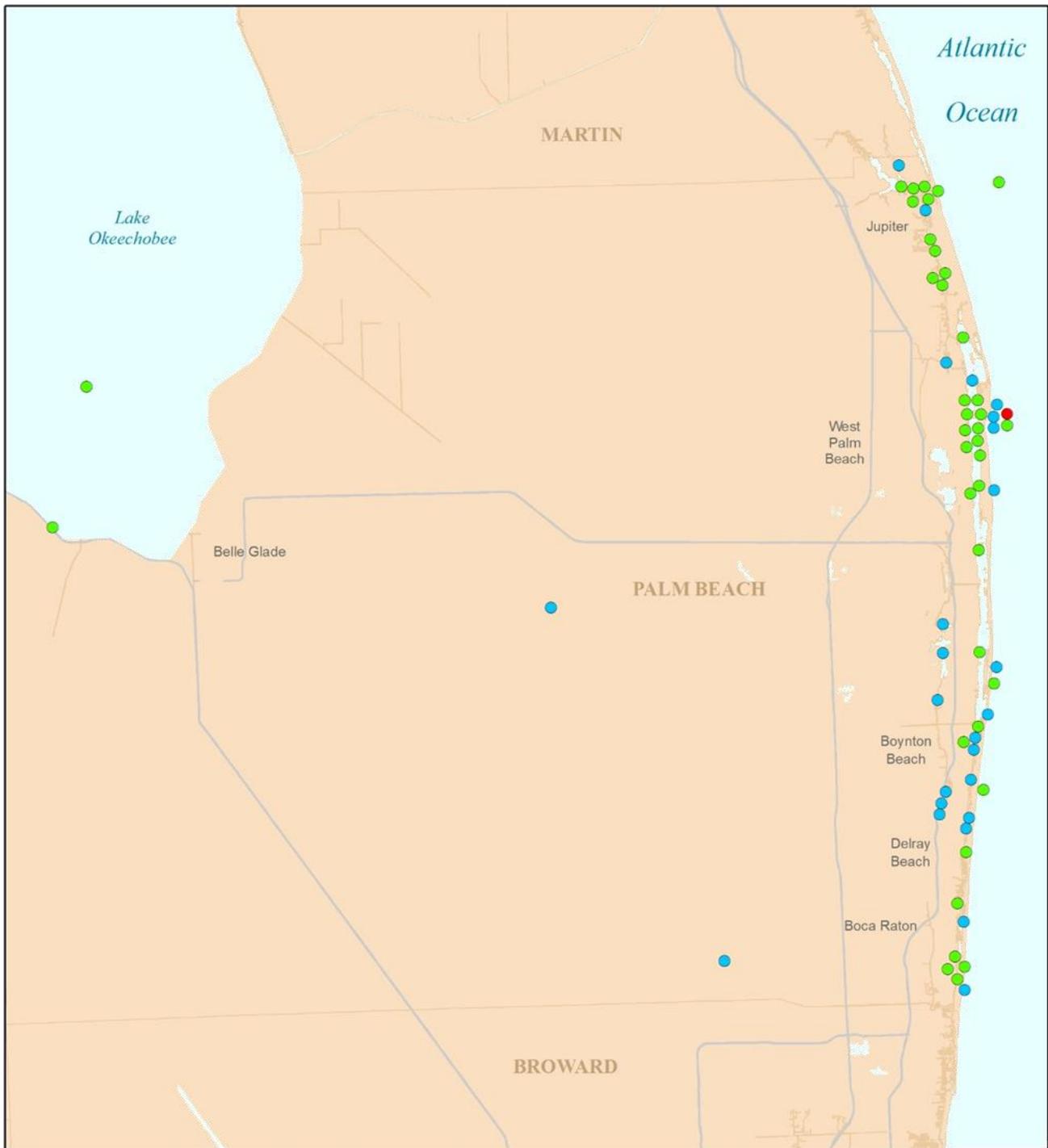


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (25)
- Accident without Injury (39)

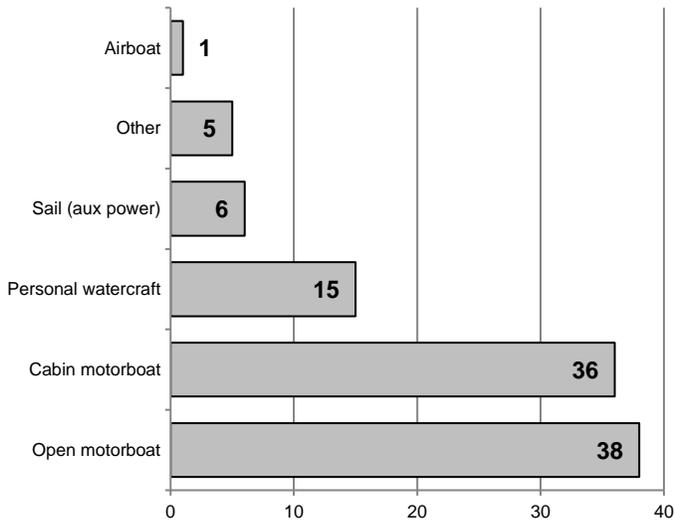


Map document  
created by  
FWC DLE GIS

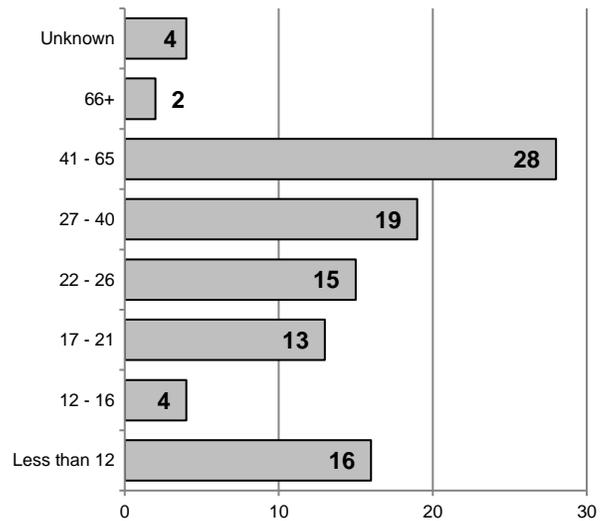


### 3. PALM BEACH COUNTY

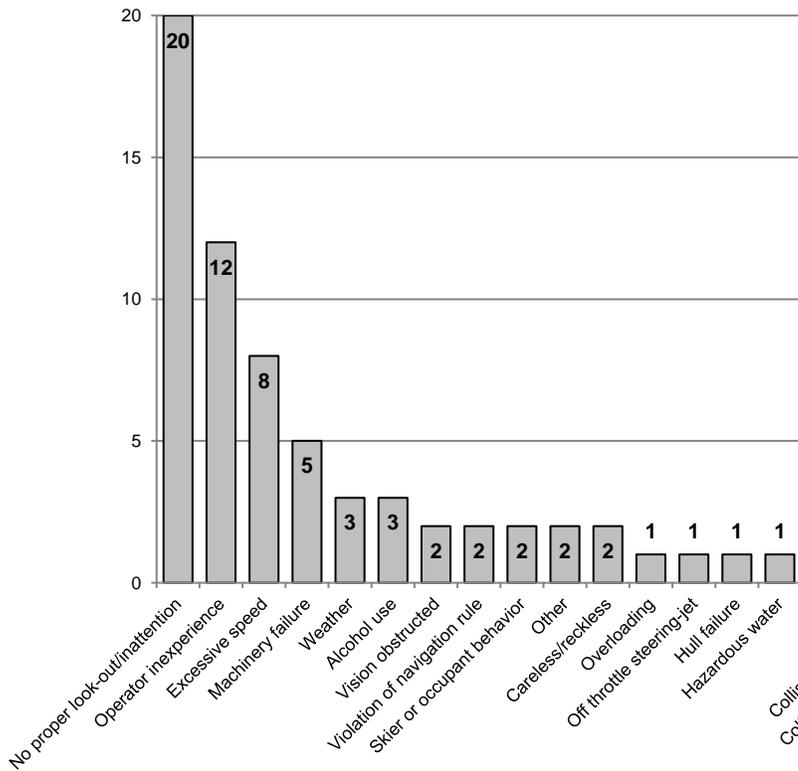
TYPE OF VESSEL



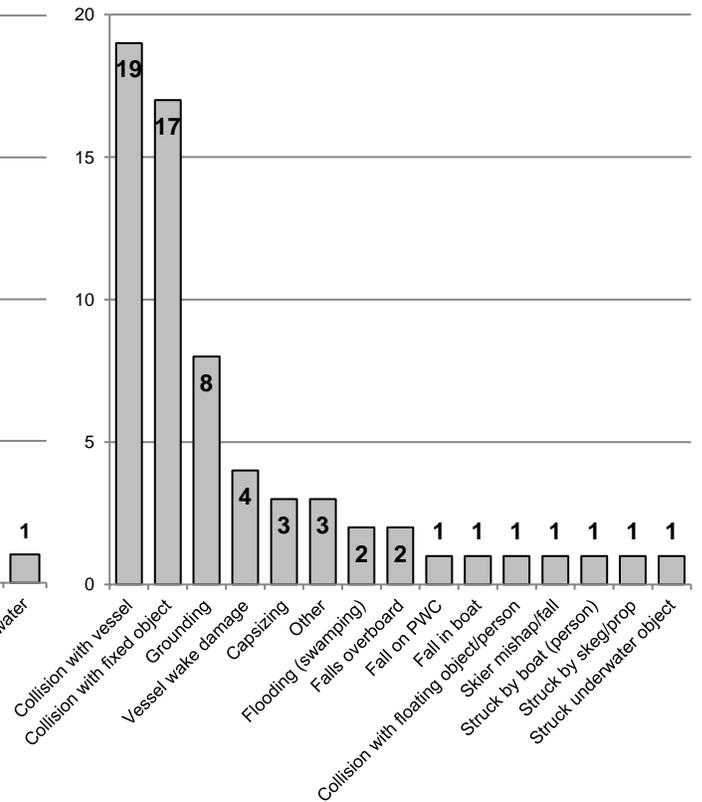
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

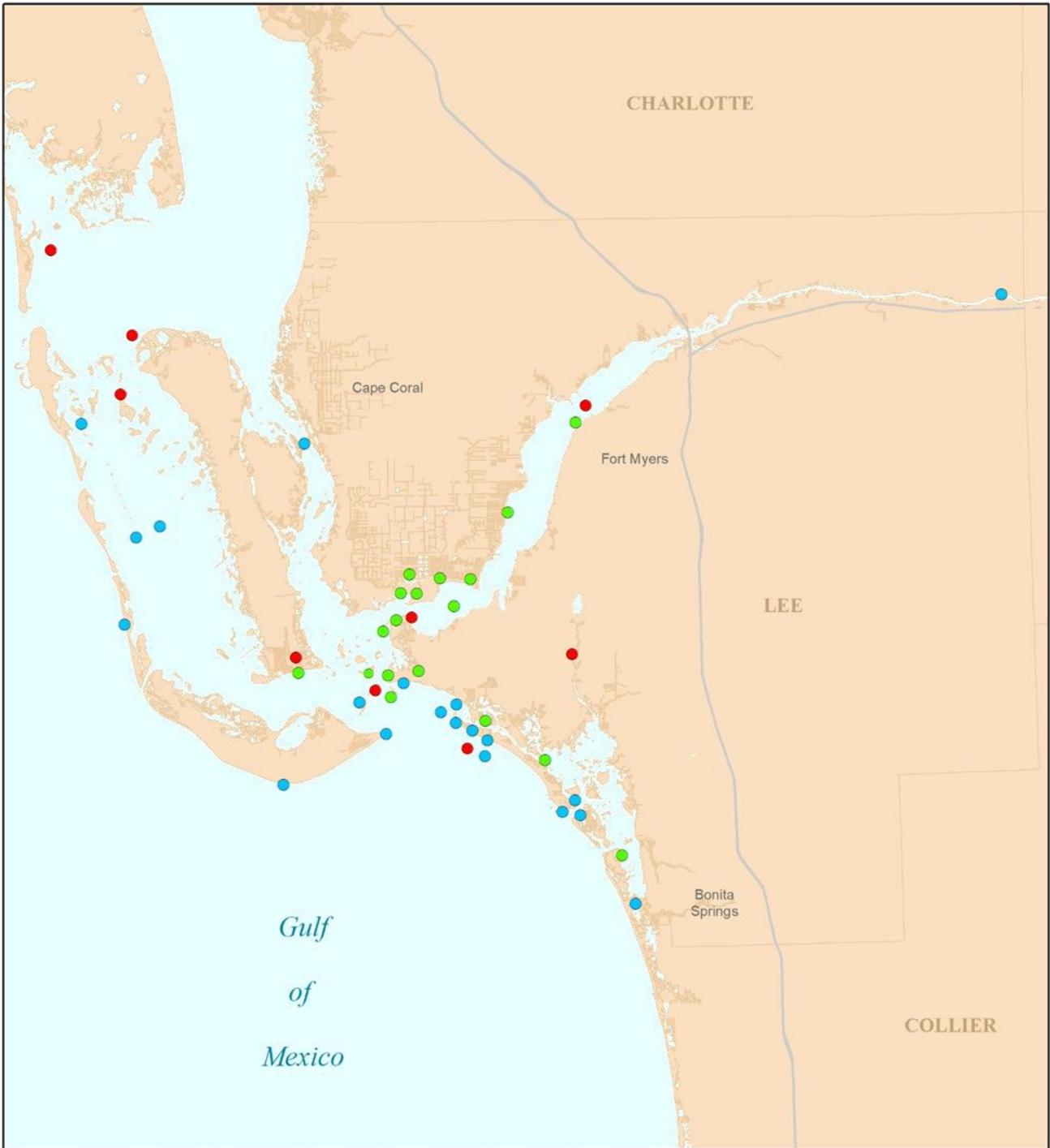


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (9)
- Accident with Injury (20)
- Accident without Injury (18)

