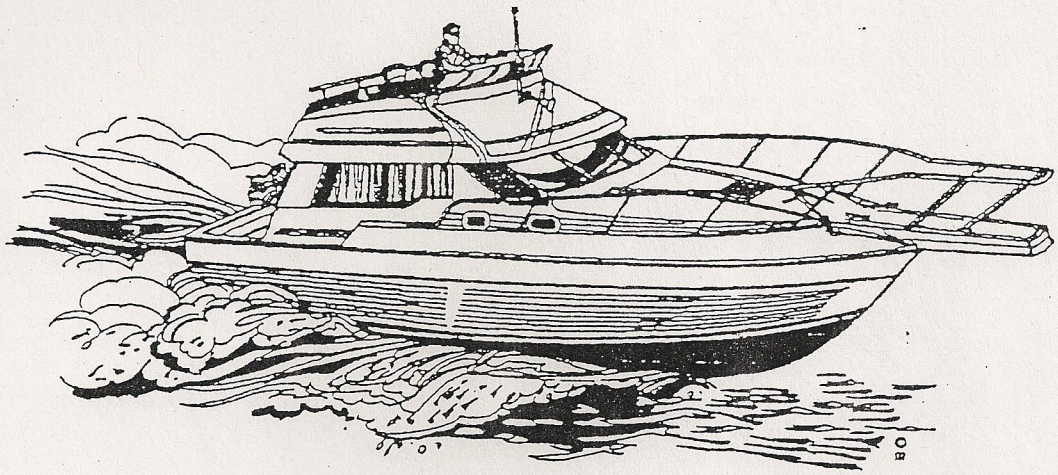
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

January 1, 1997 - December 31, 1997



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

1997 Illinois Boating Accident Statistics

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In 1997, there were 145 accidents involving 223 vessels resulting in 81 injuries and 14 fatalities.

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BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY

County	#Accidents	#Vessels	#Injuries	#Fatalities
Adams	6	9	5	0
Brown	1	1	0	1
Bureau	1	1	3	0
Calhoun	1	2	0	0
Carroll	1	2	1	0
Cass	1	2	0	1
Christian	2	2	0	2
Clinton	4	7	1	1
Cook	21	37	8	5
Dewitt	5	6	3	0
Franklin	3	4	1	0
Fulton	4	5	3	0
Grundy	2	3	1	0
Jackson	5	7	2	1
Jersey	4	4	3	0
JoDaviess	2	2	0	0
Kane	4	7	2	0
Kankakee	2	4	1	0
LaSalle	14	20	5	1
Lake	9	14	5	0
Lee	4	8	1	0

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY cont.

County	#Accidents	#Vessels	#Injuries	#Fatalities
Livingston	1	2	4	0
Macon	2	4	2	0
Marion	1	2	0	0
Marshall	1	1	0	1
Mason	2	3	1	0
McHenry	4	5	3	0
Morgan	1	1	0	1
Moultrie	2	3	1	0
Ogle	2	4	1	0
Peoria	4	7	6	0
Richland	2	3	0	0
Rock Island	2	4	1	0
Sangamon	4	6	2	0
Shelby	2	3	0	0
St. Clair	1	1	1	0
Tazewell	2	3	0	0
Vermilion	1	2	1	0
Will	6	10	2	0
Williamson	2	3	0	0

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY cont.

County	#Accidents	#Vessels	#Injuries	#Fatalities
Winnebago	6	8	6	0
Woodford	1	1	5	0
Grand Total:	**145**	**223**	**81**	**14**

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY BODY OF WATER

Body of Water	#Accidents	#Vessels	#Injuries	#Fatalities
Bangs Lake	1	2	0	0
Big Lake	1	2	0	0
Borah Lake	1	2	0	0
Cal-Sag Canal	1	1	1	0
Calumet River	1	2	1	2
Carlyle Lake	4	7	1	1
Chicago River	1	2	0	0
Clinton Lake	5	6	3	0
Crab Orchard Lake	2	2	0	0
Crystal Lake	1	2	0	0
Des Plaines River	1	1	1	0
East Fork Lake	1	1	0	0
Farm Pond	1	1	0	1
Forbes Lake	1	2	0	0
Fox Lake	3	5	4	0
Fox River	9	13	5	0
Grass Lake	2	2	0	0
Illinois River	26	37	17	3
Kankakee River	7	13	2	0
Kaskaskia	1	1	1	0

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY BODY OF WATER cont.

