



Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection
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2017 BOATING DIVISION REPORT

Annual Report of the Boating Division's Achievements and Boating Accident Statistics





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Boating Division's (Division) mission is to enhance boating safety, improve boating access and associated infrastructure on Connecticut's waters, foster environmental stewardship and reduce or eliminate user conflicts. The division works in cooperation with other divisions as well as with its federal, municipal, and boating safety stakeholders to provide clean, safe, and well-maintained boating access.

Our state offers many recreational boating opportunities to motorized and non-motorized vessels. There are approximately 95,000 registered recreational vessels, a 1.4 % decrease from last year. The number of vessels registered does not capture manually propelled vessels, which are becoming increasingly popular and are not required to be registered.

The Division manages 118 state boating access points throughout the state. State boat launches were recently renovated at Branford River, Lake Lillinonah, Burr Pond, Rainbow Reservoir, Glasgo Pond, Dooley Pond, and Bashan Lake. Existing boat ramps were replaced with bituminous concrete or concrete ramps. Where possible, fixed or floating dock systems were added and accommodations were made for launching manually propelled vessels. Parking lots, turning areas and access roads were paved or re-graveled. Solar powered lights, ADA accessible parking and portable toilet platforms and screens were added where warranted. Through the Boating Infrastructure Grant program, funds were made available to public and private agencies, marinas and facilities to construct transient tie-up opportunities for non-trailerable (26' or over in length) boats. Eleven transient facilities have been completed to date.

The Division receives financial assistance from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) which allows the Division to implement State initiatives to reduce the number of boating accidents, injuries and deaths on Connecticut waters. Through education and outreach, strategic placement of regulatory markers, regulated events, improved access, and active law enforcement, the boaters on Connecticut's waters become more knowledgeable. This ensures the boaters of Connecticut have a safe, secure and enjoyable recreational boating experience. Our major initiatives continue to stress the importance of boating sober and the importance of wearing life jackets. Since the mandatory boating education requirement for registered vessels took effect in 1993, the fatality rate has decreased 54.7% and the accident rate has decreased 29.1%.

Clean water and clean air make boating experiences more enjoyable. By becoming aware of some of the environmental hazards that are associated with boating, and using sound environmental boating practices, boaters were educated by the Division to help protect our resources and ensure the future health of Connecticut's waters. In 2017, there were 5,880 clean boater pledges received.

Since its inception, the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) has prohibited the discharge of untreated sewage from vessels in all of Long Island Sound. All of Connecticut's coastal waters from the Rhode Island state boundary in the Pawcatuck River to the New York State Boundary in the Byram River and extending from shore out to the New York state boundary have been designated by EPA as a federal No Discharge Areas. In these waters the discharge of any sewage from any vessel is prohibited. In 2017, 1,347,605 gallons of recreational marine sewage was pumped from vessels in Connecticut waters. This is a 6.35% increase from the previous year.

BOATING DIVISION

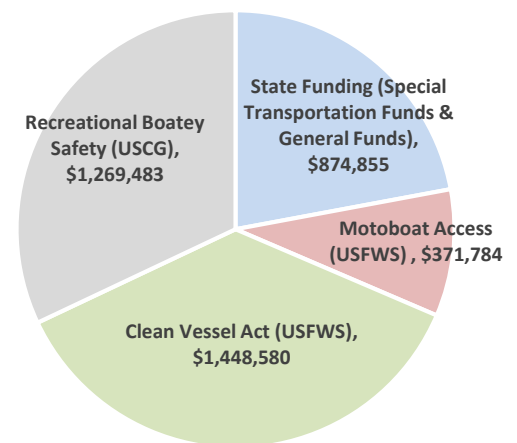
The Division's mission is accomplished by:

- Improving the safe navigation of our waters to reduce casualties, congestion and conflict.
- Ensuring that recreational boaters and youth are able to improve their knowledge of key boating safety topics and enhance boat handling skills.
- Ensuring, along with Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), that boats are properly numbered, identified with hull identification numbers and meet federal and state identification requirements.
- Working with DEEP Environmental Conservation Police (EnCon) to coordinate boating law enforcement efforts.
- Reporting recreational boating accidents including the accuracy of reporting alcohol and/or drug use in boating accident investigative reports in a timely manner to USCG.
- Advancing safe boating practices through regulation, legislation, administrative procedure and reporting and analyses of boating accidents.
- Improving marine law enforcement proficiency.
- Increasing voluntary life jacket wear rates amongst boaters in both registered and non-registered boats and reduce alcohol and drug use by operators and passengers.
- Staying active in state and national initiatives and with state and national organizations with similar goals of reducing boating accidents.

FUNDING

In addition to state funding, the Division relies on stable funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is supported by excise taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and engine fuels. Funds are then administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the USCG. Funds are received by DEEP from the USFWS for operation and development of boating access projects for trailerable boats, development of boating infrastructure projects for boats 26 feet and larger (BIG Program) and for promoting the use of pumpout facilities by boaters to handle boat sewage (CVA Grant). Monies received annually from the USCG are used to promote recreational boating safety on Connecticut's waters (Recreational Boating Safety Grant). State funding is used to supplement all programs and entirely for programs to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and to administer the State's abandoned boat program.

FY 2017 Boating Funding Sources



Working with a small core staff of 9 people, the Division works to carry out its mission. Funding received by the Division is provided to other Divisions of the DEEP for assistance including EnCon, Division of State Parks and Public Outreach and Agency Support Services. The Division partners with other Divisions within DEEP's Bureaus of Natural Resources, Water Protection and Land Reuse; Financial and Support Services, Materials Management and Compliance Assurance; and Air Management to support recreational boating activities in Connecticut and with the DMV for vessel registration.



NAVIGATION SAFETY/ACCESS

UNIFORM STATE WATERWAY MARKING SYSTEM- STATE MARKERS

The Division worked closely with contractors to provide:

- ↓ 6 navigation and 4 regulatory buoys on Candlewood Lake.
- ↓ 37 regulatory buoys on the Connecticut River.
- ↓ 6 regulatory buoys on the Housatonic River.
- ↓ 8 regulatory buoys on the Mystic River.

PRIVATE MARKERS

The Division reviewed and processed marker permit applications for navigation and regulatory markers for swim areas, speed zones, danger and information markers. Applications were also reviewed and processed for water ski slalom courses and jump markers. A total of 14 marker permits were issued during 2017.

The marker permits that were issued are:

L.I. Sound

- ↓ 1 Swim
- ↓ 2 Info
- ↓ 2 Speed
- ↓ 6 Danger

Inland

- ↓ 2 Swim
- ↓ 1 Danger

MARINE EVENTS

A permit is required for all marine parades, regattas, races, tournaments (other than fishing), exhibitions, or other activities held on inland state waters requiring exclusive use of a specified portion of a waterbody, including access through state boat launches. In addition, a state permit is required on federal waters when using a state boat launch, or when requesting certain boating regulation exceptions. In 2017, 61 permits were issued to various groups for events. The permit requirement continues to improve boating in Connecticut by reducing user conflicts and overcrowding at popular locations. There is no charge for a [marine event permit](#). Note-Fishing tournaments are issued by the DEEP Fisheries Division.

The marine event permits issued were as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ↓ 4 Boat Parades | ↓ 4 Sailboat Regattas |
| ↓ 3 Boat Races | ↓ 2 Swimming Races |
| ↓ 3 Canoe/Kayak Paddle Events | ↓ 4 Triathlons |
| ↓ 11 Canoe/Kayak Races | ↓ 4 Waterski |
| ↓ 18 Crew Events | ↓ 5 Misc. |
| ↓ 3 Fireworks Displays | |

DAM SAFETY

The Division placed and removed barrier floats at three state-owned dams and maintained signage at 19 other dams.

STATE BOAT LAUNCHES

DEEP supplied the standardized regulation and information sign posting system at state boat launches, keeping the boating and fishing public informed of regulations and important safety information. The Division continued to work with maintenance crews to ensure that all state boat launches are in a safe and clean condition. In 2017, the Division had one renovation project in Branford and held two public informational meetings for proposed renovations at Bantam Lake and Mansfield Hollow. This is part of DEEP's efforts to serve the boating community across Connecticut. (see [Attachments A, Q & R](#))



Renovated Branford Boat Launch

BOATING EDUCATION

BOATS OTHER THAN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Residents of Connecticut, persons owning real property in Connecticut or persons with vessels registered in Connecticut must have either a Safe Boating Certificate or a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation to legally operate any vessel with a motor, or a sailboat 19.5 feet in length or longer.

Exceptions:

- ↓ On inland bodies of water with a 10 hp limit or less and during day time hours, no certificate is required for a person operating an electric motor (rated at 106 lbs. of thrust or less). However, the vessel must be registered.
- ↓ A person who has a valid operator's license issued by the USCG does not require a Safe Boating Certificate to operate a vessel other than a personal watercraft. They must have a copy of the license on board the recreational vessel on which they are operating.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ONLY

Any person operating a personal watercraft must possess either a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation issued by Connecticut or a certificate issued by a state recognized by Connecticut. Connecticut recognizes certificates from New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for use upon our waters.

NON-RESIDENT CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

- ↓ Connecticut recognizes a valid Certificate of Personal Watercraft operation issued by a reciprocal state (NY, MA, RI or NH) for a non-resident even if they own real property in Connecticut or have their PWC registered in Connecticut. Personal watercraft operators **MUST** have a recognized certificate of personal watercraft operation to operate legally.

COASTAL BOATER ENDORSEMENT

The Coastal Boater Endorsement recognizes recreational boaters that receive additional education in basic navigation and plotting methods. Such education further promotes safety in coastal waters.

The Division partnered with United States Power Squadrons and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on this initiative and we continued to promote classes that met the requirements for the endorsement.

Once a course was successfully completed, the endorsement was printed on qualifying print-on-demand boating certificates. In 2017, 186 people received the endorsement.

SAFE WATERSKIING ENDORSEMENT

The safe waterskiing endorsement requirement became effective on October 1, 2015. A safe water skiing informational insert was developed, printed and distributed at boat shows, fairs and to registered vessels in the renewal notice. ([see Attachment B](#)) The Safe Waterskiing Endorsement statute allows for online education, so in 2016 the Division solicited and executed a contract with an online vendor that allowed

for existing and new boaters to obtain the education for the safe waterskiing endorsement. Division staff worked with the vendor to develop the course content to ensure that it met all of the required educational components. The online course vendor was chosen through a formal Request for Proposal process. The newly created [online course](#) replaced the old online course in early May 2017. Any boaters needing to obtain their Safe Waterskiing Endorsement can take the course online course which is located on the DEEP-Boating Safe Waterski Endorsement [website \(www.ct.gov/deep/waterskiendorsement\)](http://www.ct.gov/deep/waterskiendorsement).

EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATION

The Division's equivalency examination is a 50-question multiple choice test that is designed for the experienced boater to qualify for a certificate. The Division recommends that all boaters take a class to ensure they are up-to-date with current boating laws.

