

WISCONSIN BOATING



2013

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bureau of Law Enforcement

Pub-LE-14-2013

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WISCONSIN BOATING

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

PROGRAM SCOPE

The Bureau of Law Enforcement boating program has a wide range of duties and responsibilities which include:

- Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration
 - 2013 Accident Summary
- Enforcement
- Safety Education
- Operations and Training
- Public Service Announcements and Marketing
- Municipal Ordinance Review and Administration
- Waterway Marker Permitting and Administration
- Designated Mooring Area Review and Approval

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration

Conservation wardens and municipal water patrol officers investigate most boating accidents. A "reportable" boat incident is any incident (regardless of the number of boats involved) that results in loss of life, injuries that require medical treatment beyond first aid, boat or property damage in excess of \$2,000, or complete loss of a boat.

Wisconsin law requires every boat operator involved in a reportable boat incident to report the incident without delay to law enforcement officials. In addition, within 10 days of the incident, the operator must submit a written report. Operator Boating Incident Report Forms are available on the Wisconsin DNR's webpage, from DNR offices, sheriff's departments and many local police departments.

DNR Number		F. Warden <input type="checkbox"/>		BOAT OPERATOR INCIDENT REPORT	
C.G. Number		W. Super <input type="checkbox"/>			
		RSW <input type="checkbox"/>			
s.30.67 Wis Stats Form 4100-20 (Rev. 07/06)					
In completing this report, <u>DO NOT</u> fill in the shaded areas; these will be completed by the Department of Natural Resources.					
INCIDENT INFORMATION					
Number of Boats in Incident:			Injuries Requiring Medical Treatment? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		
Complete Loss of Vessel? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N			Death Related to Incident? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		
Disappearance of Person Indicating Injury or Death? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N			If yes, number:		
Property Damage (Estimated)					
This Boat: \$		Other Boats: \$		Other Property: \$	
Date of Incident	Day of Week	Time of Day	Name of Body of Water	Location	
		<input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm			
Nearest City or Town			County	State WI	

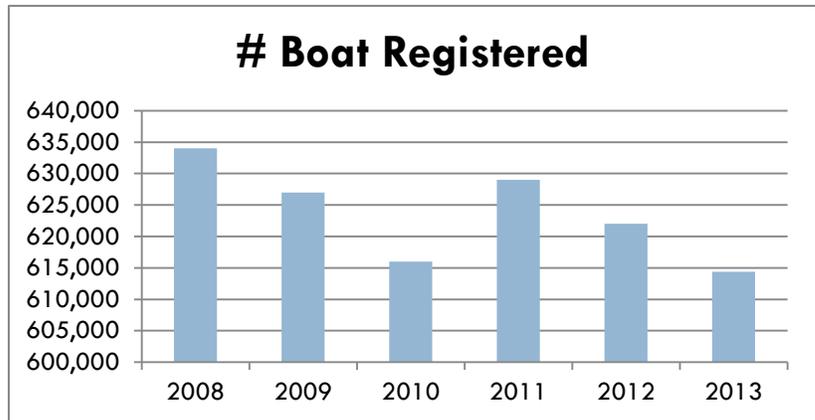
The Department is required by state and federal law to gather boat accident reports and convey the information to the United States Coast Guard by entering the accident information onto the Coast Guard's Boating Accident Report Database (BARD).

Officer Boat Incident Investigation			
Form 4100-142 (R 9/10) Page 1 of 6			
DNR No.	C.G. No.	Reviewed By:	
		F. Warden	
Other Agency No.		W. Super	
		RSW	
** ATTACH ALL CASE ACTIVITY / INCIDENT REPORTS AND DIAGRAMS **			
Incident Criteria			
Incident Date	Day of Week	Time of Day <input type="radio"/> am <input type="radio"/> pm	Name of Body of Water
Location or GPS Coordinates		Nearest City or Town	County
			State <input type="text" value="WI"/>
Reportable Incident?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Injuries Requiring Medical Treatment?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
Commercial Boating Incident?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	If yes, # persons:	
Recreational Boating Incident?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Death Related to Incident?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
Number of Boats in Incident:		If yes, # persons:	
Complete Loss of Boat?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	Disappearance of Person Indicating Injury or Death?	<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N
		Property Damage (Estimated)	
		Boat A:	\$ _____
		Boat B:	\$ _____
		Boat C:	\$ _____
		Other Property:	\$ _____
		Total Damage:	\$ _____

