

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Boating Accident Report - 1973

Accidents occurred in the following months and bodies of water in the State of Illinois during the year 1973:

March	5	Rivers	64
April	6	Lake Michigan	26
May	14	Chain O' Lakes	16
June	32	Private pond or lake	8
July	25	Municipal lake	5
August	26	Small lake	4
September	21	Backwaters	2
October	1	Strip Mine	2
	<u>130</u>	Lake Shelbyville	2
		Carlyle Lake	1
			<u>130</u>

<u>Type of Boat</u>		<u>Horsepower of Boats</u>	
Open Motorboat	95	Under 5	3
Cabin Motorboat	32	5 - 10	16
Rowboat	8	11 - 15	0
Canoe	8	16 - 20	1
Sailboat	5	21 - 25	2
Pontoon	5	26 - 30	1
Houseboat	2	31 - 40	10
Auxiliary Sail	2	Over 40	95
Raft	1	Unknown or none	47
Jonboat	1		<u>175</u>
Ship	1		
Homemade Speedboat	1		
Unknown	14		
	<u>175</u>		

<u>Length of Hull</u>		<u>Lifesaving Devices</u>	
Under 12	8	Yes, used	49
12 - 15	32	Yes, not used	56
16 - 20	62	Yes, unknown if used	10
21 - 26	22	None on board	14
Over 26	27	Unknown or N. A.	46
Unknown	24		<u>175</u>
	<u>175</u>		

COUNTIES WHERE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED

Cook	39	Jersey	3	Hardin	1
Lake	20	Peoria	2	Moultrie	1
Winnebago	8	Macon	2	Richland	1
Will	6	Clinton	2	Shelby	1
McHenry	5	Lee	2	Grundy	1
LaSalle	4	Sangamon	2	McLean	1
Adams	4	Henderson	1	Calhoun	1
Williamson	3	Putnam	1	Woodford	1
Fulton	3	Wabash	1	Cumberland	1
Kankakee	3	Monroe	1	Stephenson	1
Ogle	3	Washington	1		<u>1</u>
Rock Island	3	JoDaviess	1		130

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Clear and Calm	73	Rain, Strong Current	2
Clear and Choppy	16	Cloudy, Strong Current	1
Clear, Strong Current	9	Cloudy, Very Rough	1
Cloudy and Choppy	8	Rainy and Calm	1
Clear and Rough	7	Rainy and Choppy	1
Cloudy and Calm	6	Foggy and Fair	1
Rainy and Rough	2	Unknown	2
Foggy and Calm	2		<u>2</u>
			130

AGE AND HOURS EXPERIENCE OF OPERATORS

	<u>Less Than 20 Hours</u>	<u>20-100 Hours</u>	<u>100-500 Hours</u>	<u>Over 500 Hours</u>	<u>UNK.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Teenage	7	4	2	3	3	19
20 - 29	6	16	18	8	6	54
30 - 39	3	8	7	9	5	32
40 - 49	0	7	6	13	6	32
50 - 59	1	1	4	4	1	11
60 - Over	0	1	0	0	2	3
Unknown	1	1	2	2	18	24

TOTAL - 175

Boating accidents resulted in the deaths of 59 people from drowning and five from injuries, plus injuries were sustained by 58 persons. Property damage amounted to \$203,016.00.

Eighty-four (84) accidents involved one boat; 45 accidents involved two boats and one accident involved three boats.

TYPE, NATURE OR CLASSIFICATION OF ACCIDENT

Collision with vessel	41	Collision with floating object	1
Capsizing	23	Fell from ski kite	1
Collision with fixed object	15	Caught between two boats	1
Falls overboard	10	Drawn under barge	1
Flooding or sinking	11	Hit person in raft	1
Fire or explosion	8	Boat fell from lift	1
Over the dam	5	Grounded	1
Hit submerged object	4	Unknown	2
Hit by propeller	2		
Boat swamped	2		130

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT OR DROWNING

Inattention	17	Gas leak	1
Mechanical failure	14	Hull gave way	1
Wake from other boat	12	High water	1
Carelessness	8	Leak in boat	1
Overloaded	8	Over the dam	1
Strong Current	5	Starting motor	1
Low visibility	5	Ignored buoys	1
Leaning over boat	4	Fell asleep	1
Hit fixed object	4	No lights on breakwater	1
Lost control of boat	4	Blinding lights	1
Inexperience	3	Lost control of skis	1
Boat capsized	3	Pushing boat	1
Stood in boat	2	Speeding	1
Hit submerged object	2	Fell overboard	1
Lost balance	2	Unbalanced load	1
High wind	2	Towline broke	1
Sharp turn	1	Low water	1
Overpowering	1	Unknown	14
Flooding	1		130

SKIING ACCIDENT AND RESULT

Inattention, collision with vessel	5
Attempting to pick up skier, over dam	1
Attempting to pick up skier, hit canoe	1
Lost control of skis, hit docked boat	1
Tow line on ski kite broke, fell on back	1
	<u>9</u>

TYPE AND CAUSE OF ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DROWNING

Overloaded, boat flooded	4
Carelessness, collision with vessel	3
Overloaded, capsized	3
Stood in boat, capsized	2
Strong current, capsized	2
Large wave, boat sank	2
Lost balance, fell overboard	2
Leaning over boat, fell overboard	2
Unknown cause, fell overboard	2
Leaning over boat, capsized	1
Sharp turn, fell overboard	1
Strong current, over the dam	1
Strong current, drawn under barge	1
Uneven load, boat capsized	1
Large wave, fell overboard	1
Overpowering, boat flooded	1
Boat flooded, capsized	1
Attempted to pick up skier, over the dam	1
Over the dam, capsized	1
Motor failed, over the dam	1
Capsized, fell overboard	1
Inattention, collision with vessel	1
Hit fixed object, capsized	1
Unknown cause, collision with vessel	1
Pulling boat, drowned	1
Collision with fixed object, fell overboard	1
Shifting weight, capsized	1
Hit submerged object, capsized	1
UNKNOWN	4
	<u>45</u>

Lifesaving devices in relation
to above accidents

On board, not used	13
On board, used	11
None on board	10
Unknown	11
	<u>45</u>