In 2017, there were seven applications that were submitted for the equivalency exam, of which all passed.

DEEP SPONSORED BOATING CLASSES

The Division utilized its team of 32 volunteer instructors to conduct a total of 87 eight-hour combined safe boating and safe personal watercraft handling courses (Boat Connecticut). Volunteer instructors contributed a total of 696 hours to teach classes. The Boat Connecticut course provided a comprehensive introduction to boating safety. During 2017, 2,750 students graduated from this course. The courses were held statewide through our community college system and at dozens of sponsoring organizations.

The combined safe boating and safe personal watercraft handling course program was also offered through various local middle schools, high schools, technical schools and aquaculture institutes. Course material was built into the regular science curriculum and taught throughout an entire semester. In 2017, nine classes were completed with 180 students.

The Division conducted three stand-alone 2 ½ hour safe personal watercraft handling courses for a total of 33 students. The courses were held statewide at personal watercraft dealerships and at our Division Headquarters in Old Lyme, CT.

OTHER BOATING EDUCATION CLASSES

In addition to the Division's classes, the US Power Squadrons, USCG Auxiliary, US Sailing and private providers teach Boating classes for a fee. For upcoming classes visit our [website \(www.ct.gov/deep/boating\)](http://www.ct.gov/deep/boating) There were 17 private companies that were approved by the Commissioner of the DEEP and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) to teach basic boating safety classes within the state.

The private providers and national organizations graduated approximately 8,700 students in 2017.

CERTIFICATES

In 2017, approximately 8,800 certificates were purchased while a total of 11,458 students received their diplomas. The Division is finding that students are not purchasing their certificate upon the completion of the course.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The student ambassador program ran for a third year. The program provided an opportunity for high and middle school students to complete senior year or school community projects by delivering important boating safety messages to students throughout their school. The projects were on display at the Legislative Office Building during National Safe Boating Week. In 2017, the Division had 34 schools participate and had 40 students. One girl scout troop of seven produced a safety message also. ([see Attachment C](#) and the video about the [Student Ambassador Program](#))

BOATING EDUCATION AT STATE BOAT LAUNCHES

In 2017, there were 12 boating education assistants (BEAs) during the boating season that provided boating education at state boat launches. Due to funding reductions, the BEAs worked fewer hours and there were less interactions with boaters; however the contacts made by the BEAs were still successful. (see video [State Boat Launches and Boating Education Assistants](#))

The BEAs were assigned to the high use launches such as Highland Lake, Lattin's Cove and Squantz Cove on Candlewood Lake, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. BEAs also visited the other state boat launches and private marinas throughout the state.

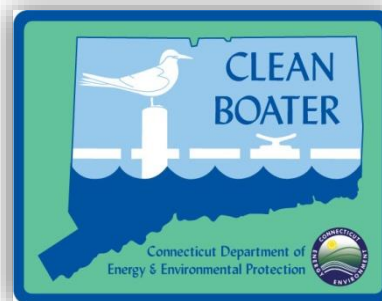
VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS (VSCs)

The Division and USCG Auxiliary entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in February 2013 to carry out vessel safety checks. The signing of this MOA has ensured the partnership continues so as to benefit both organizations. Connecticut is the only state agency in the country to perform VSCs.

A VSC for trailered boats usually takes 10-15 minutes. If all federal safety requirements are met the boater is issued a decal. The BEAs performed 1,352 VSCs at state boat launches and reported to the USCG Auxiliary as required.

CLEAN BOATING PROGRAM

The Division's [clean boating program](#) encourages state boaters to learn about and implement clean boating techniques. Connecticut waters are a valuable natural resource. Our waters provide food, jobs, recreation and beauty, as well as special habitat for fish, birds and wildlife. The cumulative impact of the approximately 165,000 recreational boats on Long Island Sound (LIS), for example, can be considerable, which is why it is important for each boater to share the responsibility for keeping our water clean for activities such as fishing, swimming, scuba diving and viewing wildlife.



Boaters are provided common clean boating practices to help keep pollutants out of our waters and to ensure the future health of Connecticut's waters.

The BEAs distributed spill prevention kits to "clean boaters" at the state boat launches. The kits included an oil absorbent pad, disposal methodology and tips for keeping pollutants out of the water. In 2017 the BEAs collected 5,880 clean boater pledges from recreational boaters. The pledge states that the boater

will refrain from disposing trash and sewage in the water as well as preventing the spread of invasive species.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Over the years, a variety of non-native species (plants, animals, and other organisms) have been introduced to Connecticut. Non-native species are those that are alien to the ecosystem in which they have been introduced and whose introduction can cause harm to the environment or human health. Some non-native species exhibit an aggressive growth habit and can out-compete and displace native species. These are referred to as invasive species and they are a problem in Connecticut and elsewhere.

Efforts have been enhanced at our state boat launches with regard to educating boaters about stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Waters especially in western Connecticut are prone to introductions of zebra mussels. While zebra mussels have been in the Twin Lakes in Salisbury since 1998, they more recently were found in the Housatonic River impoundments of Lakes Lillinonah, Zoar and Housatonic.



In July 2017, Connecticut marked its second Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness weekend. In an Official Statement issued to officially designate the weekend, Governor Malloy urged Connecticut’s residents and those recreating on Connecticut’s waters to help prevent the spread of AIS. ([see Attachment D](#))

DEEP Boating staff and BEAs had a concentrated effort at Lattins Cove and Squantz Cove on Candlewood Lake, Lake Zoar, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, and Coventry Lake educating boaters about clean and safe boating practices and conducting AIS inspections.

To heighten the message to boaters to clean, drain and dry their boats to keep AIS from spreading, the BEAs increased their inspection of vessels for aquatic weeds and zebra mussels. Continued education and enforcement is needed to empower the boater and make the mantra of [clean-drain-dry](#) a normal part of boating. Starting in 2011, boaters were asked several questions regarding their habits. It was the first year that actual boat inspections were performed to check for AIS, 1,260 vessel inspections were performed. In 2017, 4,769 inspections were performed.

RESULTS OF THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY*

Year	Total Inspections	Self Inspected/Removed	Disposed of Bait	Washed Boats	Drained Boats	Aware of AIS Laws
2011	1,260	84%	73%	62%	84%	89%
2012	1,691	93%	92%	76%	93%	90%
2013	1,563	91%	91%	79%	78%	96%
2014	3,380	**	**	**	**	**
2015	4,087	99.8%	88%	95%	97%	98%
2016	5,227	97.1	96.2	87%	97%	97.3
2017	4,769	99%	91%	54%	99%	99%

* Boaters were asked these questions regarding their habits

** Data was not captured.

CLEAN VESSEL ACT (CVA)

Since 1993, all of the waters of Long Island Sound (LIS) in Connecticut and New York have been designated by the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) as a federally approved no-discharge area.

The [Federal Clean Vessel Act \(CVA\) grant program](#), has awarded more than \$13 million in grants, funding more than 606 projects in Connecticut. ([see Attachment E](#)) A total of 142 marine sewage disposal facilities (pumpouts/dump stations) have preserved and protected the water quality in LIS, Fishers Island Sound and more recently Candlewood Lake:

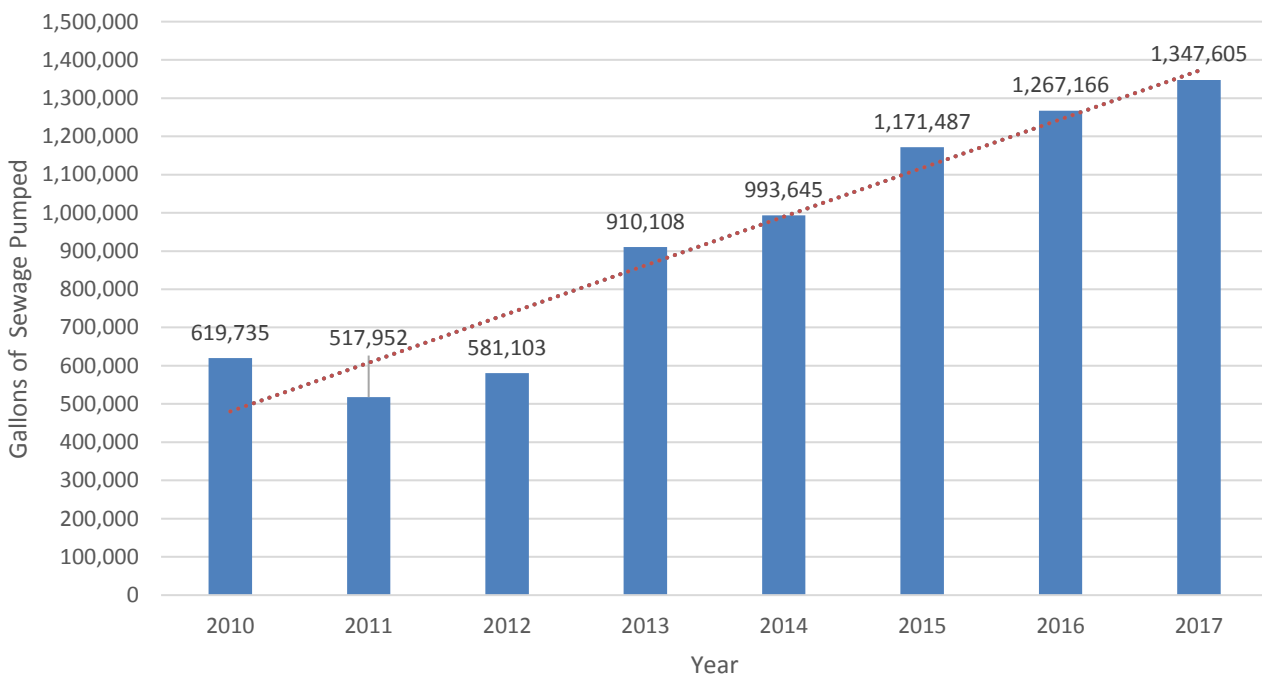
- ↓ 98 land-based pumpout facilities
- ↓ 21 dump stations
- ↓ 23 pumpout vessels



This program helps keep coastal waters clean for recreation by safely disposing of millions of gallons of boaters' sewage annually. The marine facilities provide 25% of the cost of each project.

In 2017, DEEP was awarded approximately \$1.1 million to assist marinas, boatyards, yacht clubs, and pump-out vessels ensuring that boaters have options for removing boat sewage. ([see Attachment F](#)) A total of 1,347,605 gallons of sewage was removed from recreational boats in Connecticut. That is a 6.4% increase from last year.