Body of Water	#Accidents	#Vessels	#Injuries	#Fatalities
Kinkaid Lake	4	6	2	1
Lake Arlan	1	2	0	0
Lake Carroll	1	2	1	0
Lake Decatur	2	4	2	0
Lake Michigan	20	35	7	3
Lake Shelbyville	4	6	1	0
Lake Springfield	4	6	2	0
Lake Vermilion	1	2	1	0
Lake of Egypt	1	2	0	0
Lincoln Lake	1	1	1	0
Mississippi River	13	17	9	0
New West Frankfort Lake	1	1	0	0
Petite Lake	1	2	0	0
Private Farm pond	1	1	0	1
Rend Lake	1	2	1	0
Rock Creek	1	2	0	0
Rock River	14	23	14	0
Sangchris Lake	2	2	0	2
Vermilion River	1	2	4	0
West Frankfort City Lake	1	1	0	0
Grand Total:	**145**	**223**	**81**	**14**

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, BODY OF WATER AND TYPE OF VESSEL

Adams

Mississippi River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	1	2	0
Personal Watercraft	5	3	0
Waterbody Total:	7	5	0

Rock Creek

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	9	5	0

Brown

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	1
Waterbody Total:	1	0	1
County Total:	1	0	1

Bureau

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	3	0
Waterbody Total:	1	3	0
County Total:	1	3	0

Calhoun

Mississippi River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Pontoon	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	2	0	0

Carroll

Lake Carroll

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	1	0
Waterbody Total:	2	1	0
County Total:	2	1	0

Cass

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	1
Other	1		
Waterbody Total:	2	0	1
County Total:	2	0	1

Christian

Sangchris Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	0	2
Waterbody Total:	2	0	2
County Total:	2	0	2

Clinton

Carlyle Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	3	0	0
Personal Watercraft	4	1	1
Waterbody Total:	7	1	1
County Total:	7	1	1

Cook

Cal-Sag Canal

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	1	1	0

Calumet River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Unknown	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	1	1	2
Waterbody Total:	2	1	2

Chicago River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Unknown	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Lake Michigan

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Unknown	4	0	0
Auxiliary Sail	1	0	0
Cabin Motorboat	11	2	0
Open Motorboat	4	2	1
Personal Watercraft	7	0	1
Sail (only)	5	2	1
Waterbody Total:	32	6	3
County Total:	37	8	5

Dewitt

Clinton Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	4	1	0
Personal Watercraft	1	1	0
Pontoon	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	6	3	0
County Total:	6	3	0

Franklin

New West Frankfort Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0

Rend Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	1	0
Waterbody Total:	2	1	0

West Frankfort City Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0
County Total:	4	1	0

Fulton

Big Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0

Fulton Co. cont.

Mississippi River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	2	0
Pontoon	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	2	3	0
County Total:	5	3	0

Grundy

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Other	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Lincoln Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	1	1	0
County Total:	3	1	0

Jackson

Crab Orchard Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0

Kinkaid Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	3	1	0
Personal Watercraft	3	1	1
Waterbody Total:	6	2	1
County Total:	7	2	1

Jersey

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	2	0
Waterbody Total:	2	2	0

Mississippi River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	2	1	0
County Total:	4	3	0

JoDaviess

Mississippi River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	2	0	0

Kane

Fox River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Unknown	2	0	0
Open Motorboat	2	0	0
Personal Watercraft	3	2	0
Waterbody Total:	7	2	0
County Total:	7	2	0

Kankakee

Kankakee River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	1	0
Personal Watercraft	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	4	1	0
County Total:	4	1	0

Lake

Bangs Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Fox Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Unknown	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	3	4	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	5	4	0

Grass Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Lake Michigan

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	2	1	0
Waterbody Total:	3	1	0

Petite Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Unknown	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	14	5	0

LaSalle

Fox River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	3	0	0

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	1	0	0
Houseboat	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	8	2	1
Personal Watercraft	7	3	0
Waterbody Total:	17	5	1
County Total:	20	5	1

Lee

Rock River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	3	0	0
Personal Watercraft	4	1	0
Pontoon	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	8	1	0
County Total:	8	1	0

Livingston

Vermilion River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	4	0
Waterbody Total:	2	4	0
County Total:	2	4	0