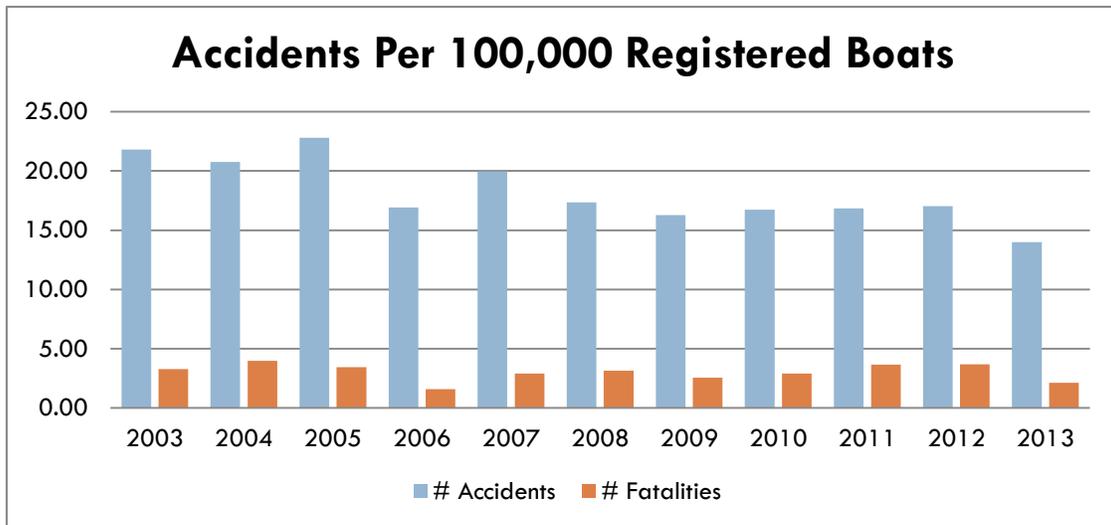
Information gathered during accident investigations, including the causes and contributing factors of accidents, is used by the DNR to determine preventive action, increased enforcement measures, and public service announcements.

2013 Accident Summary

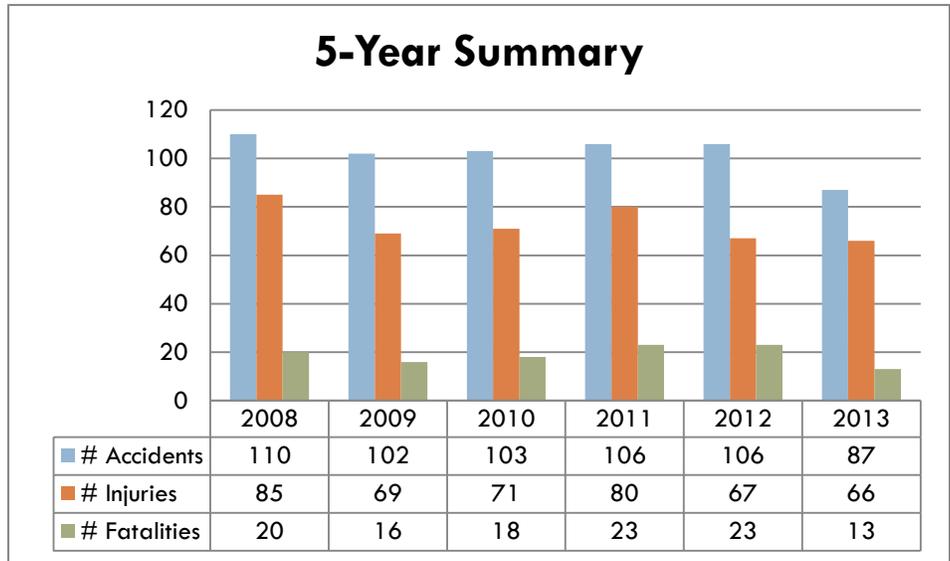
As of December 31, 2013, there were 614,399 registered vessels in Wisconsin that display the State vessel registration number.



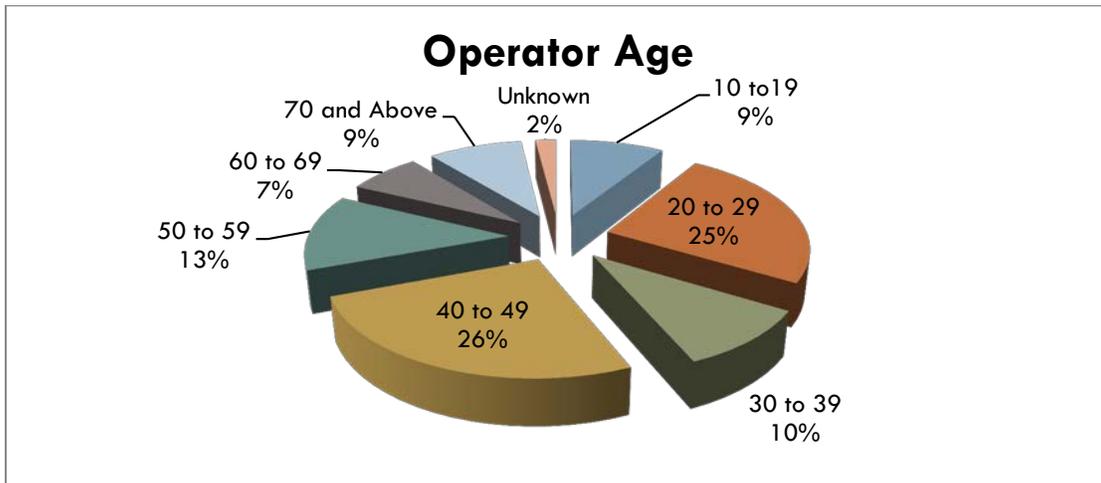
Wisconsin experienced fewer boating accidents and fatalities than previous years.



