Boating Accidents

Statistical Report

2010

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
Boating Accidents Statistical Report

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 boating safety, waterways, fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people. The Division of Law Enforcement 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 with primary responsibility for the management of the state’s fish and wildlife resources. The FWC’s Division of Law Enforcement is tasked with 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 places where
other law enforcement agencies do not routinely patrol. Our officers have the authority to enforce all laws of the state and are cross-deputized to enforce federal fisheries and wildlife laws.

Yet, in the course of carrying out these broad responsibilities, FWC officers take every opportunity to educate and introduce even the youngest Floridians to the wonders of our state’s wildlife and natural resources and some very important boating safety topics.

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

As we look to the future, we will continue to pursue and apply advances in technology to improve the way we respond to both conservation and general law enforcement incidents. When duty calls, we will always be among the first to respond, providing aid as needed. Until then, natural resource protection and proactive boating safety law enforcement and education are what we do best.

**Uniquely prepared**

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

Our officers often encounter criminal activity, unrelated to natural resources, while on patrol. With statewide law enforcement authority, they are able to address violations immediately – serving as a force multiplier for local jurisdictions.

With our combined talent, tools and training, we bring a wide variety of capabilities and experience to any environment. Our aviation assets, equipped with specialized technology, are often used in search, rescue and recovery efforts, to provide immediate impact assessments, aerial observation and monitoring of events or incidents, and to deliver critical, life-saving supplies and response personnel to disaster sites. Specially trained canine teams track lost or stranded...
Boating and waterways, which involves enhancing the boating safety and waterway experience through improved access, management, and enforcement.

Intervention equals prevention on the water

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

Our Boating, Waterways and Field Services Section supports officer efforts by coordinating statewide boating safety efforts, education campaigns, ensuring waterway markers are accurate and maintained, permitting and marking speed-regulated areas, coordinating initiatives aimed at removing derelict vessels and providing more public boating access sites.

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

Boating education is critical

As evidenced in this 2010 Boating Accidents Statistical Report, there were 668 reportable boating accidents and 79 boating related fatalities. Many of these deaths were due to victims falling overboard and drowning. A large number of these deaths could have been prevented if the victims had worn life jackets. We continue to increase our efforts to reduce the number of boating related fatalities through enhanced enforcement and education about the importance of wearing life jackets on the water.
Boating Accidents Statistical Report

With Florida’s current boating safety education law only applying to boaters born on or after January 1, 1988, the face-to-face contacts by FWC officers and our partner agencies are a critical part of our outreach and education efforts 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 plenty of boating experience, yet has never learned the most important safety considerations by having taken a boating safety course. When officers perform fresh and saltwater resource enforcement activities, they also routinely conduct boating safety inspections aimed at both identifying and preventing violations. They make boating safer and ultimately save lives.

Safe boating is a choice

Florida is the leader in promoting boating accident prevention. The FWC, in association with the National Safe Boating Council, Bombardier Recreational Products, Inc., West Marine, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and a growing list of other partners, 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 the relatively unknown inflatable life jackets. The campaign reaches the public through a variety of methods including media events and exhibits.

About this report

This 2010 Boating Accidents 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 working for local agencies.

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 these statistics and uses the information 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 U.S. Coast Guard’s Division of Auxiliary and Boating Safety in Washington, D.C. to be included in the national database consisting of data from all U.S. states and territories.
Boating Accidents Statistical Report

These statistics reflect data from “reportable boating accidents” that occurred in our state. Boating accidents must involve at least one of the following incidents for it 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, or
- There is at least $2,000 aggregate property damage to the vessel(s) or other property.

The number of recreational vessels registered in the State of Florida fell slightly in 2010. With 941,589 registered vessels, Florida is poised to once again lead the nation in registered vessels. Additionally, it is estimated that up to 1 million non-registered boats actively use Florida’s waters, and this segment of the boating population appears to still be growing. Our waterways increasingly show the strains of congestion as each year brings more residents and visitors to utilize our abundant water resources and enjoy Florida’s boating lifestyle.

Anyone having questions concerning this report should visit www.MyFWC.com and follow the link to “Ask FWC.”

Core mission direction
“The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission protects Florida’s people and natural resources, particularly in the state’s woods and waters. This covers many aspects, including protecting imperiled species and promoting human safety during outdoor recreation.

The Division of Law Enforcement is an integral part of the agency and is vital to fulfilling the agency’s responsibilities. The division’s core missions elaborate on those expectations and reflect the unique capabilities, training and equipment our law enforcement officers use to achieve them.

The methods employed by the division extend beyond traditional law enforcement roles. Not only do we conduct wilderness patrols, fisheries inspections and boating safety checks in order to accomplish our core missions, we must be creative in our efforts and active in our communities. We must be ready to respond to emergencies and mutual aid requests, coordinate with stakeholders, work closely with other divisions within the agency, educate the public and inspire and cultivate the next generation of conservationists.

