



Reportable Boating Accidents



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Cover Photo: (Courtesy of FWC)

Early on the morning of June 24, 2014, a boating accident occurred in Newfound Harbor off Big Pine Key. A 16 foot Sport Craft boat embedded its bow into the port side of a 30 foot sailboat. A patrol boat from USCG Marathon was the first emergency services to arrive at the location.

USCG advised that the operator of the Sport Craft had fled the scene before they arrived. The 60-year-old occupant of the sailboat stated that he was awakened at approximately 2:30 a.m. by the impact. When he went on deck, he saw the Sport Craft embedded into the bow of his sailboat and the operator appeared dazed but apparently ok. He went below to call 911 and when he returned on deck the operator of the Sport Craft was gone.

Monroe County Sheriffs (MCSO) attempted to make contact with registered owner at his residence, which was located less than two miles from the crash scene, but nobody answered the door. The officers observed damage to the Sport Craft. The windshield plexiglas was dislodged and laying in the bow section, the windshield frame was bent forward, and the GPS unit was broken off from its mount. No blood or other signs of injury were observed on the Sport Craft.

The sailboat had impact damage on the port bow in the form of a hole approximately four feet wide by three feet tall, and impact cracks on the starboard bow, both from the impact of the Sport Craft.

At approximately 8:00 a.m. MCSO advised that they had located the owner of the Sport Craft at his residence. The operator stated that he was coming back from Picnic Island and was texting on his phone when he impacted the sailboat. He said after the impact, that he became scared and swam to shore.

He was cited for failure to report an accident with damage over \$2,000 and for failure to maintain a proper lookout.

2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

2014 VESSEL REGISTRATION AND ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY

County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	9,983	10,276	0	0	0	\$0	52	0
Baker	2,290	2,296	1	0	1	\$0	53	0
Bay	17,182	18,057	9	1	7	\$12,800	49	1:2,006
Bradford	2,186	2,200	0	0	0	\$0	19	0
Brevard	31,995	33,266	19	2	12	\$247,700	9	1:1,751
Broward	40,618	42,072	34	2	10	\$555,500	6	1:1,237
Calhoun	1,485	1,516	0	0	0	\$0	54	0
Charlotte	20,342	21,011	9	0	6	\$167,600	18	1:2,335
Citrus	14,962	15,556	15	2	12	\$38,600	13	1:1,037
Clay	11,614	11,805	3	1	1	\$7,100	37	1:3,935
Collier	20,936	21,926	25	0	29	\$291,300	7	1:877
Columbia	4,204	4,257	0	0	0	\$0	55	0
Desoto	2,127	2,207	1	0	1	\$10,000	47	1:2,207
Dixie	2,158	2,426	1	0	0	\$1,000	48	1:2,426
Duval	26,445	27,203	15	2	3	\$764,000	12	1:1,814
Escambia	15,061	15,486	8	3	4	\$119,700	20	1:1,936
Flagler	5,033	5,125	3	0	0	\$18,200	34	1:1,708
Franklin	2,267	3,298	3	1	2	\$2,000	35	1:1,099
Gadsden	2,291	2,322	0	0	0	\$0	56	0
Gilchrist	1,614	1,640	0	0	0	\$0	57	0
Glades	1,114	1,147	2	1	0	\$950,000	40	1:574
Gulf	2,597	2,899	3	0	4	\$33,200	36	1:966
Hamilton	872	886	1	2	0	\$1,000	46	1:886
Hardee	1,549	1,570	0	0	0	\$0	58	0
Hendry	2,760	2,919	2	0	1	\$3,000	39	1:1,496
Hernando	8,687	8,908	7	1	0	\$82,000	24	1:1,273
Highlands	8,224	8,324	2	0	2	\$2,200	43	1:4,162
Hillsborough	39,662	40,517	13	1	12	\$118,150	16	1:3,117
Holmes	2,053	2,075	0	0	0	\$0	59	0
Indian River	10,018	10,466	4	1	1	\$13,500	31	1:2,617
Jackson	4,623	4,645	1	0	2	\$4,000	44	1:4,645
Jefferson	1,248	1,265	1	0	3	\$2,000	45	1:1,265
Lafayette	903	1,825	0	0	0	\$0	60	0
Lake	19,883	20,160	6	1	7	\$12,600	26	1:3,360
Lee	43,505	44,913	37	3	22	\$1,603,127	5	1:1,214
Leon	14,523	14,809	0	0	0	\$0	61	0
Levy	3,782	4,113	3	2	0	\$21,500	32	1:1,371

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County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Liberty	1,082	1,107	2	1	1	\$200	42	1:554
Madison	1,123	1,128	0	0	0	\$0	62	0
Manatee	16,728	17,579	7	1	2	\$15,500	25	1:2,511
Marion	17,827	18,117	3	3	2	\$12,000	33	1:6,039
Martin	15,294	16,050	16	2	6	\$176,029	11	1:1,003
Miami-Dade	60,713	63,319	79	10	47	\$2,225,350	1	1:802
Monroe	24,695	27,522	71	5	37	\$1,210,111	2	1:388
Nassau	5,838	6,013	4	0	1	\$12,607	30	1:1,503
Okaloosa	17,405	18,056	18	0	10	\$144,405	10	1:1,003
Okeechobee	4,650	4,819	2	0	2	\$8,500	41	1:1,606
Orange	26,151	26,578	11	2	10	\$25,800	17	1:2,416
Osceola	7,994	8,141	8	1	9	\$38,250	21	1:1,018
Palm Beach	36,530	37,780	45	4	23	\$320,949	4	1:840
Pasco	22,896	23,503	7	0	6	\$37,500	23	1:3,358
Pinellas	45,631	47,363	53	4	22	\$477,250	3	1:894
Polk	26,992	27,486	3	1	0	\$5,000	38	1:9,162
Putnam	7,347	7,648	6	3	1	\$46,500	28	1:1,275
Santa Rosa	13,686	13,976	4	2	1	\$26,000	29	1:3,494
Sarasota	20,912	21,509	15	1	13	\$69,200	14	1:1,434
Seminole	17,109	17,427	6	4	7	\$15,500	27	1:2,905
St. Johns	13,135	13,613	14	0	8	\$296,396	15	1:972
St. Lucie	12,117	12,724	8	0	4	\$40,800	22	1:1,591
Sumter	4,096	4,148	0	0	0	\$0	63	0
Suwannee	2,595	2,622	0	0	0	\$0	64	0
Taylor	3,538	3,713	0	0	0	\$0	65	0
Union	915	921	0	0	0	\$0	66	0
Volusia	25,684	26,624	22	2	10	\$287,200	8	1:1,210
Wakulla	4,611	4,929	1	1	0	\$0	50	1:4,929
Walton	5,298	5,470	1	0	1	\$0	51	1:5,470
Washington	2,304	2,329	0	0	0	\$0	67	0
DHSMV	1,762	2,947						
TOTAL	867,463	899,635	634	73	365	\$10,572,824		1:1,419