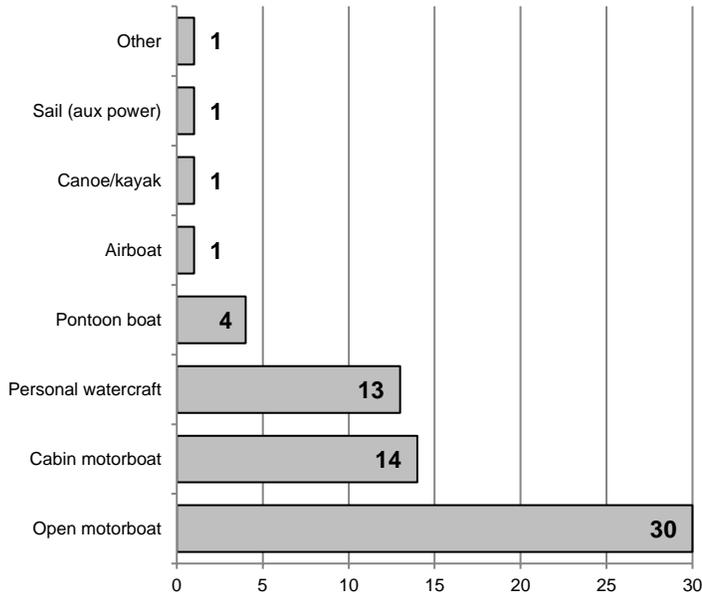


Map document  
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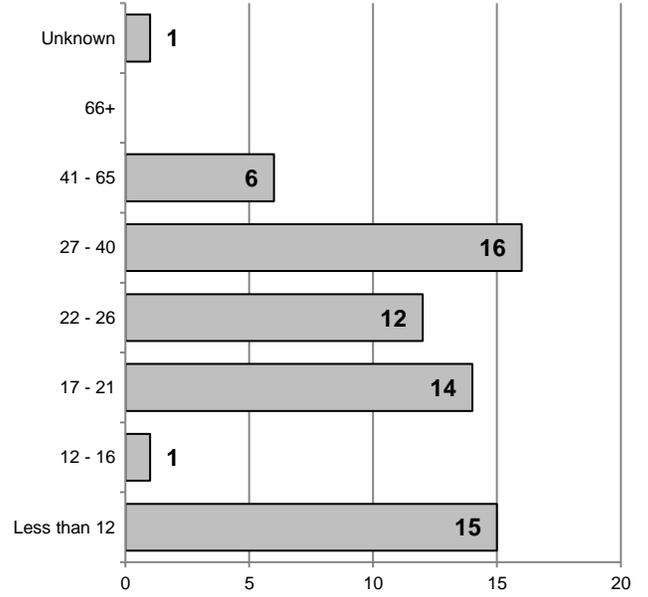


## 4. LEE COUNTY

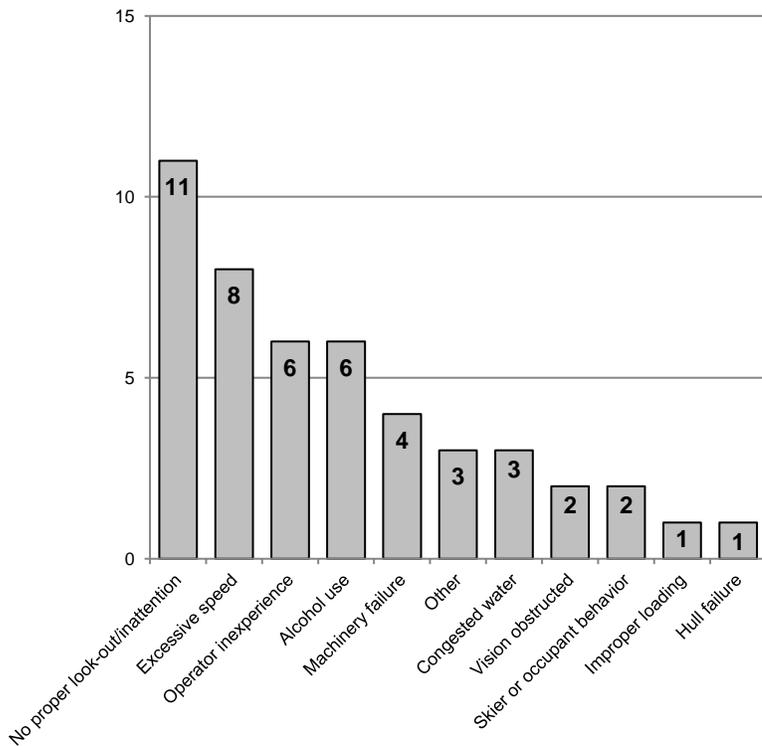
TYPE OF VESSEL



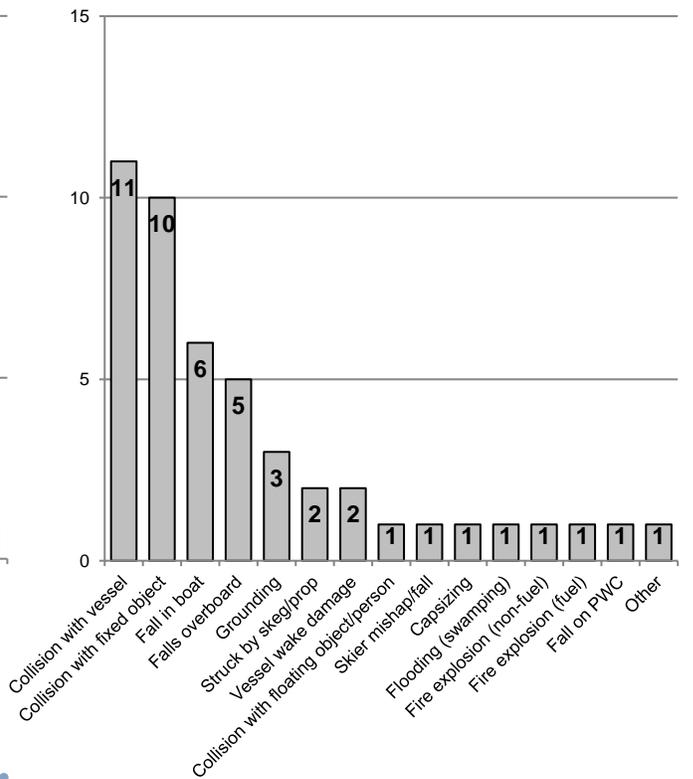
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (20)
- Accident without Injury (23)

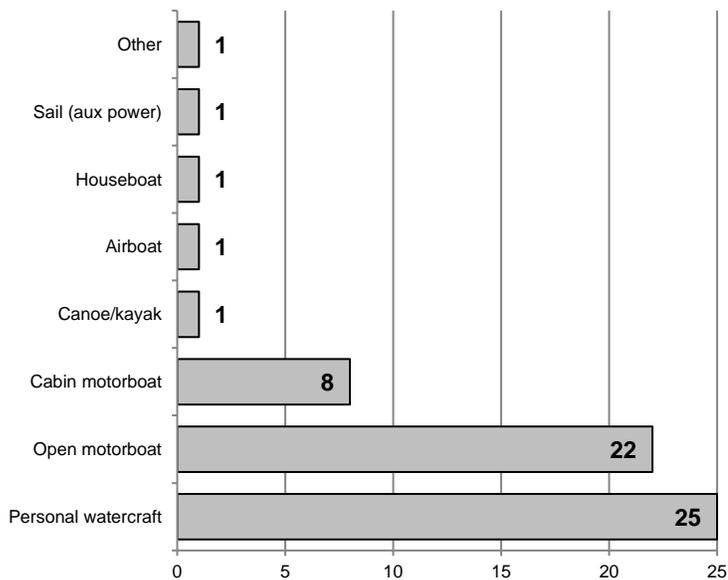


Map document  
created by  
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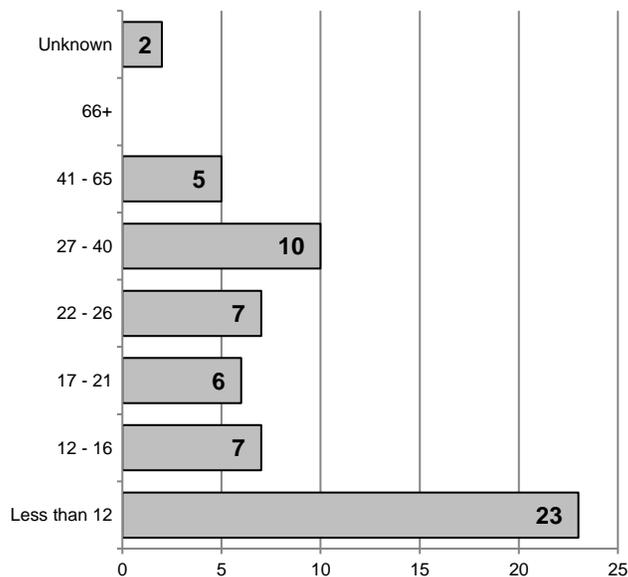


## 5. PINELLAS COUNTY

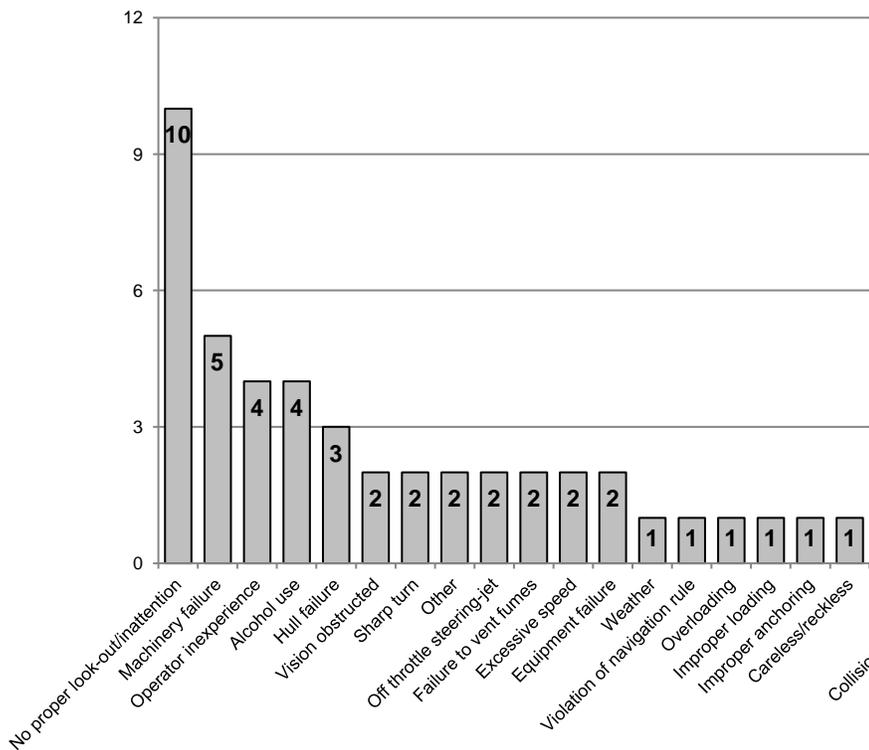
TYPE OF VESSEL



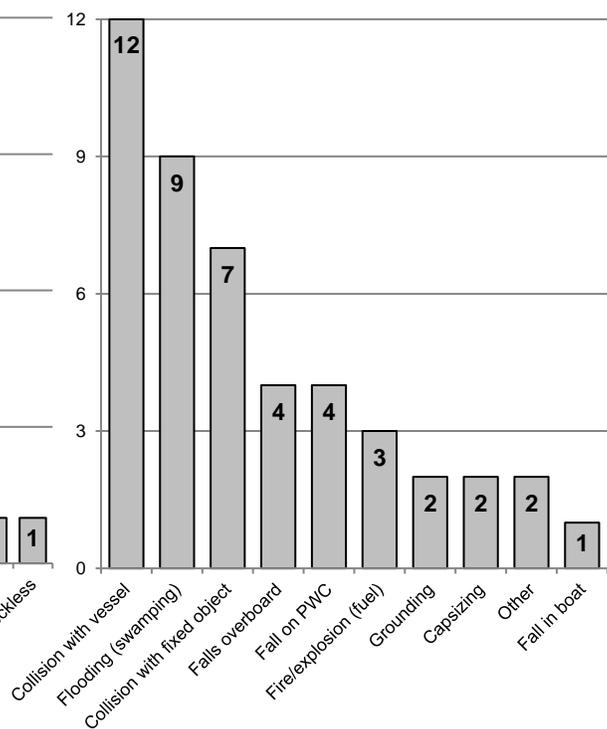
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

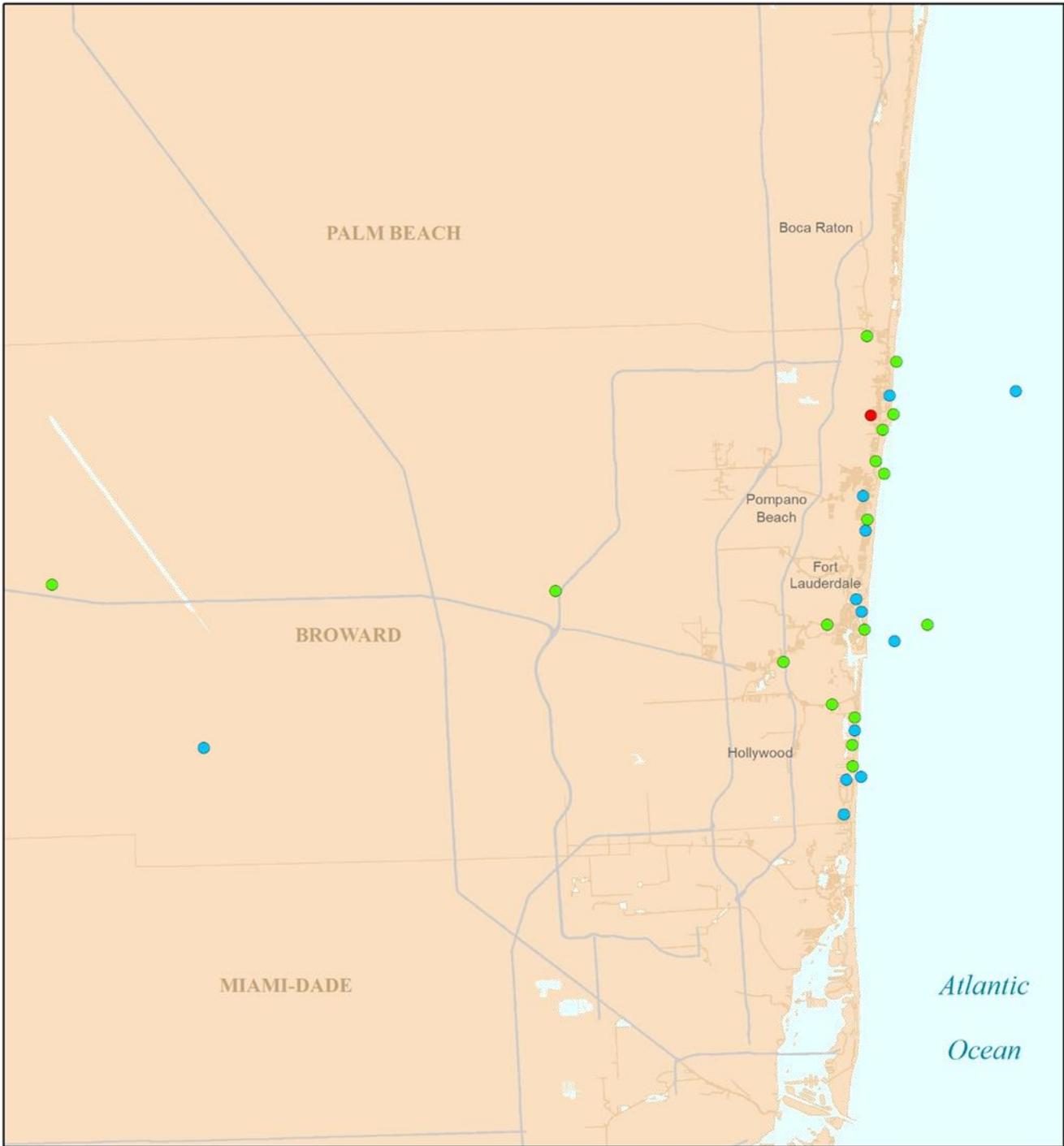


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (12)
- Accident without Injury (17)