The success of our division and agency depends upon the hard work of our officers in the field. Our Boating and Waterways Section is not only key to our public safety mission, but to providing public access to our waterways as well. Other key components of our division include our high-quality dispatch, administrative support, field services, technical support and maintenance personnel.

The Division of Law Enforcement has a proud history of carrying out its duties with diligence, resourcefulness, discipline and valor. It’s an honor to lead this division as we build on those traditions and take on the challenges that lie ahead.”

-Colonel Jim Brown,
Division Director
Boating Accidents Statistical Report

SUMMARY

BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

- The total number of registered vessels in Florida is 941,589 for 2010 (40,881 below 2009 records).
- There were 668 total reportable boating accidents in 2010.

2010 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

- 66% of the operators involved in reportable boating accidents had no formal boater education.
- Monroe County reported the highest number of accidents and injuries (77 total accidents with 7 fatalities and 56 injuries).

2010 REPORTABLE BOATING FATALITIES

In 2010 boaters falling overboard was the main cause of boating fatalities. This trend, although preventable, continues to grow.

- 27% of the fatal accidents were falls overboard (26 accidents).
- 39% of the fatalities listed as drowning occurred on vessels less than 18 ft in length.
- The leading cause of death in fatal boating accidents was drowning (62%).
- Deadliest month in 2010 was May with 13 fatalities.
- 22% of the boating fatalities were alcohol or drug related.
- 89% of the victims of fatal boating accidents were males (70).
- The total fatality count for 2010 is reported as 79.
- 21% (15) of the fatal accidents involved non-motorized vessels.

2010 REPORTABLE BOATING INJURIES

- There were 668 accidents resulting in 389 injuries. The rate of injury was 41 per 100,000 recreationally registered vessels.
2010 REPORTABLE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS
- Personal watercraft (PWC) account for 13% of all registered vessels in Florida.
- **PWC were involved** in 19% (125) of reported boating accidents.
- 49% of **PWC accidents involved** a collision with another vessel.
- Over 34% of **PWC accidents occurred** in Monroe, Pinellas and Miami-Dade Counties, with Monroe County ranked as number #1 (with 18 accidents).

2010 BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS
- **FWC issued** 22,490 Boating Safety Education ID cards in 2010.
- 50% of the **cards were issued** to persons 21 years of age or younger.
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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 on board 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.

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 for which a valid certificate of documentation is outstanding pursuant to 46 C.F.R. part 67. Documented vessels are not numbered.

DOCUMENTED YACHT - A vessel of five or more net tons, owned by a citizen of the United States, and used exclusively for pleasure with a valid marine document issued by the United States Coast Guard. Documented yachts are not numbered.

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.

FALLEN SKIER - A person who has fallen off their water skis.
FALL 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 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, 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, liquids (including their vapors).

FIRE/EXPLOSION (OTHER) - Accidental burning or explosion of any material on board, 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 on 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 on board.

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.

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 - (1) 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. (2) Any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery, not more than sixty-five feet in length.

MOTOR VESSEL - Any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery (other than steam) more than sixty-five feet in length.

NAVIGATION RULES - The International Navigation Rules Act of 1977 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 for vessels on all waters not outside of such lines of demarcation.

NONRESIDENT - 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.

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 in 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 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, or 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 - A boating accident that results in personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid, death, disappearance of any person from on board 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 $2000.
Boating Accidents Statistical Report

**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.


**SAILBOAT OR AUXILIARY SAILBOAT** - (1) Any vessel whose sole source of propulsion is the natural element (i.e., wind). (2) 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.

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

**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.
**Boating Accidents Statistical Report**

**NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS - TOP TEN STATES, 2009**

- **Florida**: 620
- **California**: 478
- **Maryland**: 174
- **Texas**: 168
- **Arizona**: 151
- **Missouri**: 150
- **New York**: 148
- **Georgia**: 145
- **North Carolina**: 144
- **Virginia**: 137

Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division

*Based on $2,000 Damage Threshold

**REGISTERED VESSELS - TOP TEN STATES, 2009**

- **North Carolina**: 405,663
- **Ohio**: 424,877
- **South Carolina**: 435,528
- **New York**: 479,161
- **Texas**: 622,184
- **Wisconsin**: 626,304
- **Michigan**: 811,670
- **Minnesota**: 811,775
- **California**: 906,988
- **Florida**: 949,030

*Numbers represent number of recreationally registered vessels in 2009.*
2004 - 2010 Florida Reportable Accidents

2002 - 2010 Florida Registered Vessels

* Numbers represent total number of registered vessels.
2010 Reportable Boating Accidents

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement
## 2010 Reportable Boating Accidents

<table>
<thead>
<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>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Accident Rate*</th>
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## 2010 Reportable Boating Accidents

### 2010 Vessel Registration and Accidents by County

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<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 Registered Vessels / # of Accidents

**Those counties highlighted in blue represent the top counties; there are eleven counties highlighted due to an equal number of reportable accidents for Okaloosa and Volusia counties in 2010.
2010 Reportable Boating Accidents

Top Eleven Counties

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<tr>
<th>County</th>
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</table>

*11 counties are shown due to a tie for tenth place.