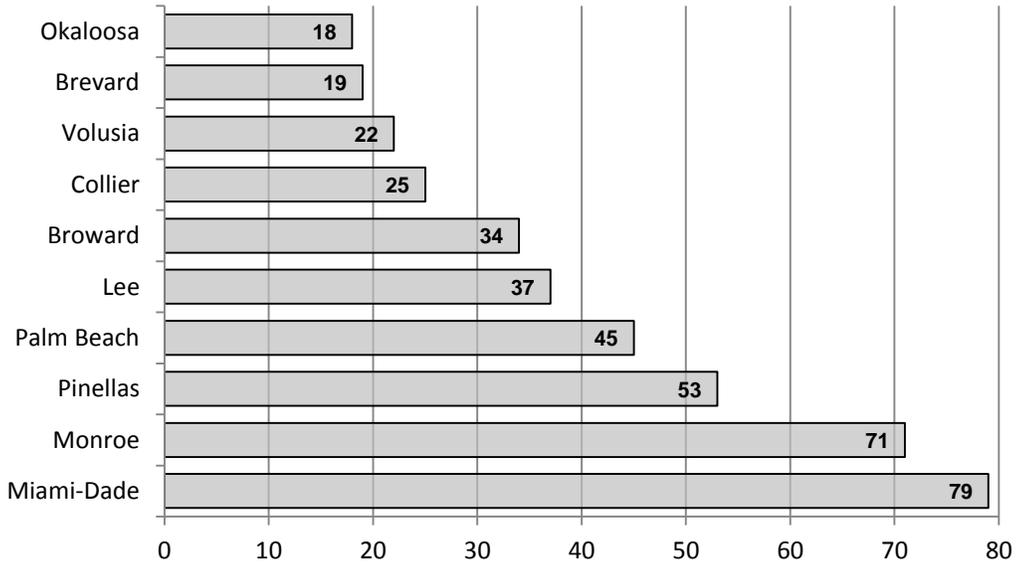
*Accident Rate = # of Registered Vessels $\frac{881}{\text{# of Accidents}}$

Those counties in bold print represent the top ten counties.

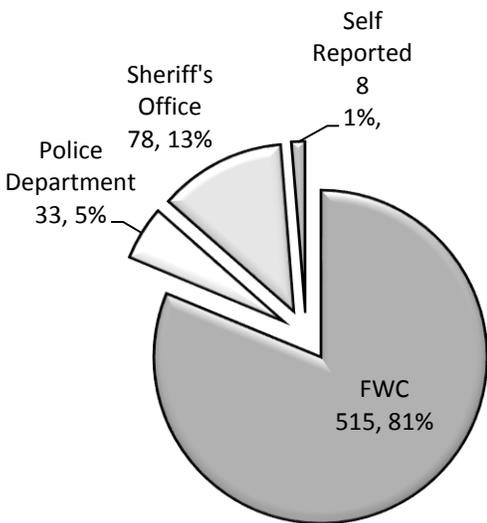
DHSMV numbers represent registrations issued at main office instead of at the county level.

2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

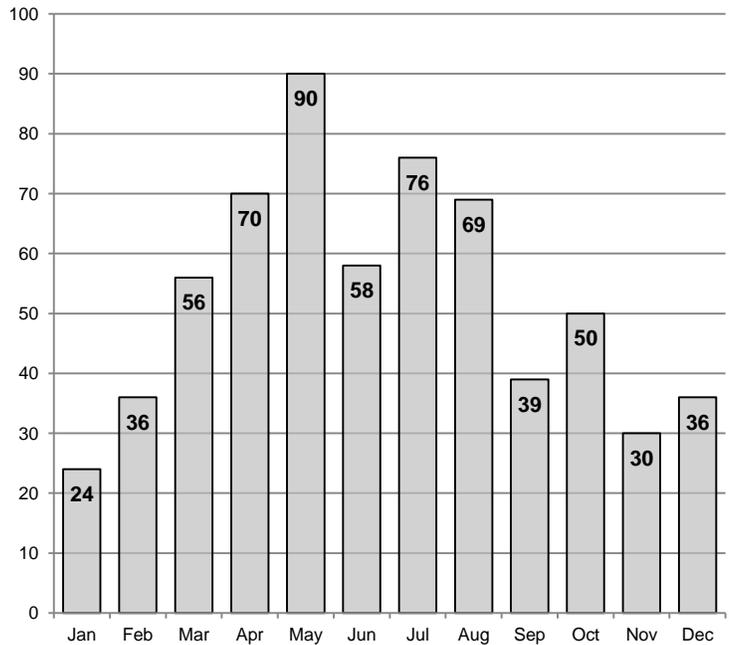
TOP TEN COUNTIES



INVESTIGATING AGENCY



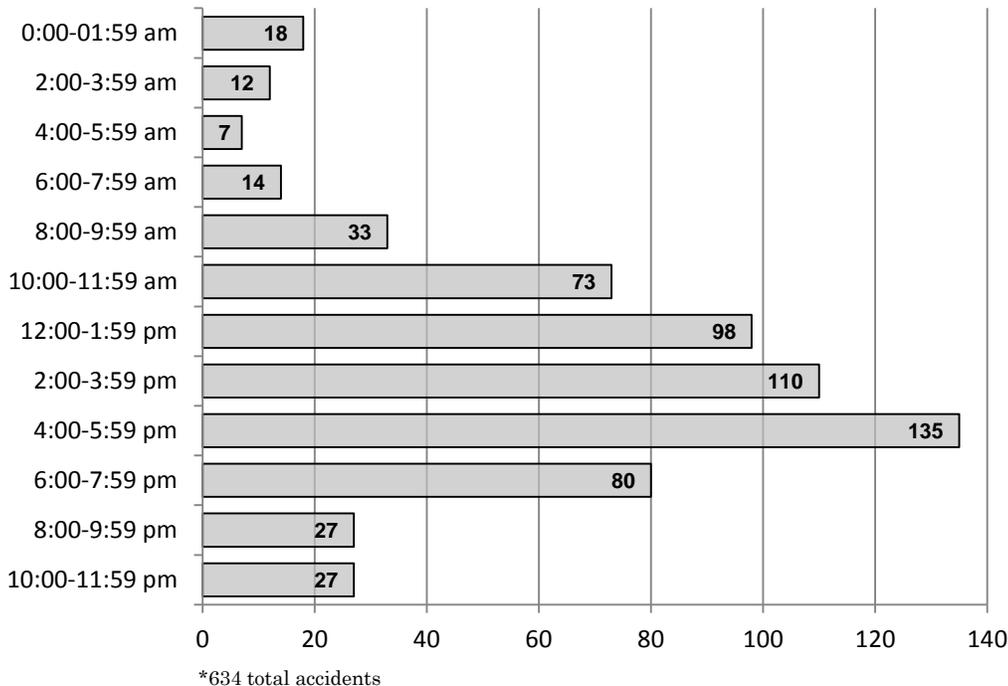
ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



