

2024 Boating Accident Statistical Report

Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Division of Law Enforcement



BOATING
and Waterways



[MyFWC.com/Boating](https://myfwc.com/boating)

2024 Boating Officer of the Year

Officer Jody Criswell, FWC's Boating Officer of the Year, has made a positive impact in ensuring public safety and the sustainability of Florida's ecosystems since she became an FWC officer in 2019. She understands the threats posed by derelict vessels and has developed expertise in testing effective means of propulsion and enforcing at-risk vessel laws as well as demonstrating exceptional investigative skills in resolving complex derelict vessel cases. Her work at enforcing at-risk and derelict vessel laws has included training multiple local agencies, resulting in the successful handling of over 100 such cases in 2024. Officer Criswell has expertly handled serious boating accidents, securing crucial evidence and directing responding units and the collection of witness statements. Additionally, Officer Criswell applies her skills and knowledge to boating-under-the-influence violations, uncovering illegal livery operations and enforcing marine sanitation device regulations. She also has forged strong relationships with local law enforcement and the Pinellas County State Attorney's Office, making her a vital asset to the agency and her community.



Officer Jody Criswell

Beyond enforcement, she is deeply involved in public outreach, educating communities about wildlife conservation, avoiding human-wildlife conflicts, and boating safety. Officer Criswell's professionalism, strong work ethic, and willingness to take on difficult tasks set her apart. Her contributions earned her the Audubon Officer of the Year (2022) and a commendation from the Pinellas County State Attorney's Office (2024).

Introduction

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), driven by science-based leadership, is committed to creating a sustainable and healthy future for Florida's fish, wildlife, water and habitat resources. The FWC serves Floridians and visitors alike in a variety of ways, most of which revolve around the mission of managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people. The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) makes up half the agency and is the most visible presence in the public eye acting on the goal of providing healthy resources for safe, satisfied customers.

Division of Law Enforcement

Roles and Mission

The FWC is the only state agency in Florida tasked with managing the state's fish and wildlife resources. As a primary responsibility, the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement focuses on enforcing regulations aimed at protecting and conserving these resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of Florida residents and visitors, all the while blending in its unique and specialized public safety role. The Division's mission is clear: "Protecting Florida's natural resources and people through proactive and responsive law enforcement services."

Responsibilities

The FWC Division of Law Enforcement provides protection to people enjoying Florida's natural resources and enforces resource protection and boating safety laws. Officers patrol where other law enforcement agencies do not routinely patrol such as rural, wilderness, inshore and offshore areas. FWC officers have authority to enforce all state laws and are cross deputized to enforce federal fisheries and wildlife laws.

While carrying out their broad responsibilities, FWC officers seek opportunities to educate and introduce Floridians and visitors to the wonders of Florida's fish, wildlife, and natural resources, as well as safe boat operation and safety equipment requirements.

The Division also provides general law enforcement services as part of Florida's statewide emergency response network. Because of their unique jurisdiction and specialized training and equipment, FWC is charged with protecting the state's waterways and critical infrastructure during times of heightened security threat levels. As seasoned first responders, FWC officers are trained to move fast and efficiently.

Moving forward, FWC will continue to pursue and apply advances in technology to improve response to conservation and general law enforcement incidents. When duty calls, FWC will always be among the first to respond, providing aid as needed. Until then, FWC will continue to lead the way in natural resource protection, proactive boating safety law enforcement and education.

Uniquely prepared

On the water, in the woods and in the air, FWC law enforcement officers are uniquely situated, equipped, and trained to identify and respond to illegal activity and promote public safety, particularly in maritime and wilderness areas.

Core Missions

The FWC protects Florida's people and natural resources. The Division of Law Enforcement is an integral part of the agency and is vital in fulfilling the agency's responsibilities. These core missions reflect the unique capabilities, training and equipment personnel use to achieve those responsibilities.

Boating and Waterways:

Enforces boating rules and regulations, conducts boating safety campaigns and education, provides access to public waters, manages waterways and maintains accurate signage, performs boating accident investigations, addresses derelict vessels and investigates vessel theft and title fraud violations.

Resource Protection and

Access: Educates the public, enforces state and federal fisheries and wildlife laws, protects threatened and endangered species and habitats, safeguards cultural and natural resources, manages captive and nonnative wildlife, investigates fish and wildlife crimes and participates in youth projects to develop the next generation that cares about conservation.

Public Safety: Provides a safe experience for people recreating outdoors, coordinate interagency activities, maintain specialized response units, perform disaster response, search and rescues, intelligence and security and critical incident investigations.

Intervention Equals Prevention on the Water

FWC officers help to ensure Floridians and visitors are safe when they are on the water. The FWC accomplishes this through proactive law enforcement by initiating boating safety, fisheries, and hunting inspections and identifying and minimizing potential navigation or environmental hazards in the waterways.

FWC's Boating and Waterways Section supports officers by coordinating statewide boating safety efforts. These include education campaigns, waterway marker compliance and maintenance checks, permitting and marking speed-regulated areas, coordinating initiatives aimed at enforcing at risk vessel laws, removing derelict vessels and improving public boating access.

With more than a million registered vessels, Florida is the "Boating Capital of the World." However, high vessel numbers and a mild climate cause Florida to lead the nation in the number of boating fatalities each year. The vast size of Florida's inland, coastal and offshore patrol areas, combined with a significant population of avid and diverse boaters, presents a challenge for the FWC and local and federal maritime enforcement partners.

Boating Education Is Critical

The 2024 Boating Accidents Statistical Report indicates there were 685 reportable boating accidents and 81 boating-related fatalities in the calendar year. Many of the deaths were due to victims falling overboard and drowning. Many fatalities may have been prevented if the victims had worn life jackets. FWC continues efforts to reduce the number of boating-related fatalities through education about the importance of wearing life jackets while boating.

Florida's current boating safety education law applies only to boaters born on or after January 1, 1988, operating a motorized vessel of 10 horsepower or greater. The face-to-face contacts by FWC officers and our partner agencies are a critical part of our outreach efforts and education to the boating public. These statistics show us the boat operator most likely to be involved in a boating accident is a middle-age or older male who has boating experience yet never learned the most important safety considerations by having taken a boating safety course. When officers observe boating violations or perform resource enforcement activities, they conduct boating safety inspections aimed at both identifying and preventing violations or accidents. FWC officers strive to make boating safer through education and enforcement with the goal of saving lives.

Safe Boating Is a Choice

Florida is a leader in promoting boating accident prevention. The FWC, in association with the National Safe Boating Council, Bombardier Recreational Products Inc., West Marine, and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has launched a statewide boating safety campaign as part of a national initiative. The "Wear It Florida" campaign encourages boaters to wear life jackets anytime they are on the water and educates boaters about the ease and convenience of inflatable life jackets. The campaign is designed to reach the public through media events, exhibits, personal contacts, social media, radio, and televised public service announcements.

Division of Law Enforcement Values

Integrity

We value candor, honesty and the highest standards of ethical behavior and are committed to upholding our positions of public trust.

Professionalism

We value the skillful performance which demonstrates a clear sense of commitment and direction in an environment that encourages teamwork and innovation.

Dedication

We value the motivation and dedication with which our members serve the visitors and residents of Florida.

Adaptability

We value our unique capability to adapt and respond appropriately to diverse circumstances in all environments.

Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

About This Report

The 2024 Boating Accident Statistical Report is compiled by the Boating and Waterways Section of the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. Most of the data contained in this report is gathered from boating accident investigation reports submitted by FWC officers and marine law enforcement partners.

At the end of each calendar year, boating accident data is compiled and assembled into Florida's annual report. The FWC's Boating and Waterways Section analyzes this information and uses it to formulate proactive plans aimed at reducing the number of boating accidents and their related injuries, fatalities, and property damage. This information is also reported to the USCG's Boating Safety Division in Washington, D.C., to be included in the national database consisting of data from all U.S. states and territories.

The statistics reflect reportable boating accidents that occurred in Florida. Boating accidents must meet at least one of five criteria to be classified as reportable:

- A person dies.
- A person disappears under circumstances that indicate possible death or injury.
- A person receives an injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid.
- There is at least \$2,000 aggregate property damage to the vessel(s) or other property.
- There is a total loss of a vessel.

The number of registered vessels in Florida decreased slightly in 2024. With 1,030,053 registered vessels, Florida leads the nation in registered vessels. Additionally, it is estimated that up to one million non-registered vessels actively use Florida's waters, and this segment of the boating population appears to still be growing. Florida waterways show signs of congestion as each year brings more residents and visitors together to use abundant water resources and enjoy Florida's boating lifestyle.



FWC Officers educate boaters about the importance of wearing a life jacket.

2024 Summary

Boating Accident Review

- Florida leads the nation with a total number of 1,030,053 registered vessels in 2024.
- There were 685 reportable boating accidents in 2024.

Reportable Boating Accident

- Collision with fixed object was the leading type of accident with a total of 209 (31%).
- Towed watersport activities were involved in 7 accidents, resulting in 8 injuries.
- Paddle/Human powered craft (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) were involved in 10 accidents resulting in 9 fatalities. (8 kayaks/canoes)
- May was the month with the highest number of accidents (104).
- Miami-Dade County reported the highest number of accidents and injuries (75 total accidents with 8 fatalities and 41 injuries).

Reportable Boating Fatalities

- 76 fatal accidents resulting in 81 fatalities.
- 41% of the fatal accidents resulted from collision with fixed object (15 accidents) and boaters falling overboard (15 accidents).
- The leading cause of death in fatal boating accidents was drowning with 37 fatalities (46%).
- May was the month with the highest number of fatalities (13).
- Alcohol or drug-use is reported to have played a role in 36% of boating fatalities.
- 82% (66) of the victims of fatal boating accidents were males.
- 64% (55) of 87 operators involved in fatal accidents were age 36 or older.
- 68% (57) of all vessels involved in fatal accidents in 2024 were 21 feet in length or less.

Reportable Boating Injuries

- There were 274 accidents that resulted in 394 injured persons. The rate of injury was 39 injuries per 100,000 registered vessels.

Reportable Personal Watercraft Accidents

- Personal watercraft (PWC) accounted for 17% of all registered vessels in Florida.
- PWC were involved in 22% (149) of reportable boating accidents.
- 52% (78) of PWC accidents involved a collision with another vessel.
- 40% of PWC accidents occurred in Miami-Dade (24), Pinellas (19) and Okaloosa (16) counties.
- 12 fatalities resulted from the 149 PWC accidents.
- 113 people were injured in PWC accidents.

Boating Education Statistics

- FWC issued 74,116 Boating Safety Education ID Cards in 2024.
- 70% of the cards were issued to persons born on or after January 1, 1988.
- Of the 74,116 cards issued, 55,728 were to males, 18,732 were to females. An additional 437 cards did not list gender. 12,576 cards were issued to out-of-state residents.
- 65% of operators involved in fatal accidents had no formal boater education.

NOTE: Most boating accident statistics for 2024 were compiled on April 1, 2024. Some minor discrepancies may be noted in some totals and percentages due to variances of when a boating accident report was entered into the database versus when the statistics for this report were calculated. In 2024, there was one person unaccounted for and updated information regarding their status was not available at the time this report was compiled. The one missing person has been included in the fatality data.

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While preparing to depart the marina dock, a fire and large explosion occurred near the vessel's engine compartment. The explosion caused the occupants to be thrown inside the vessel resulting in injuries and significant damage to the vessel.

Note: All photos courtesy of the FWC unless otherwise stated.

2024 Boating Accident Review



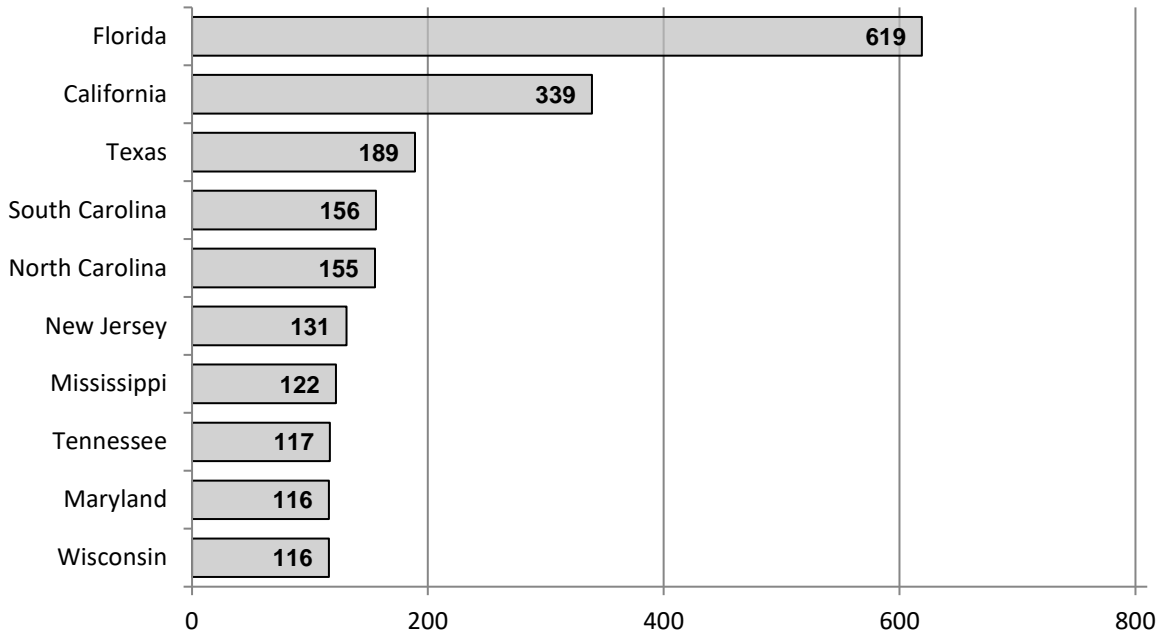
To the left: The vessel was cruising and struck an unknown submerged object. This caused the operator to fall forward, lose consciousness and pin the throttle. The vessel changed directions and crashed into the east shoreline, hitting a large palm tree.

Below: A 19-foot vessel was departing from a marina when the operator began reversing. Upon noticing the outboard motor was nearing a seawall and a docked vessel, the operator throttled forward to stop. The vessel quickly accelerated to a high rate of speed, causing it to exit the water nearly vertical and ramp up onto the deck before coming to a rest on top of the sea wall.



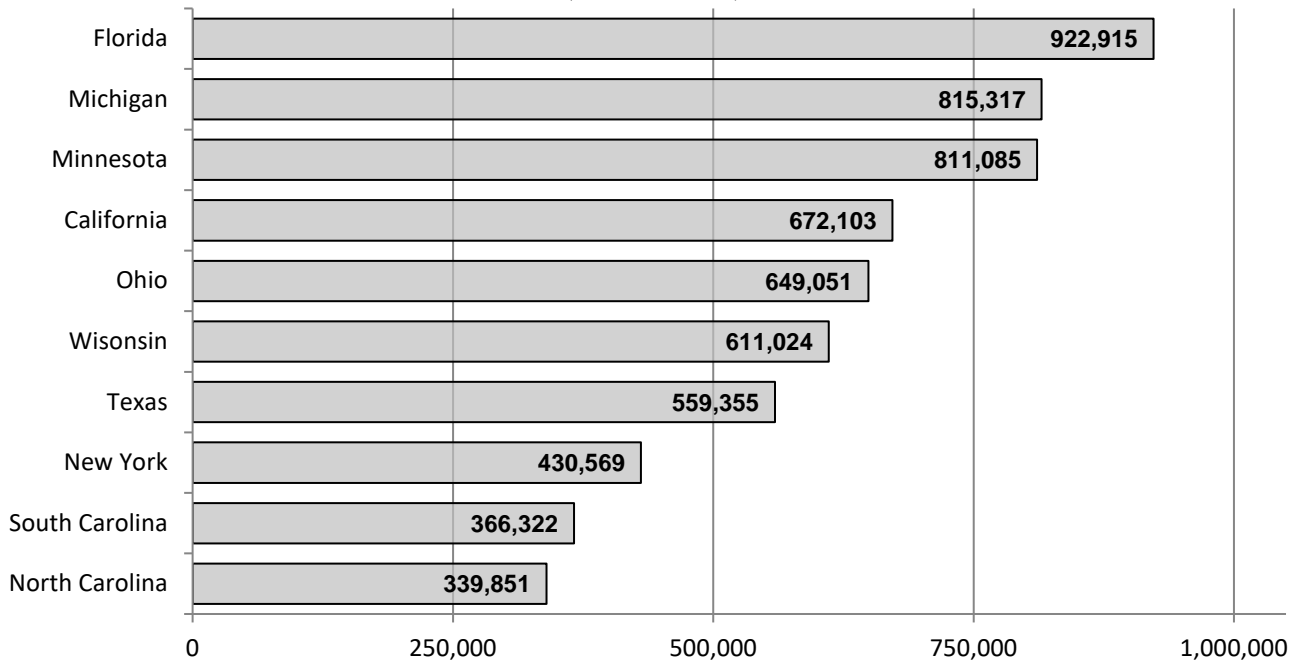
2024 Boating Accident Review

Number Of Accidents - Top Ten States 2023 (Recreational)



*Based on \$2,000 damage threshold. Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division

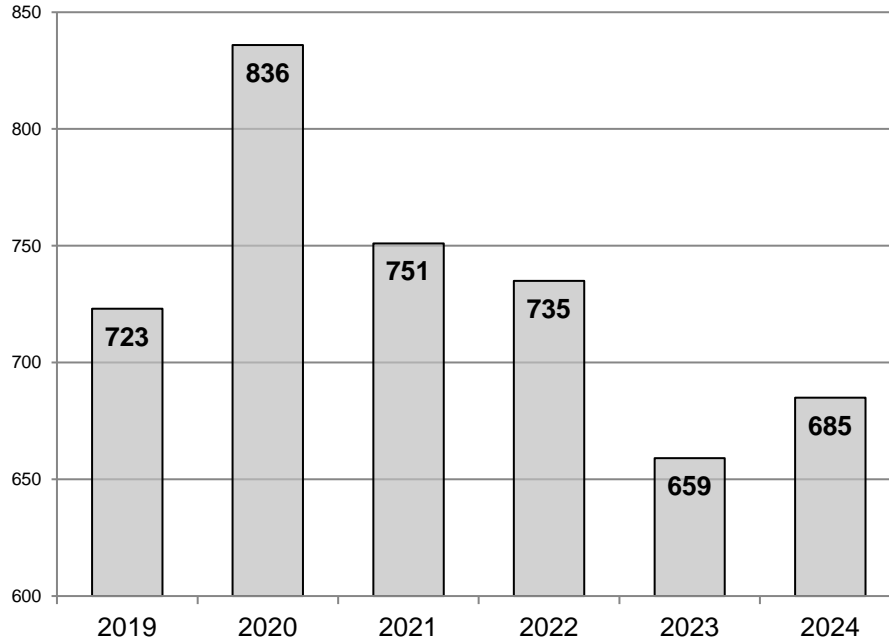
Registered Vessels - Top Ten States 2023 (Recreational)



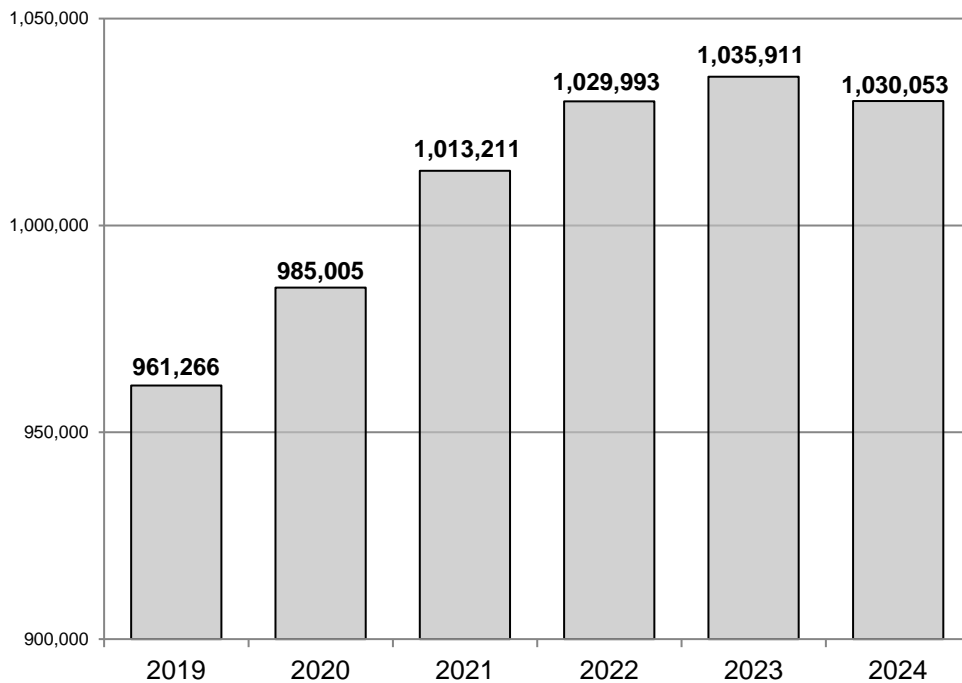
*Totals represent the number of recreationally registered vessels in 2023. Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division.

2024 Boating Accident Review

2019 - 2024 Florida Reportable Accidents



2019-2024 Total Florida Registered Vessels



*Totals represent all currently registered vessels for that year. Source: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).

Reportable Boating Accidents



A 36-foot vessel was traveling down the St. Johns River when the vessel struck channel marker 20 at approximately 30 mph. The operator struck their head on the T top and was knocked to the floor of the vessel.



Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

2024 Vessel Registration and Accidents by County

County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	11,001	11,232	1	1			51	1:11,232
Baker	3,152	3,166						
Bay	17,514	18,387	19		13	361,800	11	1:968
Bradford	2,734	2,758						
Brevard	35,001	36,280	29	2	23	307,850	8	1:1,251
Broward	43,744	45,187	20	1	19	494,501	10	1:2,259
Calhoun	1,592	1,617						
Charlotte	24,262	24,849	8		9	731,401	25	1:3,106
Citrus	17,885	18,551	17	3	4	81,500	12	1:1,091
Clay	13,079	13,268	11	1	5	22,300	19	1:1,206
Collier	24,472	25,412	11	3	16	29,050	20	1:2,310
Columbia	4,540	4,584	1		1		52	1:4,584
Desoto	2,569	2,644	4	2	5	27,000	33	1:661
Dixie	2,785	2,976	4		3	2,112,500	34	1:744
Duval	26,938	27,531	14		5	278,017	16	1:1,967
Escambia	16,366	16,663	10	2	5	48,100	22	1:1,666
Flagler	7,034	7,141	2		2	38,500	45	1:3,571
Franklin	2,763	3,303	8		1	32,300	23	1:413
Gadsden	2,484	2,512						
Gilchrist	2,380	2,406	1			2,500	50	1:2,406
Glades	1,442	1,459	3		3	33,000	41	1:486
Gulf	2,963	3,200	5	1	3	20,510	32	1:640
Hamilton	945	951						
Hardee	1,584	1,612						
Hendry	3,048	3,124	3		3	8,500	42	1:1,041
Hernando	11,815	12,048	3		7	3,710	43	1:4,016
Highlands	9,513	9,634	3	2		2,000	44	1:3,211
Hillsborough	41,874	42,588	15	4	10	382,500	15	1:2,839
Holmes	2,304	2,329						
Indian River	11,149	11,545	5		2	156,240	31	1:2,309
Jackson	4,506	4,521						
Jefferson	2,316	2,351						
Lafayette	1,071	1,087						
Lake	24,675	24,962	13	1	11	203,500	17	1:1,920
Lee	48,139	49,452	35	1	12	240,111	6	1:1,413

*Accident Rate = # of Registered Vessels / # of Accidents. Top 10 counties for incidents are in **bold**. Fields that equal zero intentionally left blank.

Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

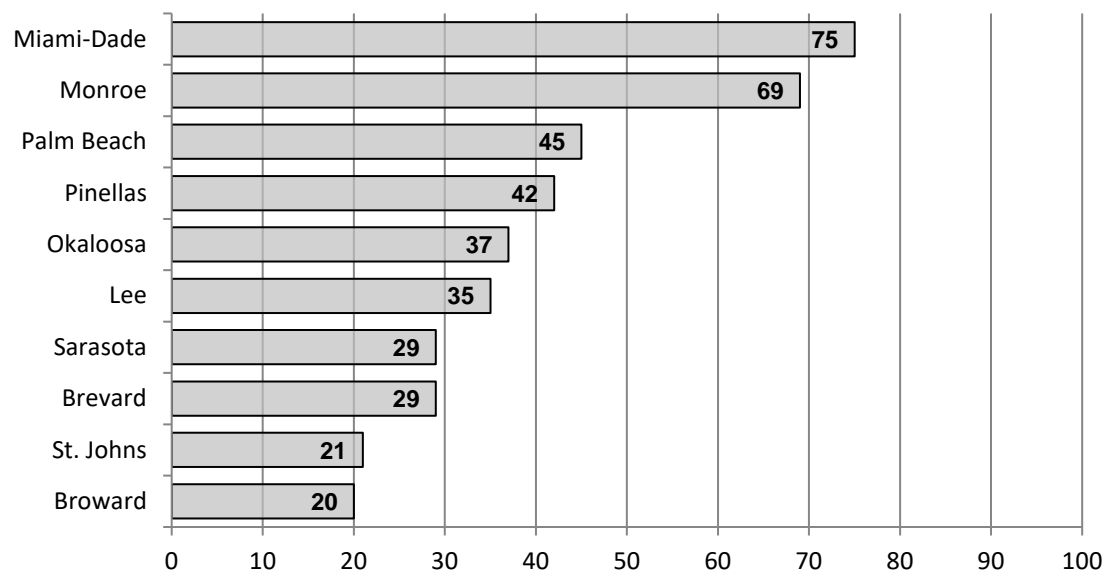
2024 Vessel Registration and Accidents by County (continued)

County	Recreational Vessels	Total Vessels	Reportable Accidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Leon	10,034	10,149	2	1	3	17,000	46	1:5,075
Levy	5,308	5,698	4	1	2	4,500	35	1:1,425
Liberty	1,455	1,477						
Madison	1,272	1,281						
Manatee	26,432	27,381	14	6	5	126,900	18	1:1,956
Marion	21,753	21,961	6	2	3	9,200	26	1:3,660
Martin	17,651	18,415	17	0	4	583,000	13	1:1,083
Miami-Dade	73,713	76,585	75	8	41	2,119,681	1	1:1,021
Monroe	27,838	30,861	69	10	43	1,120,077	2	1:447
Nassau	7,553	7,718	7	1	5	100,3500	24	1:1,103
Okaloosa	19,416	20,178	37		12	446,251	5	1:545
Okeechobee	5,441	5,574						
Orange	34,605	35,221	2		4	36,500	47	1:17,611
Osceola	9,808	9,950	3		3	2,499	39	1:3,317
Palm Beach	36,814	37,905	45	5	16	632,350	3	1:842
Pasco	28,934	29,455	5		3	31,000	30	1:5,891
Pinellas	50,561	52,174	42	6	24	933,851	4	1:1,242
Polk	31,174	31,622	3	2		2,500	40	1:10,541
Putnam	8,545	8,793	4	1	1	100,000	36	1:2,198
Santa Rosa	17,284	17,545	6	2	5	17,000	29	1:2,924
Sarasota	24,732	25,233	29	2	18	172,130	7	1:870
Seminole	16,662	16,857	6	1	5	36,215	28	1:2,810
St. Johns	16,942	17,443	21	3	14	9,231,150	9	1:831
St. Lucie	13,819	14,432	16	2	4	171,850	14	1:902
Sumter	5,162	5,228	2		3	1,000	48	1:2,614
Suwannee	3,226	3,257	1			5,000	49	1:3,257
Taylor	3,733	3,888	3		2	39,000	38	1:1,296
Union	1,092	1,100						
Volusia	28,497	29,376	11	1	7	69,500	21	1:2,671
Wakulla	5,863	6,173	6	2	1	69,700	27	1:1,029
Walton	7,987	8,187	4	1	4	5,500	37	1:2,047
Washington	3,015	3,048						
DHSMV	3,071	4,558						
TOTAL	999,717	1,030,053	685	81	394	121,701,094		1:1,504

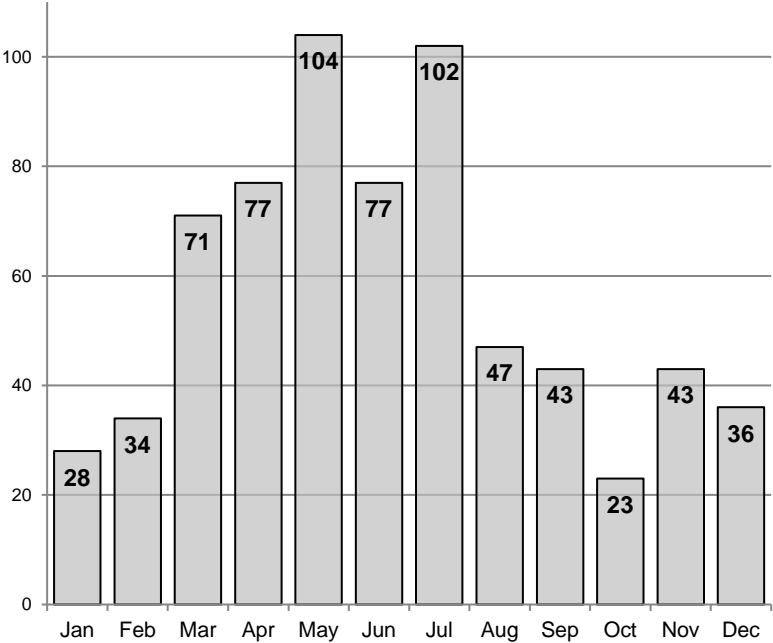
*Accident Rate=# of Registered Vessels / # of Accidents. Top 10 counties for incidents are in bold. Fields that equal zero intentionally left blank. Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) numbers represent registrations issued at agency headquarters instead of the county level.

2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

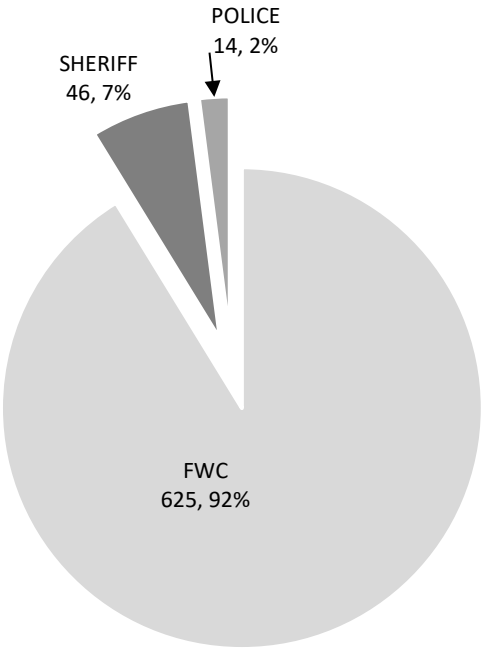
Top Ten Counties



Accidents By Month

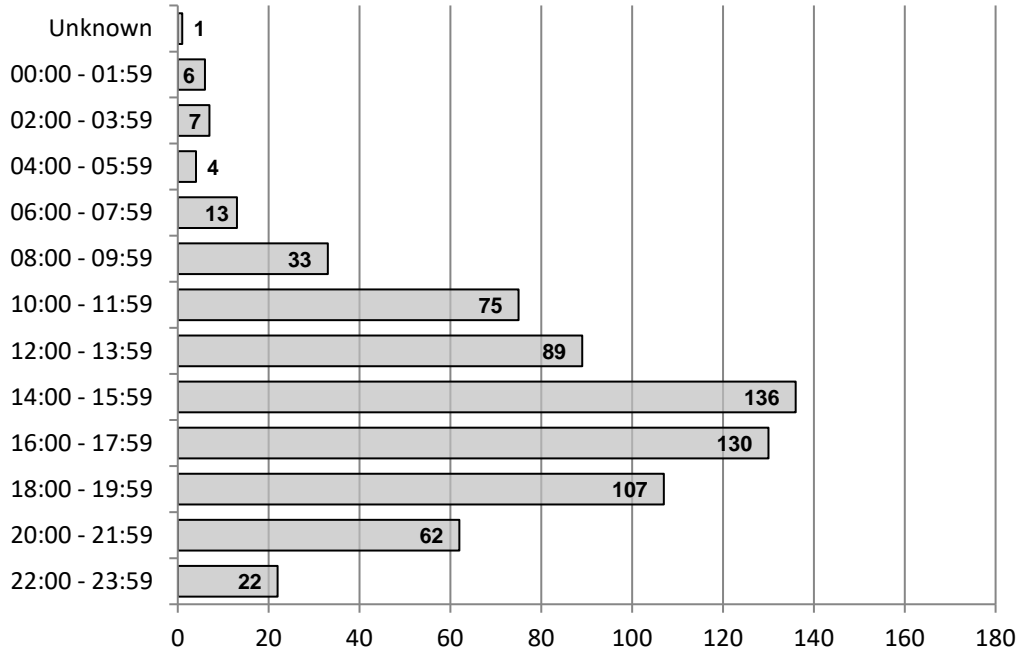


Investigating Agency



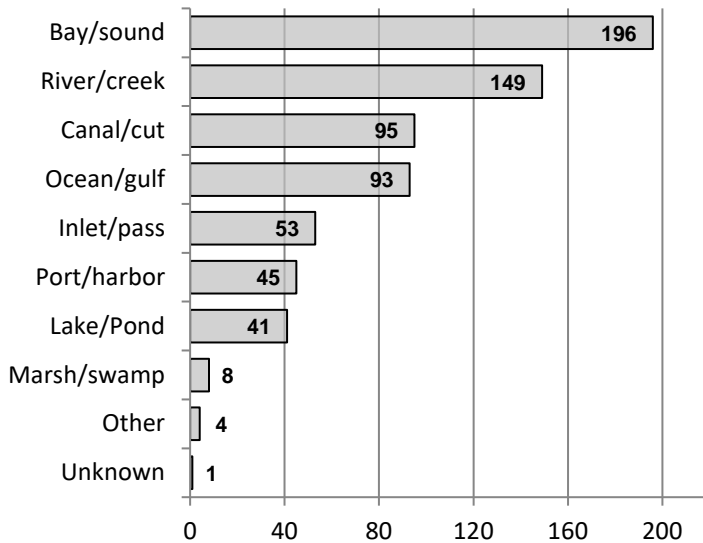
2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

Time Of Day

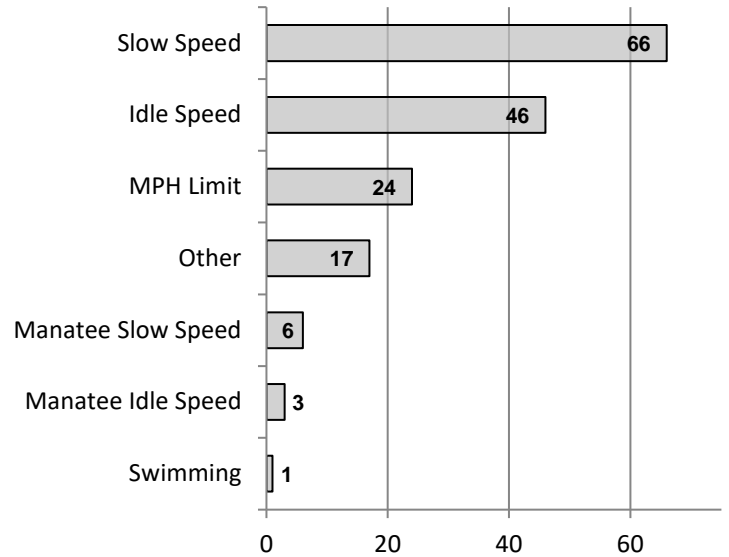


*685 total accidents

Accident Site Location



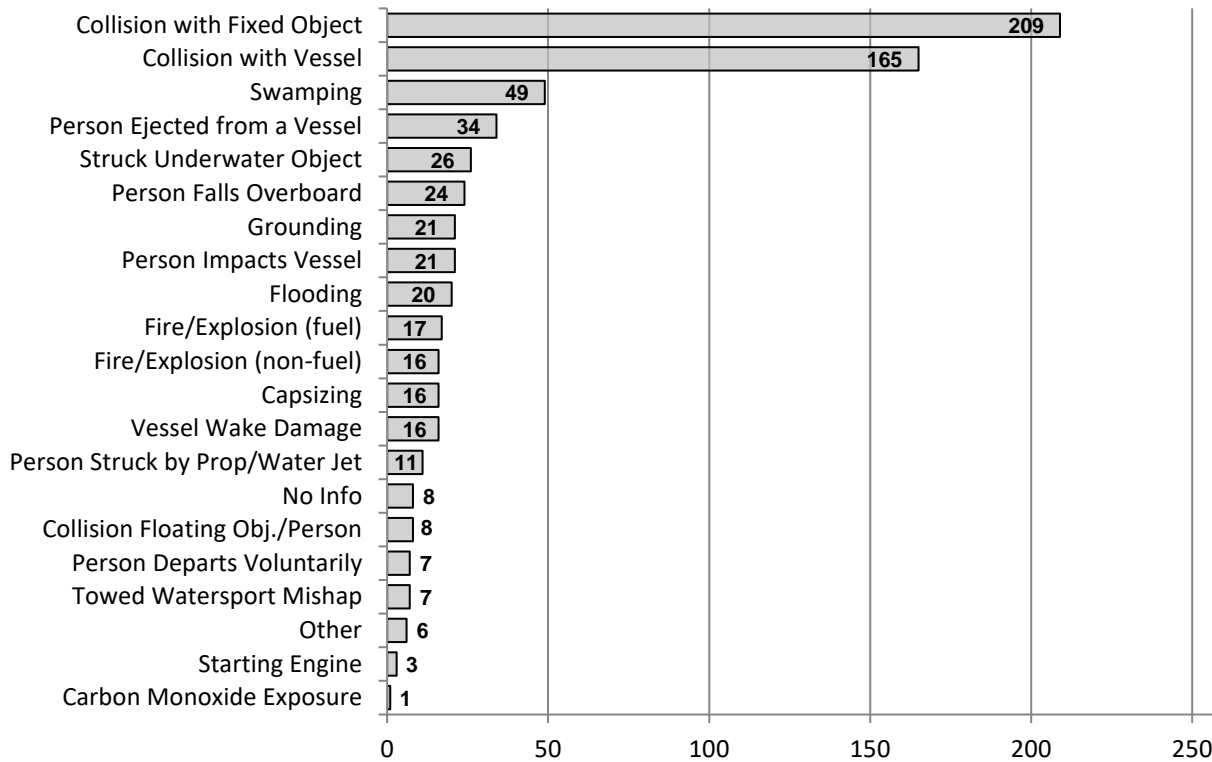
Restricted Area Accidents



*163 total accidents in restricted areas
 "Other" may include areas where the regulation or local ordinance was not specified.

