

2009

California Recreational Boating Accident Statistics

State of California
The Resources Agency

California Department of Boating and Waterways

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California

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California

Boating Accident Statistics

Accidents, Injuries, Fatalities, and Property Damage 2000-2009

Year	Accidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage
2000	906	524	51	\$3,038,400.00
2001	907	502	48	\$2,841,900.00
2002	911	468	53	\$3,732,850.00
2003	963	502	61	\$3,820,000.00
2004	744	439	44	\$4,073,400.00
2005	801	428	58	\$3,584,700.00
2006	757	445	42	\$8,913,375.00
2007	804	482	55	\$10,643,800.00
2008	686	382	48	\$5,899,184.00
2009	627	398	49	\$4,484,105.00

California Boating Accidents by Location 2008-2009

Body of Water	Accidents		Injuries		Fatalities	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Northern Lake	141	185	82	143	9	7
Southern Lake	93	69	54	41	7	6
Northern Coast	23	12	22	12	7	7
Southern Coast	230	203	78	96	5	11
Northern River	32	27	23	11	3	2
Southern River	5	4	3	2	1	2
SF Bay Area	25	16	9	3	0	1
Delta	101	81	66	60	15	10
Colorado River	36	30	45	30	1	3
Totals	686	627	382	398	48	49



Boating Accidents

Vessel Registration

County	Accidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage	Number of Personal Watercraft (PWC)	Number of Vessels (includes PWC)
Alameda	6	3	0	\$19,500	3,759	25,078
Alpine	0	0	0	\$0	7	130
Amador	0	0	0	\$0	242	3,387
Butte	6	6	1	\$3,500	1,616	17,262
Calaveras	4	5	0	\$1,000	637	6,439
Colusa	1	1	0	\$3,000	147	1,505
Contra Costa	29	25	6	\$172,200	6,040	35,698
Del Norte	2	0	1	\$1,600	55	1,591
El Dorado	17	15	0	\$52,950	1,403	15,258
Fresno	9	2	3	\$24,100	3,031	23,104
Glenn	1	0	1	\$0	156	2,020
Humboldt	2	0	1	\$12,000	536	7,840
Imperial	3	4	1	\$5,000	532	2,365
Inyo	0	0	0	\$0	159	1,188
Kern	5	4	0	\$156,200	3,941	17,849
Kings	1	1	0	\$1,000	649	3,020
Lake	15	7	0	\$60,100	1,248	11,208
Lassen	0	0	0	\$0	320	3,424
Los Angeles	48	18	3	\$567,025	36,528	116,014
Madera	8	4	1	\$5,500	840	6,554
Marin	5	1	2	\$5,800	523	8,579
Mariposa	6	8	0	\$100,100	163	1,704
Mendocino	0	0	0	\$0	465	5,172
Merced	7	4	0	\$13,300	893	6,843
Modoc	0	0	0	\$0	46	814
Mono	2	0	1	\$12,000	163	1,586
Monterey	4	8	0	\$65,900	1,130	8,522
Napa	15	11	1	\$45,200	627	6,319
Nevada	3	0	0	\$21,000	648	9,964
Orange	61	11	4	\$509,175	19,922	65,762
Placer	25	15	2	\$79,400	2,604	21,491
Plumas	5	3	0	\$6,300	252	3,881
Riverside	17	13	0	\$40,950	18,293	52,777
Sacramento	17	12	3	\$63,920	6,063	45,808
San Benito	0	0	0	\$0	310	1,782
San Bernardino	29	25	4	\$111,250	17,355	51,959

Boating Accident Statistics

Boating Accidents

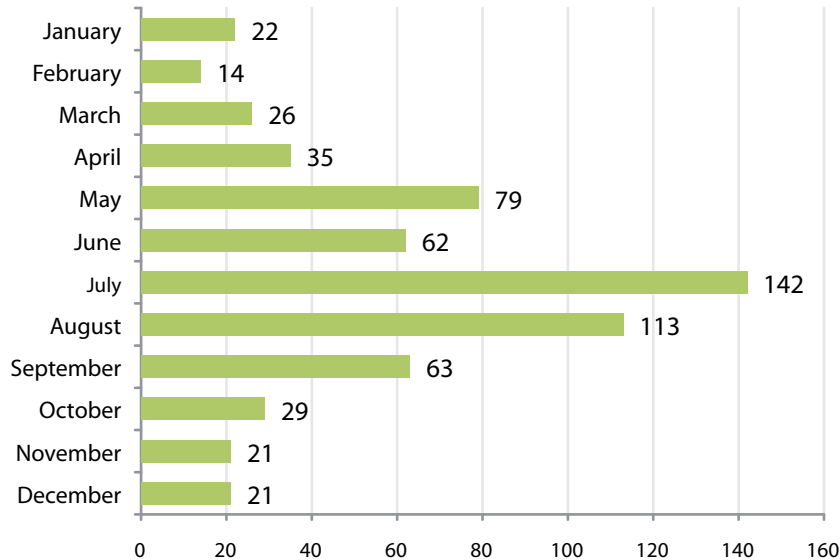
Vessel Registration

County	Accidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Property Damage	Number of Personal Watercraft (PWC)	Number of Vessels (includes PWC)
San Diego	69	65	1	\$578,025	13,819	65,555
San Francisco	4	0	0	\$163,500	383	3,838
San Joaquin	44	27	3	\$530,350	3,617	26,020
San Luis Obispo	12	5	0	\$319,550	1,705	13,527
San Mateo	5	9	1	\$41,000	1,806	11,396
Santa Barbara	23	5	3	\$314,450	1,387	10,273
Santa Clara	10	8	0	\$2,350	4,709	25,975
Santa Cruz	1	0	0	\$1,000	716	7,583
Shasta	31	22	0	\$23,660	1,495	20,315
Sierra	0	0	0	\$0	13	335
Siskiyou	1	0	1	\$0	153	4,388
Solano	4	4	0	\$24,000	1,977	15,551
Sonoma	6	0	2	\$40,650	2,114	18,453
Stanislaus	12	18	0	\$40,600	2,788	18,945
Sutter	1	0	0	\$1,000	678	5,708
Tehama	7	6	1	\$35,800	421	4,735
Trinity	0	0	0	\$0	133	2,313
Tulare	5	3	2	\$14,000	1,541	9,458
Tuolumne	20	13	0	\$27,050	516	6,390
Ventura	13	3	0	\$163,100	5,330	24,798
Yolo	3	2	0	\$3,050	648	6,264
Yuba	3	2	0	\$2,000	495	4,628
Out of State	0	0	0	\$0	1,655	6,643
Totals	627	398	49	\$4,484,105	179,402	906,988