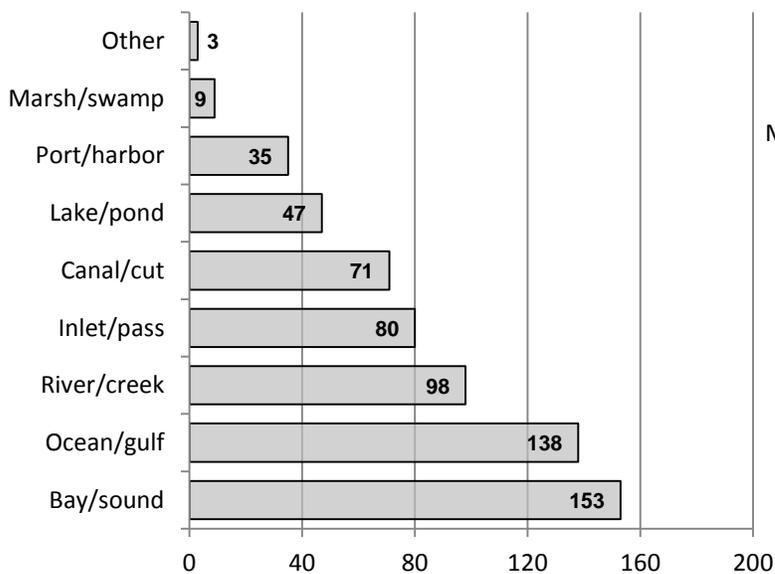
*634 total accidents

2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

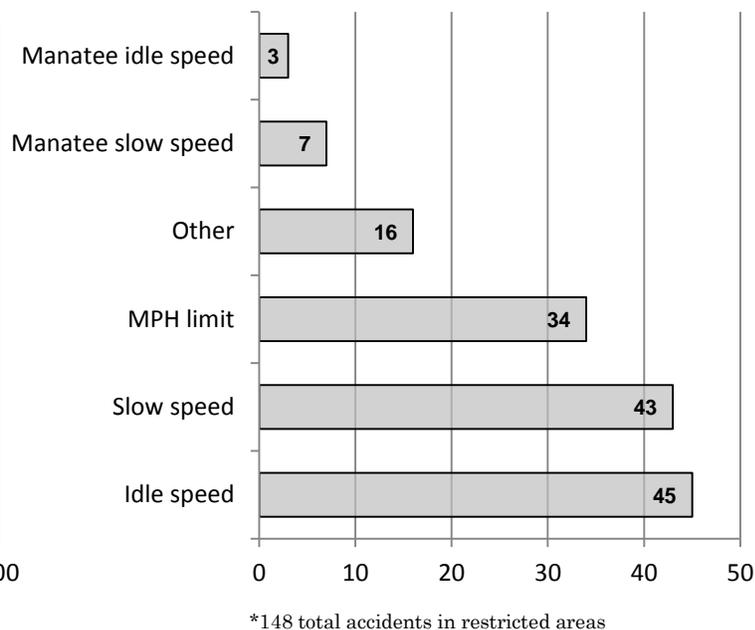
TIME OF DAY



ACCIDENT SITE LOCATION

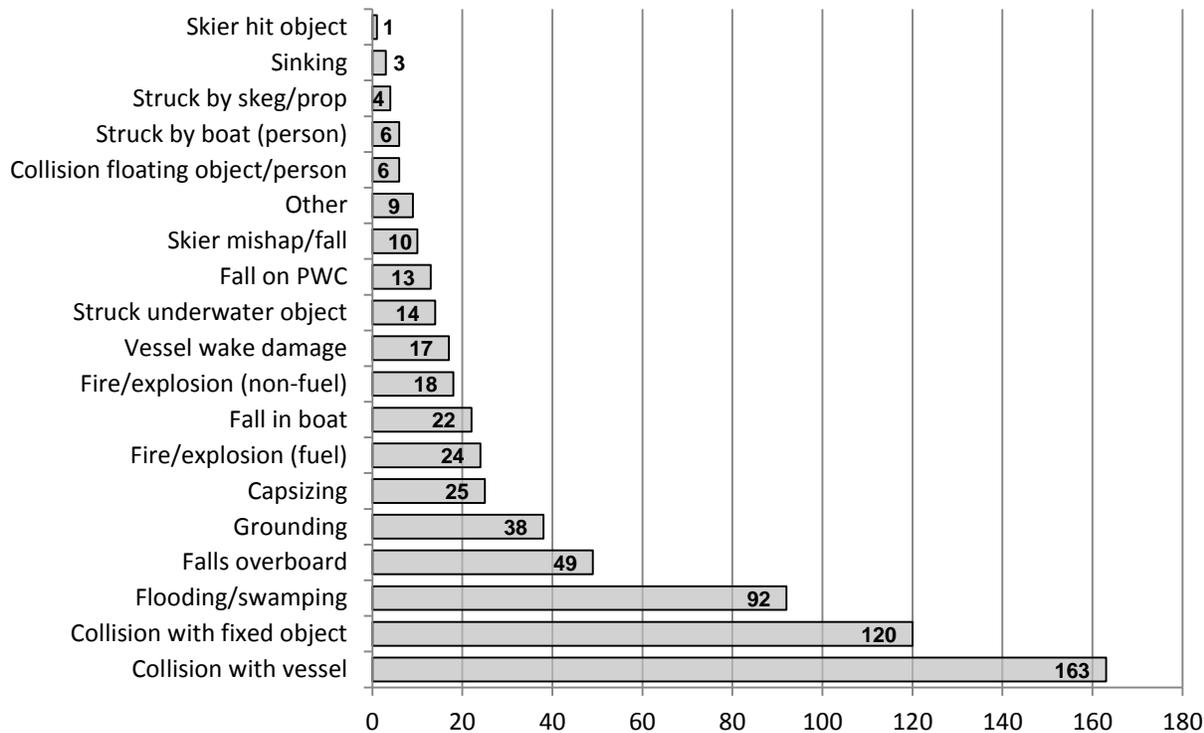


RESTRICTED AREA ACCIDENTS



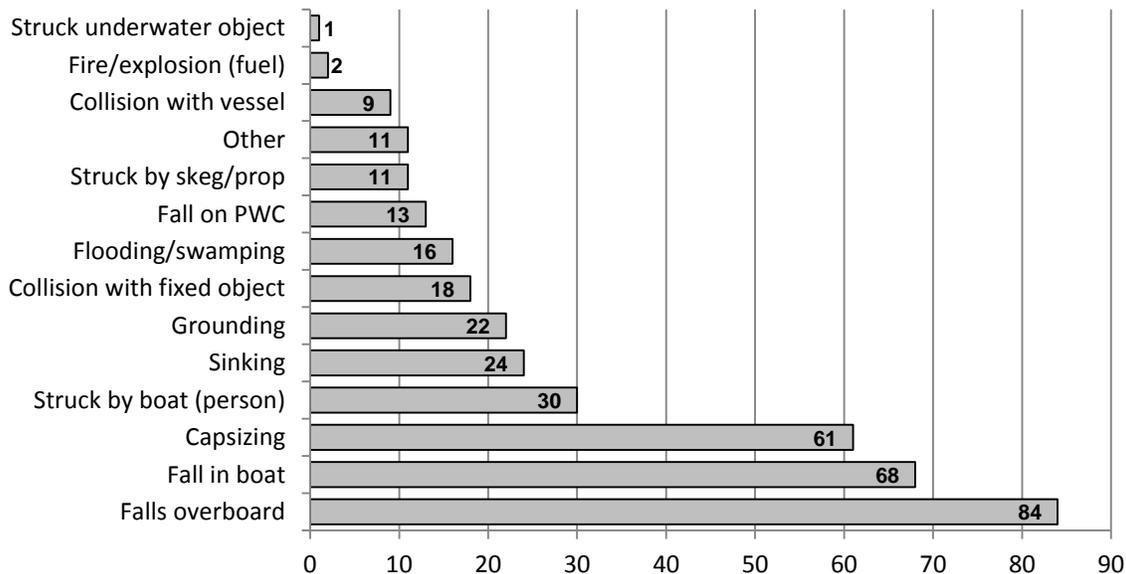
2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

PRIMARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



*634 accidents involving 881 vessels
 (Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority.)

