Boating Injuries
On the early morning of July 30 2014, the operator of a 26 foot vessel was leaving Salt Creek in Pinellas County. As he exited speed zone in Bayborough Harbor, he accelerated the vessel. He was traveling east, approximately 200 yards from the shore line when he made a sharp turn to the north and moments later struck a channel marker. The impact broke the piling and the operator fell against the console, striking his head. After recovering from a few moments of disorientation, the operator applied a towel to his head wound and called for help. He received treatment at a local hospital for a 4-inch laceration on his forehead.
2014 Injury Data

Total Injuries Recorded 2011-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered vessels</th>
<th>Injury rate</th>
<th>Number of injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>899,635</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>896,632</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>901,969</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Types of Injury

- Amputation: 2
- Shock: 3
- Spinal injury: 6
- Burns: 7
- Teeth and jaw: 7
- Dislocations: 8
- Neck injury: 8
- No information: 12
- Internal injuries: 19
- Sprain/strain: 20
- Back injury: 22
- Head injury: 34
- Broken bone(s): 50
- Contusions: 76
- Laceration: 91

*634 accidents involving 365 injuries
**2014 Injury Data**

**Victim Statistics (Injured)**

- Occupants: 227 (62%)
- Operators: 131 (36%)
- Swimmers: 7 (2%)

*634 accidents involving 365 injured

**Victim Statistics (Swimming Ability)**

- Could swim: 271 (74%)
- Could not swim: 80 (22%)
- No info: 14 (4%)

**Victim Statistics (PFD Use)**

- Wearing PFD: 119 (33%)
- Not wearing PFD: 232 (63%)
- No info: 14 (4%)

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On January 19, 2014, a 26 foot Sea Ray was traveling in a northerly direction from the Lake Worth Pier approximately one mile from shore in the Atlantic Ocean. A 27 foot Black Fin was drifting to the west of the Sea Ray and was displaying a divers down flag.

The Sea Ray changed course and crossed the path of the Black Fin approximately 50 to 75 feet ahead of it. The Sea Ray struck a diver from the Black Fin. After striking the diver, the Sea Ray headed toward Palm Beach Inlet.

The diver sustained injuries from his upper rear right leg ankle. Investigation revealed that the dive flag was not properly displayed because the stiffener rod had broken due to corrosion. The operator of the Black Fin was cited for the improper flag display.