California

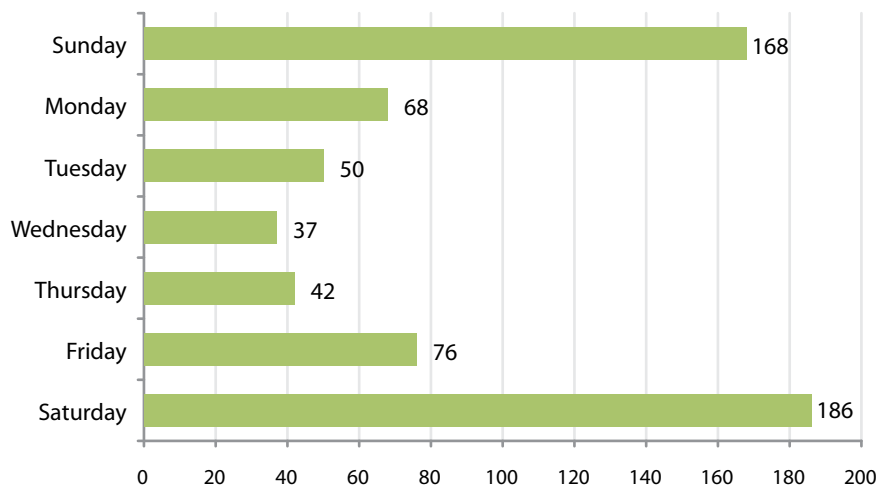
Accidents by Month (Total Accidents 627)



Accidents by Time of Day

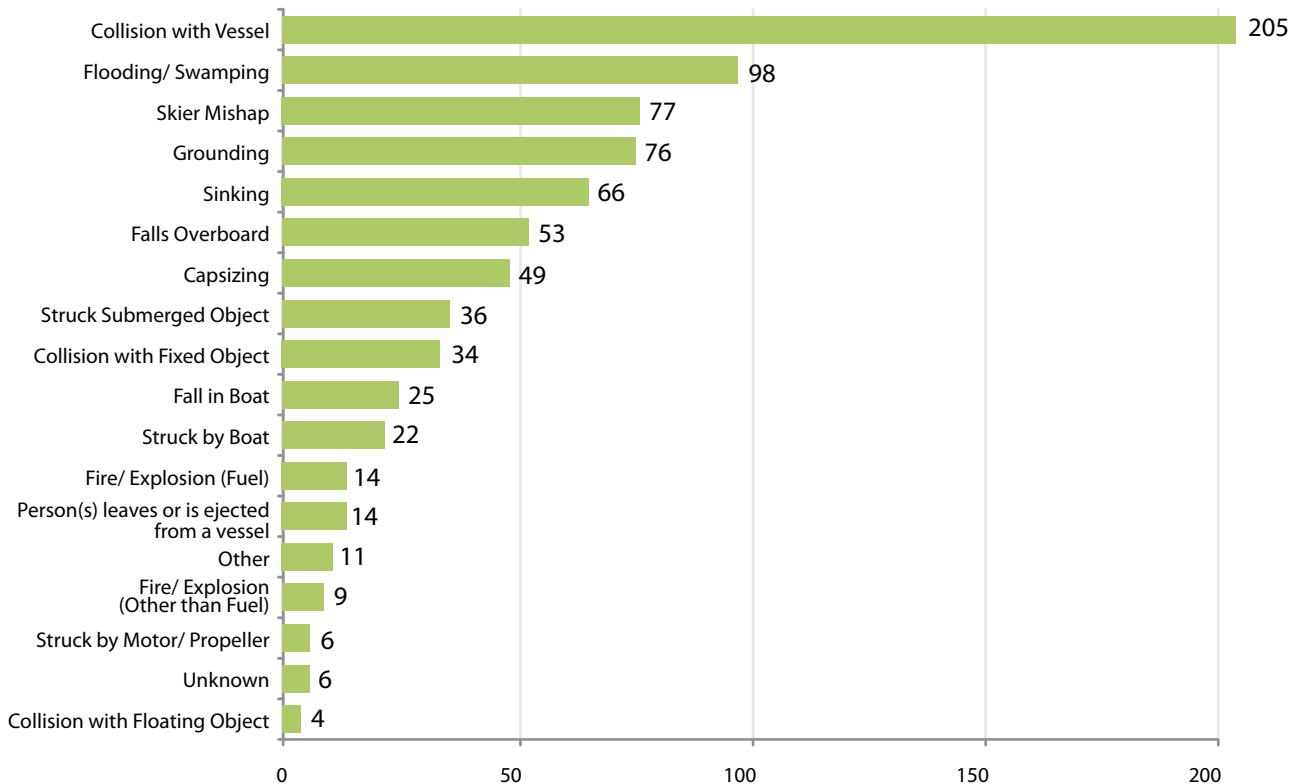
Time of Day	Number of Accidents
12:00-1:59 a.m.	9
2:00-3:59 a.m.	7
4:00-5:59 a.m.	5
6:00-7:59 a.m.	8
8:00-9:59 a.m.	26
10:00-11:59 a.m.	50
12:00-1:59 p.m.	91
2:00-3:59 p.m.	153
4:00-5:59 p.m.	131
6:00-7:59 p.m.	86
8:00-9:59 p.m.	40
10:00-11:59 p.m.	15
Time Unknown	6
Total Accidents	627

Accidents by Day of the Week (Total Accidents 627)



Boating Accident Statistics

Type of Accidents (Total Types=805* Total Accidents 627)



*Some accidents are represented by more than one accident type, which accounts for the accident types exceeding the number of accidents.