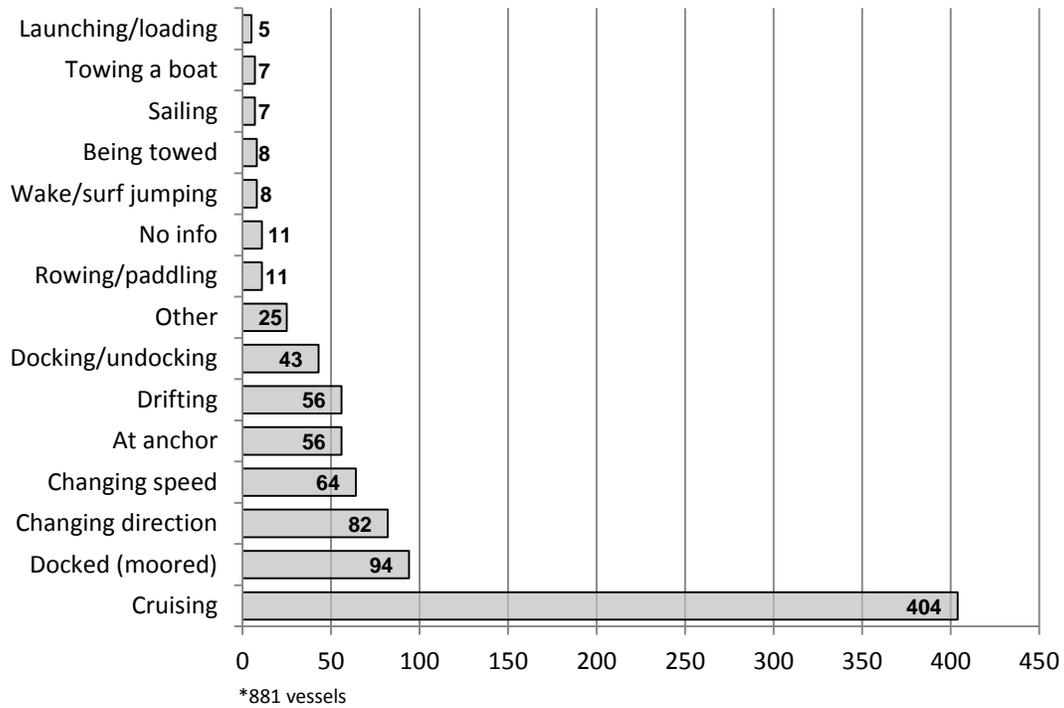
SECONDARY TYPE OF ACCIDENT



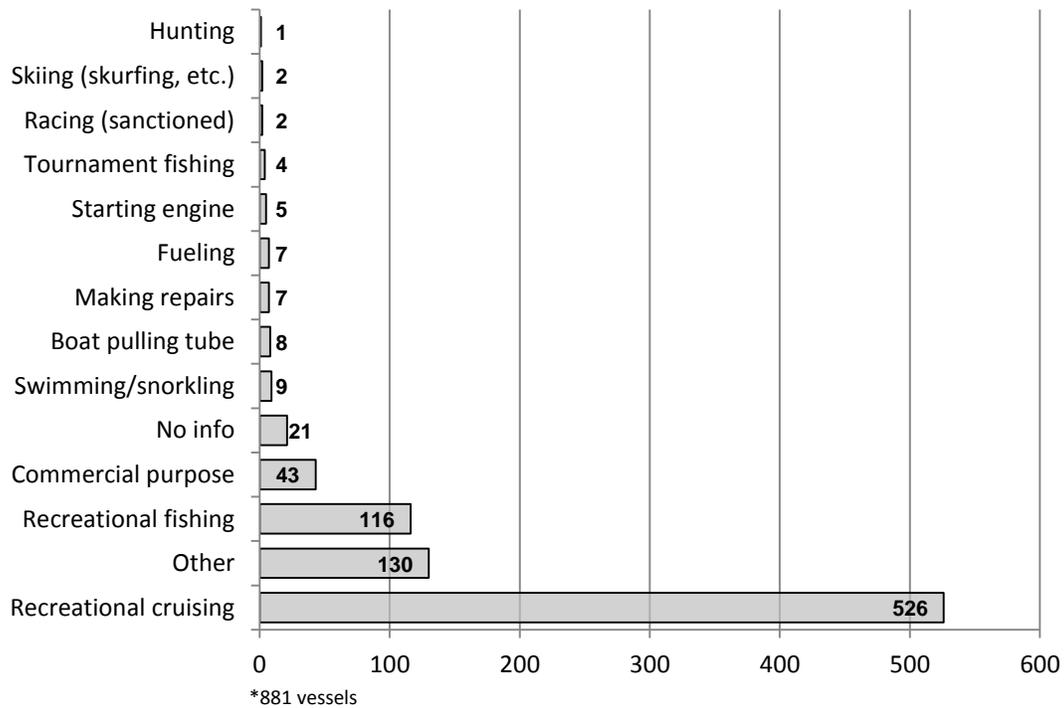
*264 of the 634 accidents did not have a secondary type of accident

2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

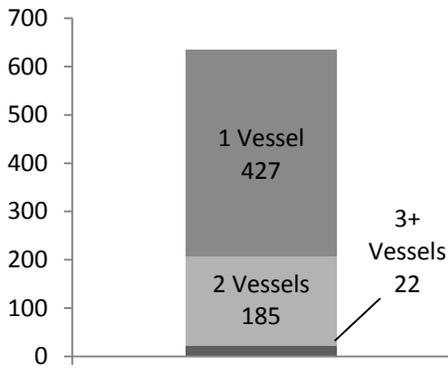


ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT



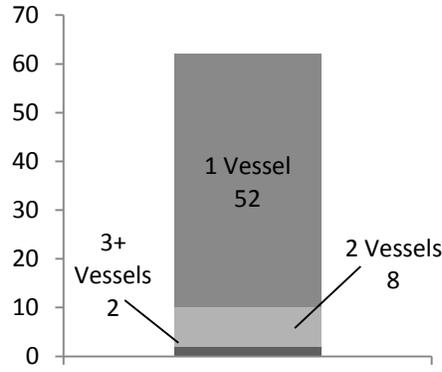
