STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT - 1975

During the calendar year 1975, there were 126 reportable accidents reported to this office involving 178 boats, Seventy-four (74) accidents involved one boat and fifty-two (52) accidents involved two boats. Property damage amounted to approximately $154,426.65. Twenty-seven (27) accidents resulted in the drowning of 34 persons, and seven accidents resulted in death, other than by drowning, to nine persons.

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

MONTH

March	1
April	1
May	14
June	31
July	30
August	24
September	14
October	6
November	5
	126

COUNTY

Cook	36	Henderson	2	Cumberland	1
Lake	13	Grundy	2	DuPage	1
McHenry	8	Marshall	2	Putnam	1
LaSalle	6	Franklin	2	Winnebago	1
Will	5	Madison	2	Lee	1
Calhoun	3	Adams	2	Gallatin	1
Rock Island	3	Vermilion	1	McLean	1
Mason	3	Moultrie	1	Williamson	1
Jersey	3	Knox	1	Jefferson	1
Peoria	3	Edwards	1	Pike	1
Bond	2	Kankakee	1	Morgan	1
Clinton	2	Menard	1	Sangamon	1
Fayette	2	Lawrence	1	Whiteside	1
Ogle	2	Macon	1	Indiana-Ill. border	1
					126

BODY OF WATER

Rivers	53
Lake Michigan	32
Municipal Lakes	17
Chain	10
Rend Lake	3
Lake Shelbyville	2
Carlyle	2
Inland Lake	1
Waukegan Harbor	1
Andalusia Slough	1
Ponds	1
Fox River Dam	1
Gniesemenes Farm Pd.	1
Coby Point	1
	126

TYPE OF BOAT

Open Motorboat	76	Canoe	2
Cabin Motorboat	29	Runabout	1
Auxiliary sail	12	Convertible Sleeper	1
Sailboat	3	Kawasaki	1
Rowboat	3	Fireboat	1
Cruiser	3	Pontoon	1
Open with canvastop	3	Raft	1
Other	2	Outboard	1
Barge	2	Unknown	36
			178

LENGTH

Under 12	6
12 - 15	24
16 - 20	59
21 - 30	30
Over 30	15
Unknown	44
	178

HORSEPOWER

Under 5	2
5 - 10	8
11 - 20	5
21 - 30	8
31 - 40	6
41 - 100	28
Over 100	64
Unknown	57
	178

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

None on board	3
Yes, used	34
Yes, not used	68
Yes, unknown if used	16
Unknown, or not applicable	57
	178

AGE AND HOURS EXPERIENCE OF OPERATORS

Age	Less than 20 Hours	20-100 Hours	100-500 Hours	Over 500 Hours	Unknown	Total
Teenage	1	7	7	2	1	18
20-29	7	9	9	10	5	40
30-39	5	3	8	15	6	37
40-49	2	1	1	16	1	21
50-59	0	0	1	12	3	16
60-Over	1	0	0	3	0	4
Unknown	2	0	1	0	39	42

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Clear, calm	61
Clear, choppy	17
Clear, rough	9
Clear, strong current	5
Cloudy, choppy	6
Cloudy, calm	4
Cloudy, rough	3
Cloudy, very rough	2
Clear, very rough	1
Rain, rough	1
Rain, very rough	1
Hazy, choppy	1
Hazy, calm	1
Fog, rough	1
Fog, calm	1
Rain, choppy	1
Snow, choppy	1
Unknown	10
	126

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Collision with vessel	43
Collision with fixed object	21
Capsizing	10
Falls overboard	12
Sinking	8
Hit by boat	8
Collision with floating object	5
Fire or explosion	4
Collision with submerged object	1
Grounded	2
Fell in boat	2
Over dam	1
Hit propeller	1
Hit by ski	1
Struck swimmers by propellor	1
Skier hit canoe	1
Unknown	5
	126