Macon

Lake Decatur

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	3	2	0
Waterbody Total:	4	2	0
County Total:	4	2	0

Marion

Forbes Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	2	0	0

Marshall

Farm Pond

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	1
Waterbody Total:	1	0	1
County Total:	1	0	1

Mason

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	1	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	3	1	0
County Total:	3	1	0

McHenry

Crystal Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Fox River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
	1	1	0
Cabin Motorboat	1	1	
Personal Watercraft	1	1	
Waterbody Total:	3	3	0
County Total:	5	3	0

Morgan

Private Farm pond

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1		1
Waterbody Total:	1		1
County Total:	1		1

Moultrie

Lake Shelbyville

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	3	1	0
County Total:	3	1	0

Ogle

Rock River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	4	1	
Waterbody Total:	4	1	
County Total:	4	1	

Peoria

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	2	0	0
Open Motorboat	2	6	0
Other	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Sail (only)	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	7	6	0
County Total:	7	6	0

Richland

Borah Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

East Fork Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0
County Total:	3	0	0

Rock Island

Mississippi River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	1	0	0
Other	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0

Rock River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	1	0
Waterbody Total:	2	1	0
County Total:	4	1	0

Sangamon

Lake Springfield

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	3	0	0
Personal Watercraft	3	2	0
Waterbody Total:	6	2	0
County Total:	6	2	0

Shelby

Lake Shelbyville

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Cabin Motorboat	1	0	0
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	3	0	0
County Total:	3	0	0

St. Clair

Kaskaskia

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	1	1	0
County Total:	1	1	0

Tazewell

Illinois River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0

Lake Arlan

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	3	0	0

Vermilion

Lake Vermilion

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	2	1	0
Waterbody Total:	2	1	0
County Total:	2	1	0

Will

Des Plaines River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Personal Watercraft	1	1	0
Waterbody Total:	1	1	0

Kankakee River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	2	0	0
Personal Watercraft	7	1	0
Waterbody Total:	9	1	0
County Total:	10	2	0

Williamson

Crab Orchard Lake

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	1	0	0

Lake of Egypt

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	0	0
Personal Watercraft	1	0	0
Waterbody Total:	2	0	0
County Total:	3	0	0

Winnebago

Rock River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	5	4	0
Personal Watercraft	3	2	0
Waterbody Total:	8	6	0
County Total:	8	6	0

Woodford

Rock River

	# Vessels	# Injured	# Dead
Open Motorboat	1	5	0
Waterbody Total:	1	5	0
County Total:	1	5	0
Grand Total:	223	81	14

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF BOAT AND OPERATOR EXPERIENCE

Auxiliary Sail

	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
>100 hours	1	0	0
Over 100 hours	1	0	0

Cabin Motorboat

	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
>100 hours	1	0	0
10 to 100 hours	3	0	0
Over 100 hours	17	3	0

Houseboat

	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
Over 100 hours	1	0	0

Open Motorboat

	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
>100 hours	11	3	6
10 to 100 hours	23	18	2
Over 100 hours	52	18	0
Under 10 hours	10	8	2

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF BOAT AND OPERATOR EXPERIENCE cont.

Personal Watercraft	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
>100 hours	9	2	0
10 to 100 hours	29	10	2
Over 100 hours	11	3	0
Under 10 hours	32	12	1

Pontoon	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
Over 100 hours	3	1	0
Under 10 hours	1	1	0

Sail (only)	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
>100 hours	1	0	0
10 to 100 hours	3	0	0
Over 100 hours	2	2	1

Other	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
Over 100 hours	4	0	0

Unknown	# Vessels	# Injuries	# Fatalities
Unknown	8	0	0
Over 100 hours	1	1	0
Grand Total:	**223**	**81**	**14**

BOAT ACCIDENTS BY AGE OF OPERATOR

AGE	#OPERATORS	#VESSELS	#INJURIES	#FATALITIES
<18	11	11	0	1
18-29	70	72	41	1
30-39	56	57	19	7
40-49	36	36	11	2
50-59	19	19	5	1
60+	6	6	3	2
Unknown	21	22	2	0
Grand Total	**219**	**223**	**81**	**14**

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS FOR OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Unknown	17	2	1
At anchor	7	1	2
Changing Direction	2	2	0
Changing Speed	3	2	0
Cruising	144	65	10
Docking/Undocking	9	1	0
Drifting	19	4	1
Launching	1	0	0
Other	9	3	0
Tied to Dock/Mooring	12	1	0
Grand Total:	**223**	**81**	**14**

