2015 Top Eleven Counties For Boating Accidents

A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 64% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2015 calendar year occurred in 11 Florida counties.

The information on the following pages represents a breakdown of the accident data from each of these top 11 counties. The graphs show the type of vessels involved, the length, the primary cause of each accident and the primary type of accident 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.
Florida Top 11 Counties for Boating Accidents during 2015

Legend

- Fatal Accident (22)
- Accident with Injury (178)
- Accident without Injury (272)
Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County during 2015

**Legend**

- **Fatal Accident (3)**
- **Accident with Injury (42)**
- **Accident without Injury (51)**
1. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Pontoon boat: 1
- Canoe/kayak: 1
- Sail (only): 2
- Mini jet boat: 2
- Other: 4
- Sail (aux power): 4
- Airboat: 5
- Open motorboat: 40
- Personal watercraft: 41
- Cabin motorboat: 43

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Unknown: 2
- 66+: 9
- 41 - 65: 13
- 27 - 40: 31
- 22 - 26: 30
- 17 - 21: 12
- 12 - 16: 5
- Less than 12: 41

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 22
- Collision with fixed object: 14
- Flooding (swamping): 12
- Fail on PWC: 9
- Fall overboard: 8
- Struck by seagull: 6
- Fire/explosion (non-fuel): 5
- Fuel: 4
- Other: 4

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Struck underwater: 33
- Collisions and grounding: 17
- Strike to boat (person): 12
- Struck by or against: 6
- Engine failure: 5
- Other: 5
Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County during 2015

Legend

- **Fatal Accident (5)**
- **Accident with Injury (37)**
- **Accident without Injury (36)**

Map document created by FWC DLE GIS
2. MONROE COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open motorboat</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal watercraft</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin motorboat</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (aux power)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sail (only)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/kayak</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini jet boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontoon boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel Length</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 12</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 - 21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 - 26</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 - 40</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 - 65</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Cause of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of Accident</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overexertion</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proper lookout</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carelessness</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skier/occupant</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull failure</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overloading</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off boat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improper anchoring</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous water</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component failure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Primary Type of Accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Accident</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collision with fixed object</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collision with vessel</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall from boat</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall on PWC</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall underwater</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explosion</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire/explosion (not fuel)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County during 2015

**Legend**
- Fatal Accident (5)
- Accident with Injury (13)
- Accident without Injury (39)
3. BROWARD COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Houseboat: 1
- Cabin motorboat: 27
- Open motorboat: 42
- Sail (only): 1
- Rowboat (jon): 1
- Other: 3
- Airboat: 4
- Sail (aux power): 5
- Personal watercraft: 5

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- 66+: 6
- 41 - 65: 15
- 27 - 40: 26
- 22 - 26: 15
- 17 - 21: 11
- 12 - 16: 7
- Less than 12: 6
- Unknown: 3

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Collision with fixed object: 17
- Collisions with vessels: 17
- Grounding: 5
- Flooding (swamping): 5
- Vessel/wake damage: 3
- Failure/obstruction (non-fuel): 3
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 2
- Skier hit object: 1
- Stranding/wrecked: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**
Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County during 2015

**Legend**

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (16)
- Accident without Injury (31)

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4. LEE COUNTY

**Type Of Vessel**

- Mini jet boat: 1
- Not specified: 2
- Pontoon boat: 3
- Sail (aux power): 4
- Other: 5
- Personal watercraft: 5
- Cabin motorboat: 17
- Open motorboat: 27

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- 66+: 1
- 41 - 65: 4
- 27 - 40: 17
- 22 - 26: 19
- 17 - 21: 12
- 12 - 16: 1
- Less than 12: 7
- Unknown: 3

**Primary Cause Of Accident**

- Operator inexperience: 11
- Machinery failure: 9
- Hull failure: 5
- Improper anchoring: 4
- Excessive speed: 4
- Alcohol use: 2
- Weather: 2
- Vision obstructed: 2
- Hazards in water: 1
- Drug use: 1
- Competing waters: 1
- Container/overload: 1

**Primary Type Of Accident**

- Collision with fixed object: 12
- Collision with vessel: 11
- Flooding (swamping): 11
- Fall in boat: 6
- Fire/Explosion (fuel): 3
- Grounding: 2
- Starting engine: 1
- Stuck by skipprop: 1
- Other: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County during 2015

Legend
- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (23)
- Accident without Injury (21)

Map document created by FWC DLE GIS
5. Pinellas County

### Type of Vessel

- **Personal watercraft**: 34
- **Open motorboat**: 19
- **Cabin motorboat**: 7
- **Canoe/kayak**: 1
- **Sail (aux power)**: 1

### Vessel Length (in feet)

- **Less than 12**: 33
- **12 - 16**: 5
- **17 - 21**: 11
- **22 - 26**: 6
- **27 - 40**: 6
- **41 - 65**: 1

### Primary Cause of Accident

- **Standing/paddling on pommel, bow or transom**: 17
- **Improper anchoring**: 11
- **Weather**: 5
- **Excessive speed**: 4
- **Operator inattention**: 2
- **Checklist failure**: 2
- **Alcohol use**: 1
- **Mechanical failure**: 1
- **Other factors**: 1