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Collision with vessel	23	Engine back fired	1
Collision with fixed object	15	Inexperience	1
Speeding	9	Applied power too fast	1
Large Wake	9	Collision with swimmers	1
Hazardous Waters	7	Skier Lost control	1
Carelessness	6	Poor judgement	1
Failure to Yield	5	Hit while moored	1
Falls overboard	5	Boat caught fire	1
Drinking	3	Raft hit shore	1
Obstructed View	3	Ran over ski rope	1
Collision with floating object	3	Grounding	1
Strong Wind	2	No Proper lookout	1
Overloading	2	Loss of power	1
Hit object in water	2	Fault of Equipment	1
Insecure mooring	2	Collision with submerged object	1
Fault of machinery	2	Improper lighting	1
Skier lost balance	2	Weather conditions	1
Collision with skiers	1	Unknown	7
Swamped boat	1		126

SKIING ACCIDENT AND RESULT

Improper lookout, collision with vessel	4
Improper lookout, collision with canoe	1
Improper lookout, skier was preparing to ski	1
Skier fell and landed on both skies-fractured hip	1
Skier made her drop off, boat came back and found her faced down in the water	1
	8

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN DROWNING

TYPE ACCIDENT

Capsizing	6
Falls overboard	5
Over loading	3
Jumped overboard	3
Sinking	2
Canoe went over dam	2
Carelessness	1
Cruiser caused wake	1
Hit Fixed object	1
Hit floating object	1
Unknown	2
	27

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Overloading	4
Wake	4
Jumped overboard	3
Drinking	2
Speeding	2
Falls overboard	2
Trying to free line	1
Strong wind	1
Steering wheel came off	1
Collision with fixed object	2
Weather conditions	1
Unknown	4
	27

COUNTY

Cook	5	Marshall	1
Clinton	3	Gallatin	1
Calhoun	2	McHenry	1
Lawrence	1	Knox	1
Fayette	1	Williamson	1
Edwards	1	Morgan	1
Will	1	Lake	1
Mason	1	Vermilion	2
DuPage	1	Pike	1
Bond	1		27

TYPE BOAT

Open Motorboat	18
Rowboat	3
Canoe	3
Sailboat	1
Unknown	2
	27

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

None on board	2
Yes, used	8
Yes, not used	8
Yes, unknown if used	2
Unknown or N.A.	7
	27

BODY OF WATER, NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS, NUMBER OF DROWNINGS

Body of Water	No. Accidents	No. Drownings
Lake Michigan	4	4
Kankakee	1	1
Kaskaskia	2	3
Gniesemenes Farm Pond	1	1
Mose Lake	1	1
Mississippi River	2	2
Illinois River	5	5
Carlyle	1	1
Fox River	2	5
Royal Lake	1	2
Calumet River	1	2
Little Wabash River	1	1
Spoon River	1	1
Marion City Lake	1	1
Diamond Lake	1	1
Long Pond	1	2
Middle Fork River	1	1
	27	34

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DROWNING

Lake Michigan
5-19-75: Strong Wind caused boat to capsize, 1 drowning
6-19-75: Falls overboard after wake, 1 drowning
7-03-75: Unknown causes, 2 drownings

Kankakee River
4-30-75: Operator pushed throttle of boat forward causing boat to capsize, 1 drowning

Kaskaskia River
5-04-75: Front end of boat started sinking, then whole boat capsized, 2 drownings
5-21-75: Running fishing lines, hit a log and capsized, 1 drowning

Gniesemenes Farm Pond
5-06-75: Fell overboard, 1 drowning

Illinois River
3-15-75: Boat capsized while maneuvering to launching ramp, 1 drowning
7-04-75: Boat capsized, 1 drowning
7-27-75: Speeding, person fell overboard, 1 drowning
9-01-75: Falls overboard, 1 drowning
11-24-75: Boat capsized, 1 drowning

Mose Lake
6-10-75: Unknown causes, 1 drowning

Mississippi River
6-21-75: Strong current, Boat capsized, 1 drowning
6-21-75: Fell overboard after wake, 1 drowning