BOAT ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Type of Accident	# Accidents	# Vessels	#Injuries	#Fatalities
Capsizing	6	6	3	1
Collision with Fixed Object	9	10	5	0
Collision with Floating Object	2	3	1	3
Collision with Vessel	69	138	29	1
Fall in Boat	9	10	9	0
Falls Overboard	15	16	8	7
Fire/Explosion (Fuel)	4	4	0	0
Flooding/Swamping	4	4	0	0
Grounding	11	13	8	0
Sinking	1	1	5	0
Skier Mishap	5	6	5	0
Struck Submerged Object	5	5	4	0
Struck by Boat	2	4	1	1
Struck by Motor/Propeller	1	1	1	0
Other	2	2	2	1
Grand Total:	**145**	**223**	**81**	**14**

CAUSE OF DEATH BY ACCIDENT TYPE

Capsizing	Death Caused By:	# Fatalities
	Drowning	1

Collision with Floating Object	Death Caused By:	# Fatalities
	Drowning	1
	Other	2

Collision with Vessel	Death Caused By:	# Fatalities
	Drowning	1

Falls Overboard	Death Caused By:	# Fatalities
	Drowning	6
	Other	1

Struck by Boat	Death Caused By:	# Fatalities
	Trauma	1

Other	Death Caused By:	# Fatalities
	Drowning	1

Grand Total:	**14**

SUMMARY OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS

Accident #: 9717008 **Date:** 3/29/97 **Time:** 5:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Brown **Water body:** Illinois River **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Collision with floating object and falls overboard
Cause of Accident: No proper lookout, careless inattention.
PFDs worn: No

Vessel hit submerged object and both operator and passenger were thrown out of boat. Operator missing and presumed drowned at the time report filed. PFDs were available but not used. The victim's body was recovered two months later.

Accident #: 9717009 **Date:** 4/1/97 **Time:** 12:30 PM **# Dead:** 2 **# of Vessels:** 2

County: Cook **Water body:** Calumet River **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Collision with floating object
Cause of Accident: Careless/reckless operation and excessive speed
PFDs worn: Unknown

Operating vessel at a high rate of speed when it hit a 4 -4 ½ foot wake thrown by a 34' vessel. Vessel A went airborne and then lost control, veering to port and hitting a barge secured to the south wall of the river. All three occupants were injured and admitted to hospitals. Four days later, one passenger died of a paranemic aneurysm and the next day (five days after the accident), the operator died of the same cause. The boat was equipped with adequate PFDs but it is unknown whether or not either victim was wearing one at the time of the incident.

Accident #: 9717011 **Date:** 4/28/97 **Time:** 6:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Marshall **Water body:** Farm Pond **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Unknown. However, victim had a medical history of suffering periodic seizures.
PFDs worn: No

Operator fell overboard and drowned. Unknown what caused him to fall overboard. Did have history of seizures and may have had a seizure prior to falling overboard.

Accident #: 9717022 **Date:** 6/1/97 **Time:** 3:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 2

County: Clinton **Water body:** Carlyle Lake **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Hazardous Waters
PFD worn: Yes

Vessels A and B were traveling together with the PWC in the lead. It was raining and the water was "white-capping". The PWC was hit broadside by a wave causing it to go airborne. It landed in the water on it's side and both the operator and passenger were thrown off. The operator of vessel B, attempted to avoid the two people in the water but ran over them both. The operator of the PWC was struck in the head but not injured. The passenger was also struck and his PFD became entangled in the prop trapping him under the boat. He was severely injured by the prop and they were not able to free himm from the prop. The boat had to be trailered before the passenger cold be freed. He was air lifted to an area hospital and pronounced dead short time later. In addition to thesevereelacerationss from the prop, he also had water in his lungs indicating drowning.