Investigating Agency

- FWC: 548 (82%)
- Sheriff: 90 (13%)
- Police Department: 26 (4%)
- Other: 4 (1%)

Accidents by Month for 2010

*668 total accidents.
2010 Reportable Boating Accidents

**Time of Day**

- Unknown: 5
- 00:00-01:59: 14
- 02:00-03:59: 16
- 04:00-05:59: 2
- 06:00-07:59: 19
- 08:00-09:59: 30
- 10:00-11:59: 68
- 12:00-13:59: 97
- 14:00-15:59: 131
- 16:00-17:59: 132
- 18:00-19:59: 85
- 20:00-21:59: 39
- 22:00-23:59: 30

Total number of accidents – 668. No information for 5 accidents.

**Accident Site Location**

- Bay/sound: 144
- Ocean/gulf: 132
- River/creek: 107
- Canal/cut: 81
- Lake/pond: 62
- Inlet/pass: 62
- Port/harbor: 45
- Marsh/swamp: 11
- Other: 24

**Restricted Area Accidents**

- Swimming: 1
- Manatee idle speed: 9
- Manatee slow speed: 34
- Slow speed: 35
- MPH limit: 36
- Other: 40
- Idle speed: 60

Statistical Summary: 
- Total number of accidents: 668
- Unknown: 5
- Bay/sound: 144
- Ocean/gulf: 132
- River/creek: 107
- Canal/cut: 81
- Lake/pond: 62
- Inlet/pass: 62
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- Port/harbor: 45
- Marsh/swamp: 11
- Other: 24

Total number of accidents – 668. No information for 5 accidents.
2010 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

- Starting engine: 1
- Sinking: 2
- Struck by boat (person): 4
- Struck by skeg/prop: 6
- Collision floating object/person: 7
- Vessel wake damage: 8
- Skier mishap/fall: 9
- Skier hit object: 10
- Struck underwater object: 14
- Fall in boat: 17
- Fall on PWC: 17
- Fire/explosion (non-fuel): 22
- Capsizing: 24
- Other: 26
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 27
- Grounding: 39
- Falls overboard: 61
- Flooding/swamping: 81
- Collision with vessel: 126
- Collision with fixed object: 167

*668 accidents involving 875 vessels and 8 swimmers.
(Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority.)

SECONDARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

- Fire/explosion (fuel): 2
- Falls overboard: 2
- Struck underwater object: 3
- Vessel wake damage: 3
- Grounding: 3
- Flooding/swamping: 3
- Collision floating/object person: 3
- Fire/explosion (non-fuel): 6
- Fall in boat: 8
- Starting engine: 9
- Skier hit object: 13
- Skier mishap/fall: 22
- Struck by skeg/prop: 32
- Capsizing: 38
- Fall on PWC: 45
- Struck by boat (person): 67

(No secondary type of accident assigned to 409 accidents.)
**2010 Reportable Boating Accidents**

**Operation at Time of Accident**

- Being towed: 1
- Towing a boat: 2
- Launching/loading: 3
- Wake/surf jumping: 4
- Sailing: 4
- Rowing/paddling: 7
- No info: 13
- Other: 19
- Docking/undocking: 43
- Changing speed: 54
- At anchor: 58
- Drifting: 59
- Docked (moored): 76
- Changing direction: 171
- Cruising: 361

*668 accidents involving 875 vessels and 8 swimmers.

**Activity at Time of Accident**

- Wake/surf jumping: 1
- Racing (sanctioned): 1
- Scuba diving: 1
- Sailing: 1
- Tournament (fishing): 2
- Fueling: 2
- Docking/undocking: 2
- Changing speed: 2
- At anchor: 2
- Swimming/snorkeling: 3
- Drifting: 4
- Starting engine: 4
- Hunting: 4
- Making repairs: 6
- Skiing: 7
- Cruising: 8
- No info: 14
- Boat pulling tube: 20
- Commercial purpose: 49
- Fishing (recreational): 82
- Other: 163
- Recreational cruising: 497
**2010 Reportable Boating Accidents**