Gallons of Recreational Boat Sewage Pumped in CT



2017 CLEAN VESSEL ACT HIGHLIGHTS

Grantee	Description	Municipality	Amount Awarded
Brewer Ferry Point Marina	Replacement of 1 stationary facility and O&M	Old Saybrook	\$13,255.13
Chrisholm Marina	O&M for 1 stationary facility and 1 portable facility and upgrade of an existing stationary facility at new location	Chester	\$11,408.81
City Point Yacht Club, Inc.	Construction of 1 new stationary facility and O&M for 1 stationary	New Haven	\$18,015.00
Groton, City of	Replacement of 1 stationary facility and O&M	Groton	\$19,045.00
Milford Boat Works, Inc.	Purchase of 1 new portable facility and O&M	Milford	\$9,998.61
Milford Harbor Marina, Inc.	Replacement of 1 stationary facility and O&M	Milford	\$19,741.66
Branford, Town of - East Shore District Health Department	Purchase of a new solar/electric pumpout vessel	Branford, Guilford, East Haven, New Haven, West Haven	\$152,383.50
East Norwalk Blue, Inc.	One vessel engine replacement	Darien, Norwalk, Westport, Fairfield	\$146,198.25
Pilots Point Marina, Inc. (d/b/a Brewer Pilots Point Marina)	Replacement of one stationary pumpout facility	Westbrook	\$11,325.00
Shrink the Boat, LLC	Installation of a new fender system on an existing aluminum pumpout vessel	Stonington, Groton, New London, Fisher's Island, Noank, Groton Long Point	\$3,554.25

The Division hired a seasonal employee to promote the use of pumpout facilities and the importance of clean water along the coastline. Brochures and promotional items with the pumpout logo were distributed to marinas and boaters throughout the state to remind them of the availability of pumpout services and the negative environmental effects of boat sewage. All pumpouts for recreational boaters continue to be free in Connecticut.

During the boating season, program staff continued to distribute hands-free adapter kits for distribution to boaters along the Connecticut shoreline. The hands-free adaptor kits were very well-received by both the marine facilities and recreational boaters.

The interactive [CVA map](#) can be utilized to locate the CVA funded facilities and pumpout boats (www.ct.gov/deep/pumpoutdirectory). The latitude and longitude location/address, hours of operation, contact information, and facility web links are updated regularly for boaters to access.

BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (BIG)

The Division administered the [BIG](#) on behalf of the [USFWS](#). Congress created this program (*Federal Register*, 50 CFR 86, January 18, 2001) recognizing that insufficient tie-up facilities exist for transient, non-trailerable boats. Specifically, this program aims to assist boaters to enjoy many recreational, cultural, historic, scenic, and natural resources of the United States.

BIG program funds are made available to public and private agencies, marinas and facilities that provide transient tie-up opportunities for non-trailerable (26' or over in length) recreational boats. ([see Attachment G](#)) Eligible projects include the construction, renovation, and maintenance of publicly or privately owned facilities including docks and moorings; one-time dredging to give transient vessels safe channel depths between the tie-up facility and channels or open water; installation of navigational aids for safe passage to the tie-up facility and education materials.

There are two levels of BIG funding: Tier I - State competitive projects up to \$190,000 Tier II – Nationally competitive projects from \$200,000 to \$1.2 million.

Eleven projects have been completed and can be found on the newly created DEEP interactive Facilities for Transient Boaters Facility Map at www.ct.gov/deep/transientboaterfacilities.

Completed in 2017:

Thamesport Marina, New London: 54 new floating concrete dock slips and a wave attenuator at the mouth of the Thames River in New London. The grant was for \$1,430,975.00.



Thamesport Marina, New London

OUTREACH

PUBLICATIONS

The Division made significant efforts to reach the boating public and promote boating safety. ([see Attachments H & I](#))

In 2017, the Boating Division produced a new television show called Better Boating in Connecticut. With the technical support of Southeastern Connecticut Television, Inc. located in Groton, CT, the Division produced nine 30 minute shows during the year that advocated for fun, safe, and clean boating. The Division utilized public service announcements (PSA) as well during the show that highlighted the importance of wearing a life jacket and the dangers of BUI. One of the PSA's had spanish content. Two shows were aired three times a week in southeastern CT. The Better Boating in Connecticut show is also broadcast throughout southeastern Connecticut, lower Middlesex County, Bridgeport and the greater Farmington area, the DEEP Boating [website](#) and [YouTube](#). The Division will continue to work with other public access stations throughout the state to broadcast the show.

Ninety-five thousand [Connecticut Boater's Guide](#) were printed and distributed throughout DEEP offices, boating classes, boat shows, DMV offices, organizational meetings and town clerk offices. The Boater's Guide is a handbook of boating laws and regulations. It also contains registration information, guidelines for a safe boat operation, boat launch information, a boating accident report form and environmental initiatives. This summer displays were installed with boating safety messages throughout six major DMV offices.

The Division's priority was to encourage the use of life jackets and the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages. Utilizing local print, radio, TV media, websites and social media networks, these messages were delivered to the public. Banners were made and placed on display at the Marine Headquarters. ([see Attachments M, N, & O](#))

EVENTS

The Division participated in various community events including safety fairs, marine industry trade shows, educational programs and much more around the state. The events are as follows:

- ↓ Connecticut Marine Trades Association Hartford Boat Show
- ↓ Hunting and Fishing Show
- ↓ International Water and Boating Safety Summit and NASBLA Education Committee Meeting
- ↓ Great Park Pursuit- Boating Day
- ↓ USCG, Sector Long Island Sound Open House
- ↓ Ready, Set, Wear It
- ↓ Law Enforcement seminar
- ↓ Student Ambassador Appreciation ceremony
- ↓ Human powered event at USCG Sector Long island Sound, New Haven
- ↓ Berlin Fair, Hebron Harvest Fair, Durham Fair, Norwalk Boat Show, DEEP Hunting and Fishing Day
- ↓ States Organization for Boating Access Conference
- ↓ Marine Law Enforcement Refresher Workshop
- ↓ Small Boats Day in Groton
- ↓ DEEP Hunting and Fishing Appreciation Day
- ↓ On-Water Sailing Standards Program
- ↓ Boat Show at Brewers- Essex Island

M/V PRUDENCE-DIVISION'S OUTREACH VESSEL

During the year, *M/V Prudence* was deployed nine times on Connecticut waters and spent approximately thirty-eight hours on the water with the intent to target recreational boaters.

The Division scheduled *M/V Prudence's* voyages around marine events such as fireworks, concerts, charities and parades, seeking the greatest potential for exposure and impact. The *M/V Prudence's* crew encountered 135 vessels and delivered safety messages to over 680 persons; 563 adults, 59 teenagers and 60 children. The Division obtained promotional items from local retailers to thank the boaters for taking the time to learn about safe boating practices as part of our BOATS (Because Our Acquaintances Think Safety) Program.

The *M/V Prudence* is an effective resource to deliver safety messages to the recreational boating public. Even though limited time is spent on-the-water, the impact is invaluable.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK-MAY 20-26, 2017

As part of National Safe Boating Week, DEEP partnered with the USCG, USCG Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons (USPS), to renew the state's commitment to promote the importance of making safe and responsible boating choices while on the water. Boaters were reminded to avoid factors that can lead to boating accidents such as inattention, careless or reckless operation, excessive speed, and alcohol consumption.

National Safe Boating Week was kicked off at the USCG Sector Long Island Sound's Open House event ([see Attachment J](#)). The Division conducted a marine flare collection of expired pyrotechnical marine visual distress signals (handheld flares and aerial devices) and instructed participants on how to use flares at the open house.

The Boating Division participated in numerous National Safe Boating Week outreach events:

- ↓ Open House at USCG Sector Long Island Sound
 - ↓ Flare Demo & Disposal event
 - ↓ Ready Set Wear It event
- ↓ Health & Safety Day at Manchester High School
- ↓ Situational Awareness & Life Jackets
 - ↓ Utilized social media to cover boating safety topics about weather, knots, clean water / pumpout facilities, navigation, and accident statistics
- ↓ Student Ambassador Ceremony ([see Attachment C](#))
- ↓ Inflatable Life Jacket demonstration

To view the news clips that covered the activities during the week, visit:

- ↓ <http://wtnh.com/2017/04/12/beachboating-safety-water-temps-still-dangerous/>
- ↓ <http://wtnh.com/2017/04/12/deep-warns-of-cold-swift-moving-waterways-this-time-of-year/>
- ↓ <http://www.theday.com/local/20170411/boaters-urged-to-stay-safe-while-water-is-still-cold>
- ↓ https://patch.com/connecticut/guilford/guilford-student-wins-award-safe-boating-information?utm_source=newsletter-daily&utm_medium=email&utm_term=community%20corner&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_content=article-topstories&utm_slot=1

GREAT PARK PURSUIT-NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE®

The Great Park Pursuit (GPP) began its twelfth season in June. The GPP is a State Parks Family Adventure that provides planned recreational opportunities for children as part of the [No Child Left Inside](#) initiative. The activities are located throughout Connecticut in the state parks. The planned events for children and families took place on weekends between May and June.

In June, the Division hosted a GPP Family Boating Day event at Bluff Point State Park. The event attracted 540 individuals. Some of the boating activity stations included:

- ↓ Paddle Smart Game
- ↓ Boating Bingo

- ↓ Canoeing adventure on Hopeville Pond
- ↓ Keep It Clean
- ↓ Completing a paddling float plan
- ↓ Code Flags
- ↓ Float Your Boat
- ↓ Boating Safety

GPP was combined with the Ready, Set, Wear It event. The event promotes people on one single day inflating life jackets or just wearing one. Connecticut had the largest participation in the nation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Division has over 3,203 followers on its Facebook page. Safe boating posts on the page reached thousands and engaged hundreds of people on a weekly basis. These messages focused on the importance of wearing a life jacket, boating sober and cold water boating preparedness.

In 2015, a Twitter account was created (@CTBoatingInfo) to notify boaters of temporary state boat launch closures and other important information. In 2017 the Division reached out to approximately 410 boaters via Twitter.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

MADD 2017 LAW ENFORCEMENT RECOGNITION AWARD

In May of 2017, EnCon Police Officer Christian Hage was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) CT Chapter for his outstanding 2016 BUI enforcement efforts.



2017 BOATING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Sergeant Greg Ulkus is an eight year veteran of the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Division, and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in October of 2016. Prior to joining the Division he worked as an Environmental Analyst in the Boating Division for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Sergeant Ulkus is assigned to the Lake Sergeant position in Western District. He is responsible for supervision of both the Candlewood Lake and Lake Housatonic Marine Patrols. During this past year Sgt. Ulkus dedicated himself to improving working relationships and training for the Lake Authorities. He completely transformed the training programs for both returning lake officers and newly hired lake officers. The new training program was very well received and appreciated by the attending officers.

Sergeant Ulkus is also one of the supervisors for the Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU). He is a highly trained member, as well as supervisor in this unit. Sergeant Ulkus routinely seeks to improve the unit's abilities and develops ideas to increase efficiency and investigative techniques by utilizing new technology. He responded and played an active role in several BARU investigations during the busy 2017 boating season.