Wisconsin reports 87 boating accidents resulting in 66 persons injured and 13 fatalities. 2013 boating accidents involved 112 vessels; 91% motorized and 8% non-motorized.

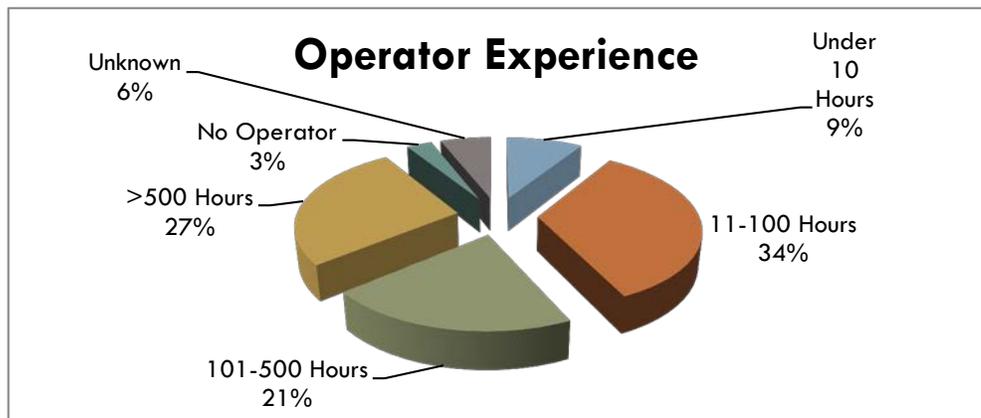


26% of the operators involved in a boating accident were between the ages of 40-49.

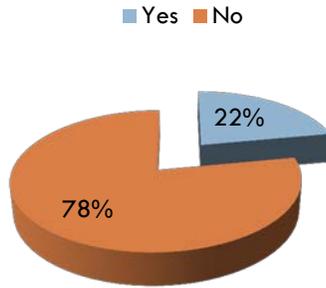


Operator inexperience and lack of boating safety education continue to be factors in boating accidents.

43% of the operators involved in an accident reported their boat operation experience as 100 hours or less.



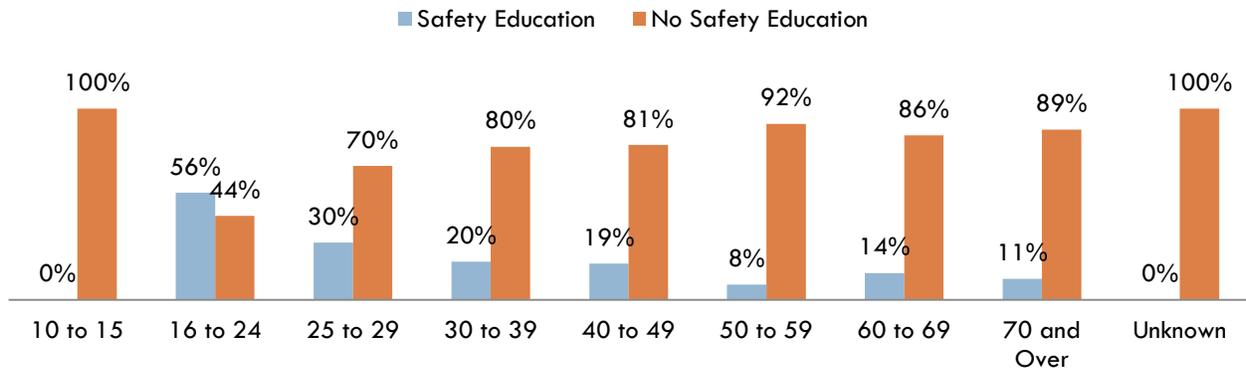
Completed Safety Education



78% of the operators involved in an accident reported not completing a safety education course.

