Boating Accident Review
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Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

On August 17, 2014, an 18 foot jet boat was involved in an accident in the North Fork of the St. Lucie River south of Marker 27. The 50-year-old operator and his 6-year-old son were in the vessel when a plastic bag that was in the vessel almost blew out. The operator asked his son to hand him the bag and while reaching for it the vessel veered off course, running into the shoreline. Both of the occupants were thrown forward upon impact. Good Samaritans responded to the crash and brought them to a boat ramp where the son was transported to the hospital for a laceration on his scalp. The father’s injuries were minor scrapes and bruises. While at the hospital the son was also found to have a skull fracture that did not require surgery, he did however receive stitches for the laceration.
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Number of Accidents - Top Ten States 2013 (Recreational)

- Florida: 685
- California: 426
- North Carolina: 139
- Texas: 146
- New York: 180
- New Jersey: 123
- Missouri: 111
- Tennessee: 119
- Ohio: 108
- Maryland: 110

*Based on $2,000 damage threshold
Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division

Registered Vessels - Top Ten States 2013 (Recreational)

- Florida: 870,749
- California: 820,490
- North Carolina: 795,875
- Minnesota: 808,744
- Michigan: 820,490
- Texas: 808,744
- South Carolina: 795,875
- Wisconsin: 613,516
- Ohio: 449,541
- New York: 456,909

*Totals represent number of recreationally registered vessels in 2013.
Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division
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2010 - 2014 Florida Reportable Accidents

2010-2014 Florida Total Registered Vessels

*Totals represent all currently registered vessels for that year.
Source: Florida DHSMV