2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

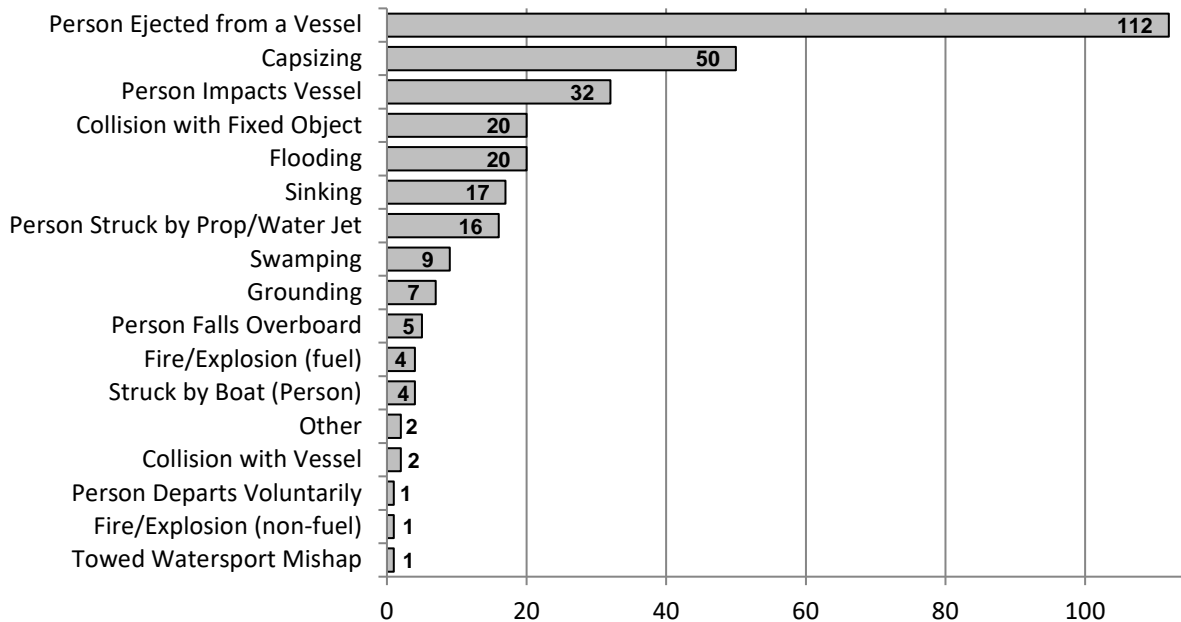
Primary Type Of Accident



*685 accidents involving 1,019 vessels

Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority)

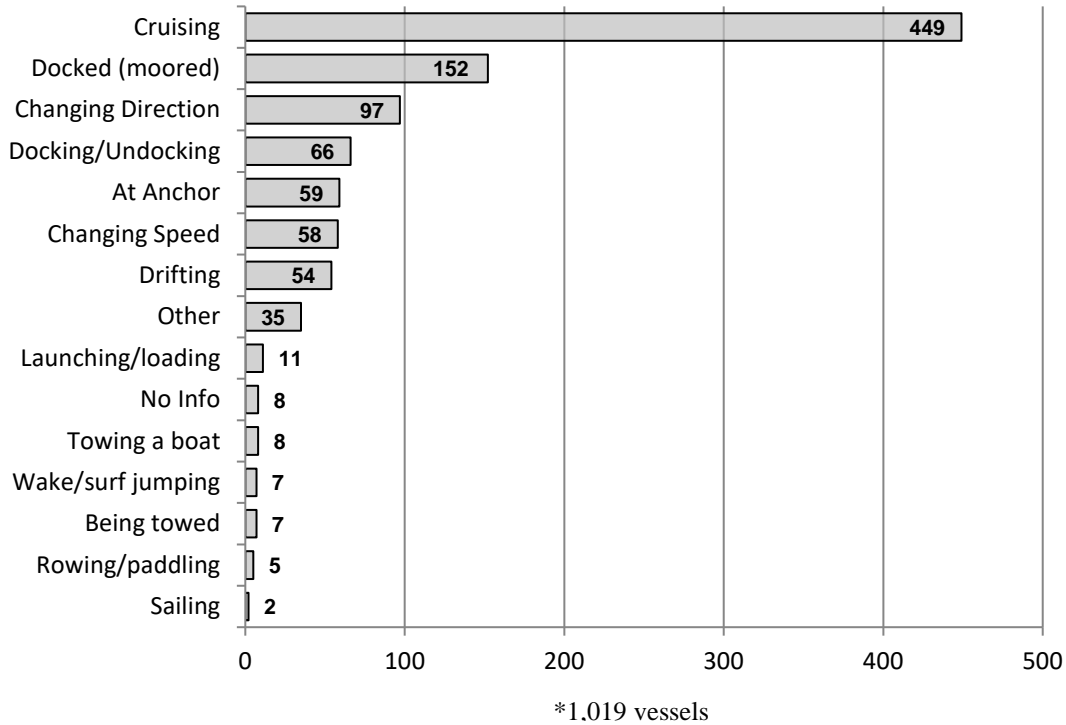
Secondary Type Of Accident



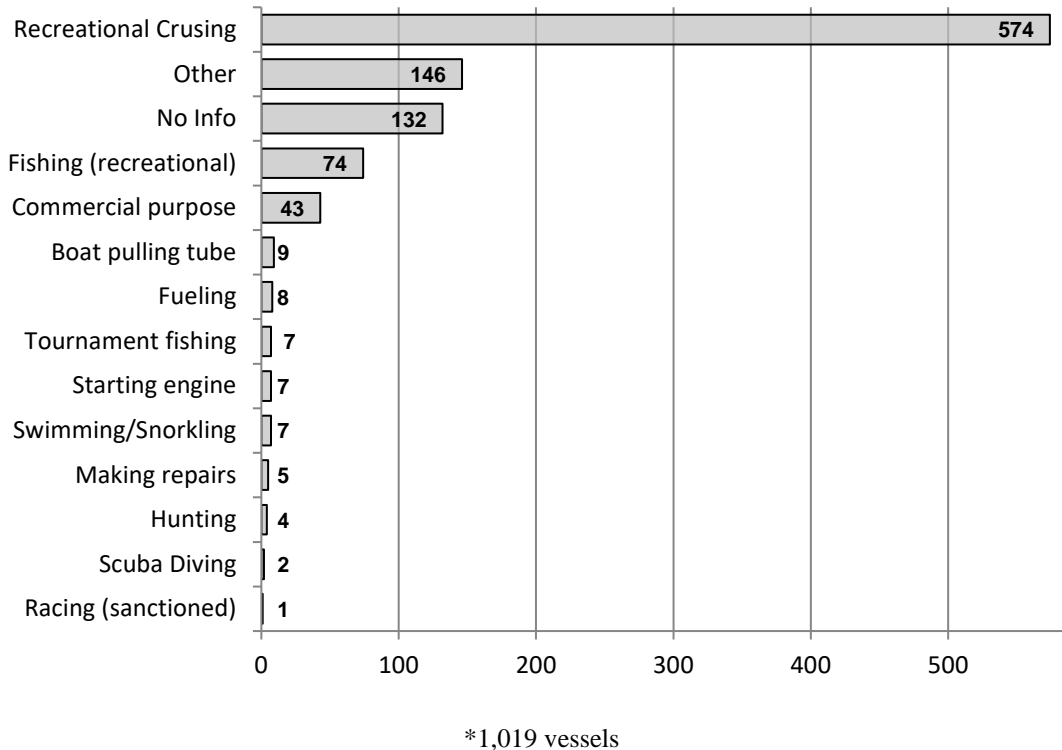
*383 of the 685 accidents did not have a secondary type of accident

2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

Operation At Time Of Accident

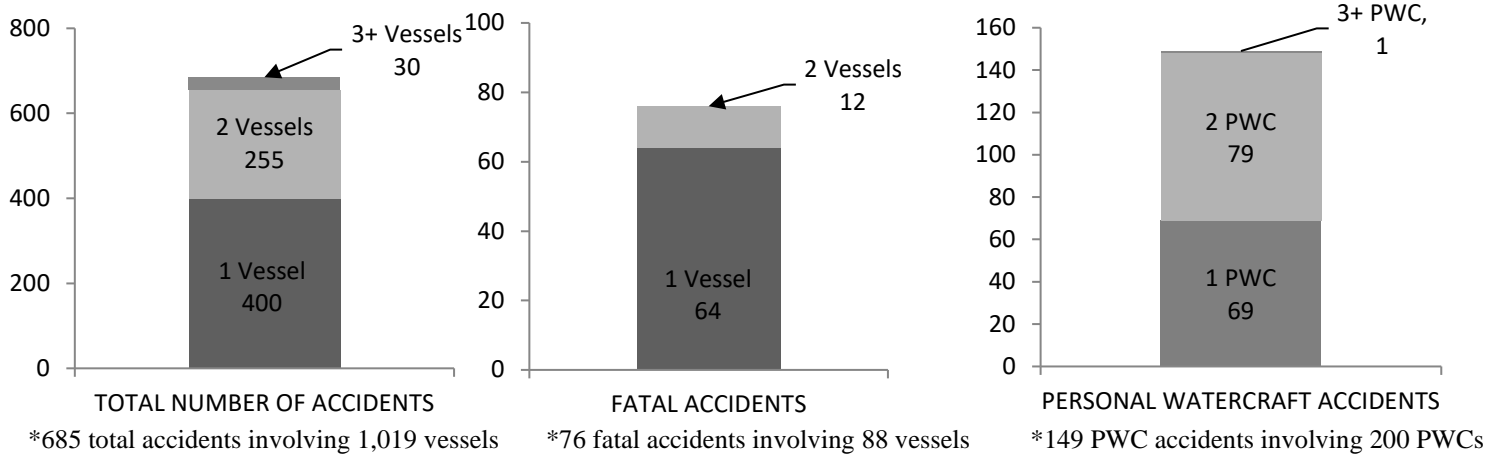


Activity At Time Of Accident

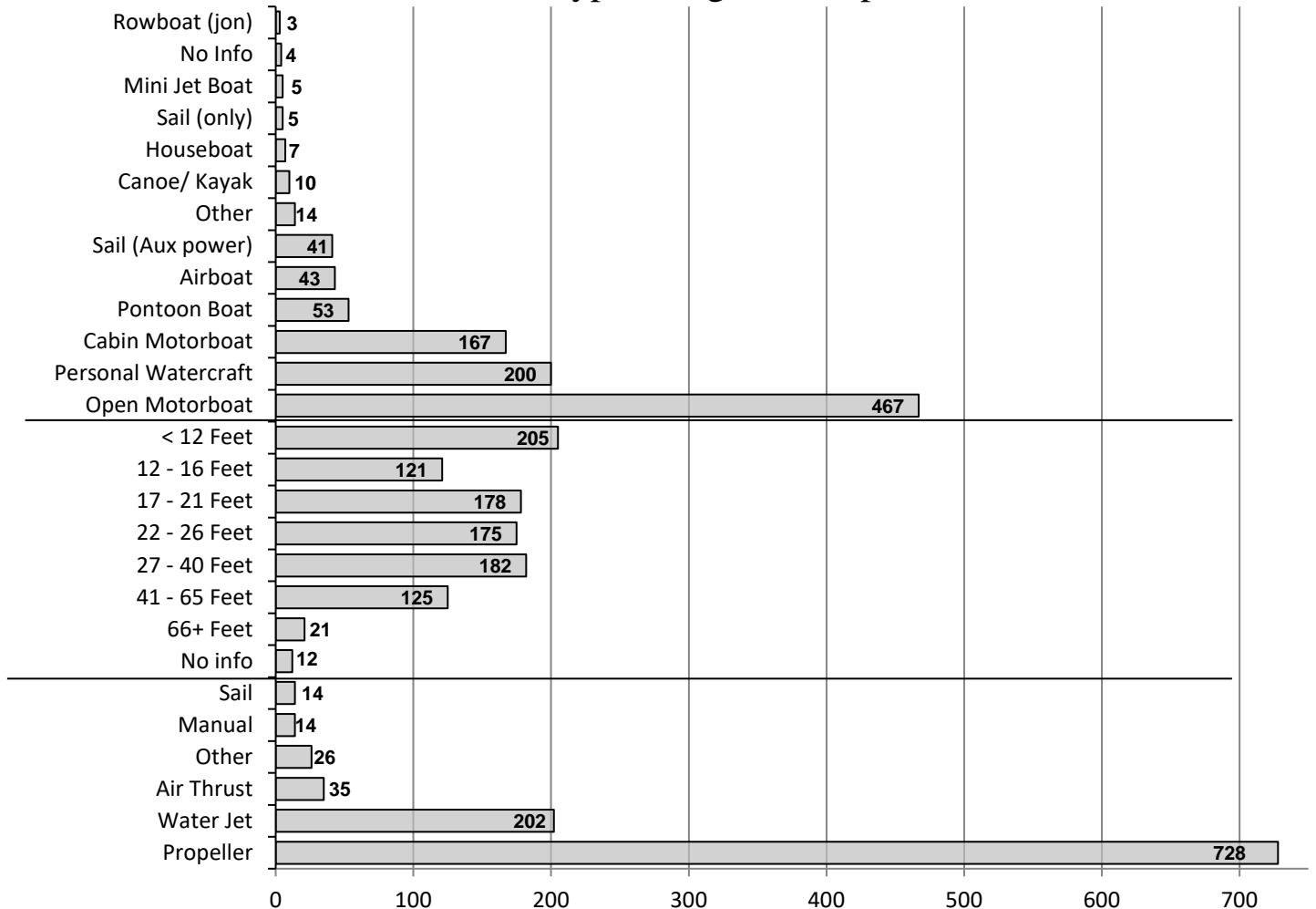


2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

Vessel Count In Reportable Accidents



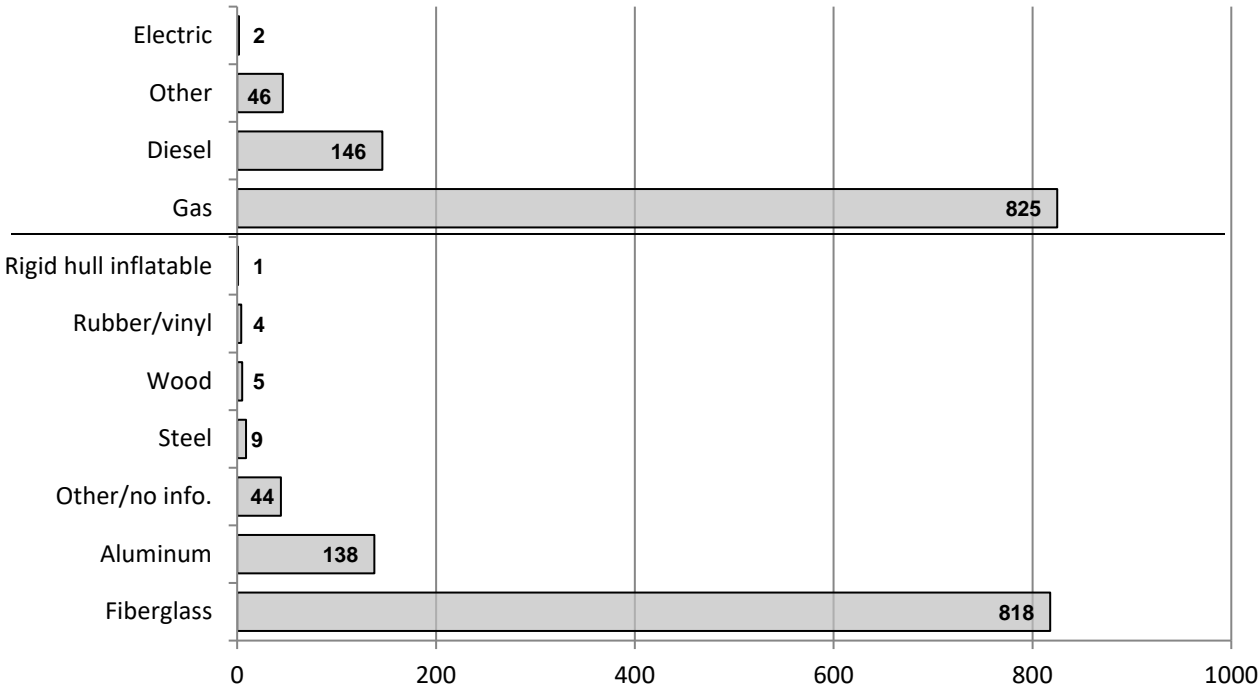
Vessel Type, Length & Propulsion



*685 accidents involving 1,019 vessels

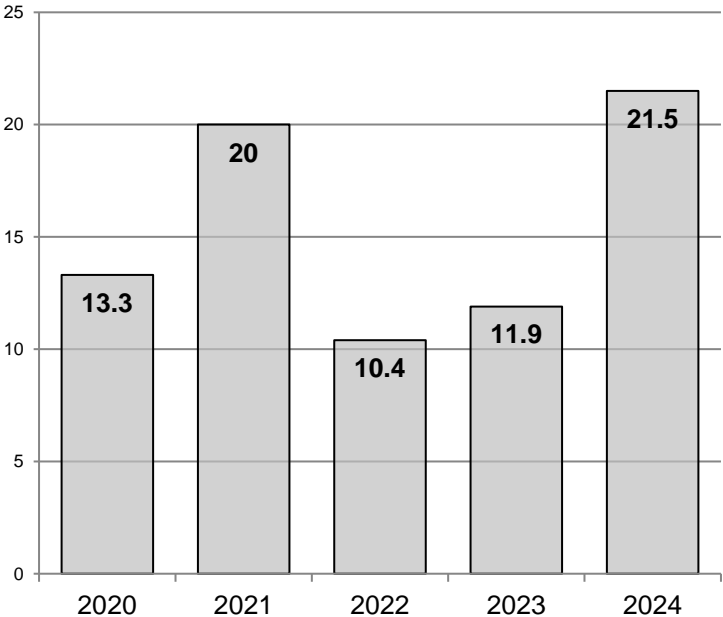
2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

Vessel Fuel & Hull Type

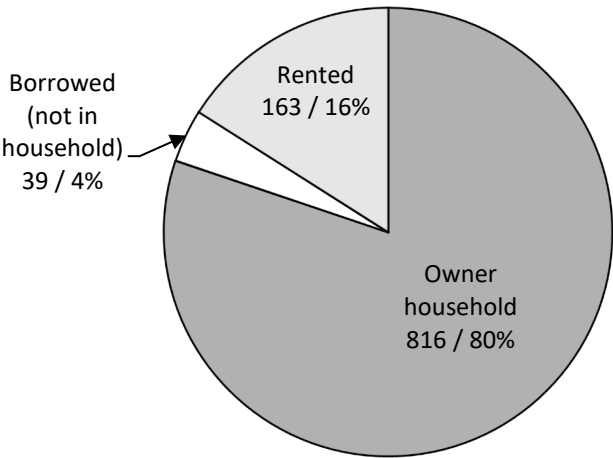


*685 accidents involving 1,019 vessels

Vessel & Property Damage Figures (In Millions)

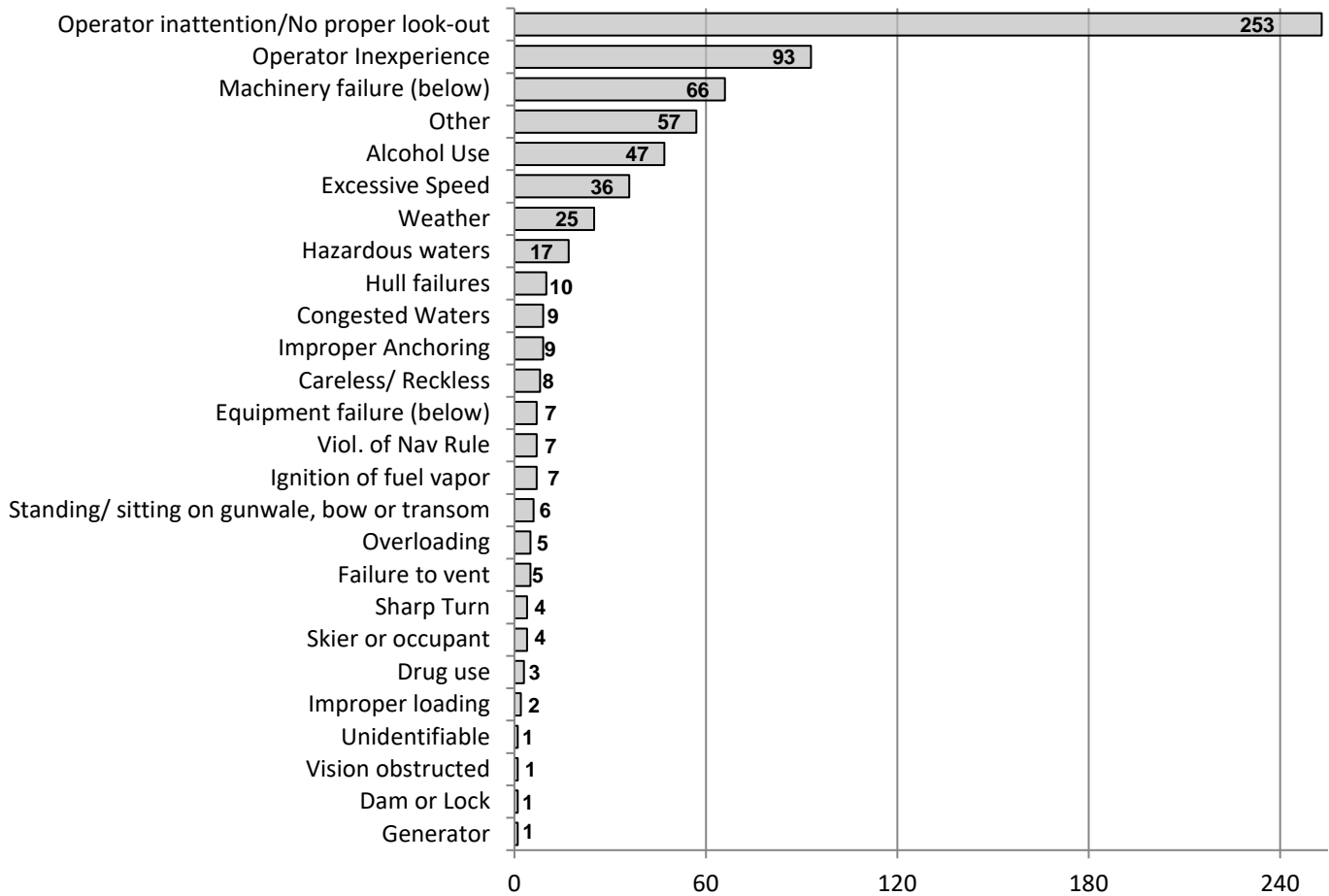


Vessel Ownership

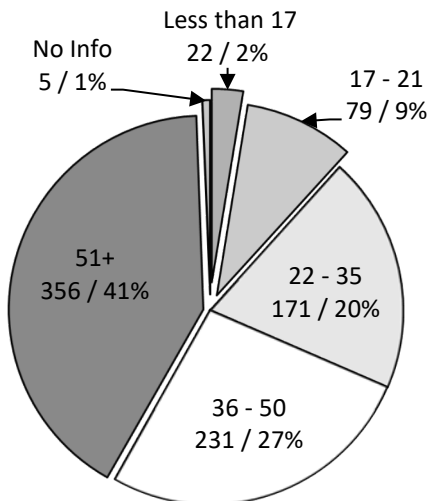


2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

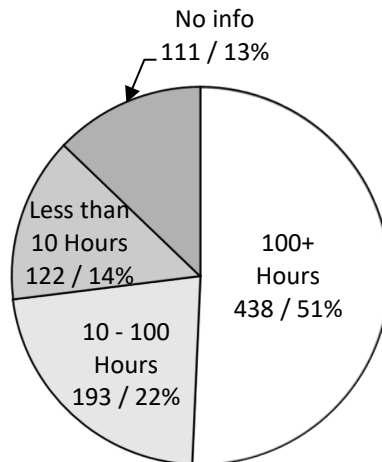
Primary Cause Assessed By Reviewing Authority



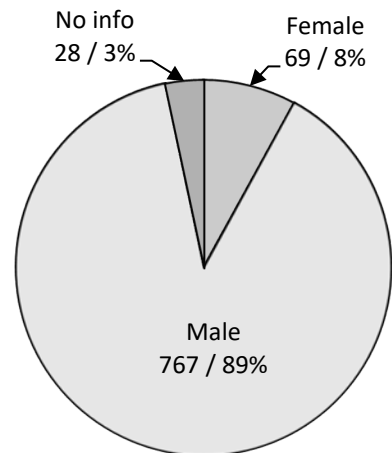
Operator Age



OPERATOR EXPERIENCE
(HOURS)



Operator Gender

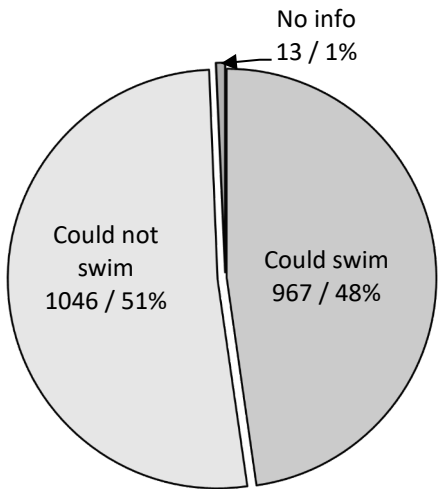


*685 accidents involving 863 operators

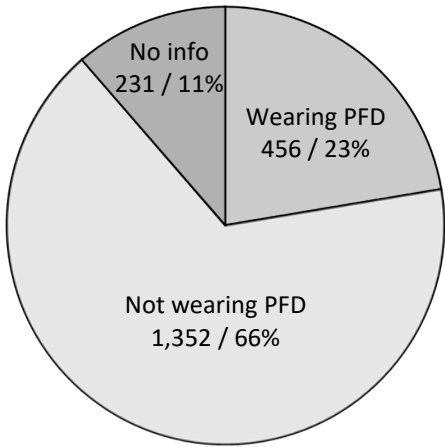
Vessels may have been docked, anchored, or involved in a hit and run accident, which would result in no operator information or information was not provided by operators

2024 Reportable Boating Accidents

Operator/Occupant Swimming Ability

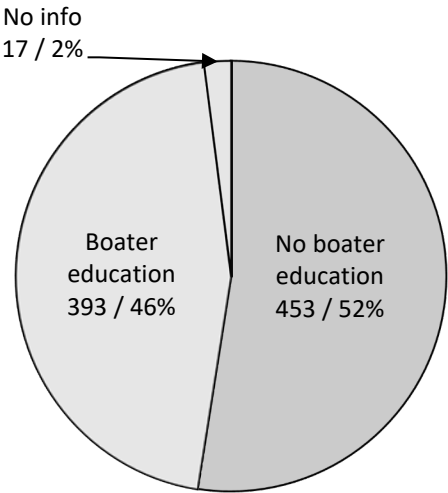


Operator/Occupant PFD Use



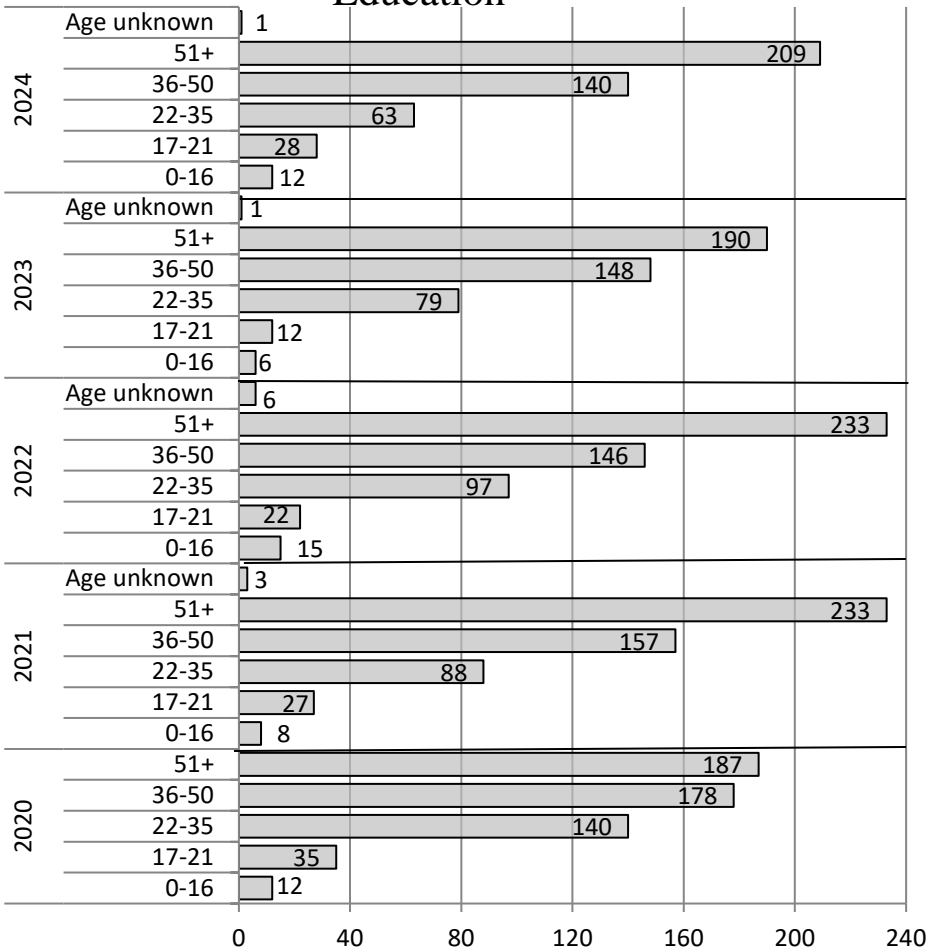
*2,038 total occupants and operators, information on 25 occupants was not provided

Boat Operator Education

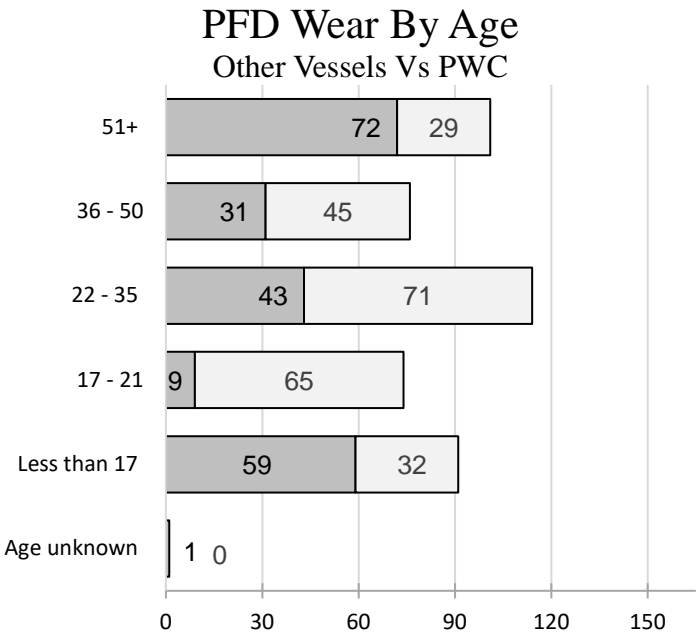


*863 operators

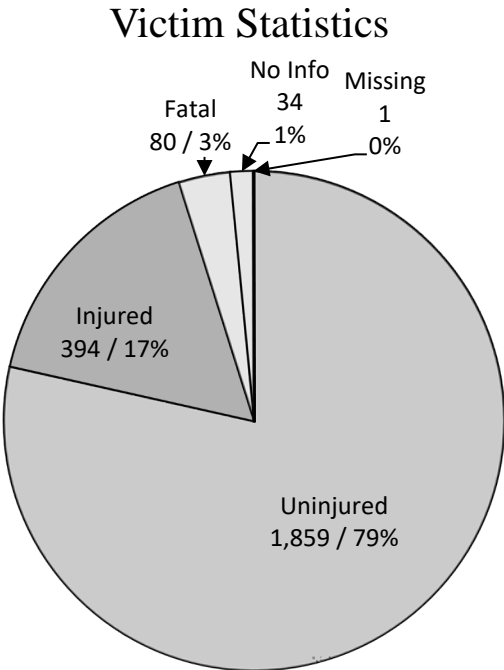
Operator By Age With No Boater Education



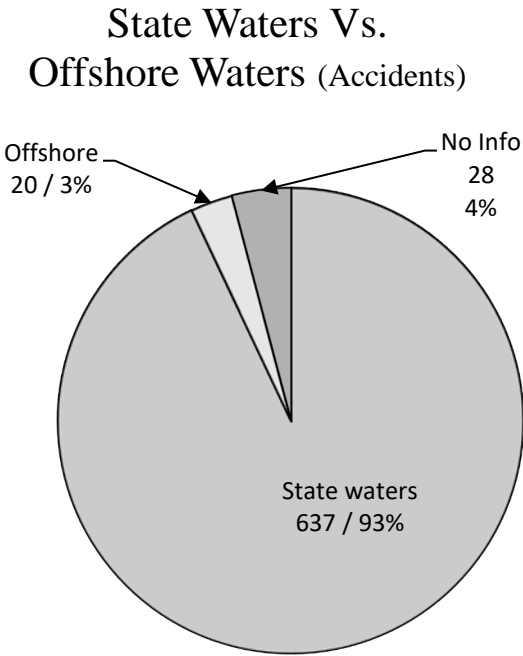
2024 Reportable Boating Accidents



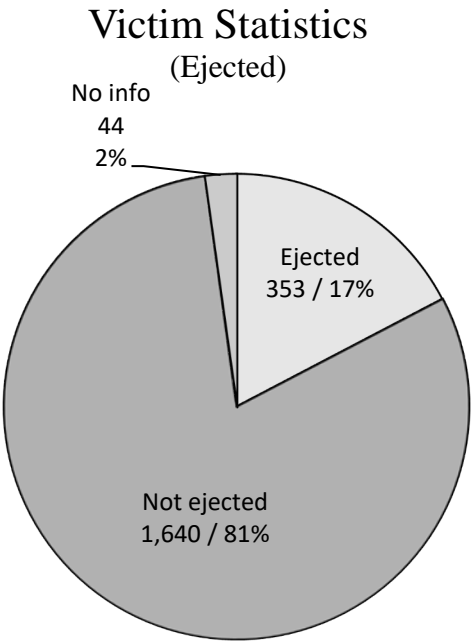
*457 of 2,038 operators/occupants were wearing a PFD at time of the accident. Two persons did not provide an age. Other vessel types versus PWC due to law requiring PFD wear for PWC



*2,368 persons involved in vessel accidents



*Offshore is defined as the edge of the Gulfstream or 3 miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than 9 miles from shore in the Gulf of America



*2,038 total operators and occupants

Boating Fatalities

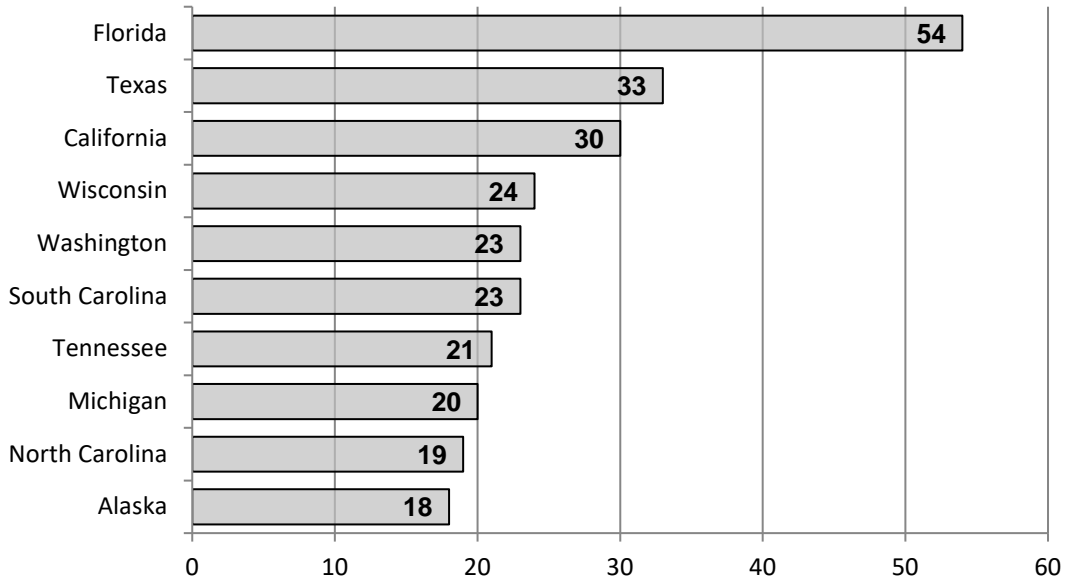


The 26-foot vessel (top photo) was traveling north on the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach. The vessel, which had two people onboard, struck a concrete dock (bottom photo) and the operator was ejected from the vessel. The passenger was thrown forward and knocked unconscious. As a result of the accident, the operator was fatally injured.



