STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT - 1974

During the calendar year 1974, there were 115 reportable accidents reported to this office involving 152 boats. Seventy-eight (78) accidents involved one boat and thirty-seven (37) accidents involved two boats. Property damage amounted to approximately $178,700.00. Thirty-four (34) accidents resulted in the drowning of 52 persons, and four accidents resulted in death, other than by drowning, to four persons.

The following information pertains to those accidents reported to this office.

MONTH

February	1
March	1
April	6
May	12
June	23
July	31
August	27
September	11
October	3
	115

COUNTY

Lake	32	Winnebago	3
Cook	26	Fulton	2
Kankakee	6	Lee	2
McHenry	5	Bureau	1
Sangamon	5	Carroll	1
Whiteside	5	Edgar	1
Clinton	3	Effingham	1
LaSalle	3	Fayette	1
Macon	3	Franklin	1
Will	3	Grundy	1

Jackson	1
Kendall	1
Lewis	1
Madison	1
Marshall	1
McLean	1
Moultrie	1
Peoria	1
Richland	1
Williamson	1
	115

BODY OF WATER

Rivers	34
Lake Michigan	27
Municipal lakes	16
Chain O' Lakes	27
Carlyle Lake	4
Inland lakes	3
Creek	1
Rend Lake	1
Shelbyville Lake	1
Shale hole	1
	115

TYPE BOAT

Open motorboat	63
Cabin motorboat	38
Auxiliary sail	9
Rowboat	7
Sailboat	6
Canoe	5
Jonboat	3
Runabout	3
Pontoon	3
Unknown	15
	152

LENGTH

Under 12	3
12 - 15	32
16 - 20	47
21 - 30	37
Over 30	10
Unknown	23
	152

HORSEPOWER

Under 5	15
5 - 10	14
11 - 20	3
21 - 30	5
31 - 40	7
41 - 100	29
Over 100	58
Unknown	21
	152

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

None on board	12
Yes, used	34
Yes, not used	48
Yes, unknown if used	11
Unknown or not applicable	47
	152

AGE AND HOURS EXPERIENCE OF OPERATORS

Age	Less than 20 hours	20-100 hours	100-500 hours	Over 500 hours	Unknown	TOTAL
Teenage	3	3	3	3	1	13
20-29	3	7	11	5	5	31
30-39	1	8	10	19	3	41
40-49	1	1	9	10	1	22
50-59	1	2	4	9	0	16
60-Over	0	1	0	1	0	2
Unknown	0	2	0	3	22	27

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Clear, calm	62
Clear, choppy	16
Clear, strong current	6
Clear, rough	7
Cloudy, choppy	5
Cloudy, calm	2
Cloudy, rough	2
Cloudy, very rough	2
Rain, rough	2
Strong current	1
Clear, very rough	1
Rain, very rough	1
Hazy, choppy	1
Hazy, calm	1
Unknown	6
	115

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Collision with vessel	28	Boat swamped	1
Capsizing	21	Hit by ski	1
Collision with fixed object	17	Struck person in inner tube	1
Sinking	10	Flooding	1
Fire or explosion	9	Hit by boat	1
Falls overboard	5	Skier fell	1
Over the dam	4	Grounded	1
Collision with submerged object	3	Fell in boat	1
Collision with floating object	3	Damage to boat	1
Hit by propeller	2	Tow line caught arm of skier	1
		Unknown	3
			115

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Engine failure	9	Applied power too fast	1
Improper lookout	8	Engine back fired	1
Strong or rough current	7	Large wave	1
Carelessness	7	Sharp turn	1
Hit submerged object	5	Stood in boat	1
Flooding	5	Drinking	1
Strong wind	4	Broken cable shift	1
Speeding	4	Improperoovertaking	1
Recklessness	3	Over the dam	1
Failure to yield	3	No signs or markers	1
Wake from other boat	3	Fuel spilled	1
Lost control of boat	3	Insecure mooring	1
Inattention	2	Faulty shift mechanism	1
Collision with fixed object	2	Storm, rough water	1
Overloaded	2	Obstructed view	1
Poor judgment	2	Weak hull	1
Improper lighting	2	Panic	1
Inexperience	2	Lost balance	1
Improper weight distribution	2	Line tangled in propeller	1
Unfamiliar with area	2	Falls overboard	1
Leaky fuel line	2	Steering wheel came off	1
Skier fell	1	Unknown	13
Struck floating object	1		115

