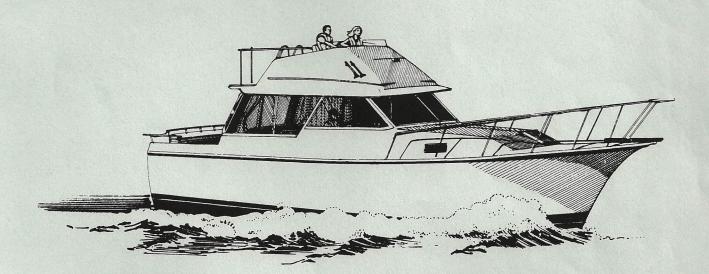
**ILLINOIS BOATING EDUCATION PROGRAM** 

# **BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT**

January 1, 1989 - December 31, 1989





# BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT 1989

Total Accidents	-	97	PROPERTY DAMAGE (tot	al of all
Injuries	-	70	vessels	involved)
# of Drownings	-	09	Total \$ Amount \$	785,649
# of Deaths from injuries		03	Average \$ Amount \$	9,699
Asphyxiated	-	02		

# TIME & PLACE

# MONTH

# DAY

Monday Tuesday	-	08 08	Wednesday Thursday	 03 12	Friday Saturday	 10 25	Sunday	-	31
							TOTAL	-	97

# COUNTY

Adams	- 01	Johnson	- 01	Perry	- 02
Bureau	- 02	Kankakee	- 06	Pike	- 01
Calhoun	- 01	Lake	- 14	Putnam	- 01
Clark	- 01	LaSalle	- 10	Randolph	- 02
Clinton	- 01	Lee	- 01	Rock Island	- 04
Cook	- 16	Macon	- 02	Tazewell	- 02
Dewitt	- 03	McHenry	- 03	Vermilion	- 01
Franklin	- 01	Mercer	- 01	Whiteside	- 02
Fulton	- 01	Montgomery	- 01	Will	- 02
Grundy	- 01	Ogle	- 02	Winnebago	- 01
Jefferson	- 02	Peoria	- 04	Woodford	- 01
JoDaviess	- 03			TOTAL	- 97

# TIME

in the

- 08
- 13
- 54
- 23
- 98

# OPERATOR'S EXPERIENCE

Under 20 hrs	- 13
20 - 100 hrs	- 24
100 - 500 hrs	- 36
Over 500 hrs	- 39
Unknown	- 17
TOTAL	-129
Over 500 hrs Unknown	- 39

# FORMAL INSTRUCTION

WEATHER INFORMATION

- 61
- 16
- 13
- 03
- 06
- 17
- 13
-129

# WATER CONDITIONS

2 2

Calm	-	55	
Choppy	-	34	
Rough	-	01	
Very Rough	-	04	
Strong Current	-	01	
Unknown	-	02	
TOTAL	-	97	

# BOAT INFORMATION

Clear	- 77	Open Motorboat	- 78
Cloudy	- 16	Cabin Motorboat	- 24
Fog	- 00	Auxiliary Sail	- 06
Rain	- 00	Sail (only)	- 04
Hazy	- 01	Rowboat	- 01
Other	- 03	Canoe	- 02
TOTAL	- 97	Jet ski	- 06
		Other	- 07
		Unknown	- 01
		TOTAL	-129

# WIND

# VISIBILITY

# WEATHER ENCOUNTERED

None	-	17
Light	-	51
Moderate	-	22
Strong	-	04
Stormy	-	00
Unknown	-	03
TOTAL	-	97

# Good- 84Was as forecasted- 68Fair- 05Not as forecasted- 02Poor- 06No forecast obtained- 18Unknown- 02Unknown- 09TOTAL- 97TOTAL- 97

# OPERATOR'S OPINION/CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

Fault of Other Person	-	46
Weather Conditions	-	04
Excessive Speed	-	13
No proper lookout	-	21
Hazardous waters	-	09
Fault of Hull	-	01
Fault of Machinery	-	08
Fault of Equipment	-	08
Other	-	50
Alcohol	-	07
Drug Use	-	00
Overloading	-	02
Improper loading	-	01
Unknown	-	02
TOTAL	-]	72

# Cruising - 66 Approaching Dock - 05

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Water Skiing	- 10
Towing	- 01
Drifting	- 10
At Anchor	- 03
Tied to Dock	- 09
Fishing	- 01
Diving/Swimming	- 01
Hunting	- 01
Racing	- 00
Being Towed	- 00
Fueling	- 00
Other	- 22
TOTAL	-129

# TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Fire or Explosion (fuel)	- 05	Fire or Explosion (non-fuel)	- 00
Grounding	- 02	Collision w/floating object	- 15
Falls overboard	- 05	Flooding	- 02
Capsizing	- 10	Falls in boat	- 01
Sinking	- 03	Hit by boat or propeller	- 15
Collision w/fixed object	- 07	Burns	- 00
Coll. with vessel	- 12	Other	- 20
		TOTAL	- 97

# FIRE EXTINGUISHER USED

-	08
-	86
-	35
-	129

# BODY OF WATER

. Sixle

Apple Canyon Lake	-	01	
Bangs Lake	-	01	
Bluff Lake	-	01	
Calumet River	-	02	
Carlyle Lake	-	01	
Chgo Ship/San Canal	-	04	
Clinton Lake	-	03	
Fox Lake	-	04	
Fox River	-	03	
Grass Lake	-	02	
Illinois River	-	21	
Kankakee River	-	05	
Kaskaskia River	-	02	
Lake Decatur	-	02	
Lake Holiday	-	01	
, food with mile boot,			

