ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT

January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE REPORTABLE BOATING ACCIDENTS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2001

Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Illinois Boating Accident Report - 2001

While any boating related death is one too many, the statistics for the 2001 boating season are encouraging in that they show a dramatic decrease in the number of deaths. In 1996, twenty three people died in boating accidents. Numbers have gradually decreased since then but this is the first year for single digit numbers. This is encouraging as it indicates that it may reflect a trend toward safer boating practices. Perhaps the safe boating messages that have been taught by the hundreds of dedicated volunteer instructors coupled with literature, PSA's and pressures on industry to develop safer products are beginning to have a positive impact.

Statistics compiled by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Law Enforcement show a significant improvement in the accident, injury and fatality rate over the past six years.

	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
Deaths	8	14	13	19	14	27
Injuries	75	75	107	81	81	90
Accidents	112	155	159	176	146	155

Seven of the 8 people who died in boating accidents in Illinois last year were not wearing life jackets. Some accidents are not survivable due to extreme cold water, occurring far from shore or blunt trauma, but the chances of avoiding injury and surviving an accident are much greater if the boat operator and passengers are wearing life jackets. An analysis of the circumstances surrounding the seven individuals who died while not wearing life jackets indicates a strong possibility that they would have survived if they had been wearing them. Same old story but too many people think it could never happen to them. One unfortunate statistic this year is the increase in alcohol related deaths. Five people died in accidents in which alcohol abuse played a part as compared to only one last year.

The IDNR offers free boating safety courses to review boating laws and provide instruction on safe and attentive operation of watercraft. These courses are taught by dedicated, trained volunteers who are certified by the IDNR to teach safe boating classes. Many carry additional certification in boating safety instruction from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary or the US Power Squadrons. Course schedules are available by contacting the IDNR Safety Education Office at 800/832-2599, Ameritech Relay 800/526-0844, TDD 217/782-9175, or by checking the IDNR web site at dnr.state.il.us.

Tom Wakolbinger, Chief
Illinois Conservation Police
IDNR, Office of Law Enforcement

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT
2001

Total Accidents	-	112	**Fatalities**		
# of Injuries	-	75	# Died by Drowning	-	7
# of Fatalities	-	8	# Died from Trauma	-	1
			Total	-	8

ACCIDENT TIMES

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY DAY OF THE WEEK

Day Of Week	#Accidents	#Injuries	Fatalities	#Vessels
Sunday	28	16	0	43
Monday	9	5	0	12
Tuesday	9	2	4	15
Wednesday	8	6	0	12
Thursday	4	2	1	7
Friday	12	6	0	16
Saturday	42	38	3	66
Total	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY MONTH OF THE YEAR

Month	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
January	1	0	0	2
February	0	0	0	0
March	4	1	3	6
April	3	1	1	6
May	10	2	0	14
June	31	20	0	50
July	26	22	2	38
August	14	12	0	23
September	15	12	2	22
October	5	4	0	6
November	1	0	0	1
December	2	1	0	3
Total	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TIME OF DAY

Time	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Midnight - 6:00 a.m.	5	7	0	8
6:01 a.m. - 12:00 noon	16	6	2	20
12:01 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	52	30	1	85
6:01 p.m. - Midnight	36	31	4	53
Unknown	3	1	1	5
Total	112	75	8	171

CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WATER CONDITIONS

Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Calm (Waves < 6")	64	45	3	98
Choppy (Waves 6"-2')	32	19	2	46
Rough (Waves 2'-6')	5	3	0	7
Unknown	11	8	3	20
Total	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Clear	92	61	4	138
Cloudy	11	7	3	16
Fog	1	1	0	2
Rain	6	5	0	9
Snow	0	0	0	0
Hazy	0	0	0	0
Unknown	2	1	1	6
Total	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY WIND CONDITIONS

Wind	#Accidents	# Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
None	12	13	1	20
Light (0-6 mph)	64	43	6	95
Moderate (7-14 mph)	22	9	0	31
Strong (15-25 mph)	6	3	0	10
Stormy (>25 mph)	1	0	0	2
Unknown	7	7	1	13
Total	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY VISIBILITY

Visibility	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Good	95	64	5	143
Fair	7	1	2	12
Poor	6	6	0	8
Unknown	4	4	1	8
Total	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT TYPE