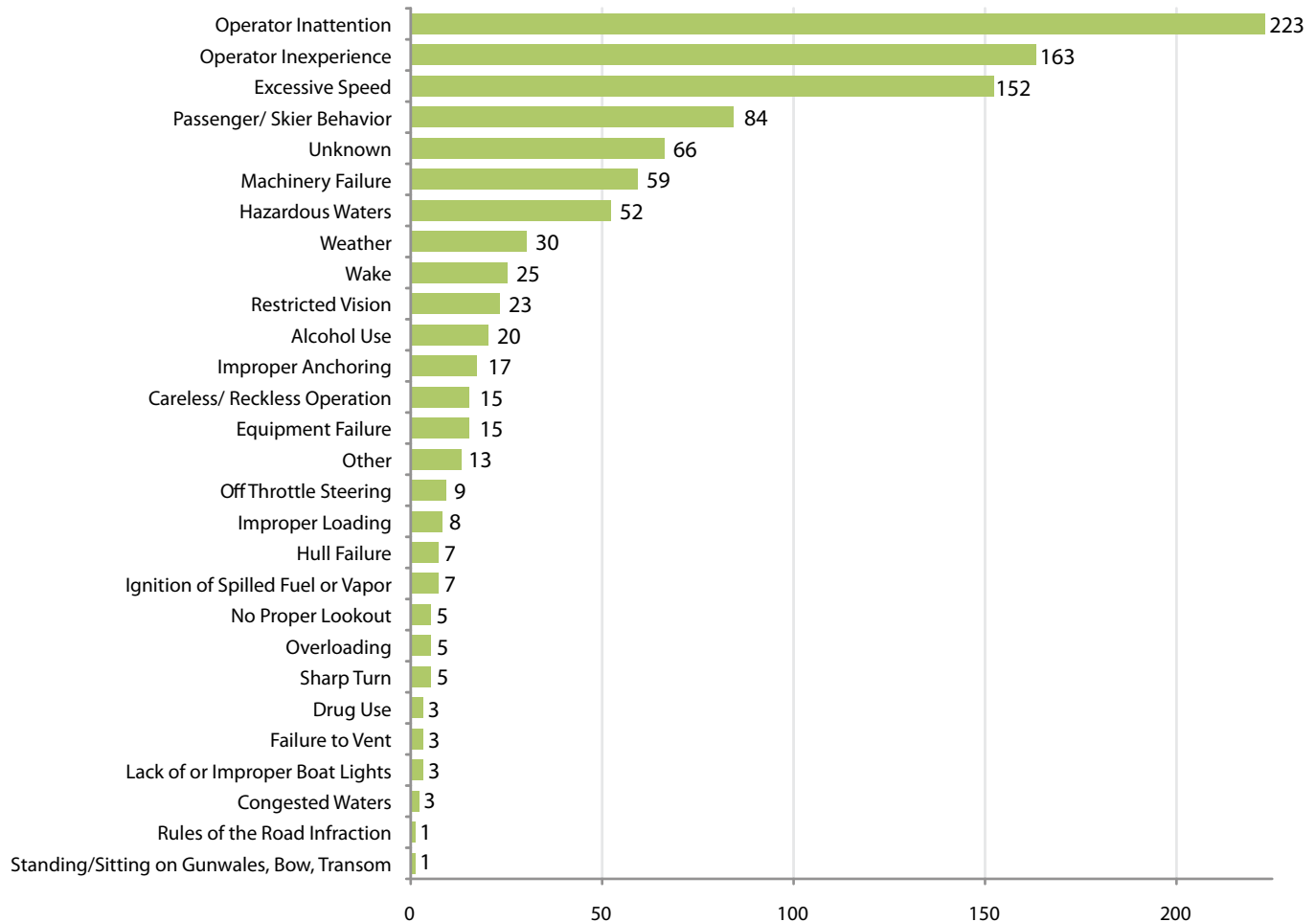
Type of Accident by Vessel Type

Type of Accident	All Vessels	Open Motorboat	Cabin Motorboat	Personal Watercraft	All Sailboats	Houseboat/ Pontoon	Canoe/ Kayak
Collision with Vessel	33%	26%	44%	65%	52%	52%	15%
Collision with Fixed Object	5%	3%	13%	3%	5%	8%	15%
Grounding	12%	10%	15%	4%	25%	4%	0%
Falls Overboard	8%	6%	1%	23%	4%	8%	10%
Flooding/ Swamping	16%	18%	15%	1%	12%	8%	15%
Sinking	11%	13%	8%	0%	11%	4%	5%
Capsizing	8%	7%	4%	3%	4%	4%	60%
Skier Mishap	12%	22%	2%	2%	0%	8%	0%
Struck by Boat	4%	4%	1%	9%	1%	4%	0%



California

Causes of Accidents (Total Causes 1017* Total Accidents 627)



*Many accidents had more than one cause, which is reflected in this chart. The "Other" category includes causes that do not fit into any of the other categories listed above.

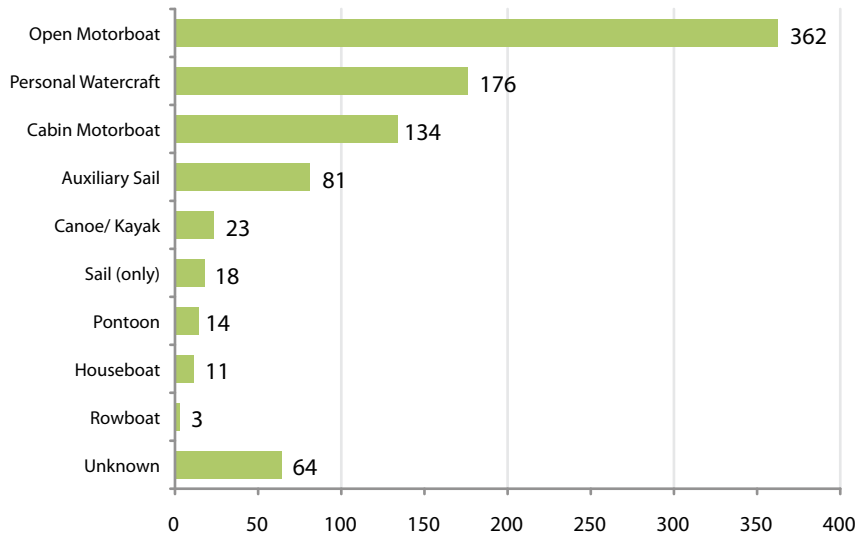
Cause of Accident by Type of Vessel

Cause of Accident	All Vessels	Open Motorboat	Cabin Motorboat	Personal Watercraft	All Sailboats	Houseboat/ Pontoon	Canoe/ Kayak
Machinery Failure	9%	8%	25%	3%	9%	4%	0%
Operator Inattention	36%	35%	37%	57%	36%	48%	20%
Operator Inexperience	26%	20%	25%	50%	26%	28%	35%
Excessive Speed	24%	22%	25%	54%	4%	32%	0%
Improper Anchoring	3%	1%	3%	0%	15%	0%	0%
Weather	5%	4%	8%	0%	9%	4%	10%
Passenger/ Skier Behavior	13%	24%	1%	3%	1%	8%	0%