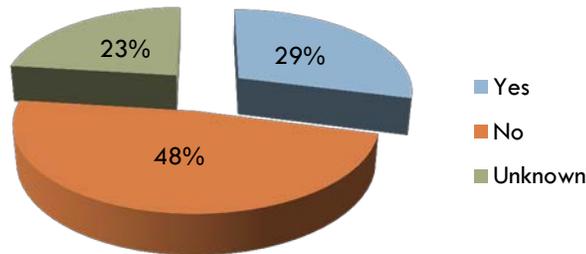
Completion of a boating safety education class is mandatory for operators born after January 1, 1989, and who are 16 years old or older. This requirement includes operators 24 years old and younger.

Safety Education



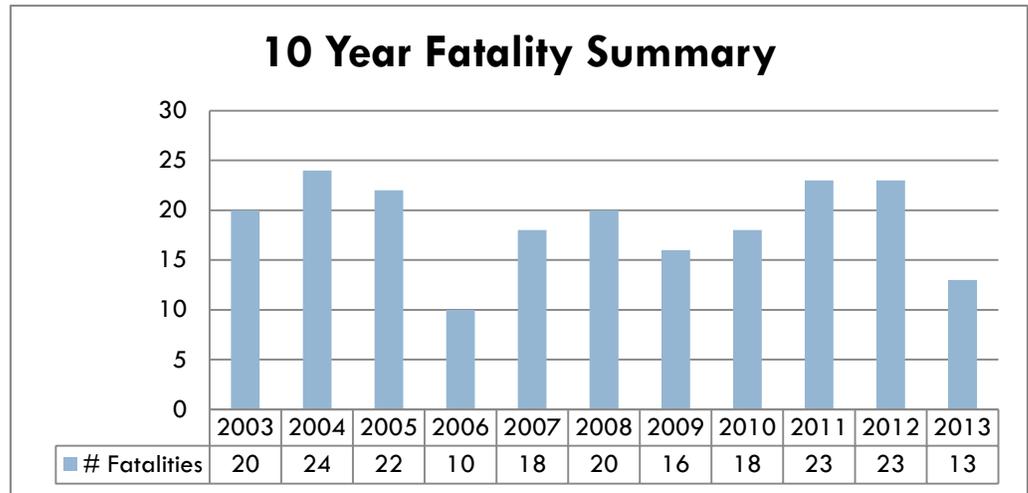
Only 29% of the operators involved in an accident reported wearing a PFD at the time of the accident.

PFD Used

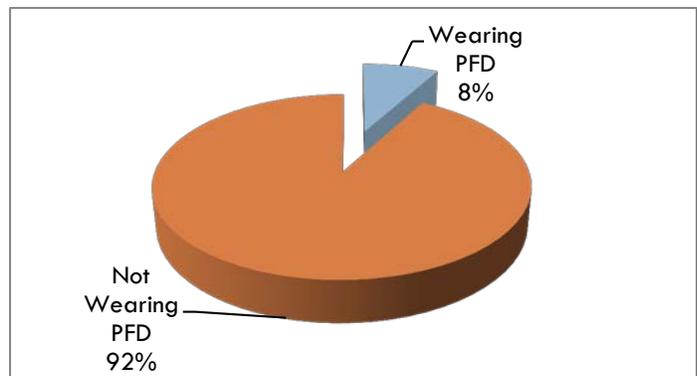
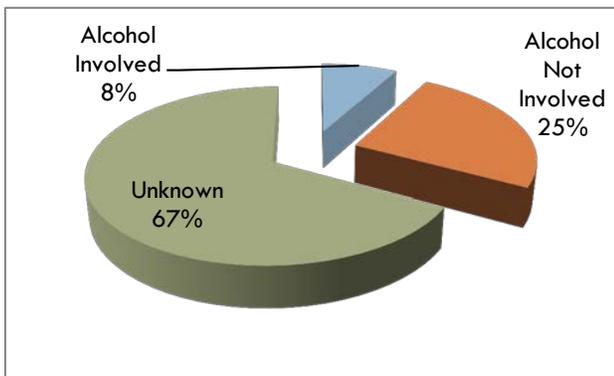


2013 Fatalities

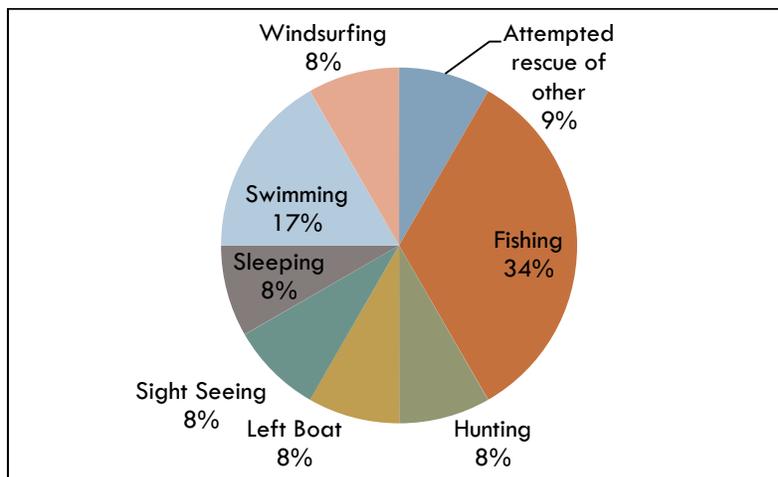
Wisconsin reported 13 fatalities during 2013.