2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

VESSEL COUNT IN REPORTABLE ACCIDENTS



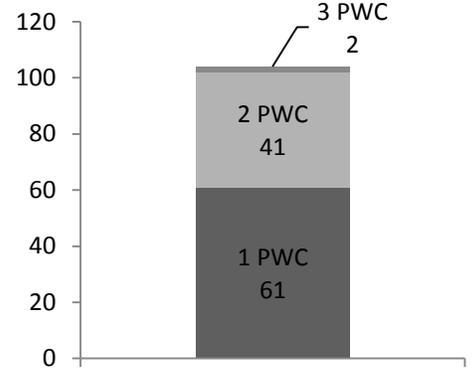
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS

*634 total accidents involving 881 vessels



FATAL ACCIDENTS

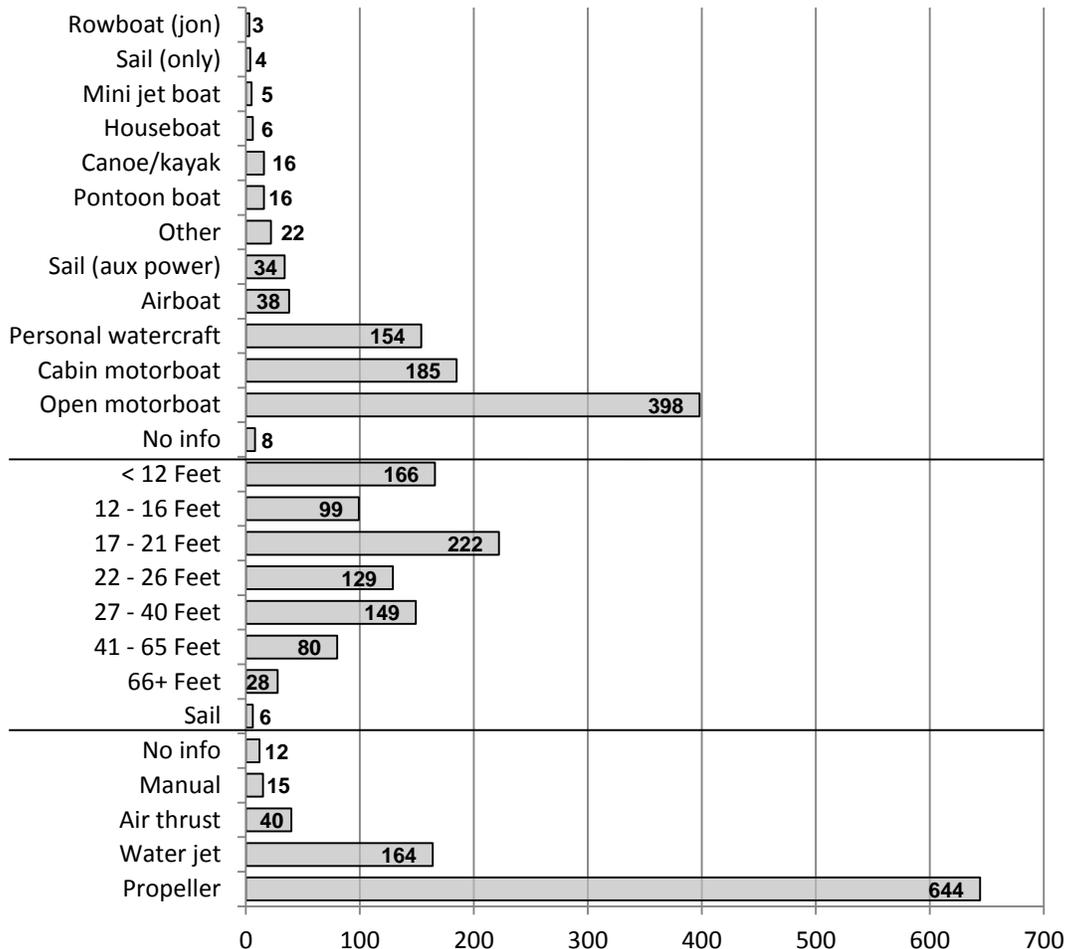
*64 fatal accidents involving 74 vessels



PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

* 104 personal watercraft accidents involving 149 PWC

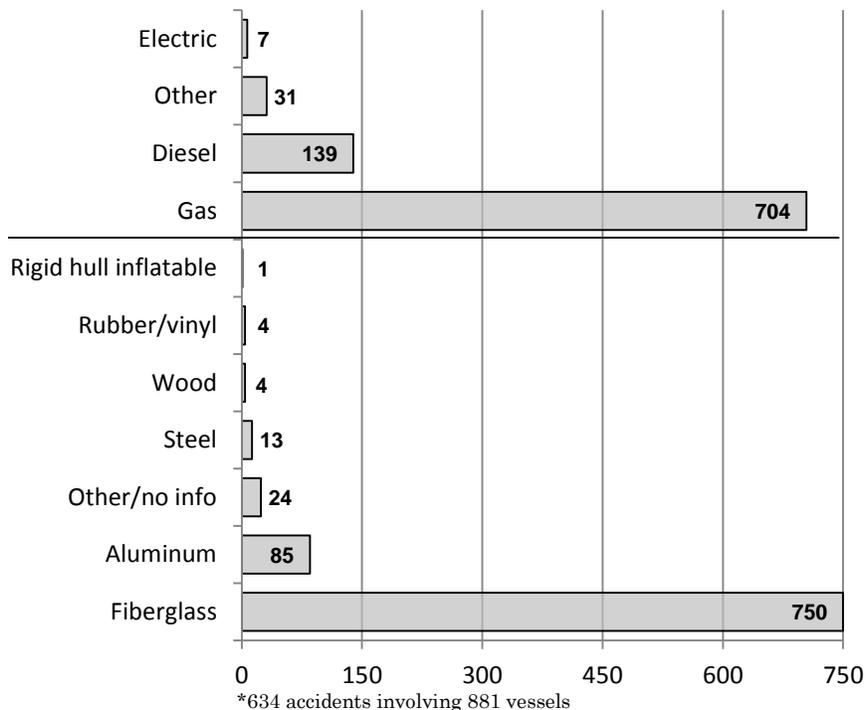
VESSEL TYPE, LENGTH & PROPULSION



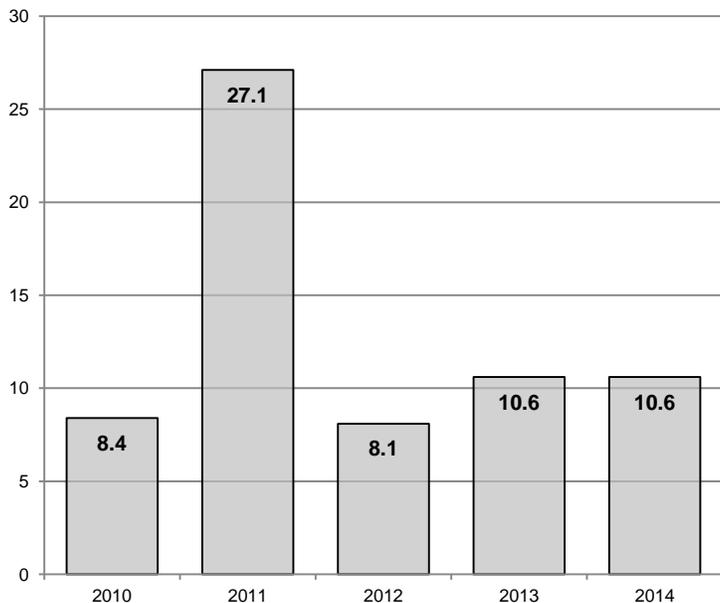
*634 accidents involving 881 vessels

2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

VESSEL FUEL & HULL TYPE

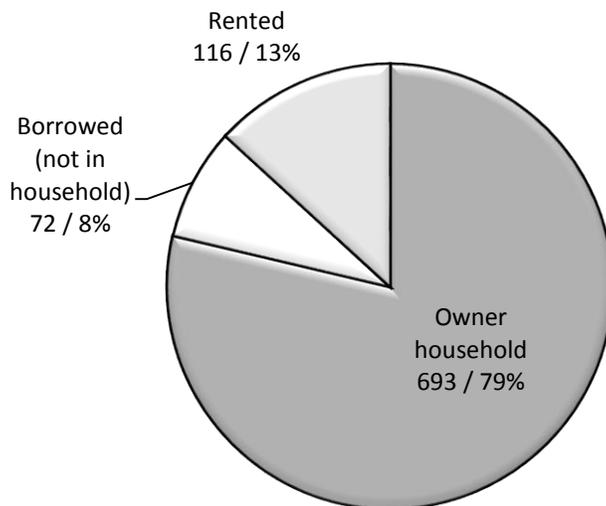


VESSEL & PROPERTY DAMAGE FIGURES (IN MILLIONS)