Boating Accident Statistics

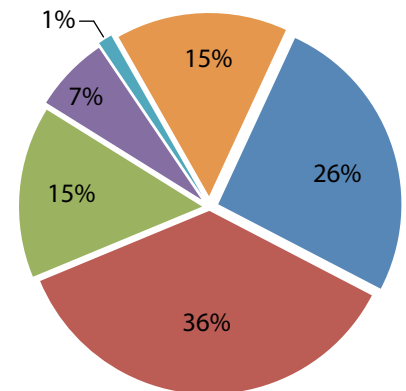
Vessels Involved in All Accidents by Type

(Total Vessels 886)



Vessels Involved in All Accidents by Length

Length of Vessels	Number of Vessels
<16 feet	228
16-25 feet	320
26-39 feet	134
40-65 feet	59
>65 feet	11
Unknown	134
Total Vessels	886



Ownership Status of Vessels Involved in Accidents

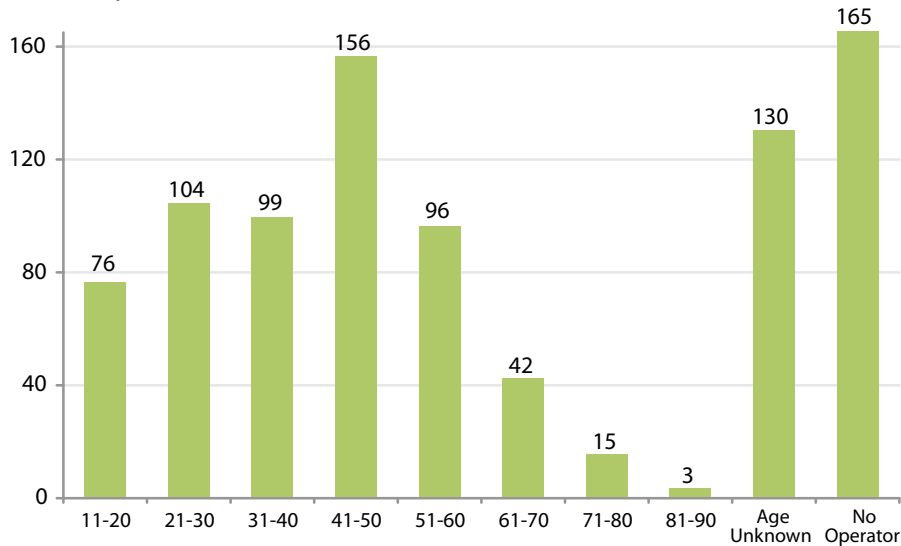
Status	All Vessels		Open Motorboats		Personal Watercraft	
	Number of Vessels	Percent of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Percent of Vessels	Number of Vessels	Percent of Vessels
Owned	381	43%	225	62%	29	16%
Borrowed	206	23%	70	19%	96	55%
Rented	75	8%	19	5%	33	19%
Unknown	59	7%	16	4%	14	8%
No Operator	165	19%	32	9%	4	2%
Total Vessels	886	100%	362	99%	176	100%



California

Operators Involved in All Accidents by Age

(Total Operators 721 Total Vessels 886)



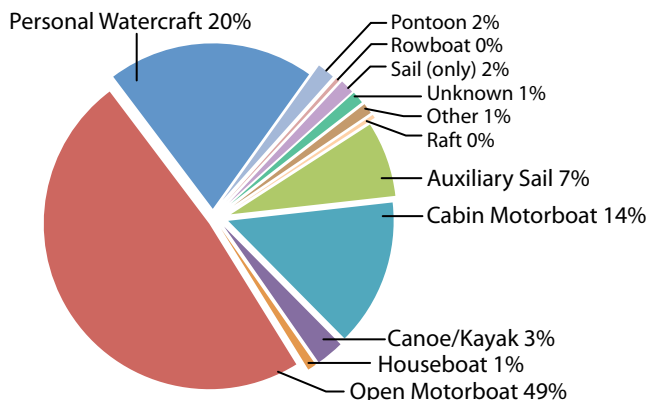
Operator Education

Type of Education	Number of Operators
American Red Cross	16
State Course	37
U.S. Power Squadron	9
USCG Auxiliary	21
Other	3
Informal	243
None	200
Unknown	192
No Operator	165
Total Vessels	886

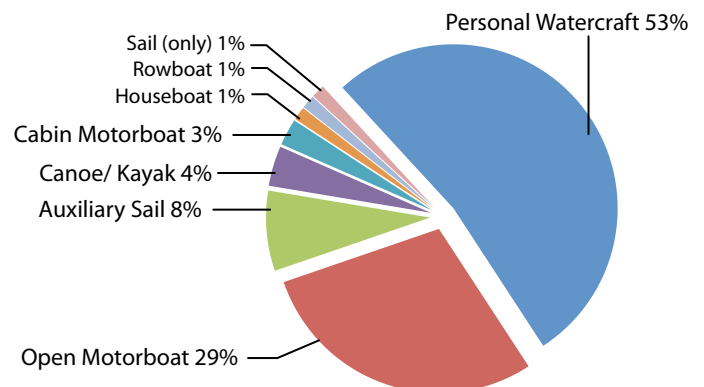
Gender of Operators Involved in Accidents

Gender	Number of Operators
Male	585
Female	76
Gender Unknown	60
No Operator	165
Total Vessels	886

