



OREGON RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS – 1990

The following statistics were extracted from boating accident reports received by the Oregon State Marine Board for 1990 calendar year.

Comments on the year...

1990 was the safest year ever recorded by the Marine Board. While, unfortunately, seven people died in Oregon boating accidents last year, this is fewer than half the previous low of 15, recorded in 1966. It should be noted that in 1966 there were fewer than 70,000 registered boats. By comparison, there are now over 173,000.

It is encouraging that the record low number of fatalities occurred in a year when we had the greatest increase in boat registration in over a decade. This continues a trend of fewer deaths despite increased boating activity.

Oregon's fatality rate for 1990 plummeted to .35 deaths per 10,000 registered boats, also a record low. Fourteen years ago, Oregon's boating fatality rate was 3.54, ten times higher than 1990's rate.

This is the first time in almost 20 years that Oregon's fatality rate was lower than the national rate.

The reduction in boating accident fatalities can be attributed in large part to an increased effort in boating safety education and law enforcement.

Another first is the fact that in 1990 there were no oceans or whitewater recreational boating fatalities.

Personal Watercraft accidents fell off slightly in 1990. There were eight accidents involving personal watercraft, down from ten in 1989. In May of 1990, the Board set rules regulating personal watercraft operation.

10 Year Summary

Year	Registered Boats	Accidents	Fatalities	Oregon Fatality Rate*	U.S. Fatality Rate*
1981	136,999	121	26	1.9	1.36
1982	137,625	123	20	1.45	1.30
1983	138,131	80	23	1.67	1.35
1984	140,145	113	26	1.86	1.13
1985	143,373	95	23	1.60	1.16
1986	147,423	84	18	1.22	1.08
1987	153,087	101	28	1.83	1.04
1988	160,000	115	24	1.50	.91
1989	165,771	81	16	.97	.83
1990	173,572	107	7	.35	.79

*Rate per 10,000 registered boats

ANALYSIS OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 1990

ACTIVITY

Cruising	1
Drifting	1
Fishing	3
Water Skiing	1
Cruising, Sailing.....	1

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Capsizing	1
Falls Overboard	2
Collision with Vessel.....	1
Struck by Boat or Propellor....	1
Other	2

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Lack of Proper Lookout.....	1
Weather Conditions.....	1
Sail Mast Hit Power Line....	1
Improper Towing	1
Unknown	3

TYPE CRAFT

Open Motor	2
Cabin Motor	1
Canoe/Kayak.....	0
Drift/Rowboat	2
Sail.....	1
Personal Watercraft	1
Inflatable	0

BOAT LENGTH

Less than 10'	1
10' to 12'	0
12' to 14'	2
14' to 16'	1
16' to 18'	3
18' to 20'	0
20'+.....	0

MONTH

January.....	0
February.....	0
March	0
April.....	2
May	0
June.....	0
July	1
August.....	3
September.....	1
October	0
November	0
December.....	0

BODY OF WATER

River.....	1
Lake	5
Ocean	0
Bay	1

GENDER

Male	6
Female.....	1

WATER TEMP

40 and Below	0
41 to 50 F	2
51 to 60 F	4
61 to 70 F	1
Above 70 F.....	0

PERSONAL FLOTATION

DEVICES

Aboard Not Used	2
Not Aboard.....	3
Aboard and Used	1
Not Applicable	1

OPERATOR AGE

Under 18.....	0
18 to 25	2
26 to 35	2
36 to 50	0
Over 50	3

RIVERS

Hagg Lake
Ketchum Lake*
Lost Creek Lake
Unity Reservoir

RIVERS

Willamette River, near Wallace Park

BAYS

Coos Bay, near Fossil Point

**Two Killed*