

Overview of the Boating Accident Program Summary

Division of Boating and Waterways
Boating Safety Unit

May 8, 2025

The Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) collects and analyzes boating incident reports to develop safety strategies for reducing boating incidents, injuries, and fatalities on California's waterways.

Each year, DBW releases a comprehensive study of boating incidents in California, which provides information on incidents, fatalities, and injuries. This report, titled the California Boating Incident Report, includes topics such as personal watercraft, youth operators, and fatal alcohol-related incidents, and is available upon request.

DBW believes heavily in partnerships and participation with The National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). DBW participates in several NASBLA committees including the Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee (ERAC). ERAC identifies, evaluates, and analyzes recreational boating data and other related information that can shed light on factors associated with boating incidents that can be used to inform the development of state and national level boating safety policies, programs, and campaigns and, ultimately, be used to measure their effectiveness. To ensure the results of the research and analyses are valid and reliable, ERAC also actively seeks ways to advance the quality, relevance, accuracy, consistency, applicability, and completeness of data and information by the states.

Statistics:

As of March 28, 2025, in 2024 there were 479 recreational boating incidents in California, which resulted in 214 injuries and 47 fatalities.