Reportable boating accidents

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement

Patrol, Protect, Preserve

2007
## 2007 Vessel Registration and Accidents by County

<table>
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<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Recreational Vessels</th>
<th>Total Vessels</th>
<th>Reportable Accidents</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>Injuries</th>
<th>Property Damage</th>
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* Accident Rate = # of Recreational Vessels / # of accidents

*Those counties highlighted in blue represent the top ten counties for boating accidents in 2007.
2007 Reportable Accidents

Top Ten Counties

- Collier: 18
- Brevard: 23
- Duval: 23
- Volusia: 25
- Lee: 32
- Broward: 43
- Pinellas: 50
- Palm Beach: 52
- Miami-Dade: 67
- Monroe: 74

Investigating Agency

- Self-reported: 4%
- Police Department: 6%
- Sheriff's Office: 16%
- Other (4): 1%
- FWC: 73%

Accidents By Month

- Jan: 40
- Feb: 23
- Mar: 75
- Apr: 66
- May: 80
- Jun: 69
- Jul: 88
- Aug: 66
- Sep: 62
- Oct: 44
- Nov: 30
- Dec: 25

* 668 total accidents.
2007 Reportable Accidents

**Time of Day**

- 00:00-01:59: 18 accidents
- 02:00-03:59: 4 accidents
- 04:00-05:59: 4 accidents
- 06:00-07:59: 14 accidents
- 08:00-09:59: 41 accidents
- 10:00-11:59: 91 accidents
- 12:00-13:59: 90 accidents
- 14:00-15:59: 144 accidents
- 16:00-17:59: 120 accidents
- 18:00-19:59: 81 accidents
- 20:00-21:59: 28 accidents
- 22:00-23:59: 16 accidents

**No info**
- 17 accidents

**Accident Site Location**

- Marsh/swamp: 5 accidents
- Other: 6 accidents
- Port/harbor: 46 accidents
- Inlet/pass: 65 accidents
- Lake/pond: 70 accidents
- Canal/cut: 83 accidents
- River/creek: 120 accidents
- Ocean/gulf: 133 accidents
- Bay/sound: 140 accidents

**Restricted Area Accidents**

- Swimming: 3 accidents
- Manatee idle speed: 6 accidents
- Other: 31 accidents
- Manatee slow speed: 36 accidents
- MPH limit: 45 accidents
- Slow speed: 51 accidents
- Idle speed: 60 accidents

**Total Accidents:** 27 accidents
2007 Reportable Accidents

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Sinking: 3
- Struck by boat (Person): 4
- Skier hit object: 6
- Collision float obj. / person: 9
- Fire/explosion (non-fuel): 10
- Struck by skeg / prop: 10
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 12
- Other: 13
- Fall on PWC: 17
- No info: 18
- Vessel wake damage: 18
- Skier mishap/ fall: 18
- Struck underwater object: 19
- Capsizing: 24
- Fall in boat: 26
- Grounding: 45
- Falls overboard: 53
- Flooding/swamping: 60
- Collision with fixed object: 109
- Collision with vessel: 194

*668 total accidents involving 949 vessels and 14 swimmers
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)*

**Secondary Type of Accident**

- Flooding/swamping: 1
- Falls overboard: 1
- Fall in boat: 1
- Collision with vessel: 1
- Collision/floating obj. person: 2
- Sinking: 2
- Struck underwater object: 3
- Vessel wake damage: 4
- Starting engine: 5
- Grounding: 5
- Skier hit object: 6
- Skier mishap/fall: 17
- Struck by skeg/ prop: 31
- Capsizing: 37
- Fall on PWC: 47
- Struck by boat (person): 47

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50
2007 Reportable Accidents

**Operation At Time Of Accident**

- Cruising: 378
- Docked (moored): 175
- Changing: 13
- Being towed: 11
- Sailing: 11
- Rowing/Paddling: 10
- Changing speed: 98
- Docking/undocking: 42
- No info: 50
- Drifting: 50
- At anchor: 51
- Recreational cruising: 668 total accidents involving 949 vessels and 14 swimmers.

**Activity At Time Of Accident**

- Recreational cruising: 132
- Boat pulling tube: 65
- No info: 44
- Fishing (recreational): 83
- Other: 552
- Racing (sanctioned): 2
- Scuba diving: 2
- Starting engine: 3
- Fueling: 4
- Hunting: 1
- Tournament fishing: 10
- Swimming/Snorkling: 11
- Making repairs: 11
- Skiing (Skurfing, etc.): 23

*668 total accidents involving 949 vessels and 14 swimmers.*
*668 total accidents involving 949 vessels and 14 swimmers.

