

WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT

Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally **only if** they are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

• Those 12 to 15 yrs of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.

-- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp legally **only if** they:

- Have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board their boating safety certificate **or** ...

- Are accompanied on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

Those 16 yrs of age or older:

:May operate any boat on the waters of Michigan.

For Free Boating Classes go to:

www.michigan.gov/dnr

Link to: Recreational Safety Classes. Or call your local sheriff office.

WHO MAY OPERATE A PWC (Personal Watercraft)

Those less than 12 years of age:

No one under the age of 12 may operate a PWC legally

Those 12 and 13 years of age may operate a PWC legally **only if**:-

- He or she obtained a boating safety certificate prior to January 1, 1999, **or...**

All of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The operator is accompanied solely by his or her parent or legal guardian **and...**

- Both the operator and the parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate **and...**

- The PWC is equipped with a lanyard-type ignition safety switch and the parent or legal guardian has the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing, or PFD **and...**

- The PWC is designed to carry at least two persons.

Those 14 yrs of age or older:

- A person born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally **only if**:

- He or she has obtained a boating safety certificate.

- Those born on December 31, 1978, or earlier may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.



*Wear your PFD
It floats, you don't*



NEW PWC (Jet Ski) LAW !!

It is illegal to operate a PWC (jet ski) during the period that begins at sunset and ends at 8:00 a.m.. "Sunset" means that time determined by the national weather service.

CAUSES OF 2008 BOATING ACCIDENTS

Inexperience	33
Inattention	34
Passenger behavior	21
Careless/Reckless	20
Weather	20
Equipment Failure	8
Hazardous Waters	6
Excessive Speed	3
Faulty Hull	3
No proper lookout	2
Improper loading	4
Other/Unknown	47
Alcohol use	0

201 BOATING ACCIDENTS IN 2008

**2008
MICHIGAN
BOATING ACCIDENTS**

Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors!

*Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division*



Visit our website:
www.michigan.gov/dnr

DNR, Law Enforcement Division
Recreational Safety, Enforcement & Education
P. O. Box 30031
Lansing, MI 48909

Boating Accidents in Michigan

2008

	Comparison:	
	2008	2007
REPORTS RECEIVED	201	193
Total Fatalities (persons deceased).....	36	35
Total fatal accidents.....	31	31
Number drownings in fatal accidents.....	28	32
No. people wearing PFD in fatal accid's.....	2	11
Total People Injured.....	115	105
Property Damage in US dollars.....	937,069	594,742
Boating accidents (excluding fatalities).....	127	125
PWC(Jet Ski) accidents(excluding fatalities).....	44	37
Number of vessels involved.....	256	253
Alcohol use in accidents.....	26	28
Body of water w/ most accidents for 2008.....	LAKE ST. CLAIR	
County w/ most accidents for 2008.....	OAKLAND	
Leading age group involved in accidents.....	30's, 40' s & 50's	
ACCIDENT TYPE BY WATER SOURCE		
Great Lakes (GL).....	46	52
Lakes Rivers Streams connected to GL.....	45	22
Inland Lakes.....	101	111
Other Rivers Streams Creeks.....	8	3
Gravel Pits, Excavations, Ditches, etc.....	1	1
Other.....	0	4
Unknown.....	0	0
TOTAL.....	201	193
ACCIDENT TYPE		
Capsizing.....	26	14
Collision w/ Fixed Object.....	17	13
Collision w/ Vessel.....	54	54
Collision w/ Floating object.....	3	3
Fall in Boat.....	7	7
Falls Overboard.....	27	27
Fire/Explosion (fuel).....	5	3
Fire/Explosion (non fuel).....	4	10
Flooding/Swamping.....	5	0
Grounding.....	8	12
Sinking.....	14	7
Skier/Tuber mishap.....	3	3
Misc. Water sports.....	14	13
Struck by Motor/Propeller.....	4	12
Carbon Monoxide / Other.....	3	6
Unknown.....	7	9
TOTAL.....	201	193

MOST ACCIDENTS IN 2008 HAPPENED ON

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN JULY

	Comparison	
	2008	2007
TYPES OF INJURIES		
Amputation.....	4	1
Back Injury.....	10	14
Broken Bones.....	19	15
Burns.....	7	3
Contusion.....	11	3
Dislocation.....	3	2
Head Injury.....	14	20
Hypothermia.....	15	10
Internal Injury.....	7	3
Laceration.....	14	18
Neck Injury.....	0	2
Propeller Injury.....	0	2
Shock.....	2	0
Spinal Injury.....	0	1
Sprain/Strain.....	6	4
Teeth.....	1	0
Carbon Monoxide/Other.....	2	7
TOTAL.....	115	105
VESSEL TYPES		
Airboat.....	0	0
Auxiliary Sail.....	11	5
Cabin Motorboat.....	49	48
Canoe.....	8	3
Kayak.....	3	4
Open Motorboat.....	102	122
Paddle Boat.....	2	1
Pontoon.....	4	2
Rowboat.....	7	6
Sail (only).....	4	4
PWC (Jet Ski).....	58	49
Raft.....	1	0
Jet Boat.....	1	2
Inner Tube.....	0	1
Windsurf Board.....	0	0
Houseboat.....	0	0
Barge/Tugboat.....	3	0
Hydroplane.....	1	0
Unknown.....	2	7
TOTAL.....	256	253
VESSELS RENTED		
Rented.....	11	4
Not.....	244	278
Unknown.....	1	2
TOTAL.....	256	284

Wear your lifejacket

	Comparison	
	2008	2007
VESSEL LENGTH		
Under 10'.....	38	29
10' - 20'.....	103	107
20' - 30'.....	59	65
30' - 40'.....	23	21
Over 40'.....	9	9
Unknown.....	24	22
TOTAL.....	256	253
OPERATOR EDUCATION		
American Red Cross.....	0	1
Informal Education.....	7	9
No Education.....	65	60
State- or Sheriff Dept.....	39	50
U.S. Power Squadron.....	13	9
U.S. C. G. Auxiliary.....	6	11
Other.....	3	14
Unknown.....	123	99
TOTAL.....	256	253
OPERATOR AGE		
Pre-Teen.....	2	1
Teens.....	25	19
Twenties.....	32	38
Thirties.....	42	33
Forties.....	42	48
Fifties.....	44	25
Sixties.....	16	12
Seventies.....	3	9
Eighties.....	4	0
Nineties.....	0	0
Unknown/No Operator/Hit&Run.....	46	63
TOTAL.....	256	253
OPERATOR GENDER		
Male.....	186	192
Female.....	22	31
Unknown (vsl docked, lost, hit&run).....	48	30
TOTAL.....	256	253

Approx. Registered vessels in 2008 – 830,734

Approx. Registered vessels in 2007 – 839,735

Approx. # of students trained in 2008-31,228

Approx # of students trained in 2007-31,249

Wear your lifejacket