



NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION



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NBF Report to the European Boating Association, October 2014

1. 2013 Boating Accident Statistics (USCG)

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Registered Boats*	12.0	12.2	12.4	12.7	12.7	12.9	12.7	12.7
Fatalities	560	651	758	672	736	709	685	710
Rate/100,000 Boats	4.7	5.4	6.2	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.6
Injuries	2,620	3,000	3,108	3,153	3,358	3,331	3,673	3,474
Accidents	4,062	4,575	4,588	4,604	4,730	4,789	5,191	4,967
Property Damage (mil.)	\$39	\$38	\$52	\$36	\$36	\$54	\$53	\$44

* Primarily motorboats but includes (~900,000 non-motorized craft) in millions

- Registered boats have declined by almost 1 million since 2008!
- California and Florida (states with large year round boating) continue to have the largest number of accidents 1,111 and fatalities 85.
- 947 (23%) of accidents involved collisions with another vessel or object.
- 109 (19%) of 560 fatalities involved are canoes and kayaks (unregistered vessels).
- 272 (49%) of fatalities involved open motorboats.
- 241 (43%) of fatalities known to have had no formal instruction (7% had NASBLA approved instruction).
- 398 (71%) of fatalities were drownings, 86% from boats less than 26ft. (up)**
- 328 (82%) of drownings life jackets were NOT worn.**
- Fishing accounted for 36% of the fatalities.
- Alcohol use was the leading contributing factor in 17% of the fatalities (**down 0.9%**).

Key observations: 1) registered boats continue to decline (down 2-3%) due to economics; 2) fatalities are down 14%, accidents down 10%, and injuries down 13%; 3) boats less than 26 ft. account for 83% of accidents; 4) operator inattention and inexperience are the top contributing factors.

2. General Comments.

a. **New Commandant U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)**, Admiral Paul F. Zukunft replaces Retired Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. who becomes U.S. leader for the Arctic Policy in the State Department.

b. The **USCG** reports there were 73 million recreational boaters over the age of 16, **down** from previous years. The Marine Manufacturers reported recreational boating has an economic contribution of \$121.5 billion annually.

c. **Invasive species** (Asian carp, mud-snails, mifoil, rusty crayfish, zebra mussels, etc.) continue to create problems in many areas resulting in boating restrictions, cleaning requirements, and inspections. Asian carp leaping from the water have actually injured boaters!

d. As of 13 April 2014 the **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** discontinued printing & distributing paper charts. Charts will be printed by certified NOAA agents, currently 14.

e. **Future of Navigation Survey** is underway by USCG, NOAA and USACOE (US Army Corps of Engineers) due to the increased availability and reliability of e-navigation components.

3. National Boating Federation (NBF) – www.n-b-f.org, continues to be represented on key US boating councils, advisory groups, and government forums.

a. **Ethanol Addition to Gasoline.** NBF continues active opposition to ethanol addition to marine fuels, both the current 10% and the proposed 15%+, due to continued safety problems with degradation of fuel tanks and lines. The Congressional Budget Office acknowledges significant problems with Renewable Fuels Standards, the legislation behind this issue.

b. **Downloadable Brochures** available on the NBF website: 1) **DSC-Digital Selective Calling – Today’s SOS**; 2) **Only You Can Take the Search Out of Search and Rescue** – cell phone brochure; 3) **The Life You Save Could Be Your Own** – EPIRB/PLB

c. **National Ocean Policy** – An implementation plan is underway with regional councils. While these are in their infancy, NBF is participating to ensure that recreational boaters are represented. Representatives of the National Ocean Council and the Ocean Conservancy presented at the NBF Annual Meeting in April.

d. **Personal Flotation Devices Labeling and Standards.** NBF supports the U.S. Coast Guard proposed removal of type codes in the regulations to assist the industry in developing consensus standards, harmonization with Canada and other nations, easier understanding by recreational boaters: “Types I, II, III and Type V (with Type I, II, III performance)” become “wearable,” “Type IV” will be considered “throw able” No action expected until 2016.

4. United States Power Squadrons (USPS) – www.usps.org

a. **100th Anniversaries.** USPS continued to celebrate its 100th Anniversary throughout 2014. The organization was founded at the Boston Yacht Club on 2 February 1914. Here on Cape Cod we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Cape Cod Canal and the Panama Canal also opened in 1914.

b. **On-water Training Program.** This program continues on two fronts; teaching and certification by USPS at various sites around the country with trailerable boats supported via a USCG grant for the fourth year, and through the individual squadron **Boat Operator Certification Programs**. USPS has also obtained a Coast Guard grant to develop and produce simulators without putting people on the water.

c. **Boating Skills Virtual Training Units.** 5 Units costing about \$15,000 each have been acquired for classroom use funded by a USCG grant. These hands-on units cover docking, departing a dock, use of spring lines, crossing/overtaking, trim control, and other maneuvers and with a night mode. The Canadian Power & Sail organization is acquiring a unit that is in French (other languages are now possible by the vendor).

d. **General Comments.** USPS continues with its broad based educational programs from basic to offshore and celestial navigation along with many technical courses and shorter seminars. On-line courses are being offered as part of an “Educational Outreach” effort via BoatUS and Univ. of South Florida. USPS continues its partnering program with **Brunswick Corporation**, a major boat builder, through their Dealer Advantage program and 3,600 dealers to provide boat operator education.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. David

Robert P. David, Past President
Director, International Affairs

NEXT Meetings.

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| National Boating Federation | - Exec. Committee – 18 October 2014, Bar Harbor, ME |
| | - Annual Meeting – April 2015, TBD |
| U.S. Power Squadrons | - Annual Meeting – 18-25 Jan. 2015, Jacksonville, FL |
| | - Governing Board – 30 Aug.- 6 Sept. 2015, San Diego, CA |