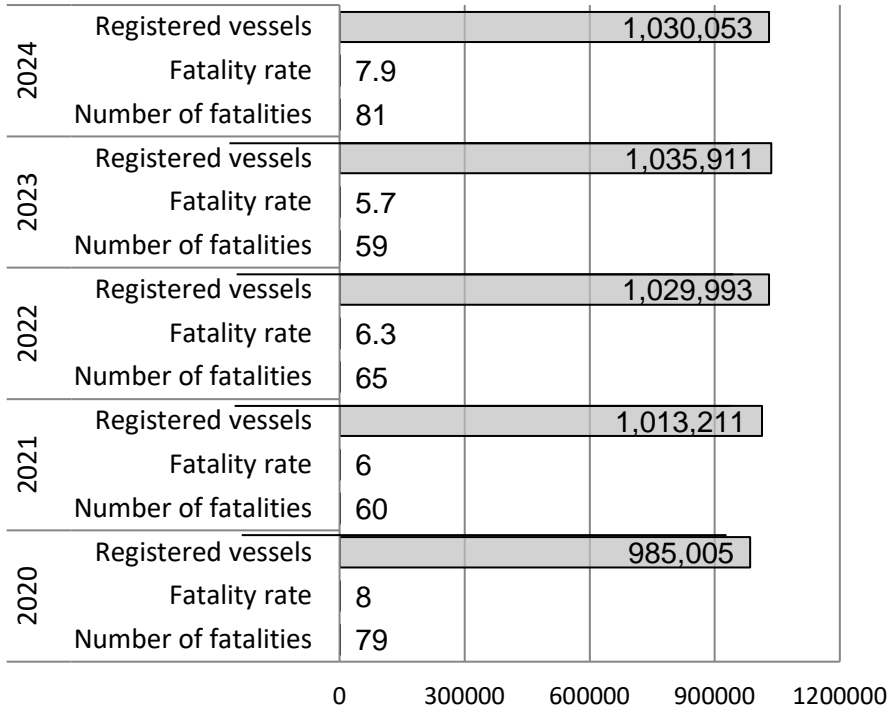
2024 Boating Fatalities

2023 Fatal Accidents - Top Ten States

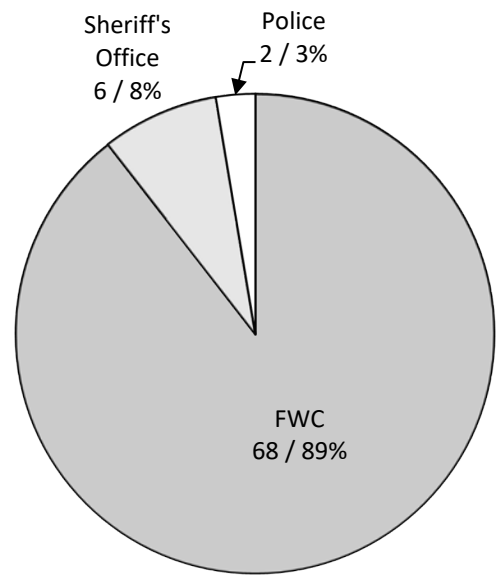


Source: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division (recreational fatalities)

Florida Total Fatalities Recorded



Investigating Agency

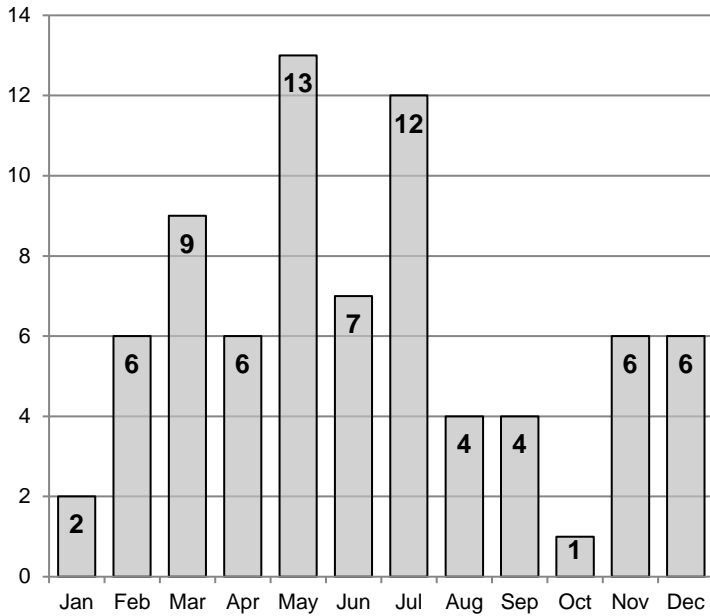


*76 fatal accidents

*Fatality Rate – Number of fatalities per 100,000 registered vessels

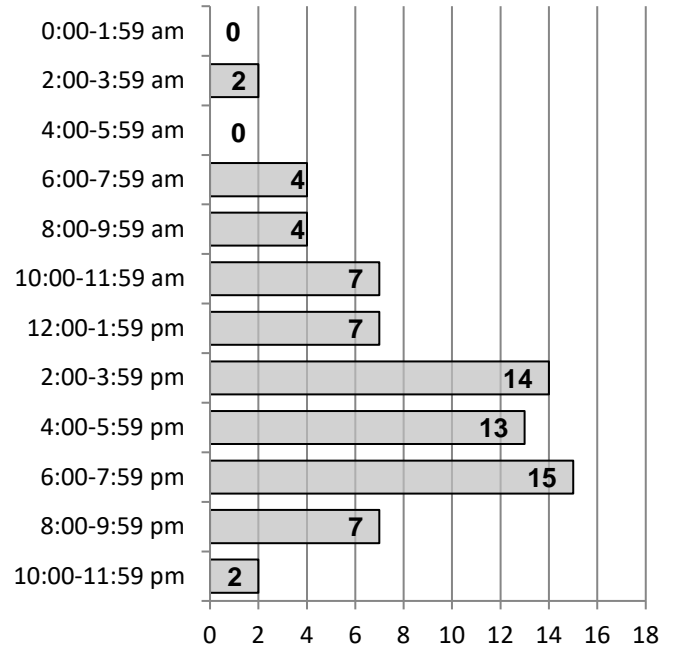
2024 Boating Fatalities

Accidents By Month

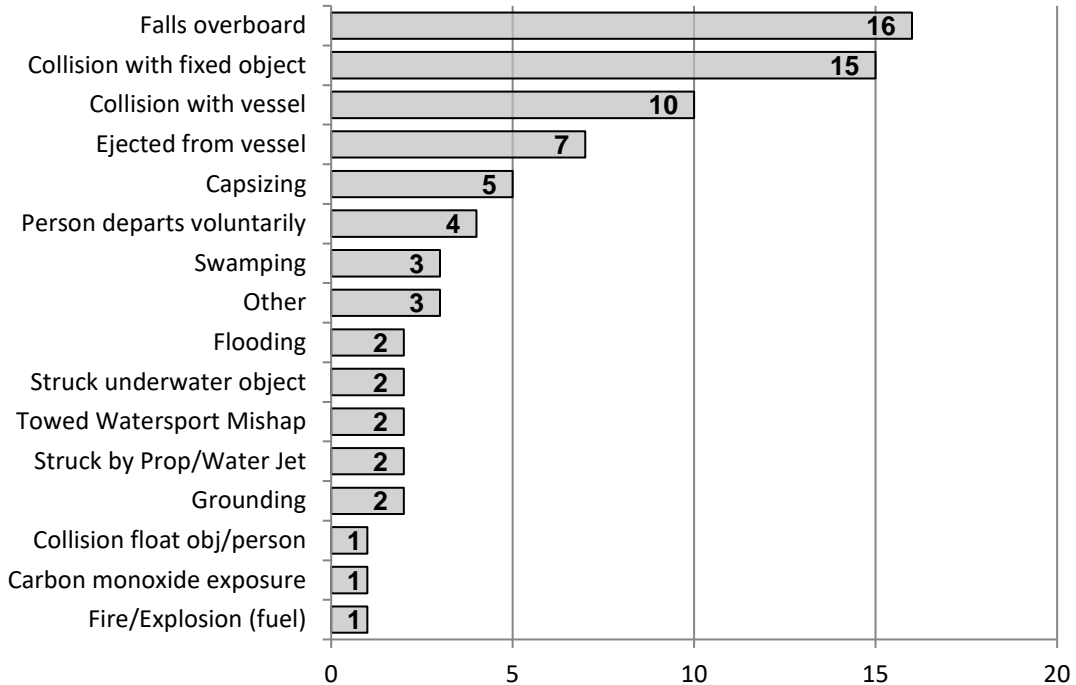


*76 fatal accidents involving 81 fatalities

Time Of Day



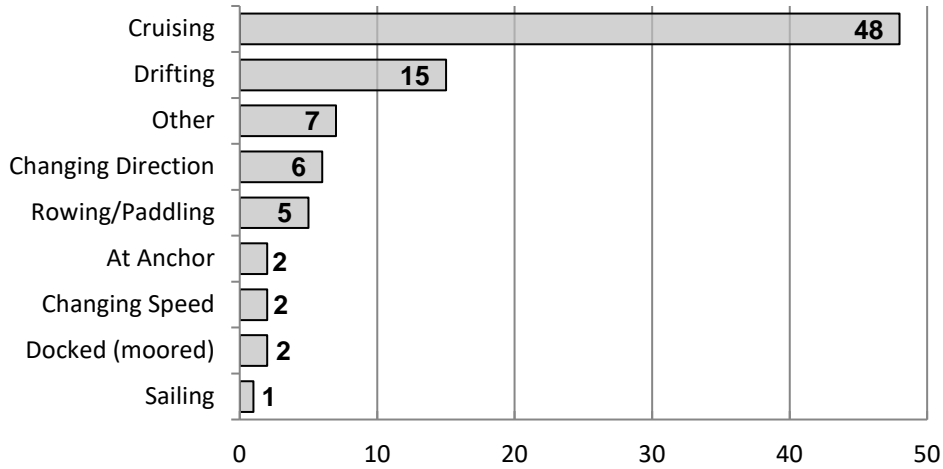
Accident Types



*76 fatal accidents involving 81 fatalities (Based on first harmful event)

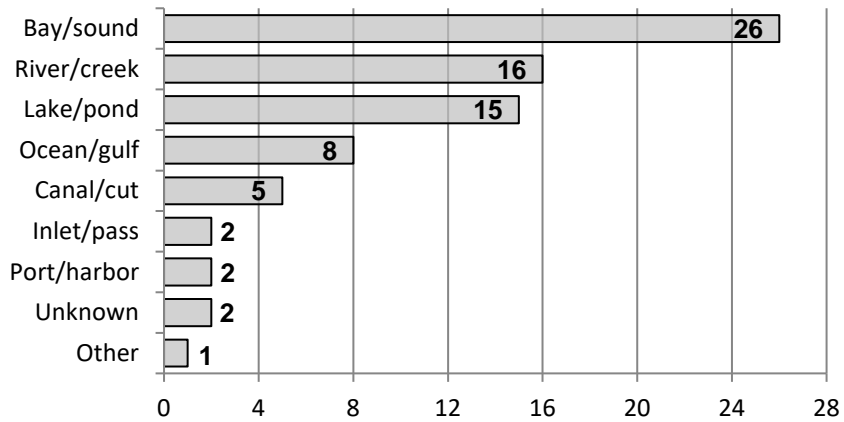
2024 Boating Fatalities

Operation At Time Of Accident

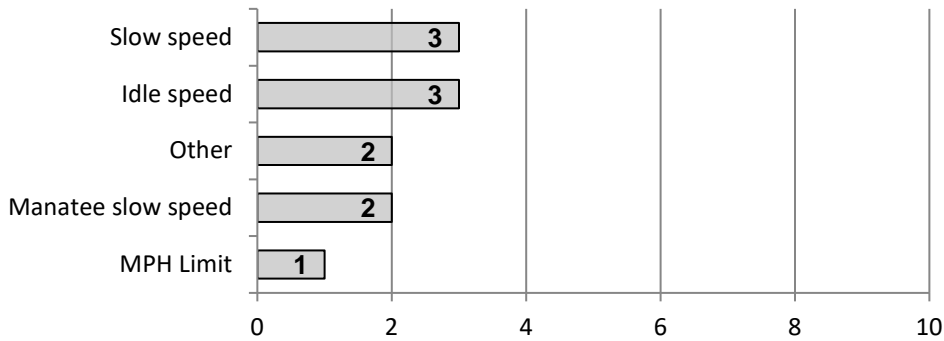


*88 vessels involved in 76 fatal accidents

Accident Site Location



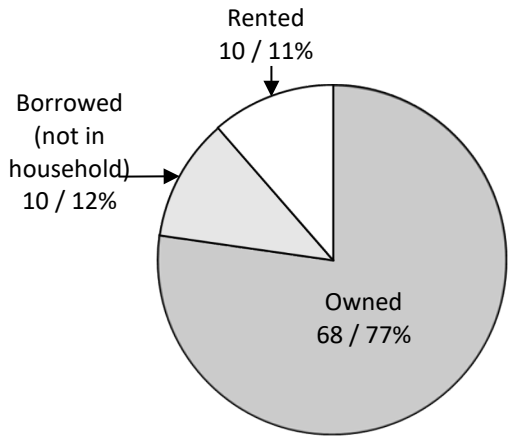
Restricted Area Accidents



*11 of 76 fatal accidents occurred in restricted areas. "Other" may include areas where the regulation or local ordinance was not specified.

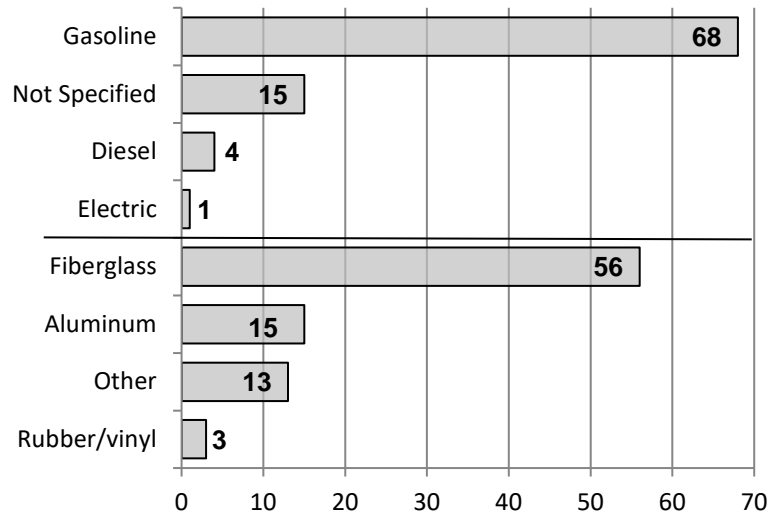
2024 Boating Fatalities

Vessel Ownership

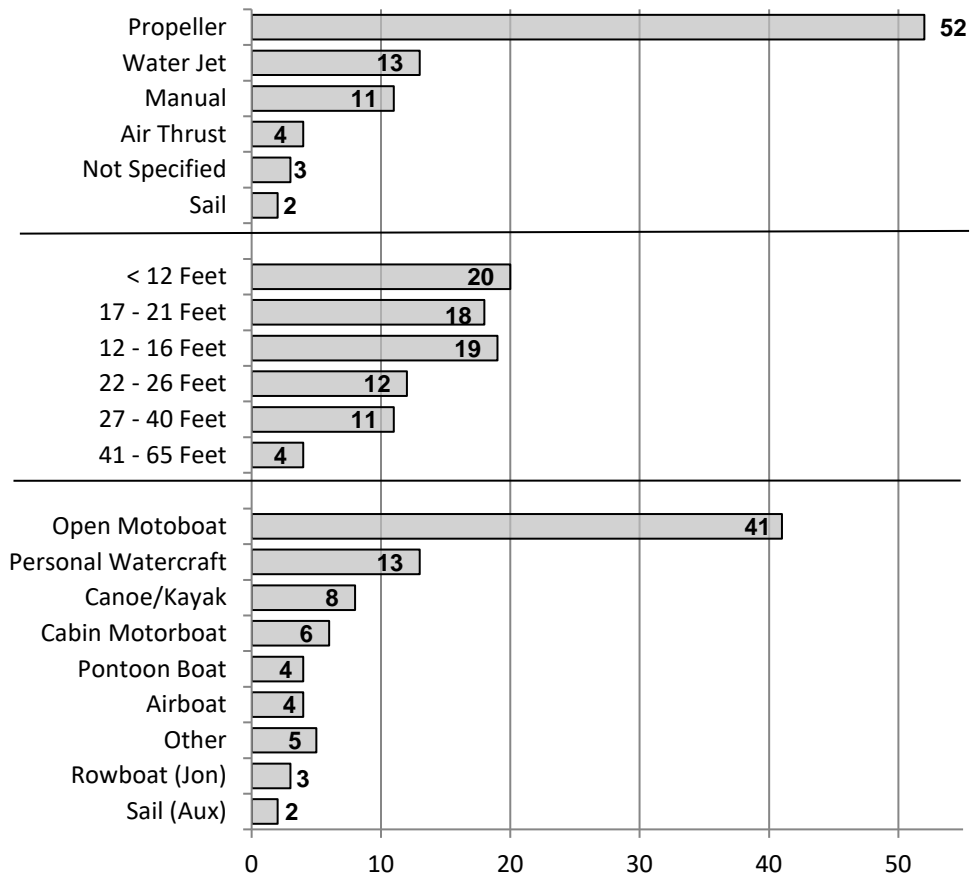


*76 total fatal accidents involving 88 vessels

Vessel Fuel & Hull Type

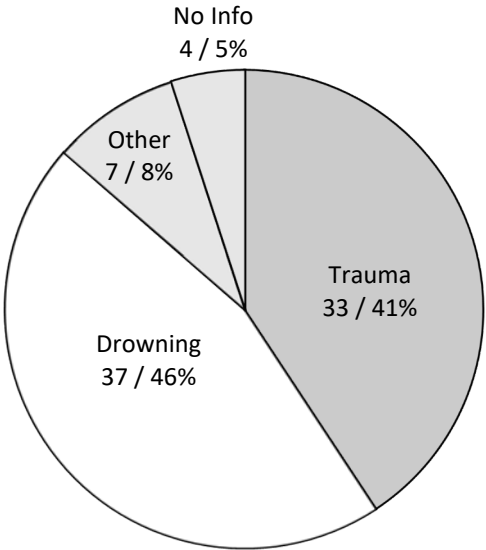


Vessel Propulsion, Length & Type



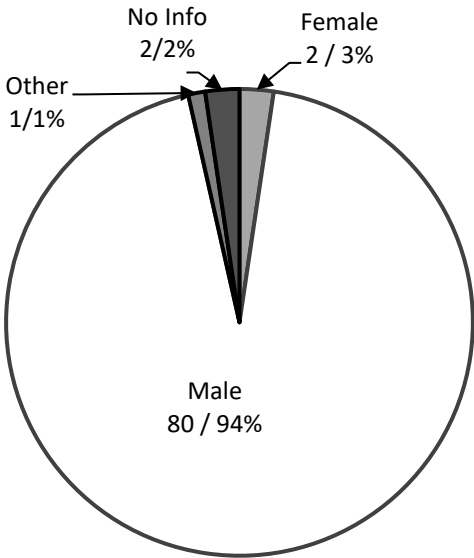
2024 Boating Fatalities

Primary Cause Of Death



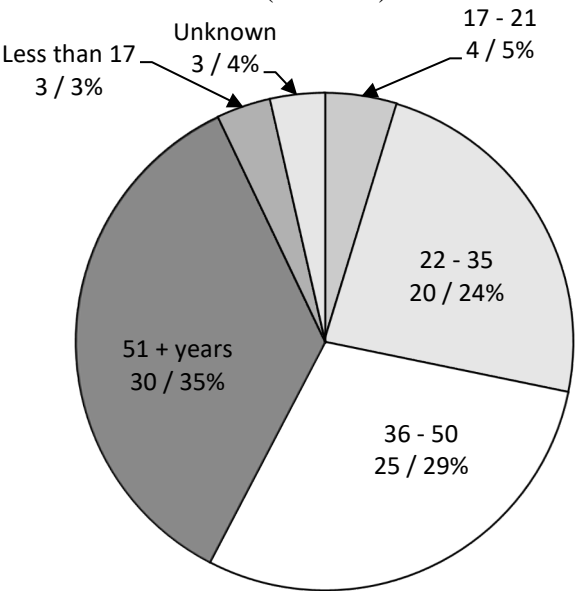
*81 fatalities

Operator Gender

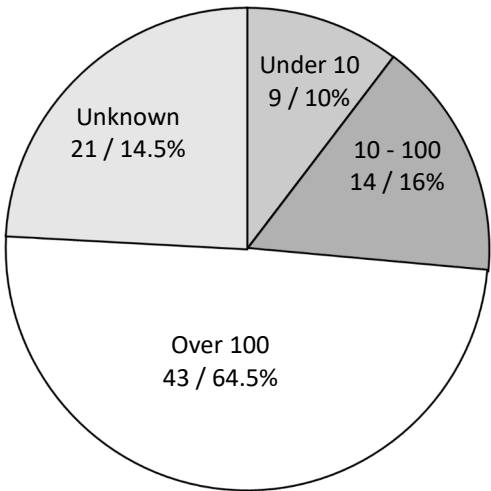


*85 operators

Operator Age
(In Years)

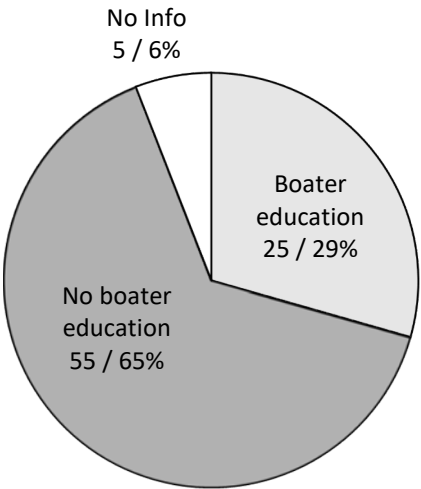


Operator Experience
(In Hours)

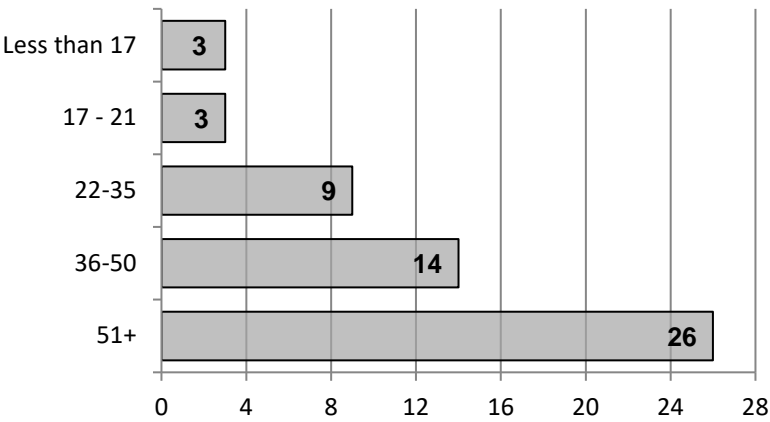


2024 Boating Fatalities

Operator Education

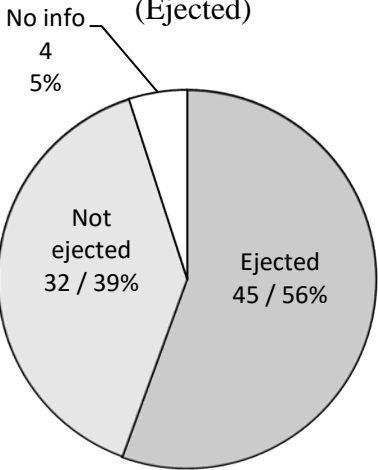


Operators By Age Without Formal Boater Education

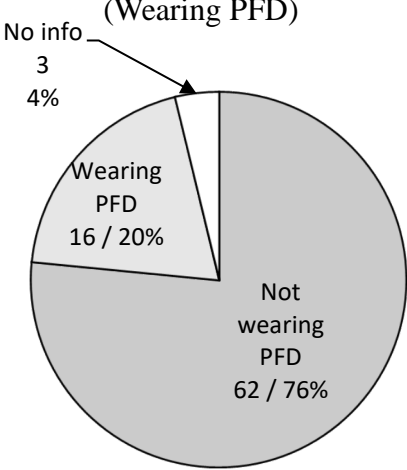


*55 operators did not have any formal boater education

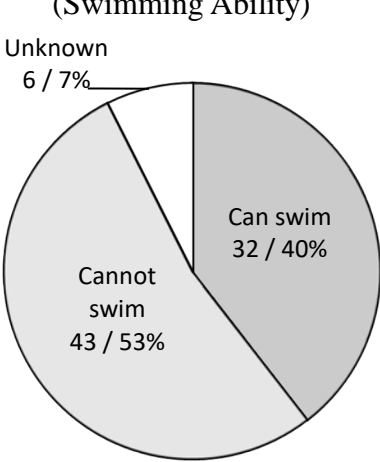
Victim Statistics (Ejected)



Victim Statistics (Wearing PFD)



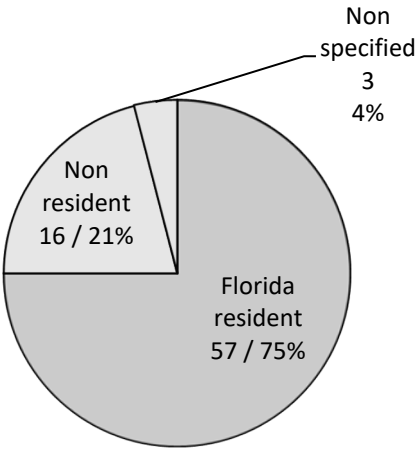
Victim Statistics (Swimming Ability)



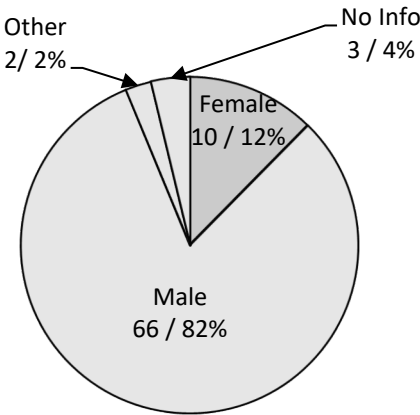
*81 fatal victims

2024 Boating Fatalities

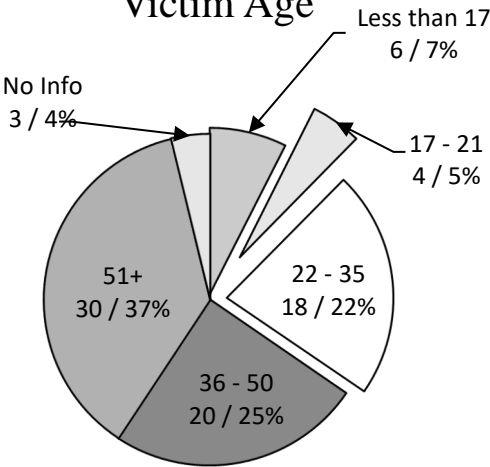
Victim Residency



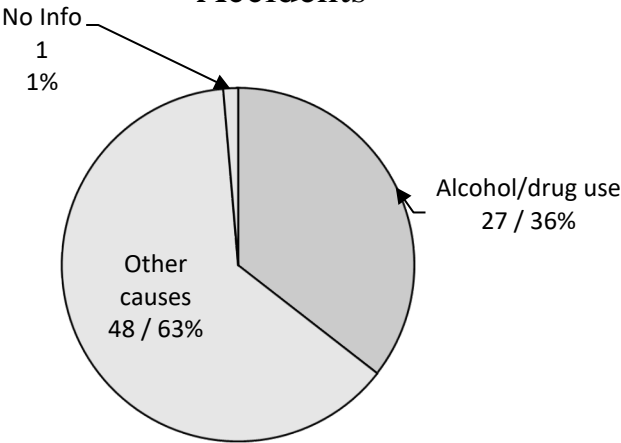
Victim Gender



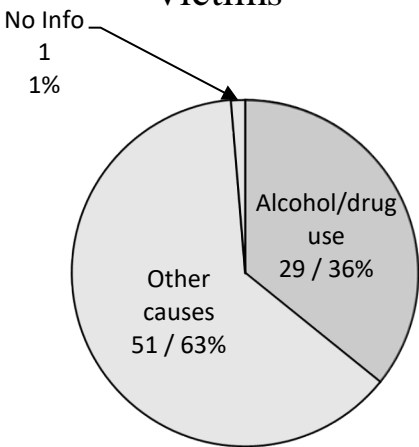
Victim Age



Alcohol/Drug Related Accidents



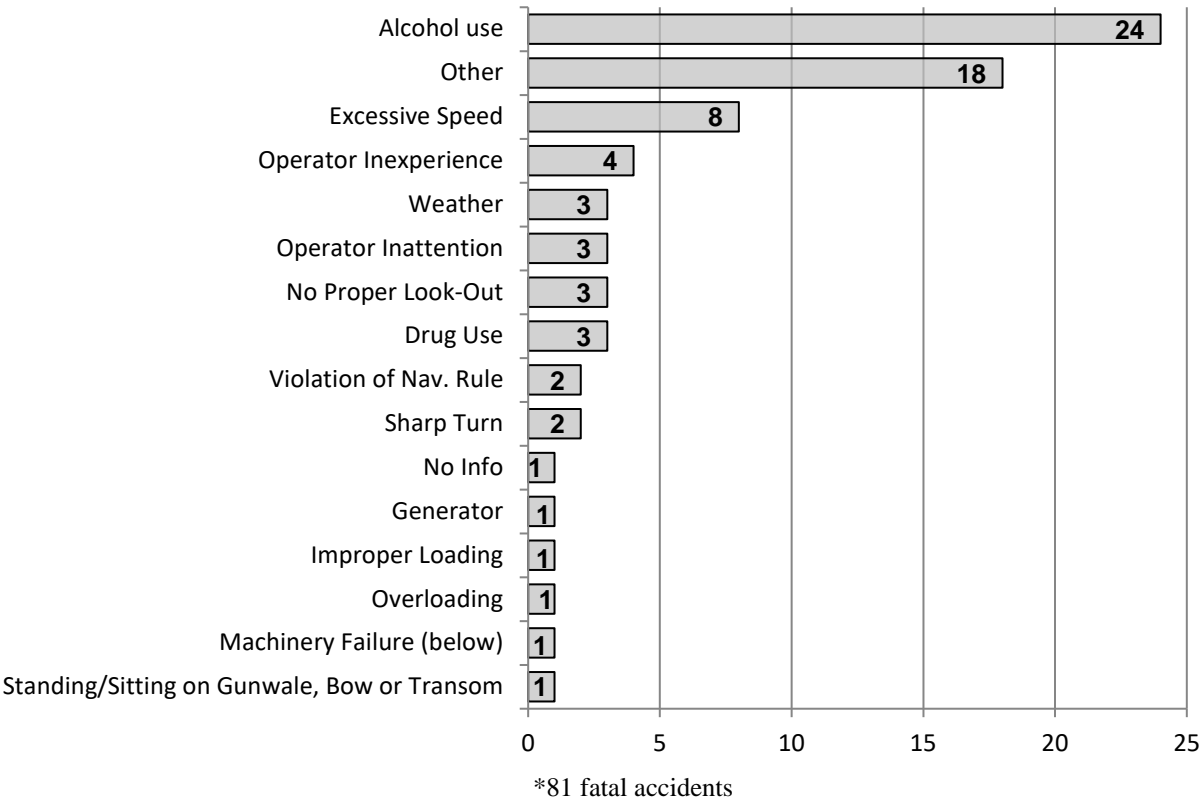
Alcohol/Drug Related Victims



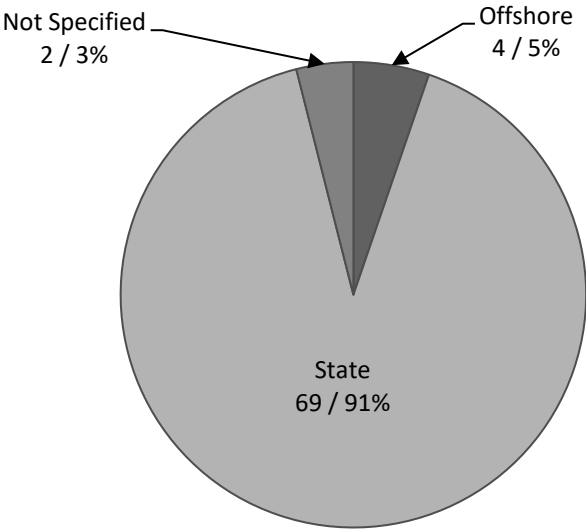
Alcohol/drug related refers to any accidents in which alcohol or drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether legally impaired or not

2024 Boating Fatalities

Primary Cause Of Accident By Reviewing Authority



State Waters Vs. Offshore Waters



*Offshore defined as the edge of the Gulf Stream or three miles from shore, whichever is greater, in the Atlantic and more than nine miles from shore in the Gulf of America

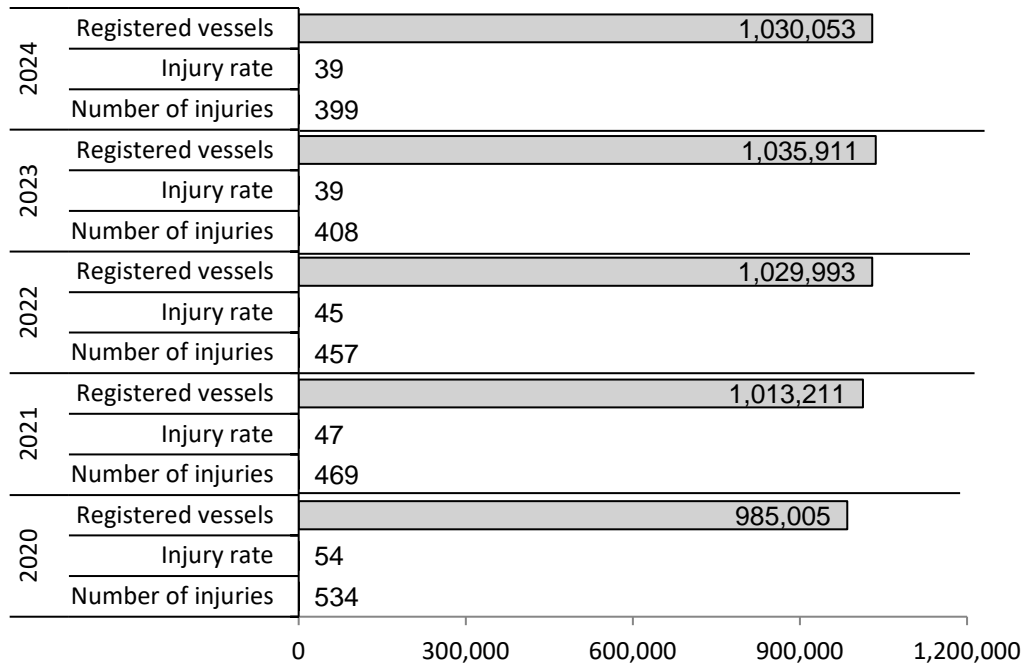
Boating Injuries



A 13-foot airboat (top photo) was traveling through Flying Eagle Wildlife Management Area. Suddenly the vessel lost steering, and the portside stern made contact with a tree (left photo), ejecting the operator.

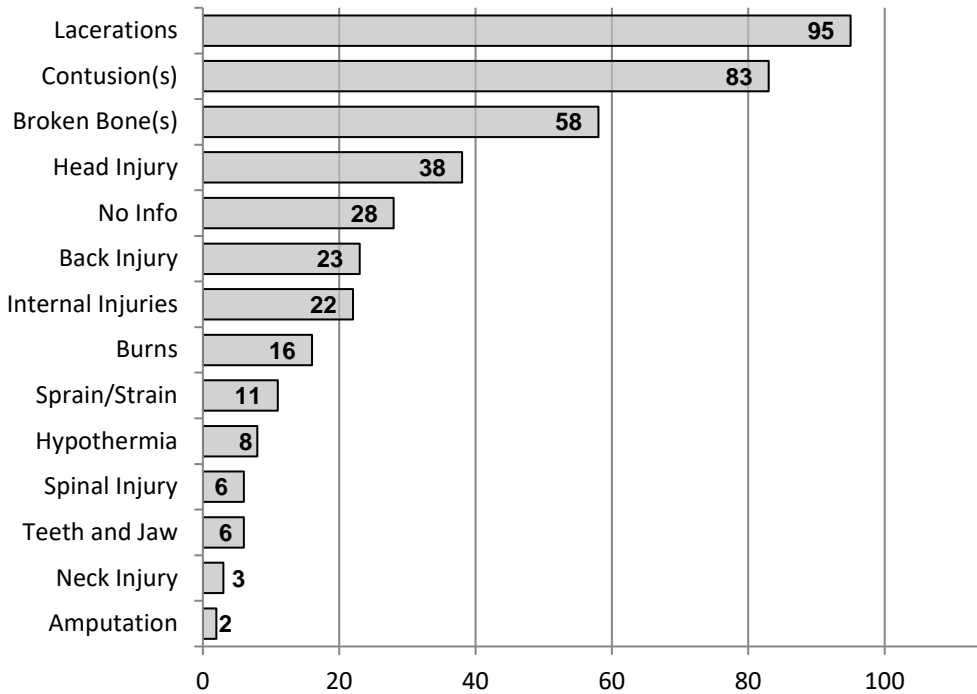
2024 Boating Injuries

Total Injuries Recorded 2020-2024



*Injury Rate – Number of injuries per 100,000 recreational registered vessels

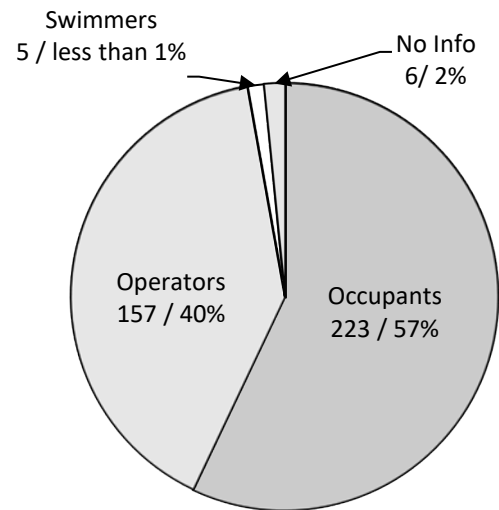
Types Of Injury



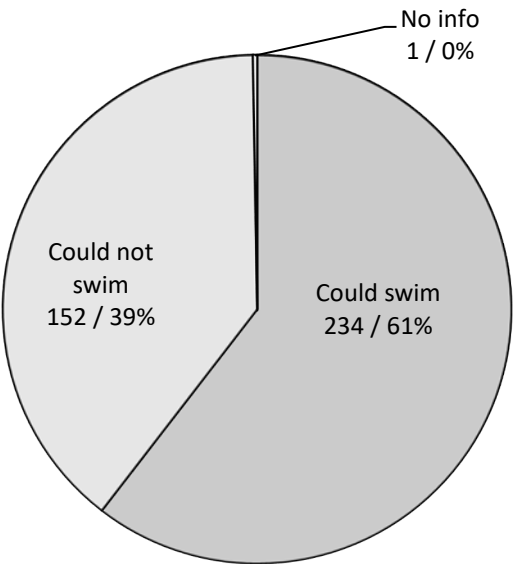
*394 injured

2024 Boating Injuries

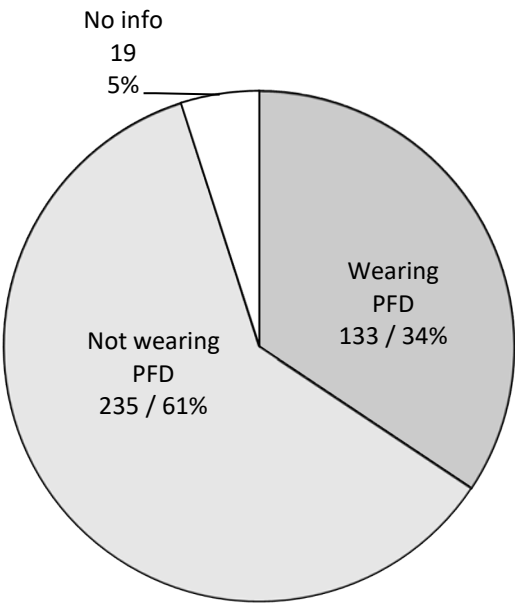
Victim Statistics
(Injured)



Victim Statistics
(Swimming Ability)

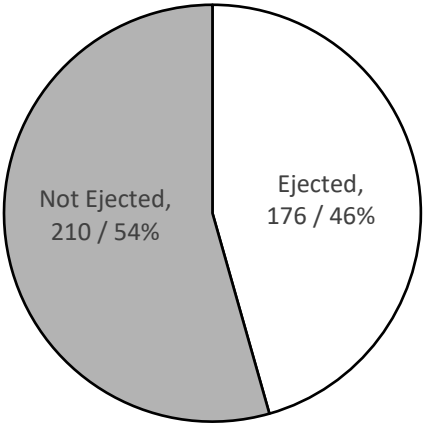


Victim Statistics
(PFD Use)

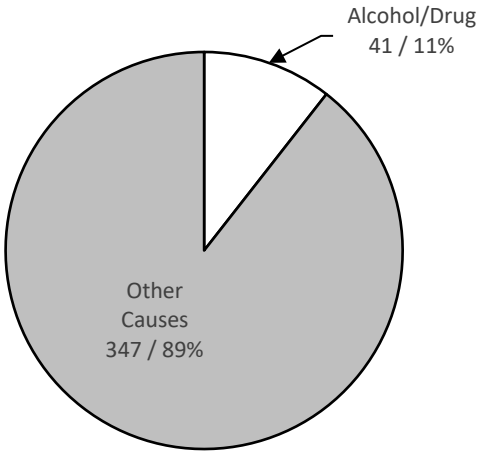


2024 Boating Injuries

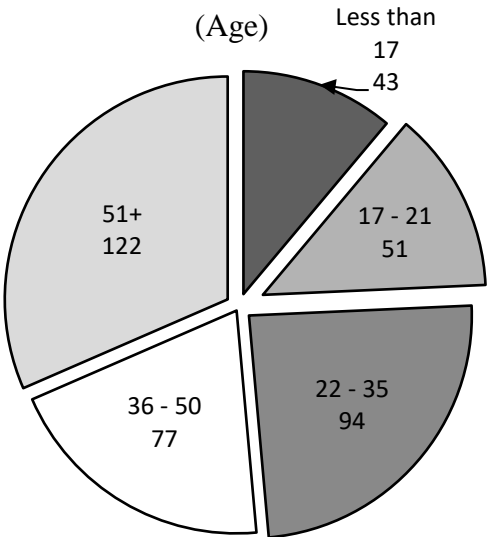
Victim Statistics
(Ejected)



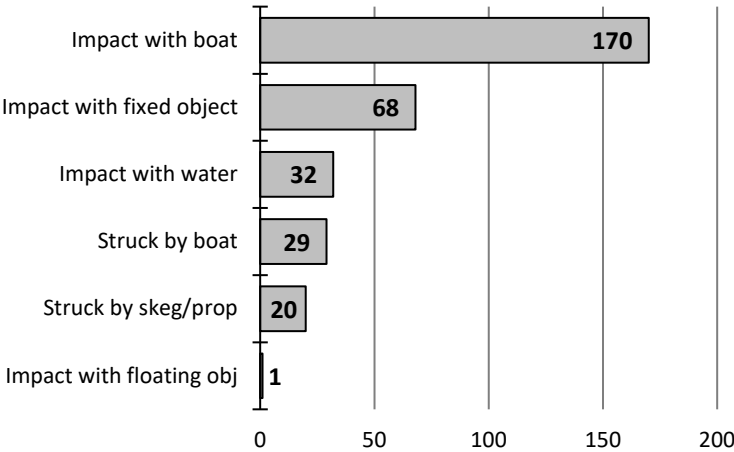
Victim Statistics
(Alcohol/Drug Use)



Victim Statistics
(Age)



Injury Action



Personal Watercraft Accidents



A person operating a personal watercraft on the Indian River in Brevard County accelerated rapidly, causing the passenger to be ejected from the back of the watercraft. The operator continued to head north causing the vessel to ramp up onto the beach, striking a parked truck and coming to a rest 30 feet from water.



Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

2024 PWC Registration and Accidents by County

County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Alachua	991	1	997						
Baker	331	1	336						
Bay	2,611	182	2,835	4		1	21,000	10	1:709
Bradford	345		346						
Brevard	4,636	20	4,701	6		4	49,750	8	1:784
Broward	10,871	55	11,070	2		2	13,000	15	1:5,535
Calhoun	54		54						
Charlotte	2,812	45	2,873						
Citrus	1,555	10	1,582	2		3	4,000	19	1:791
Clay	2,092	2	2,108	3		2	5,200	12	1:703
Collier	4,755	311	5,102	3	1	2	1,250	13	1:1,701
Columbia	352	1	353	1		1		28	1:353
Desoto	262	1	265						
Dixie	130		135						
Duval	5,413	26	5,464	2		2	1,000	22	1:2,732
Escambia	2,376	32	2,440	5	1	4	36,600	9	1:488
Flagler	1,140	3	1,151						
Franklin	200		226	2			4,000	20	1:113
Gadsden	93		93						
Gilchrist	198		198						
Glades	52		52						
Gulf	153		159	1		1	500	27	1:159
Hamilton	34		34						
Hardee	127	1	128						
Hendry	364	3	372	1		1		28	1:372
Hernando	1,888	11	1,910						
Highlands	1,367	5	1,384						
Hillsborough	8,953	138	9,171	7	1	4	27,500	7	1:1,310
Holmes	76		76						
Indian River	1,134	18	1,171	1			2,340	25	1:1,171
Jackson	235	134	369						
Jefferson	131	1	137						
Lafayette	70		70						
Lake	3,854	18	3,887	2		4	6,000	18	1:1,944
Lee	6,832	173	7,071	3		1	19,000	11	1:2,357
Leon	802		780	1		1		28	1:780

*Accident rate =# of registered vessels/number of accidents. Top ten counties for PWC accidents in **bold**. Fields that equal zero intentionally left blank.

Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report
2024 PWC Registration and Accidents by County (continued)

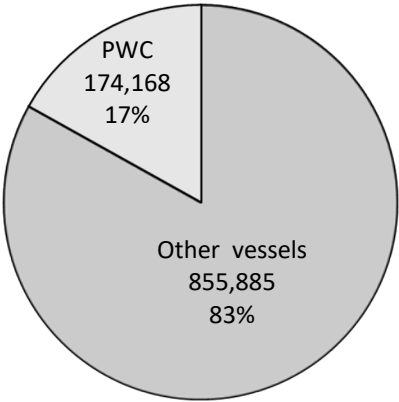
County	Pleasure	Rental	Total	PWC Accidents	PWC Fatalities	PWC Injuries	Property Damage	Rank	Accident Rate*
Levy	360	1	362						
Liberty	48		48						
Madison	65		65						
Manatee	4,726	48	4,800	1			4,000	24	1:4,800
Marion	2,935	2	2,959						
Martin	1,818	57	1,902	2			17,500	14	1:951
Miami-Dade	18,288	343	19,084	24	1	21	111,930	1	1:795
Monroe	2,456	419	2,976	15	2	14	35,950	4	1:198
Nassau	986	2	989	1	1	2	1,500	26	1:989
Okaloosa	3,945	519	4,511	16		8	97,650	3	1:282
Okeechobee	316	1	317						
Orange	10,870	88	11,004						
Osceola	3,412	10	3,430	1		1		28	1:3,430
Palm Beach	7,285	73	7,392	8	1	5	31,250	5	1:924
Pasco	5,963	58	6,070	1			4,000	24	1:6,070
Pinellas	10,900	347	11,361	19	2	19	81,550	2	1:598
Polk	5,013	23	5,070						
Putnam	917	2	931						
Santa Rosa	3,208	104	3,329	2		2	12,000	16	1:1,665
Sarasota	3,360	107	3,503	8	1	4	40,934	6	1:438
Seminole	3,352	4	3,424						
St. Johns	2,565	12	2,597						
St. Lucie	1,997	30	2,041	2	1	1	3,000	21	1:1021
Sumter	403		404						
Suwannee	248		249						
Taylor	145		145						
Union	94	1	96						
Volusia	3,457	82	3,602	2		1	11,000	17	1:1,801
Wakulla	238	2	243						
Walton	1,349	12	1,370	1		2	5,400	23	1:1,370
Washington	188	9	197						
DHSMV	543	10	564						
TOTAL	168,746	3,561	174,168	149	12	113	648,804		1:1,169

*Accident Rate = # of Registered Vessels / # of Accidents. Top ten counties for PWC accidents in bold print. Fields that equal zero intentionally left blank.

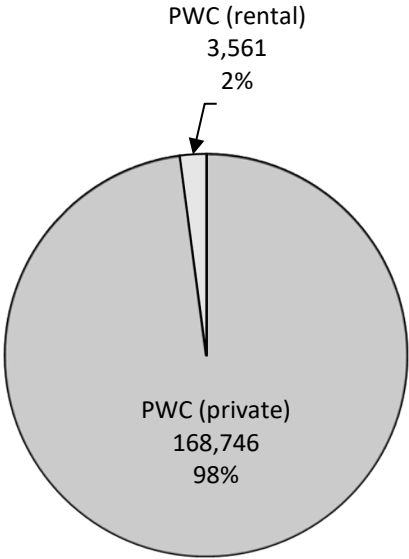
Department of Highways Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) numbers represent registrations issued at agency headquarters instead of the county level.

2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

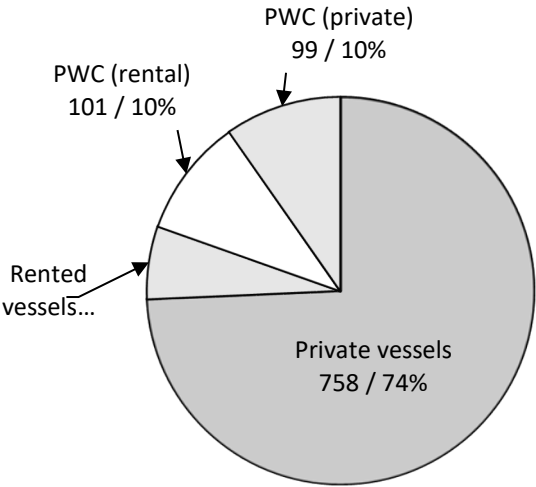
Total Registered PWC



PWC Ownership By Registration

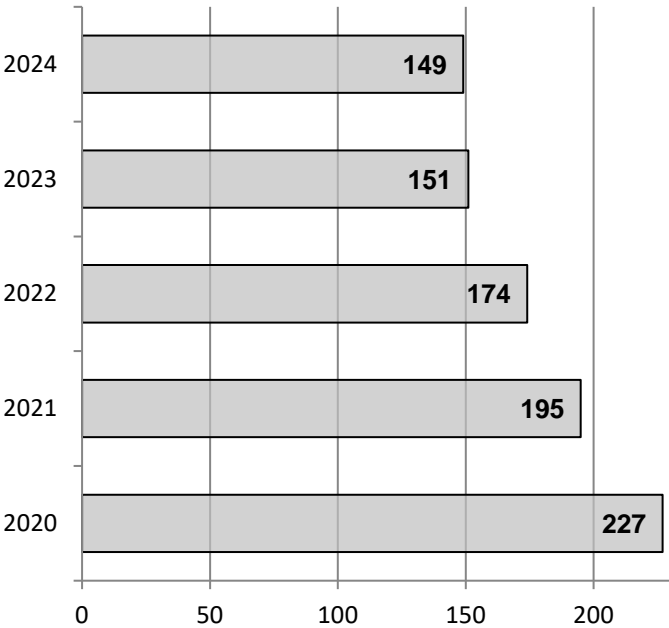


Comparison Of PWC To Vessels Involved In Accidents

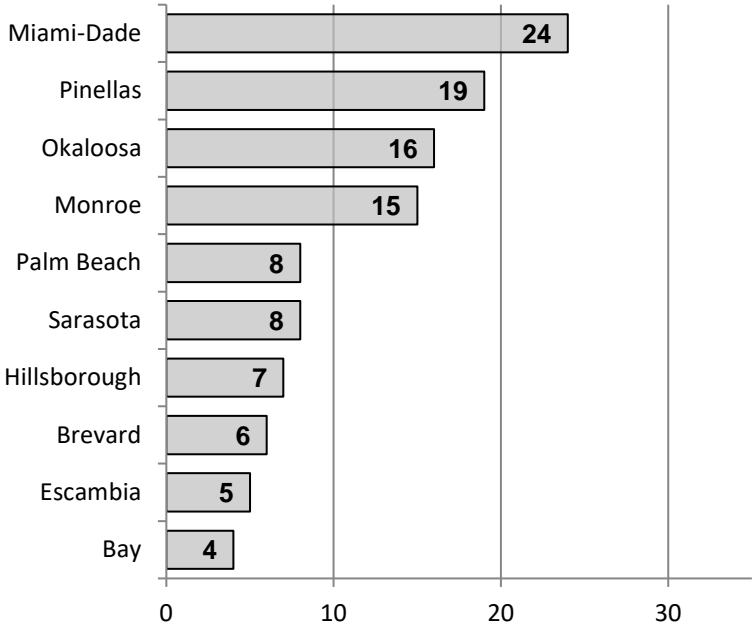


*1,020 vessels involved in accidents

Accidents 2020-2024

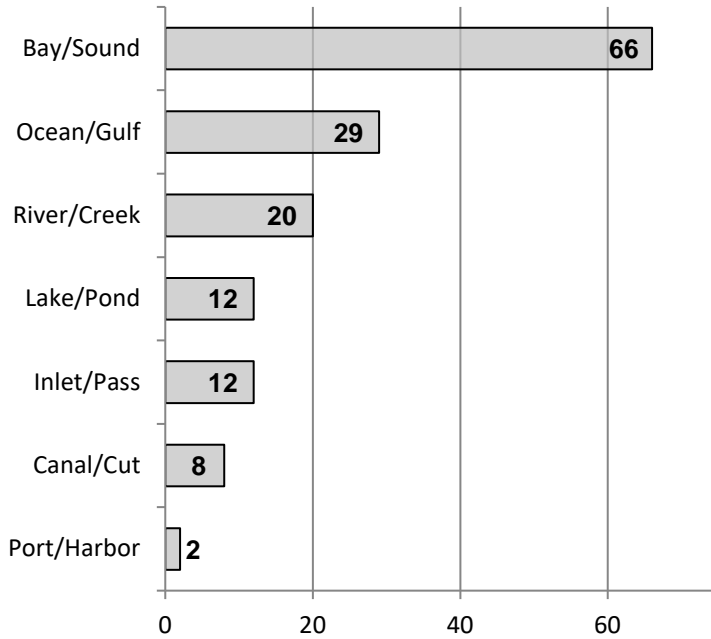


Top Ten Counties

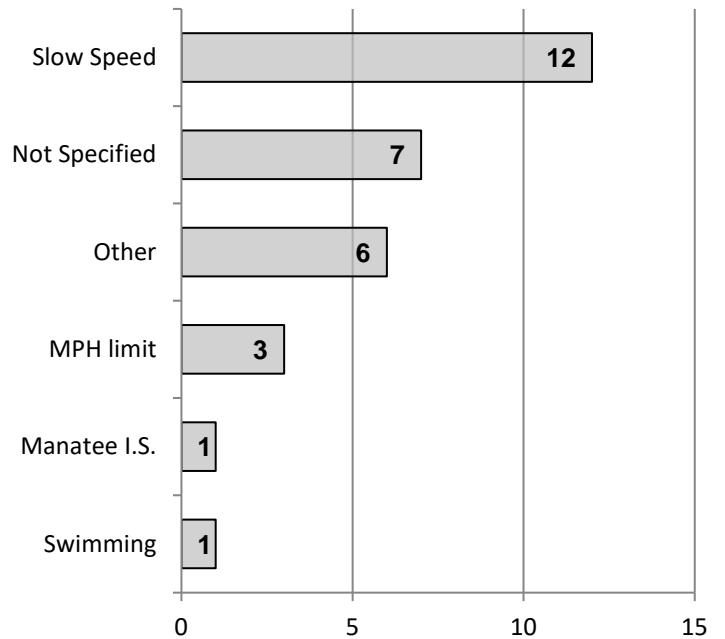


2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

Accident Site Location

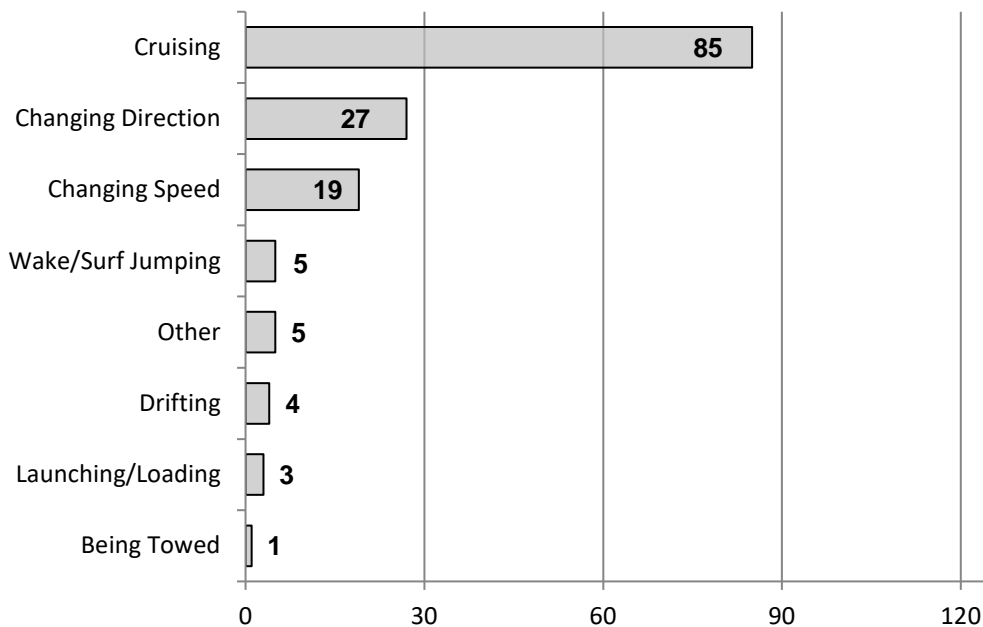


Restricted Area Accidents



*30 PWC accidents occurred within a restricted area "Other" may include areas where the regulation or local ordinance was not specified

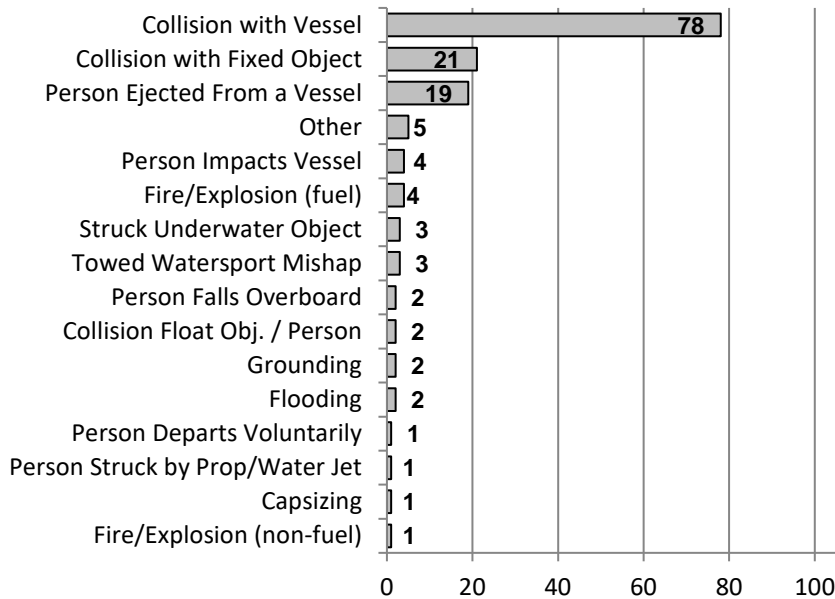
Operation At Time Of Accident



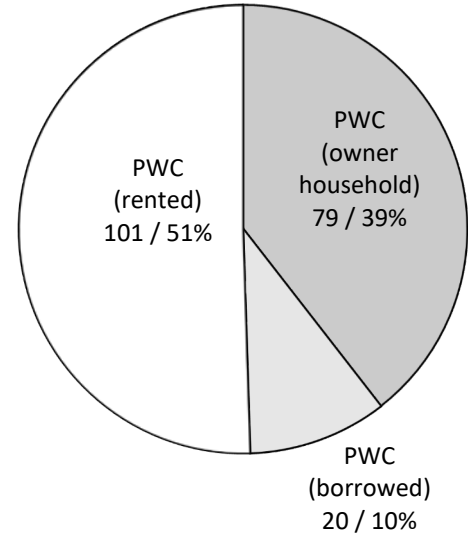
*200 PWC involved in 149 accidents

2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

Primary Type Of Accident

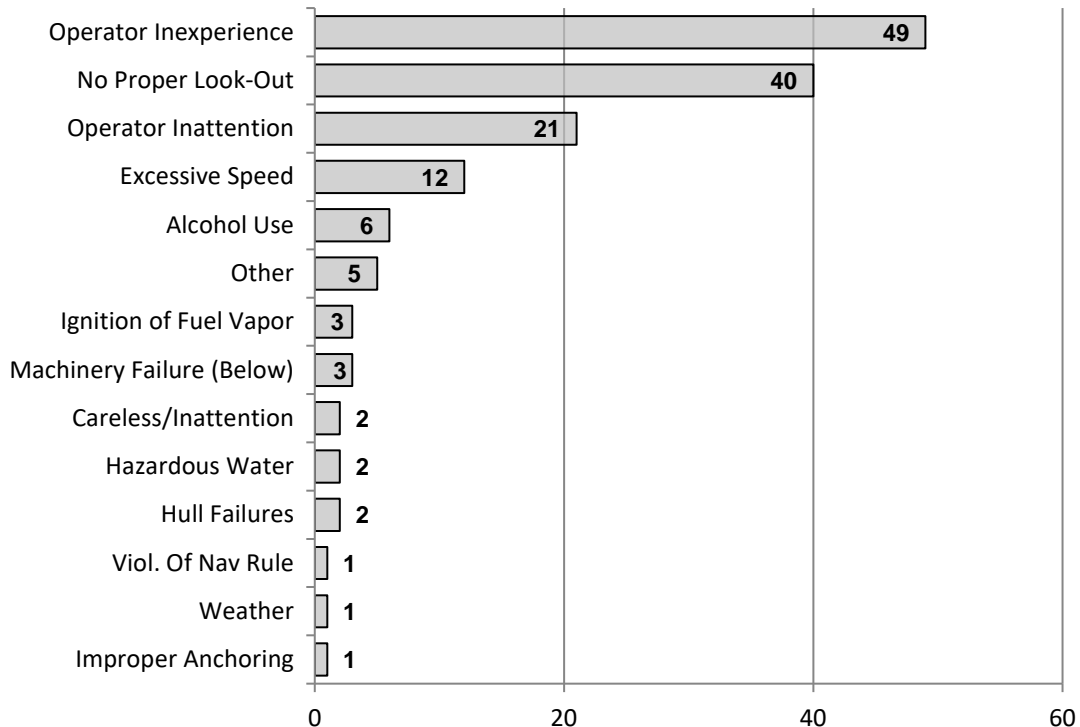


PWC Ownership



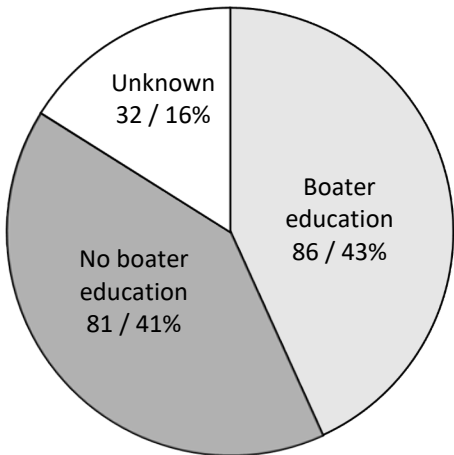
*149 PWC accidents (Based on first harmful event as determined by the state reviewing authority).

Primary Cause Assessed By Reviewing Authority



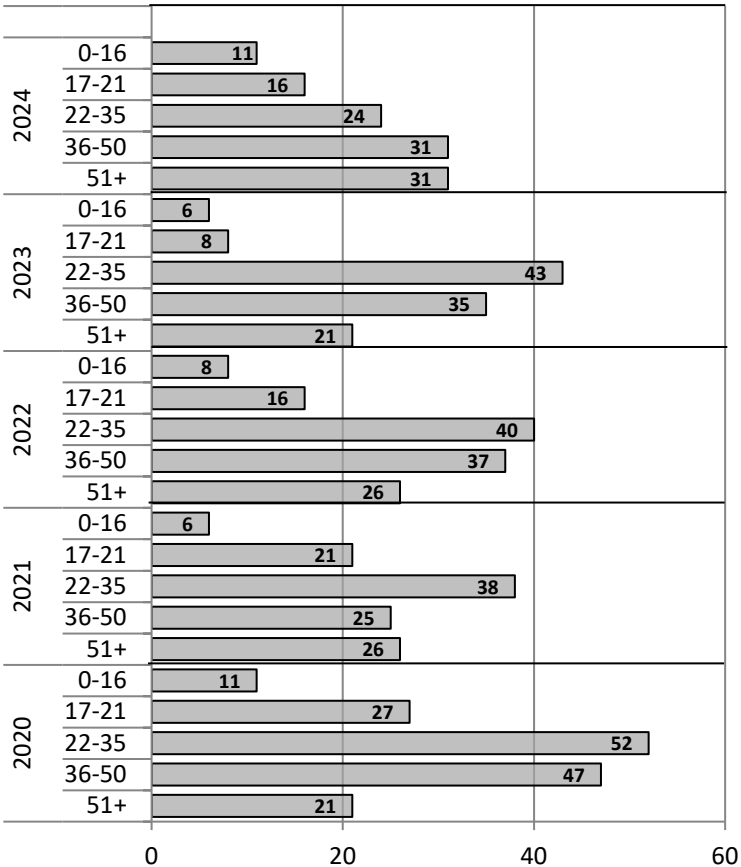
2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

Operator Education

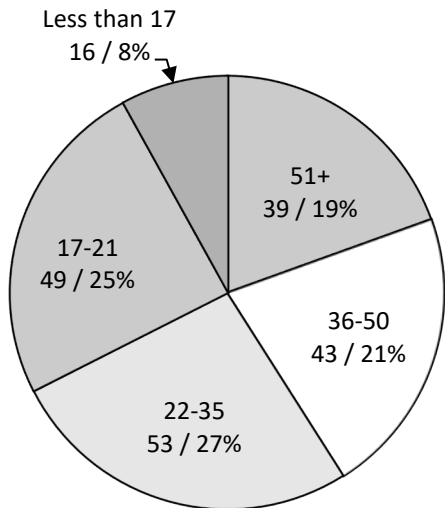


*149 PWC accidents involving 200 PWC and 200 operators

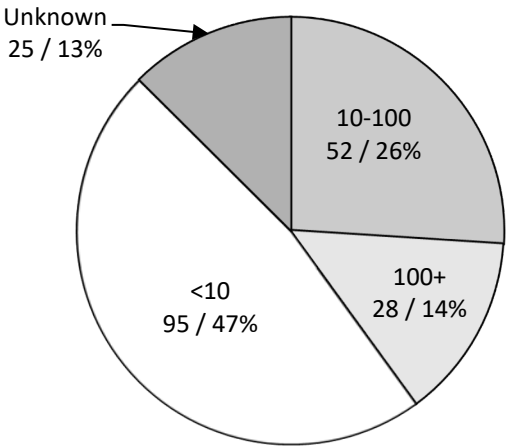
Operators By Age Without Boater Education



Operator Age

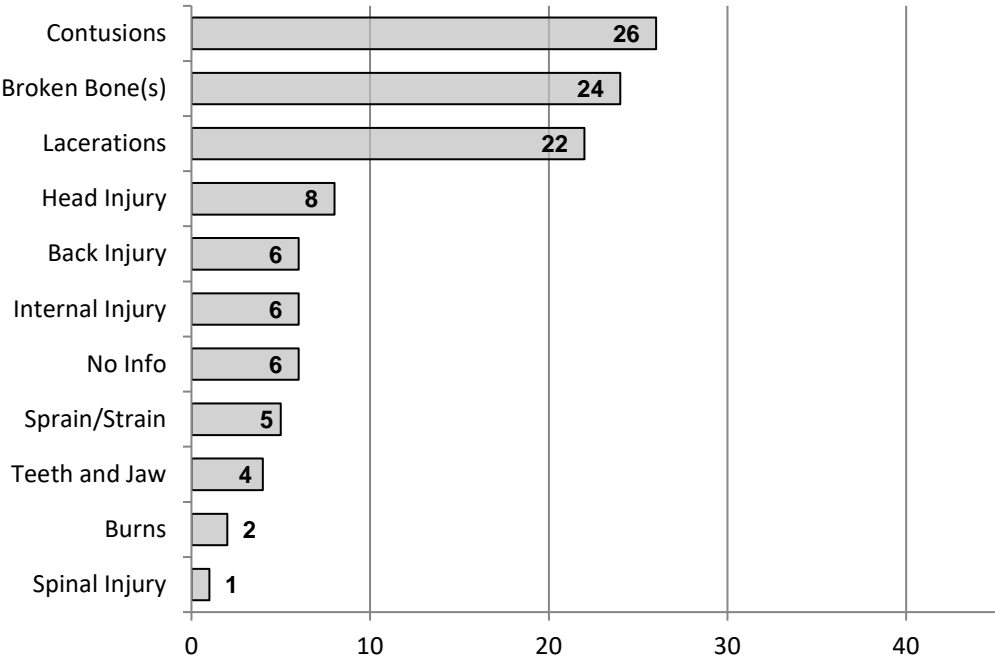


Operator Experience (Hours)



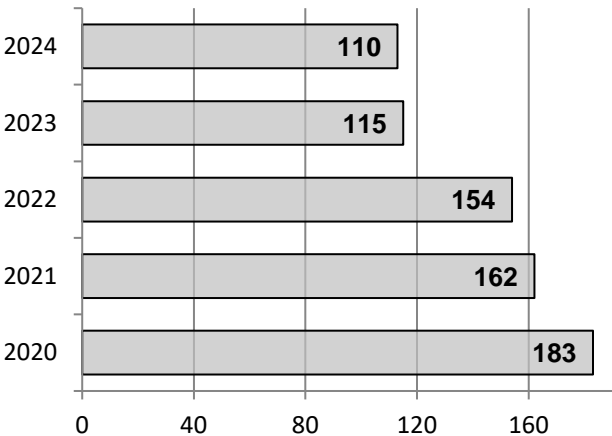
2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

Primary Injury Types

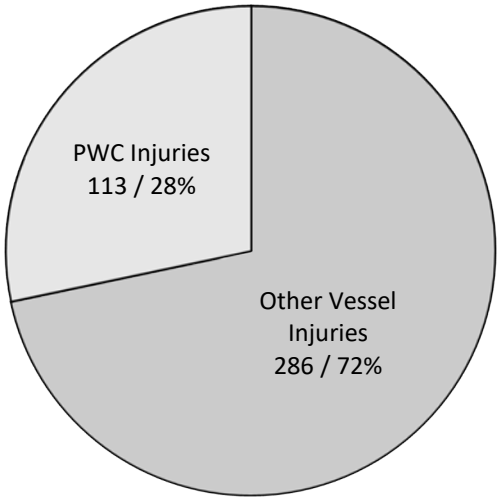


*149 accidents involving 110 injured persons

Injuries 2020-2024



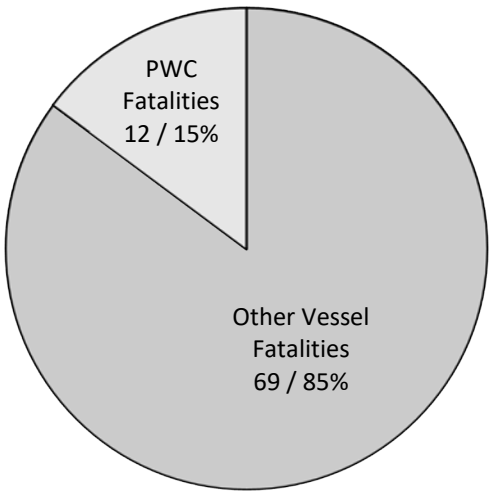
Comparisons Of PWC Injuries



*399 injuries

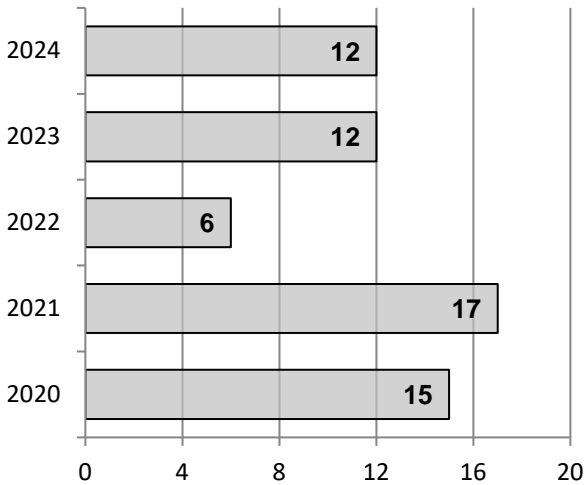
2024 Personal Watercraft Accidents

Comparisons Of PWC Fatalities

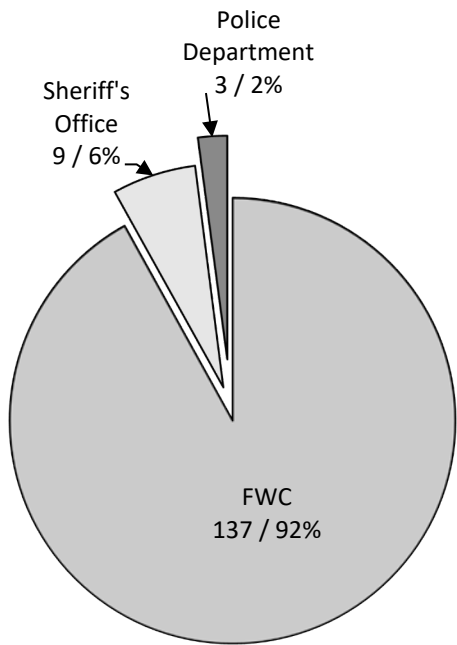


*81 Fatalities

Fatalities 2020-2024

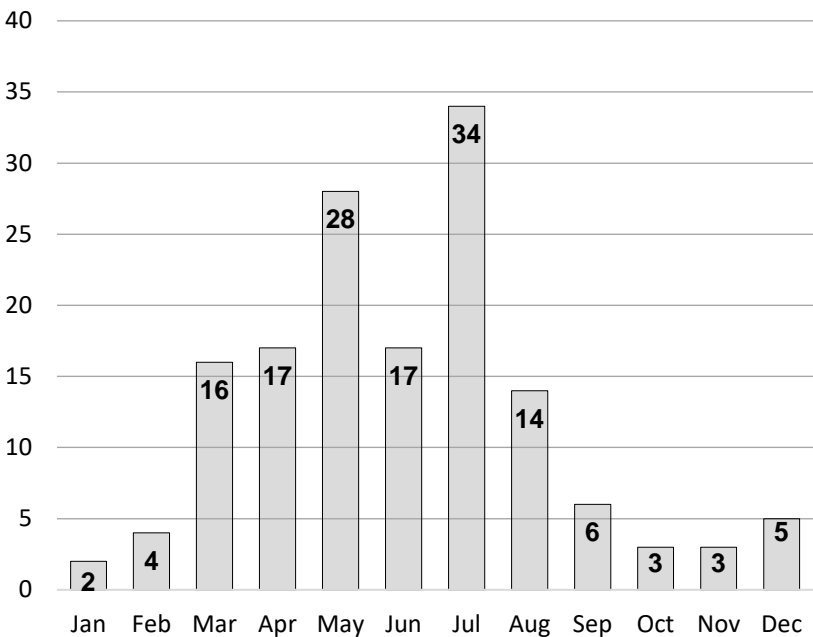


Investigating Agency



*149 PWC accidents

Accidents By Month



Boating Education Statistics

Know Before You GO!

Take a boating safety course today.

Florida is now issuing electronic cards, which can be shown on a mobile device or printed and carried on your person or kept on all your vessels



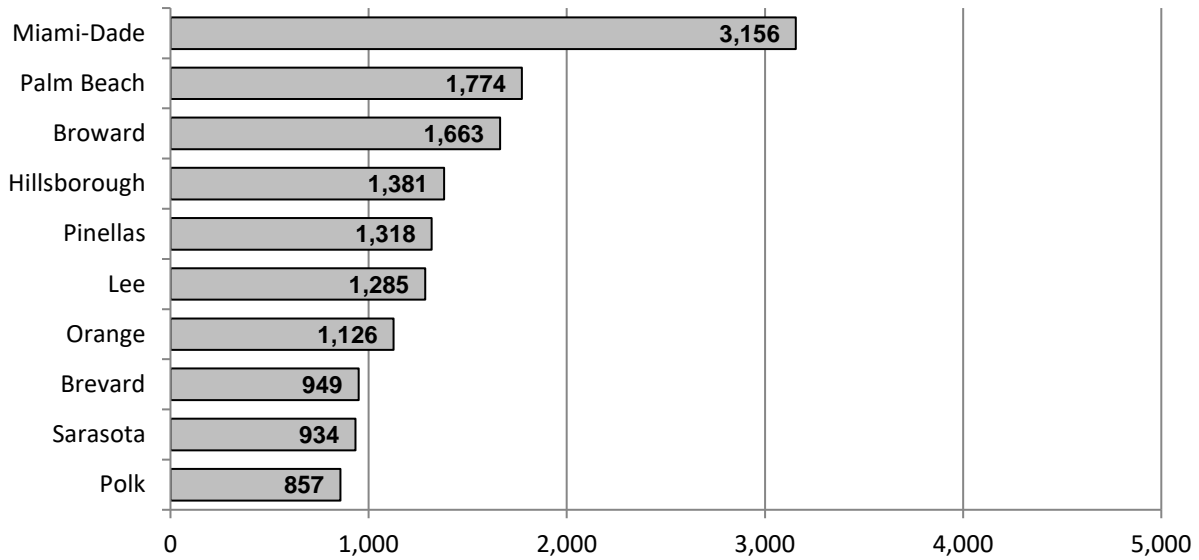
Courses are available online, in our **How to Boat Smart** course book, and in classrooms. Visit <http://MyFWC.com/Boating/Safety-Education/Courses> for available courses!



Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

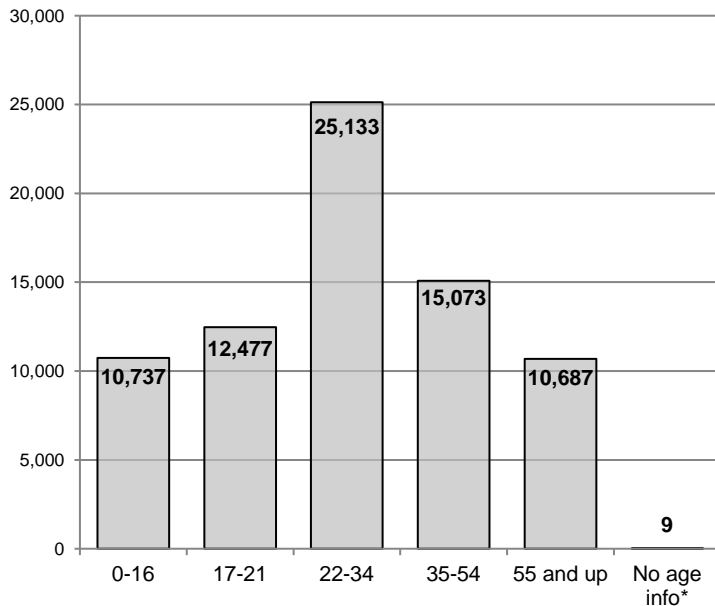
2024 Boating Education Statistics

Top Ten Counties-Boating Safety Education Identification (I.D.) Cards Issued



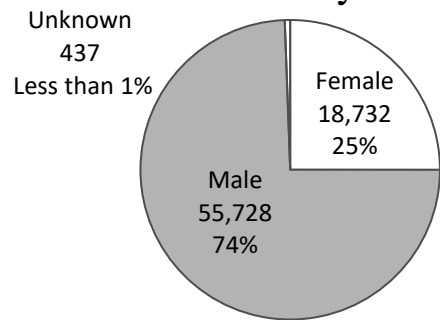
*74,116 cards issued in calendar year 2024 (does not include temporary certificates)
12,576 cards were issued to out-of-state residents

Boating Safety Education I.D. Card Distribution By Age

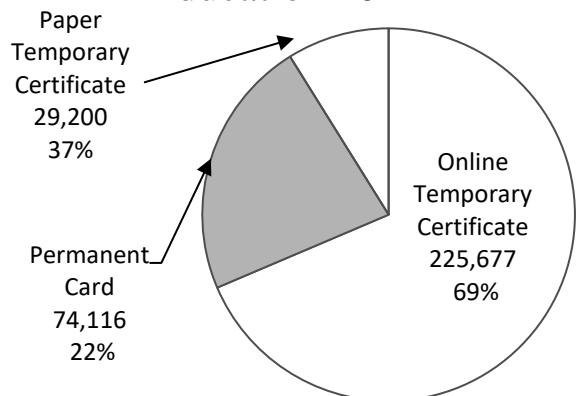


*74,116 new cards issued. An additional 1,967 cards issued as reprints for lost, damaged or change of information

I.D. Card Distribution By Gender

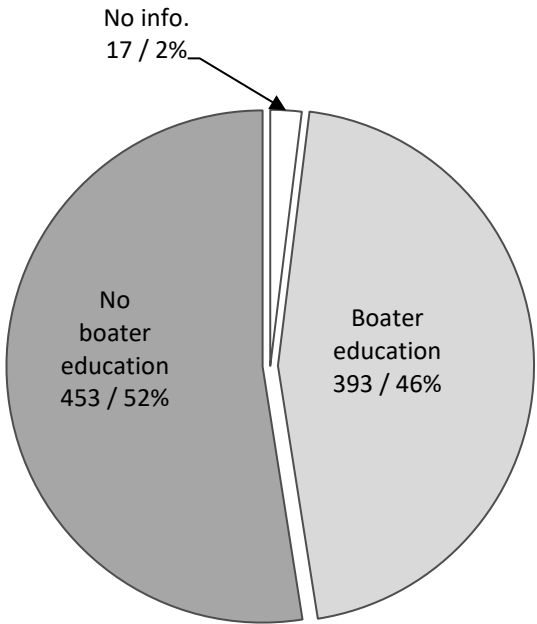


Comparison Of Boater Education 2024

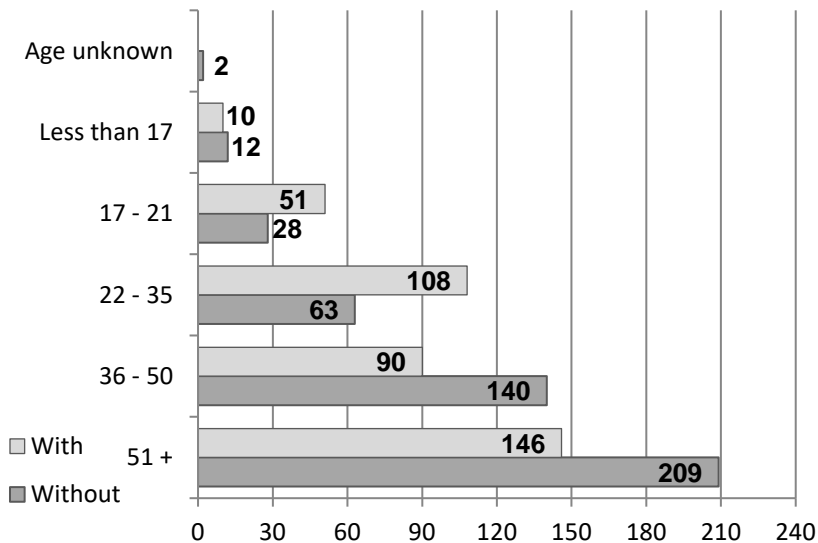


2024 Boating Education Statistics

Operators Involved In Accidents-Education/Age

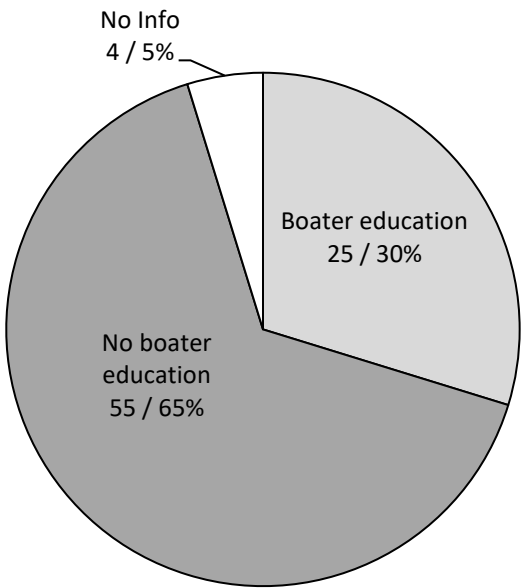


*863 operators

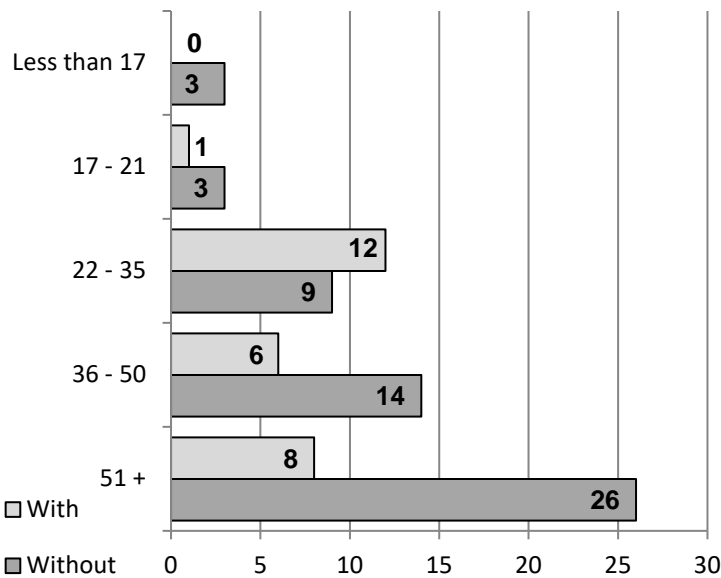


*863 operators, 2 were unknown due to hit and run accidents or information was not entered

Operators Involved In Fatal Accidents-Education/Age



*84 operators



Violation Summary



A 24-foot vessel was being operated near Punta Rosa boat ramp in Lee County when it struck a large metal pole and continued onto the rocks near the bridge. During the investigation, it was discovered alcohol contributed to this accident and the operator was charged for boating under the influence.

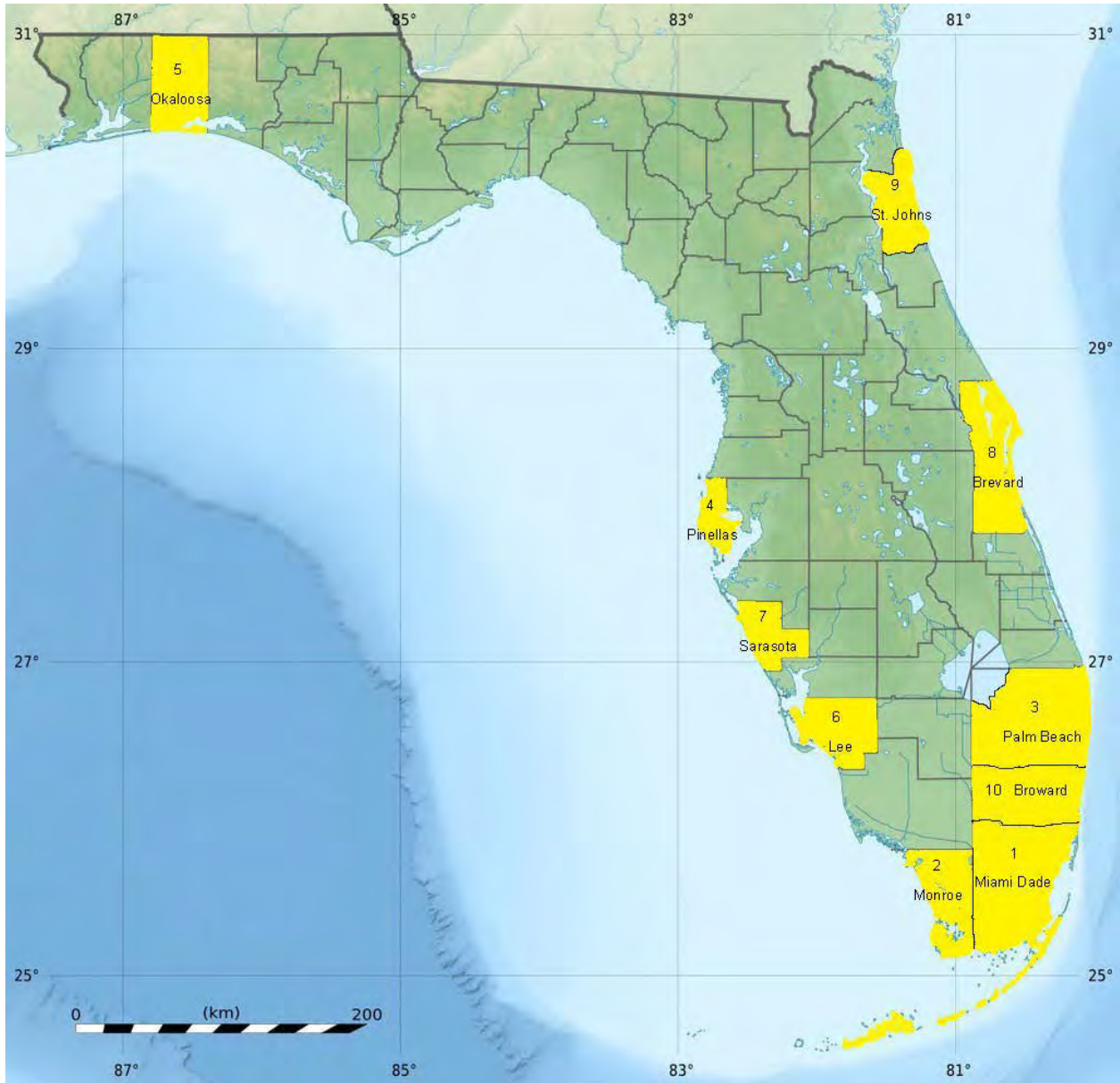


Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

2024 Uniform Boating Citation Summary

CITATION TYPES	2024 FWC	2024 Other	2023 FWC	2023 Other
Aids to Navigation and Regulatory Markers Uniform waterway markers for safety and navigation Mooring to or damaging markers or buoys	9	55	20	107
Alcohol and Drugs Operation of a vessel under the influence of alcohol Operation of a vessel while impaired	412	33	616	66
Boating Restricted Areas Manatee protection rules Public safety rules Local ordinances	2,763	3,027	2,448	2,027
Boating Safety Education Boating safety education I.D. cards	705	1,202	773	821
Livery Operations Rental without proper safety equipment Rental without boater education Rental to persons under 18 years of age	352	115	319	155
Negligent Operation of a Vessel Reckless operation of a vessel Careless operation of a vessel Navigation rule violation resulting in an accident Navigation rule violation not resulting in an accident Failure to report an accident	434	442	410	230
Personal Watercraft Personal watercraft regulations	485	222	588	175
Skiing and Diving Skiing, aquaplaning and parasailing violations Dive flag violations	272	58	421	96
Registration and Numbering Operation of unregistered/unnumbered vessels Application, certificate, number or decal violation Special manufacturer and dealer numbers Violation relating to vessel titling Violation relating to Hull Identification Numbers	2,497	2,285	2,972	1,506
Safety Equipment and Regulations Equipment and lighting requirements	3,981	1,271	4,381	937
Vessel "At-Risk" (Number of DV citations issues by FWC – 345)	323	274	411	373
SUB TOTAL	12,233	8,984	13,359	6,493
TOTAL VIOLATIONS RECORDED	2024	21,217	2023	19,852

2024 Top Ten Counties For Boating Accidents

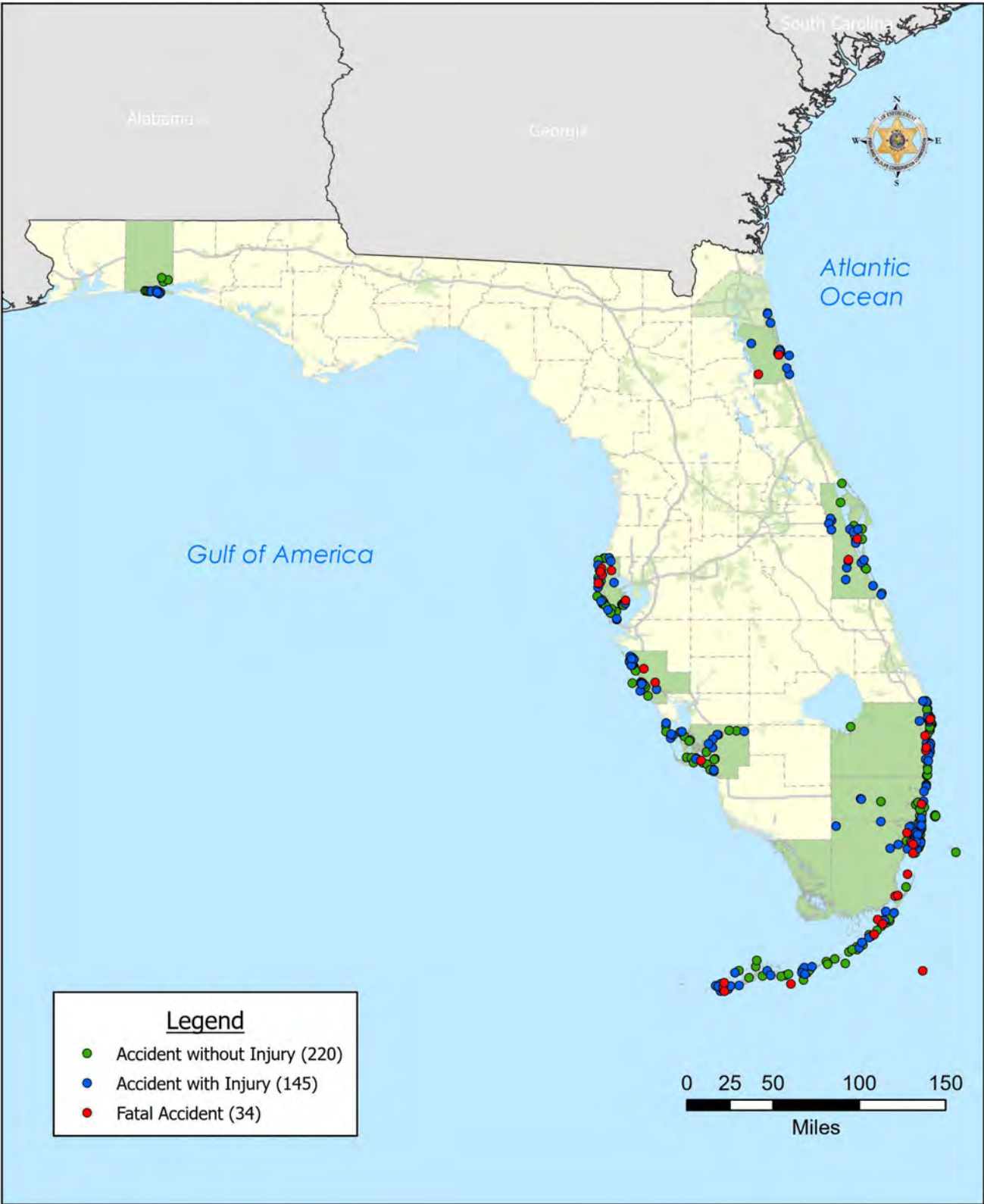


A thorough review of the annual boating accident statistics has revealed that 59% of the reportable boating accidents during the 2024 calendar year occurred in 10 Florida counties.

The information on the following pages represents a breakdown of the accident data from each of these top 10 counties. The graphs show the types of vessels involved, the length, the primary cause of each accident and the primary type of accident for each county. There is also a map of each county with points designating the accident locations.

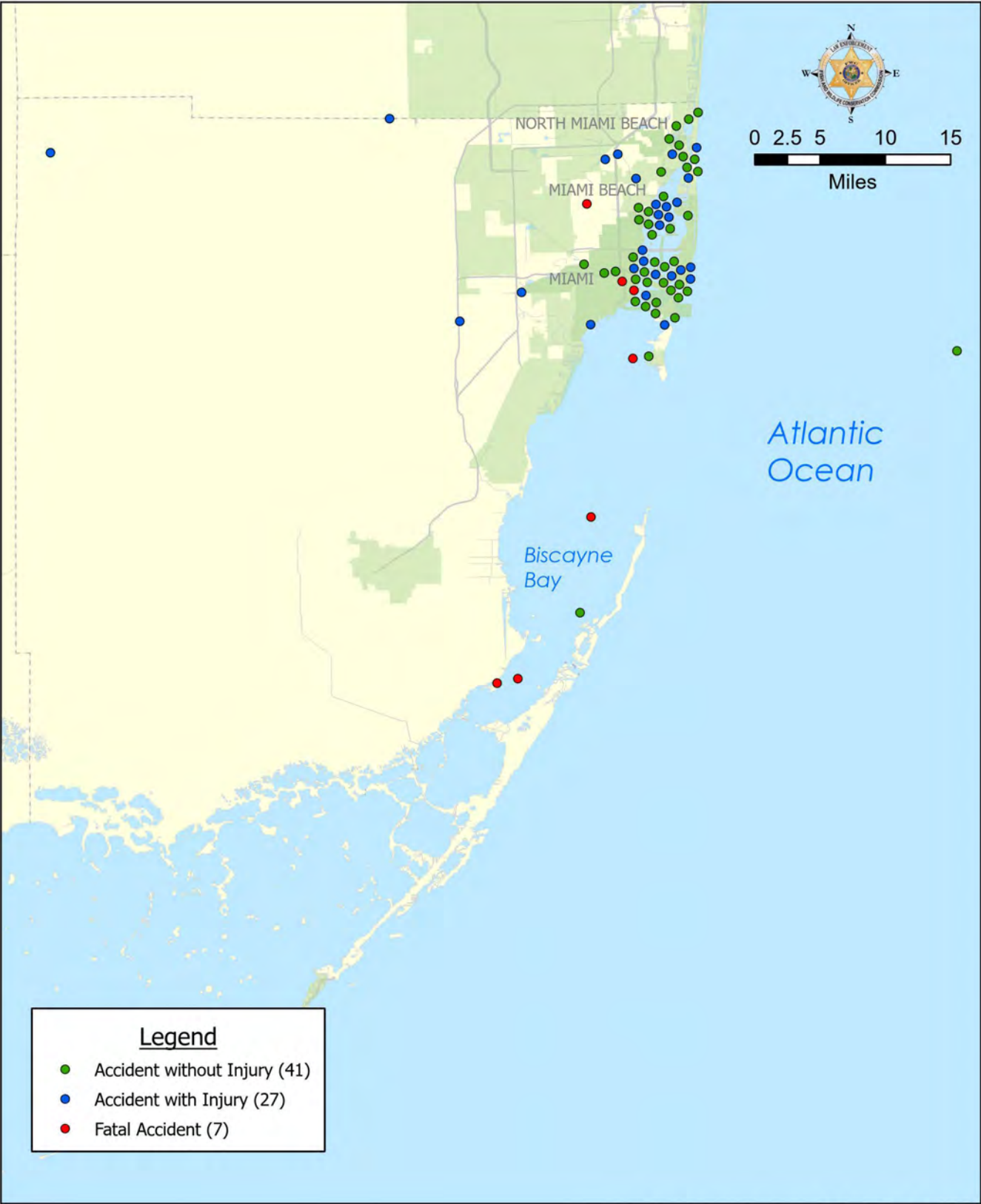
The information in this section provides a basis for future boating safety awareness efforts implemented by the FWC Division of Law Enforcement, Boating and Waterways Section.

Florida Top 10 Counties of Boating Accidents During 2024



Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

Known Locations of Accidents in Miami-Dade County During 2024

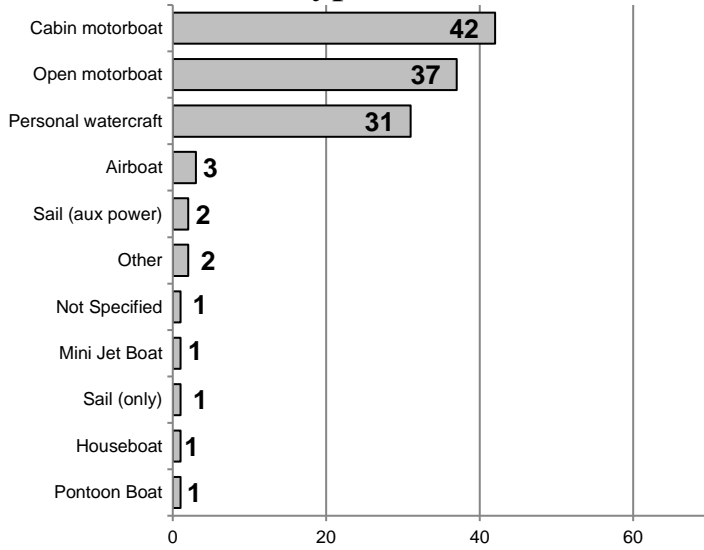


Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

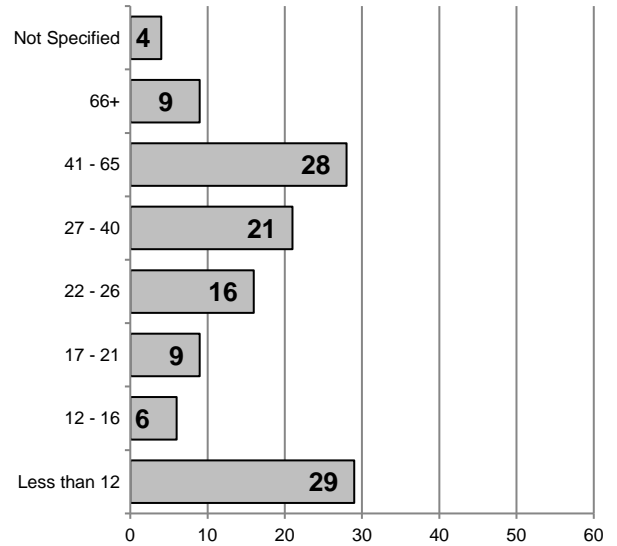
Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

1. Miami-Dade County

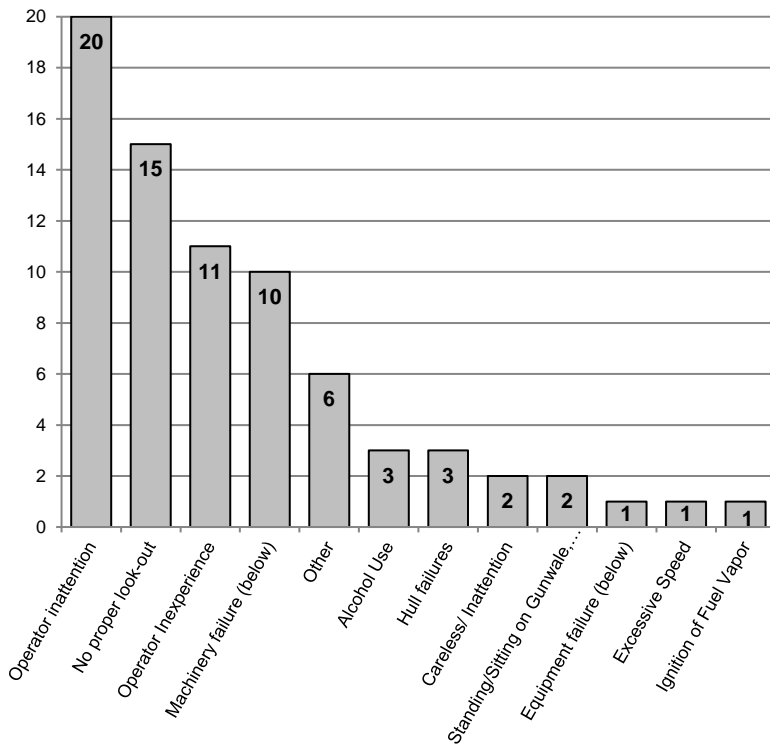
Type Of Vessel



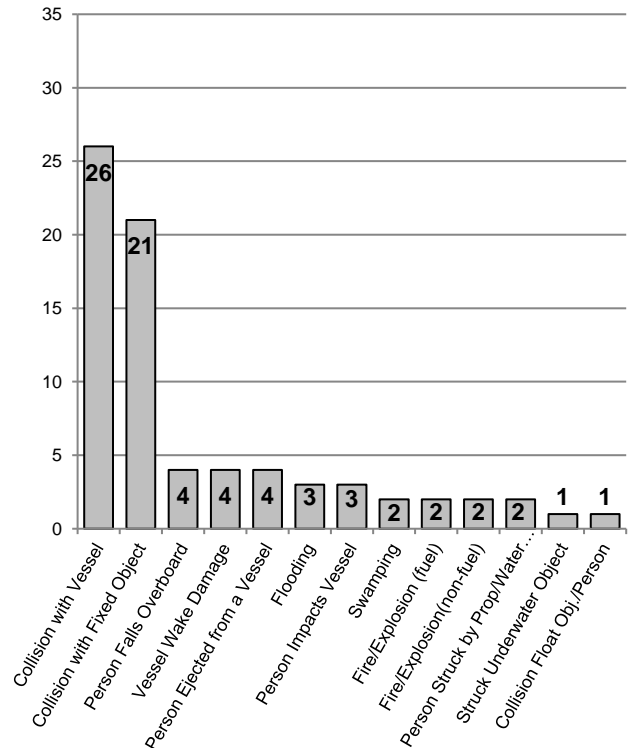
Vessel Length (In Feet)



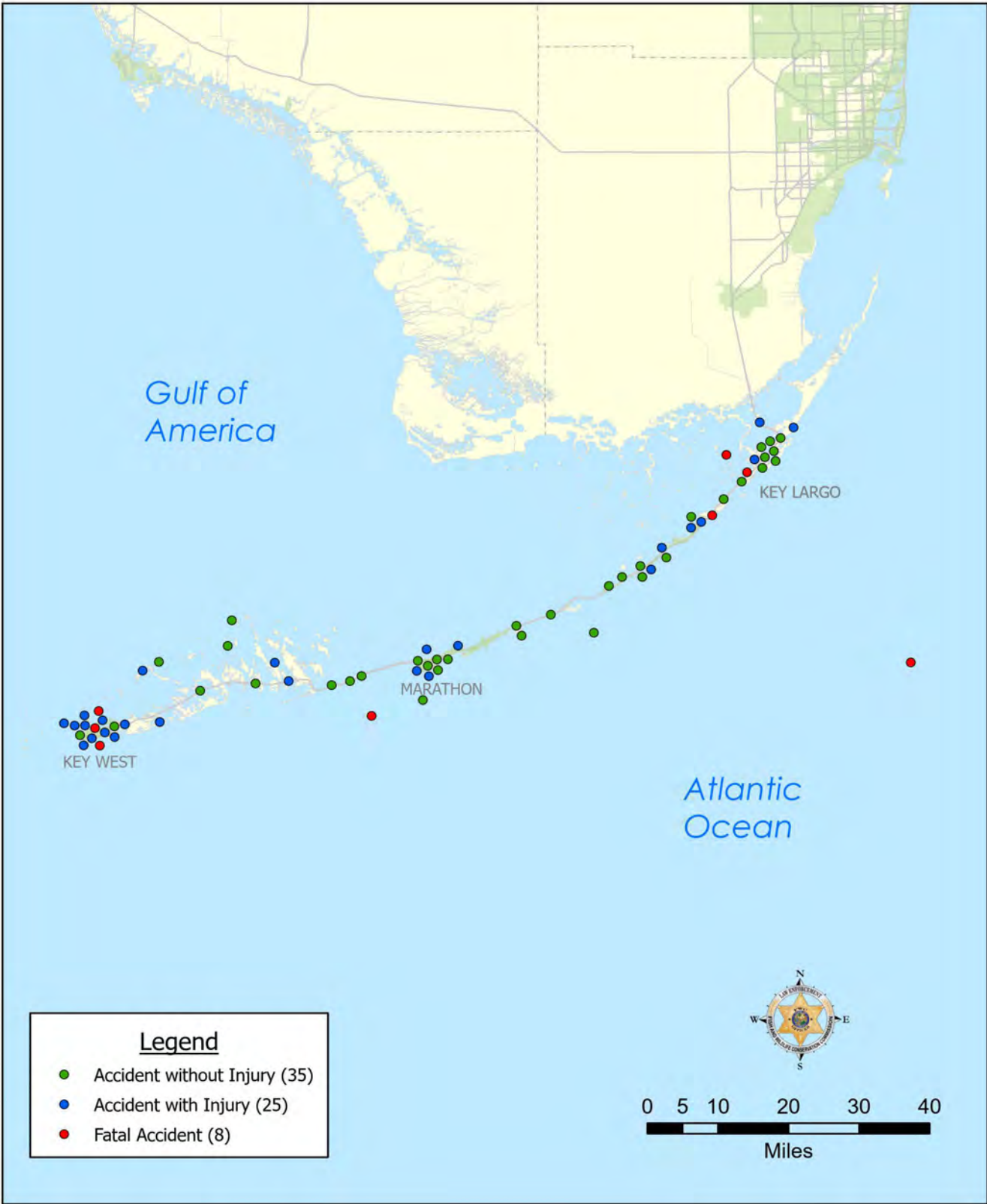
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



Known Locations of Accidents in Monroe County During 2024

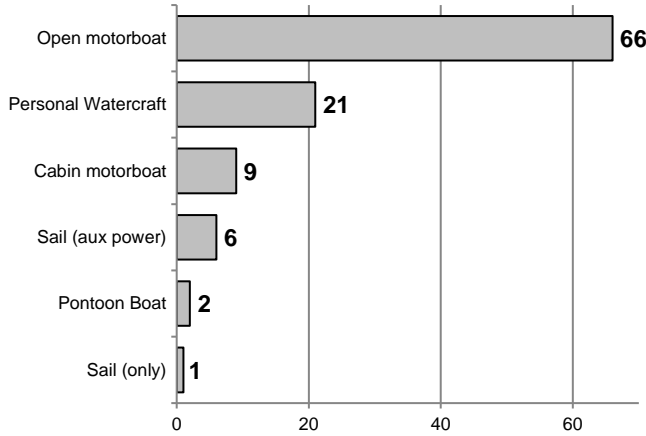


Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

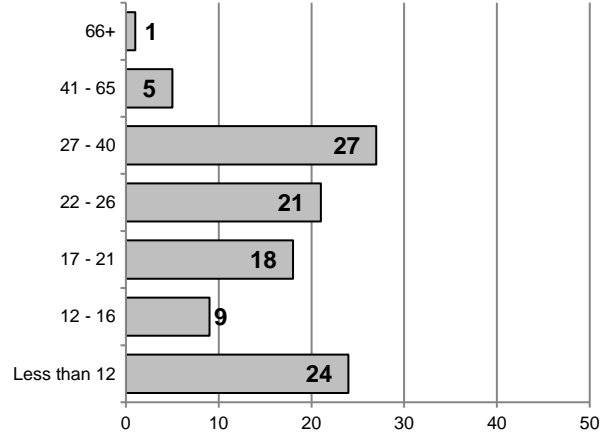
Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

2. Monroe County

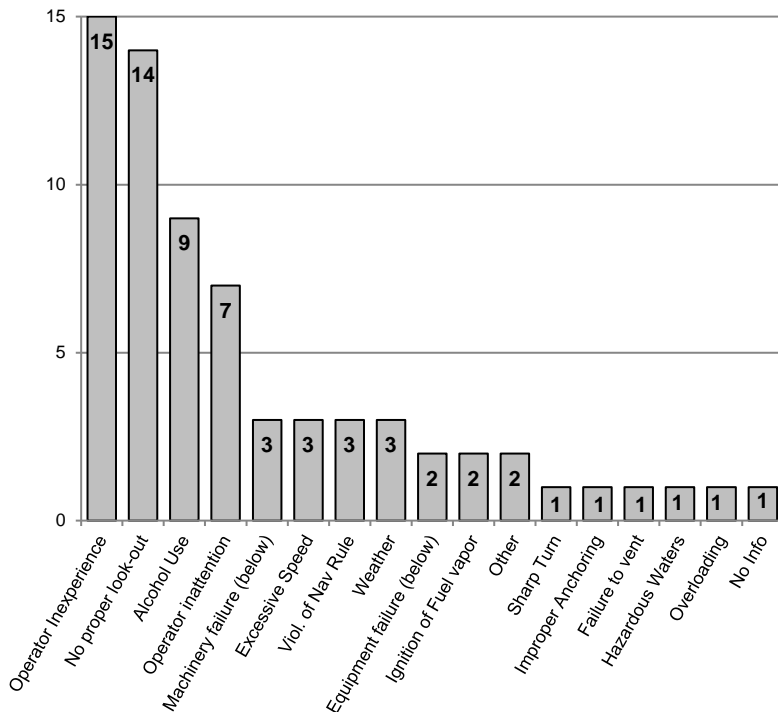
Type Of Vessel



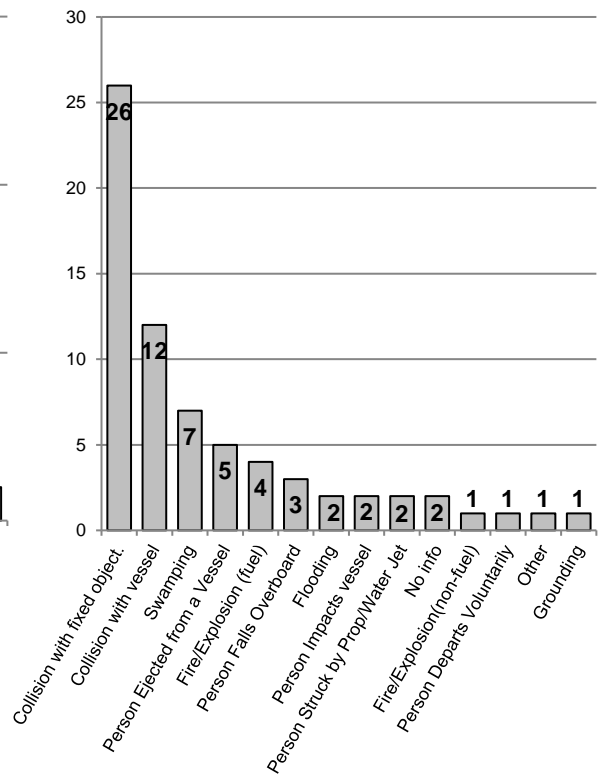
Vessel Length (In Feet)



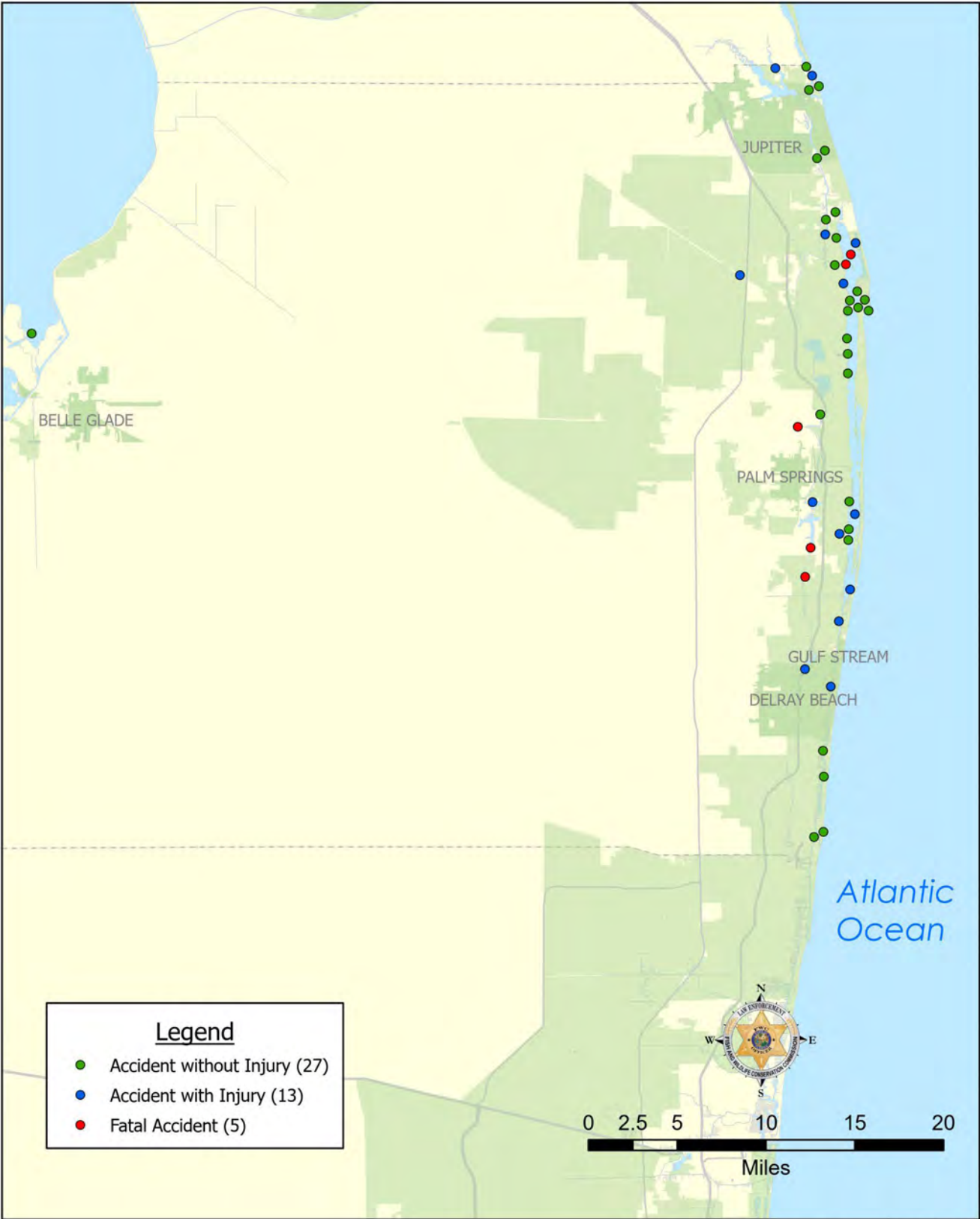
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