Type of Vessels Operated by Men Involved in Accidents

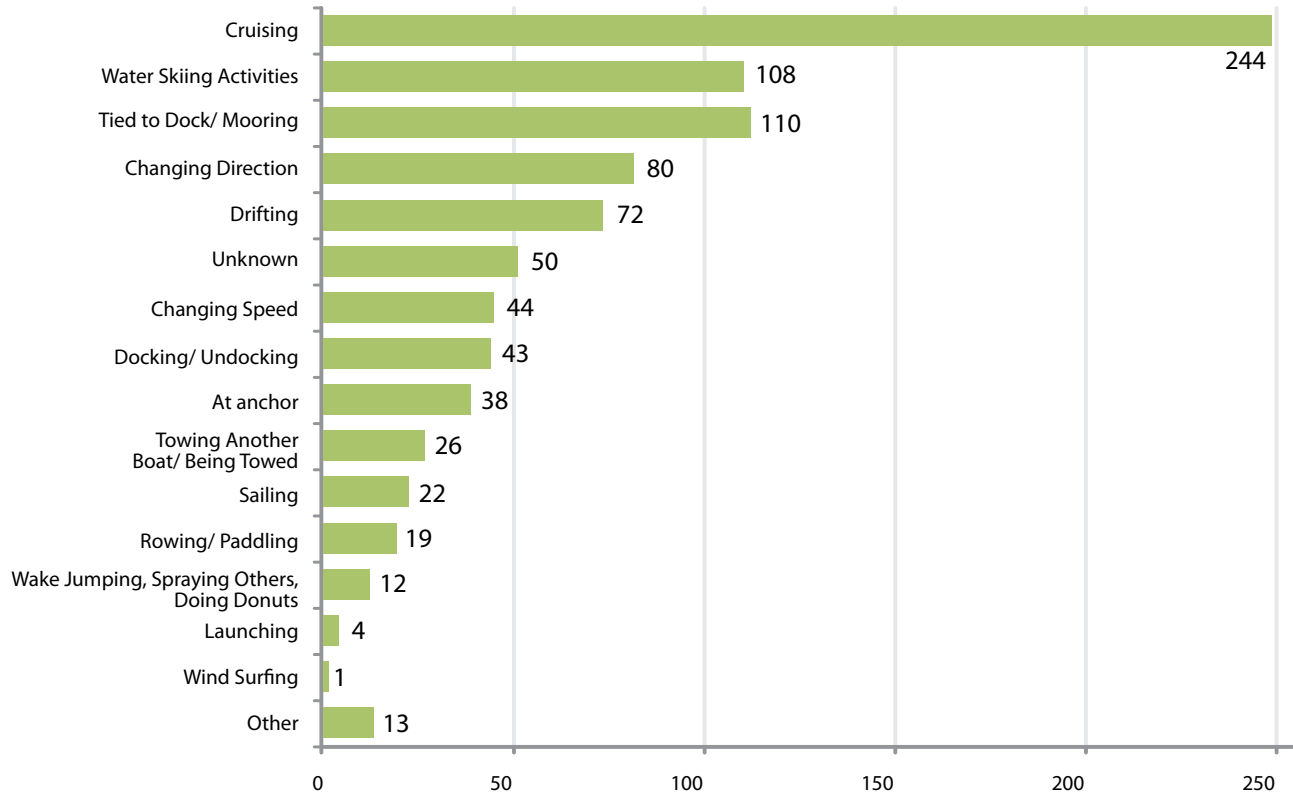


Type of Vessels Operated by Women Involved in Accidents

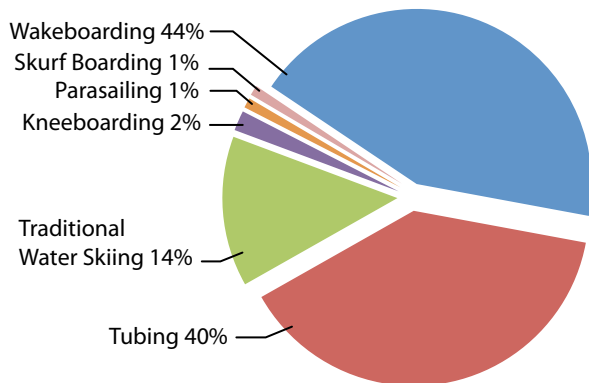


Boating Accident Statistics

Operation at Time of Accident (Total Vessels 886)



Accidents Involving Towing Sports*



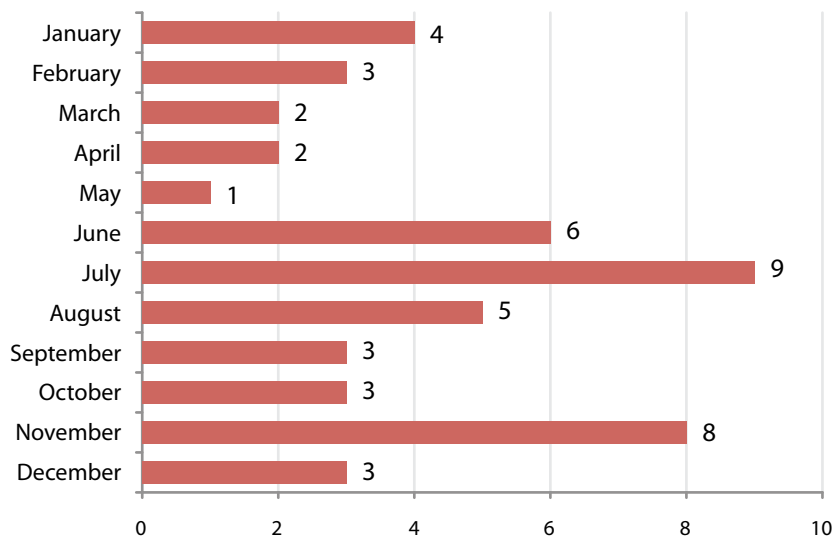
Activity	Accidents
Wakeboarding	47
Tubing	42
Traditional Water Skiing	15
Kneeboarding	2
Parasailing	1
Skurf Boarding	1

*Towing sports include persons being towed on lines behind vessels on water skis, wakeboards, wake skates, kneeboards, skurf boards, tubes and parasails.