### Primary Type of Accident

- **Collision with vessel**: 14
- **Collision with fixed object**: 11
- **Falling overboard**: 5
- **Falls overboard**: 5
- **Struck by boat (person)**: 3
- **Struck by boat (person)**: 3
- **Grounding**: 2
- **Fall in boat**: 2
- **Fall in boat**: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County during 2015

Legend
- Fatal Accident (2)
- Accident with Injury (13)
- Accident without Injury (26)
6. PALM BEACH COUNTY

**Type Of Vessel**

- Cabin motorboat: 20
- Open motorboat: 19
- Airboat: 3
- Personal watercraft: 11
- Pontoon boat: 1
- Mini jet boat: 1
- Sail (only): 1
- Sail (aux power): 1
- Other: 1

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12: 12
- 12 - 16: 5
- 17 - 21: 7
- 22 - 26: 8
- 27 - 40: 8
- 41 - 65: 14
- 66+: 4

**Primary Cause Of Accident**

- Vessel(s) involved: 10
- Weather: 7
- Machinery failure: 5
- Loss of control: 5
- Excessive speed: 3
- Improper anchor handling: 2
- Sharp turn: 2
- Failure to stop: 1
- Skier or occupant behavior: 1
- Hazardous water: 1
- Collisions with objects: 1
- Alcohol use: 1

**Primary Type Of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 13
- Collision with fixed object: 8
- Rollover: 5
- Falls overboard: 3
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 2
- Grounding: 2
- Capsizing: 2
- Fall in boat: 1
- Struck by an object: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Collier County during 2015

**Legend**
- Fatal Accident (0)
- Accident with Injury (10)
- Accident without Injury (19)

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7. COLLIER COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Sail (aux power): 2
- Pontoon boat: 2
- Airboat: 6
- Cabin motorboat: 6
- Personal watercraft: 7
- Open motorboat: 14

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12
- 12 - 16: 4
- 17 - 21: 11
- 22 - 26: 6
- 27 - 40: 7
- 41 - 65: 2
- 66+: 2
- 86+: 1

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Operation inattentiveness: 8
- Excessive speed: 3
- Hull failure: 2
- Weather: 1
- Sharp turn: 1
- Hull or occupant behavior: 1
- Equipment failure: 1
- Drug influence: 1
- Congested waters: 1
- Other: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 8
- Loss of control: 7
- Falling overboard: 4
- Fall in boat: 3
- Fall on PWC: 3
- Fire/explosion (on PWC): 2
- Fire/explosion (not on PWC): 1
- Falls overboard: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Bay County during 2015

Legend

- Fatal Accident (1)
- Accident with Injury (9)
- Accident without Injury (10)

Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

52
8. BAY COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Open motorboat: 11
- Personal watercraft: 8
- Cabin motorboat: 4
- Pontoon boat: 2
- Canoe/kayak: 1
- Other: 1

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Other: 1
- Weather: 4
- Mechanical failure: 3
- Sabotage: 2
- Collisions: 1
- Falling overboard: 1

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12: 8
- 12 - 16: 4
- 17 - 21: 6
- 22 - 26: 1
- 27 - 40: 6
- 41 - 65: 1
- 66+: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Flooding (sinking): 6
- Collisions: 5
- Fire/explosion (non-fuel): 2
- Falls overboard: 1
- Fall in boat: 1
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Martin County during 2015

Legend
- **Fatal Accident** (1)
- **Accident with Injury** (4)
- **Accident without Injury** (15)
9. Martin County

**Type of Vessel**

- Houseboat: 1
- Rowboat (Jon): 1
- Canoe/kayak: 1
- Personal watercraft: 4
- Open motorboat: 7
- Cabin motorboat: 7
- Other: 8

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12: 5
- 12 - 16: 2
- 17 - 21: 3
- 22 - 26: 4
- 27 - 40: 5
- 41 - 65: 5
- 66+: 5

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Other: 6
- Machinery failure: 5
- Weather: 3
- Hull failure: 2
- Hazardous water: 1
- Excessive speed: 1
- Carelessness: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collision with fixed object: 7
- Collision with vessel: 5
- Flooding (swamping): 2
- Grounding: 2
- Vessel damage: 1
- Capsize: 1
- Fall in boat: 1
- Freewheeling: 1
Known Locations of Accidents in Sarasota County during 2015

Legend

- Fatal Accident (0)
- Accident with Injury (8)
- Accident without Injury (11)

Map document created by FWC DLE GIS
11. SARASOTA COUNTY

**Type of Vessel**

- Pontoon boat: 1
- Mini jet boat: 2
- Cabin motorboat: 2
- Sail (aux power): 5
- Personal watercraft: 7
- Open motorboat: 9

**Vessel Length (in feet)**

- Less than 12: 7
- 12 - 16: 2
- 17 - 21: 5
- 22 - 26: 7
- 27 - 40: 3
- 41 - 65: 2

**Primary Cause of Accident**

- Operator inexperience: 4
- Machinery failure: 3
- Excessive speed: 1
- Excessive alcohol: 1
- Competed waters: 1

**Primary Type of Accident**

- Collision with vessel: 3
- Collision with fixed object: 2
- Fire/explosion (fuel): 1
- Fall on PWC: 1
- Capsize: 1
- Flooding (swamping): 1
- Grounding: 1
- Sink mishap/fall: 1
- Stuck underwater object: 1
- Vessel wake damage: 1