**Total Number of Accidents**

- 1 Vessel: 477
- 2 Vessels: 179
- 3+ Vessels: 12

**Fatal Accidents**

- 1 Vessel: 62
- 2 Vessels: 11

**Personal Watercraft**

- 1 Vessel: 55
- 2 Vessels: 70

**Vessel Type, Length & Propulsion**

- **Sail (only)**: 1
- **Houseboat**: 2
- **Mini jet boat**: 5
- **Rowboat (jon)**: 5
- **No info**: 14
- **Canoe/kayak**: 15
- **Ponboat**: 18
- **Other**: 23
- **Airboat**: 36
- **Sail (aux power)**: 41
- **Personal watercraft**: 178
- **Cabin motorboat**: 192
- **Open motorboat**: 345
- **< 12 Feet**: 66
- **12 - 16 Feet**: 118
- **17 - 21 Feet**: 114
- **22 - 26 Feet**: 167
- **27 - 40 Feet**: 81
- **41 - 65 Feet**: 21
- **66+ Feet**: 2
- **No info**: 2
- **Sail**: 13
- **Manual**: 16
- **No info**: 31
- **Air thrust**: 37
- **Water jet**: 171
- **Propeller**: 607

*668 total accidents involving 875 vessels and 8 swimmers.
*73 fatal accidents involving 84 vessels and 0 swimmers.
*125 personal watercraft accidents involving 178 vessels and 3 swimmers.
2010 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

Vessel Fuel & Hull Type

- Electric: 4
- Not Specified: 49
- Diesel: 128
- Gas: 694
- Rubber/vinyl: 1
- Rigid hull inflatable: 5
- Wood: 11
- Steel: 13
- Other/no info: 19
- Aluminum: 72
- Fiberglass: 754

*668 accidents involving 875 vessels.

Vessel & Property Damage Figures

- Millions of dollars
- Vessel damage: 18.3, 7.3, 8.6, 9.1, 10.9, 8.4
- Property damage: 23.3

*7,580,386 in vessel damage and $829,666 in property damage in 2010.

Vessel Ownership

- Owner household: 679 (78%)
- Borrowed (not in household): 96 (11%)
- Rented: 100 (11%)

* $7,580,386 in vessel damage and $829,666 in property damage in 2010.
2010 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY

- Congested waters: 1
- Vision obstructed: 1
- Hazardous waters: 2
- Lack of proper lights: 2
- Failure to vent: 3
- Improper anchoring: 6
- Sharp turn: 5
- Ignition of fuel vapor: 6
- Overloading: 6
- Improper loading: 7
- Hull failure: 8
- Standing/sitting-gunwale/bow/transom: 10
- Off throttle steering jet: 11
- Weather: 15
- Skier or occupant behavior: 17
- Equipment failure: 17
- Reckless operation: 19
- Alcohol/drug use: 41
- Careless/inattention: 41
- Operator inexperience: 42
- Other: 43
- Excessive speed: 55
- Machinery failure: 56
- No proper look-out: 106
- Operator inattention: 149

OPERATOR AGE

- No info: 5
- <17 Years: 31 (4%)
- 17 - 21 Years: 81 (10%)
- 22 - 35 Years: 187 (24%)
- 36 - 50 Years: 256 (32%)
- 51+ Years: 258 (32%)

OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (Hours)

- No info: 122 (15%)
- <10 Hours: 81 (10%)
- 10 - 100 Hours: 156 (20%)
- 100+ Hours: 434 (55%)

VESSEL OWNERSHIP

- No info: 10 (1%)
- Male: 727 (92%)
- Female: 56 (7%)
### 2010 Reportable Boating Accidents

#### Operator/Occupant Swimming Ability

- **Could not swim**: 33 (2%)
- **No info**: 131 (8%)
- **Could swim**: 1,408 (90%)

#### Operator/Occupant PFD Use

- **Wearing PFD**: 391 (25%)
- **Not wearing PFD**: 701 (45%)
- **No info**: 480 (30%)

#### Operator by Age with No Boater Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>NO INFO</th>
<th>0-16</th>
<th>17-21</th>
<th>22-35</th>
<th>36-50</th>
<th>51+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>212</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>167</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>184</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*783 operators
*1,572 total occupants and operators.
*131 individuals with no swimmer information.
*480 individuals with no PFD information.

**Boat Operation Education**

- **Boater education**: 270 (34%)
- **No boater education**: 523 (66%)

*523 operators without boater education, 6 operators without age information.
**2010 Reportable Boating Accidents**

*There were 1,572 individuals involved in boating accidents in 2010.*

**Victim Statistics**

- **Fatal**
  - 79
  - 5%

- **Injured**
  - 389
  - 25%

- **Uninjured**
  - 1,104
  - 70%

**Victim Statistics (Ejected from Boat)**

- **Ejected**
  - 151
  - 39%

- **Not ejected**
  - 139
  - 36%

- **No info**
  - 99
  - 25%

*668 total accidents with 389 injuries.*

**State Waters vs. Offshore Accidents**

- **State waters**
  - 645
  - 97%

- **Offshore**
  - 9
  - 1%

- **No info**
  - 14
  - 2%

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.
2009 Fatalities - Top Ten States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2010 statistics for top 10 states were not available at time of printing.
Source: U.S. Coast Guard Division of Auxiliary and Boating Safety.