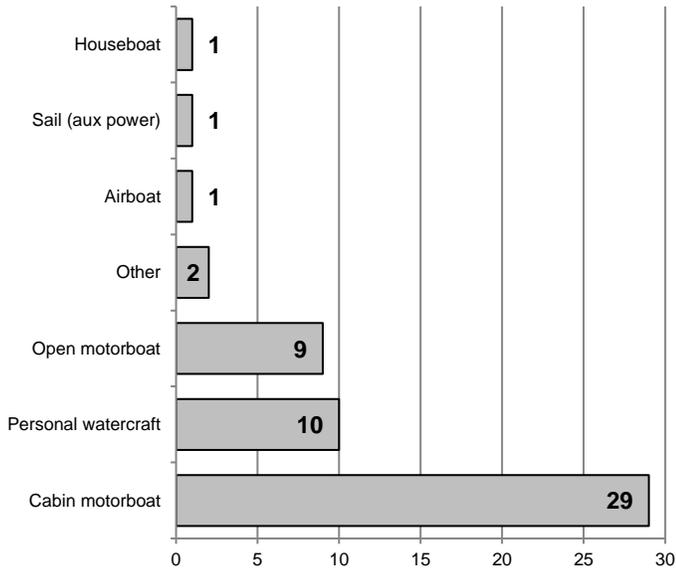


Map document  
created by  
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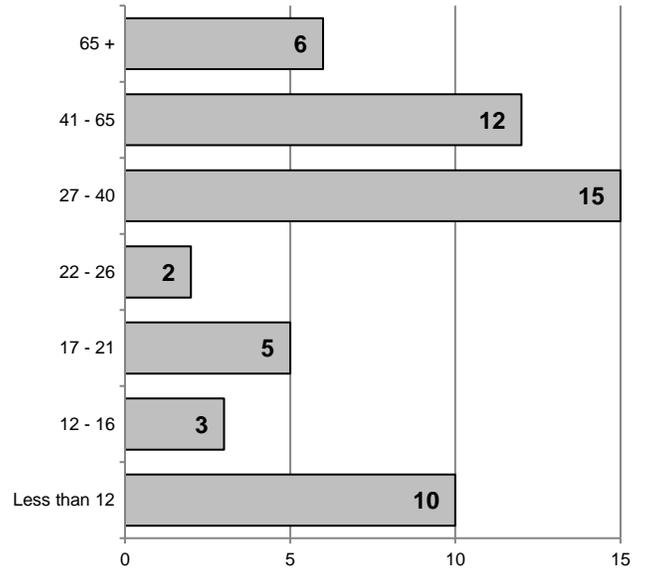


## 6. BROWARD COUNTY

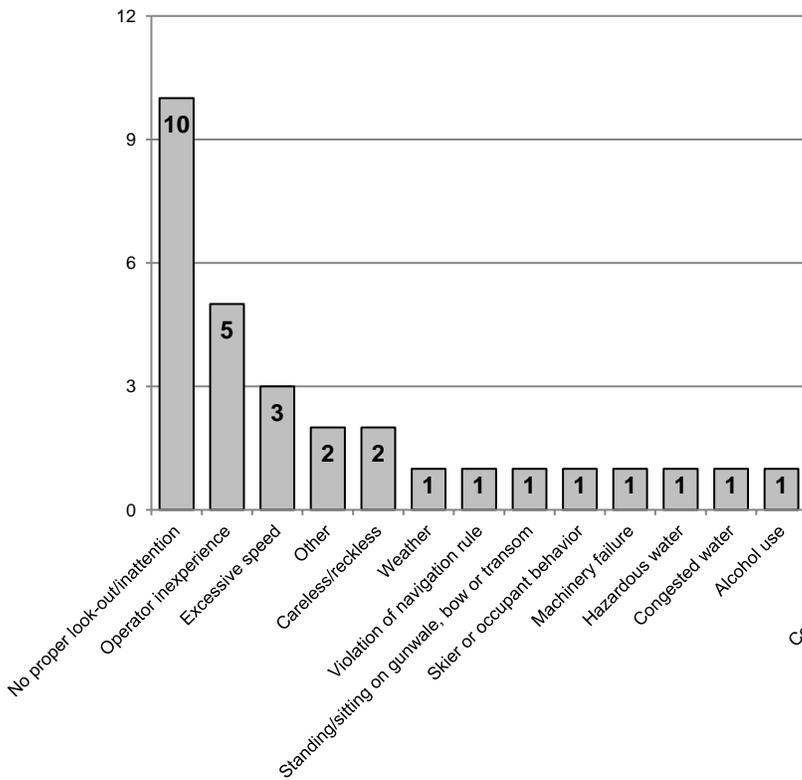
TYPE OF VESSEL



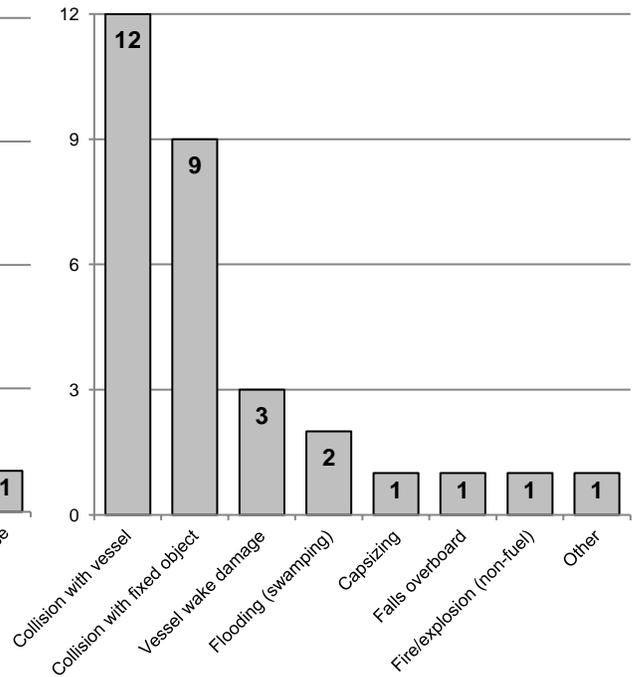
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

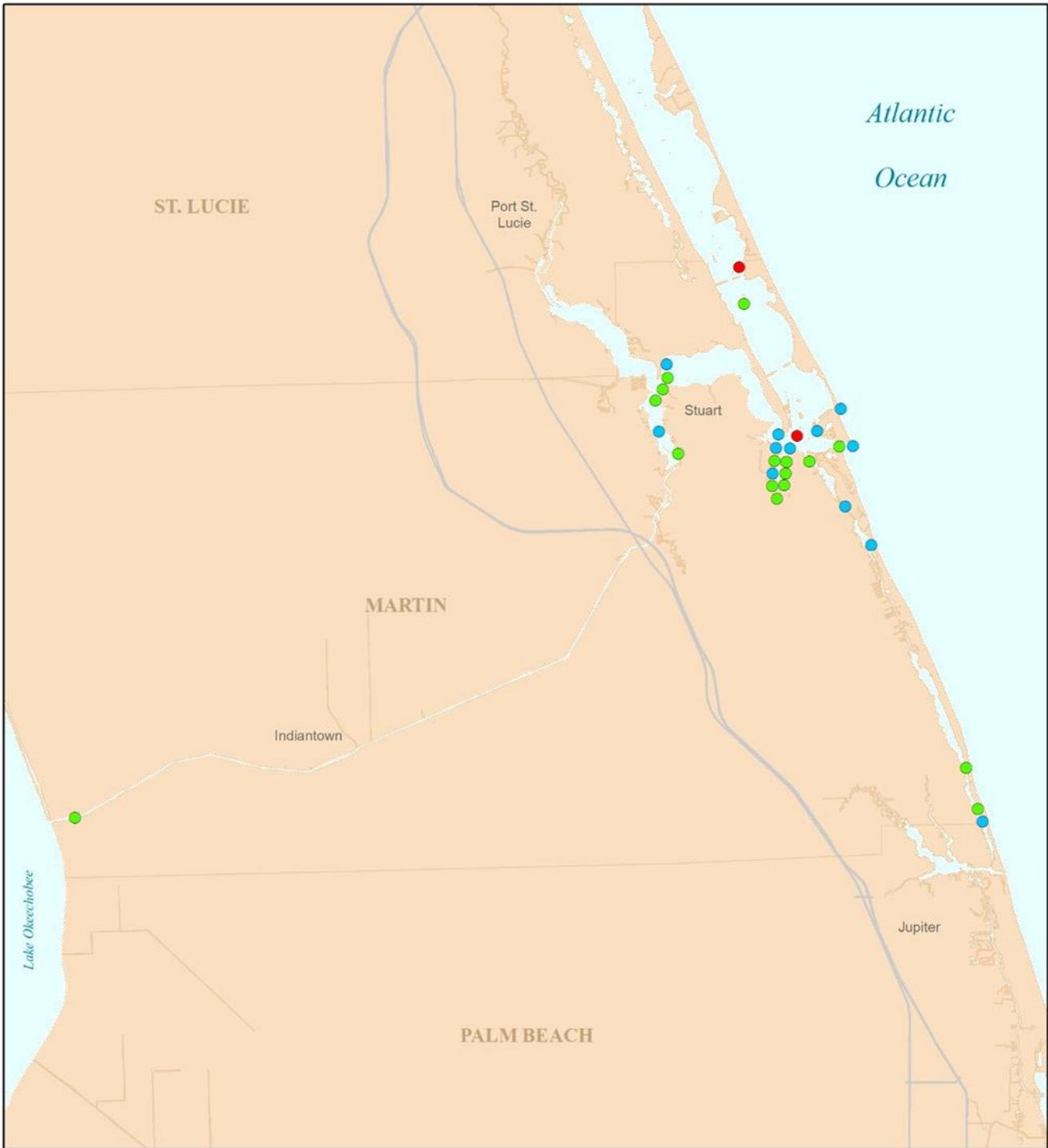


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

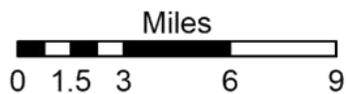




Known Locations of Accidents in Martin County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (12)
- Accident without Injury (16)

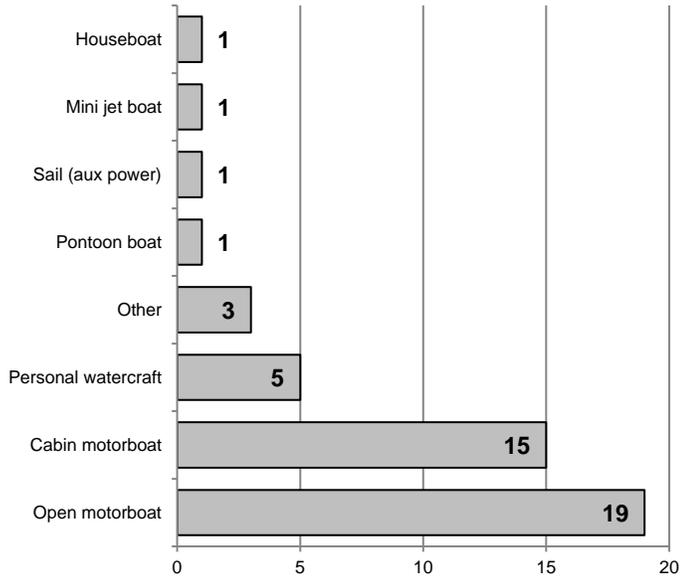


Map document  
created by  
FWC DLE GIS

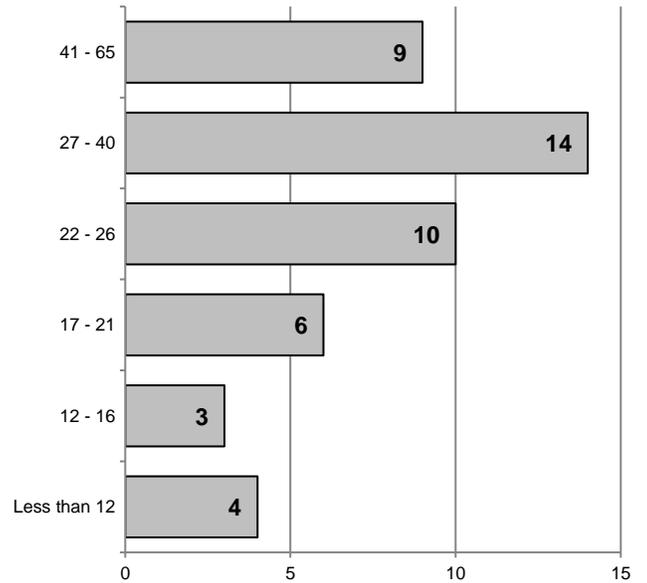


## 7. MARTIN COUNTY

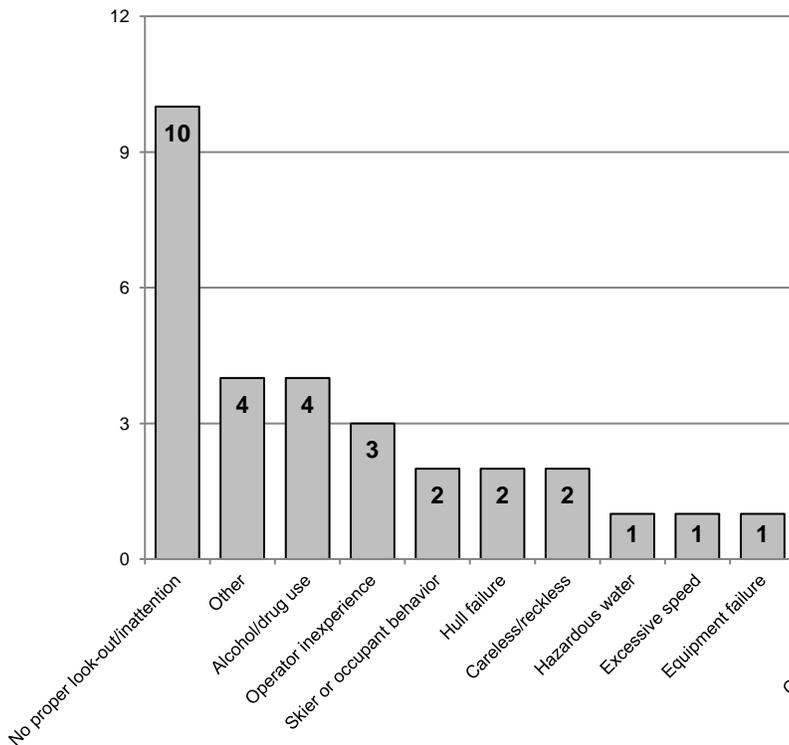
TYPE OF VESSEL



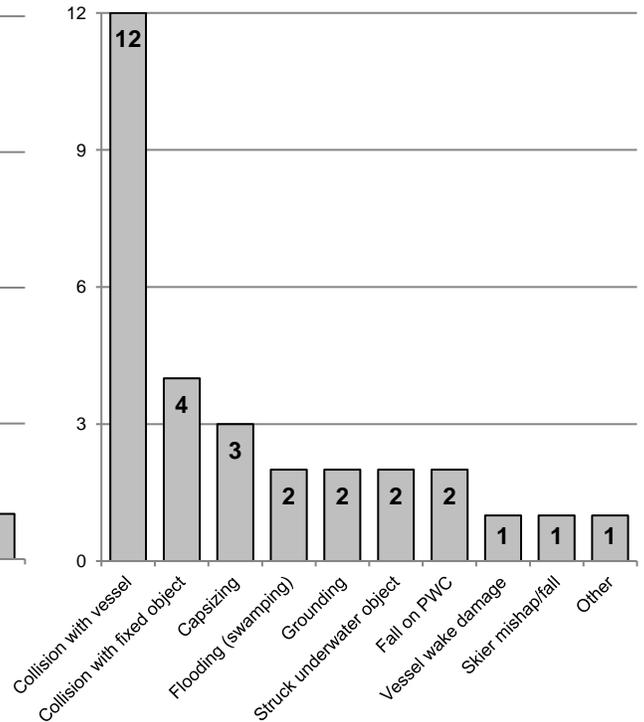
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