Known Locations of Accidents in Palm Beach County During 2024

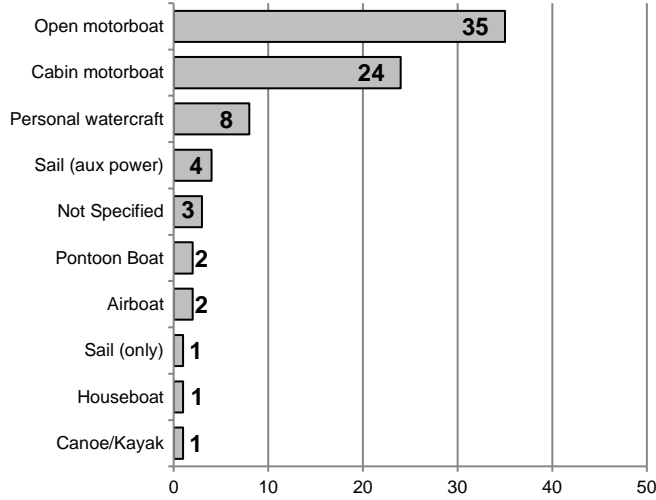


Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

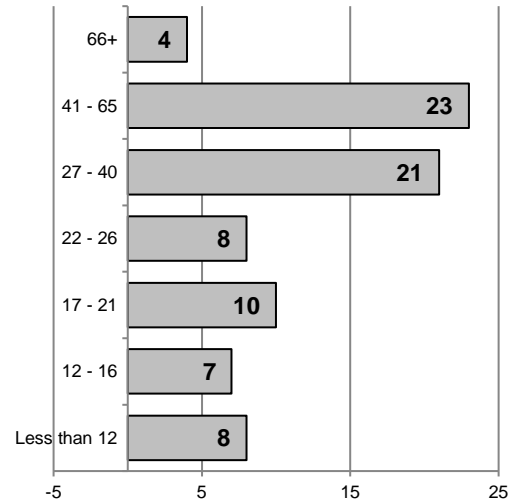
Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

3. Palm Beach County

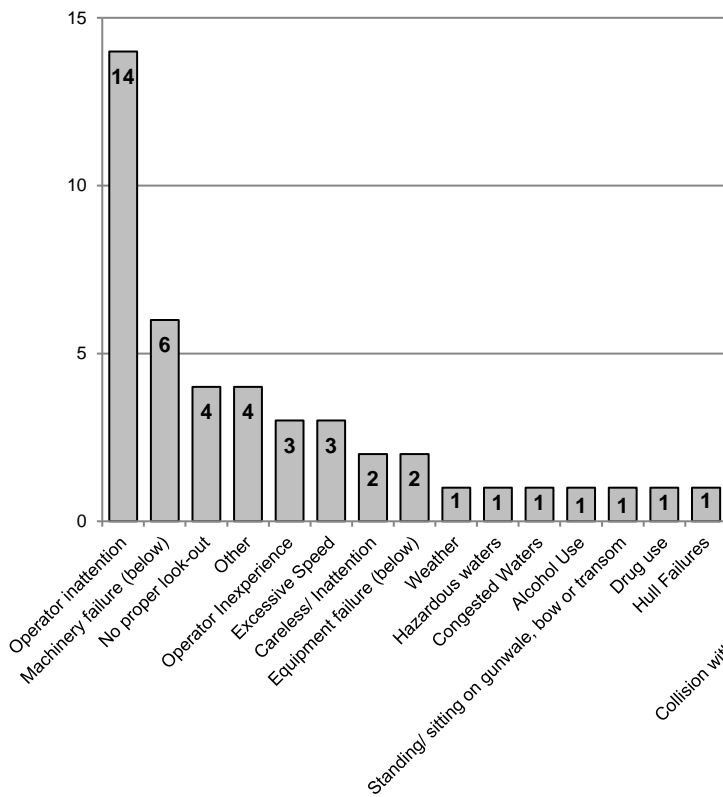
Type Of Vessel



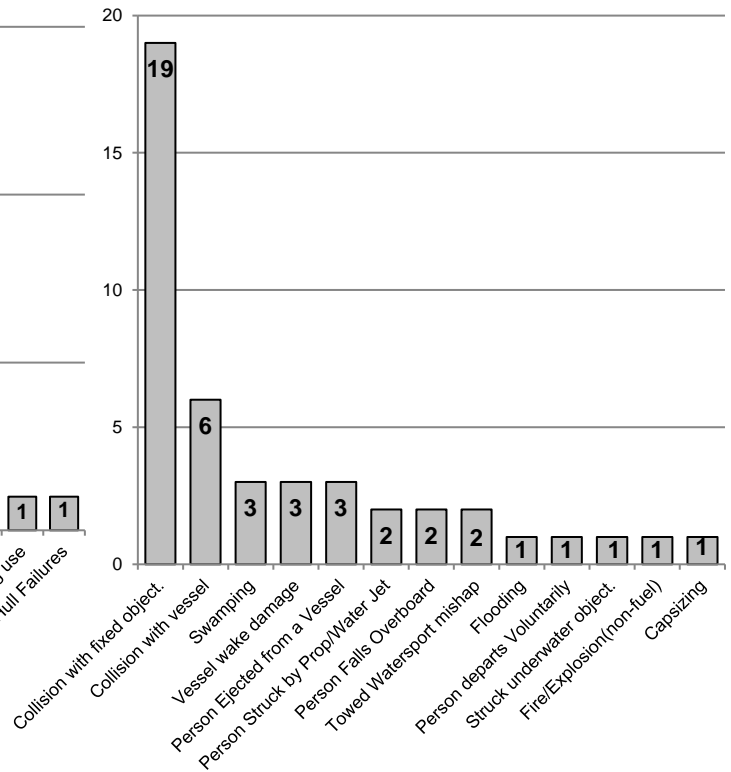
Vessel Length (In Feet)



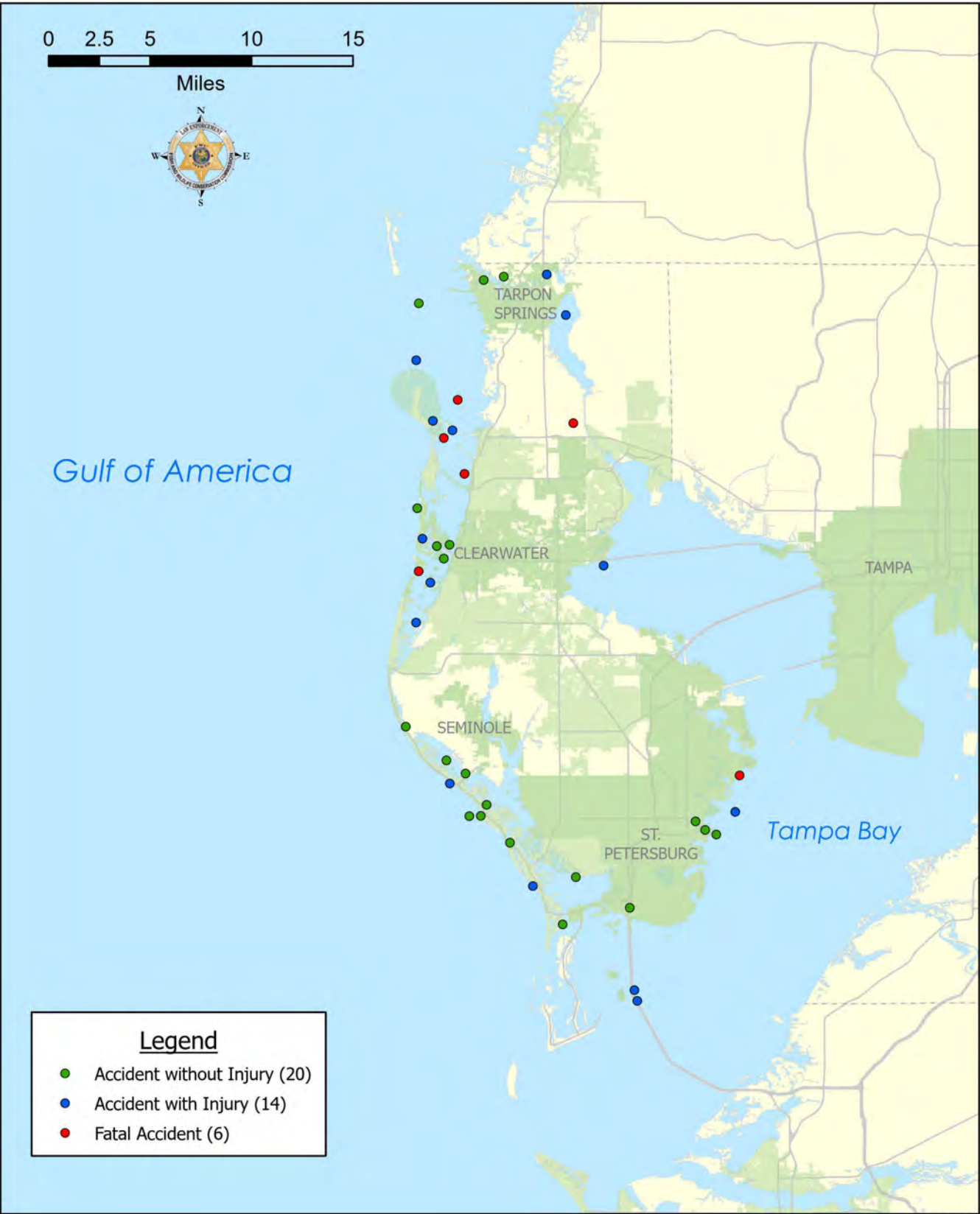
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



Known Locations of Accidents in Pinellas County During 2024

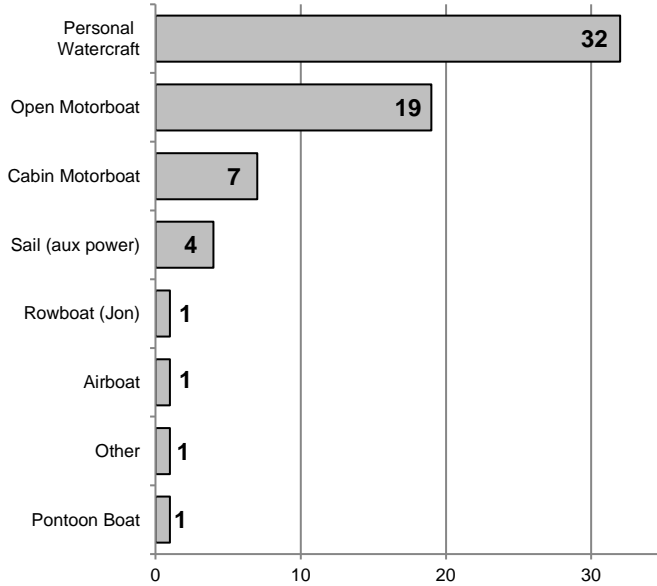


Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

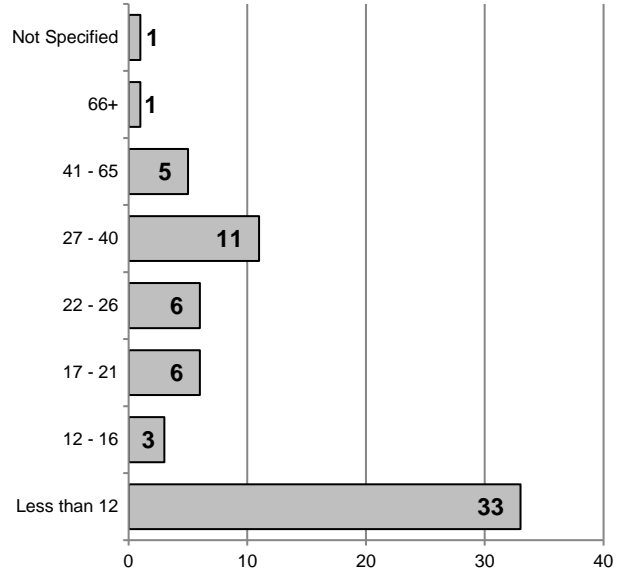
Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

4. Pinellas County

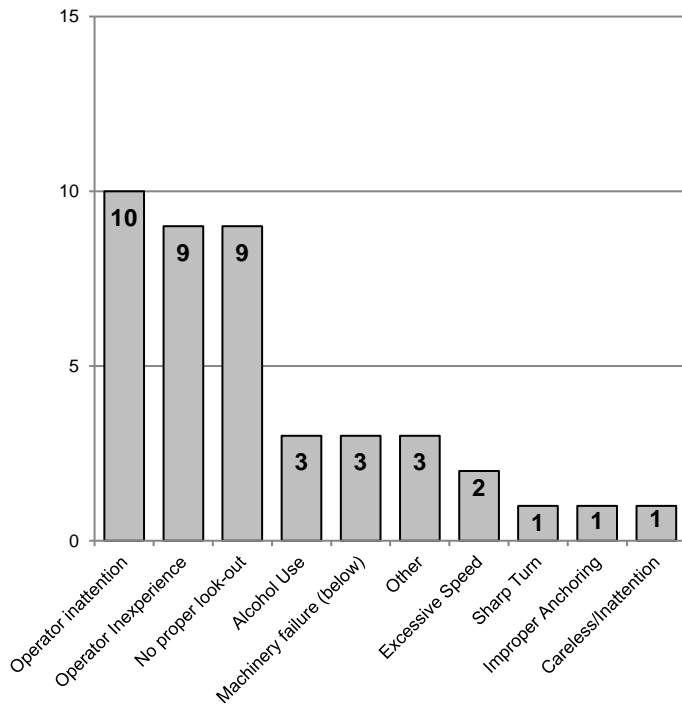
Type Of Vessel



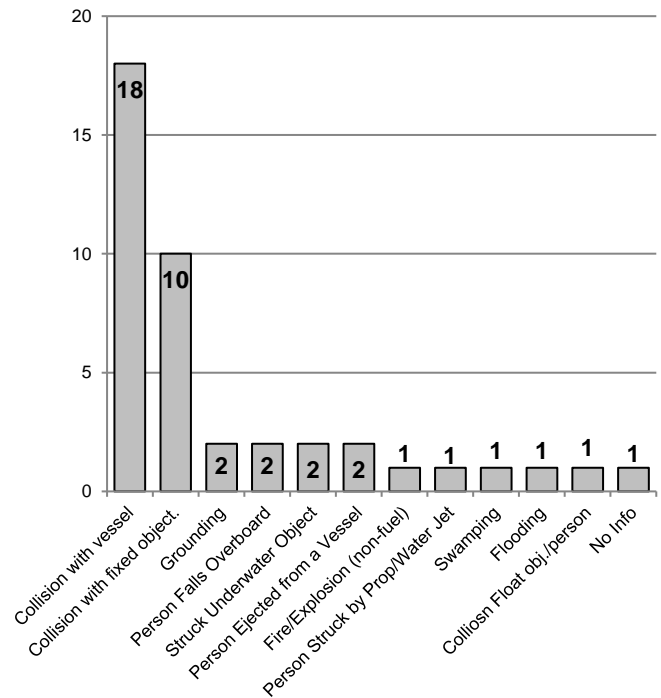
Vessel Length (In Feet)



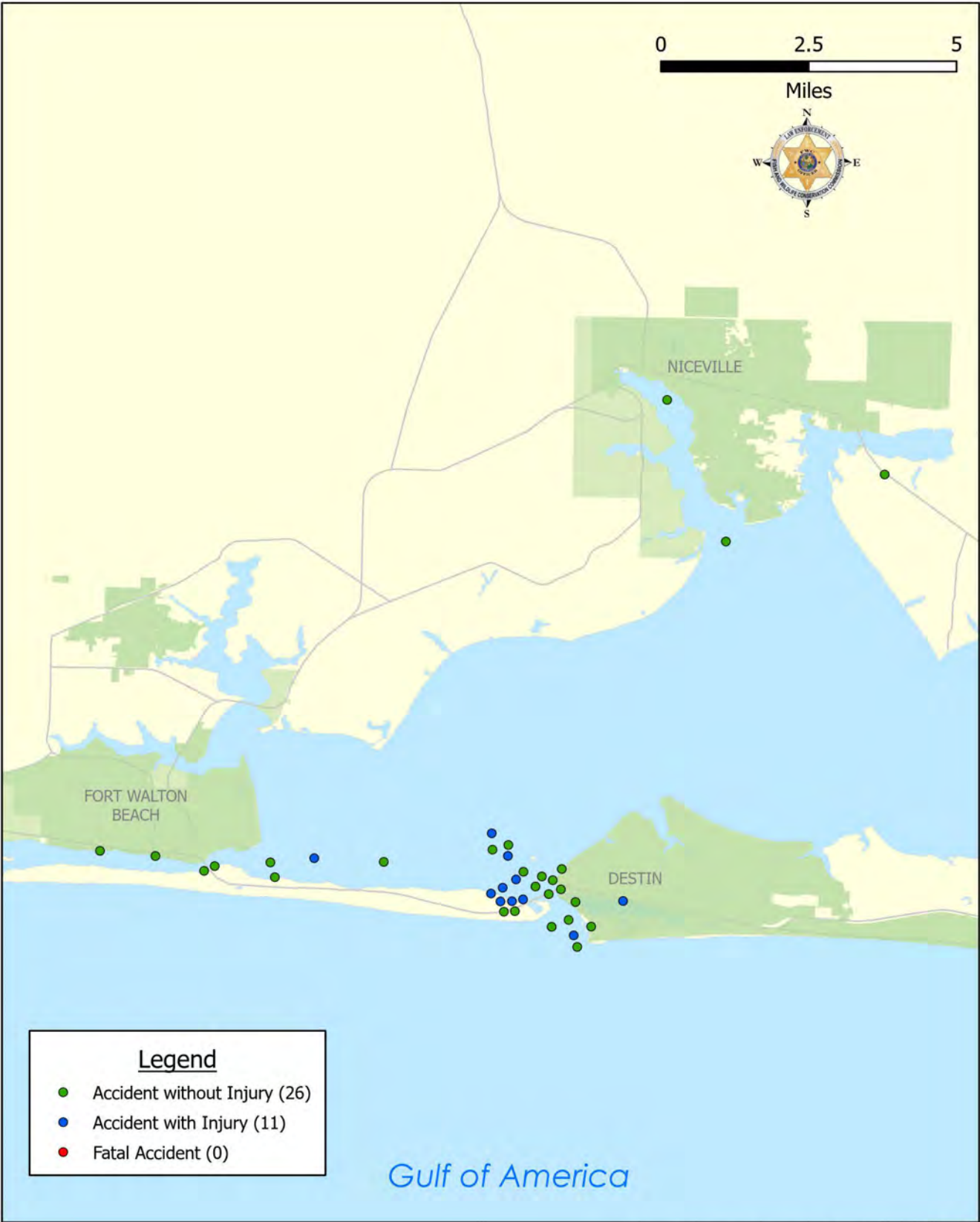
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



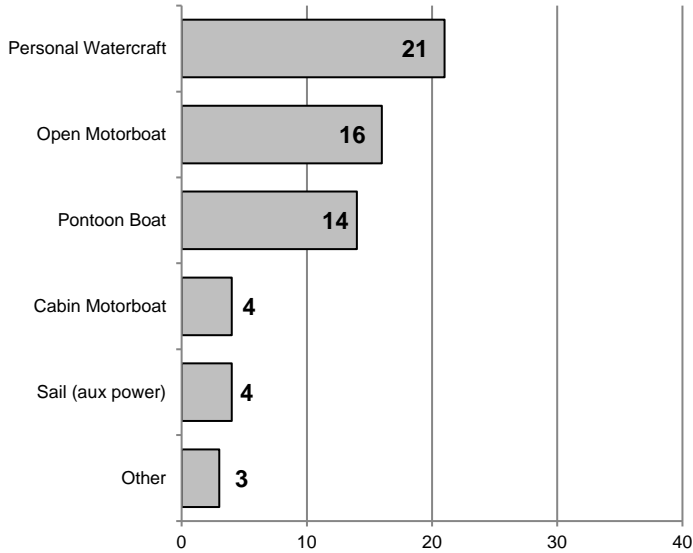
Known Locations of Accidents in Okaloosa County During 2024



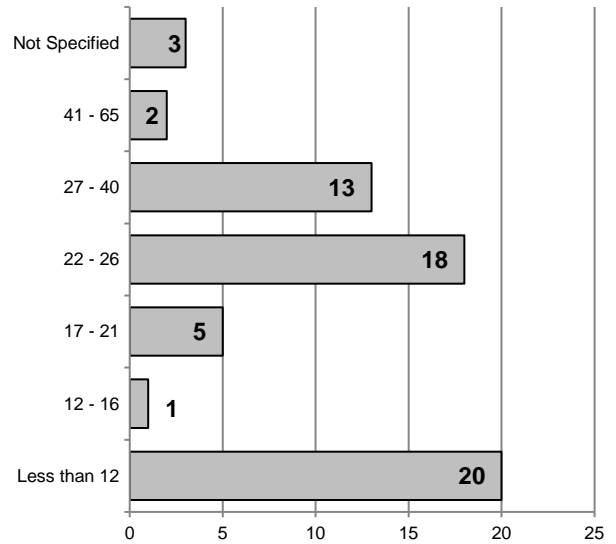
Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

5. Okaloosa County

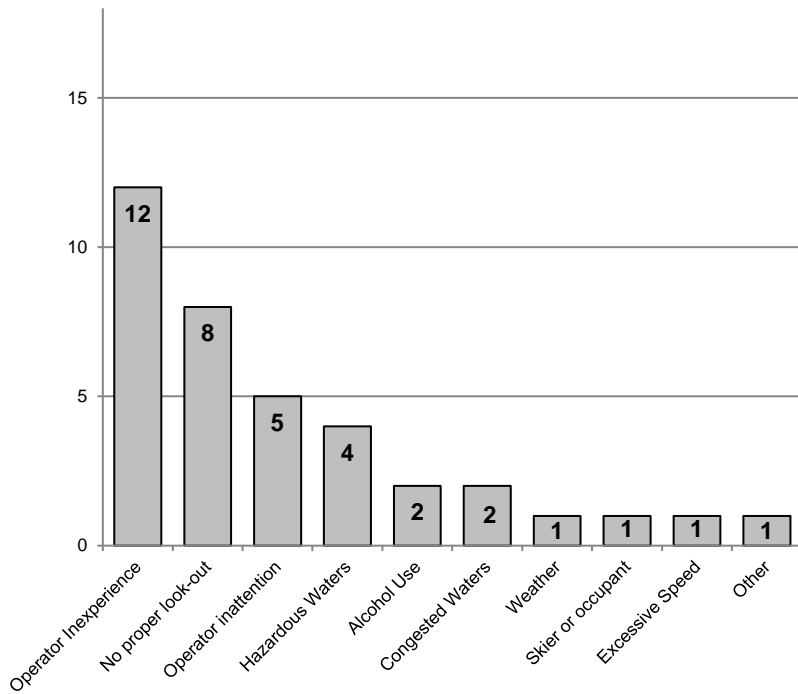
Type Of Vessel



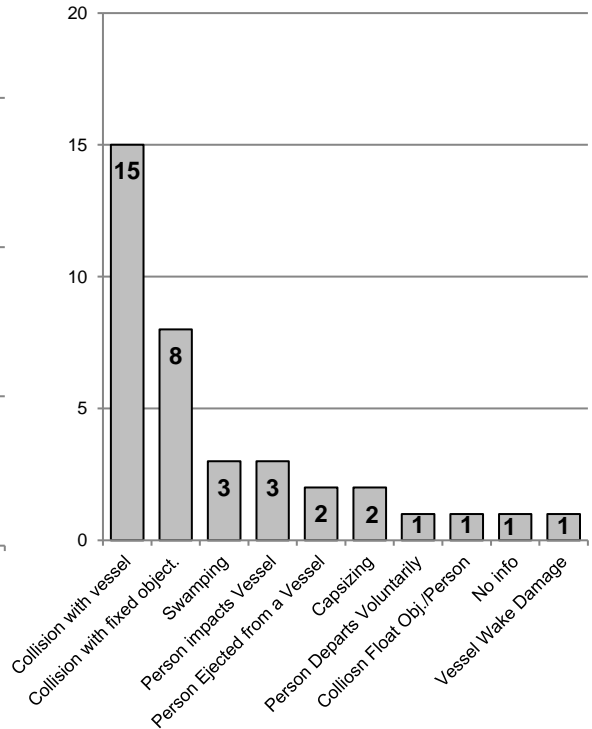
Vessel Length (In Feet)



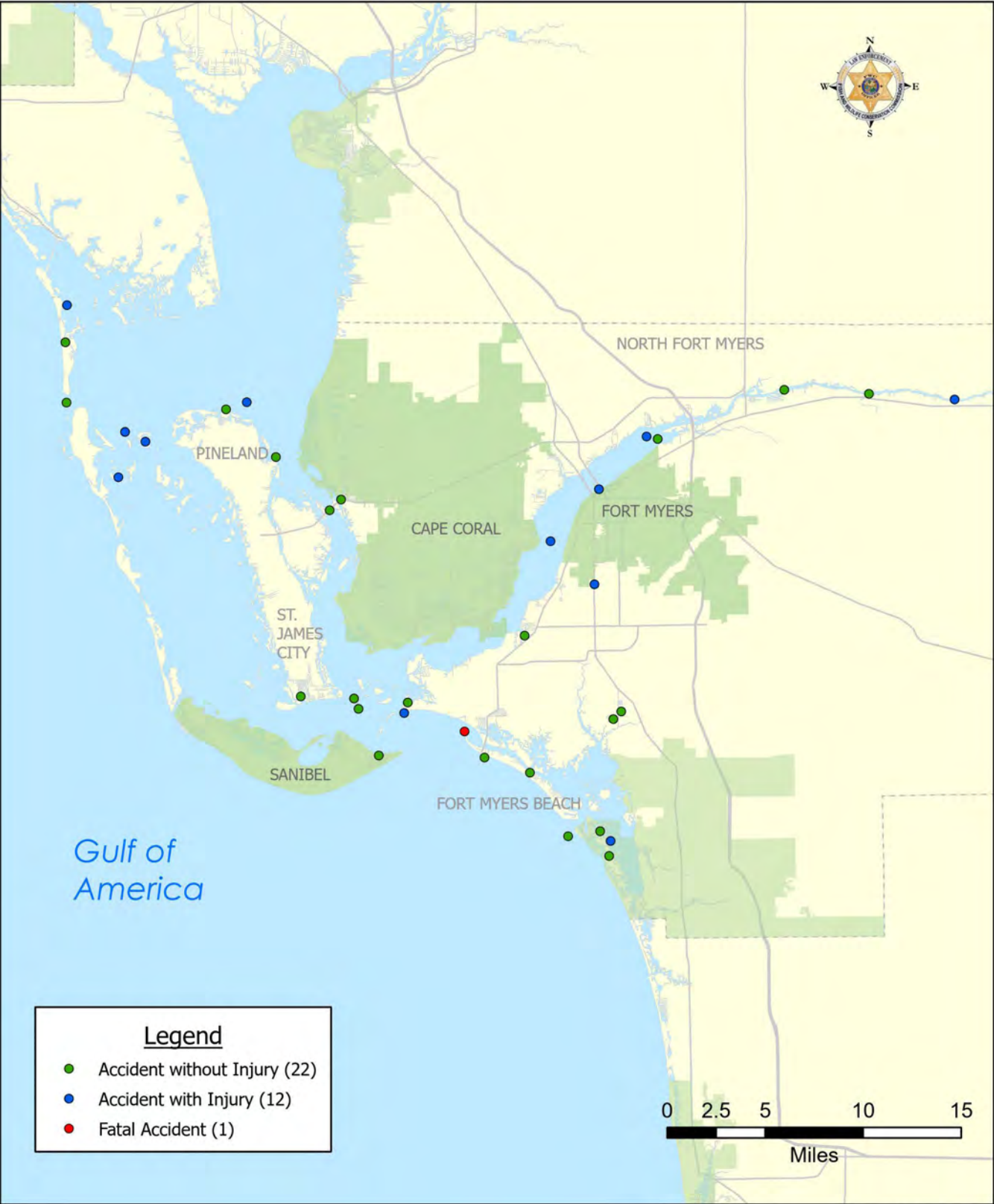
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident

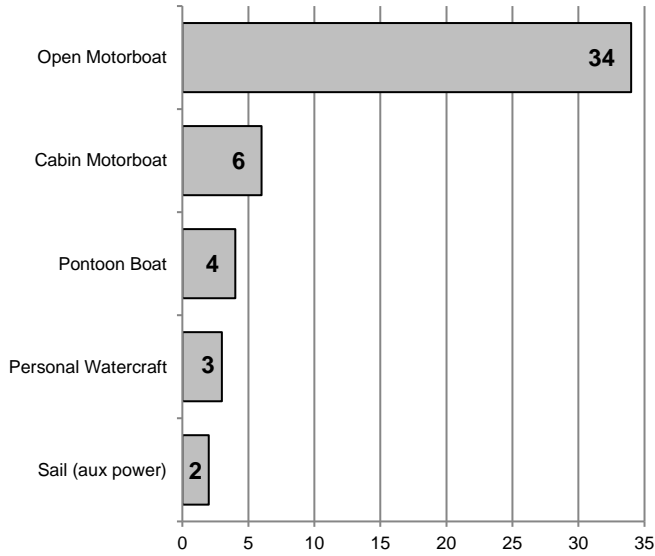


Known Locations of Accidents in Lee County During 2024

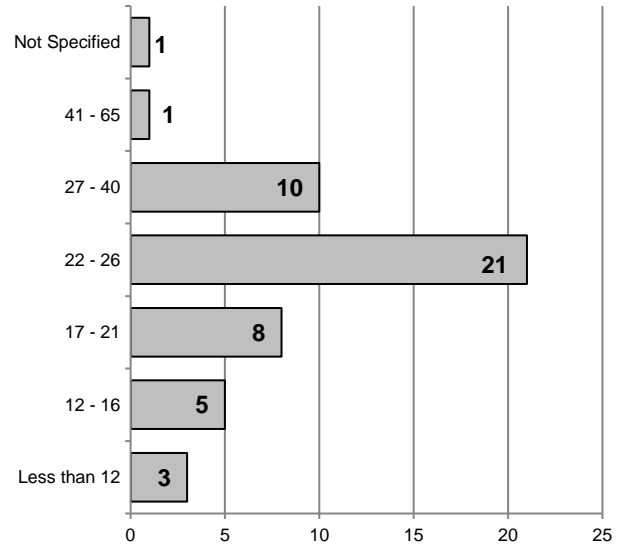


6. Lee County

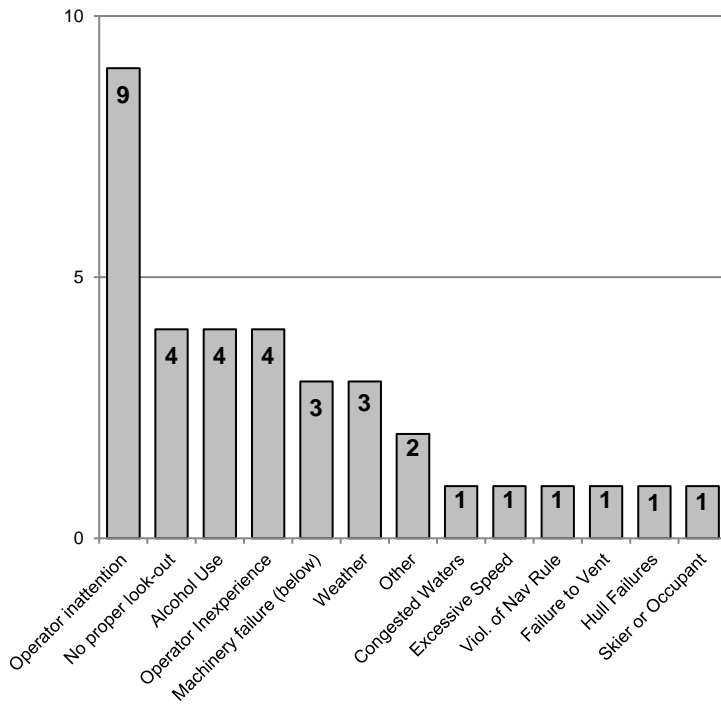
Type Of Vessel



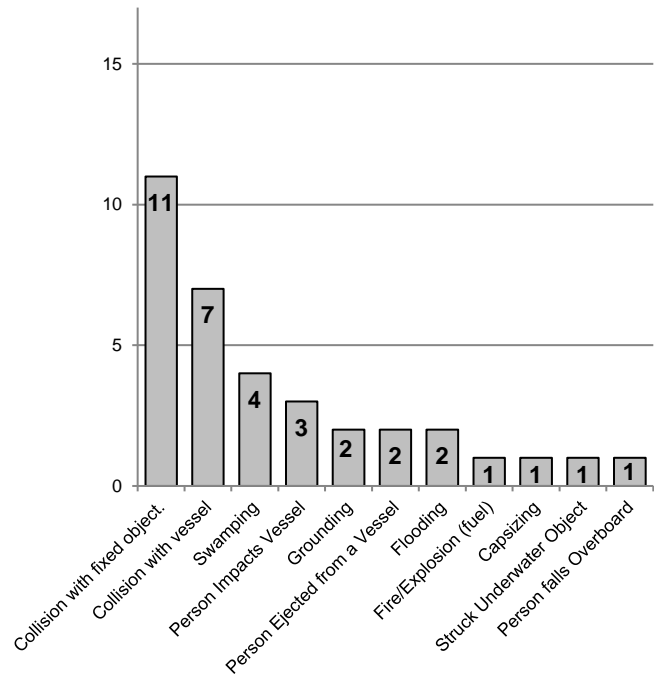
Vessel Length (In Feet)



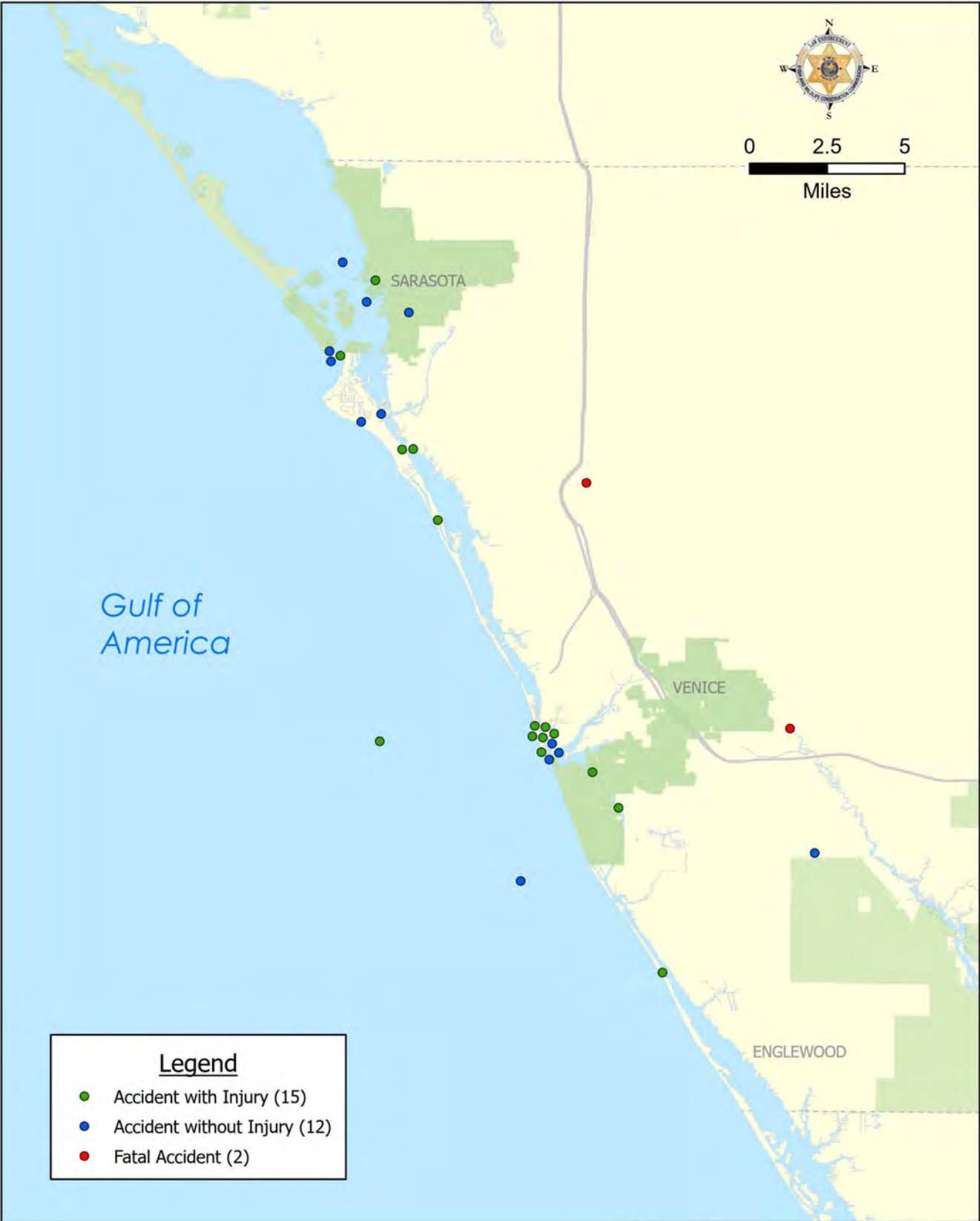
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



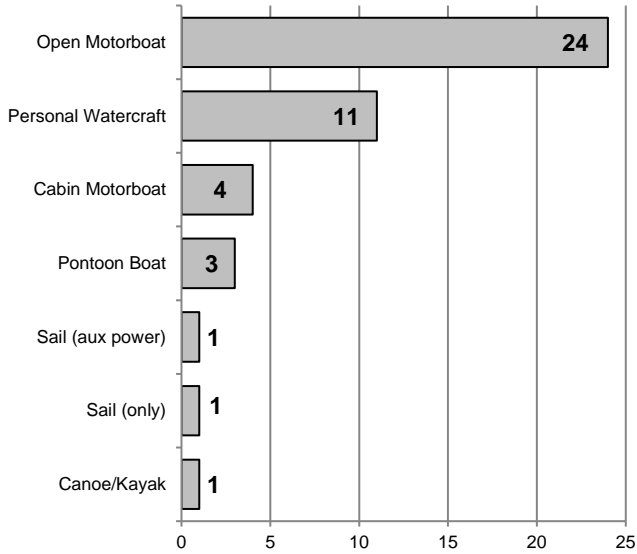
Known Locations of Accidents in Sarasota County During 2024