Of the 13 fatalities, alcohol involvement was reported in 8% of the accidents, while 92% were not wearing a personal flotation device. Drowning was determined to be the cause of death in 92% of the fatalities.



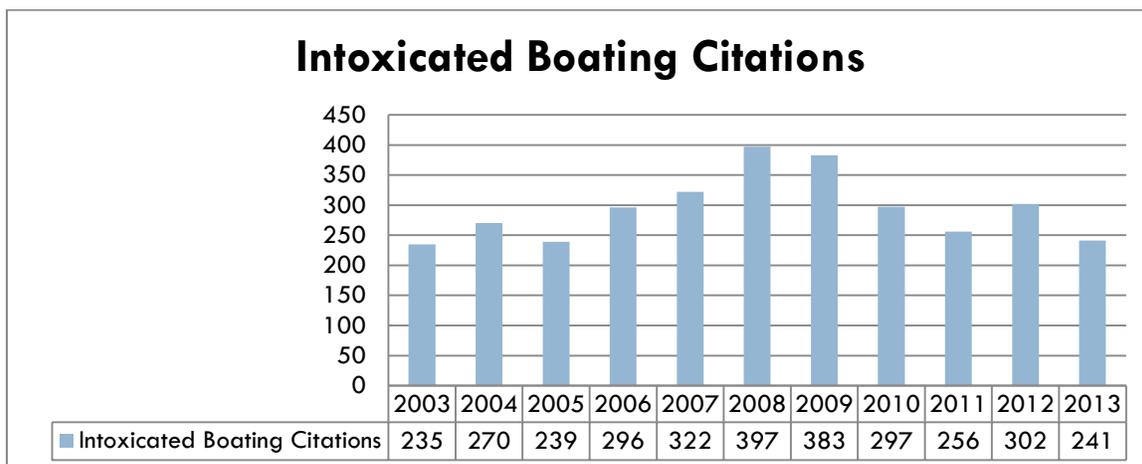
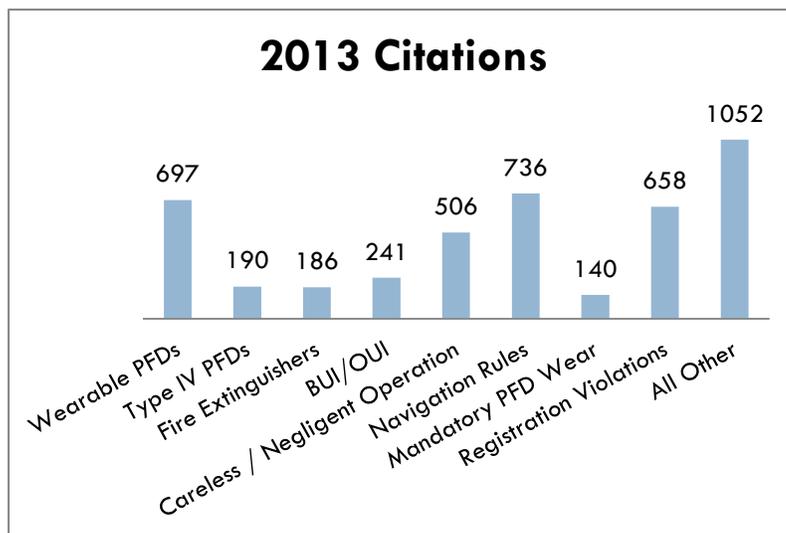
34% of the fatalities were fishing at the time of the accident.



Enforcement

State conservation wardens and municipal patrol officers provided on-the-water enforcement of boating laws.

Emphasis has been placed on enforcement of safety violations, boating while intoxicated laws, navigation rules, personal watercraft operation, and life jackets. The United States Coast Guard also provides enforcement on the federal waters and the joint (state-federal) waterways of the Fox River System from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago.



The boating program administers funding to municipal water safety patrols to reimburse part of their operating expenses. Citations issued by the municipal water safety patrols are included in the above charts.