Accident #: 9717079 **Date:** 7/30/97 **Time:** 10:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Jackson **Water body:** Kinkaid Lake **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Excessive speed and operator inexperience
PFDs worn: No

Initial report was of a swimming accident. It was later found that a group of youths took a PWC without permission. They were unable to get it to operator correctly because they did not have the kill switch lanyard. Operator and victim were operating at night at speeds estimated at 30 -55 mph. Operator started to turn to the right when PWC struck a wave. The PWC overturned throwing both occupants into the water. Victim was not a strong swimmer and grabbed the operator who broke free and swam to shore. The PWC continued traveling until it grounded out on the far shore. The youths hid in the woods until the following day when they returned the PWC to the owner. The next day (8/1) the youths returned to the Sheriff's office and admitted what had happened and told the rescuers that they weren't searching far enough out in the water. The next day the body was found in 42' of water. Violations included no PFDs, operation of a PWC between sunset and sunrise, no lanyard attached to cut-off switch,

violation of no wake zone, underage operation of a motorboat, and operation of an unnumbered watercraft. Further charges are being sought for the initial false police report filed on the "swimming" accident.

Accident #: 9717086 **Date:** 8/26/97 **Time:** 12:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels** 1

County: LaSalle **Water body:** Illinois River **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Excessive Speed
PFD worn: No

Subject was cruising downstream between a barge and the shoreline as barge cruised upstream. Operator hit barge wake, vessel became airborne, turned 90 degrees sideways, struck the second wake sideways and operator was thrown from boat. Operator was in the water while boat circled around him. Rescuers pulled him from the water face down. Operator was admitted to hospital and died the next day. Cause of death to be determined at autopsy. Autopsy revealed subject died of heart attack.

Accident #: 9717087 **Date:** 6/1/97 **Time:** 1:00 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Cook **Water body:** Lake Michigan **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Weather
PFD worn: No

Passenger was walking midship when the vessel encountered rough water and he fell overboard. Another passenger jumped into the water in an attempt to save him but was quickly overcome by hypothermia. At time of report, victim still missing.

SUMMARY OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS cont.

Accident #: 9717094 **Date:** 7/27/97 **Time:** 9:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Cook **Water body:** Lake Michigan **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Other
Cause of Accident: Excessive Speed, hull failure and operator inexperience
PFD worn: No

Boat traveling at 40-70 mph. Boat hit wave and went airborne. It crashed and hull broke into pieces. Operator killed and passenger injured.

Accident #: 9717099 **Date:** 9/5/97 **Time:** 3:45 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Christian **Water body:** Sangchris Lake **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Unknown
PFD worn: No

Boat found unoccupied in lily pads with motor running and still in forward gear. Operator found drowned.

Accident #: 9717107 **Date:** 7/16/97 **Time:** 6:45 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 2

County: Cook **Water body:** Lake Michigan **Alcohol Involved:** Unknown

Accident Type: Struck by Boat
Cause of Accident: Excessive Speed
PFD worn: Yes

Operator of PWC fell off his craft and was struck by another PWC. The first operator died in surgery from his injuries six hours later. The second PWC fled the scene and accident is still under investigation trying to identify and locate the second operator.

SUMMARY OF FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS cont.

Accident #: 9717132 **Date:** 10/11/9 **Time:** 4:50 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Christian **Water body:** Sangchris Lake **Alcohol Involved:** Yes

Accident Type: Falls Overboard
Cause of Accident: Alcohol Use
PFD worn: No

Passenger either jumped or fell off of the boat. Operator heard a splash and then saw him swimming in the water. Victim went under and did not resurface. Victim had consumed five beers while on board the boat. Another passenger in the boat was arrested for drug possession at the scene.

Accident #: 9717142 **Date:** 10/10/9 **Time:** 6:50 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 1

County: Morgan **Water body:** Private Farm pond **Alcohol Involved:** Yes

Accident Type: Capsizing
Cause of Accident: Improper Loading
PFDs worn: No

Victim was casting a fishing line. The boat was overloaded and his movements caused boat to take on water and sink. Passenger drowned. Victim was thought to have consumed at least six beers in the four hours prior to the accident.

Accident #: 9717146 **Date:** 11/2/97 **Time:** 4:30 PM **# Dead:** 1 **# of Vessels:** 2

County: Cass **Water body:** Illinois River **Alcohol Involved:** No

Accident Type: Collision with Vessel
Cause of Accident: Restricted Vision
PFD worn: No

Barge operator stated that he saw the jon boat coming out of the mouth of the Sangamon River. Twice the operator of the jon boat shined a spotlight at the barge and the barge operator shined a spotlight back. The next thing that the barge operator saw was the top of the duck blind and the boat being operated

directly in front of the starboard barge. He immediately threw the tug into reverse and sounded the alarms. The jon boat was struck and the operator was killed.