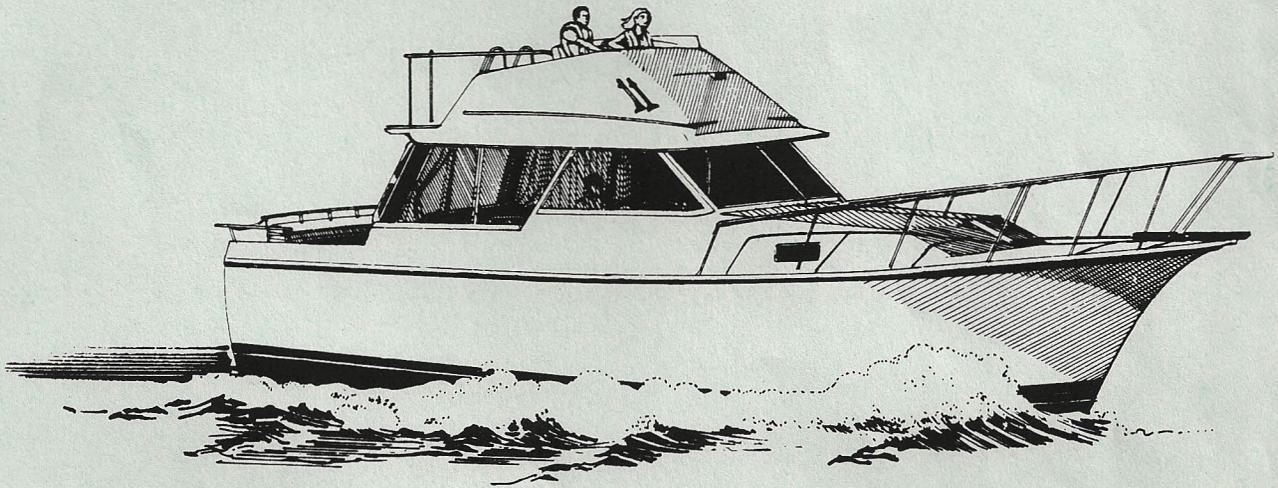


ILLINOIS BOATING EDUCATION PROGRAM

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

January 1, 1989 - December 31, 1989



BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

1989

Total Accidents	- 97	<u>PROPERTY DAMAGE</u> (total of all
Injuries	- 70	vessels involved)
# of Drownings	- 09	Total \$ Amount \$785,649
# of Deaths from injuries	- 03	Average \$ Amount \$ 9,699
Asphyxiated	- 02	

TIME & PLACE

MONTH

January - 01	April - 06	July - 33	October - 01
February - 01	May - 14	August - 17	November - 02
March - 01	June - 15	September - 06	December - 00
			<u>TOTAL - 97</u>

DAY

Monday - 08	Wednesday - 03	Friday - 10	Sunday - 31
Tuesday - 08	Thursday - 12	Saturday - 25	
			<u>TOTAL - 97</u>

COUNTY

Adams - 01	Johnson - 01	Perry - 02
Bureau - 02	Kankakee - 06	Pike - 01
Calhoun - 01	Lake - 14	Putnam - 01
Clark - 01	LaSalle - 10	Randolph - 02
Clinton - 01	Lee - 01	Rock Island - 04
Cook - 16	Macon - 02	Tazewell - 02
Dewitt - 03	McHenry - 03	Vermilion - 01
Franklin - 01	Mercer - 01	Whiteside - 02
Fulton - 01	Montgomery - 01	Will - 02
Grundy - 01	Ogle - 02	Winnebago - 01
Jefferson - 02	Peoria - 04	Woodford - 01
JoDavies - 03		<u>TOTAL - 97</u>

TIME

Midnight - 6:00 am	- 08
6:01 - 12 Noon	- 13
12:01 - 6:00 pm	- 54
6:01 - Midnight	- 23
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>- 98</u>

OPERATOR'S EXPERIENCE

Under 20 hrs	- 13
20 - 100 hrs	- 24
100 - 500 hrs	- 36
Over 500 hrs	- 39
Unknown	- 17
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>-129</u>

FORMAL INSTRUCTION

None	- 61
U.S. Coast Guard Aux	- 16
U.S. Power Squadron	- 13
American Red Cross	- 03
State	- 06
Other	- 17
Unknown	- 13
TOTAL	-129