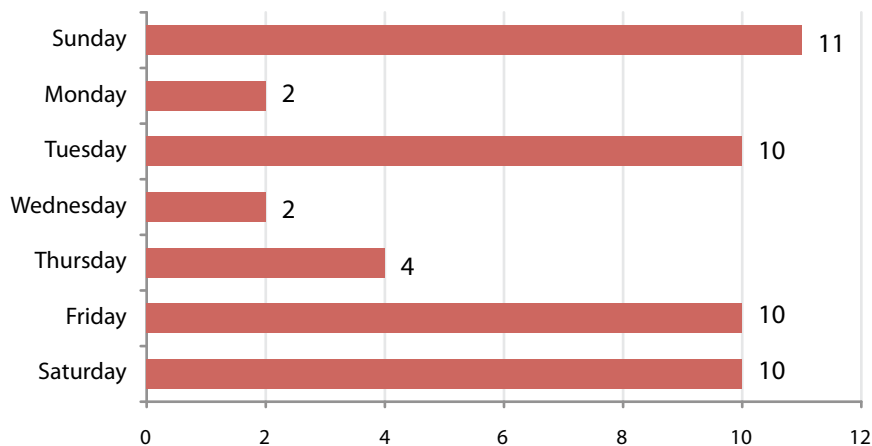
Two of the accidents involved two vessels participating in different types of tow sports. Consequently 108 vessels involved in tow sports were involved in 106 accidents.



Fatalities by Month (Total Fatalities 49)



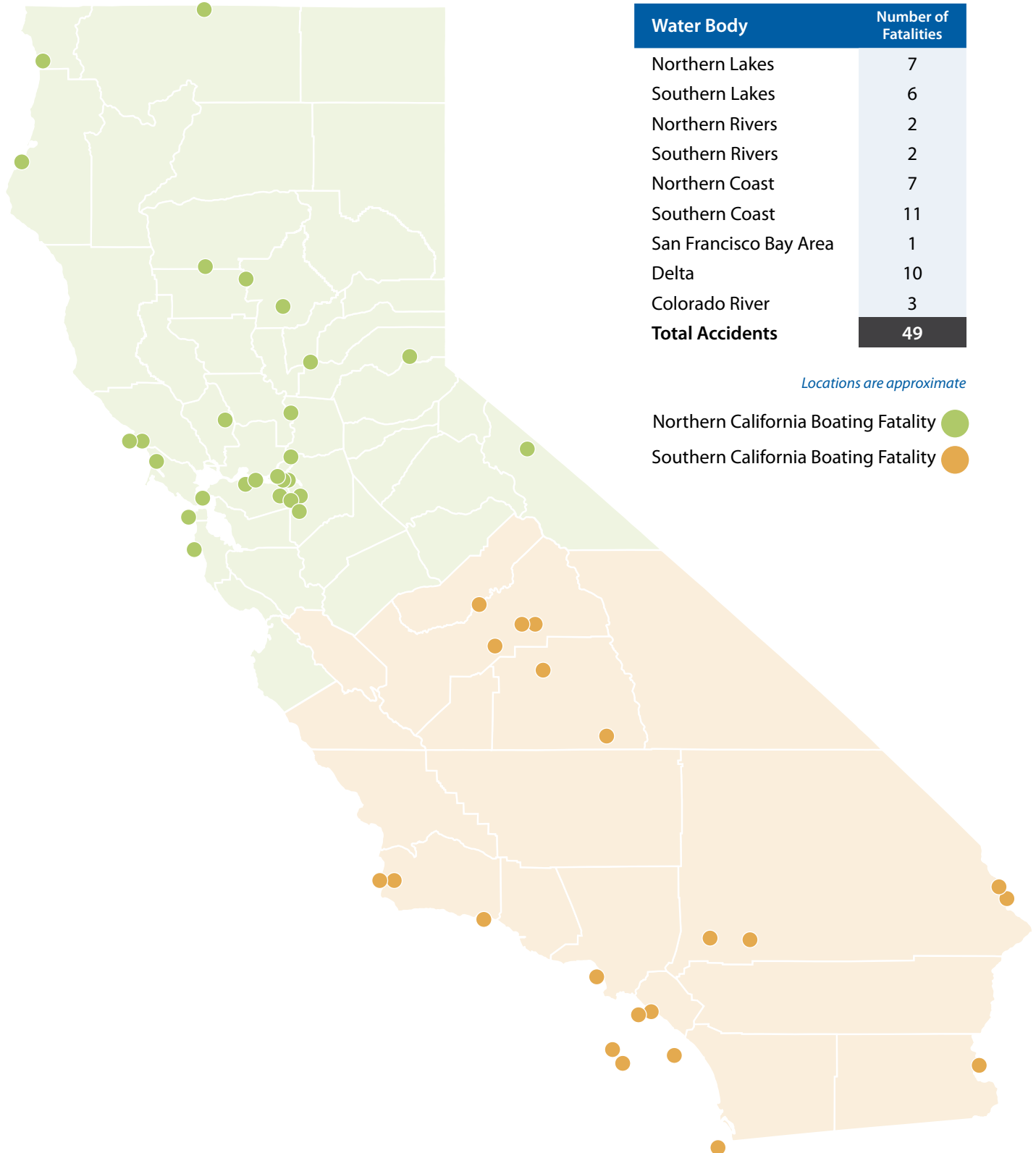
Fatalities by Day of the Week (Total Fatalities 49)