During Connecticut's 2017 Boating Season Sergeant Ulkus displayed outstanding initiative and leadership in boating enforcement. Sgt. Ulkus spent many hours during the season patrolling and protecting Candlewood Lake, which is located in the western area of Connecticut. Candlewood Lake is the largest lake in Connecticut, and is surrounded by a highly populated area, attracts many tourists from neighboring states, and is the most active and utilized lake for boating activities.

Sergeant Ulkus' leadership, guidance, and proactive approach to boating enforcement, resulted in a team effort of several agencies to ensure overall public safety and compliance to boating regulations. Sergeant Ulkus is an exemplary representative of the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Division and is commended for his professionalism and dedication to boating safety.

2017 STATE BOATING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The State Boating Educator of the Year Award was launched by NASBLA in 2011 to recognize those who go above and beyond to engage students and boaters, raise awareness, and make boating education initiatives relevant, thorough and exciting.

Richard (Dick) Jones of Manchester was nominated for Connecticut's Boating Educator of the Year Award.

Dick has worked as a dedicated team member assisting the DEEP educating boaters in the classroom and various public outreach venues. Dick has been volunteering his time for over twenty-seven years. During these years, he has educated over 7,500 boaters in 263 boating certification classes.

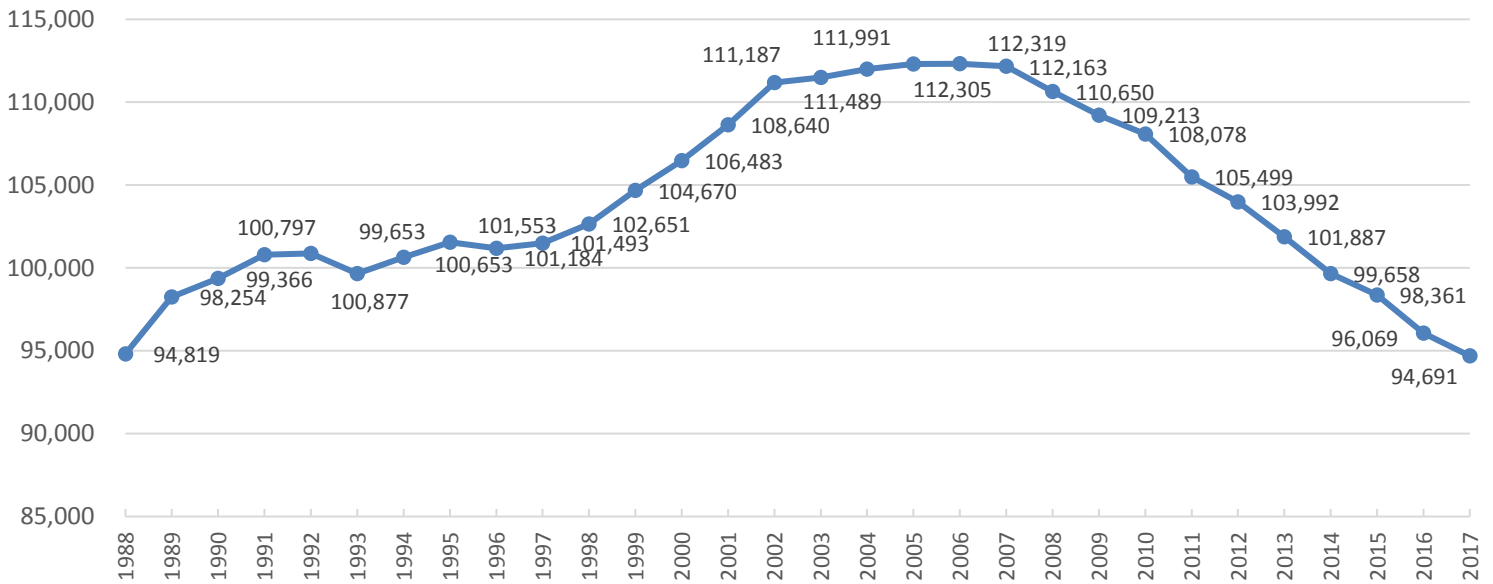
In addition to the time spent in the classroom, Dick enthusiastically donates his time at DEEP public outreach events. It does not matter if DEEP has a display at a boat show, hunting and fishing show or a county fair, Dick can always be relied upon to support the DEEP boating education mission. Over the course of Dick's volunteer time, he has provided over 4,120 man-hours of friendly, knowledgeable service to the DEEP.

Dick's passion for helping other and educating boaters can be seen throughout his work history as well. After retirement from the insurance field, he merged his passion for boating, educating people and began working as a seasonal Boating Education Assistant interacting with the boating public at boat launches, then migrated over to a Resource Assistant, where he provides teaching materials to volunteer instructors throughout the state and teaches safe boating classes wherever an instructor is needed. Aside from volunteering and working with the DEEP, Dick is also a member of the US Power Squadrons, a captain of the Mystic Seaport on-water shuttle and a loving husband and father.

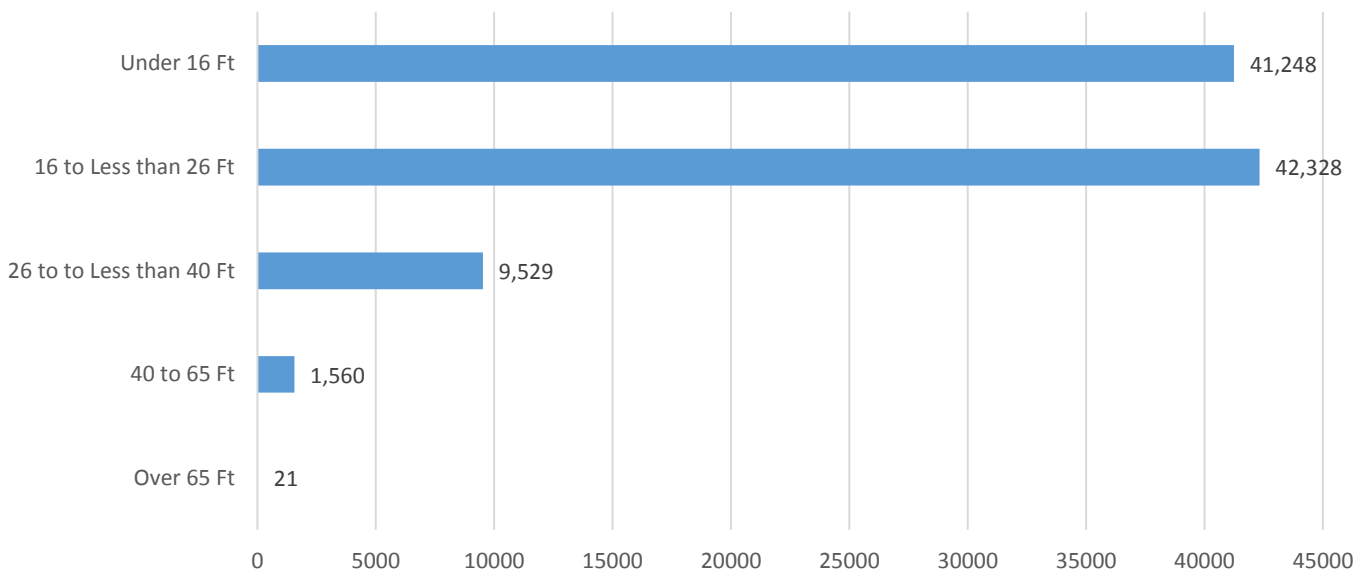
VESSEL REGISTRATION

In 2017, there were 94,691 vessels registered in Connecticut. 88% of Connecticut numbered vessels are less than 26 feet. All motorized vessels and sailboats greater than 19 ½ feet in length are required to be registered. Vessels displaying Connecticut registration numbers receive a certificate of number. Vessels used in Connecticut waters for more than 60 days and registered in other states or holding a valid USCG documentation certificate, must display a Connecticut certificate of decal. The number of vessels registered does not capture manually propelled vessels, which are not required to be registered. In the [2012 National Recreational Boating Survey](#) conducted by the USCG, the northeast region had the highest percentage (19.2%) of households with one or more persons who either canoed or kayaked. Of those surveyed in Connecticut, 21.8% used either a kayak or canoe.

NUMBER OF VESSEL REGISTRATIONS



LENGTH OF VESSELS REGISTERED



BOATING ACCIDENTS AND REPORTING

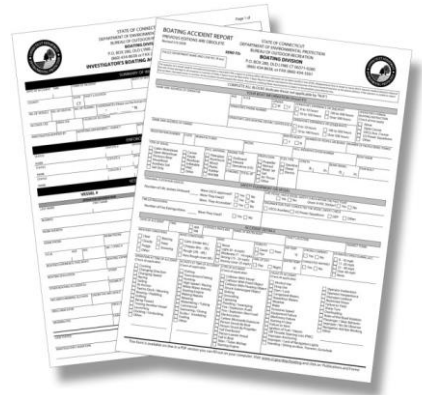
All operators of vessels involved in an accident must remain at the scene and assist any other vessel or person involved, if possible, without endangering their own vessel or the people aboard. The operator must also give his/her name, address and vessel identification number to the other operator(s) or owner of the damaged property.

Operators involved in a boating accident which results in any of the circumstances noted below shall immediately notify the nearest law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area and, not later than 48 hours after the accident, report the matter to DEEP on a [form](#) provided by the Commissioner.

- ↓ The death of any person from whatever cause.
- ↓ The disappearance of any person from on board.
- ↓ The injury of any person sufficient to require medical attention beyond simple first aid.

Any accident in which the total damages to all property affected is in excess of \$500 must be reported by the operator not later than 5 days after the accident on forms provided by the Commissioner. The [form](#) can be downloaded by visiting the Division's webpage: www.ct.gov/deep/boating.

The operator of the vessel must make out the report, if they cannot do so, the owner or a survivor of the accident must initiate the report. Many accidents are not reported because boaters are not aware of the accident reporting requirements. In an effort to increase boating accident reporting, the Division included a usable boating accident report in the 2017 Boater's Guide.



BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS

The Division continued to maintain the computerized boating accident database using the USCG's boating accident report database system (BARD). The fifty states, five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are required to report recreational boating accident data to the USCG. The standards and guidelines for reporting recreational boating accidents, established by the USCG, are described in [Title 33, Section 173 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#). The national data is available through the USCG at: http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.aspx.

Please Note: Connecticut General Statutes Section 15-149a, requires an accident report to be filed if property damage is \$500 or more. The USCG utilizes \$2000 in property damage as a threshold for reporting.

In 2017 there were 58 state reportable accidents (involving 82 vessels) with 14 accidents with injuries for a total of 19 injuries and 8 accidents that resulted in 9 fatalities.