*161 personal watercraft accidents involving 259 vessels and 5 swimmers

*68 fatal accidents involving 79 vessels and 1 swimmer

### Vessel Type, Length & Propulsion

**Open motorboat**

**Personal watercraft**

**Cabin motorboat**

**Sail (aux power)**

**Other**

**Airboat**

**Pontoon boat**

**No info**

**Sail (only)**

**Rowboat (jon)**

**Houseboat**

**Mini jet boat**

**Canoe/kayak**

**< 12 Feet**

**12 - 16 Feet**

**17 - 21 Feet**

**22 - 26 Feet**

**27 - 40 Feet**

**41 - 65 Feet**

**66+ Feet**

**No info**

**Propeller**

**Water jet**

**Air thrust**

**No info**

**Sail**

**Manual**
2007 Reportable Accidents

Vessel Hull & Fuel Type

- Rigid hull inflatable: 1
- Steel: 18
- Wood: 22
- Other/no info: 43
- Aluminum: 57
- Fiberglass: 808

Vessel & Property Damage Figures

- Gas: 704
- Diesel: 176
- Manual: 62
- Electric: 704

- 2000: 6.8
- 2001: 7.9
- 2002: 8.2
- 2003: 9.6
- 2004: 18.3
- 2005: 7.3
- 2006: 8.6
- 2007: 9.1

* $8,806,652 in vessel damage and $318,458 in property damage in 2007.

Vessel Ownership

- Owner household: 76%
- Borrowed: 15%
- Rented: 9%

- 2007: 31
- 2006: 727
- 2005: 138
- 2003: 84
2007 Reportable Accidents

### Primary Cause Assessed By Reviewing Authority

- **Operator inattention**: 117
- **No proper look-out**: 112
- **Excessive speed**: 89
- **Operator inexperience**: 43
- **Careless/inattention**: 40
- **Other/unknown**: 37
- **Machinery failure (below)**: 36
- **Alcohol use**: 36
- **Reckless operation**: 24
- **Skier or occupant**: 22
- **Weather**: 19
- **Unidentifiable**: 19
- **Improper anchoring**: 16
- **Standing/sitting- gunwale, bow or tran.**: 8
- **Hull failure**: 7
- **Off throttle steering-jet**: 6
- **Lack of proper lights**: 6
- **Sharp turn**: 5
- **Equipment failure (below)**: 5
- **Overloading**: 4
- **Hazardous waters**: 4
- **Failure to vent**: 4
- **Congested waters**: 3
- **Improper loading**: 2
- **Ignition of fuel vapor**: 2
- **Drug use**: 2

### Operator Age & Experience

- **Age (Years)**
  - 51+ Years: 224 (27%)
  - 22 - 35 Years: 193 (23%)
  - 17 - 21 Years: 27 (11%)
  - No info: 27 (3% - 25%)

- **Experience (Hours)**
  - 100+: 273 (46%)
  - 10 - 100: 173 (21%)
  - <10: 71 (9%)
  - No info: 205 (24%)

*205 unknown for experience and 25 unknown for age.

*668 Accidents involving 837 operators.

### Operator Gender

- **Male**: 753 (90%)
- **Female**: 65 (8%)
- **No info**: 19 (2%)

---

*205 unknown for experience and 25 unknown for age.

*668 Accidents involving 837 operators.*
2007 Reportable Accidents

**Boat Operator Education**

- **Boater education** 30%
- **No boater education** 70%

*668 total accidents involving 837 operators. ("No boater education" includes accidents without operator education info.)*

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**Operator/ Occupant PFD Use & Swimming Ability**

- **Could swim** 87%
- **Could not swim** 5%
- **No info** 8%

*668 total accidents involving 1,989 operators/occupants. *161 with no swimmer’s info. *642 with no PFD info.*

- **Wearing PFD** 30%
- **Not wearing PFD** 38%
- **No info** 32%

*668 total accidents. 21 operators without age info.*
2007 Reportable Accidents

Victim Statistics

State Waters Vs. Offshore Accidents

Offshore defined as the edge of the Gulfstream or 3 miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than 9 miles out in the Gulf.