Safety Education

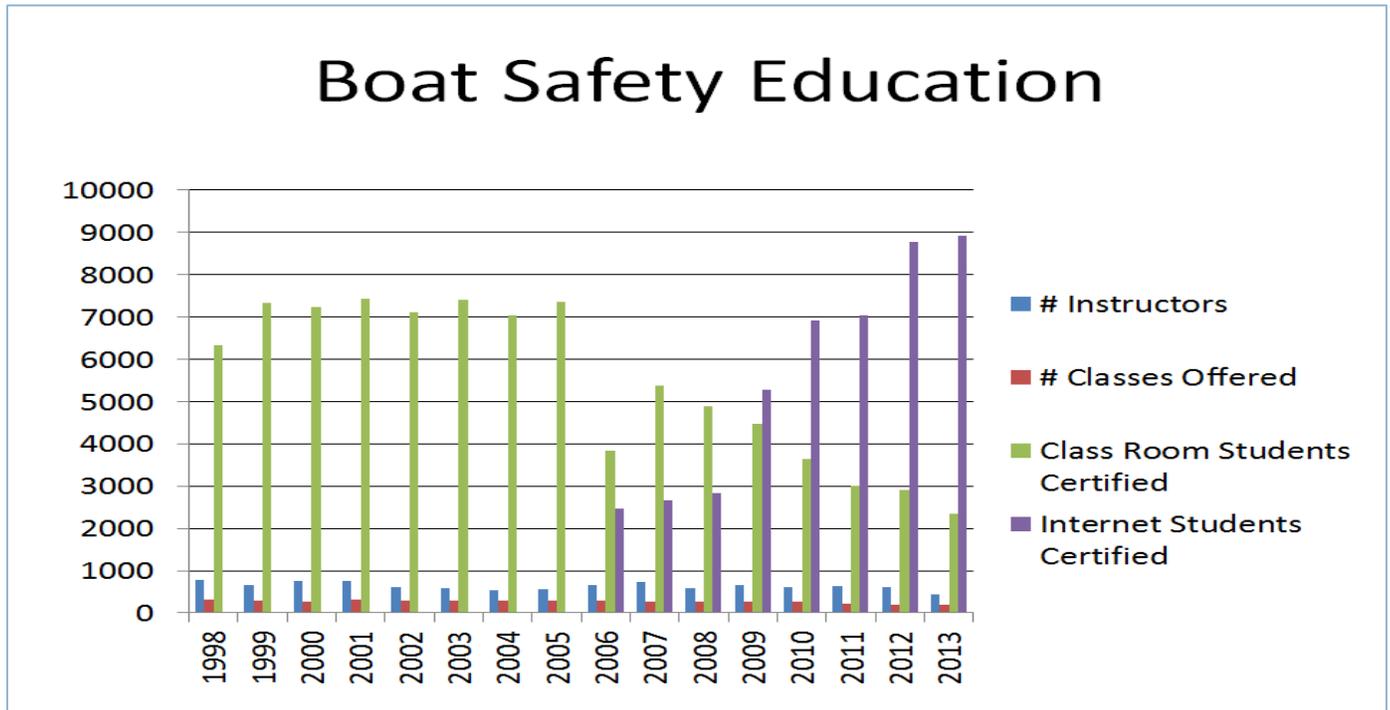
The Mandatory Boating Safety Education Law requires any boat operator, born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older, take and pass a Boating Safety Course to legally operate a motorboat. Those who do not have this certification are prohibited from operating a motorized boat or a personal watercraft (PWC) in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's mandatory education law includes language for Wisconsin residents and visitors who do not already possess a valid boating education certificate, but who wish to rent a boat or PWC to complete a condensed boating safety course and pass the exam in order to be issued a Temporary Boat Safety Certificate. The temporary certificate expires at the end of the calendar year of issuance. The course is administered online and at specific Wisconsin boat rental businesses. The online Boat Rental Safety Course

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was launched in June 2013 resulting in 211 Temporary Boating Safety Certificates being issued. Watercraft rental businesses issued 1,462 certificates.

Ages for students certified in 2013, range from 9 to 76 years old, with 70% between the ages of 10-19.



Operation Dry Water



With boating under the influence continuing to be a major factor in accidents and deaths on our nation’s waterways, officers with local, state and federal agencies again teamed up for Operation Dry Water, a national BUI enforcement and awareness campaign.

For the fifth straight year, officers were on the water providing heightened enforcement and awareness about the dangers of drinking while boating. Operation Dry Water 2013 was June 28-30, just before the Fourth of July – a holiday known for heavy boating traffic and deadly accidents. Annually, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local law enforcement patrols, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the U.S. Coast Guard join together in an intensified effort to detect intoxicated boaters and enforce boating under the influence (BUI) laws in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin DNR officers conducted BUI focused enforcement, saturation patrols, chemical (breath) tests, and educated the public on the hazards of boating under the influence.