Florida Total Fatalities Recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered vessels</th>
<th>Fatality rate</th>
<th>Number of fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>941,589</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>982,470</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,010,359</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,027,043</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Investigating Agency

- FWC 65 89%
- Sheriff’s Office 8%
- Police 3%

*73 fatal accidents.
Boating Accidents Statistical Report

**FATAL ACCIDENTS BY MONTH**

- Jan: 4
- Feb: 4
- Mar: 3
- Apr: 9
- May: 13
- Jun: 12
- Jul: 5
- Aug: 5
- Sep: 4
- Oct: 2
- Nov: 2
- Dec: 1

- Total: 73 fatal accidents involving 79 fatalities.

**TIME OF DAY**

- 00:00-01:59: 5
- 02:00-03:59: 3
- 04:00-05:59: 0
- 06:00-07:59: 2
- 08:00-09:59: 7
- 10:00-11:59: 8
- 12:00-13:59: 6
- 14:00-15:59: 8
- 16:00-17:59: 16
- 18:00-19:59: 11
- 20:00-21:59: 4
- 22:00-23:59: 3

- Total: 73 fatal accidents involving 79 fatalities.

**TYPES OF ACCIDENTS**

- Grounding: 1
- Collision with floating object/person: 1
- Struck by skeg/prop: 1
- Fall on PWC: 1
- Skier hit object: 2
- Fall in boat: 2
- Collision with fixed object: 4
- Flooding (swamping): 8
- Capsizing: 8
- Collision with vessel: 9
- Other: 10
- Falls overboard: 26

- Total: 73 fatal accidents involving 79 fatalities.

*Based on first harmful event.*
2010 Fatality Data

Operation at Time of Accident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changing speed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowing/paddling</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At anchor</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drifting</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing direction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruising</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*84 vessels involved in 73 fatal accidents with 79 victims.

Accident Site Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port/harbor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inlet/pass</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal/cut</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean/gulf</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay/sound</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River/creek</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake/pond</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*73 accidents involving 79 fatalities.

Restricted Area Fatal Accidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restricted Area</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPH limit</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idle speed</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow speed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee slow speed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2010 Fatality Data

Vessel Ownership

- Owned: 71 vessels (84%)
- Borrowed (not in household): 9 vessels (11%)
- Rented: 4 vessels (5%)

*79 total fatalities involving 84 vessels.

Vessel Fuel & Hull Type

- Gasoline: 65 accidents
- Fiberglass: 68 vessels
- Not Specified: 14 vessels
- Other: 6 vessels
- Aluminum: 9 vessels
- Diesel: 3 vessels
- Electric: 2 vessels

*73 fatal accidents involving 84 vessels.

Vessel Propulsion, Length & Type

- Open motorboat: 35 vessels
- Personal watercraft: 14 vessels
- Other: 9 vessels
- Cabin motorboat: 8 vessels
- Canoe/kayak: 7 vessels
- Other: 4 vessels
- Rowboat (jon): 3 vessels
- Pontoon boat: 3 vessels
- Airboat: 2 vessels
- Sail (aux power): 1 vessel
- Water jet: 14 vessels
- Propeller: 12 vessels
- Manual: 14 vessels
- Air Thrust: 2 vessels

- < 12 Feet: 20 vessels
- 12 - 16 Feet: 23 vessels
- 17 - 21 Feet: 20 vessels
- 22 - 26 Feet: 10 vessels
- 27 - 40 Feet: 8 vessels
- 41 - 65 Feet: 3 vessels
- 41 - 65 Feet: 3 vessels

*73 fatal accidents involving 84 vessels.
2010 Fatality Data

- **Primary Cause of Death**: 73 fatal accidents involving 79 fatalities.
  - Trauma: 27 (34%)
  - Drowning: 49 (62%)
  - Unknown: 3 (4%)

- **Operator Gender**:
  - Male: 70 (85%)
  - Female: 9 (11%)
  - No Info: 3 (4%)

- **Operator Age**:
  - Under 10: 8 (10%)
  - 10 - 100: 14 (17%)
  - Over 100: 34 (41%)
  - Unknown: 26 (32%)

- **Operator Experience**:
  - Under 10: 8 (10%)
  - 10 - 100: 14 (17%)
  - Over 100: 34 (41%)
  - Unknown: 26 (32%)

*Note: 73 accidents involving 82 operators and 79 fatalities.*
2010 Fatality Data

Boating Accidents Statistical Report

Boat Operator Education

- No boater education: 58 (71%)
- Boater education: 19 (23%)
- No information: 5 (6%)

Operators by Age Without Formal Boater Education

- Less than 17 Years: 1
- 17 - 21 Years: 1
- 22-35: 22
- 36-50: 17
- 51+ years: 17

Victim Statistics (Wearing PFD)

- Not wearing PFD: 19 (24%)
- Wearing PFD: 42 (53%)
- No info: 18 (23%)

Victim Statistics (Swimming Ability)

- Can swim: 63 (80%)
- Cannot swim: 10
- Unknown: 6

*73 fatal accidents involving 82 operators.