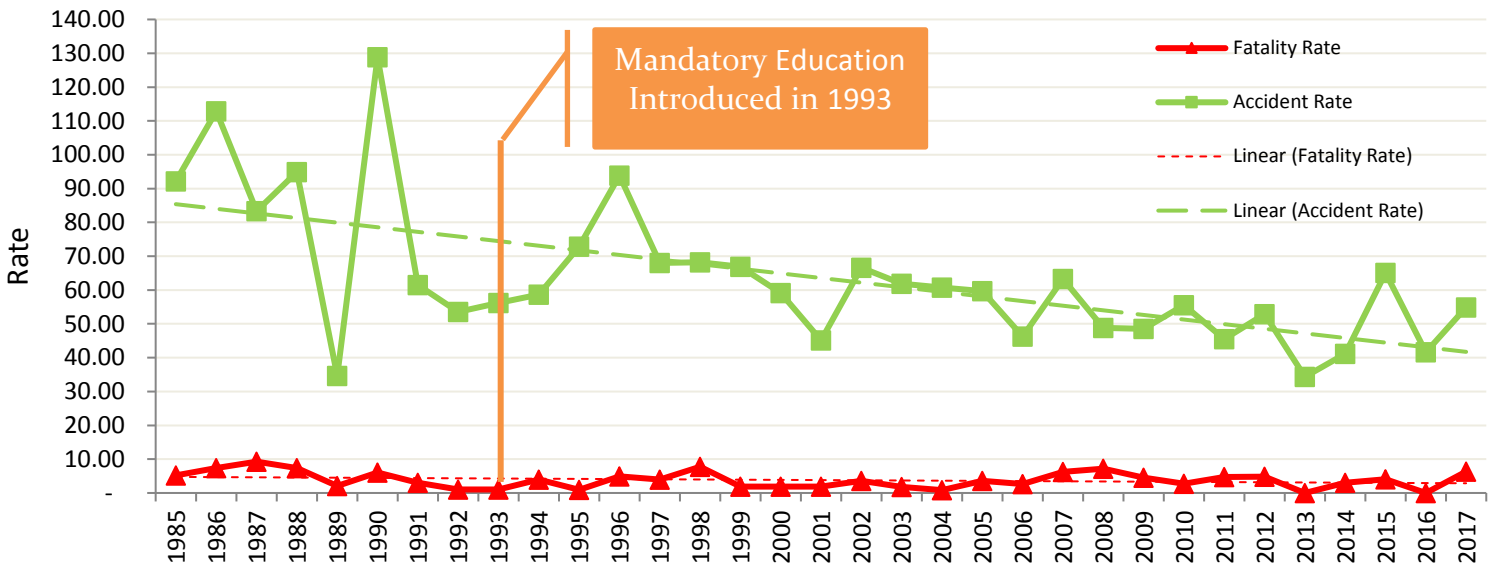
The Division strives to reduce the number of recreational boating accidents, injuries and deaths on Connecticut's waterways and to provide a safe enjoyable experience for the boating public. The purpose of combining boating education, law enforcement initiatives, regulatory and administrative procedures,

with visual marking of the waterways is to create a knowledgeable and skilled boating public with safety ethics. The benefits of these efforts is to create a safety environment that results in reduced number of boating fatalities, serious injuries and property damage to boats and reduces user conflicts.

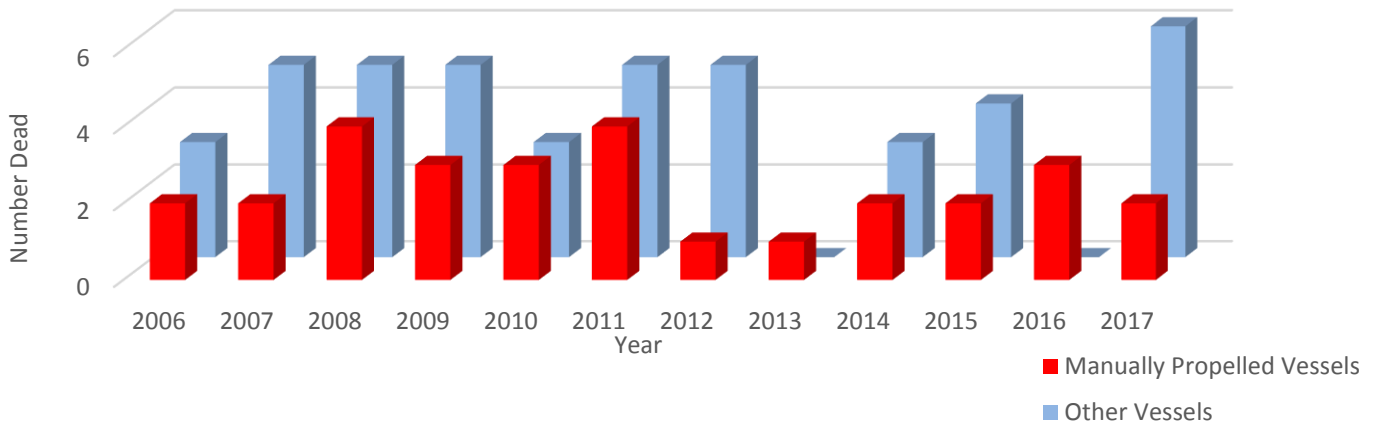
Since the inception of mandatory boating education for registered vessels in 1993, the fatality rate has decreased 54.7% between 1993 and 2017. The accident rate has also decreased 29.1%. These rates do not include manually propelled vessels since they are not required to be registered.

RATES OF ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES IN CONNECTICUT PER 100,000 REGISTERED VESSELS

Note: The accident rate only includes *registered vessels* and is calculated using the number of accidents and the number of registered vessels in CT (#accidents/# registered vessels) * 100,000) The fatality rate only includes *registered vessels* and is calculated using the number of deaths and the number of registered vessels in CT (# fatalities (persons)/# registered vessels) * 100,000)

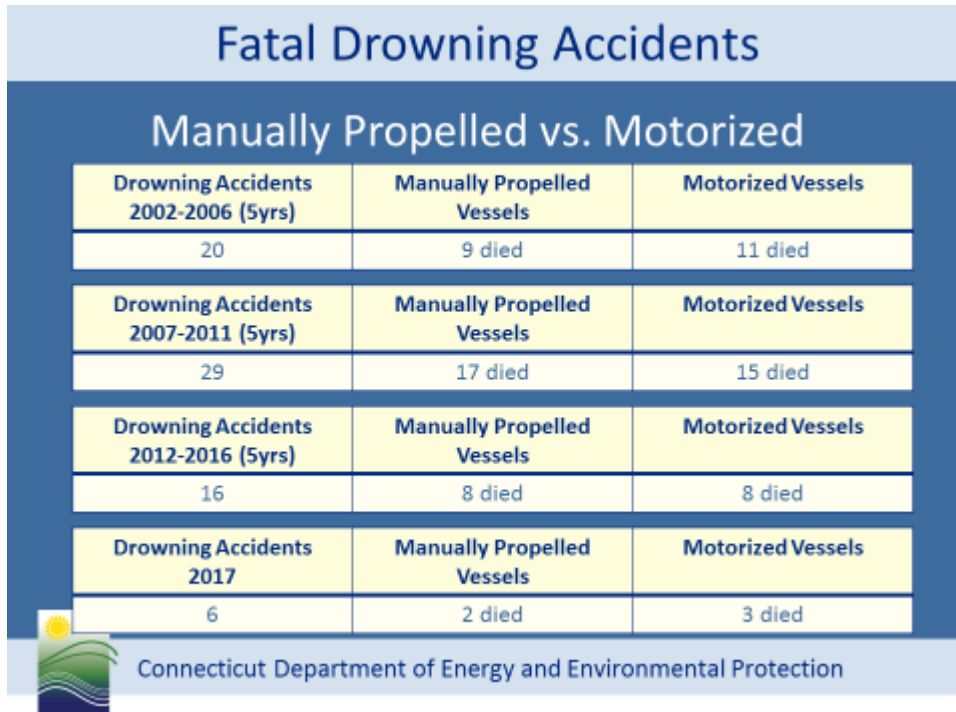


MANUALLY PROPELLED FATALS VS OTHER VESSEL FATALS



DROWNING ACCIDENTS

A comparison of 5 year increments currently reveals that drowning related fatalities on manually-propelled vessels closely approximates the number of fatalities on motorized vessels.



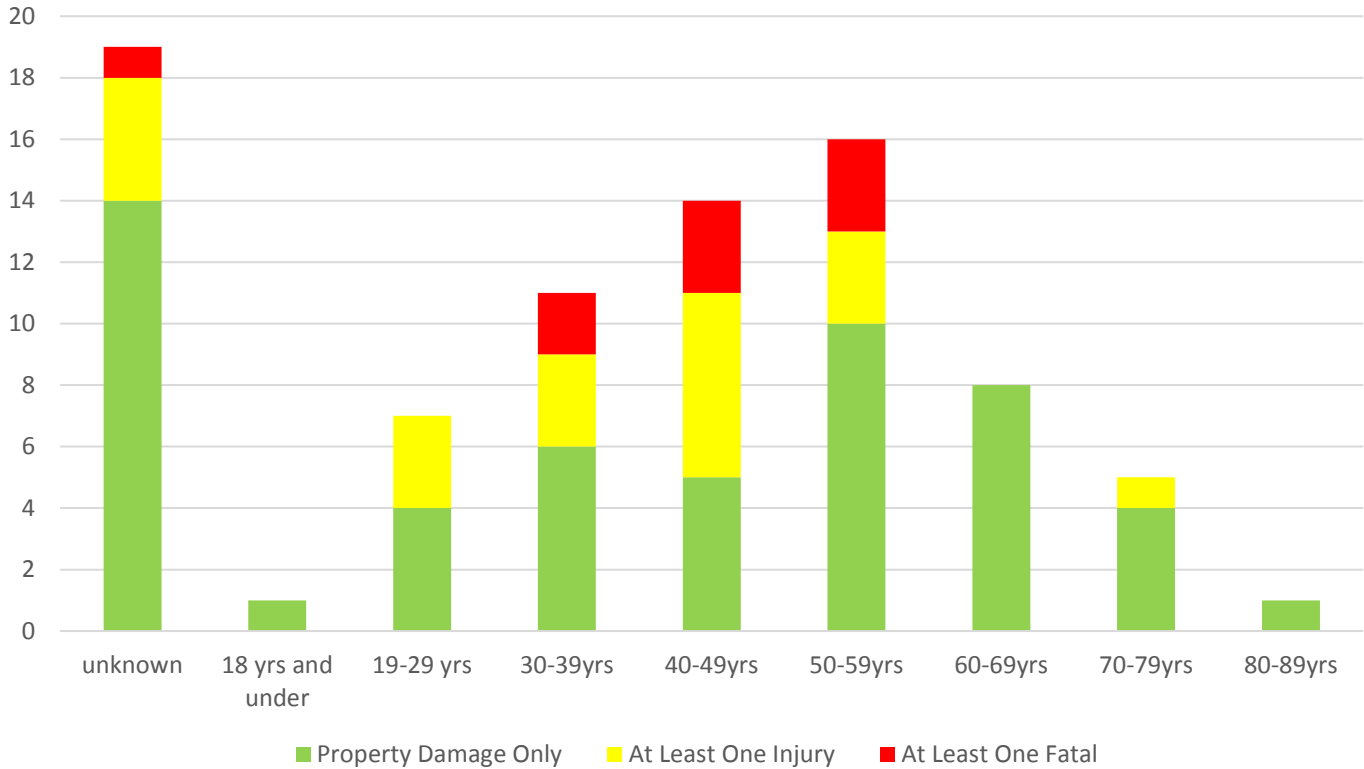
ALL BOATING (REGISTERED AND NON-REGISTERED VESSELS) ACCIDENTS

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Vessels Registered	105,499	103,992	101,887	99,658	98,361	96,069	94,691
Accidents*	54	64	43	48	67	50	58
Fatalities*	8	6	1	5	6	3	9
Accidents with at least 1 injury	14	21	13	20	31	25	15
Accidents with Property Damage Only	32	39	29	26	30	22	36