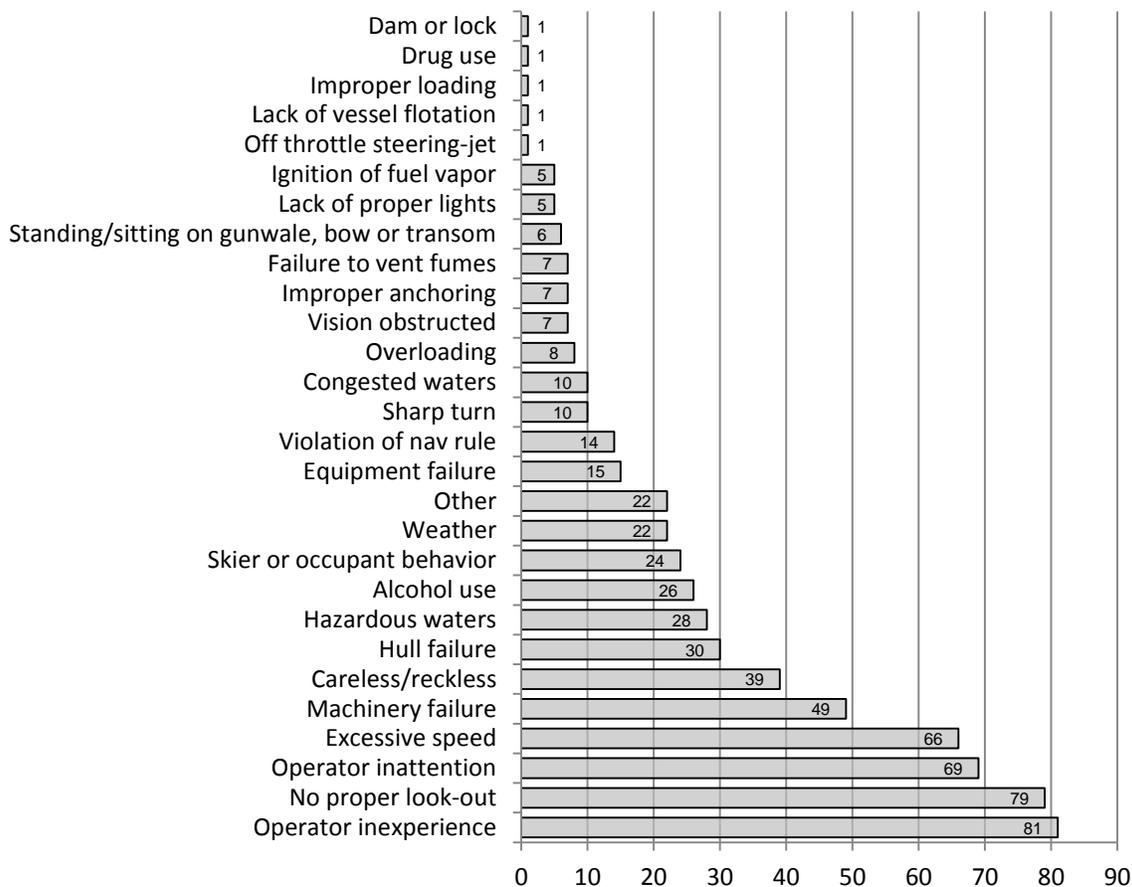
*For 2011, four reportable accidents resulted in \$19,400,000 in damages which caused a significant increase in the total amount of damages.

VESSEL OWNERSHIP

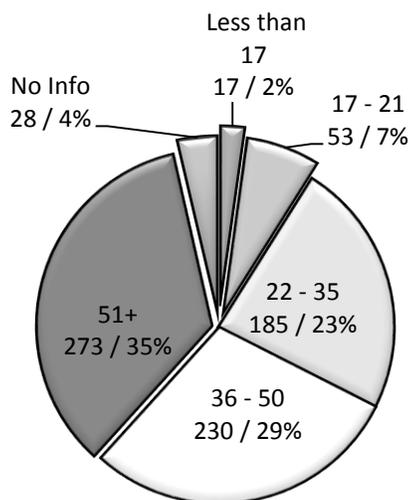


2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

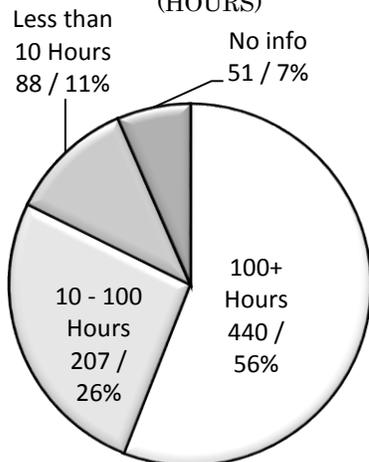
PRIMARY CAUSE ASSESSED BY REVIEWING AUTHORITY



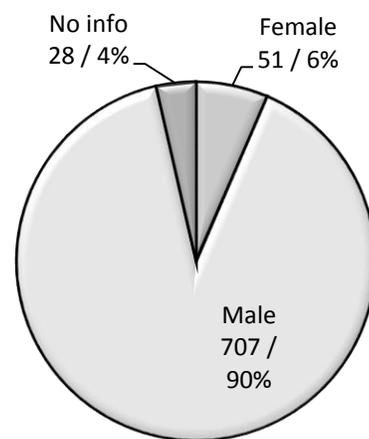
OPERATOR AGE



OPERATOR EXPERIENCE (HOURS)



OPERATOR GENDER

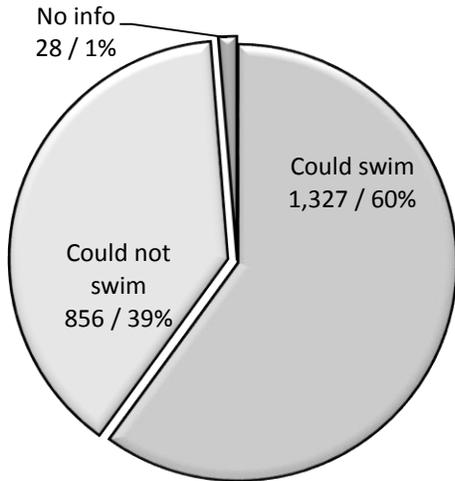


*634 accidents involving 786 operators

Vessels may have been docked, anchored, or involved in a hit and run accident which would result in no operator information.

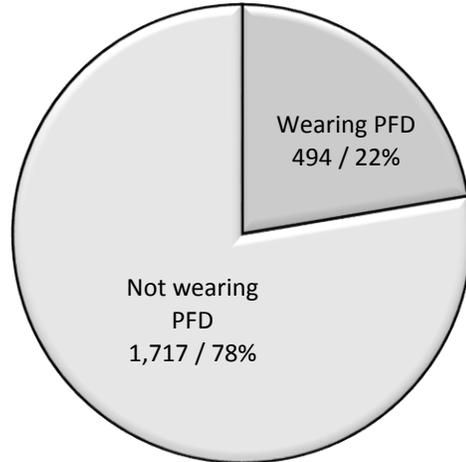
2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