*73 fatal accidents involving 79 victims.
2010 Fatality Data

Victim Residency

- Non resident: 8 (10%)
- Florida resident: 71 (90%)

*73 fatal accidents involving 79 fatalities.

Victim Gender

- Male: 70 (89%)
- Female: 9 (11%)

Victim Age

- Less than 17: 2 (3%)
- 17 - 21: 3 (4%)
- 22 - 35: 26 (33%)
- 36 - 50: 20 (25%)
- 51+: 28 (35%)

Alcohol/Drug Related Accidents

- Alcohol / drug use: 17 (23%)
- Other causes: 56 (77%)

Alcohol/Drug Related Victims

- Alcohol / drug use: 17 (22%)
- Other causes: 62 (78%)

*73 accidents involving 79 fatalities.
(Alcohol/drug related refers to any accidents in which alcohol/drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether or not legally impaired.)
2010 Fatality Data

Primary Cause of Accident by Reviewing Authority

- Drug use
- Standing/sitting on gunwale, bow or transom
- Hazardous waters
- Hull failure
- Improper loading
- Weather
- Sharp turn
- Overloading
- Reckless operation
- Excessive speed
- Operator inexperience
- Equipment failure
- Careless/inattention
- No proper look out
- Operator inattention
- Skier or occupant behavior
- Other
- Alcohol use

*73 fatal accidents.

State Waters vs. Offshore Fatalities

- State waters: 71 (97%)
- Offshore: 2 (3%)

*70 fatal accidents occurred in State waters, plus 1 offshore fatality and 2 fatalities with no information. Offshore defined as the edge of the Gulf Stream or 3 miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than 9 miles out in the Gulf.
## 2010 Injury Data

### Total Injuries Recorded 2007 - 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered Vessels</th>
<th>Injury Rate</th>
<th>Number of Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>941,589</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>982,470</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,010,359</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,027,043</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Primary Type of Injury

- Shock: 1
- Spinal injury: 2
- Teeth and jaw: 2
- Amputation: 4
- Dislocations: 4
- Neck injury: 7
- Burns: 8
- Internal injuries: 12
- Sprain/strain: 15
- Hypothermia: 19
- No information: 23
- Back injury: 27
- Contusions: 38
- Head injury: 43
- Broken bone(s): 82
- Laceration: 102

*668 accidents involving 389 injuries.
2010 Injury Data

- Operators: 158 (41%)
- Occupants: 217 (56%)
- Could swim: 361 (93%)
- Could not swim: 5 (1%)
- No info: 23 (6%)

Wearing PFD: 154 (39%)
Not wearing PFD: 158 (41%)
No info: 77 (20%)
## 2010 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Pleasure</th>
<th>Rental</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>PWC Accidents</th>
<th>PWC Fatalities</th>
<th>PWC Injuries</th>
<th>Property Damage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Accident Rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alachua</td>
<td>902</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>904</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker</td>
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<td>10</td>
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### 2010 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Pleasure</th>
<th>Rental</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>PWC Accidents</th>
<th>PWC Fatalities</th>
<th>PWC Injuries</th>
<th>Property Damage</th>
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<td>125</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>$252,425</td>
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</table>
**2010 Personal Watercraft Data**

**PWC Registration**

- **PWC (private) accidents**: 81,12% (registered)
- **PWC (rental) accidents**: 44, 7%
- **Other accidents**: 543, 81%
- **PWC (registered)**: 123,361, 13%
- **Other boats registered**: 818,228, 87%

**PWC Accidents 2005 - 2010**

- 2010: 125
- 2009: 143
- 2008: 167
- 2007: 162
- 2006: 174
- 2005: 149

**PWC - Top 12 Counties for 2010**

- Monroe: 18
- Pinellas: 16
- Miami-Dade: 9
- Lee: 8
- Okaloosa: 6
- Duval: 5
- Palm Beach: 5
- Bay: 4
- Broward: 4
- Collier: 4
- St. Johns: 4
- Volusia: 4

*125 total PWC accidents in 67 counties.*
### 2010 Personal Watercraft Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocean/gulf</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake/pond</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay/sound</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River/creek</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inlet/pass</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal/cut</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port/harbor</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>35</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<td>MPH limit</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Manatee slow speed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slow speed</td>
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<td>Idle speed</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Changing direction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Changing speed</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Drifting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake/surf jumping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Docking/undocking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Docked (moored)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>At anchor</td>
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</table>

*26 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area.