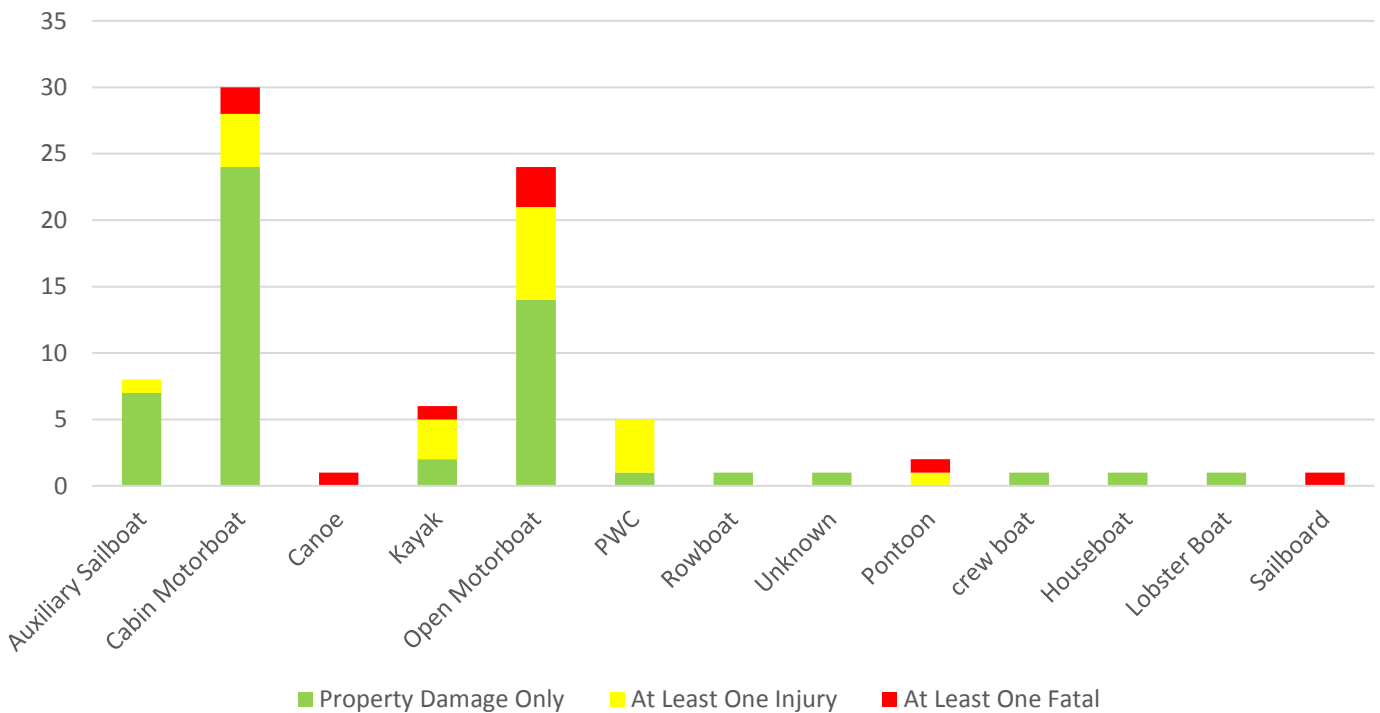
*Includes registered and non-registered vessels

2017 BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS

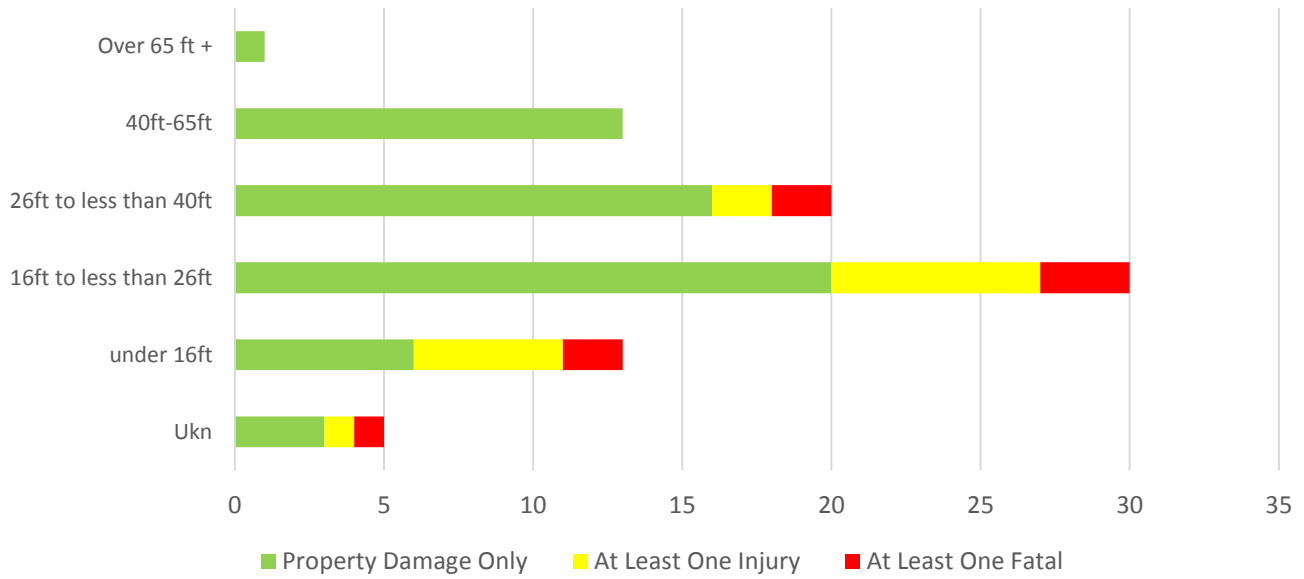
AGE OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS



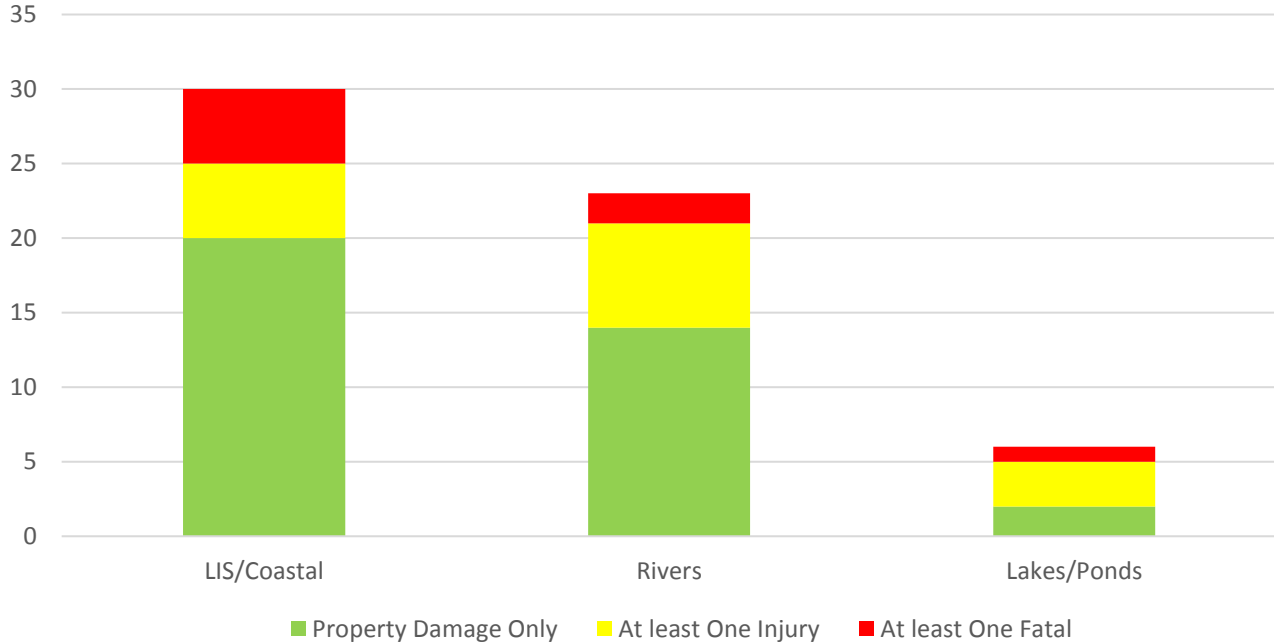
VESSELS TYPES INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS



SIZE OF VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS

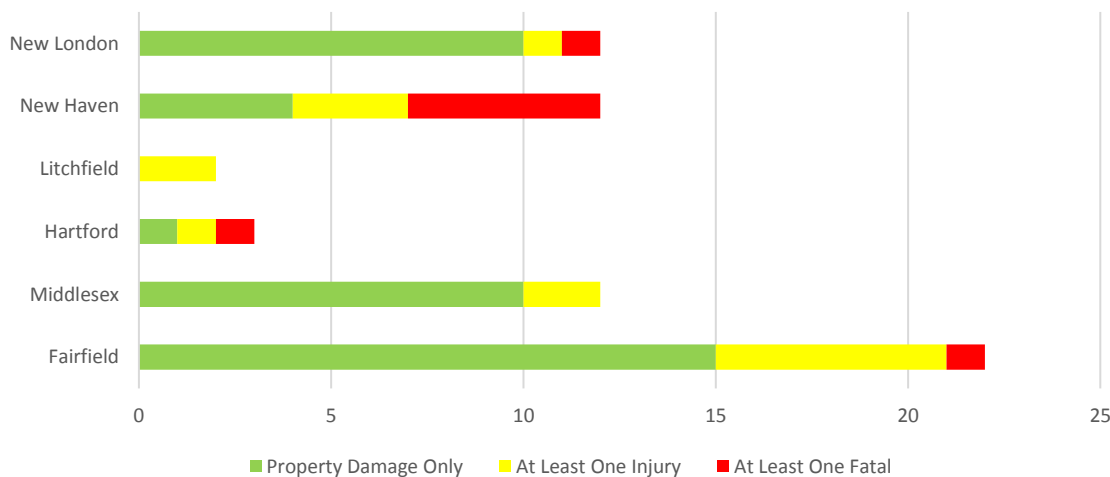


WATERBODY TYPES WHERE THE ACCIDENTS ARE OCCURRING

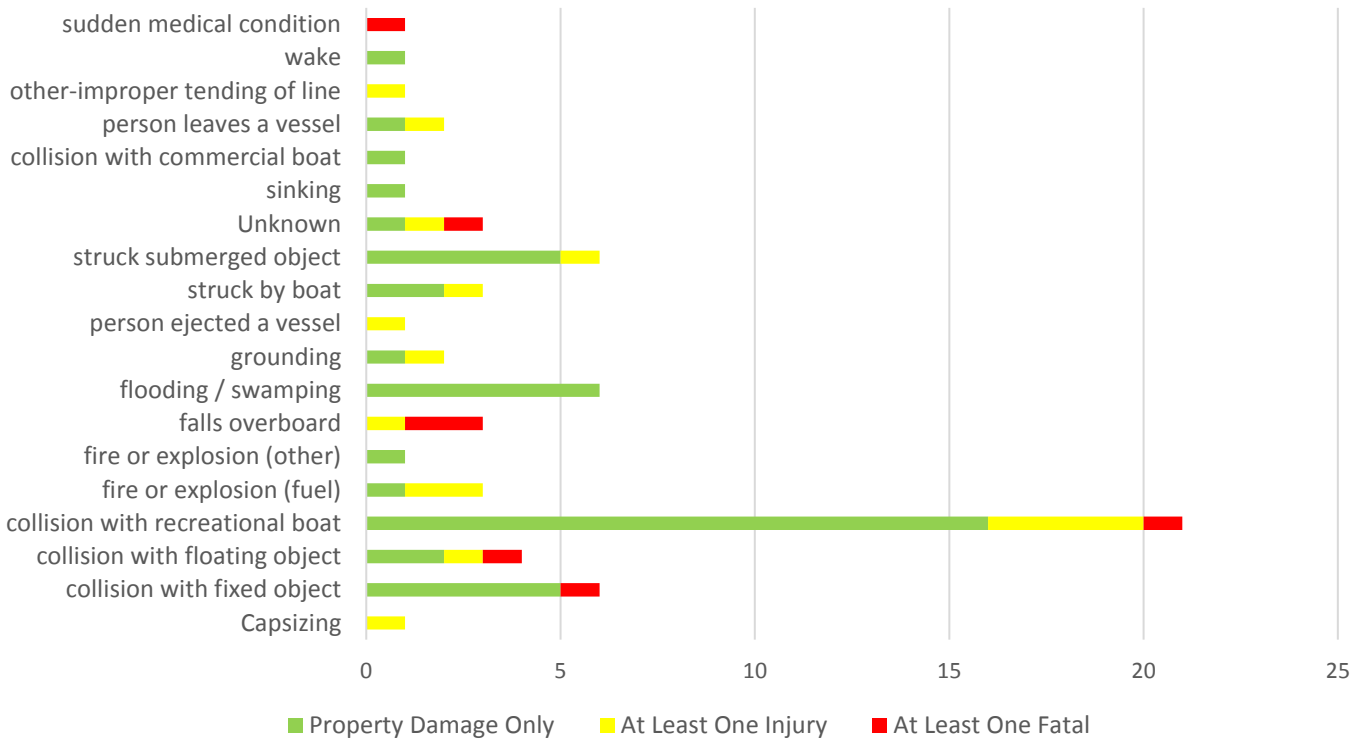


ACCIDENTS BY COUNTY AND WATERWAY

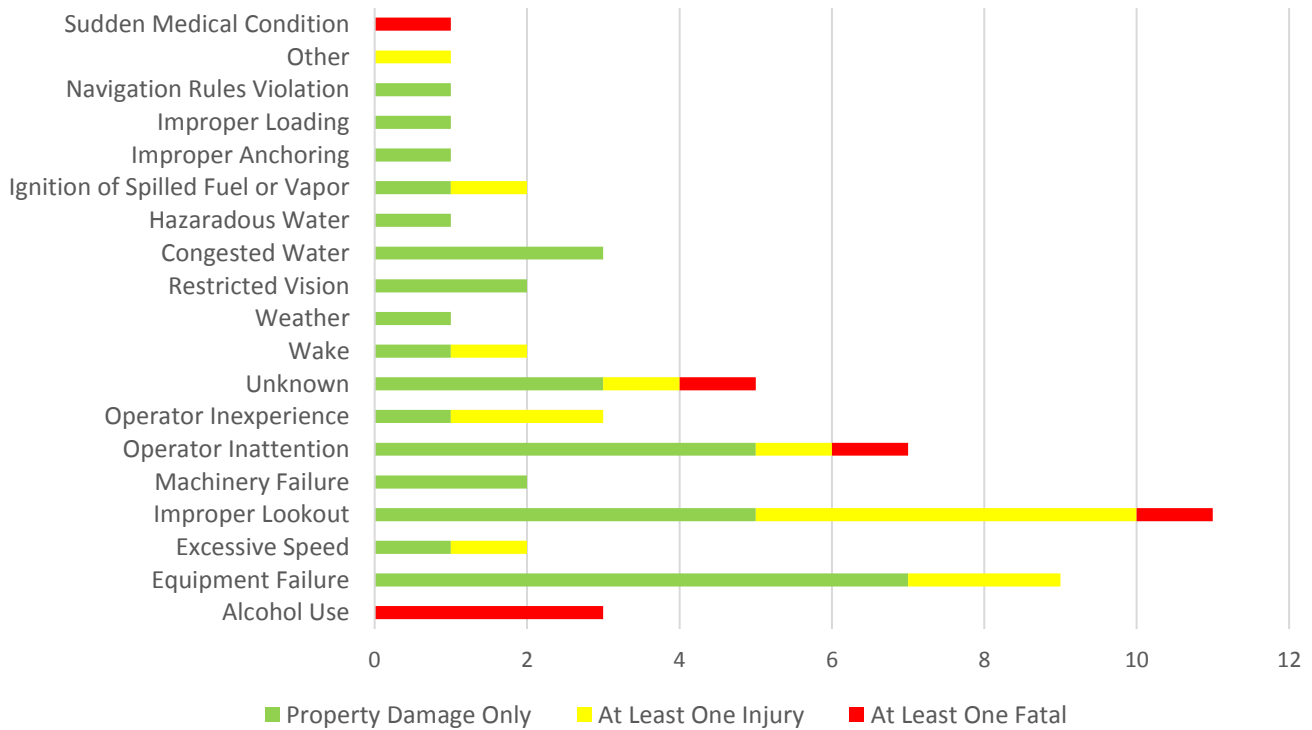
County	Property Damage Only	At Least One Injury	At Least One Fatal
Fairfield	15	6	1
Candlewood Lake	1	1	0
Captains Harbor	2	0	0
Long Island Sound	8	3	1
Housatonic River	4	2	0
Middlesex	10	2	0
Connecticut River	5	2	0
Patchogue River	1	0	0
Long Island Sound	4	0	0
Hartford	1	1	1
Connecticut River	1	0	1
Farmington River	0	1	0
Litchfield	0	2	0
East Twin Lake	0	1	0
Bantam Lake	0	1	0
New Haven	4	3	5
Housatonic River	0	1	0
Lake Zoar	0	0	1
New Haven Canal	1	0	0
Long Island Sound	3	2	4
New London	10	1	1
Fishers Island Sound	2	0	0
Gardner Lake	1	0	0
Long Island Sound	1	0	0
Mystic River	2	0	0
Niantic River	2	1	0
Thames River	2	0	0



ACCIDENT TYPE



PRIMARY CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS



ACCIDENT TYPE AND CAUSE

Accident Type	Cause	Property Damage Only	At Least One Injury	At Least One Fatal
Capsizing	Operator Inexperience	0	1	0
Collison with Commercial Boat	Restricted Vision	1	0	0
Collision with fixed object	Alcohol Use	0	0	1
	Equipment failure	1	0	0
	Improper Lookout	3	0	0
Collision with floating object	Improper Lookout	0	1	1
	Machinery failure	1	0	0
	Unknown	1	0	0
Collision With Recreational Boat	Congested Waters	3	0	0
	Equipment Failure	2	0	0
	Excessive Speed	0	1	0
	Improper Anchoring	1	0	0
	Improper Lookout	2	2	0
	Machinery Failure	1	0	0
	Operator Inattention	3	1	1
	Operator Inexperience	1	0	0
Falls Overboard	Alcohol Use	0	1	2
	Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapor	0	2	0
Fire or explosion (fuel)	Ignition of Spilled Fuel or Vapor	0	2	0
Fire or explosion (other)	Equipment Failure	1	0	0
Flooding / swamping	Equipment Failure	3	0	0
	Improper Loading	1	0	0
	Operation Inattention	1	0	0
	Weather	1	0	0
Grounding	Improper Lookout	0	1	0
	Operator Inattention	1	0	0
Person ejected from a vessel	Equipment Failure	0	1	0
Person leaves a vessel	Excessive Speed	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	1
Sinking	Unknown	1	0	0
Struck by boat	Excessive Speed	1	0	0
	Improper Lookout	0	1	0
struck submerged object	hazardous waters	1	0	0
	Improper Lookout	1	0	0
	Navigation Rules Violation	1	0	0
	Operator Inexperience	0	1	0
	Restricted Vision	1	0	0
	Unknown	1	0	0
Sudden Medical Condition	Sudden Medical Condition	0	1	1
Unknown	Unknown	1	2	1
Other	Machinery failure	1	0	0
	Improper tending to anchor line	0	1	0