Lake Lou Yeager -	-	01
Lake Manteno -	-	01
Lake Michigan -	-	13
Lake of Egypt -	-	01
Lake Vermilion -	-	01
Long Lake -	-	01
Loon Lake -	-	01
Mill Creek -	-	01
Mississippi River -	-	09
Pistakee Bay -	-	01
Potters Lake -	-	01
Rend Lake -	-	03
Rock River -	-	06
Strip Mine Lakes -	-	03
Wilmington Rec. Club-		01
TOTAL		97

AGE	LESS THAN 20 HOURS	20 - 100 <u>HOURS</u>	100 - 500 <u>HOURS</u>	OVER 500 HOURS	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Teenage	01	02	02	01	01	07
20 - 29	09	08	13	06	01	38
30 - 39	03	07	09	12	03	34
40 - 49	00	04	09	10	01	24
50 - 59	00	03	03	06	04	16
60 - 69	00	00	00	03	00	03
70 - Over	: 00	00	00	01	01	02
Unknown	00	00	00	00	04	05
TOTALS	13	24	<u>00</u> <u>36</u>	<u>00</u> 39	17	<u>05</u> 129
HOW MANY 17 OR YOUNGER WITH INSTRUCTION WITHOUT INSTRUCTION						
	04		04		00	

.

.

### 1989 FATAL BOATING ACCIDENTS

1. NARRATIVE: While two commercial fishermen were retrieving some nets, a wave swamped their boat. They made it to a small partially submerged tree. It was after sundown and the water was cold. One fisherman tied the other to the tree to keep his head above the water line. It was about 36 hours before they were rescued. One fisherman died during the night and the other man lost a leg.

### CAUSE: Boat swamped

2. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: A lone boater was racing up and down a river making very tight turns. The boater fell out of the boat on one turn and the boat continued to circle. The boat struck the victim in the head and he drowned.

## CAUSE: Fell overboard

3. NARRATIVE: Two young men were night fishing in a river. The small 12 foot boat had no lights or P.F.D.'s aboard. Each had consumed about 8 beers before getting into the boat. Two barges were passing from opposite directions and it is believed that their wakes swamped the small boat. Both men drowned.

## CAUSE: Boat swamped

4. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: At approximately 2:00 a.m., a man and woman were riding in a boat on the Illinois River. The boat cut across in front of a barge moving upstream. The barge was unable to stop and ran over the boat. The crew from the barge launched their skiff and were able to rescue the woman. The man drowned and his body was recovered about noon that day. P.F.D.'s were not worn.

### CAUSE: Collision with barge

5. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: While making very sharp turns with his boat, a lone boater fell overboard. He attempted to swim to shore and was approximately 40 yards from shore when he went under the water. His body was later recovered by emergency personnel.

### CAUSE: Fell overboard

6. NARRATIVE: Two fishermen returning from trotline fishing noticed water gushing over the starboard rear corner of the boat. The boat began to sink quickly and one man started swimming toward shore. The operator grabbed a P.F.D. and thought his friend had made it to the shore. When his friend did not respond to the operator's calls, he realized his friend didn't make it.

CAUSE: Overloading

7. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: A boat operator made a sharp turn causing a passenger to fall overboard from the sun deck of the boat. The sunbather drowned.

### CAUSE: Fall overboard

Le tors

8. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: A man on a tube was being towed behind a boat. He was leaning forward, hanging on to the tow rope when a large wave, which he was crossing, threw the tube into the air, entangling him in the tow rope which severed an artery in his neck. The victim died from loss of blood.

CAUSE: Freak accident

9. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: A passing barge caused a large wake which capsized a 12 foot boat carrying 4 men. One man was wearing a P.F.D., another utilized a Type IV cushion, one swam to shore and one man drowned.

CAUSE: Capsizing

10. <u>NARRATIVE</u>: Friends found a husband and wife dead in their houseboat. Their deaths were determined to be caused by a faulty generator emitting carbon monoxide into the air-conditioning system.

CAUSE: Carbon monoxide poisoning

11. NARRATIVE: Three river canoers realized that they were heading for a dam. They attempted, in vain, to turn the canoe around and paddle away from the dam. The canoe turned and went over the dam. Only one man survived.

CAUSE: Capsizing

Boating accident narrative information compiled by: Bill Sinkus, Region IV Volunteer Service Coordinator

## BOAT ACCIDENT SUMMARY 1989

The majority of boating accidents in Illinois occurred during the weekends of the months of May through August, a time when the weather was pleasant and conducive to on the water activities. Cook and Lake Counties reported the highest number of accidents due to large public use of Lake Michigan and the Chain of Lakes.

The operators involved in the majority of accidents, ironically, reported having over 500 hours of operating experience with no formal instruction and were between 20 and 49 years of age. Twenty-eight percent of the boat operators reported the cause of the accident, in their opinion, to be the fault of the other person. Excessive speed and careless operation were other main causes of accidents which were reported also. Though alcohol was reported as having been involved in only seven accidents, nationwide boating accident statistics show that over fifty percent of boating accidents are alcohol related. Review of the reports indicate that there may have been more accidents attributed to alcohol than reported.

Several boat operators indicated "other" on their reports in three major categories; "Operation at Time of Accident", "Operator's Opinion of Cause", and "Type of Accident". After reviewing the reports, in most cases: operation at time of the accident was starting out and making a sharp turn; operator's opinion of the cause of the accident ranged from unknown to careless operation and no proper lookout; and type of accidents primarily involved collision with another vessel and collision with a fixed object.

Boating accidents in 1989 primarily involved open motorboats cruising in calm waters during times of clear weather. The types of accidents mainly involved collision with a floating object, a boat passenger falling overboard and being struck by the boat or propeller, capsizing, and collision with another vessel.