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Type Of Accident	#Accidents	# Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Capsizing	3	1	0	4
Collision w/fixed object	10	9	0	13
Collision w/floating object	6	1	0	9
Collision w/vessel	47	33	3	94
Fall in boat	4	3	2	4
Falls overboard	6	4	3	6
Fire/Explosion (fuel)	3	2	0	4
Flooding/Swamping	5	4	0	6
Grounding	2	1	0	2
Sinking	2	0	0	2
Skier Mishap	7	7	0	7
Struck submerged object	8	1	0	8
Struck by motor/propeller	1	1	0	1
Other	5	4	0	5
Unknown	3	4	0	6
Total	112	75	8	171

BOAT INFORMATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY TYPE OF BOAT

Type Of Boat	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Auxiliary Sail	0	0	3
Cabin Motorboat	8	0	20
Open Motorboat	36	7	76
Personal Watercraft	27	0	49
Pontoon	1	0	9
Sail Only	2	0	2
Other	0	0	1
Unknown	1	1	11
Total	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Vessel Operation	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
At Anchor	1	0	5
Being Towed	0	0	1
Changing Direction	15	2	21
Changing Speed	9	1	14
Cruising	41	1	81
Docking/Undocking	3	2	7
Drifting	5	0	15
Launching	0	0	1
Tied to Dock/mooring	0	0	11
Towing another boat	0	0	1
Unknown	1	2	13
Other	0	0	1
Total	75	8	171

ACCIDENT CAUSES

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Primary Cause	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Alcohol Use	8	10	3	11
Careless/Reckless Operation	23	17	1	43
Congested Waters	2	2	0	3
Equipment Failure	1	1	0	1
Excessive Speed	6	4	0	9
Hazardous Waters	13	4	0	17
Hull Failure	3	1	0	3
Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapor	3	2	0	4
Improper Anchoring	2	1	0	2
Lack of/or Improper Boat Lights	1	0	0	2
Machinery Failure	3	1	0	4
No Proper Lookout	1	0	0	1
Operator Inattention	7	3	0	12
Operator Inexperience	7	5	1	11

Primary Cause of Accident cont.

Primary Cause	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Overloading	1	1	0	1
Passenger/Skier Behavior	3	3	0	3
Rules of the Road Infraction	3	4	0	6
Sharp Turn	3	3	0	5
Standing/Sitting on gunwhales, bow	1	1	0	1
Wake	6	3	0	8
Weather (Heavy)	3	4	0	5
Unknown	8	4	3	14
Other	4	1	0	5
Total	112	75	8	171

OPERATOR INFORMATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR EDUCATION

Operator Education	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels Operators
American Red Cross	0	0	1
Informal	11	2	16
State Course	8	0	16
U.S. Power Squadron	1	0	3
U.S.C.G. Auxiliary	5	0	7
None	43	1	88
Unknown	7	5	40
Total	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR EXPERIENCE

Operator Experience	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessel Operators
Under 10 hours	3	0	12
10 - 100 hours	28	1	43
Over 100 hours	36	4	83
Unknown	8	3	33
Total	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY OPERATOR AGE

Operator Age	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
< 10	0	0	0
10 - 12	1	0	2
13 - 17	6	0	16
18 - 19	9	2	9
20 - 29	20	2	40
30 - 39	17	2	41
40 - 49	13	0	25
50 - 59	6	1	15
60 - 69	1	0	2
70 +	0	0	0
Unknown	2	1	21
Total	75	8	171

ACCIDENT LOCATION

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY BODY OF WATER

Body Of Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Bangs Lake	2	1	0	3
Cal. Sag River	1	2	0	2
Calumet River	1	1	0	2
Carlyle Lake	7	1	0	10
Chicago River	2	0	0	3
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal	1	1	0	1
Clinton Lake	5	4	0	7
Des Plaines River	2	3	0	2
Forbes State Park Lake	1	1	0	1
Fox Lake	2	3	0	3
Fox River	4	3	1	7
Governor Bond Lake	1	0	0	2
Grass Lake	1	1	0	2
Holiday Shores Lake	1	2	0	2
Illinois River	27	20	2	40
Iroquois River	2	2	0	3
Kankakee River	6	1	0	9

Accidents Statistics by Body of Water cont.

