ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT - 1970

The following information is contained in Boating Accident Reports submitted to this Department on 98 reportable boating accidents which occurred during the year 1970, involving 133 boats. There were 38 fatalities, 31 resulting from drowning and 7 from injuries. Injuries to 58 boaters also resulted. Property damage amounted to $190,828.00. Of the boating accidents reported, only 4 were rental boats. Forty-nine accidents involved one boat; 35 accidents involved two boats; 12 accidents were fires or explosions occurring to anchored boats; and 2 accidents were collisions with anchored or docked boats.

Type, Nature or Classification of Accident

Collision with Vessel	29
Capsizing	19
Fire or Explosion (Fuel)	14
Falls overboard	10
Collision with fixed object	3
Collision, moored vessel	4
Collision, submerged or floating objects	2
Sinking	2
Canoes shooting dams	2
Fire, explosion - unknown	2
Fire, electric short	1
Explosion, engine	1
Grounding	1
Attempt to save son from drowning	1
Swimming from boat, drowned	1
Rope around skier's neck	1
Unknown	5
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Cause of Accident or Drowning

Fires, explosions (anchored)	18
Overloaded and no life preservers	8
Inattention and carelessness	5
Rough water, high waves	4
Hit submerged object	3
Changed position in boat	3
Canoe shooting dam	3
Wake of boats	3
Speed	3
Mechanical failure	3
Lost balance, fell overboard	2
Stood in boat	2
Jumped overboard (sinking)	2
Swift current	1
Inexperience	1
Watching skier	1
Flood conditions	1
Boat tipped	1
Swift flood waters	1

Cause - continued

Stuck in mud, hit gas dock	1
Drinking	1
Dim Lights	1
Passenger sitting on gunnel of boat picking up skier	1
Broke loose from mooring	1
Boat ran over tow rope	1
No lights	1
Retrieving duck decoys	1
Unknown	25
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DROWNINGS

Twenty-one accidents resulted in the drowning of 31 persons.

Months in which drowning occurred

April	2
May	13
June	7
July	4
August	3
November	2
	31

No life preservers on board	11
Life preservers not used	19
*Life preservers not adequate (only 2 for 6 people)	1
	31

* 3 children under 12. Only 2 life preservers. Boy 10 drowned.

Type and Cause Accident resulting in Drowning

Overloaded, capsized	4 persons
Capsized, no life preservers	4
Standing in boat, fell overboard	2
Changing position, fell overboard	2
Swift flood waters, fell overboard	2
Flood conditions, capsized	1
Choppy water, hit wave	1
Boat tipped	1
Fell overboard	5
Victim drinking, fell overboard	1
Sinking, jumped overboard	1 (12 years old)
Swimming from boat	2
Collision, no life preserver	1
Shooting dam, capsized	2
Capsized, retrieving duck decoys	2
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Accidents occurred in the following months and bodies of water in the State:

January	12
April	5
May	21
June	19
July	17
August	18
October	3
November	3
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Rivers	54
Small lakes	23
Chain O'Lakes	10
Lake Michigan	8
Carlyle Lake	2
Crab Orchard Lake	1
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Counties in which Accidents Occurred

Lake	17
Cook	15
Madison	12
McHenry	9
Will	8
Kankakee	5
Jersey	4
JoDaviess	3
Fayette	2
Clinton	2
Woodford	2
Lee	2

LaSalle	2
Ogle	2
Boone	1
Adams	1
Alexander	1
Crawford	1
Perry	1
Peoria	1
Gallatin	1
Mercer	1
Morgan	1
Williamson	1
Sangamon	2
Whiteside	1

Weather Conditions

Clear and calm	46
Cloudy and calm	14
Clear and choppy	10
Clear, strong current	11
Rain, strong wind	2
Cloudy, strong wind	2
Cloudy and rough	2
Hazy and choppy	1
Hazy and calm	2
Clear and rough	1
Dark and calm	1
Unknown	6
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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	7	4	4	1		16
20 - 29	3	6	4	5		18
30 - 39		5	9	8		22
40 - 49	1	1	4	12		18
50 - 59	1	2	5	9		17
60 and over	1	1	1	5		8
Unknown or not operated -						34
						133

Type of Boat

Open motorboat	77
Cabin motorboat	26
Row boat	8
Sailboat	5
Auxiliary Sail	2
Houseboat	3
Canoe	5
Pontoon	2
Unknown	5
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Horsepower of Motor

Under 5	2
5 - 10	7
15 - 20	1
20 - 25	1
25 - 30	7
30 - 35	
35 - 40	3
40 and over	77
Unknown	35
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Length of Hull

Under 12 ft.	3
12 - 14	7
14 - 16	29
16 - 18	18
18 - 20	22
20 and over	34
Unknown	20
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Lifesaving Devices

None on board	11
On board - used	31
On board - not used	38
NA (beached)	16
Unknown	37
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SKIING ACCIDENTS

There were 9 boating accidents related to water skiing, resulting in 14 injuries and 1 casualty:

Cause	Result
Pulling skiers, collision 2 vessels	4 skiers injured
Boat stopped, skier putting on skies, collision	3 skiers injured
Pulling skier, skier lost balance	1 skier injured
Not sure what happened	Skier injured himself
Collision with vessel, operator watching skier	2 skiers injured
Attempting to pick up skier. Passenger sitting on gunnel of boat, fell overboard	1 drowning
Boat pulling skier, operator inexperienced, pushed throttle wrong position, ran over skier	1 injured
Pulling skier, other boat ran over tow rope. Skier dragged under tow boat, cut by propeller	1 injured
Ski rope wrapped around neck of skier	1 injured