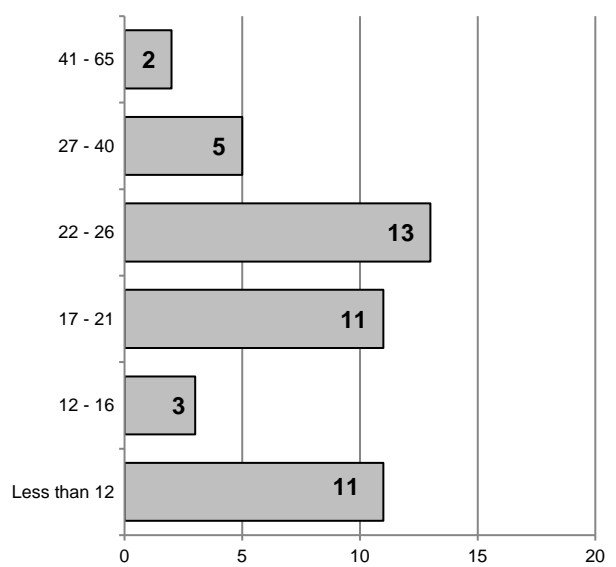
Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

7. Sarasota County

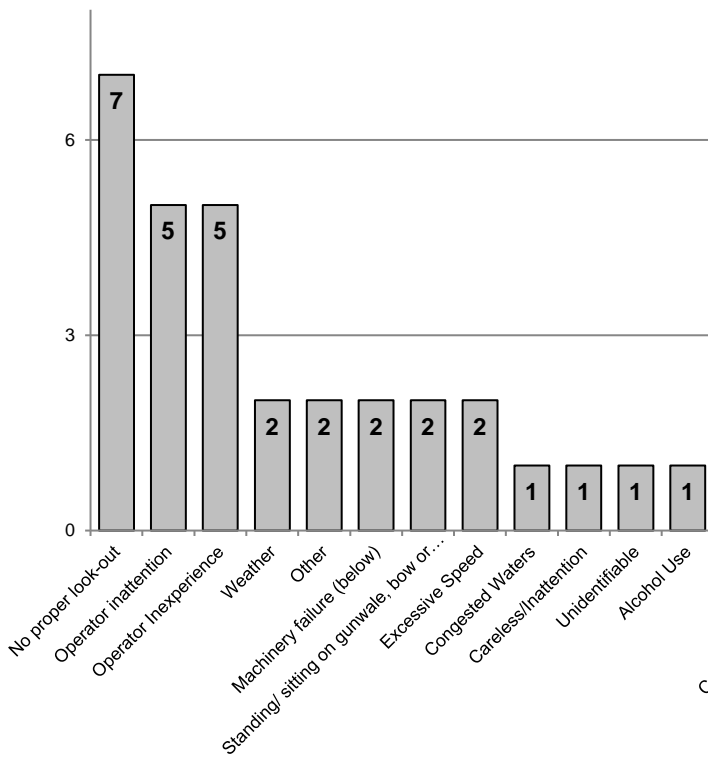
Type Of Vessel



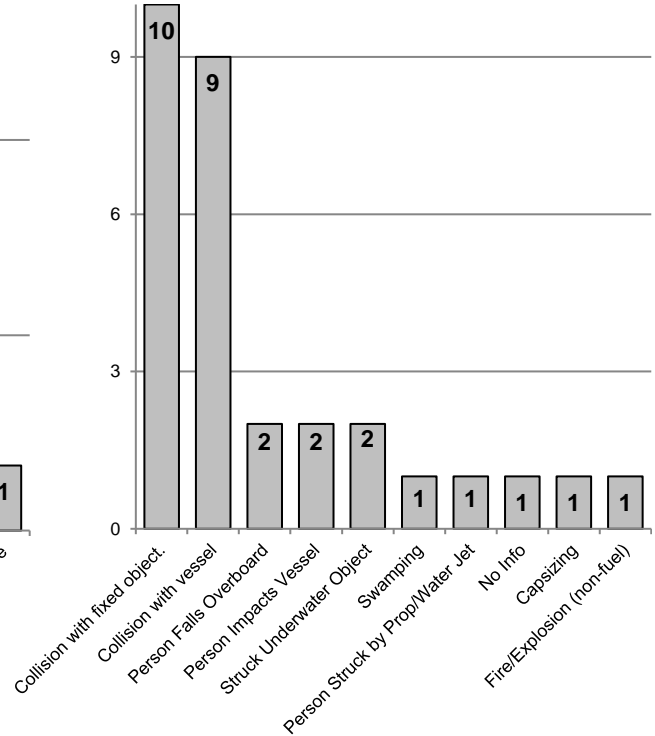
Vessel Length (In Feet)



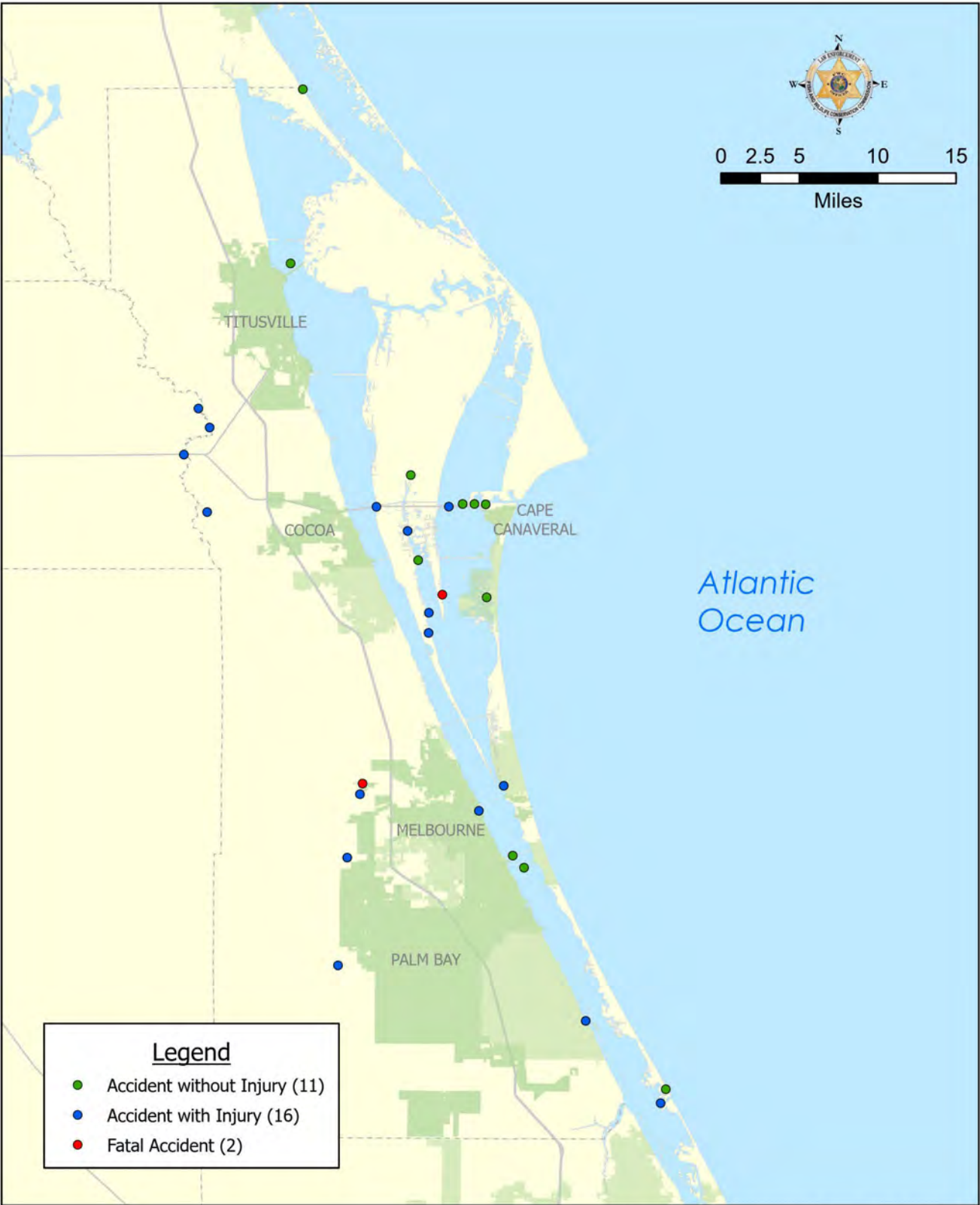
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident

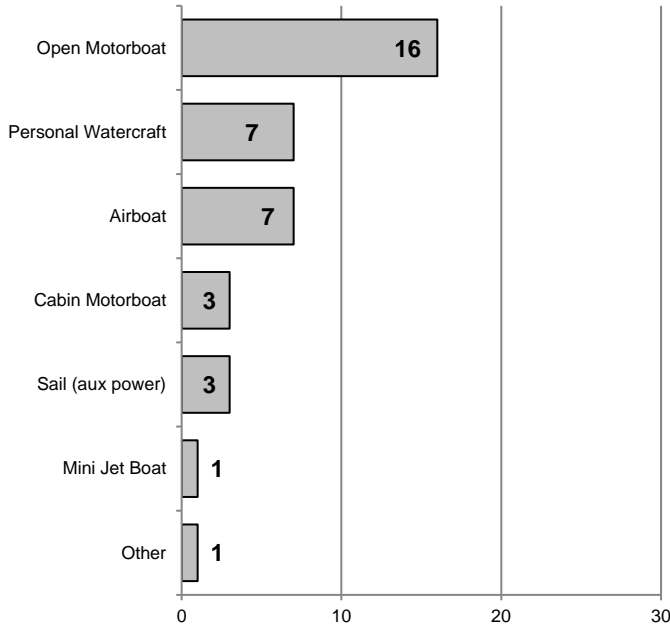


Known Locations of Accidents in Brevard County During 2024

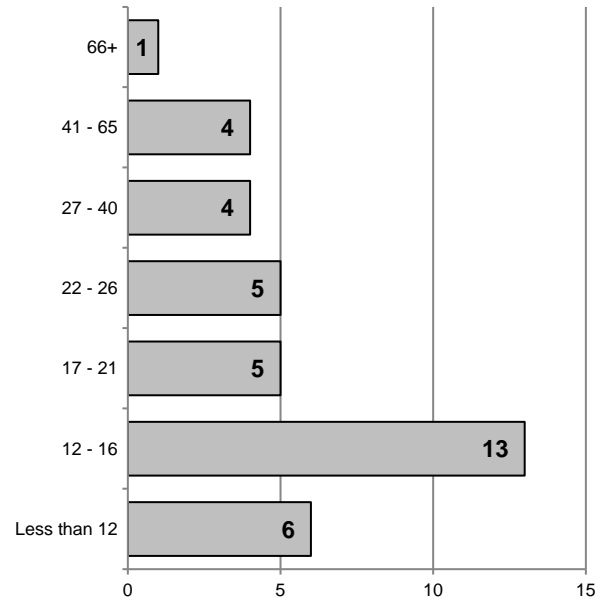


8. Brevard County

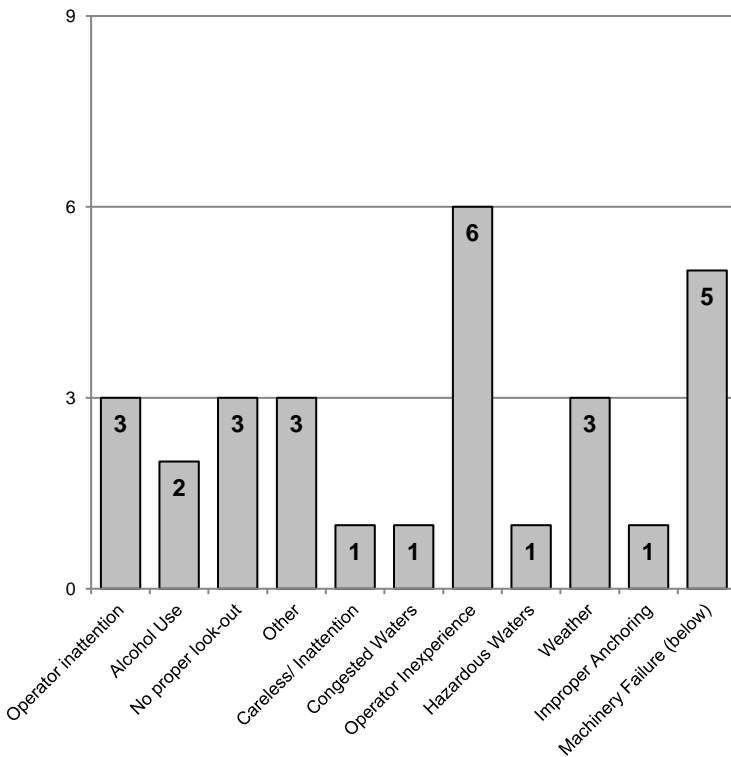
Type Of Vessel



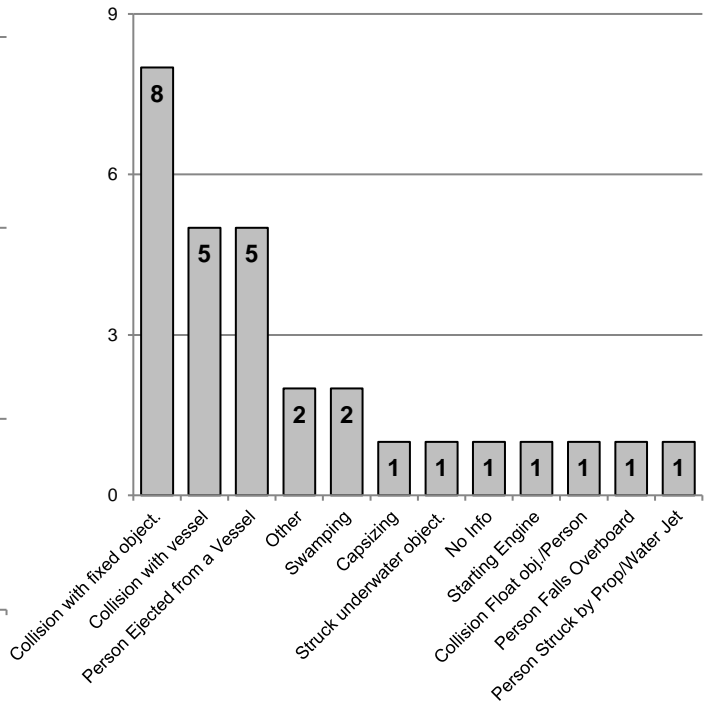
Vessel Length (In Feet)



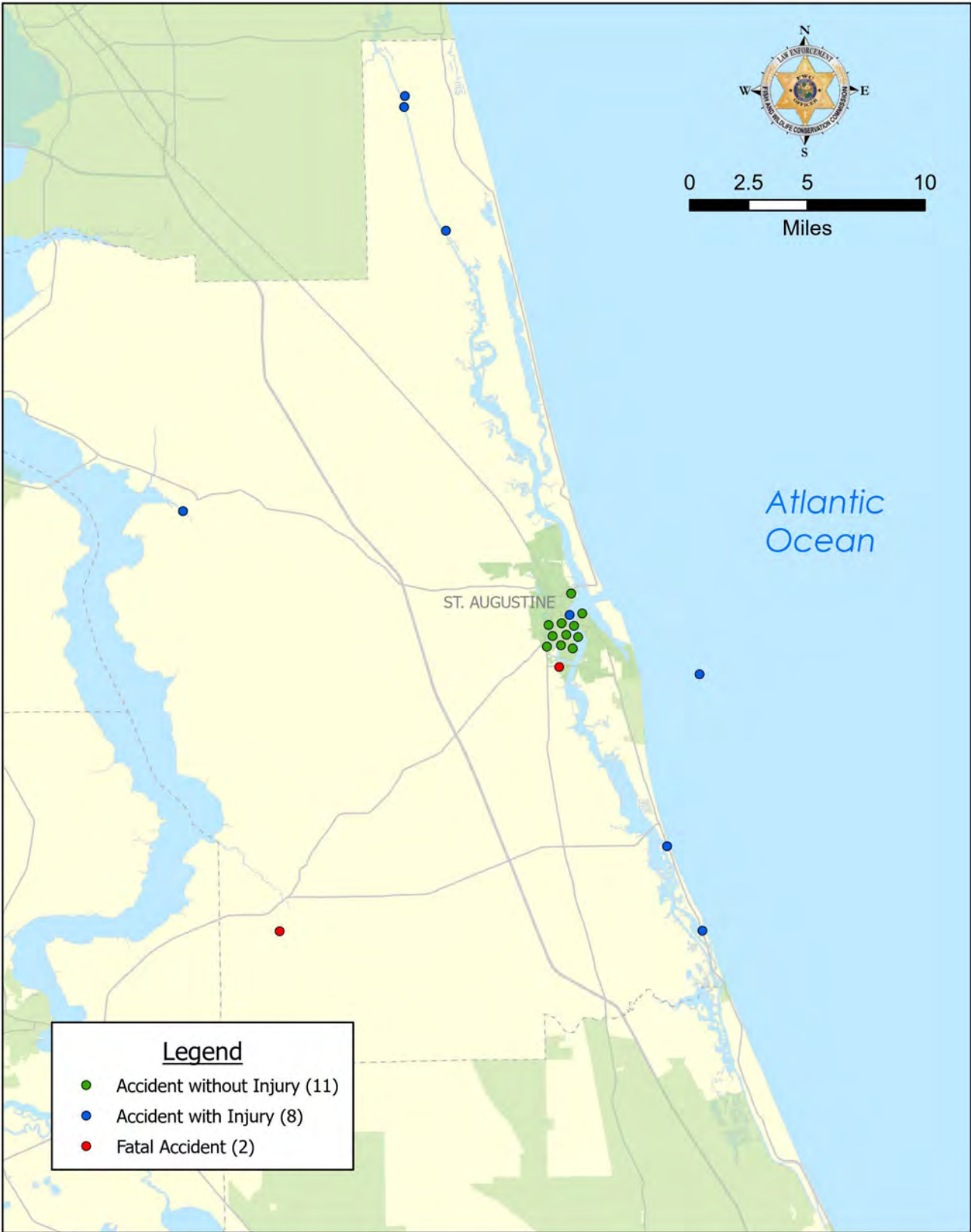
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



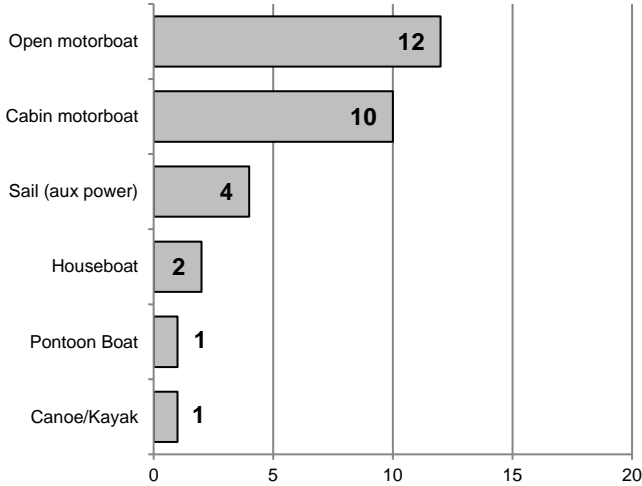
Known Locations of Accidents in St. Johns County During 2024



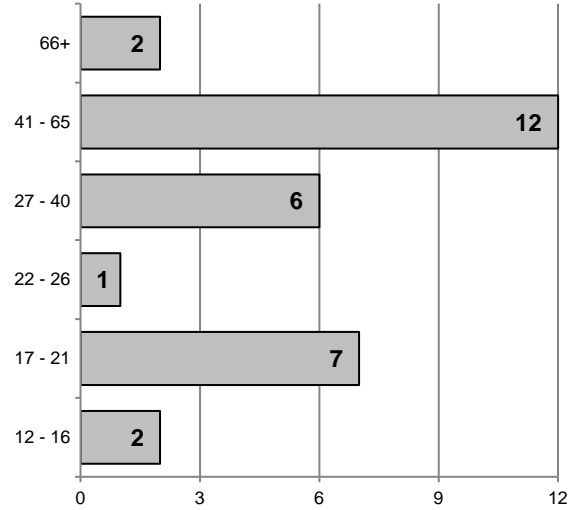
Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

9. St. Johns County

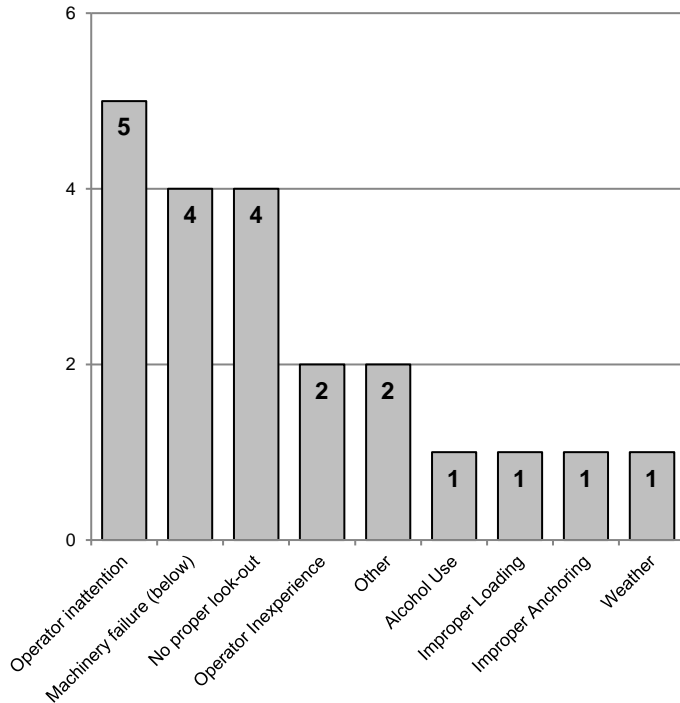
Type Of Vessel



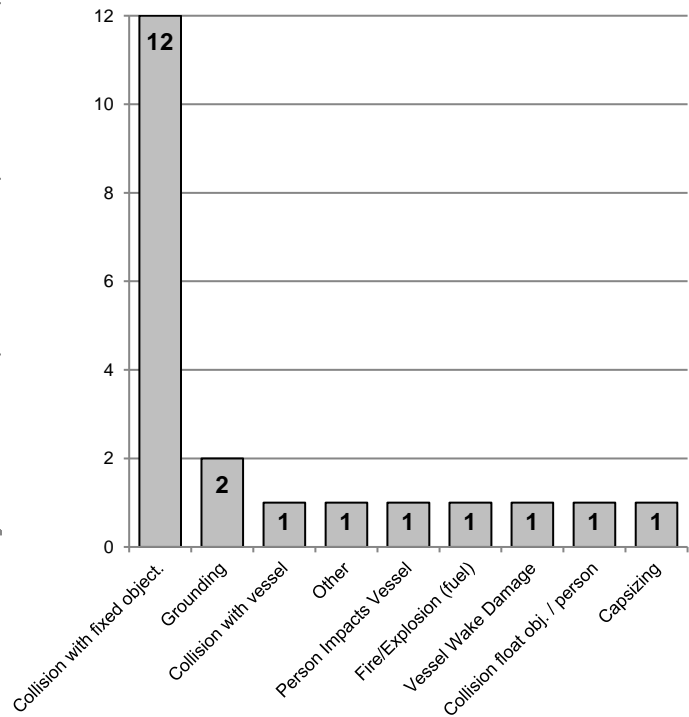
Vessel Length (In Feet)



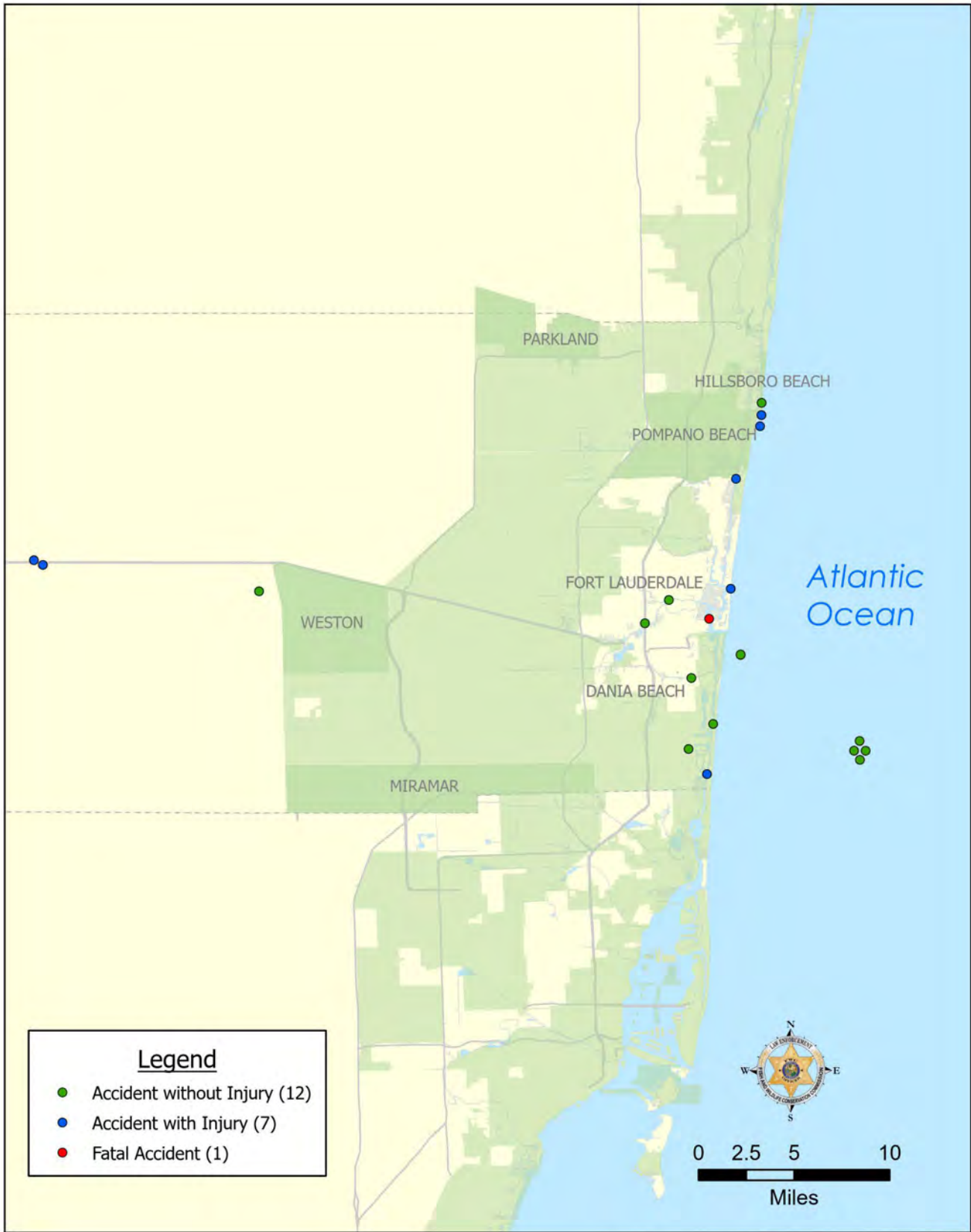
Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



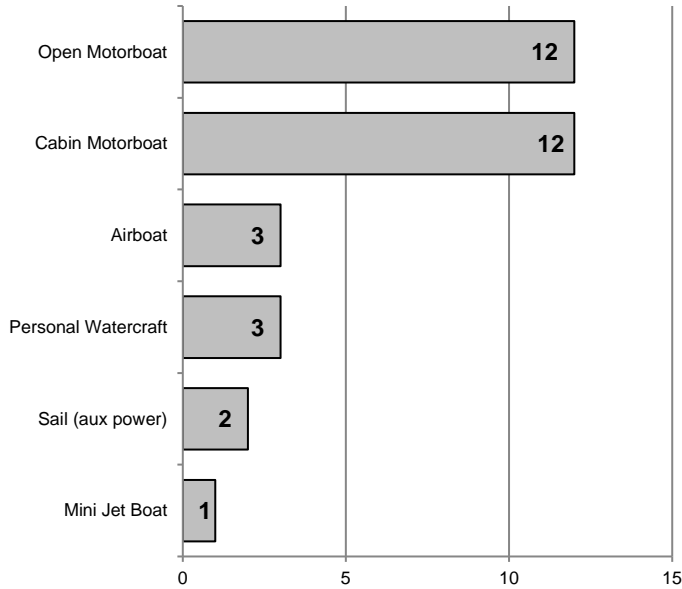
Known Locations of Accidents in Broward County During 2024



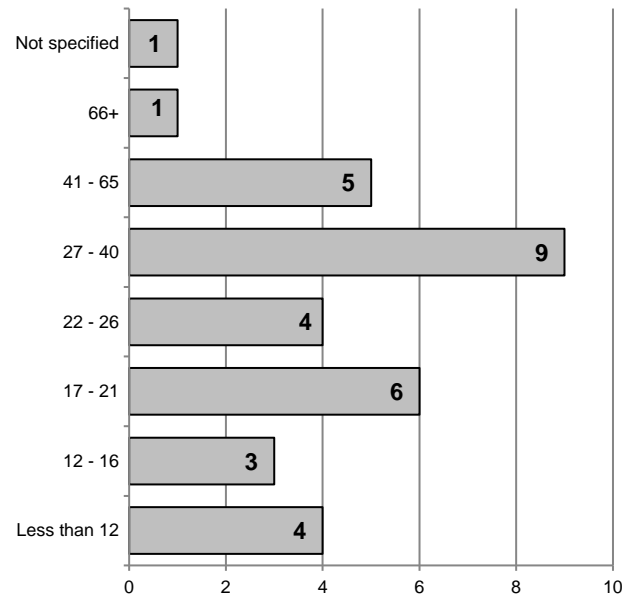
Map document created by FWC DLE GIS

10. Broward County

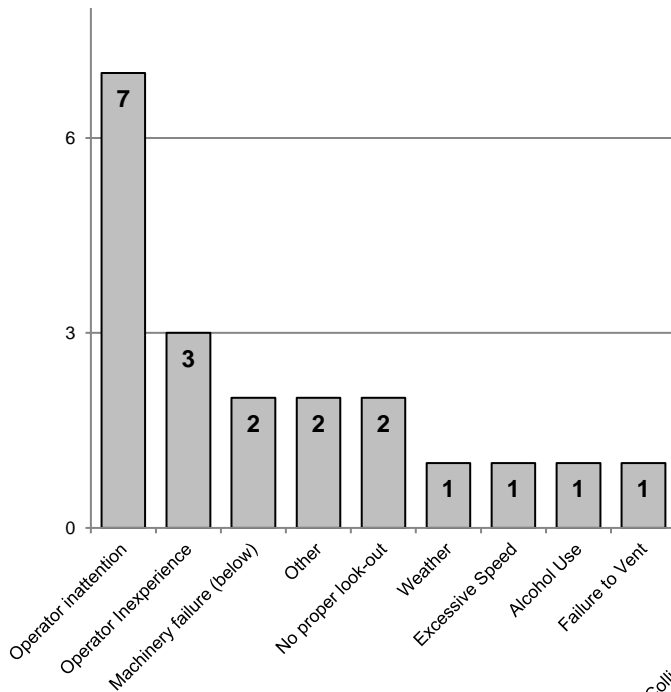
Type Of Vessel



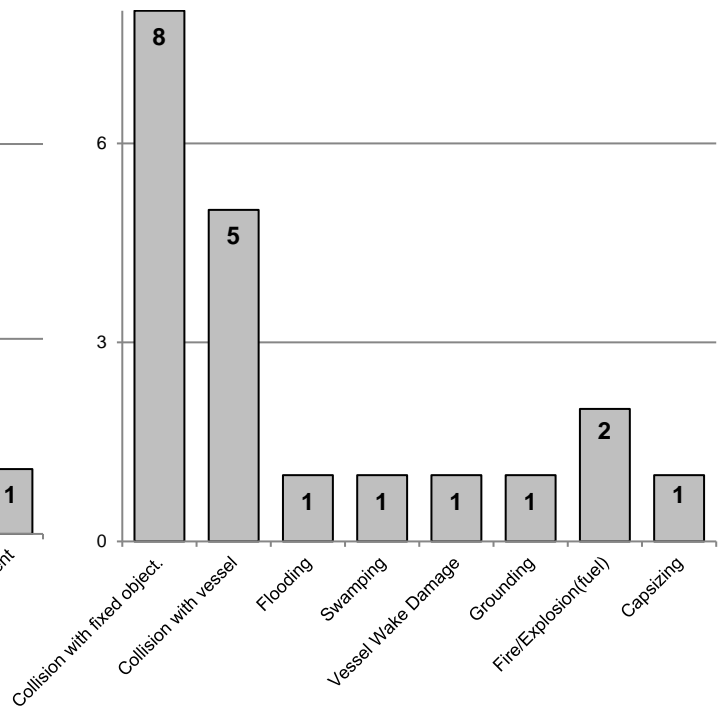
Vessel Length (In Feet)



Primary Cause Of Accident



Primary Type Of Accident



Trend Analysis

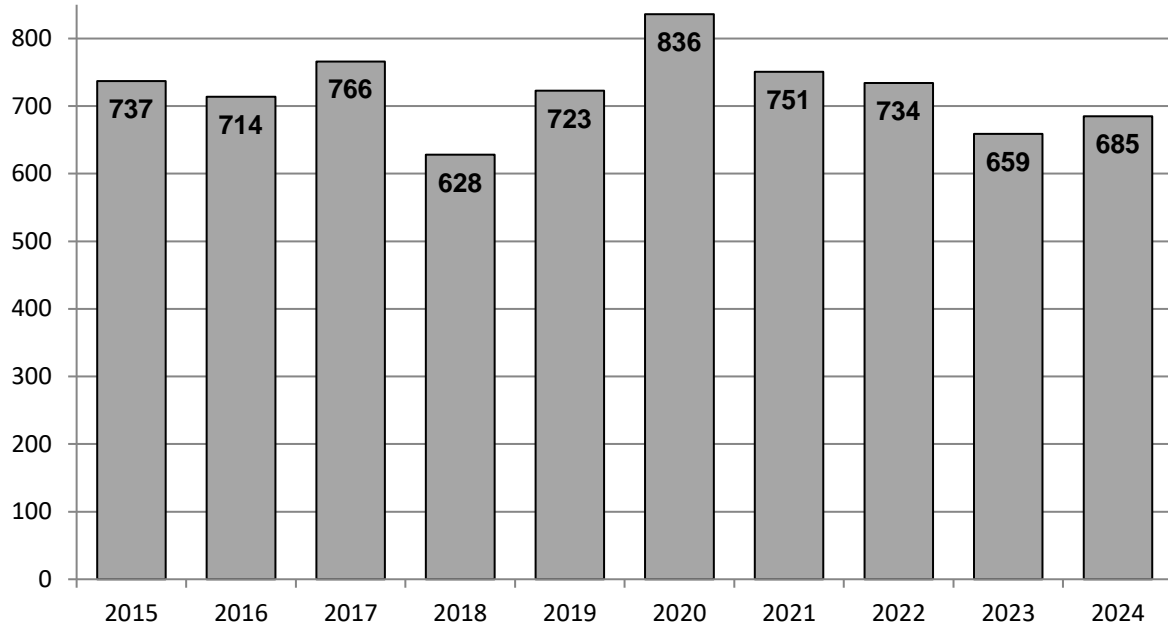


A 17-foot vessel carrying two occupants was traveling on Sarasota Bay, south of the Ringling Causeway in Sarasota County. The vessel was going about 25 mph when it struck Channel Marker 76. The occupants stated it was dark and the channel marker was hard to see. Both occupants sustained injuries, with one being ejected from the boat.