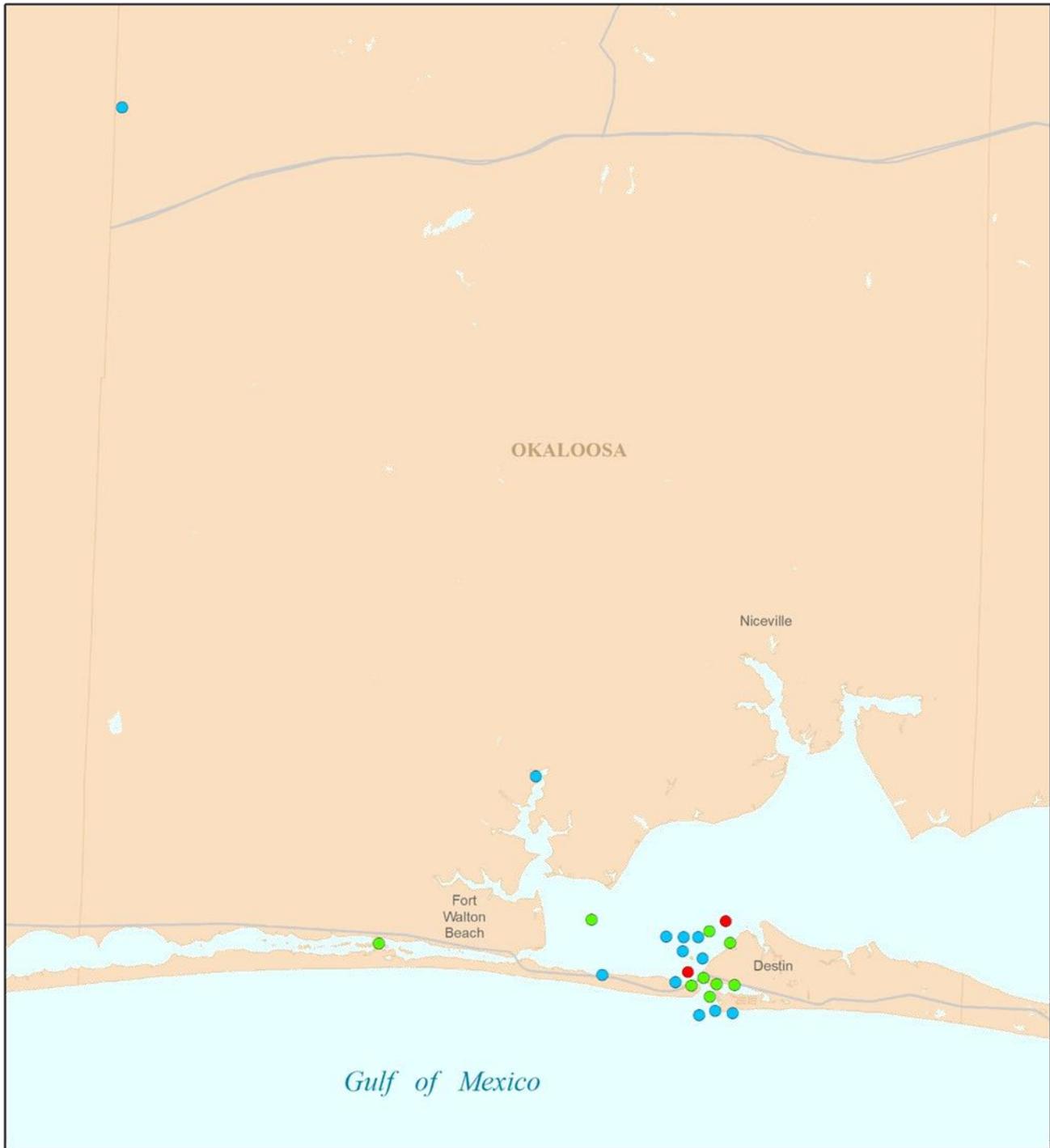


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Okaloosa County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (12)
- Accident without Injury (9)

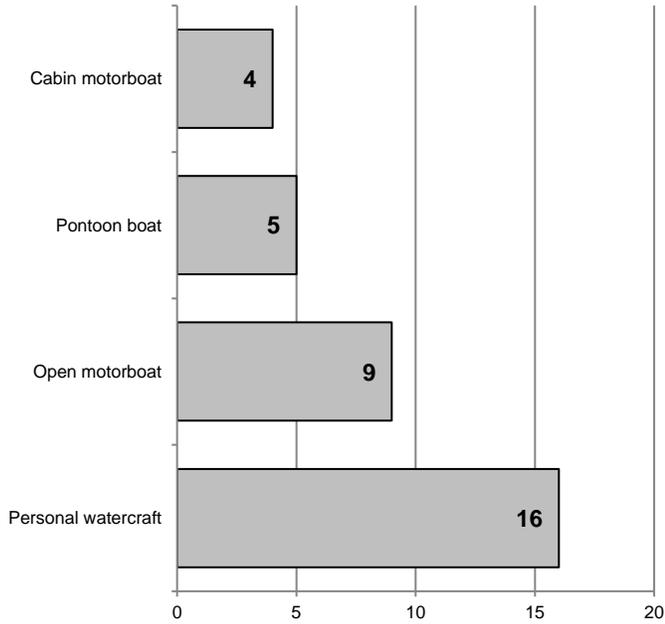


Map document  
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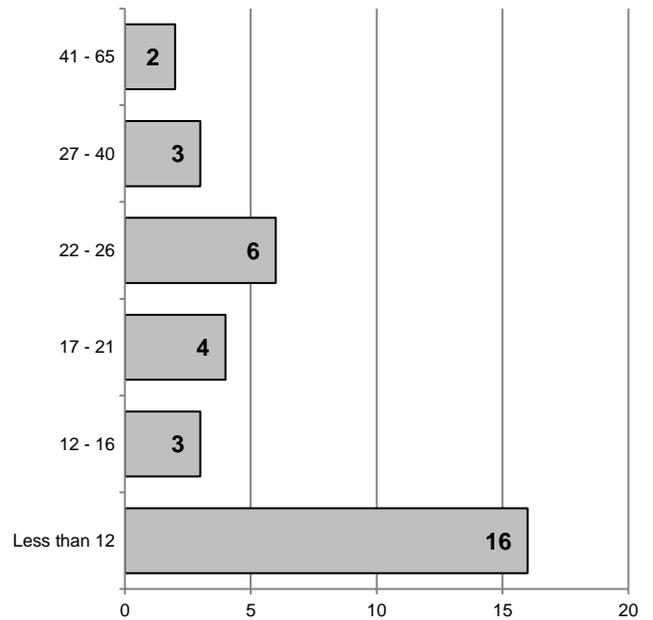


## 8. OKALOOSA COUNTY

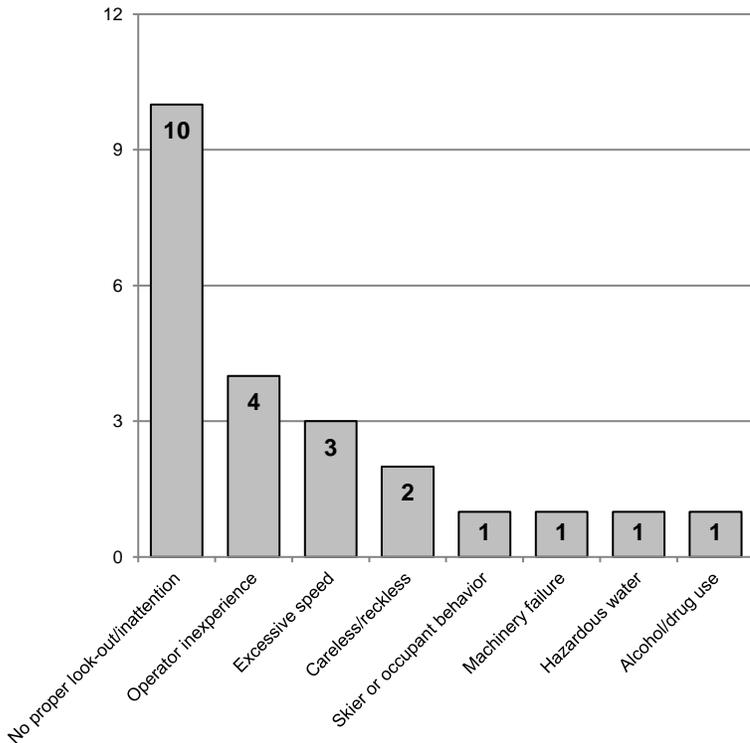
TYPE OF VESSEL



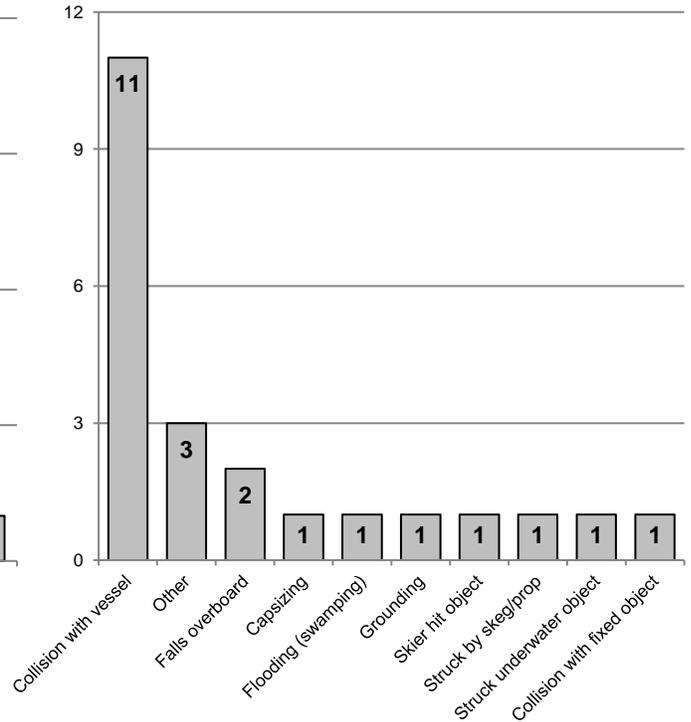
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

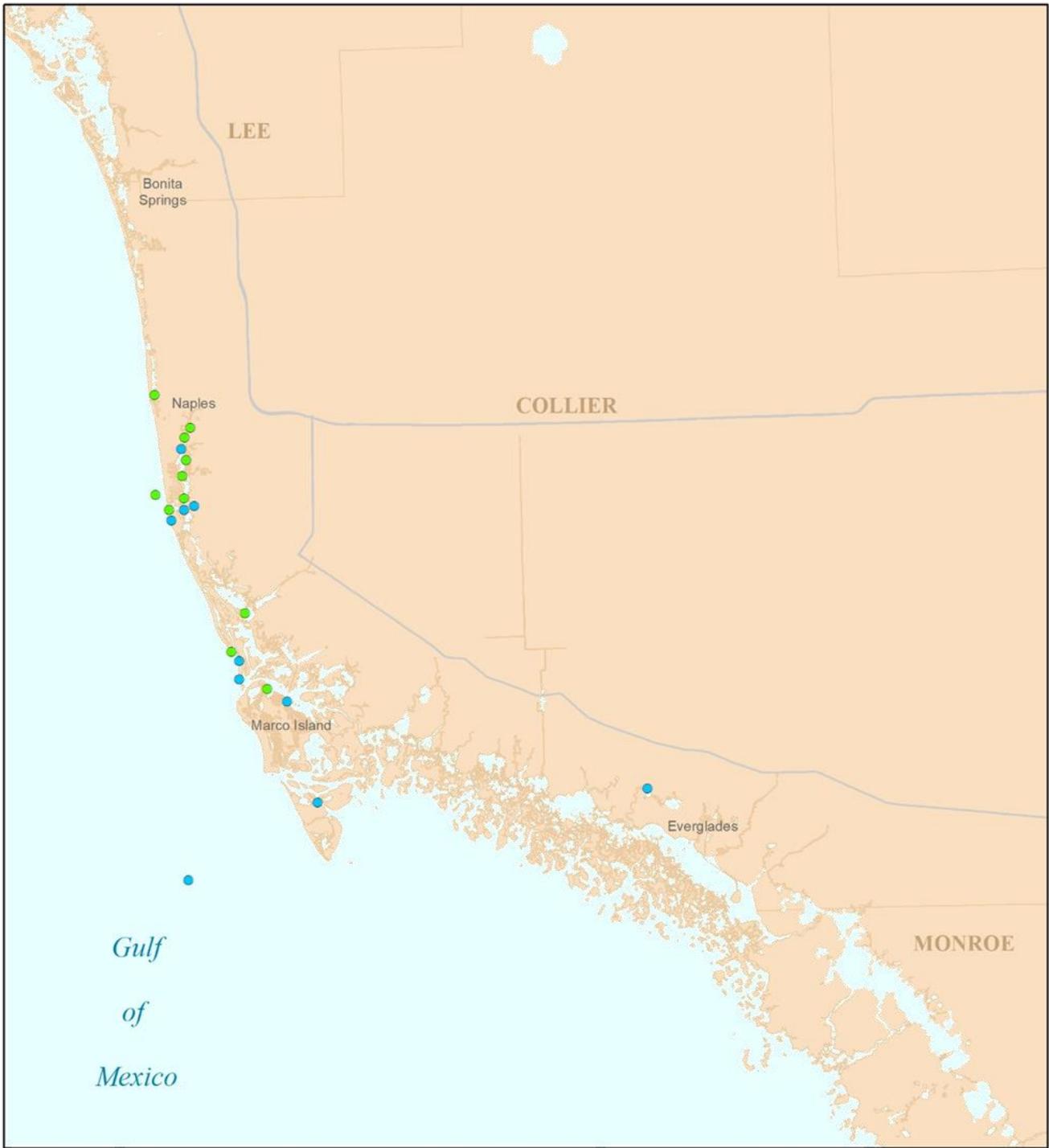


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Collier County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (0)
- Accident with Injury (10)
- Accident without Injury (11)

