ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

1969 BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

The following information is contained in Boating Accident Reports submitted to this Department on 101 reportable boating accidents during the 1969 boating season, involving 136 boats. There were 42 fatalities, 37 resulting from drownings and 5 from multiple injuries and shock. Injuries to 54 boaters also resulted. Property damage amounted to $95,795.00.

Type, Nature or Classification of Accident

Collisicn with another vessel	26
Falls overboard	16
Capsizing	12
Collision, fixed object	8
Explosion, fuel	7
Sinking	6
Collision, floating or submerged object	6
Flooding	3
Hit by boat or propeller	3
Falls in boat	2
Grounding	1
Boats hit while docked	3
Boat hit while on lift	1
Skier fell, caused by floating weeds	1
Pulled over dam, minor injury	1
Swept over dam in swimming pool float	1
Drifted into dam gates	1
Skier hit by boat	1
Fall, adjusting sails	1
Fall, pushing boat off bank	1
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Cause of Accident or Drowning

Careless and reckless operation, and speed	10
Storm, wind, rough water (one boat too small and one an inflatable raft)	7
Inattention	5
Drinking	5
Overloaded	4
Pulling and watching skiers	4
Inexperience	4
Leak in gas tank	3
Hit waves, turned to miss wave	3
Submerged logs and debris	4
Sun glare	2
Started motor while standing in boat, and started motor in gear -	2
Vandalism, boats cut loose from mooring	2
No observer, skier pulled over dam	1
Large man stood up in boat	1
Flooded by large cruiser and wake from passing boats	3
Mechanical failure, steering and short in wire	3
No lights, inadequate lighting	3

Cause of Accident or Drowning (cont.)

Confusion as to navigation lights and shore lights	1
Lost control of steering wheel	1
Speed at harbor	1
Raising nets	1
Suicide	1
No chain on front of pontoon (drowning)	1
Went on deck to fix faulty light	1
Boat swamped	1
Adjusting sails	1
Pushing boat off bank	1
Unknown	25
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DROWNINGS

Type accident resulting in drowning

Capsizing, overloaded	4 persons
Falls overboard, cause unknown	6
Falls overboard, hit wave	1
Falls overboard, raising nets	1
Falls overboard, drinking	1
Falls overboard, wake	1
Falls overboard, went on deck to fix faulty light -	1
Falls overboard, no chain across pontoon	1
Capsizing, falls overboard	2
Capsizing, large man stood up in boat	1
Canoe tipped	2
Sinking	3
Standing, starting motor	1
Starting motor in gear	1
Swept over dam in swimming pool float	1
Suicide	1
Collision, struck debris	2
Collision, floating object, also overloaded	1
Strong winds, inflatable raft	2
Wind over 40 mph, boat small	1
Fall, pushing boat off bank	1
Fall, adjusting sails	1
Unknown	1
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Months in which Drownings Occurred

March	1
April	4
May	2
June	7
July	7
August	11
Sept.	3
October	1
November	1
	37

No life preservers on board or not used, resulting in drowning -	32
Used, but drowning resulted	3
Unknown	2
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Children under 10 years drowned

9 yr. boy found boat, no life preservers
8 yr. boy not wearing life preserver and no chain across front of pontoon

3 children wearing life vests were saved when boat flooded rapidly and sank after striking floating object.

Of the boating accidents reported, 3 involved rented boats, 2 boats were found, 2 taken without permission and 1 borrowed.

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

March	1	Rivers	46
April	5	Small inland lakes	23
May	10	Lake Michigan	13
June	18	Chain of Lakes	10
July	30	Carlyle Lake	7
August	26	Crab Orchard Lake	2
September	9		101
October	1		
November	1		
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Counties in which Accidents Occurred

	Bond	1	*	McHenry	12
	Boone	1		Madison	2
	Calhoun	2		Marion	1
	Carroll	2		Mason	1
	Clark	1		Montgomery	1
	Clinton	6		Ogle	2
*	Cook	13		Peoria	2
	Effingham	1		Pike	1
	Fayette	2		Rock Island	3
	Franklin	1		Sangamon	2
	Grundy	7		Vermilion	1
	Henderson	1		Warren	1
	Kane	1		Whiteside	3
	Kankakee	3		Will	3
*	Lake	13		Williamson	4
	LaSalle	3		Winnebago	2
	Livingston	1		Woodford	1
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Weather Conditions

Clear and calm	48
Clear, water choppy	16
Clear and calm (night)	4
Clear, strong current	4
Clear, strong wind	6
Cloudy, calm	2
Cloudy, strong current	5
Rain, storm, wind	6
Rain, calm	1
Unknown	9
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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	Experience Unknown	Total
Teenage	3	5	10	3	2	23
20 - 29	2	6	17	4	1	30
30 - 39	1	5	12	9		27
40 - 49		3	7	10		20
50 - 59			4	6	2	12
60 and over			1		1	2
Unknown, or not operated -						22
						136

Type of Boat

Open motorboat	81
Cabin motorboat	22
Rowboat	13
Auxiliary Sail	3
Sail (only)	1
Canoe	2
Other -	
Houseboat	2
Pontoon	5
Styrofoam inflatable raft	1
Styrofoam swimming pool float	1
Unknown	5
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Horsepower of Motor

Under 5	1
5 - 10	4
15 - 20	2
20 - 25	5
25 - 30	2
30 - 35	1
35 - 40	5
40 and over	86
Unknown	30
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Length of Hull

Under 12 ft.	4
12 - 14	5
14 - 16	27
16 - 18	40
18 - 20	16
20 and over	24
Unknown	20
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Lifesaving Devices

None on board	6
On board - used	34
On board - not used	43
Unknown	53
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SKIING ACCIDENTS

There were 11 boating accidents related to water skiing, resulting in 7 injuries:

Two on surfboard, struck by boat, 2 injured
Boat driven over tow line, skier's hands cut
5 boats were pulling skiers (inattention of operator and watching skiers, collision with other vessels, 1 injury)
Operator watching skiers, collision with pier
No observer in boat, skier adjusting skis, pulled over dam, minor injuries
Skier fell, caused by floating weeds, injured knee
Hit and run boat hit skier, waiting to be picked up