SKIING ACCIDENT AND RESULT

Skier fell, hit head on ski	1
Improper lookout, collision with vessel	4
Improper weight distribution, flooding	1
Improper lookout, skier hit by propeller	1
Line tangled in propeller, skier fell	1
Tow line caught right arm of skier, rupturing arm muscles	1
Ran over tow line causing engine to fly up and cause damage	1
Ski boat struck by vessel out of control due to steering wheel coming off	1
	11

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN DROWNING

TYPE ACCIDENT

Capsizing	17
Falls overboard	4
Over the dam	2
Collision with vessel	2
Explosion	2
Swimming from boat	2
Collision with fixed object	1
Skier fell	1
Jumped overboard	1
Unknown	2
	34

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Rough water	3
Engine failure	3
Strong wind	3
Flooding	3
Stood in boat	2
Collision with submerged object	2
Improper balance	1
Panic	1
Line tangled	1
Insecure mooring	1
Fuel spilled	1
Over the dam	1
Sharp turn	1
Collision with fixed object	1
Overloaded	1
Strong current	1
Unknown	8
	34

COUNTY

Cook	7	Franklin	1
Lake	6	LaSalle	1
Sangamon	3	Kendall	1
McHenry	2	Macon	1
Lee	2	Winnebago	1
Fulton	2	Effingham	1
Will	2	Fayette	1
Whiteside	2		34
Williamson	1		

TYPE BOAT

Open motorboat	14
Rowboat	5
Canoe	3
Cabin motorboat	3
Jonboat	2
Auxiliary sail	1
Unknown	6
	34

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

None on board	7
Yes, used	9
Yes, not used	5
Yes, unknown if used	3
Unknown or N.A.	10
	34

BODY OF WATER, NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS, NUMBER OF DROWNINGS

Body of Water	No. Accidents	No. Drownings
Carterville City Lake	1	1
Lake Michigan	4	4
Rend Lake	1	2
Rock River	5	9
Indian Creek	1	1
Fox River	3	4
Kankakee River	1	2
Lake in the Hills	1	1
Big Lake	1	2
Chain O' Lakes	5	10
Lake Springfield	2	2
Inland lake, Mundelein	1	2
Spoon River	1	1
Calumet River	2	2
Lake Decatur	1	1
Shale hole, Springfield	1	5
Little Wabash River	1	1
Carlyle Lake	1	1
Des Plaines River	1	1
	34	52

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DROWNING

Carterville City Lake
- 2/13/74: Cause unknown, boat found capsized and victim drowned, hanging on boat

Lake Michigan
- 3/3/74: Strong wind caused boat to capsize, 1 drowning
- 7/14/74: Strong wind caused boat to capsize, 1 drowning
- 8/11/74: Retrieving oar, fell overboard, 1 drowning
- 8/19/74: Tow line became tangled and skier fell, 1 drowning

Rend Lake
- 4/22/74: Unknown cause, boat capsized, 2 drownings

Rock River
- 4/6/74: Struck submerged object and capsized, 4 drownings
- 6/6/74: Strong wind caused boat to capsize, 1 drowning
- 7/7/74: Unknown cause, boat capsized, 2 drownings
- 8/8/74: Insecure mooring, boat went over dam, 1 drowning
- 8/11/74: Unknown, 1 drowning

Indian Creek
- 5/17/74: Strong current, boat struck bridge, 1 drowning

Fox River
- 5/25/74: Boat went under flood gate and capsized, 1 drowning
- 5/26/74: Unknown cause, boat capsized, 1 drowning
- 8/12/74: Swimming from boat, two drownings