OPERATOR/OCCUPANT SWIMMING ABILITY

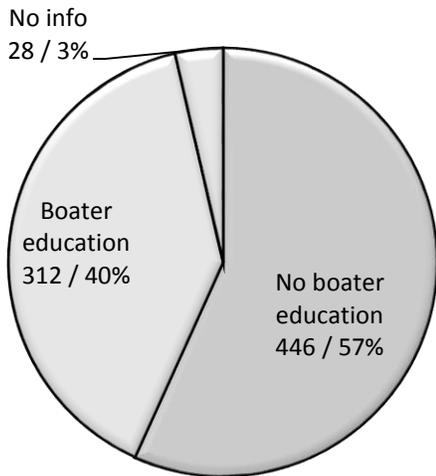


*2,211 total occupants and operators

OPERATOR/OCCUPANT PFD USE

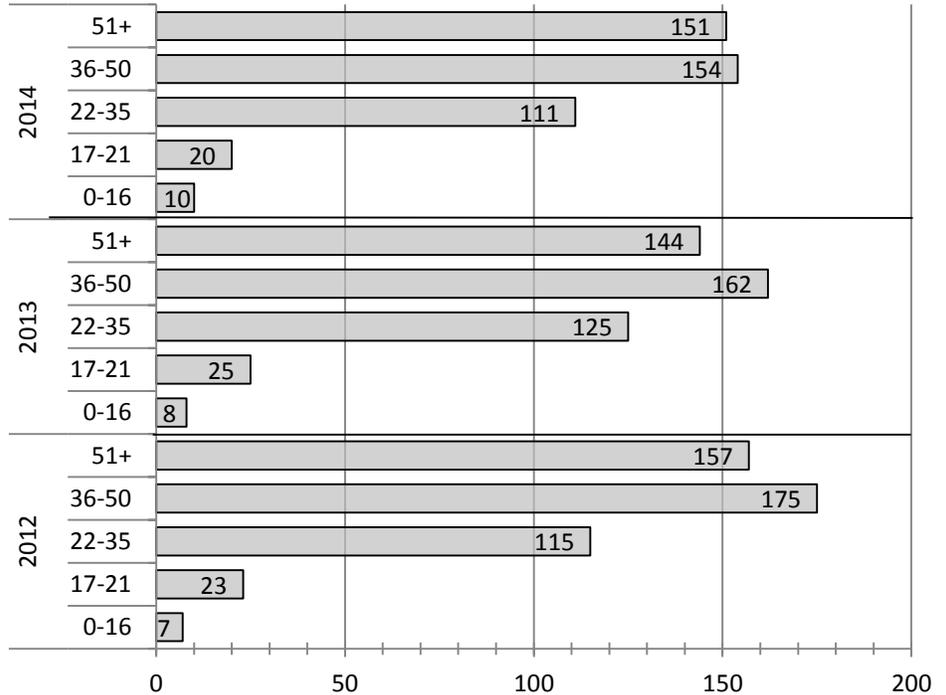


BOAT OPERATOR EDUCATION



*786 operators

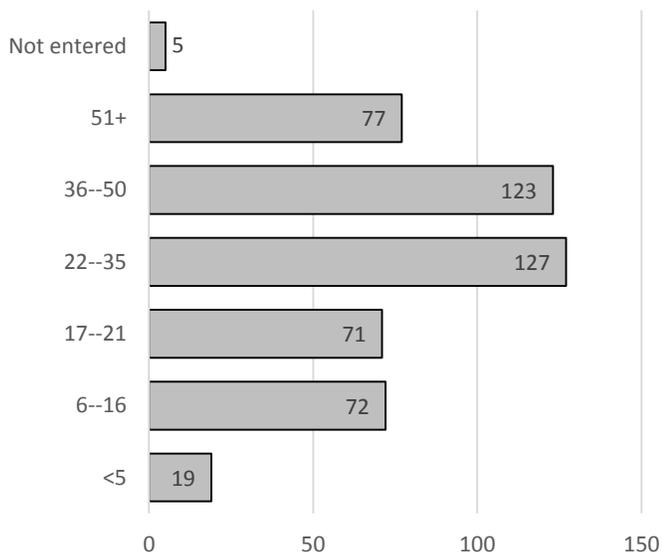
OPERATOR BY AGE WITH NO BOATER EDUCATION



*446 operators with no formal boater education

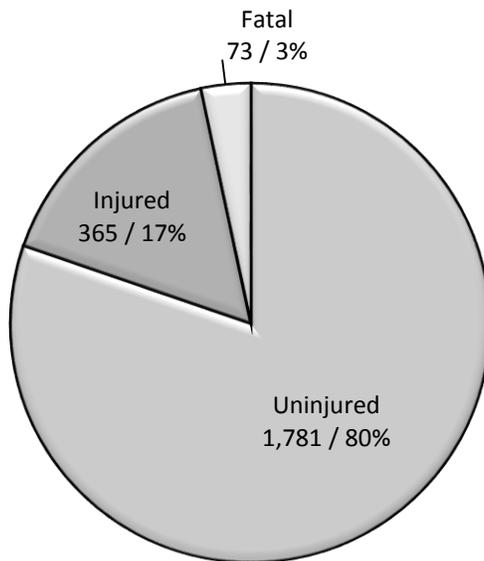
2014 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

PFD WEAR BY AGE



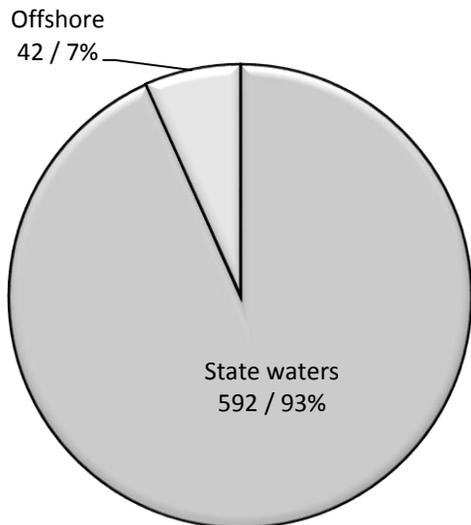
* 494 of 2,211 operators/occupants were wearing a PFD at time of the accident.

VICTIM STATISTICS



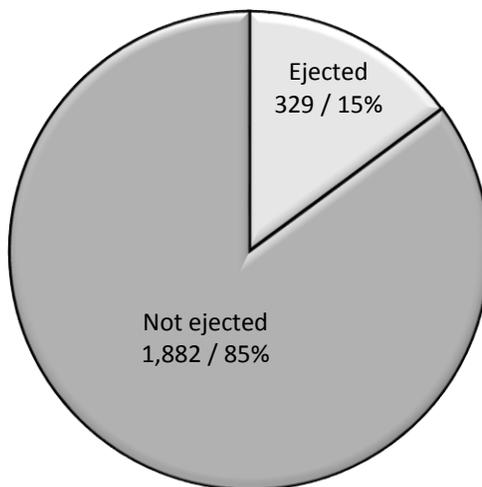
* 2,219 persons involved in vessel accidents. 2,211 Operators/occupants, and 8 swimmers.

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 FROM BOAT)



*2,211 total operators/occupants