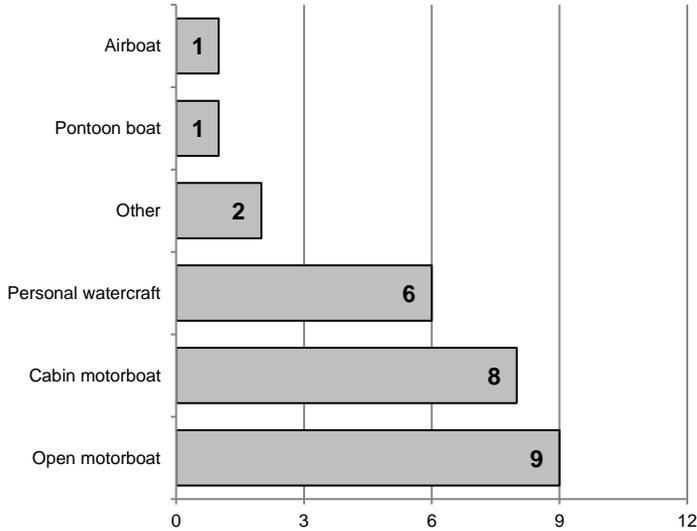


Map document  
created by  
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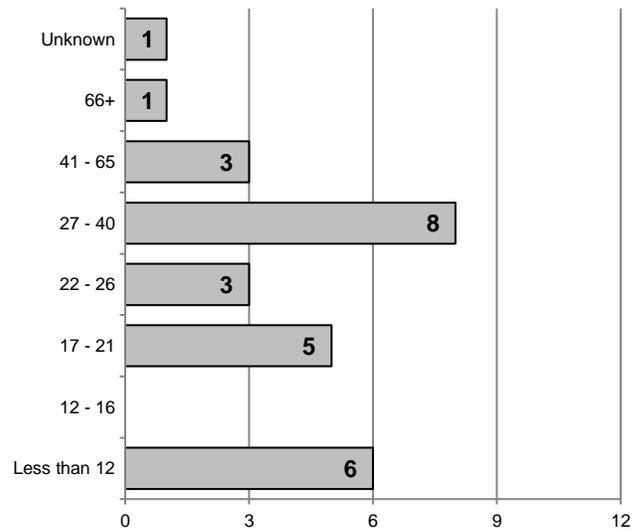


## 9. COLLIER COUNTY

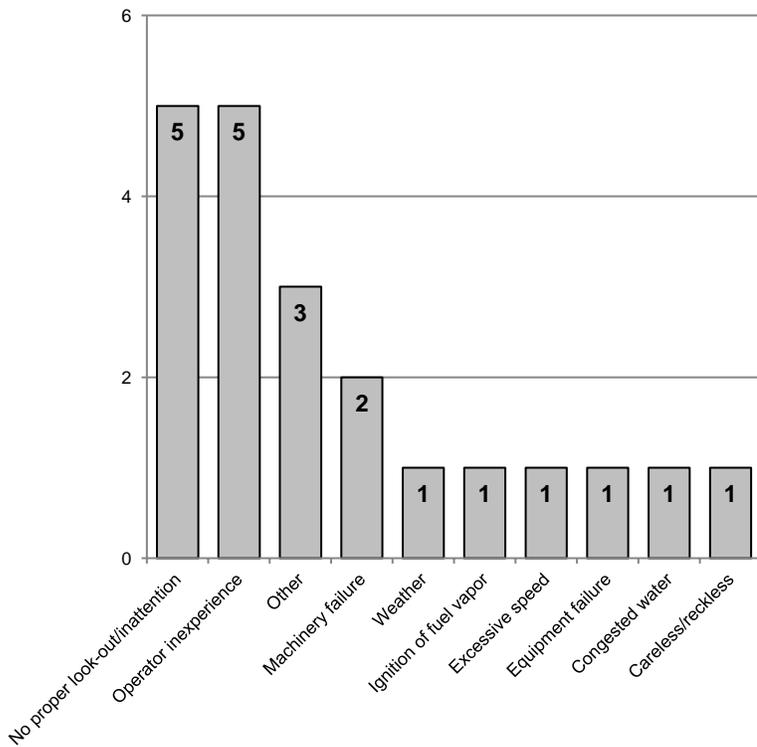
TYPE OF VESSEL



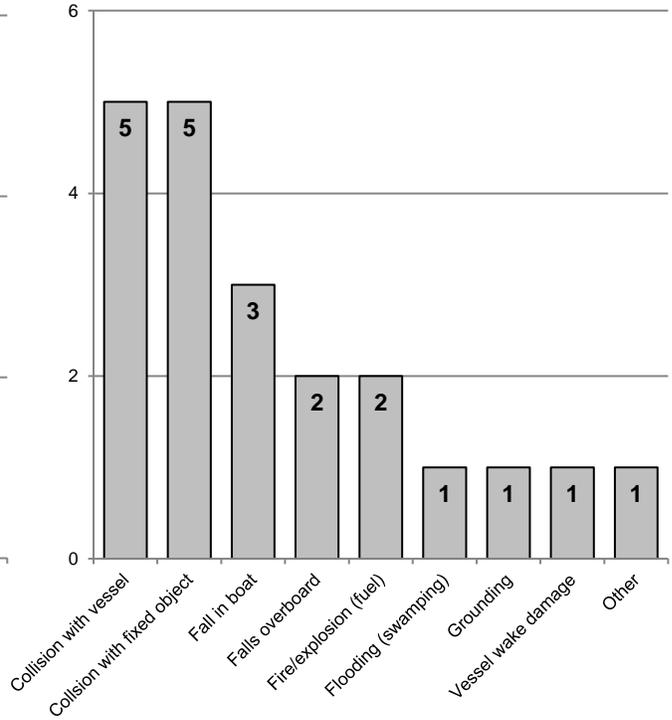
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)

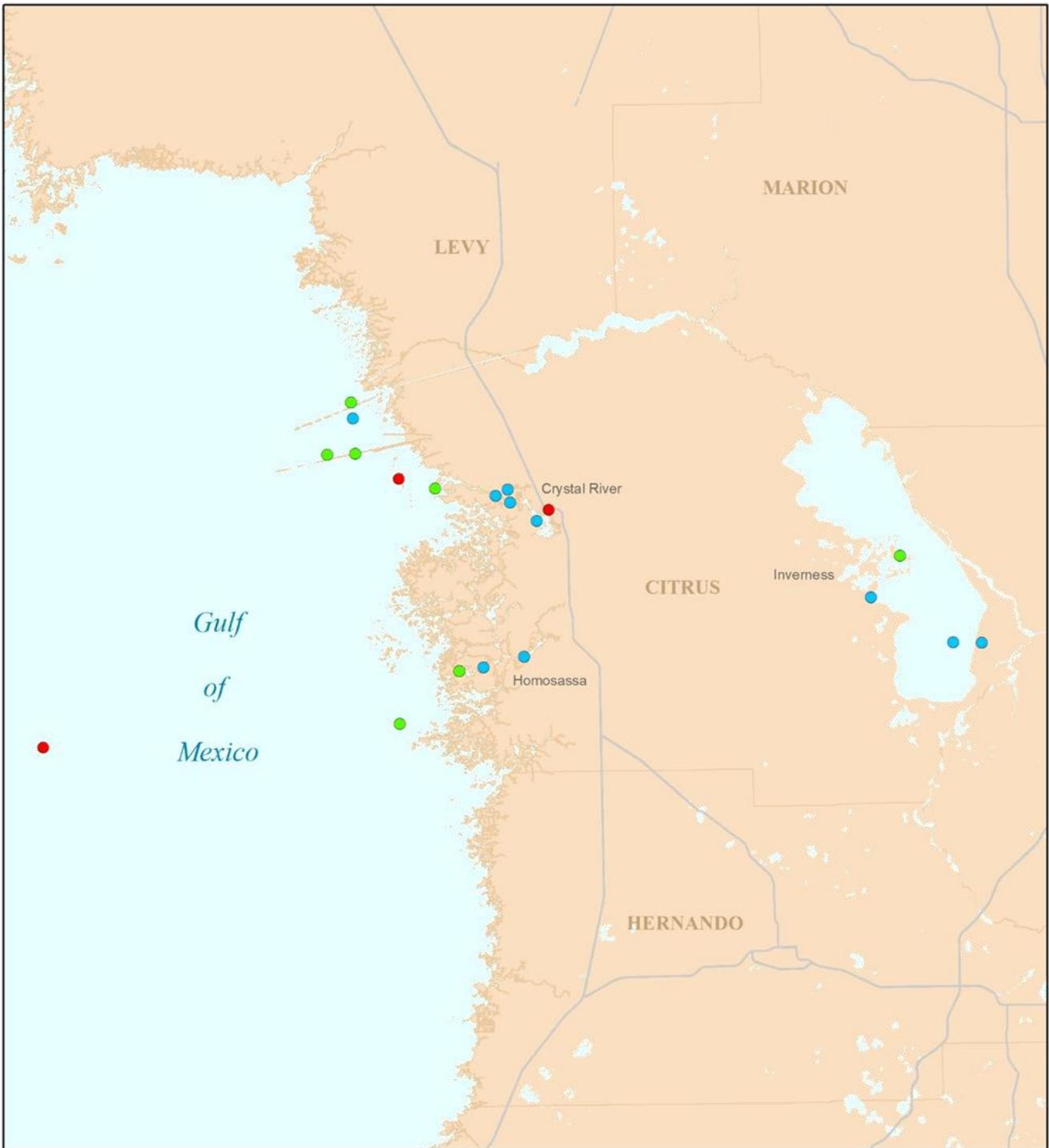


PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





Known Locations of Accidents in Citrus County during 2019

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (10)
- Accident without Injury (7)

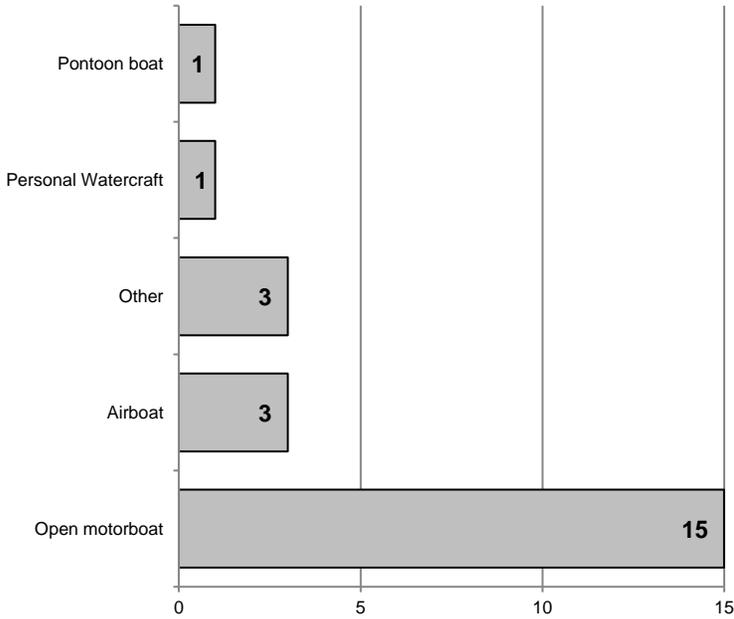


Map document  
created by  
FWC DLE GIS

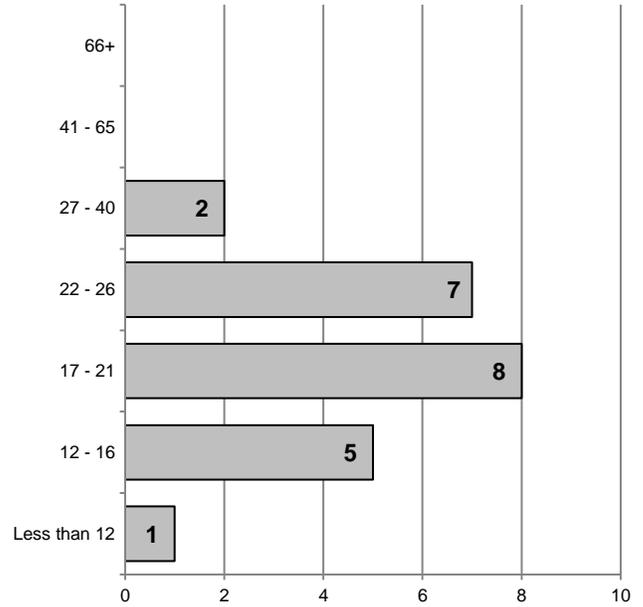


## 10. CITRUS COUNTY

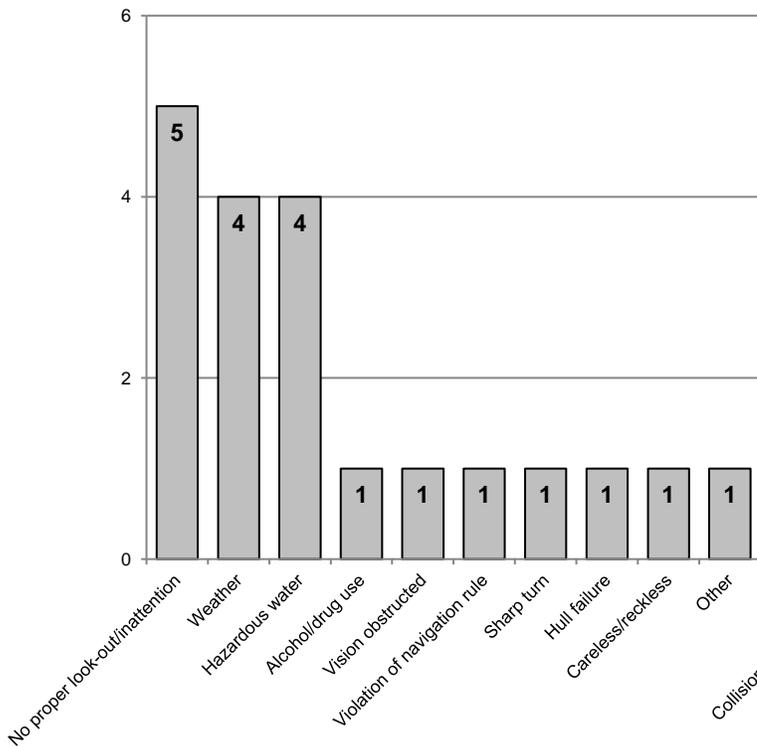
TYPE OF VESSEL



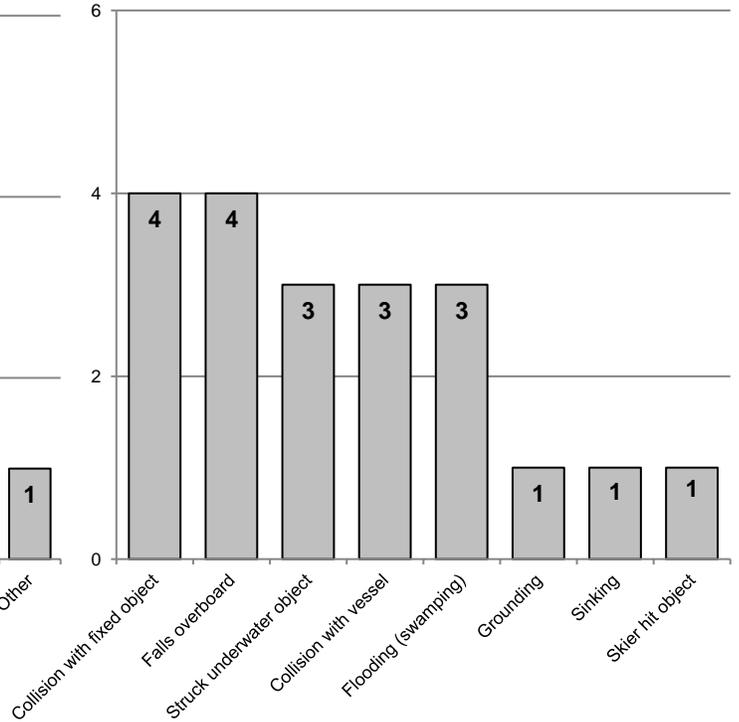
VESSEL LENGTH (IN FEET)