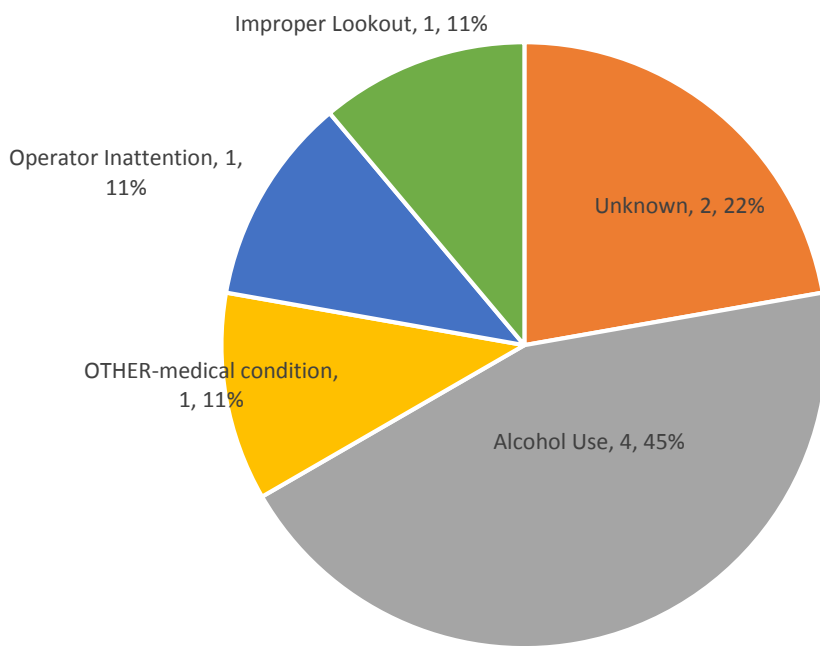
ACCIDENT TYPE AND VESSEL OPERATION

Accident Type	Vessel Operations	Property Damage Only	At Least One Injury	At Least One Fatal
Collision With Recreational Boat	at anchor	2	2	0
	changing direction	1	0	0
	changing speed	0	1	0
	cruising	4	2	1
	docking/undocking	3	1	0
	drifting	1	1	0
	launching	1	0	0
	other	1	0	0
	rowing/paddling	1	0	0
	tied to dock/moored	10	0	0
fire or explosion (fuel)	cruising	1	0	0
	tied to dock/moored	0	2	0
fire or explosion (other)	tied to dock/moored	1	0	0
falls overboard	drifting	0	0	1
	rowing/paddling	0	1	0
	entering harbor	0	0	1
flooding / swamping	at anchor	3	0	0
	tied to dock/moored	1	0	0
	backing down	1	0	0
	cruising	1	0	0
grounding	cruising	0	2	0
	drifting	1	0	0
person ejected a vessel	cruising	0	1	0
struck by boat	changing speed	0	1	0
	drifting	2	0	0
struck submerged object	cruising	5	1	0
Unknown	launching	1	0	0
	unknown	0	1	1
sinking	tied to dock/moored	1	0	0
collision with commercial boat	drifting	1	0	0
person leaves a vessel	at anchor	0	0	1
	cruising	1	0	0
other-improper tending of line	anchoring	0	1	0
wake	changing speed	1	0	0
sudden medical condition	unknown	0	0	1

FATALITY DATA

Body of Water	Accident Type	Primary Cause of Accident	Cause of Death	Vessel Type	PFD Worn
Long Island Sound	Collision w/ fixed object	Alcohol Use	Drowning	Open Motorboat	No
Long Island Sound	Collision w/ fixed object	Alcohol Use	Trauma to head	Open Motorboat	No
Long Island Sound	Falls overboard	Alcohol Use	Drowning	Cabin Motorboat	No
Long Island Sound	Falls overboard	Alcohol Use	Drowning	Open Motorboat	No
Long Island Sound	Collision w/floating object	Improper Lookout	Trauma	Cabin Motorboat	No
Long Island Sound	Sudden Medical Condition	Unknown	Drowning	Sailboard	No
Lake Zoar	Collision w/recreational boat	Operator Inattention	Trauma	Pontoon	No
Connecticut River	Person leaves vessel	Unknown	Drowning	Canoe	No
Thames River	Unknown	Unknown	Drowning	Kayak	Unknown

Primary Accident Cause of Fatal Accident



BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (BUI)

The Boating Division, EnCon Police and local law enforcement made significant efforts to reach the boating public about the dangers of alcohol while boating.

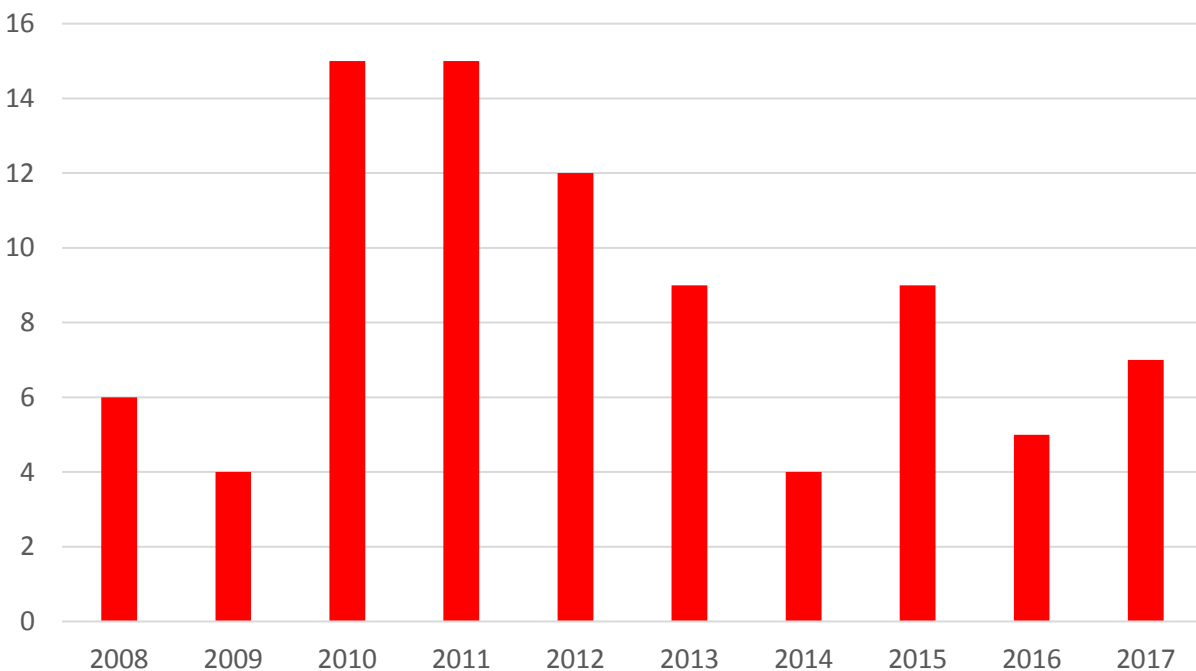
- ↓ The Division produced a [Better Boating in Connecticut](#) show with MADD and EnCon about the dangers of BUI and the Student Ambassador Program highlighted the importance of boating responsibly.
- ↓ The EnCon Division focused patrols in areas of high activity to strictly enforce Connecticut's BUI laws. The EnCon Division kicked off the recreational boating season just before the July 4th weekend with Operation Dry Water with a press release ([see Attachments K & L](#)) and a local TV Station WTNH covered the story: <http://wtnh.com/2017/06/28/encon-police-amp-up-patrols-ahead-of-4th-of-july-weekend/>
- ↓ The EnCon Division participated in additional patrol initiatives focusing on BUI on the lower Connecticut River, Thames River and on Candlewood Lake. EnCon officers arrested four boaters for BUI.

ALCOHOL RELATED ACCIDENTS -2008-2017

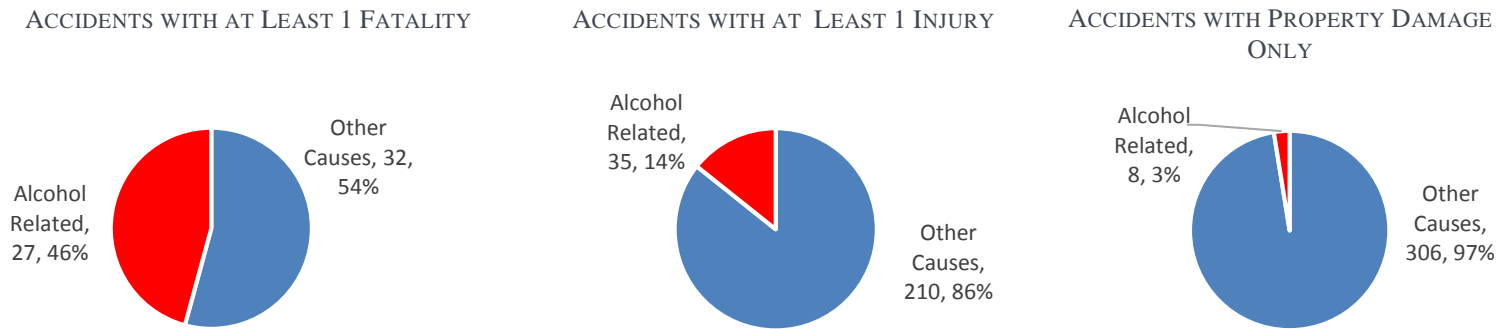
Of the 562 boating accidents that occurred between 2008 and 2017, alcohol was involved in the following:

- ↓ 3% of the accidents with PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY. (8 accidents out of 306 accidents)
- ↓ 17% of the accidents with at least one injury. (35 accidents out of 210 accidents)
- ↓ 46% of the fatal accidents. (27 accidents out of 59 accidents)

The number of BUI arrests:



Accidents involving alcohol by the vessel's occupants shows that as the seriousness of the accident increases, so does alcohol involvement. (2008-2017)



The Division's priority was to encourage responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages. Utilizing local print, radio, TV media, websites and social media networks, like Facebook and Twitter, these messages were delivered to the public. (see [Better Boating in Connecticut](#) and [Attachment P](#))

To increase intoxication awareness at such events, the Division utilized attention grabbing tools such as Fatal Vision® Goggles which educate people of all ages about the consequences of alcohol misuse and abuse. The Fatal Vision® Goggles use special lens technology that allows the wearer to experience a realistic simulation of impairment. The Division utilized 'Intoxi-clock' an interactive tool used to demonstrate visually how a person's level of intoxication changes with increasing levels of alcohol consumption and the rate at which a body metabolizes alcohol given the person's weight, gender and drinking pattern.

BOATING LEGISLATION

The Division provided a legal structure that promoted safe boating practices and ensured consistency with federal and state requirements pertaining to boating safety and boat operation. The Division tracked twelve proposed legislation initiatives for boating, assessed impacts, and provided testimony to the DEEP Commissioner.

Relevant legislation was adopted during the session:

- ↓ To continue to amend Connecticut's vessel registration information to meet USCG requirements.
- ↓ Finalize regulations pursuant to the requirements of Connecticut Public Act 15-25, an act establishing a minimum age for towing any person by vessel and requiring the completion of safe towing instruction prior to the issuance of a safe boating certificate.
- ↓ Implement and monitor the effectiveness of Public Act 16-187, An Act Regulating the Use of Jetted Articulated Vessels and Certain Waterskiing Devices.

The Division continued to promote boating safety through advancing a uniform regulatory structure that enhances safe boating practices consistent with federal and state requirements pertaining to boating safety and boat operation. The Division proposed:

- ↓ USCG Conformance Regulations, which seeks to conform our boating safety regulations to recent changes in federal regulations with respect to PFD labeling and, unrelatedly, information collected and reported with respect to vessel registration and boating accident reporting.

The Division reviewed and provided comments on revisions to 3 harbor management plans.

MARINE DEALERS

The Division conducted site visits for new marine dealer registration numbers (MDRNs) applicants. The Division inspected and approved 8 new marine dealers for receipt of MDRNs. In 2017, Connecticut issued a total of 304 MDRNs to 160 marine dealers and marine surveyors. Approved dealers may display assigned numbers temporarily on vessels in the water that they may be selling or fixing.

ABANDONED BOATS

The Division recently amended its abandoned boat law, effective January 1, 2015. The Division received inquiries about abandoned boats and provided assistance for removing approximately 115 abandoned vessels in 2017.