Kankakee River
- 5/27/74: Motor quit, went over the dam, 2 drownings

Lake in the Hills
- 5/27/74: Swimming from boat, 1 drowning

Big Lake
- 6/2/74: Boat overloaded and capsized, 2 drownings

Chain O' Lakes
- 6/12/74: Boat capsized due to large wake, 4 drownings (Fox Lake)
- 6/16/74: Boat flooded and capsized, 1 drowning (Long Lake)
- 6/23/74: Collision with vessel, 1 drowning (Fox Lake)
- 5/2/74: Boat capsized due to large wake, 3 drownings (Pistakee Lake)
- 5/21/74: Boat flooded and capsized, 1 drowning (Grass Lake)

Lake Springfield
- 6/15/74: Sharp turn, fell overboard, 1 drowning
- 7/20/74: Climbed down ladder, 1 drowning

Shale hole, Springfield
- 8/17/74: Boat overloaded and capsized, 5 drownings

Inland lake, Mundelein
6/17/74: Stood in boat, boat capsized, 2 drownings

Spoon River
7/13/74: Shooting rapids, went over the dam, 1 drowning

Calumet River
7/20/74: Collision with vessel, 1 drowning
9/2/74: Explosion, 1 drowning

Lake Decatur
7/21/74: Fuel spilled, explosion, 1 drowning

Little Wabash River
9/14/74: Motor quit, went over the dam, 1 drowning

Carlyle Lake
10/13/74: Boat out of control, jumped overboard, 1 drowning

Des Plaines River
10/26/74: Fell overboard, 1 drowning

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN DEATH FROM INJURIES

Fox Lake
6/23/74: Collision with vessel, 1 drowning (indicated above) and 1 death from injuries

Illinois River
7/14/74: Hit sunken barge, 1 death from injuries

Fox River
7/18/74: Collision with vessel, 1 death from head injury

Crystal Lake
8/19/74: Skier down in the water, hit by boat propeller, 1 death from injuries

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN INJURY

DATE	BODY OF WATER	NO. INJURIES
April 7, 1974	Rock River	1
May 5, 1974	Kankakee River	1
May 27, 1974	Lake Michigan	1
June 2, 1974	Pistakee Lake	1
June 5, 1974	Lake Michigan	1
June 12, 1974	Fox Lake	1
June 16, 1974	Pistakee Lake	1
June 23, 1974	Fox Lake	8
June 29, 1974	Carlyle Lake	1
July 4, 1974	Pistakee Lake	4
July 5, 1974	Fox Lake	5
July 5, 1974	Grass Lake	1
July 8, 1974	M.D. Borah Lake	3
July 13, 1974	Spoon River	2
July 13, 1974	Nippersink Lake	1
July 14, 1974	Carlyle Lake	2
July 14, 1974	Illinois River	3
July 14, 1974	Grass Lake	1
July 15, 1974	Rock River	2
July 18, 1974	Fox River	3
July 21, 1974	Lake Decatur	3
August 5, 1974	Lake Michigan	4
August 8, 1974	Rock River	1
August 18, 1974	Bluff Lake	3
August 25, 1974	Petite Lake	1
August 31, 1974	Fox Lake	2
September 1, 1974	Kankakee River	1
September 8, 1974	Illinois River	1
September 15, 1974	Pistakee Lake	1
September 17, 1974	Lake Decatur	2
		62

Total accidents: 30
Total injuries: 62

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT - 1974

Accident Locations

	Bluff Lake	Fox Lake	Grass Lake	Long Lake	Lake Marie	Nippersink Lake	Petite Lake	Pistakee Lake	Fox River	Illinois River	Kankakee River	Rock River	Spoon River	Rivers	Carlyle Lake	Lake Decatur	M.D. Borah Lake	Lake Michigan	Rend Lake	Lake Shelbyville	Lakes	Municipal Lakes	Creeks	Shale Hole	TOTAL
Property Damage	2	6	4	0	1	0	2	3	2	4	6	6	1	9	2	3	0	22	0	1	7	4	1	0	86
Injury	3	16	2	0	0	1	1	7	3	4	2	4	2	0	3	5	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
Drowning	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	2	9	1	4	1	1	0	4	2	0	4	4	1	5	52
Death	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Total Accidents	2	5	5	1	1	3	2	6	5	4	7	8	1	10	4	3	1	27	1	1	8	8	1	1	115

Chain O' Lakes, including the Fox River: 9 accidents resulted in 16 deaths
33 injuries were sustained
20 accidents resulted in property damage