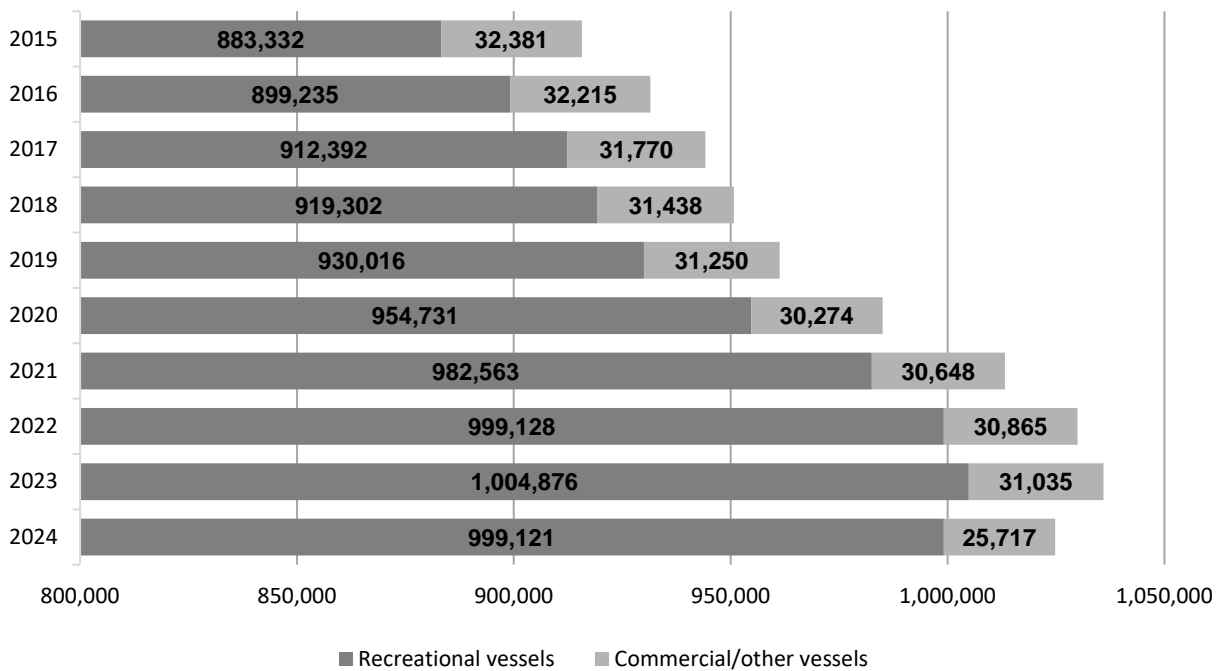
2024 Trend Analysis

Reportable Accidents 2015-2024



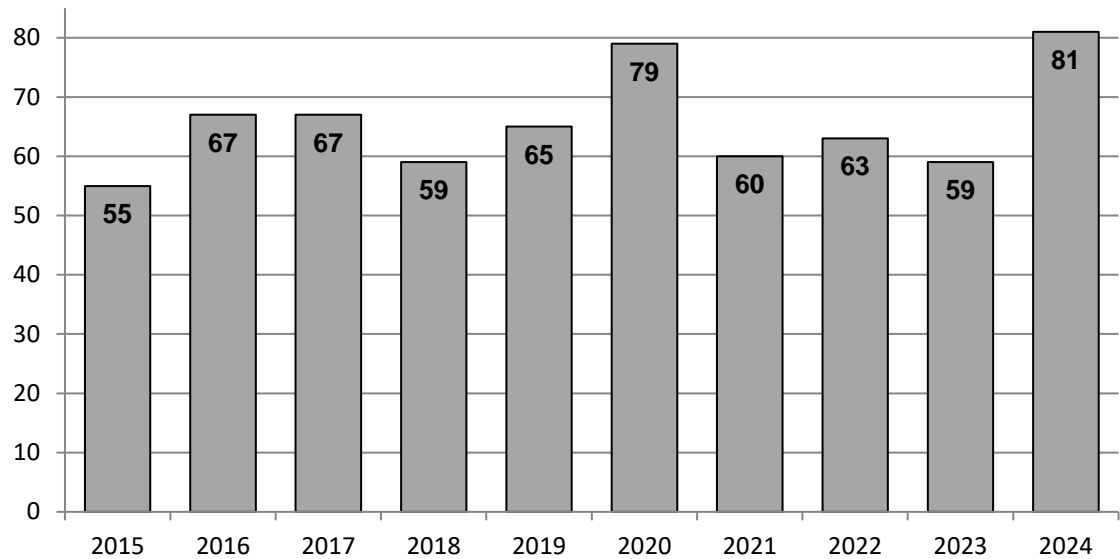
*Average number of accidents per year: 723

Vessel Registration 2015-2024



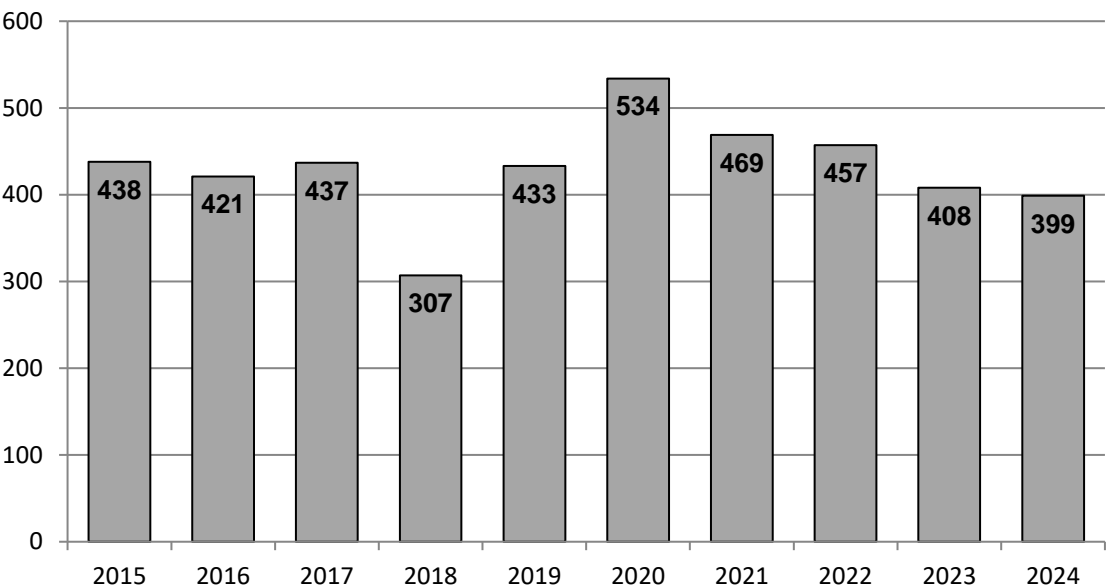
2024 Trend Analysis

Fatalities 2015-2024



*Average number of fatalities per year: 66

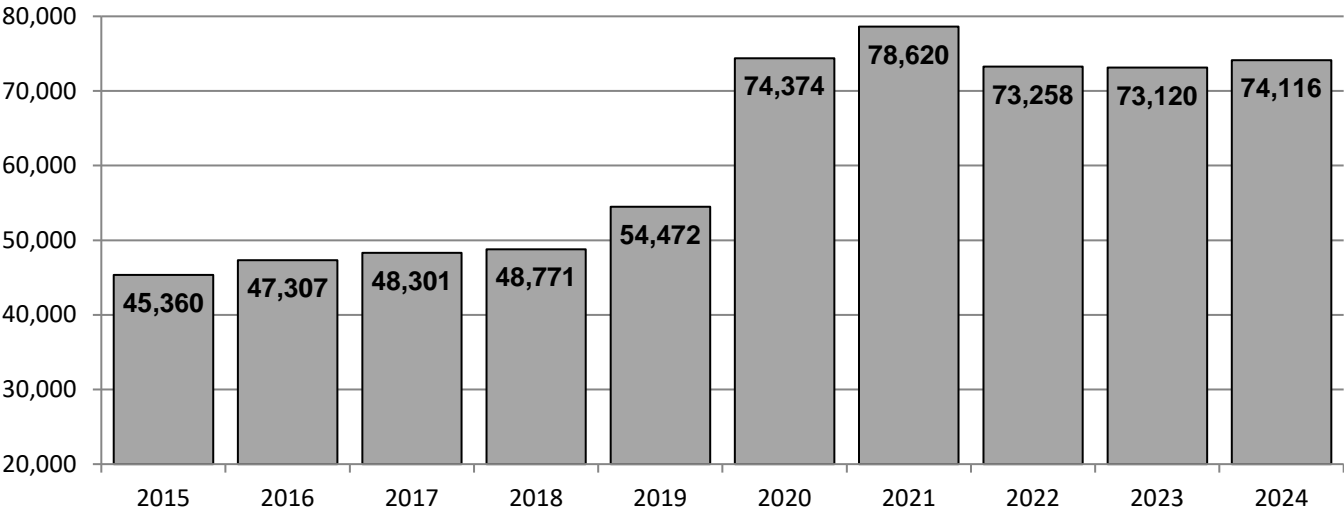
Injuries 2015-2024



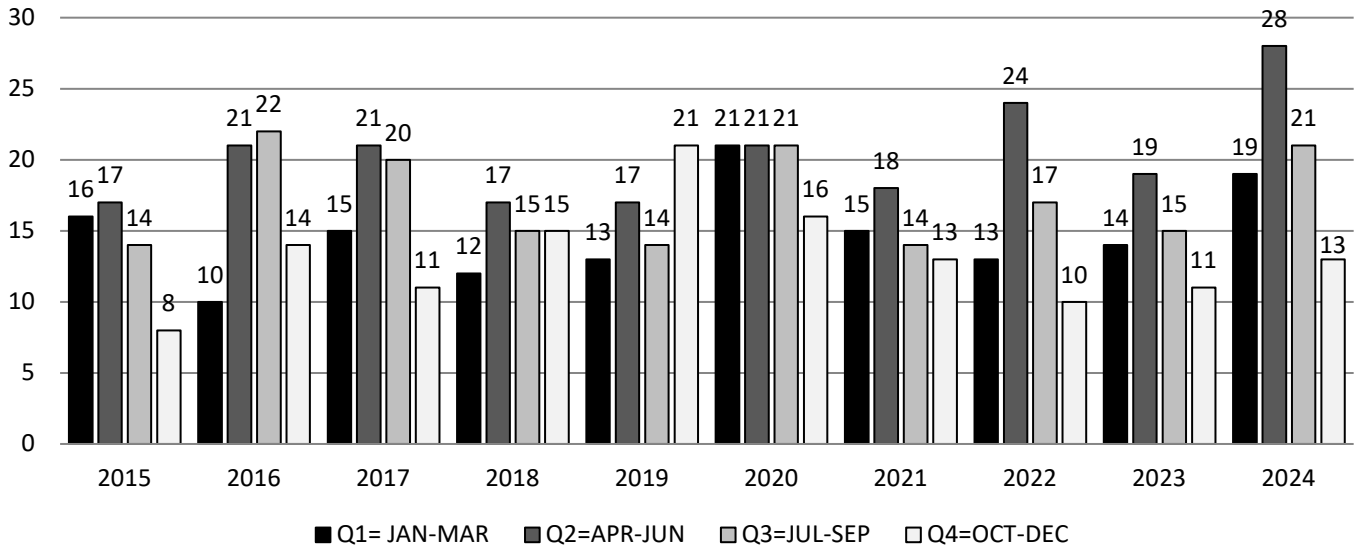
*Average number of injuries per year: 430

2024 Trend Analysis

Boating Safety Education I.D. Cards Issued
2015-2024

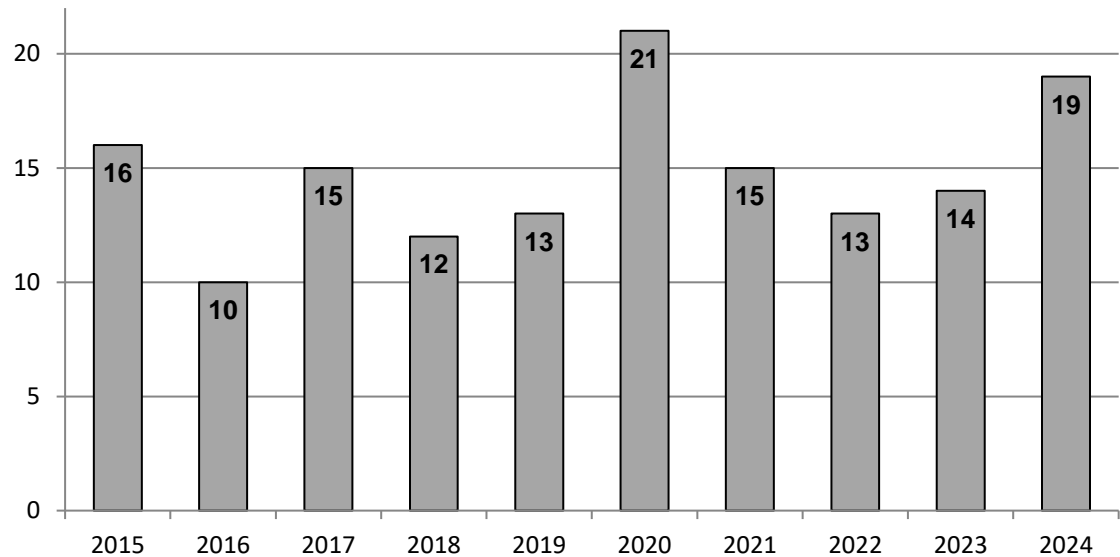


Fatalities By Quarter 2015-2024



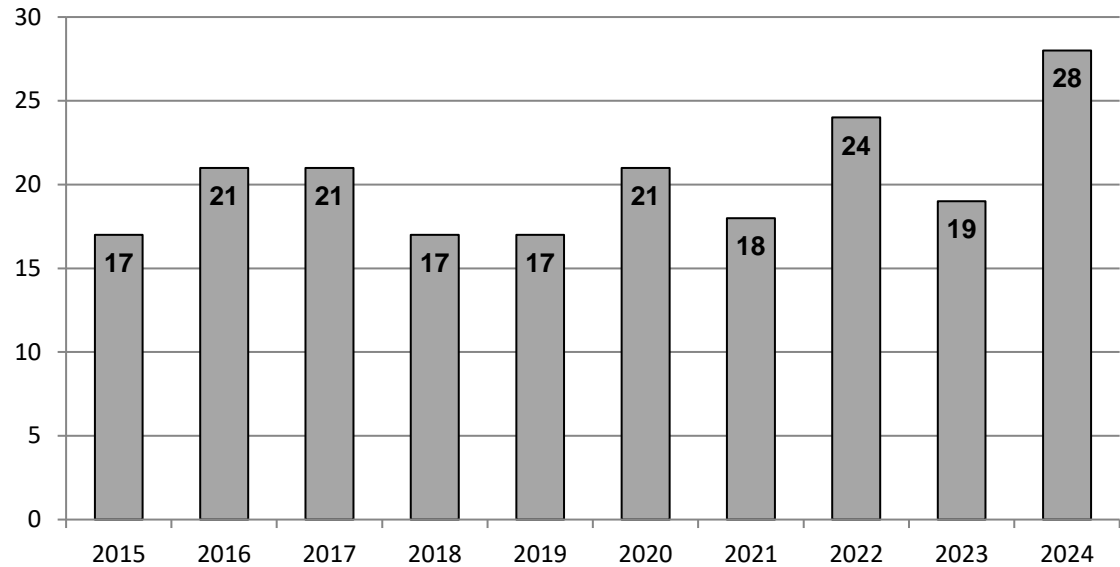
2024 Trend Analysis

Quarter 1 Fatalities



*Q1 = JAN – MAR Average number of fatalities in first quarter: 14.8

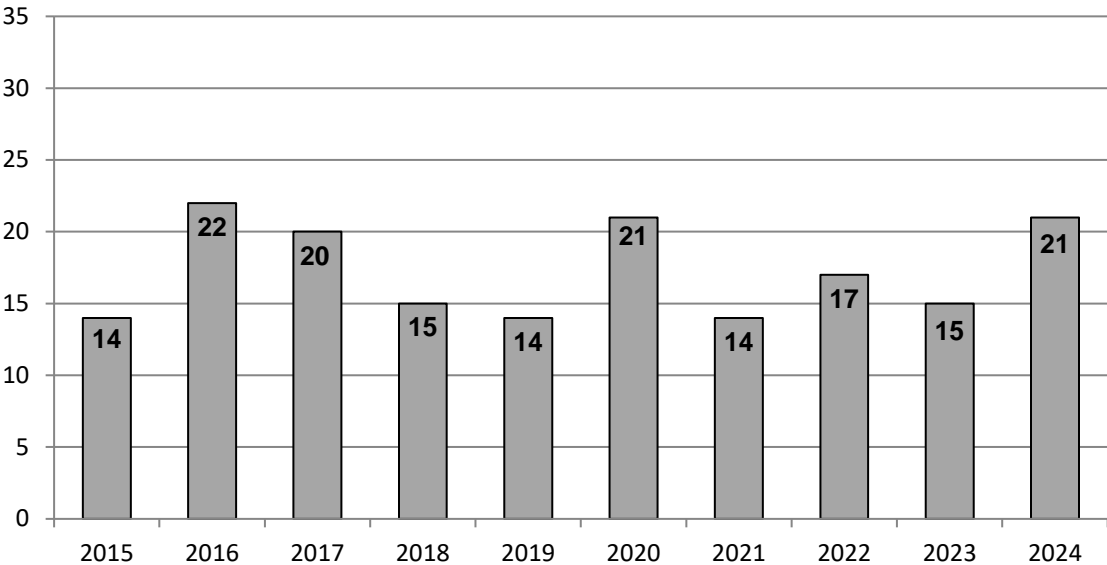
Quarter 2 Fatalities



*Q2 = APR – JUN Average number of fatalities in second quarter: 20.3

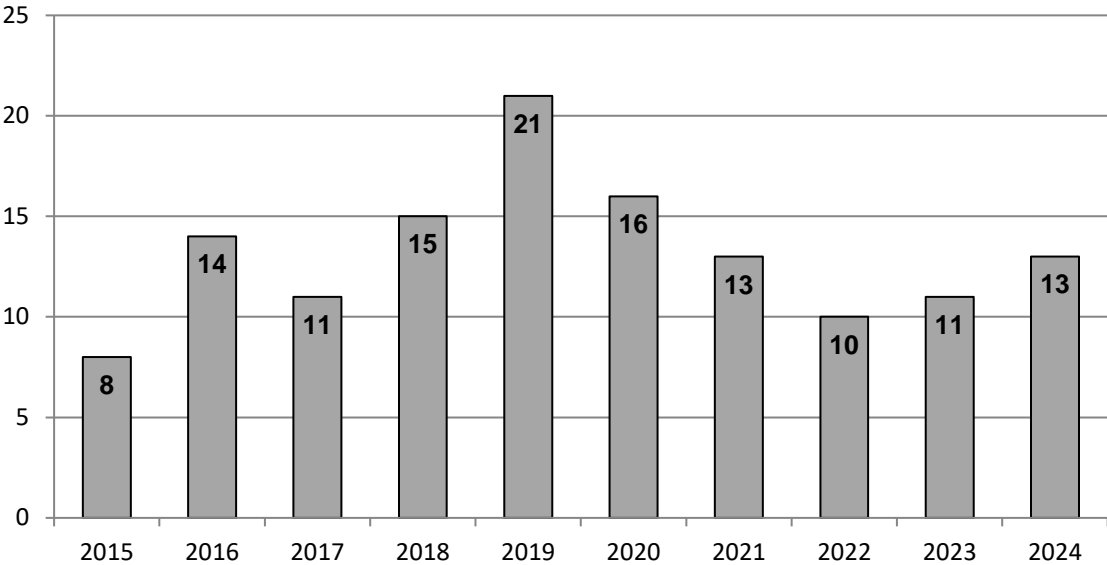
2024 Trend Analysis

Quarter 3 Fatalities



*Q3 = JUL – SEP Average number of fatalities in third quarter: 17.2

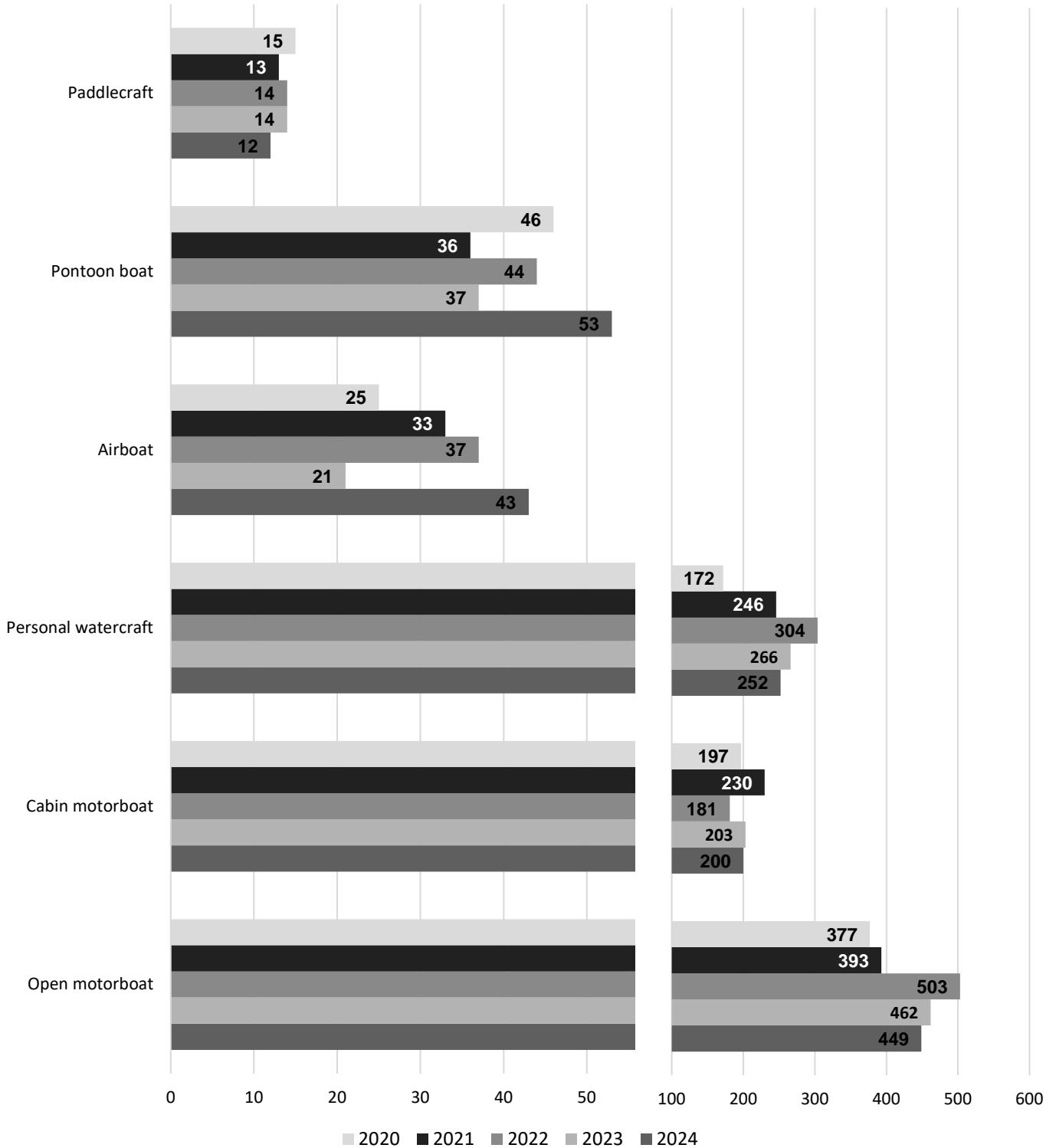
Quarter 4 Fatalities



*Q4 = OCT – DEC Average number of fatalities in fourth quarter: 13

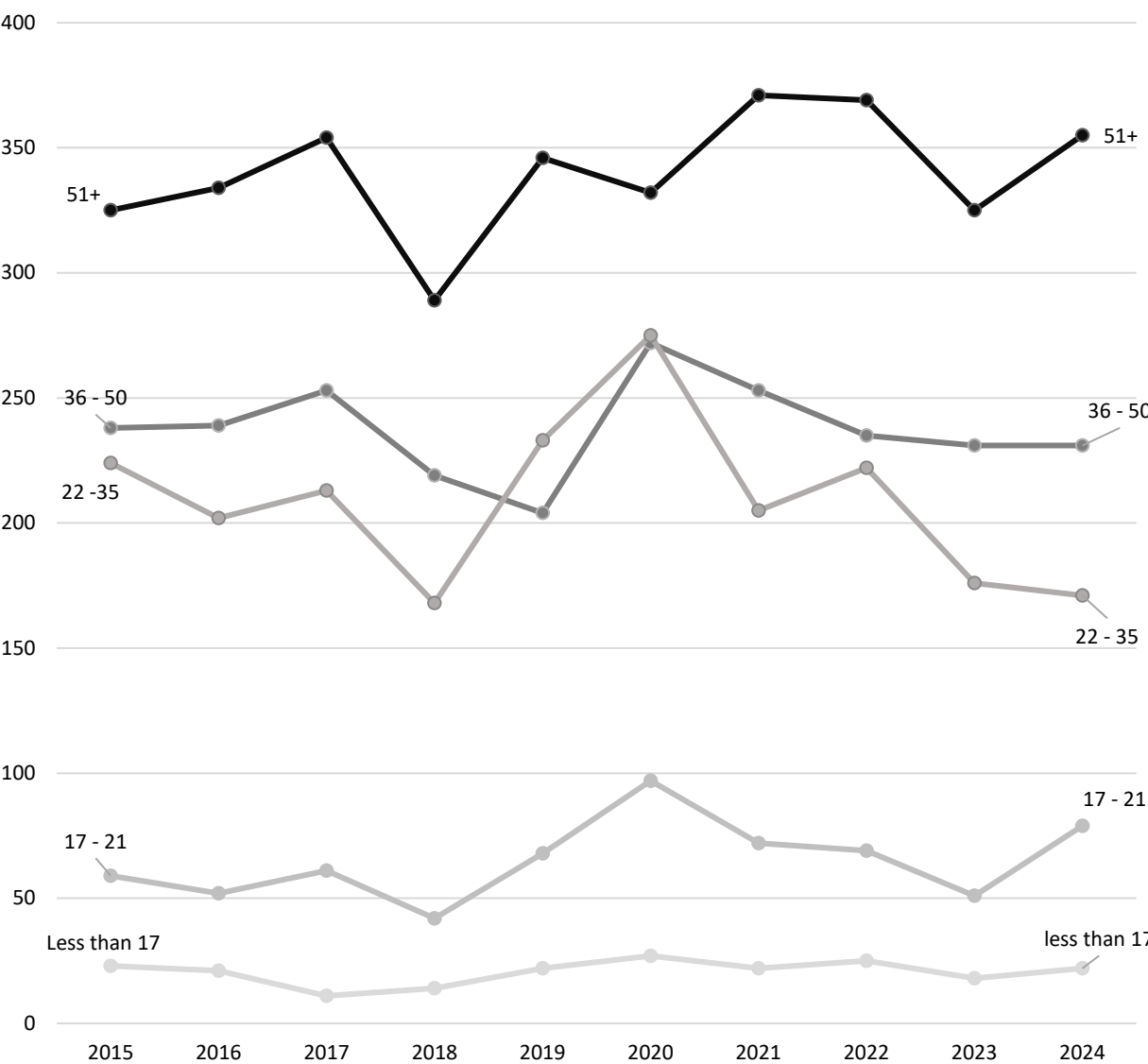
2024 Trend Analysis

Boating Accidents By Vessel Types 2020 - 2024



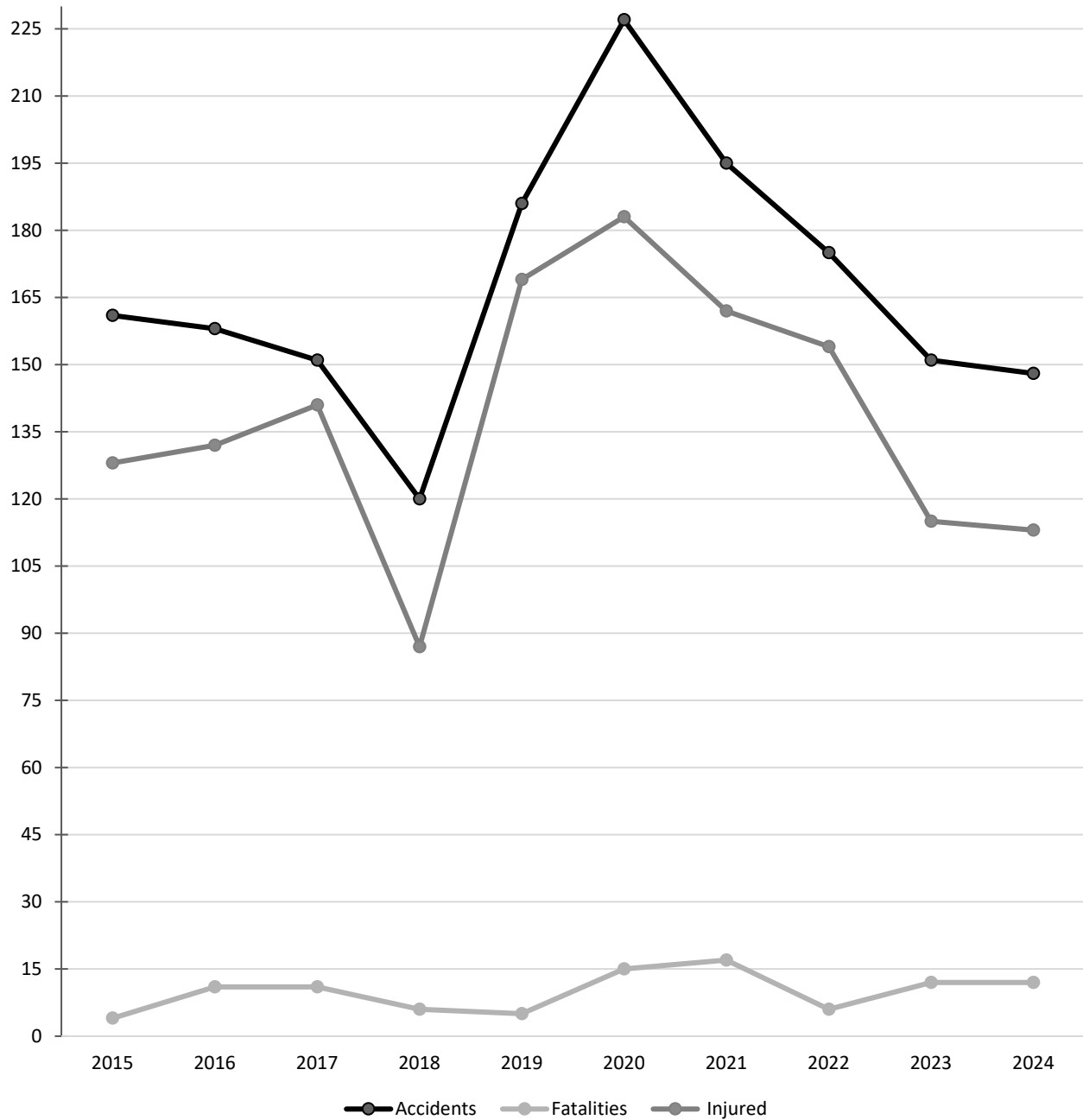
2024 Trend Analysis

Boating Accidents By Operator By Age 2015-2024



2024 Trend Analysis

PWC Accidents, Fatalities, Injured 2015-2024



Glossary



A 20- foot vessel was attempting to anchor in the St. Lucie Inlet. Due to the swift current, when the anchor caught, the vessel turned around and the anchor line became entangled in the propeller, causing the vessel to overturn.



A 43- foot vessel was traveling near St. George Island State Park. The electronics on board had stopped working and the vessel ran aground on the south side of St. George Island. FWC officers arrived and located the operator and assisted him to shore.

Definitions for Boating Accident Report Forms

Alcohol/Drug Related – Refers to any accidents in which alcohol/drug use may have been a contributing factor, whether legally impaired or not.

At Anchor – Held in place in the water by an anchor, includes “moored” to a buoy or anchored vessel and “dragging anchor.”

Boating Accident – A collision, accident, or casualty involving a vessel, in or upon, or entering into or exiting from the water, includes capsizing, collision with another vessel or object, sinking, personal injury, death or disappearance of any person from onboard under circumstances which indicate the possibility of death or injury or property damage to any vessel or dock.

Cabin Motorboat - Motorboats with a cabin which can be completely closed by means of doors or hatches. Large motorboats with cabins, even though referred to as yachts, are considered to be cabin motorboats.

Capsizing - Overturning of a vessel.

Careless Operation – Operation of a vessel in a manner that is not reasonable and prudent, having no regard for other waterborne traffic, posted speed and wake restrictions, and all other attendant circumstances so as not to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.

Collision With Another Vessel - Any striking together of two or more vessels, regardless of operation at time of the accident, is a collision. (Also includes colliding with the tow of another vessel, regardless of the nature of the tow, e.g., surfboard, ski ropes, skier, tow line, etc.)

Collision With Fixed Object - The striking of any fixed object above or below the surface of the water.

Collision With A Floating Object - Collision with any waterborne object (except another vessel), above or below the surface, that is free to move with the tide, current or wind.

Cruising - Proceeding normally, unrestricted, with an absence of drastic rudder or engine changes.

Documented Vessel - A vessel of five or more net tons, owned by a citizen of the United States, for which a certificate of documentation is issued by the United States Coast Guard, pursuant to 46 C.F.R. part 67. Documented vessels are not required to display an assigned registration number.

Drifting - Underway, but not proceeding over the bottom with use of engines, oars or sails, being carried along only by the tide, current or wind.

Fall Overboard - A person who unintentionally exits the vessel.

Fault Of Operator - Speeding, overloading, improper loading, not properly seating occupants of boat, no proper look-out, carelessness, failure to heed weather warnings, operating recklessly in a congested area, not observing the rules of the road, unsafe fueling practices, lack of experience, ignorance of aids to navigation, lack of caution in an unfamiliar area of operation, improper installation or maintenance of hull, machinery or equipment, poor judgment, recklessness, overpowering the boat, panic, proceeding in an unseaworthy craft, operating a motorboat near persons in the water, starting the engine with clutch engaged or throttle advanced or irresponsible boat handling (such as quick, sharp turns).

Fiberglass (Plastic) Hull - Hulls of fiber-reinforced plastic. The laminate consists of two basic components: the reinforcing material (glass filaments) and the plastic or resin in which it is embedded.

Fire/Explosion (Fuel) - Accidental combustion of vessel fuel or liquids (including their vapors).

Fire/Explosion (Other) - Accidental burning or explosion of any material onboard, except, vessel fuels or their vapors.

Florida Intracoastal Waterway - The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from the Georgia state line north of Fernandina to Miami, the Port of Canaveral lock and canal to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Miami to Key West; the Okeechobee Waterway, Stuart to Fort Myers; the St. Johns River,

Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

Jacksonville to Sanford; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Anclote to Fort Myers; the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to Tampa Bay; Carrabelle to Anclote open bay section (using Gulf of America); the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Carrabelle to the Alabama state line west of Pensacola; and the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint rivers in Florida.

Flooding - Filling with water, regardless of method of ingress, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

Fueling - Any stage of the fueling operation, primarily concerned with introduction of explosive or combustible vapors or liquids onboard.

Grounding - Running aground of a vessel, striking or pounding on rocks, reefs or shoals, "stranding."

Improper Loading - Loading, including weight shifting of the vessel, causing instability, limited maneuverability or dangerously reduced freeboard.

Inboard/Outboard - Also referred to as inboard/outdrive. Regarded as inboard because the power unit is located inside the boat and has a stern-mounted propulsion unit.

Inflatable Life Jacket - A sleeveless jacket or vest with inflatable chambers designed to keep a person afloat in the water. May also be manufactured to resemble a belt or fanny pack when not inflated.

Life Jacket - A sleeveless jacket or vest that is filled with buoyant material designed to keep a person afloat in the water.

Maneuvering - Changing of course, speed or similar boat handling action during which a high degree of alertness is required, or the boat is imperiled because of the operation, such as docking.

Motorboat - Any vessel which is propelled or powered by machinery, and which is used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water and any vessel equipped with propulsion machinery and not more than sixty-five feet in length.

Navigation Rules - The International Navigation Rules Act of 1977, 33 U.S.C., for vessels on waters outside of established navigation lines of demarcation as specified in 33 C.F.R. Part 80 or the Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980, 33 U.S.C. ss 2001 for vessels on all waters not outside of such lines of demarcation.

Nonresident - A citizen of the United States who has not established residence in this state and has not continuously resided in this state for one year and in one county for the six months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling or registration action.

No Proper Lookout - No proper watch, the failure of the operator to perceive danger because no one was serving as look-out or the person so serving failed in that regard.

Numbered Vessel - An undocumented vessel numbered by a state with a numbering system approved by the United States Coast Guard under Chapter 123, Title 46, U.S.C.

Open Motorboat - Craft of open construction specifically built for operating with a motor, including boats canopied or fitted with temporary partial shelters.

Operate - To be in charge of or in command of or in actual physical control of a vessel upon the waters of this state, or to exercise control over or to have responsibility for a vessel's navigation or safety while the vessel is underway upon the waters of this state, or to control or steer a vessel being towed by another vessel upon the waters of this state.

Owner - A person, other than a lien holder, having the property or title to a vessel. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment of performance of an obligation, but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

Outboard - An engine not permanently affixed to the structure of the craft, regardless of the method or location used to mount the engine; e.g., motor wells, kicker pits, motor pockets, etc.

Florida Boating Accident Statistical Report

Overloading - Excessive loading of the vessel causing instability, limited maneuverability, dangerously reduced freeboard, etc.

Personal Floatation Device (PFD) - A life jacket or similar buoyancy aid. See also LIFE JACKET.

Personal Watercraft - A vessel less than 16 feet in length which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motive power and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

Reckless Operation - A person is guilty of reckless operation of a vessel who operates any vessel, or manipulates any water skis, aquaplane or similar device, in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property at a speed or in a manner as to endanger, or likely to endanger, life or limb, damage the property of or injure any person.

Registration - A state operating license on a vessel which is issued with an identifying number, an annual certificate of registration and a decal designating the year for which a registration fee was paid.

Reportable Boating Accident - An accident that results in personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond immediate first aid, death, disappearance of any person from onboard under circumstances which indicate the possibility of death or injury or damage to any vessel or other property in an apparent aggregate amount of at least \$2,000 or total loss of a vessel.

Resident - A citizen of the United States who has established residency in this state and has continuously resided in this state for one year and in one county for the six months immediately preceding the initiation of a vessel titling or registration action.

Rules of the Road - The Inland and International Navigation Rules for the prevention of collision at sea.

Sailboat Or Auxiliary Sailboat - Any vessel whose sole source of propulsion is the natural element (i.e., wind), or a craft intended to be propelled primarily by sail, regardless of size or type.

Sinking - Losing enough buoyancy to settle below the surface of the water.

Speeding - Operating at a speed, possibly below the posted speed limit, above that which a reasonable and prudent person would operate under the circumstances.

Steel Hull - Hulls of sheet steel or steel alloy, not those of steel ribs and wood, canvas or plastic hull coverings.

Struck By Boat or Propeller - Striking of a victim who is outside of the boat, but not necessarily a swimmer.

Swamping - Filling with water, particularly over the side, but retaining sufficient buoyancy to remain on the surface.

Towed Water Sport Mishap - A water sport accident associated with vessel passenger(s) or person(s) being towed or surfing the wake created by a vessel. Includes, but is not limited to, water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, parasailing, etc.

Towing - Engaged in towing any vessel, fishing gear or object other than a person.

Vessel - Is synonymous with boat as referenced in S.1 (b), Article VII of the State Constitution, and includes every description of watercraft, barge and airboat, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as means of transportation on water.

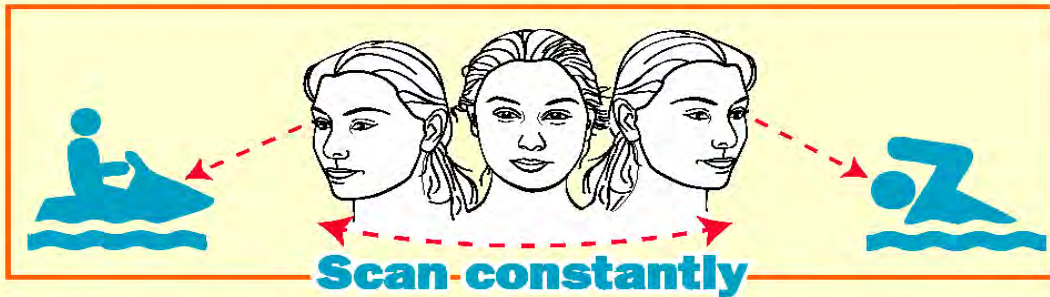
Wood Hull - Hulls of plywood, molded plywood, wood planking or any other wood fiber in its natural consistency, including those of wooden construction that have been "sheathed" with fiberglass or sheet metal.

IMPORTANT

boating safety messages to remember

Always know what's going on around your boat.

Most boating accidents involve collisions.
Staying alert is critical!



Develop a "Life Jacket Habit."

Most people who die in boating accidents drown. Try out an inflatable life jacket and, most of all, wear it!



Alcohol use is a leading cause of boating deaths.

Alcohol and boating really don't mix, so save it for later. When you drink, you don't think!

From your friends at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



The FWC reminds boaters to slow down and look around!



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600
Boating and Waterways Section
Phone: 850-488-5600
MyFWC.com/Boating

