

BOATING

and Waterways



2007 FLORIDA BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICAL REPORT

SUMMARY

BOATING ACCIDENT REVIEW

- Total number of **registered vessels** in Florida continues to grow with 1,027,043 registered in 2007 (2,668 above 2006 records).
- The reporting threshold for **property damage** accidents was increased from the previous figure of \$500 to the current figure of \$2,000 to compensate for the rise in the repair costs over the years.
- There were 668 total reportable boating accidents in 2007.

2007 REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS

- 70% of the **Operators** involved in reportable boating accidents had no formal boater education.
- Monroe County reported the **highest number of accidents and injuries** (74 total accidents with 4 fatalities and 35 injuries).

2007 REPORTABLE BOATING FATALITIES

In 2007 boaters falling overboard was the main cause of boating fatalities. This trend, although preventable, continues to grow.

- **38%** of the fatal accidents were falls overboard (25 accidents with 26 victims)
- 56% of the fatal accidents were in vessels less than 17 feet in length.
- The **leading cause of death** in fatal boating accidents was drowning (55%).
- The deadliest month in 2007 was March with 12 fatalities. May and June followed, with 9 each.
- 48% of the fatal accidents occurred between the hours of 12 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- 22% of the boating **fatalities were caused** by alcohol or drug use.
- 90% of the victims of fatal boating accidents were males (69).

- *The total fatality count for 2007 is reported as 77. This reflects two **missing people** reports with circumstances that may indicate the likelihood of death or serious bodily injury.*
- 6 of the 77 fatalities are defined as commercial accidents.

2007 REPORTABLE BOATING INJURIES

- There were 376 reported injuries in 2007 involving 949 vessels and 14 swimmers. The rate of injury was .56 per accident.

2007 REPORTABLE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ACCIDENTS

- Personal watercraft (PWC) account for 13.2% of all registered vessels in Florida (98% privately owned, 2% rentals).
- PWC were involved in 24% (161) of reported boating accidents.
- 49% of **PWC accidents involved** a collision with another vessel.
- 21% of total boating fatality victims were on a PWC.
- Over 35% of **PWC accidents occurred** in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Pinellas Counties, with Miami-Dade ranked as number #1 (with 21 accidents).

2007 BOATING EDUCATION STATISTICS

- FWC issued 23,149 Boater Education ID cards in 2007.
- 54.3% of the cards were issued to persons 21 years of age or younger.

**THE COMPLETE 2007 FLORIDA BOATING ACCIDENT
STATISTICAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE
THROUGH THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION WEBSITE AT
www.MyFWC/boating.com**