Body Of Water	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Kaskaskia River	4	0	0	5
Lake Holiday	1	0	0	2
Lake Marie	1	1	0	1
Lake Michigan	5	6	0	8
Lake Petersburg	1	0	0	2
Lake Shelbyville	2	2	0	2
Lake Taylorville	1	2	0	2
Lake Wildwood	1	0	0	2
Lake of Egypt	2	0	0	4
Mississippi River	10	5	2	15
Nippersink Lake	1	1	0	2
Ohio River	1	0	0	1
Old West Frankfort Lake	1	1	0	1
Paris East Lake	1	1	0	1
Petite Lake	1	0	0	2
Piasa Creek	2	4	0	5
Rend Lake	3	1	2	4
Rock River	3	2	0	6
Savana Slough	1	0	0	2
Saybrook Sportsmens Club Pond	1	0	1	1
Shannon Shores	1	1	0	1
Spoon Lake	1	1	0	1
Spring Lake	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	112	75	8	171

BODY OF WATER BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTY

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Bangs Lake				
Lake County	2	1	0	3
Subtotal	2	1	0	3
Cal/Sag River				
Cook County	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
Calumet River				
Cook County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Carlyle Lake				
Clinton County	7	1	0	10
Subtotal	7	1	0	10

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Chicago River				
Cook County	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal				
Cook County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Clinton Lake				
DeWitt County	5	4	0	7
Subtotal	5	4	0	7
Des Plaines River				
Dupage County	1	3	0	1
Will County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	2	3	0	2
Forbes State Park Lake				
Marion County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Fox Lake				
Lake County	2	3	0	3
Subtotal	2	3	0	3
Fox River				
Kane County	1	1	0	2
McHenry County	3	2	1	5
Subtotal	4	3	1	7
Governor Bond Lake				
Bond County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Grass Lake				
Lake County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Holiday Shores Lake				
Madison County	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
Illinois River				
Bureau County	1	0	0	1
Calhoun County	1	1	0	1
Grundy County	7	7	0	11
Jersey County	2	0	0	4
LaSalle County	7	5	0	10
Mason County	1	0	0	2
Morgan County	1	1	0	2
Peoria County	2	1	2	3
Tazewell County	4	4	0	5
Woodford County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	27	20	2	40

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Iroquois River				
Iroquois County	2	2	0	3
Subtotal	2	2	0	3
Kankakee River				
Kankakee County	4	1	0	6
Will County	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	6	1	0	9
Kaskaskia River				
Randolph County	3	0	0	3
St. Clair County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	4	0	0	5
Lake Holiday				
LaSalle County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lake Marie				
Lake County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Lake Michigan				
Cook County	5	6	0	8
Subtotal	5	6	0	8
Lake Petersburg				
Menard County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lake Shelbyville				
Moultrie	1	1	0	1
Shelby County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	2	2	0	2
Lake Taylorville				
Christian County	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
Lake Wildwood				
Marshall County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Lake of Egypt				
Williamson County	2	0	0	4
Subtotal	2	0	0	4

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Mississippi River				
Calhoun County	1	1	0	2
Carroll County	1	0	0	1
Hancock County	2	1	0	3
Henderson County	1	2	0	1
Mercer County	1	0	1	2
Rock Island County	3	0	1	5
Whiteside County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	10	5	2	15
Nippersink Lake				
Lake County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Ohio River				
Pope County	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Old West Frankfort Lake				
Franklin County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Paris East Lake				
Edgar County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Petite Lake				
Lake County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Piasa Creek				
Jersey County	2	4	0	5
Subtotal	2	4	0	5
Rend Lake				
Franklin County	3	1	2	4
Subtotal	3	1	2	4
Rock River				
Winnebago County	3	2	0	6
Subtotal	3	2	0	6
Savana Slough				
Carroll County	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Saybrook Sportsmens Club Pond				
McLean County	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1

Body of Water Broken Down By County cont.