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT



PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT





# Trend Analysis



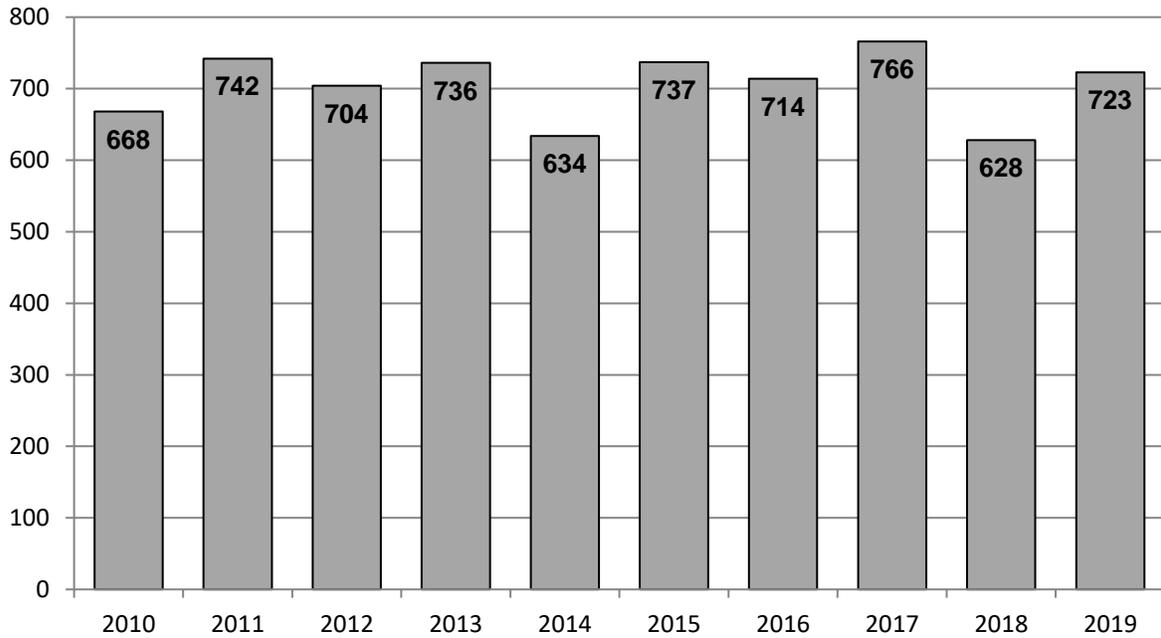
## **Trend Analysis photo detail**

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

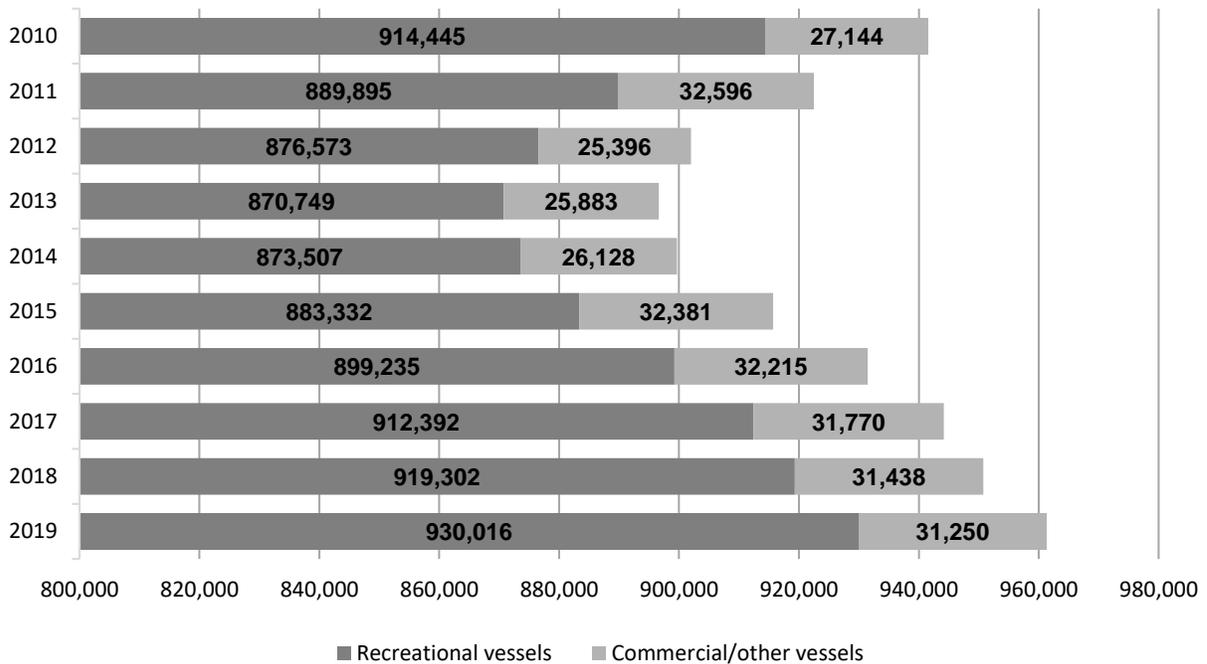
Photos of boating accidents in Palm Beach and Lake Counties.

## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS 2010-2019

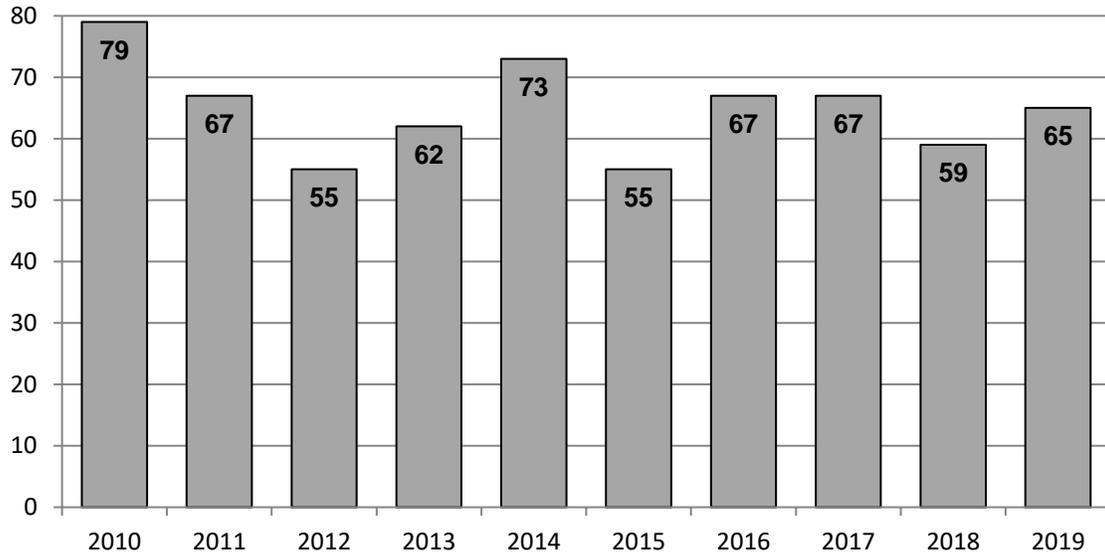


### VESSEL REGISTRATION 2010-2019



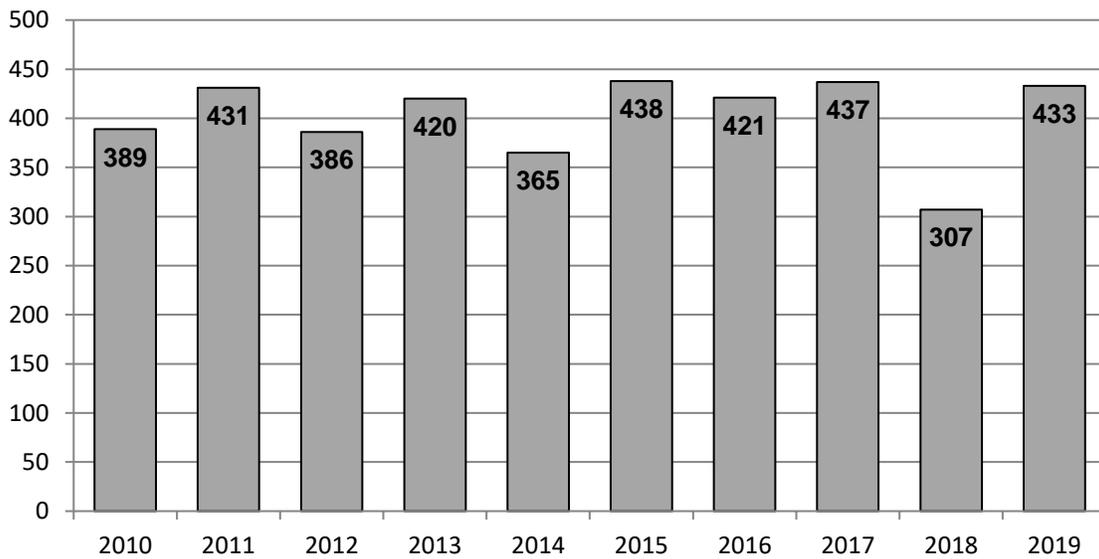
## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### FATALITIES 2010-2019



\*Average number of fatalities per year: 65

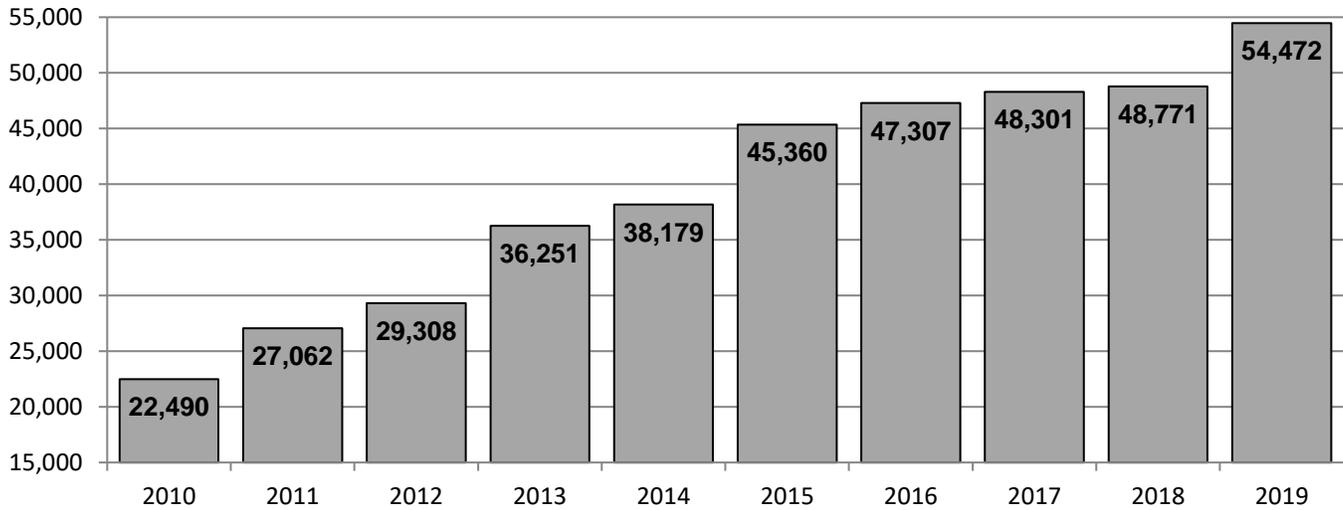
### INJURIES 2010-2019



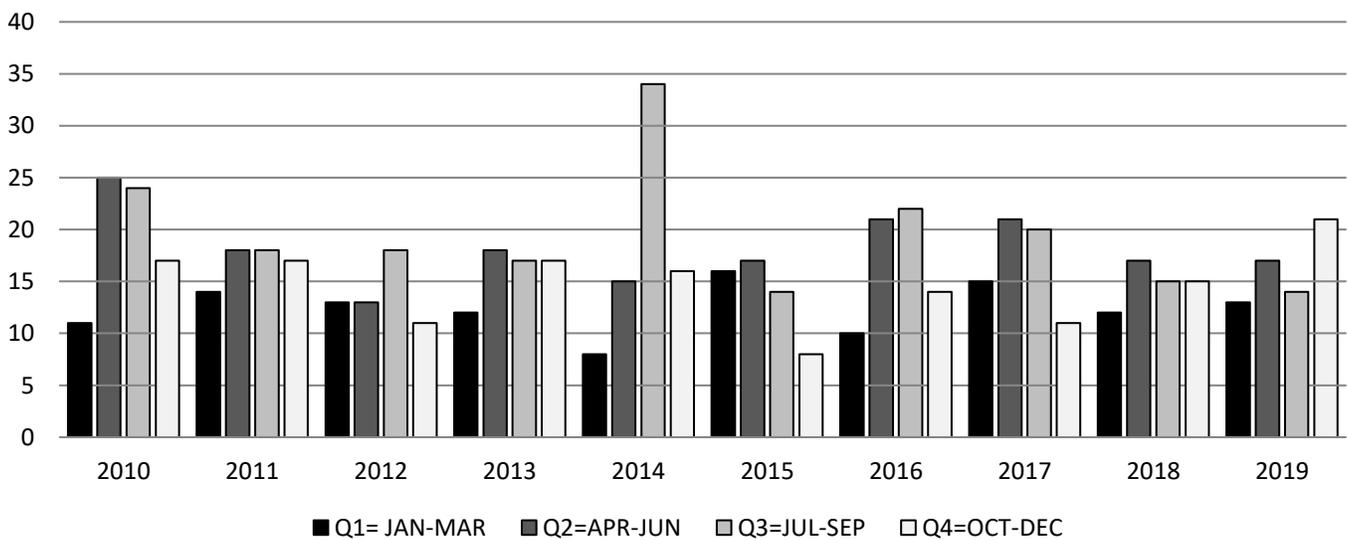
\*Average number of injuries per year: 403

## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION I.D. CARDS ISSUED 2010-2019