WATER CONDITIONS

Calm	- 55
Choppy	- 34
Rough	- 01
Very Rough	- 04
Strong Current	- 01
Unknown	- 02
TOTAL	- 97

WEATHER INFORMATION

Clear	- 77
Cloudy	- 16
Fog	- 00
Rain	- 00
Hazy	- 01
Other	- 03
TOTAL	- 97

BOAT INFORMATION

Open Motorboat	- 78
Cabin Motorboat	- 24
Auxiliary Sail	- 06
Sail (only)	- 04
Rowboat	- 01
Canoe	- 02
Jet ski	- 06
Other	- 07
Unknown	- 01
TOTAL	-129

WIND

None	- 17
Light	- 51
Moderate	- 22
Strong	- 04
Stormy	- 00
Unknown	- 03
TOTAL	- 97

VISIBILITY

Good	- 84
Fair	- 05
Poor	- 06
Unknown	- 02
TOTAL	- 97

WEATHER ENCOUNTERED

Was as forecasted	- 68
Not as forecasted	- 02
No forecast obtained	- 18
Unknown	- 09
TOTAL	- 97

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Cruising	- 66
Approaching Dock	- 05
Water Skiing	- 10
Towing	- 01
Drifting	- 10
At Anchor	- 03
Tied to Dock	- 09
Fishing	- 01
Diving/Swimming	- 01
Hunting	- 01
Racing	- 00
Being Towed	- 00
Fueling	- 00
Other	- 22
TOTAL	-129

OPERATOR'S OPINION/CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Fault of Other Person	- 46
Weather Conditions	- 04
Excessive Speed	- 13
No proper lookout	- 21
Hazardous waters	- 09
Fault of Hull	- 01
Fault of Machinery	- 08
Fault of Equipment	- 08
Other	- 50
Alcohol	- 07
Drug Use	- 00
Overloading	- 02
Improper loading	- 01
Unknown	- 02
TOTAL	-172

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Fire or Explosion (fuel) - 05	Fire or Explosion (non-fuel) - 00
Grounding - 02	Collision w/floating object - 15
Falls overboard - 05	Flooding - 02
Capsizing - 10	Falls in boat - 01
Sinking - 03	Hit by boat or propeller - 15
Collision w/fixed object - 07	Burns - 00
Coll. with vessel - 12	Other - 20
	<u>TOTAL - 97</u>

FIRE EXTINGUISHER USED

Yes - 08
No - 86
Unknown - 35
<u>TOTAL - 129</u>

BODY OF WATER

Apple Canyon Lake - 01	Lake Lou Yeager - 01
Bangs Lake - 01	Lake Manteno - 01
Bluff Lake - 01	Lake Michigan - 13
Calumet River - 02	Lake of Egypt - 01
Carlyle Lake - 01	Lake Vermilion - 01
Chgo Ship/San Canal - 04	Long Lake - 01
Clinton Lake - 03	Loon Lake - 01
Fox Lake - 04	Mill Creek - 01
Fox River - 03	Mississippi River - 09
Grass Lake - 02	Pistakee Bay - 01
Illinois River - 21	Potters Lake - 01
Kankakee River - 05	Rend Lake - 03
Kaskaskia River - 02	Rock River - 06
Lake Decatur - 02	Strip Mine Lakes - 03
Lake Holiday - 01	Wilmington Rec. Club - 01
	<u>TOTAL 97</u>

<u>AGE</u>	<u>LESS THAN 20 HOURS</u>	<u>20 - 100 HOURS</u>	<u>100 - 500 HOURS</u>	<u>OVER 500 HOURS</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Teenage	01	02	02	01	01	07
20 - 29	09	08	13	06	01	38
30 - 39	03	07	09	12	03	34
40 - 49	00	04	09	10	01	24
50 - 59	00	03	03	06	04	16
60 - 69	00	00	00	03	00	03
70 - Over	00	00	00	01	01	02
Unknown	00	00	00	00	04	05
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>129</u>

HOW MANY 17 OR YOUNGER

04

WITH INSTRUCTION

04

WITHOUT INSTRUCTION

00

1989 FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS

1. NARRATIVE: While two commercial fishermen were retrieving some nets, a wave swamped their boat. They made it to a small partially submerged tree. It was after sundown and the water was cold. One fisherman tied the other to the tree to keep his head above the water line. It was about 36 hours before they were rescued. One fisherman died during the night and the other man lost a leg.