Waterway	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Shannon Shores				
Kankakee County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Spoon Lake				
Knox County	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Spring Lake				
Tazewell County	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	112	75	8	171

ACCIDENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Bond	1	0	0	2
Bureau	1	0	0	1
Calhoun	2	2	0	3
Carroll	2	0	0	3
Christian	1	2	0	2
Clinton	7	1	0	10
Cook	10	10	0	16
DeWitt	5	4	0	7
DuPage	1	3	0	1
Edgar	1	1	0	1
Franklin	4	2	2	5
Grundy	7	7	0	11
Hancock	2	1	0	3
Henderson	1	2	0	1
Iroquois	2	2	0	3
Jersey	4	4	0	9
Kane	1	1	0	2
Kankakee	5	2	0	7
Knox	1	1	0	1
LaSalle	8	5	0	12
Lake	8	7	0	13
Madison	1	2	0	2
Marion	1	1	0	1
Marshall	1	0	0	2
Mason	1	0	0	2
McHenry	3	2	1	5

Accident Statistics By County cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
McLean	1	0	1	1
Menard	1	0	0	2
Mercer	1	0	1	2
Morgan	1	1	0	2
Moultrie	1	1	0	1
Peoria	2	1	2	3
Pope	1	0	0	1
Randolph	3	0	0	3
Rock Island	3	0	1	5
Shelby	1	1	0	1
St. Clair	1	0	0	2
Tazewell	5	5	0	7
Whiteside	1	1	0	1
Will	3	0	0	4
Williamson	2	0	0	4
Winnebago	3	2	0	6
Woodford	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	112	75	8	171

COUNTIES BROKEN DOWN BY BODY OF WATER

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Bond County				
Governor Bond Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Bureau County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Calhoun County				
Illinois River	1	1	0	1
Mississippi River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	2	2	0	3
Carroll County				
Mississippi River	1	0	0	1
Savana Slough	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	2	0	0	3
Christian County				
Lake Taylorville	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
Clinton County				
Carlyle Lake	7	1	0	10
Subtotal	7	1	0	10

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Cook County				
Cal-Sag River	1	2	0	2
Calumet River	1	1	0	2
Chicago River	2	0	0	3
Chicago Sanitary Canal	1	1	0	1
Lake Michigan	5	6	0	8
Subtotal	10	10	0	16
DeWitt County				
Clinton Lake	5	4	0	7
Subtotal	5	4	0	7
DuPage County				
Des Plaines River	1	3	0	1
Subtotal	1	3	0	1
Edgar County				
Paris East Lake	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Franklin County				
Rend Lake	3	1	2	4
Old West Frankfort Lake	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	4	2	2	5
Grundy County				
Illinois River	7	7	0	11
Subtotal	7	7	0	11
Hancock County				
Mississippi River	2	1	0	3
Subtotal	2	1	0	3
Henderson County				
Mississippi River	1	2	0	1
Subtotal	1	2	0	1
Iroquois County				
Iroquois River	2	2	0	3
Subtotal	2	2	0	3
Jersey County				
Illinois River	2	0	0	4
Piasa Creek	2	4	0	5
Subtotal	4	4	0	9
Kane County				
Fox River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Kankakee County				
Kankakee River	4	1	0	6
Shannon Shores	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	5	2	0	7
Knox County				
Spoon Lake	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
LaSalle County				
Illinois River	7	5	0	10
Lake Holiday	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	8	5	0	12
Lake County				
Bangs Lake	2	1	0	3
Fox Lake	2	3	0	3
Grass Lake	1	1	0	2
Lake Marie	1	1	0	1
Nippersink Lake	1	1	0	2
Petite Lake	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	8	7	0	13
Madison County				
Holiday Shores Lake	1	2	0	2
Subtotal	1	2	0	2
Marion County				
Forbes State Park Lake	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Marshall County				
Lake Wildwood	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Mason County				
Illinois River	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
McHenry County				
Fox River	3	2	1	5
Subtotal	3	2	1	5
McLean County				
Saybrook Sportsmens Club	1	0	1	1
Subtotal	1	0	1	1
Menard County				
Lake Petersburg	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Mercer County				
Mississippi River	1	0	1	2
Subtotal	1	0	1	2

Counties Broken Down By Body of Water cont.