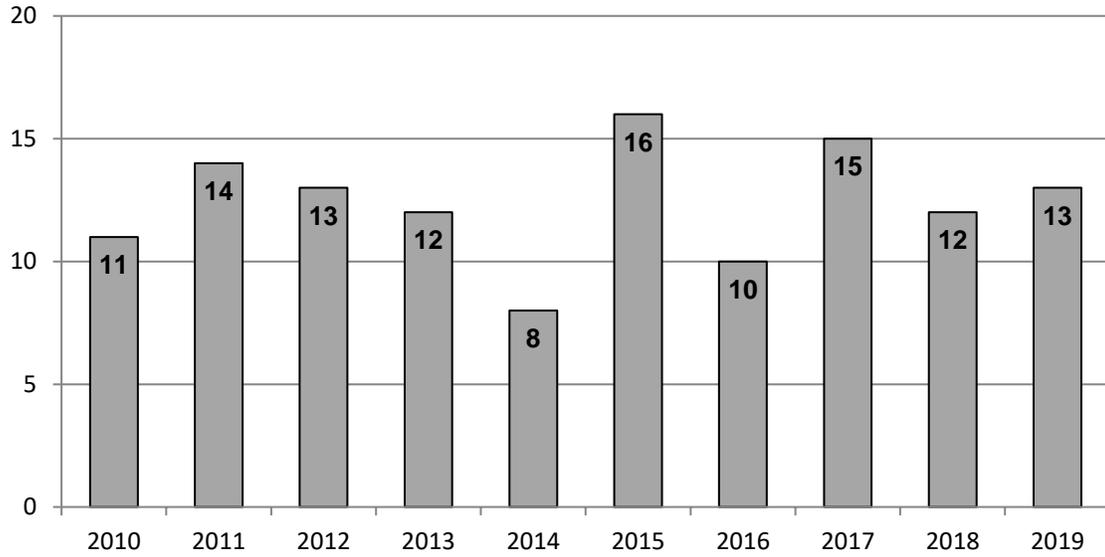


### FATALITIES BY QUARTER 2010-2019



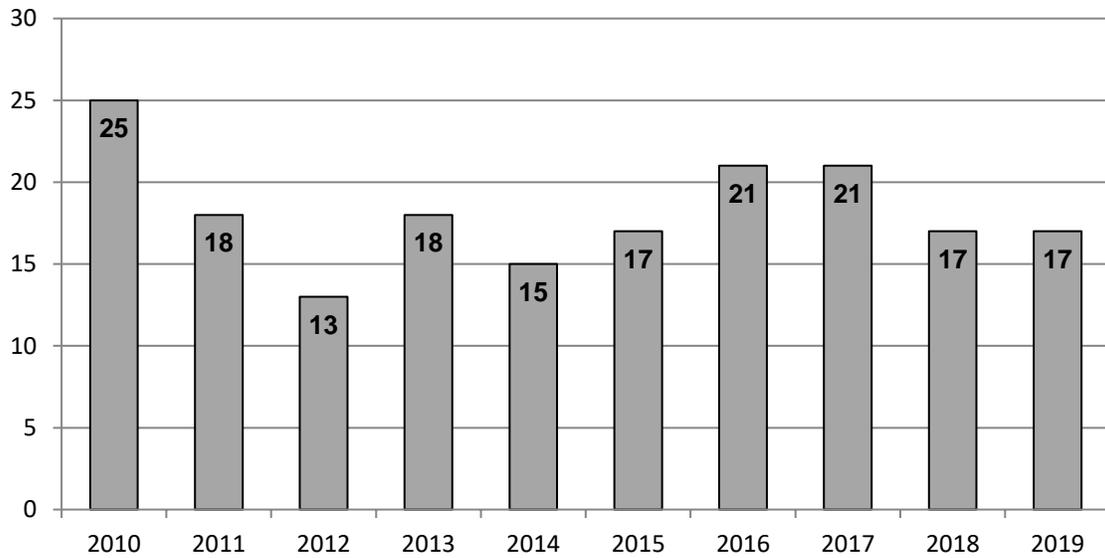
## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### QUARTER 1 FATALITIES



\*Q1 = JAN - MAR

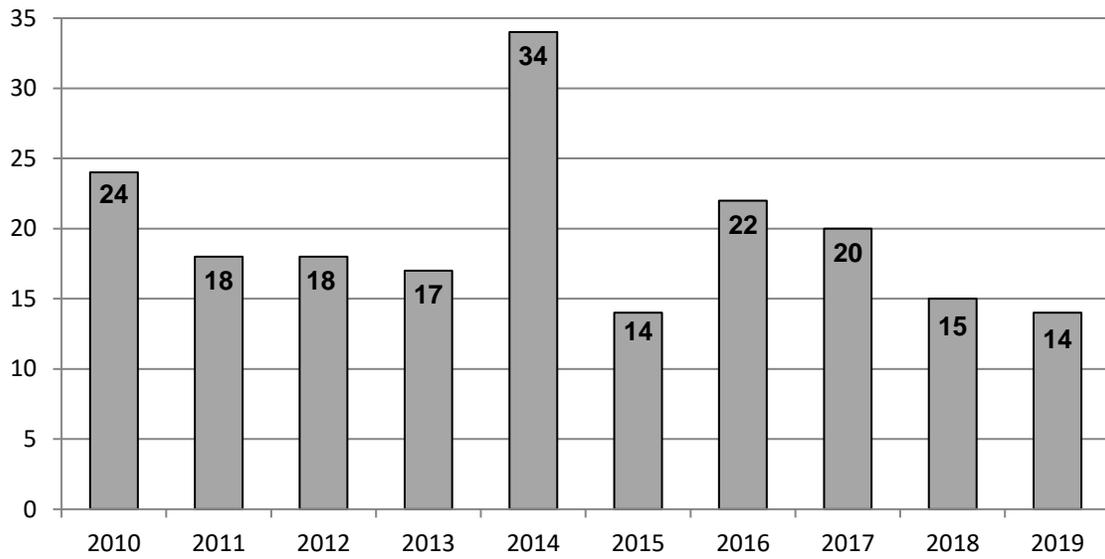
### QUARTER 2 FATALITIES



\*Q2 = APR - JUN

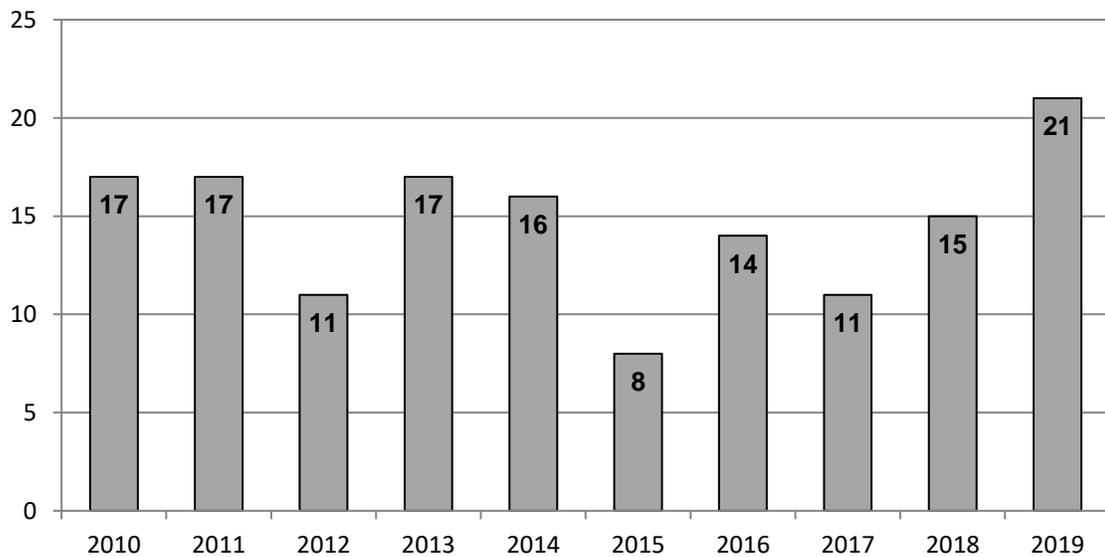
## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### QUARTER 3 FATALITIES



\*Q3 = JUL - SEP

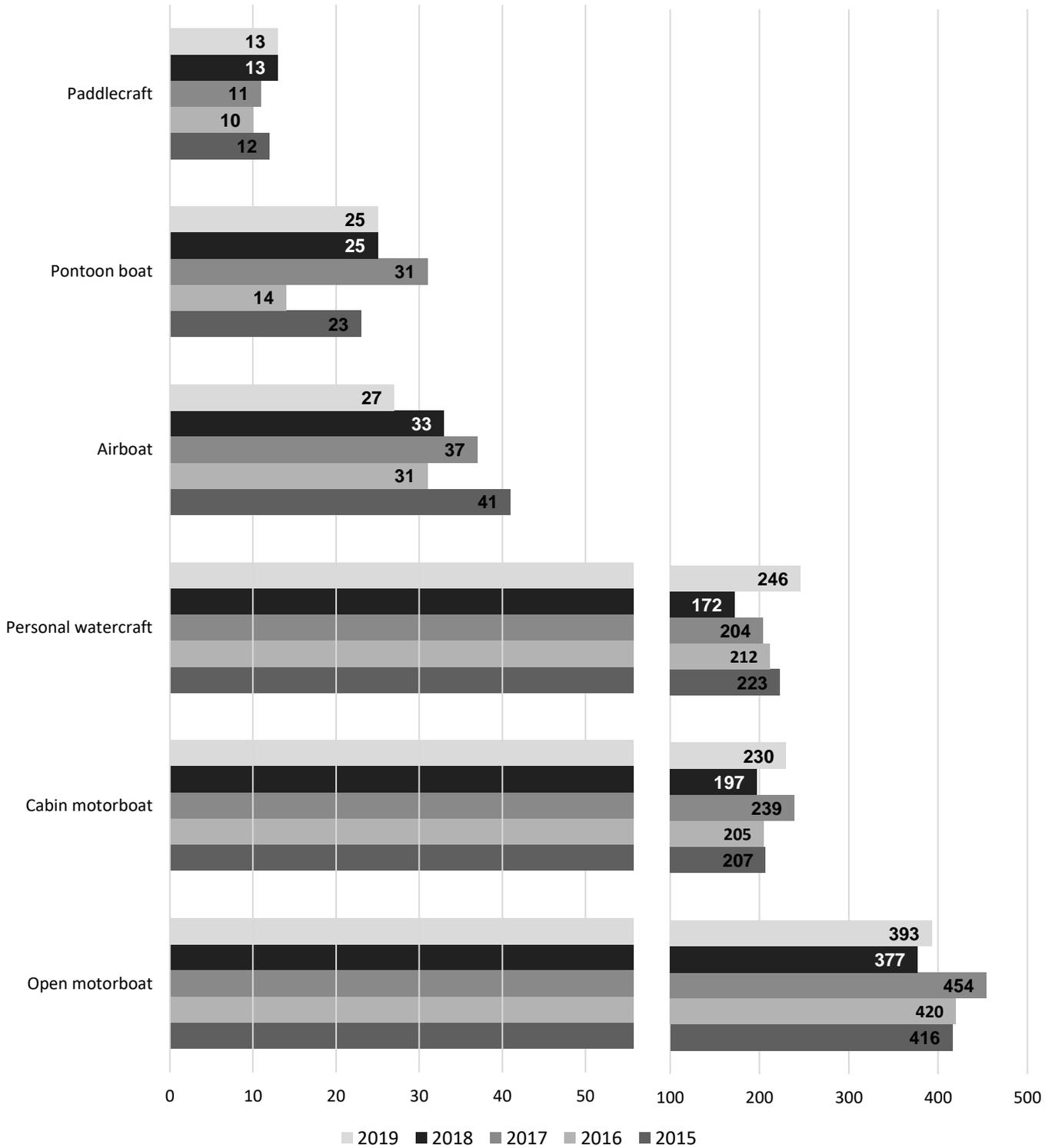
### QUARTER 4 FATALITIES



\*Q4 = OCT - DEC

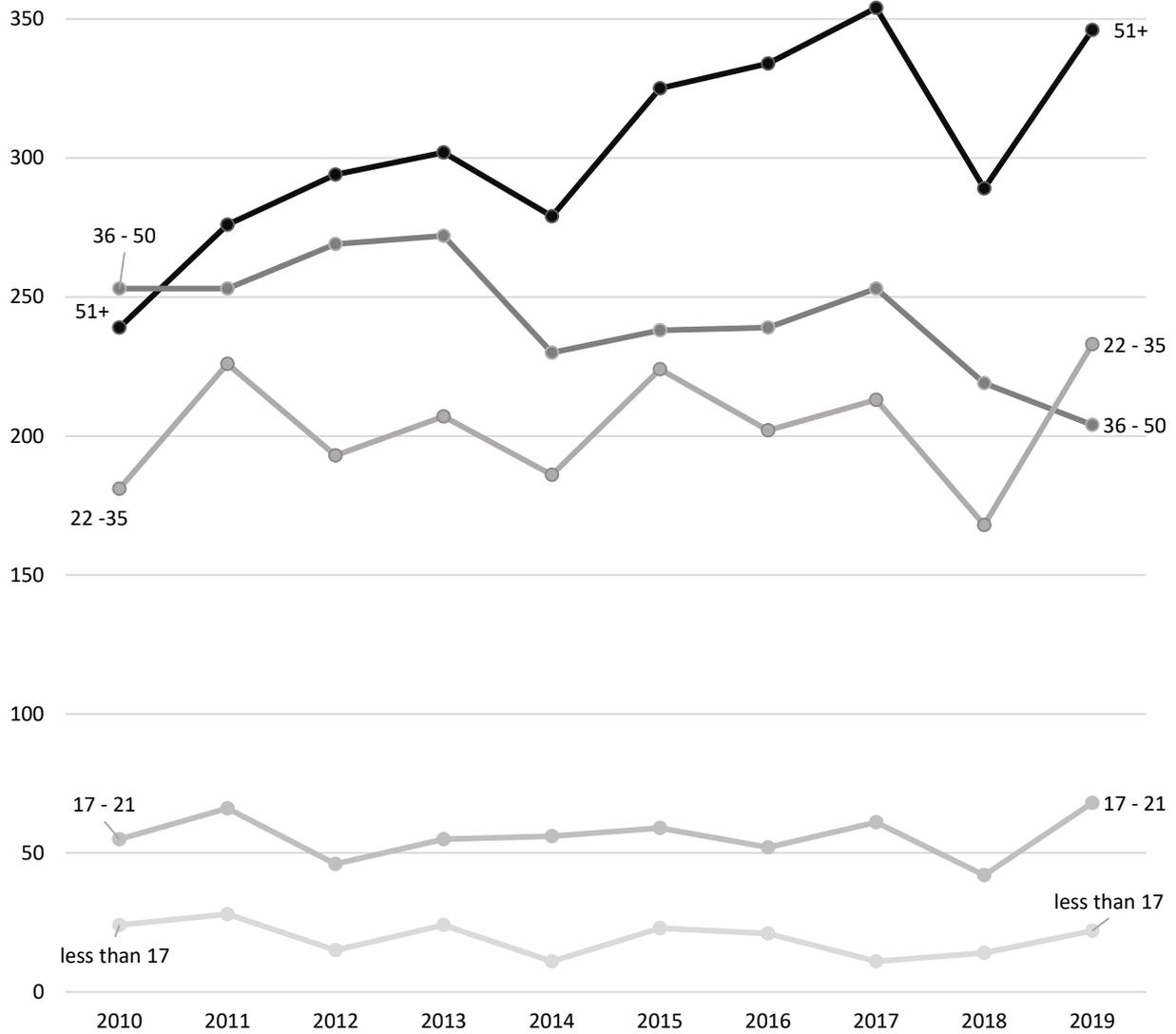
## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### VESSEL TYPES 2015 - 2019