Operation Dry Water Summary Report	
	2013
# of Agencies	22
# of Officers	134
# Vessels Contacted	1,538
# Boaters Contacted	4,025
# Boating Citations	88
# BUI Arrests	6
Highest BAC	0.22
# Boat Safety Warnings	494
# Media Contacts	23
# Non-Boating Violations	174

Public Service Announcements and Outreach



Data summarized from citations/warnings and accident investigation is used to determine appropriate public service announcement and outreach efforts.

The boating program used printed literature, radio, television, media interviews and presentations across the state. Wisconsin DNR sponsored 'boating safety' public service announcements on the Wisconsin Public Radio Network, Northland Adventures, Charter Media and Time Warner. Additional media campaigns were implemented to coincide with the National Safe Boating "Wear it" campaign, and the national Operation Dry Water effort.

Other educational efforts were implemented to reach additional people. Conservation wardens reached approximately 50,000 people through formal boating safety presentations and public forums such as outdoor sports expositions, boating shows, county fairs and the Wisconsin State Fair.

Kid's Don't Float Life Jacket Loaner Board program is a cooperative program between the Department of Natural Resources and various partners, in which a life jacket loaner station is placed at boat landings around Wisconsin. The stations provide an opportunity for boaters to borrow a life jacket for their voyage and return it to the station. Each station is provided with 3 Infant, 8 Child, 8 Youth, 8 Adult, 5 Adult XL and 4 Type IV throw cushion type personal flotation devices. WDNR provides the materials, signage and personal flotation devices. Partners are responsible for securing permission to place the structure, constructing, maintaining, over-winter storage and periodic checking of the station for damage, theft or other issues.



WDNR's "Kid's Don't Float" Loaner Life Jacket Program began in 2012 with 12 stations placed. In 2013, 28 new stations were added.

Operations and Training



In September 2013, the WDNR's Bureau of Law Enforcement was granted the Certificate of Accreditation from the National and State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) for meeting the requirements and standards of the Boat Operations and Training program. This program provides a systematic training approach to vessel crew, operator, search and rescue, and special response capabilities to develop WDNR readiness of boat crews to complete assigned missions and carry out responsibilities safely and effectively. The

Boat Operations and Training Program establishes a U.S. Coast Guard recognized national standard for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of marine law enforcement and emergency first responders. Implementation of the program provides a true national standard for maritime interoperability at all government levels. Standardization ensures our agencies can interact together with other maritime agencies and bolster our ability to act as a force multiplier nation-wide.

All Bureau of Law Enforcement officers will be trained to the standards established by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in the Boat Operations and Training Program.

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To promote statewide consistency among agencies conducting boating enforcement, the boating program conducts training sessions on new laws, policies, and enforcement techniques to all municipal boat patrols.

2013 Boat Training Completed	
Boat Enforcement Events	Boating & Water Safety Summit
Boating Under the Influence – Instructor	Close Quarters – Instructor
Introduction to Paddle Boarding	Level 1 Boat Accident Investigation
Level 1 Canoeing - Instructor	Level 2 Boat Accident Investigation
Marina Pro Training for Instructors	Officer Water Survival-Instructor
Open Waters – Instructor	Recruit Academy Boat Week
Sea Kayaking	Search & Recovery Sonar Training
Seated Battery Field Sobriety	Tactical Boat Operations
Water Rescue for the 1 st Responder	