*125 PWC accidents.
2010 Personal Watercraft Data

Primary Type of Accident

- Fire/explosion (fuel): 1
- Struck underwater object: 1
- Collision floating object/person: 1
- Flooding (swamping): 2
- Struck by boat (person): 2
- Skier mishap/fall: 3
- Skier hit object: 3
- Grounding: 3
- Falls overboard: 11
- Fall on PWC: 17
- Collision with fixed object: 20
- Collision with vessel: 61

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

PWC Operator Age

- >17: 14 (8%)
- 22-35: 55 (32%)
- 36-50: 53 (31%)
- 17-21: 37 (21%)
- 31-50: 51 (29%)
- No info: 1 (>1%)

PWC Ownership

- PWC (rented): 71 (40%)
- PWC (owner household): 63 (35%)
- PWC (borrowed): 44 (25%)
- Unknown: 36 (21%)

PWC Operator Experience (Hours)

- <10: 36 (21%)
- 10-100: 51 (29.5%)
- 100+: 35 (20%)

125 PWC accidents involving 178 vessels and 173 operators.
2010 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

PWC fatalities
10
13%

Other fatalities
69
87%

PWC injuries
108
28%

Other injuries
281
72%
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA

- Operator inattention: 22
- No proper look-out: 21
- Careless: 17
- Excessive speed: 15
- Reckless operation: 15
- Operator inexperience: 9
- Off throttle steering-jet: 4
- Alcohol use: 2
- Sharp turn: 2
- Weather: 1
- Other: 1
- Skier or occupant behavior: 1
- Machinery failure: 1
- Ignition of fuel vapor: 1

PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY

- 125 PWC accidents.

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

- FWC: 96 (77%)
- Sheriff's Office: 21 (17%)
- Other: 2 (1%)

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DATA
## 2010 Boating Education

### Top 10 Counties - Boating Education Cards Issued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Cards Issued</th>
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<td>Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duval</td>
<td>652</td>
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<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>743</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>766</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>1,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>1,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
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<td>Palm Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>1,855</td>
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22,490 Cards issued in calendar year 2010 (Does not include temporary certificates.)

### Boating Safety Education

I.D. Card Distribution by Age

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<td>4,872</td>
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<td>55 and up</td>
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*31 Boaters did not provide age information.
## 2010 Uniform Boating Citation Summary

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<th>2010 Other</th>
<th>2009 FWC</th>
<th>2009 Other</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mooring to or damaging markers or buoys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation of a vessel while impaired</td>
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<td>Rental without proper safety equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Careless operation of a vessel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navigation rule violation not resulting in an accident</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Watercraft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft regulations</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing and Diving.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skiing, aquaplaning, and parasailing violations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dive flag violations</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration and Numbering.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation of unregistered/unnumbered vessels</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application, certificate, number, or decal violation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special manufacturer and dealer numbers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation relating to vessel titling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation relating to Hull Identification Numbers</td>
<td>2,148</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>1,257</td>
<td>1,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Equipment and Regulations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and lighting requirements</td>
<td>2,398</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>3,579</td>
<td>1,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUB TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>8,719</td>
<td>5,596</td>
<td>8,731</td>
<td>6,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL VIOLATIONS RECORDED</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,315</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,314</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 64% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2010 calendar year occurred in 11 Florida counties; there was a tie in the tenth position.

The information on the following pages represents a breakdown of the accident data from each of these counties. The graphs show the types of vessels involved, the primary cause of each accident, and the primary type of accidents 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.
Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (7)
- Accident with Injury (36)
- Accident without Injury (34)
1. **MONROE COUNTY**

### Type of Vessel

![Type of Vessel Chart]

### Primary Cause of Accident

![Primary Cause of Accident Chart]

### Primary Type of Accident

![Primary Type of Accident Chart]
Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (28)
- Accident without Injury (41)
2. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

**Primary Cause of Accident**

**Primary Type of Accident**
Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (6)
- Accident with Injury (18)
- Accident without Injury (36)
3. PALM BEACH COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open motorboat</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin motorboat</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (aux power)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontoon boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini jet boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Cause of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment failure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overloading</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced operation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slip or loss of control</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel equipment</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive speed</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proper lookout</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical failure</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator inattentiveness</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Type of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collision with fixed object</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision with vessel</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooding (intentional)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall in boat</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (fuel)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (non-fuel)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel wake damage</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounding</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stern/first object</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starboard</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsizing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls/overboard</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (5)
- Accident with Injury (19)
- Accident without Injury (29)
4. Pinellas County

**Type of Vessel**

- Open motorboat: 26
- Personal watercraft: 23
- Cabin motorboat: 10
- Sail (aux power): 5
- Other: 2
- Houseboat: 1
- Pontoon boat: 1
- Canoe/kayak: 1