CAUSE: Boat swamped

2. NARRATIVE: A lone boater was racing up and down a river making very tight turns. The boater fell out of the boat on one turn and the boat continued to circle. The boat struck the victim in the head and he drowned.

CAUSE: Fell overboard

3. NARRATIVE: Two young men were night fishing in a river. The small 12 foot boat had no lights or P.F.D.'s aboard. Each had consumed about 8 beers before getting into the boat. Two barges were passing from opposite directions and it is believed that their wakes swamped the small boat. Both men drowned.

CAUSE: Boat swamped

4. NARRATIVE: At approximately 2:00 a.m., a man and woman were riding in a boat on the Illinois River. The boat cut across in front of a barge moving upstream. The barge was unable to stop and ran over the boat. The crew from the barge launched their skiff and were able to rescue the woman. The man drowned and his body was recovered about noon that day. P.F.D.'s were not worn.

CAUSE: Collision with barge

5. NARRATIVE: While making very sharp turns with his boat, a lone boater fell overboard. He attempted to swim to shore and was approximately 40 yards from shore when he went under the water. His body was later recovered by emergency personnel.

CAUSE: Fell overboard

6. NARRATIVE: Two fishermen returning from trotline fishing noticed water gushing over the starboard rear corner of the boat. The boat began to sink quickly and one man started swimming toward shore. The operator grabbed a P.F.D. and thought his friend had made it to the shore. When his friend did not respond to the operator's calls, he realized his friend didn't make it.

CAUSE: Overloading

7. NARRATIVE: A boat operator made a sharp turn causing a passenger to fall overboard from the sun deck of the boat. The sunbather drowned.

CAUSE: Fall overboard

8. NARRATIVE: A man on a tube was being towed behind a boat. He was leaning forward, hanging on to the tow rope when a large wave, which he was crossing, threw the tube into the air, entangling him in the tow rope which severed an artery in his neck. The victim died from loss of blood.

CAUSE: Freak accident

9. NARRATIVE: A passing barge caused a large wake which capsized a 12 foot boat carrying 4 men. One man was wearing a P.F.D., another utilized a Type IV cushion, one swam to shore and one man drowned.

CAUSE: Capsizing

10. NARRATIVE: Friends found a husband and wife dead in their houseboat. Their deaths were determined to be caused by a faulty generator emitting carbon monoxide into the air-conditioning system.

CAUSE: Carbon monoxide poisoning

11. NARRATIVE: Three river canoers realized that they were heading for a dam. They attempted, in vain, to turn the canoe around and paddle away from the dam. The canoe turned and went over the dam. Only one man survived.

CAUSE: Capsizing

Boating accident narrative information compiled by:
Bill Sinkus, Region IV
Volunteer Service Coordinator

BOAT ACCIDENT SUMMARY 1989

The majority of boating accidents in Illinois occurred during the weekends of the months of May through August, a time when the weather was pleasant and conducive to on the water activities. Cook and Lake Counties reported the highest number of accidents due to large public use of Lake Michigan and the Chain of Lakes.

The operators involved in the majority of accidents, ironically, reported having over 500 hours of operating experience with no formal instruction and were between 20 and 49 years of age. Twenty-eight percent of the boat operators reported the cause of the accident, in their opinion, to be the fault of the other person. Excessive speed and careless operation were other main causes of accidents which were reported also. Though alcohol was reported as having been involved in only seven accidents, nationwide boating accident statistics show that over fifty percent of boating accidents are alcohol related. Review of the reports indicate that there may have been more accidents attributed to alcohol than reported.

Several boat operators indicated "other" on their reports in three major categories; "Operation at Time of Accident", "Operator's Opinion of Cause", and "Type of Accident". After reviewing the reports, in most cases: operation at time of the accident was starting out and making a sharp turn; operator's opinion of the cause of the accident ranged from unknown to careless operation and no proper lookout; and type of accidents primarily involved collision with another vessel and collision with a fixed object.

Boating accidents in 1989 primarily involved open motorboats cruising in calm waters during times of clear weather. The types of accidents mainly involved collision with a floating object, a boat passenger falling overboard and being struck by the boat or propeller, capsizing, and collision with another vessel.