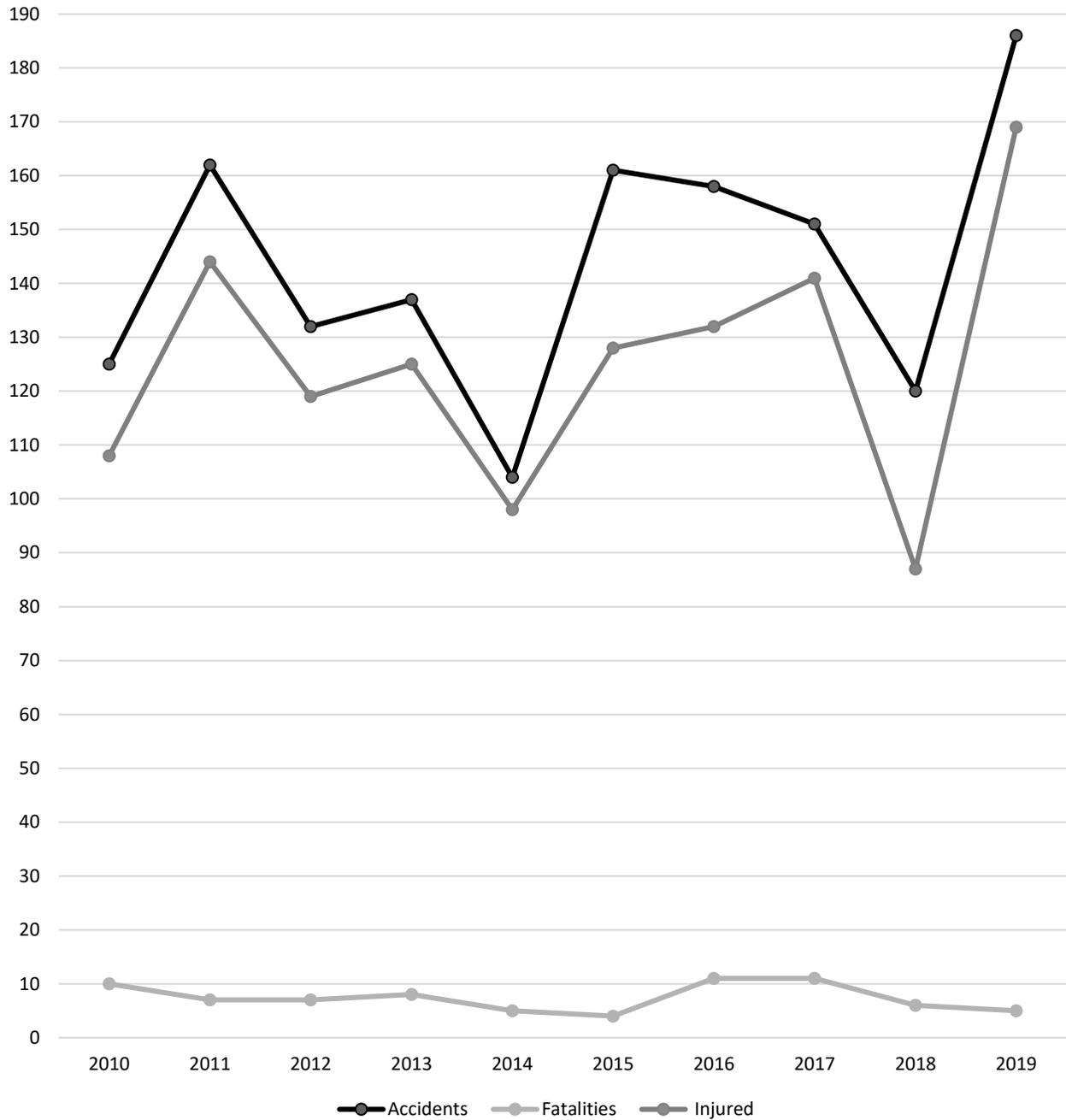


## 2019 TREND ANALYSIS

### OPERATOR BY AGE 2010-2019



### PWC ACCIDENTS, FATALITIES, INJURED 2010-2019



# Glossary



## Glossary photo detail

Cover Photos: (Courtesy of FWC)

### Top Picture

The operator stated that he had refueled the vessel and taken it out of Sara Bay Marina on Thursday, May 30th to test it out since he had not used it in a while. It had some engine problems which lead him to anchor it near shore in Bradenton. The operator returned to the vessel on Tuesday, and he tried to restart the vessel. He opened the engine compartments to try to ventilate any gas fumes but did not turn on any fans or blowers. After attempting several times to start the engines, there was an explosion. He attempted to use his fire extinguisher to put out the flames but stated it only made the fire worse. He then jumped into the water and swam to shore. He stated by the time he reached shore, the fire department was already on-scene, the fire department's marine unit extinguished the flames with foam.

### Bottom Picture

On April 28th, 2019 a rented vessel struck two boat lifts causing significant damaged to the lifts and the vessel. Investigation revealed the vessel was operating at a planing speed in a restricted speed zone. The vessel encountered the wake of another vessel and then impacted two boat lifts. The operator of the vessel fell to the deck and received minor lacerations on both knees. He was able to operate the vessel back to the rental location.

## Definitions for Boating Accident Report Forms

**ALCOHOL/DRUG RELATED** – Refers to any accidents in which alcohol/drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether legally impaired or not.

**AT ANCHOR** – Held in place in the water by an anchor, includes “moored” to a buoy or anchored vessel and “dragging anchor.”

**BOATING ACCIDENT** - A collision, accident, or casualty involving a vessel, in or upon, or entering into or exiting from the water, includes capsizing, collision with another vessel or object, sinking, personal injury, death or disappearance of any person from onboard under circumstances which indicate the possibility of death or injury or property damage to any vessel or dock.

**CABIN MOTORBOAT** - Motorboats with a cabin which can be completely closed by means of doors or hatches. Large motorboats with cabins, even though referred to as yachts, are considered to be cabin motorboats.

**CAPSIZING** - Overturning of a vessel.

**CARELESS OPERATION** – Operation of a vessel in a manner that is not reasonable and prudent, having no regard for other waterborne traffic, posted speed and wake restrictions, and all other attendant circumstances so as not to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.

**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, e.g., surfboard, ski ropes, skier, tow line, etc.)

**COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT** - The striking of any fixed object above or below the surface of the water.

**COLLISION WITH A FLOATING OBJECT** - Collision with any waterborne object (except another vessel), above or below the surface, that is free to move with the tide, current or wind.

**CRUISING** - Proceeding normally, unrestricted, with an absence of drastic rudder or engine changes.

**DOCUMENTED VESSEL** - A vessel of five or more net tons, owned by a citizen of the United States, for which a certificate of documentation is issued by the United States Coast Guard, pursuant to 46 C.F.R. part 67. Documented vessels are not required to display an assigned registration number.

**DRIFTING** - Underway, but not proceeding over the bottom with use of engines, oars or sails, being carried along only by the tide, current or wind.

**FALLS OVERBOARD** - A person who unintentionally exits the vessel.

**FAULT OF OPERATOR** - Speeding, overloading, improper loading, not properly seating occupants of boat, no proper look-out, carelessness, failure to heed weather warnings, operating recklessly in a congested area, not observing the rules of the road, unsafe fueling practices, lack of experience, ignorance of aids to navigation, lack of caution in an unfamiliar area of operation, improper installation or maintenance of hull, machinery or equipment, poor judgment, recklessness, overpowering the boat, panic,

## BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICAL REPORT

proceeding in an unseaworthy craft, operating a motorboat near persons in the water, starting the engine with clutch engaged or throttle advanced or irresponsible boat handling (such as quick, sharp turns).

**FIBERGLASS (PLASTIC) HULL** - Hulls of fiber-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/EXPLOSION (FUEL)** - Accidental combustion of vessel fuel or liquids (including their vapors).

**FIRE/EXPLOSION (OTHER)** - Accidental burning or explosion of any material onboard, except, vessel fuels or their vapors.

**FLORIDA INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY** - The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from the Georgia state line north of Fernandina to Miami, the Port of Canaveral lock and canal to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Miami to Key West; the Okeechobee Waterway, Stuart to Fort Myers; the St. Johns River, Jacksonville to Sanford; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Anclote to Fort Myers; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to Tampa Bay; Carrabelle to Anclote open bay section (using Gulf of Mexico); the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to the Alabama state line west of Pensacola; and the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint rivers in Florida.

**FLOODING** - Filling with water, regardless of method of ingress, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

**FUELING** - Any stage of the fueling operation, primarily concerned with introduction of explosive or combustible vapors or liquids onboard.

**GROUNDING** - Running aground of a vessel, striking or pounding on rocks, reefs or shoals, "stranding."

**IMPROPER LOADING** - Loading, including weight shifting of the vessel, causing instability, limited maneuverability or dangerously reduced freeboard.

**INBOARD/OUTBOARD** - Also referred to as inboard/outdrive. Regarded as inboard because the power unit is located inside the boat and has a stern-mounted propulsion unit.

**INFLATABLE LIFE JACKET** - A sleeveless jacket or vest with inflatable chambers designed to keep a person afloat in the water. May also be manufactured to resemble a belt or fanny pack when not inflated.

**LIFE JACKET** - A sleeveless jacket or vest that is filled with buoyant material designed to keep a person afloat in the water.

**MANEUVERING** - Changing of course, speed or similar boat handling action during which a high degree of alertness is required, or the boat is imperiled because of the operation, such as docking.

**MOTORBOAT** - Any vessel which is propelled or powered by machinery and which is used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water and any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery and not more than sixty-five feet in length.

**NAVIGATION RULES** - The International Navigation Rules Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C., for vessels on waters outside of established navigation lines of demarcation as specified in 33 C.F.R. Part 80 or the Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980, 33 U.S.C. ss 2001 for vessels on all waters not outside of such lines of demarcation.

**NON-RESIDENT** - A citizen of the United States who has not established residence in this state and has not continuously resided in this state for one year and in one county for the six months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling or registration action.

## BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICAL REPORT

**NO PROPER LOOK-OUT** - No proper watch, the failure of the operator to perceive danger because no one was serving as look-out or the person so serving failed in that regard.

**NUMBERED VESSEL** - An undocumented vessel numbered by a state with a numbering system approved by the United States Coast Guard under Chapter 123, Title 46, U.S.C.

**OPEN MOTORBOAT** - Craft of open construction specifically built for operating with a motor, including boats canopied or fitted with temporary partial shelters.

**OPERATE** - To be in charge of or in command of or in actual physical control of a vessel upon the waters of this state, or to exercise control over or to have responsibility for a vessel's navigation or safety while the vessel is underway upon the waters of this state, or to control or steer a vessel being towed by another vessel upon the waters of this state.

**OWNER** - A person, other than a lien holder, having the property or title to a vessel. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment of performance of an obligation, but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

**OUTBOARD** - An engine not permanently affixed to the structure of the craft, regardless of the method or location used to mount the engine; e.g., motor wells, kicker pits, motor pockets, etc.

**OVERLOADING** - Excessive loading of the vessel causing instability, limited maneuverability, dangerously reduced freeboard, etc.

**PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE (PFD)** - A life jacket or similar buoyancy aid. See also LIFE JACKET.

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** - A vessel less than 16 feet in length which uses 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 the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

**RECKLESS OPERATION** - A person is guilty of reckless operation of a vessel who operates any vessel, or manipulates any water skis, aquaplane or similar device, in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property at a speed or in a manner as to endanger, or likely to endanger, life or limb, damage the property of or injure any person.

**REGISTRATION** - A state operating license on a vessel which is issued with an identifying number, an annual certificate of registration and a decal designating the year for which a registration fee was paid.

**REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENT** - An accident that results in personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid, death, disappearance of any person from onboard under circumstances which indicate the possibility of death or injury or damage to any vessel or other property in an apparent aggregate amount of at least \$2,000 or total loss of a vessel.

**RESIDENT** - A citizen of the United States who has established residency in this state and has continuously resided in this state for one year and in one county for the six months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling or registration action.

**RULES OF THE ROAD** - The Inland and International Navigation Rules for the prevention of collision at sea.

**SAILBOAT OR AUXILIARY SAILBOAT** - Any vessel whose sole source of propulsion is the natural element (i.e., wind), or a craft intended to be propelled primarily by sail, regardless of size or type.

**SINKING** - Losing enough buoyancy to settle below the surface of the water.

**SPEEDING** - Operating at a speed, possibly below the posted speed limit, above that which a reasonable and prudent person would operate under the circumstances.

**STEEL HULL** - Hulls of sheet steel or steel alloy, not those of steel ribs and wood, canvas or plastic hull coverings.

**STRUCK BY BOAT OR PROPELLER** - Striking of a victim who is outside of the boat, but not necessarily a swimmer.

**SWAMPING** - Filling with water, particularly over the side, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

**TOWED WATER SPORT MISHAP** – A water sport accident associated with vessel passenger(s) or person(s) being towed or surfing the wake created by a vessel. Includes, but is not limited to, water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, parasailing, etc.

**TOWING** - Engaged in towing any vessel, fishing gear or object other than a person.

**VESSEL** - Is synonymous with boat as referenced in S.1 (b), Article VII of the State Constitution, and includes every description of watercraft, barge and airboat, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as means of transportation on water.

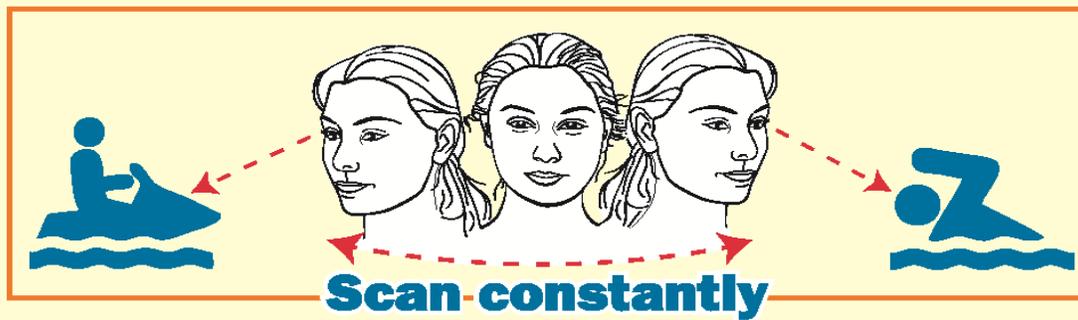
**WOOD HULL** - Hulls of plywood, molded plywood, wood planking or any other wood fiber in its natural consistency, including those of wooden construction that have been "sheathed" with fiberglass or sheet metal.

# IMPORTANT

## boating safety messages to remember

### Always know what's going on around your boat.

Most boating accidents involve collisions.  
Staying alert is critical!



### Develop a "Life Jacket Habit."

Most people who die in boating accidents drown. Try out an inflatable life jacket and, most of all, wear it!



### Alcohol use is a leading cause of boating deaths.

Alcohol and boating really don't mix, so save it for later. When you drink, you don't think!

From your friends at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600**

**Boating and Waterways Section**

**Phone: (850) 488-5600**

**[www.MyFWC.com](http://www.MyFWC.com)**



**FWC reminds you to not spoil your boating fun.  
Slow down and look around.**