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 14
- Collision with fixed object: 9
- Flooding (swamping): 8
- Grounding: 5
- Fall into boat: 4
- Fall from PWC: 4
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 3
- Other: 3
- Capsizing: 2
- Struck by bollard/person: 2
- Vessel wake damage: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Careless/violation: 1
- Hull failure: 1
- Ignition of fuel vapor: 1
- Short circuit: 1
- Equipment failure: 1
- Seer or occupant behavior: 2
- Weather: 3
- Machinery failure: 4
- No proper lookout: 4
- Excessive speed: 5
- Operator inattention: 5
- Operator intoxication: 8
- Other: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (4)
- Accident with Injury (12)
- Accident without Injury (17)
5. Lee County

**Type of Vessel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open motorboat</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin motorboat</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowboat (jet)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (aux power)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Cause of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failure to yield</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull failure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reckless operation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow or trim failure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment failure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive speed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proper lookout</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careless/inattentation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper handling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery failure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator inexperience</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator/skilled</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Type of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Accident</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collision with vessel</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooding (sinking)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (petrol)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision with fixed object</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall overboard</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall on PWC</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (fuel)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuck underwater object</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsize</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (3)
- Accident with Injury (6)
- Accident without Injury (20)
# 6. Broward County

## Type of Vessel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabin motorboat</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open motorboat</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airboat</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/kayak</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (aux power)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini jet boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Primary Cause of Accident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collision with fixed object</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision with vessel</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free/ignition (non-fuel)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsizing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooding (swamping)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls overboard</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free/ignition (fuel)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Primary Type of Accident

- **Collision with Fixed Object**: 15 occurrences
- **Collision with Vessel**: 4 occurrences
- **Free/ignition (Non-fuel)**: 3 occurrences
- **Capsizing**: 2 occurrences
- **Flooding (Swamping)**: 1 occurrence
- **Grounding**: 1 occurrence
- **Other**: 1 occurrence
- **Falls Overboard**: 1 occurrence
- **Free/ignition (Fuel)**: 1 occurrence
Known Locations of Accidents in Brevard County during 2010

**Legend**
- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (9)
- Accident without Injury (13)
7. Brevard County

Type of Vessel

- Open motorboat: 9
- Airboat: 8
- Cabin motorboat: 5
- Other: 3
- Not specified: 2
- Personal watercraft: 1
- Canoe/kayak: 1

Primary Cause of Accident

- Improper anchoring: 1
- Excessive speed: 2
- Operator inattention: 3
- Machinery failure: 4
- No proper look-out: 7

Primary Type of Accident

- Collision with vessel: 5
- Flooding (sinking): 4
- Grounding: 4
- Falls overboard: 3
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 3
- Flooding (non-fuel): 1
- Other: 1
- Sinking: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Bay County during 2010

Legend

- Red circle: Fatal Accident (4)
- Blue circle: Accident with Injury (8)
- Green circle: Accident without Injury (10)
8. BAY COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cabin motorboat</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open motorboat</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontoon boat</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (aux power)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Cause of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Accident</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol use</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive speed</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skier or occupant behavior</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careless/inattention</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper loading</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reckless operation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery failure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator inattention</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proper exit</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Type of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Accident</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collision with fixed object</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision with vessel</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (fuel)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (non-fuel)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capsize</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooding (swamping)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision involving object/person</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struck by boat (person)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls overboard</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Known Locations of Accidents in Collier County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (11)
- Accident without Injury (8)

Map document created by FWC LE GIS
9. COLLIER COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Open motorboat: 9
- Cabin motorboat: 7
- Personal watercraft: 5
- Airboat: 2
- Sail (aux power): 1

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Careless/inattention: 7
- Excessive speed: 3
- Improper loading: 2
- Machinery failure: 3
- Other: 1
- Vision obstructed: 1
- Skier or occupant behavior: 1
- No proper lookout: 1
- Operator inexperience: 1
- Operator intoxication: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collisions with fixed object: 3
- Falling (swimming): 2
- Fall in boat: 2
- Grounding: 1
- Struck underwater object: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Okaloosa County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (0)
- Accident with Injury (11)
- Accident without Injury (7)
10. Okaloosa County

*Tied for tenth.

### Type of Vessel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open motorboat</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin motorboat</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (aux power)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontoon boat</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini jet boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Primary Cause of Accident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned use</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proper lookout</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversteering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive speed</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reckless operation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator inexperience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator inattention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator misjudgment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Primary Type of Accident

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Accident</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flooding (swamping)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision with vessel</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall on PWC</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/Explosion (flame-related)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capturing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinking</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel damage</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Known Locations of Accidents in Volusia County during 2010

Legend
- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (8)
- Accident without Injury (8)
10. Volusia County
*Tied for tenth.
FWC reminds you that the best way to avoid becoming a boating statistic is to wear a life jacket.