County	#Accidents	#Injuries	#Fatalities	#Vessels
Morgan County				
Illinois River	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	1	1	0	2
Moultrie County				
Lake Shelbyville	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Peoria County				
Illinois River	2	1	2	3
Subtotal	2	1	2	3
Pope County				
Ohio River	1	0	0	1
Subtotal	1	0	0	1
Randolph County				
Kaskaskia River	3	0	0	3
Subtotal	3	0	0	3
Rock Island County				
Mississippi River	3	0	1	5
Subtotal	3	0	1	5
Shelby County				
Lake Shelbyville	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
St. Clair County				
Kaskaskia River	1	0	0	2
Subtotal	1	0	0	2
Tazewell County				
Illinois River	4	4	0	5
Spring Lake	1	1	0	2
Subtotal	5	5	0	7
Whiteside County				
Mississippi River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
Will County				
Des Plaines River	1	0	0	1
Kankakee River	2	0	0	3
Subtotal	3	0	0	4
Williamson County				
Lake of Egypt	2	0	0	4
Subtotal	2	0	0	4
Winnebago County				
Rock River	3	2	0	6
Subtotal	3	2	0	6
Woodford County				
Illinois River	1	1	0	1
Subtotal	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	112	75	8	171

NARRATIVES

2001 Boat Accident Narratives

1. Two men drowned while crappie fishing on Rend Lake in Franklin County. The men were observed by a passing motorist in the water while their boat was circling them but they soon disappeared under the surface of the water before help could arrive. It is unknown what caused them to fall overboard but two theories are 1) they struck a submerged object, or 2)the operator let go of the tiller at full throttle allowing the motor to kick to one side causing a sudden change in direction. Neither subject was wearing a PFD. The accident occurred in March and the water temperature was only 44 degrees. Their bodies were found 17 days after the accident.

   Cause of Accident: Unknown
   Contributing Factors: Water temperature
   Failure to wear PFD

2. A small12', 38" wide, flat bottom jon boat was found circling in a small pond in McLean County. The pond was approximately 8' deep where the victim was recovered. The accident occurred in March and the surface temperature of the water was 53 degrees. There were empty beer bottles floating in the water near the boat and on shore. No PFDs were present or worn by the victim. It is unknown how the subject ended up in the water.

   Cause of Accident: Unknown
   Contributing Factors: Small, unstable boat
   Water temperature
   Possible alcohol - '03 report ⇒ BAC = .19 + metabolites of cannabis.
   Failure to wear PFD

3. Two vessels collided at a high rate of speed at night on the Mississippi River in Mercer County. The victim was thrown from the boat and his body wasn't found for two weeks. The second operator was thrown from his boat but was able to swim to shore. It is unknown whether or not the victim was wearing a PFD. He was not wearing one when found. The second operator was charged with four felony counts of operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol and misdemeanor counts of reckless operation of a watercraft and operating a watercraft while intoxicated. He pled guilty to felony OUI resulting in death and was sentenced to four years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. An autopsy of the victim revealed he had a BAC of .141.

   Contributing Factors: Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol
   Careless/Reckless Operation
   Excessive Speed
   Failure to wear PFD

4. Two passengers died when the vessel they were in hit its own wake after the operator made a sharp turn. The impact caused the vessel to turn sharply, throwing everyone out and into the river. The accident occurred on the Illinois River in Peoria County. The operator was arrested for OUI with a BAC greater than .08. Both of the victims had blood alcohol contents of .08 as well and were not wearing PFDs.

   Contributing Factors: Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol
   Careless Operation
   Alcohol use by victims
   Failure to wear PFD

5. Two vessels collided at night on the Fox River in McHenry County. A passenger in one of the vessels lost his arm when he was thrown through the windshield of the vessel. He died later in the hospital. Although the victim was not wearing a PFD, it did not contribute to his death. He died from the injuries sustained in the accident. The operator of the vessel was inexperienced and violated boating rules of the road.

   Contributing Factors: Operator inexperience
   Operator inattention
   Rules of the road infraction.

6. Vessel 2 struck vessel 1 from behind on the Mississippi River in Rock Island County. The operator of vessel 2 crashed through the side of the boat as he was ejected from the boat. Although the victim sustained multiple injuries, the cause of death was drowning. Based on the investigation, it appears that the deceased attempted to pass vessel 1 at a high rate of speed known as a "fly by". Apparently he lost control of his boat in the wake of the other vessel causing the collision. The victim was not wearing a PFD. An autopsy revealed he had a BAC of .202, over twice the legal limit.

   Contributing Factors: Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol
   Careless/Reckless Operation
   Excessive speed
   Failure to wear PFD