ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

1968 BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

The following information is contained in Boating Accident Reports submitted to this Department on 122 reportable boating accidents during the 1968 boating season, involving 162 boats. There were 56 fatalities, 54 resulting from drownings and 2 from multiple injuries. 80 boaters were injured in these accidents.

Type accident resulting in drowning

Falls overboard	9
Capsized	23
Capsized - standing in boat	1
Capsized - hip boots on	1
Sinking	2
Flooding	1
Forced under moored barges	1
Collision with barges	6
Collision with fixed object	3
Swept over dam	1
Fishing too close to dam	3
Rescuing 8 yr. old son	1
Drinking	1
Unknown	1
	54

None of the boating accidents reported involved rented boats; and property damage amounted to $109,942.00.

Accidents occurred in the following months and bodies of water in the State:

February	2
March	2
April	4
May	10
June	23
July	38
August	19
September	17
October	6
November	1
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Rivers	61
Creeks, ponds	4
Lake Michigan	13
Inland lakes	44

Counties in which Accidents Occurred

Adams	3	McHenry	7
Brown	1	McLean	2
Calhoun	1	Menard	1
Clinton	1	Mercer	1
Cook	21	Montgomery	1
Crawford	1	Ogle	1
Cumberland	1	Peoria	1
DuPage	3	Perry	1
Edgar	1	Pike	1
Gallatin	1	Putnam	3
Grundy	7	Richland	1
Hancock	1	Rock Island	4
Jersey	3	St. Clair	1
Kane	1	Stephenson	1
Kankakee	1	Tazewell	2
Lake	20	Whiteside	3
LaSalle	4	Will	4
Macon	6	Williamson	3
Madison	1	Winnebago	3
Mason	2	Woodford	1
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Age and Hours of Experience of Boat Operators Involved in Accidents

Age	Less Than 20	20 to 100	100 to 500	Over 500	Unknown	Total
Teenage	8	2	4	2	3	19
20 - 29	1	10	17	14	6	48
30 - 39	2	5	9	17	6	39
40 - 49	2	3	6	10	2	23
50 - 59			1	8		9
60 and over			1	5	2	8
Unknown						16
	13	20	38	56	19	162

Weather Conditions

Clear and calm	60
Clear and calm (night)	7
Cloudy and calm	2
Clear, strong wind	10
Cloudy, strong wind	6
Rain, storm warnings, rough water	3
Rain	4
Windstorm	3
Fog	4
Hazy, choppy water	16
Unknown	7
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Type of Boat

Open motorboat	109	Pontoon	1
Cabin motorboat	21	Rowboat	8
Sailboat or auxiliary	8	Hydroplane	1
Houseboat	1	Raft	2
Canoe	4	Unknown	7
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Horsepower of Motor

Under 5	3
5 - 10	4
10 - 15	2
15 - 20	2
20 - 25	1
25 - 30	3
30 - 35	3
35 - 40	11
40 and over	98
Unknown	35
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Length of Hull

Under 12 ft.	7
12 - 14	9
14 - 16	35
16 - 18	46
18 - 20	14
20 and over	28
Unknown	23
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Six children under 10 years of age were drowned and 4 were injured, as a result of boating accidents. Conditions surrounding the casualties follow:

Capsized: Child age 8 drowned - wearing no life jacket
Sinking: Child age 8 drowned - wearing no life jacket
Collision with barges: One child age 2 and one age 3 were drowned - life jackets on
Capsized: Child age 5 drowned - life jacket on
Capsized: Child age 4 drowned - life jacket on bank
Collision: Child age 3 injured - life jacket worn
Explosion: 2 children injured - life jackets worn
Child age 9 injured by boat while swimming under water

Lifesaving Devices

None on board	15
On board - not used or needed	68
On board - used	41
Unknown	38

2 drownings, one four-year old - jackets laying on bank
Father drowned rescuing 6-year son - life preserver not worn
Children's jackets worn by adults, inadequate - 1 accident,
3 drownings resulting

SKIING ACCIDENTS

There were 19 water-skiing accidents, resulting in 18 injuries and 1 drowning:

Collision with tree on bank	1
Skier fell, resulting in injuries	3
Skier caught finger in rope	1
Skier swerved in front of boat	1
Skiing too close to dam, collided	1
Boat struck ski rope	1
Boat towing skier, collision	2
Boat ran over ski rope, pulling skier into propeller	1
Operator watching skier, hit shore	1
Boat towing skier; passenger sitting on gunnel fell overboard, cut by propeller	1
Boat towing skier collided with another boat while making turn	1
Boat cut into path of boat towing skiers (4 injured)	2
Operator looked back at skier, collision	1
Boat towing skier ran over underwater swimmer, 1 injured	1
Skier fell, Strong current, forced under moored barges, 1 drowning	1

Type, Nature or Classification of Accident

Collision with another vessel	49
Capsizing	25
Collision with fixed object	13
Falls overboard	12
Collision with floating or underwater object -	6
Fire or Explosion	3
Grounding	2
Flooding	1
Sinking	1
Hit by boat or propeller	1
Other:	9

Father drowned rescuing son (no life preserver)
Skier forced under moored barges by current
Boat damage - pushing a loose barge
Ran over underwater swimmer (pulling skier)
Motor came out of boat and struck swimmer
Skiers injured in falls

Cause of Accident or Drowning

Speed, inattention, careless and reckless operation	14
Rough water, storm, fog, strong wind	11
Debris filled waters	7
Mechanical failure	5
Sharp turn	5
Wake of large boat	4
Fishing or operating too close to dam	4
Skier fell (injuries)	4
Overloaded	4
No running lights	3
Swift currents	2
Turbulent water near locks	2
Sitting on gunnel	2
Drinking	3
Running over ski rope	2
Watching skier	2
Standing in boat	1
Wearing hip boots	1
Inadequate experience	1
Unlighted boat dock	1
Pulling up anchor	1
Shallow channel	1
Drifting into towboat and barges	1
Rescuing child	1
Tying cable to tree	1
Rammed into at slip	1
Following too closely	1
Pulling skier - ran over underwater swimmer	1
Refilling fuel tank	1
Over-inflation of raft	1
Unknown	34
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