STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Boating Accident Report - 1973

Accidents occurred in the following months and bodies of water in the State of Illinois during the year 1973:

March	5
April	6
May	14
June	32
July	25
August	26
September	21
October	1
	130

Rivers	64
Lake Michigan	26
Chain O' Lakes	16
Private pond or lake	8
Municipal lake	5
Small lake	4
Backwaters	2
Strip Mine	2
Lake Shelbyville	2
Carlyle Lake	1
	130

Type of Boat

Open Motorboat	95
Cabin Motorboat	32
Rowboat	8
Canoe	8
Sailboat	5
Pontoon	5
Houseboat	2
Auxiliary Sail	2
Raft	1
Jonboat	1
Ship	1
Homemade Speedboat	1
Unknown	14
	175

Horsepower of Boats

Under 5	3
5 - 10	16
11 - 15	0
16 - 20	1
21 - 25	2
26 - 30	1
31 - 40	10
Over 40	95
Unknown or none	47
	175

Length of Hull

Under 12	8
12 - 15	32
16 - 20	62
21 - 26	22
Over 26	27
Unknown	24
	175

Lifesaving Devices

Yes, used	49
Yes, not used	56
Yes, unknown if used	10
None on board	14
Unknown or N. A.	46
	175

COUNTIES WHERE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED

Cook	39	Jersey	3	Hardin	1
Lake	20	Peoria	2	Moultrie	1
Winnebago	8	Macon	2	Richland	1
Will	6	Clinton	2	Shelby	1
McHenry	5	Lee	2	Grundy	1
LaSalle	4	Sangamon	2	McLean	1
Adams	4	Henderson	1	Calhoun	1
Williamson	3	Putnam	1	Woodford	1
Fulton	3	Wabash	1	Cumberland	1
Kankakee	3	Monroe	1	Stephenson	1
Ogle	3	Washington	1		130
Rock Island	3	JoDaviess	1		

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Clear and Calm	73	Rain, Strong Current	2
Clear and Choppy	16	Cloudy, Strong Current	1
Clear, Strong Current	9	Cloudy, Very Rough	1
Cloudy and Choppy	8	Rainy and Calm	1
Clear and Rough	7	Rainy and Choppy	1
Cloudy and Calm	6	Foggy and Fair	1
Rainy and Rough	2	Unknown	2
Foggy and Calm	2		130

AGE AND HOURS EXPERIENCE OF OPERATORS

	Less Than 20 Hours	20-100 Hours	100-500 Hours	Over 500 Hours	UNK.	TOTAL
Teenage	7	4	2	3	3	19
20 - 29	6	16	18	8	6	54
30 - 39	3	8	7	9	5	32
40 - 49	0	7	6	13	6	32
50 - 59	1	1	4	4	1	11
60 - Over	0	1	0	0	2	3
Unknown	1	1	2	2	18	24

TOTAL - 175

Boating accidents resulted in the deaths of 59 people from drowning and five from injuries, plus injuries were sustained by 58 persons. Property damage amounted to $203,016.00.

Eighty-four (84) accidents involved one boat; 45 accidents involved two boats and one accident involved three boats.

TYPE, NATURE OR CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENT

Collision with vessel	41	Collision with floating object	1
Capsizing	23	Fell from ski kite	1
Collision with fixed object	15	Caught between two boats	1
Falls overboard	10	Drawn under barge	1
Flooding or sinking	11	Hit person in raft	1
Fire or explosion	8	Boat fell from lift	1
Over the dam	5	Grounded	1
Hit submerged object	4	Unknown	2
Hit by propeller	2		
Boat swamped	2		130

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT OR DROWNING

Inattention	17	Gas leak	1
Mechanical failure	14	Hull gave way	1
Wake from other boat	12	High water	1
Carelessness	8	Leak in boat	1
Overloaded	8	Over the dam	1
Strong Current	5	Starting motor	1
Low visibility	5	Ignored buoys	1
Leaning over boat	4	Fell asleep	1
Hit fixed object	4	No lights on breakwater	1
Lost control of boat	4	Blinding lights	1
Inexperience	3	Lost control of skis	1
Boat capsized	3	Pushing boat	1
Stood in boat	2	Speeding	1
Hit submerged object	2	Fell overboard	1
Lost balance	2	Unbalanced load	1
High wind	2	Towline broke	1
Sharp turn	1	Low water	1
Overpowering	1	Unknown	14
Flooding	1		130

SKIING ACCIDENT AND RESULT

Inattention, collision with vessel	5
Attempting to pick up skier, over dam	1
Attempting to pick up skier, hit canoe	1
Lost control of skis, hit docked boat	1
Tow line on ski kite broke, fell on back	1
	9

TYPE AND CAUSE OF ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DROWNING

Overloaded, boat flooded	4
Carelessness, collision with vessel	3
Overloaded, capsized	3
Stood in boat, capsized	2
Strong current, capsized	2
Large wave, boat sank	2
Lost balance, fell overboard	2
Leaning over boat, fell overboard	2
Unknown cause, fell overboard	2
Leaning over boat, capsized	1
Sharp turn, fell overboard	1
Strong current, over the dam	1
Strong current, drawn under barge	1
Uneven load, boat capsized	1
Large wave, fell overboard	1
Overpowering, boat flooded	1
Boat flooded, capsized	1
Attempted to pick up skier, over the dam	1
Over the dam, capsized	1
Motor failed, over the dam	1
Capsized, fell overboard	1
Inattention, collision with vessel	1
Hit fixed object, capsized	1
Unknown cause, collision with vessel	1
Pulling boat, drowned	1
Collision with fixed object, fell overboard	1
Shifting weight, capsized	1
Hit submerged object, capsized	1
UNKNOWN	4
	45

Lifesaving devices in relation to above accidents

On board, not used	13
On board, used	11
None on board	10
Unknown	11
	45