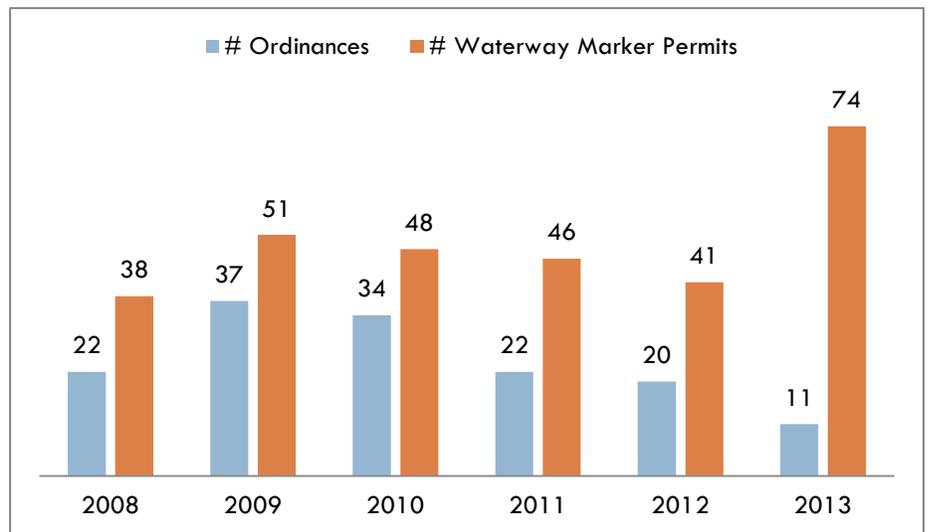
Municipal Ordinance Review Program

Wisconsin law allows local municipalities to enact local regulations relative to boating in the interest of public health, safety or welfare, including the public's interest in preserving the state's natural resources. Local municipalities may have regulations governing such things as water skiing, shore zones, speed limits, etc. State boating law provides a general framework of regulation, but it is up to local municipalities to provide regulations tailored to local conditions. The authority to enact local regulations is found in Chapter 30.77 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Proposed ordinances are required to be submitted for review. The department’s advisory review of the proposed ordinance provides comments, identifies any inconsistencies, and suggests revisions regarding the legality of the proposed ordinance.

Waterway Marker Permitting and Administration

Once a boat speed limit or controlled area has been lawfully established, regulatory signs or buoys may be posted by the local government. The department



grants permits to governmental entities pursuant to Section 30.74(2), Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR 5.09, Wis. Adm. Code, which specifies buoy standards and permit requirements. Local municipalities may also receive a permit to place aids to navigation such as channel buoys or hazard markers.

Conservation wardens review waterway marker permit applications for compliance with state and federal requirements and recommend approval or disapproval. The boating program retains a permanent record of all approved and permitted waterway marker permit applications.

RECREATIONAL SAFETY WARDEN MAP

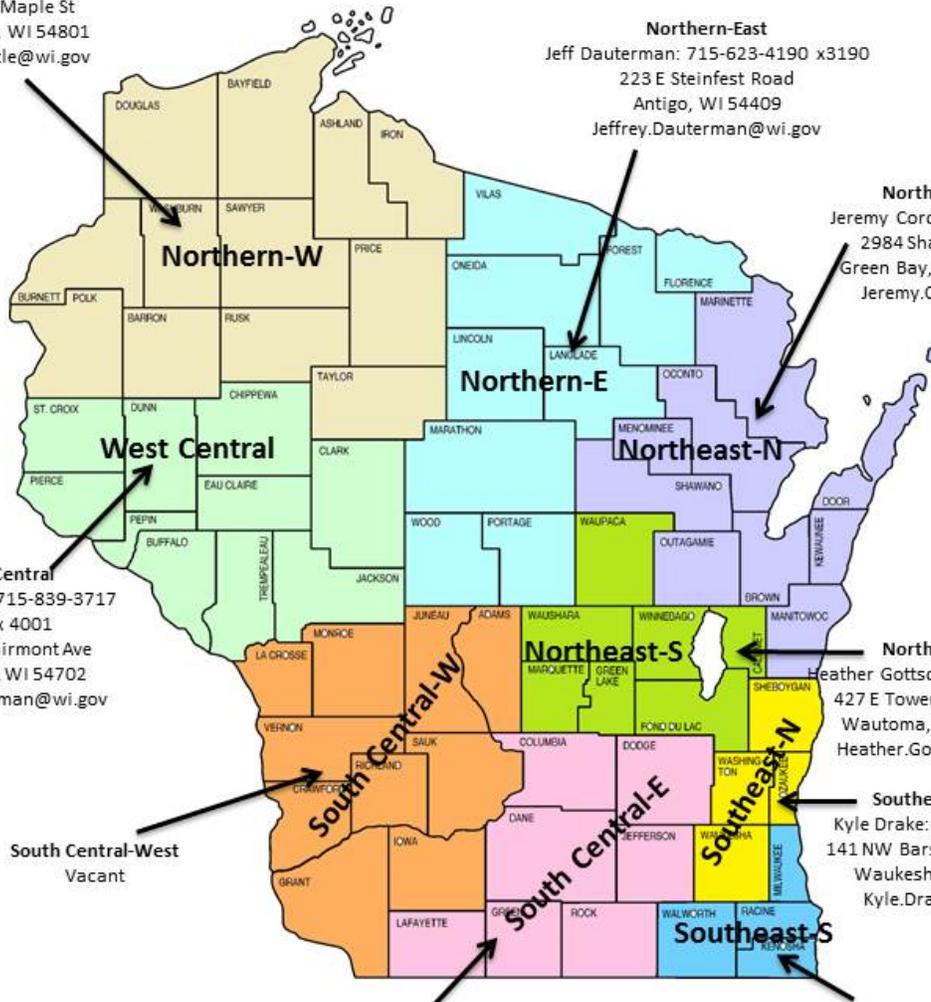
Recreational Safety Warden Map

Boating Law Administrator: Roy Zellmer: 608/212-5385
 Boating Program Specialist: Penny Kanable: 608/228-9352

Northern-West
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Northeast-North
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West Central
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