Accidents by Time of Day

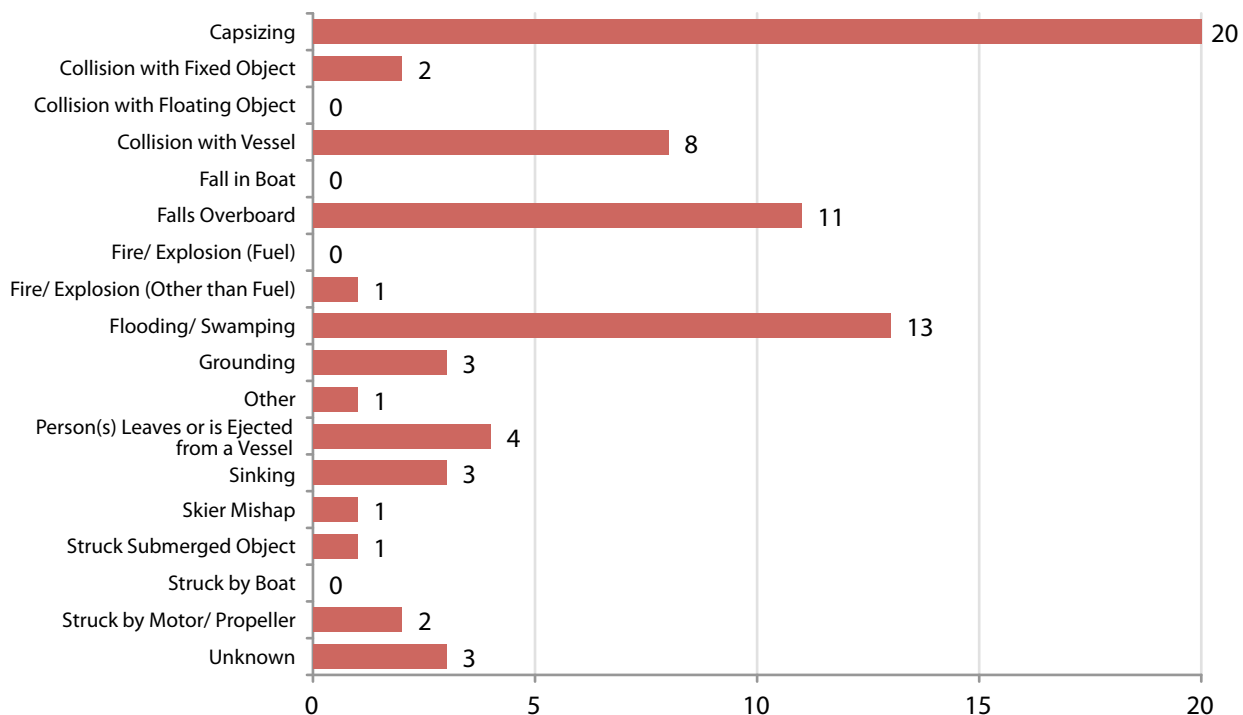
Time of Day	Number of Fatalities
12:00-1:59 a.m.	5
2:00-3:59 a.m.	0
4:00-5:59 a.m.	0
6:00-7:59 a.m.	0
8:00-9:59 a.m.	2
10:00-11:59 a.m.	2
12:00-1:59 p.m.	5
2:00-3:59 p.m.	10
4:00-5:59 p.m.	9
6:00-7:59 p.m.	3
8:00-9:59 p.m.	10
10:00-11:59 p.m.	1
Time Unknown	2
Total Accidents	49

2009 California Recreational Boating Fatalities by Location





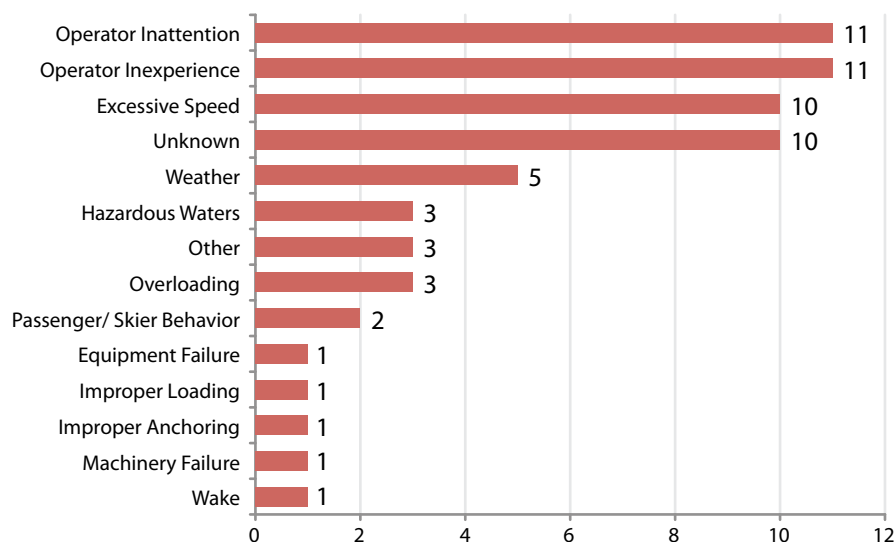
Fatalities by Type of Accident (Total Types 73* Total Fatalities 49)



**Some accidents are represented by more than one accident type, which accounts for the accident types exceeding the number of accidents.*

Fatalities by Cause of Accident

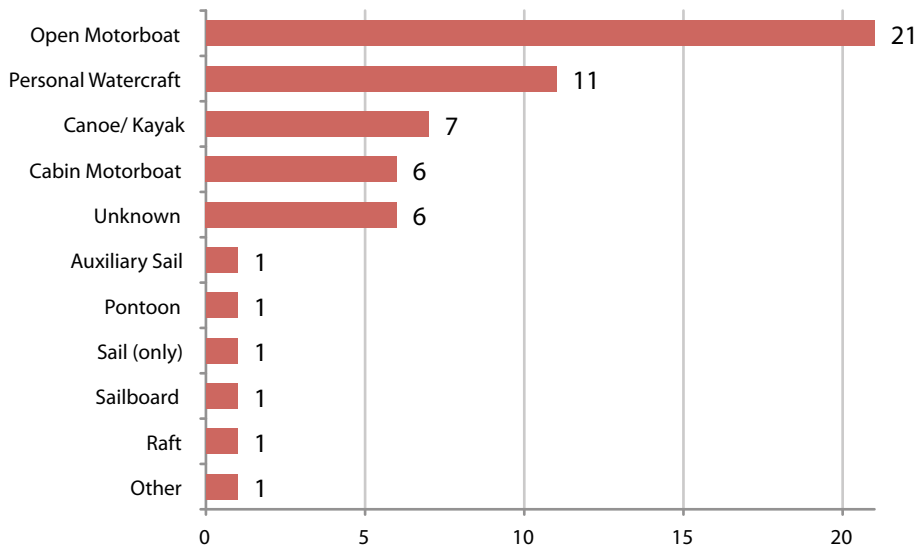
(Total Causes 63* Total Fatalities 49)



**Many accidents had more than one cause, which is reflected in this chart. The "Other" category includes causes that do not fit into any of the other categories listed left.*