Carlyle Lake
6-25-75: Fell overboard, 1 drowning

Fox River
7-07-75: Boat capsized fron large wake, 3 drownings
9-04-75: Canoe went over dam, 2 drownings

Royal Lake
7-09-75: Boat capsized, 2 drownings

Calumet River
8-03-75: Boat crashed into steel wall, 2 drownings

Little Wabash River
6-01-75: Boat turned over, 1 drowning

Spoon River
6-14-75: Boat capsized, 1 drowning

Marion City Lake
6-15-75: Overloading and sinking of boat, 1 drowning

Diamond Lake
7-28-75: Boat struck raft, 1 drowning

Long Pond
10-04-75: Canoe capsized, 2 drownings

Middle Fork River
6-15-75: Canoe capsized, 1 drowning

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN DEATH FROM INJURIES

Lake Michigan
5-10-75: Collision with vessel, 1 death from injuries
5-19-75: Strong wind caused boat to capsized, 1 death from injuries
11-02-74: Boat capsized, from strong wind, 1 death from injuries

Kaskaskia River
5-04-75: Boat started sinking then it capsized, 2 deaths from injuries

Mississippi River
6-21-75: Strong current, boat capsized, Operator hit by propeller, 1 death

Lake Mattoon
6-28-75: Collision with two swimmers, hit by propeller, 1 death & 1 injured

Illinois River
7-27-75: Speeding, two overboard, 2 deaths

ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN INJURY

DATE	BODY OF WATER	NO. INJURIES
November 2, 1974	Lake Michigan	1
April 30, 1975	Kankakee River	3
May 4, 1975	Kaskaskia River	1
May 10, 1975	Lake Michigan	1
May 11, 1975	Illinois River	1
May 17, 1975	Lake Shelbyville	1
May 19, 1975	Lake Michigan	3
May 24, 1975	Mississippi River	1
May 26, 1975	Lake Marie	1
May 26, 1975	Lake Petersburg	1
June 1, 1975	Little Wabash River	1
June 5, 1975	Fox River	3
June 8, 1975	Andalusia Slough	3
June 9, 1975	Lake Michigan	1
June 14, 1975	Mississippi River	1
June 21, 1975	Mississippi River	1
June 21, 1975	Lake Marie	1
June 22, 1975	Governor Bond Lake	1
June 28, 1975	Potters Lake	1
June 28, 1975	Mississippi River	1
June 28, 1975	Lake Mattoon	1
July 4, 1975	Lincoln Lake	1
July 4, 1975	Lake Michigan	2
July 4, 1975	Fox Lake	2
July 4, 1975	Kankakee River	1
July 5, 1975	Chicago River	2
July 8, 1975	Rock River	3
July 12, 1975	Fox River	1
July 13, 1975	Bangs Lake	1
July 20, 1975	Kankakee River	2
July 25, 1975	Fox River	1
July 27, 1975	Rend Lake	1
July 27, 1975	Illinois River	2
July 27, 1975	Illinois River	1
July 28, 1975	Diamond Lake	1
August 3, 1975	Calumet River	3
August 3, 1975	Lake Michigan	3
August 4, 1975	Crystal Lake	1
August 6, 1975	Mississippi River	1
August 10, 1975	Lake Michigan	4
August 10, 1975	Carlyle Lake	1
August 10, 1975	Lake Michigan	2
August 16, 1975	Mississippi River	1
August 18, 1975	Kankakee River	2
August 18, 1975	Rend Lake	1
August 22, 1975	Mississippi River	1
August 23, 1975	Chicago River	2
September 1, 1975	Wonder Lake	1
September 4, 1975	Fox River	1
September 6, 1975	Rock River	2
September 13, 1975	Lake Michigan	1

Accidents from injury cont'd

DATE	BODY OF WATER	NO. INJURIES
September 13, 1975	Lake Shelbyville	2
September 13, 1975	Lake Michigan	1
September 13, 1975	Lake Michigan	1
September 14, 1975	Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal	3
October 4, 1975	Illinois River	2
October 16, 1975	Lake Michigan	1
		87

Total Accidents: 57
Total Injuries: 87