Boating Accident Statistics

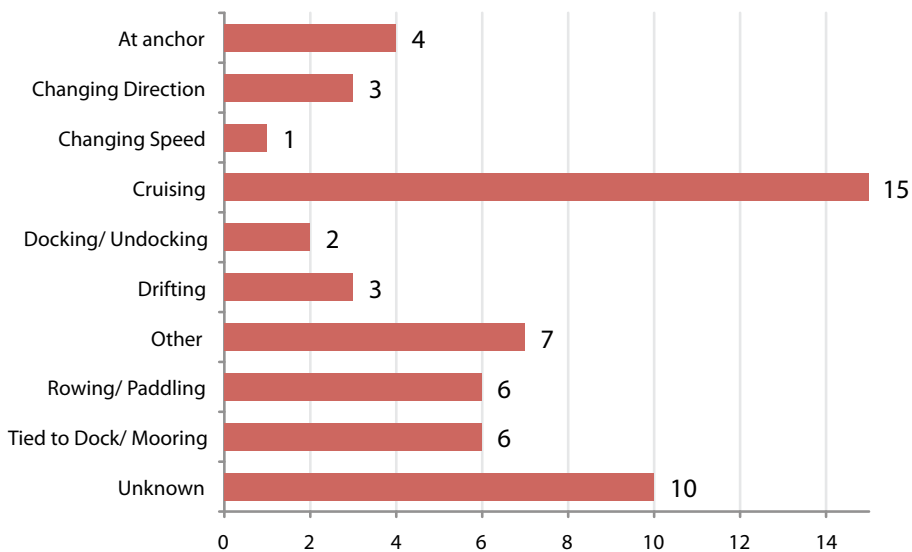
Vessels Involved in Fatal Accidents (Total Vessels 57)



Fatalities by Length of Vessels

Length of Vessels	Number of Vessels
<16 feet	26
16-25 feet	15
26-39 feet	3
40-65 feet	2
>65 feet	0
Unknown	11
Total Accidents	57

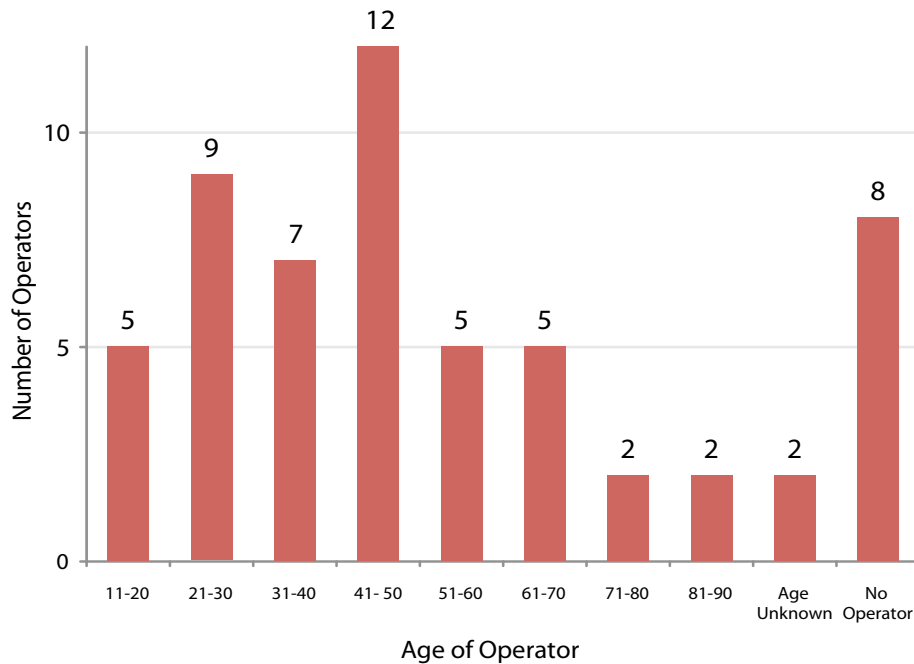
Operation at Time of Fatal Accident (Total Vessels 57)





Operators Involved in All Fatal Accidents by Age

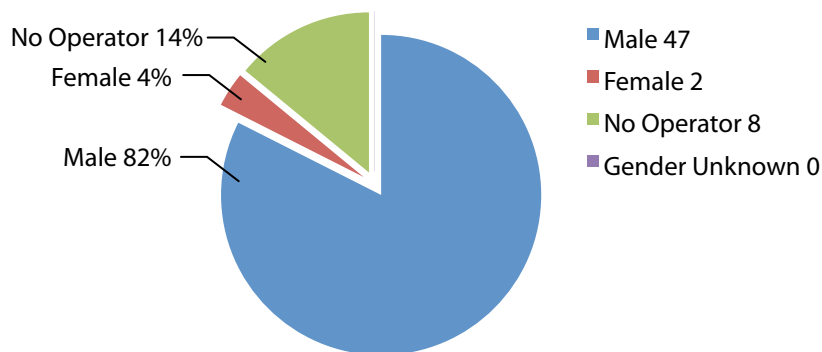
(Total Operators 49 Total Vessels 57)



Operator Education

Type of Education	Number of Operators
American Red Cross	0
State Course	2
U.S. Power Squadron	0
USCG Auxiliary	1
Other	0
Informal	15
None	13
Unknown	18
No Operator	8
Total Vessels	57

Gender of Operators Involved in Fatal Accidents



Life Jacket Use

2005-2009 Life Jacket Use by Cause of Death

Cause of Death	Wearing Life Jacket	Not Wearing Life Jacket	Life Jacket Use Unknown	Total
Drowning	30	137	7	174
Trauma	27	16	2	45
Carbon Monoxide	0	2	1	3
Hypothermia	3	3	0	6
Other Cause	5	6	2	13
Unknown Cause	2	7	2	11
Totals	67	171	14	252

2005-2009 Life Jacket Use by Victim Activity

Activity	Wearing Life Jacket	Not Wearing Life Jacket	Life Jacket Use Unknown	Total
General Recreation	30	59	5	94
Fishing	11	70	2	83
Hunting	1	3	0	4
Paddle Sports	16	9	2	27
Towing Sports	7	5	1	13
Sailing/Windsurfing	1	8	3	12
Other	1	17	1	19
Totals	67	171	14	252

2005-2009 Life Jacket Use by Victim's Type of Vessel

Type of Vessel	Wearing Life Jacket	Not Wearing Life Jacket	Life Jacket Use Unknown	Total
Open Motorboat/ Pontoon	20	104	3	127
Cabin Motorboat	1	16	4	21
Personal Watercraft	24	7	0	31
Canoe/ Kayak/ Raft	19	18	2	39
Sailboats/ Sailboards	2	10	4	16
Other	1	14	1	16
Unknown	0	2	0	2
Total	67	171	14	252



California

Location of Fishing Fatalities 2005-2009

(Total Fatalities 83)

