

Recreational Boating Accident Fatality Recaps 1998 - 2007

TOTAL: 111 FATAL ACCIDENTS – 125 FATALITIES

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| 1. | 1 Fatality
3/14/98 | Susquehanna River
1:30 P.M. | Northumberland County
Saturday |
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A 32-year-old paddler lost his life when he fell overboard from his 17-foot canoe. The victim and friends in two other boats launched their canoes into the river with the intention of camping over the weekend. The victim was in the last canoe. Winds had become strong and the conditions for boating were becoming very difficult. In mid-river the first two canoes beached on an island. The men in these boats heard the victim call out from behind them. They looked for the missing boater and saw his empty canoe floating in the river. They put in again to attempt to get to the canoe, but the conditions were too severe. A witness who lived along the river called 911 as soon as she saw the canoes on the river. Rescue personnel picked up everyone but the victim, who was recovered on April 18th. The victim was an above-average swimmer. He was wearing a PFD at the time of the accident. It is unknown if the victim had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety. The water temperature was a bone-chilling 42 degrees. Hypothermia or sudden immersions into cold water were major factors in this accident.

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| 2. | 1 Fatality
3/28/98 | Upper Van Sciver Lake
2:45 P.M. | Bucks County
Saturday |
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A 38-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from the 12-foot open motorboat he was operating. The victim was operating a friend's boat in tight circles about 100 yards from the shoreline in a reckless manner and was thrown overboard from the boat. The lanyard attached to the kill switch of the engine was not attached to the victim. The boat continued to the far side of the lake under its own power and beached about 150 yards from where the victim was in the water. The victim decided to swim after the boat. After a few minutes in the rough water, he began to have trouble. Bystanders attempted to rescue the victim, but before they could reach him he slipped under the surface. He surfaced again, momentarily, waving his arms about and calling for help, but he soon disappeared again for good. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The victim was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim could swim. The water temperature was 49 degrees, so hypothermia was a major factor. Alcohol was a factor. His body was recovered two hours later.

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| 3. | 1 Fatality
5/2/98 | Laurel Hill Lake
2:50 P.M. | Somerset County
Saturday |
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A 46-year-old fisherman lost his life when he fell overboard from his 17-foot canoe. The canoe was equipped with an electric motor. The victim was observed standing up in the boat and then fell overboard, capsizing the canoe. A witness called 911 while other witnesses attempted a rescue. The victim and the surviving angler were in the water about five minutes. The survivor was hanging on to the canoe and the victim was lying face down in the water clutching a paddle when the rescuers arrived. They got the victim to shore where one of the rescuers with assistance from other bystanders attempted to resuscitate him. Two rescuers returned to the capsized canoe and brought the surviving angler to shore. Both men were transported to the

hospital. The survivor later stated that the victim tried to swim to an island that was 25 to 30 feet away. He only got 12 to 15 feet from the canoe before he went under. The survivor also stated that he could not have held on to the canoe much longer because he was losing feeling in his arms and legs from the cold. The boat was not properly equipped with PFDs. There were two throwable devices onboard that floated away from the boat after it capsized. The victim was a below-average swimmer who had a heart condition and was diabetic. It is unknown if the victim had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety. The water temperature was 54 degrees, so hypothermia was a major factor in this accident. The victim died 16 days later in the hospital.

4. 1 Fatality Penns Creek Snyder County
5/12/98 8:30 P.M. Tuesday

A 55-year-old man lost his life when his canoe capsized. The victim spotted a submerged canoe in the creek. He went to get help and the two men paddled out and dislodged the canoe from the log it was pinned against. The freed canoe floated downstream with the two paddlers in pursuit. They entered a rapid and capsized in the near-flood-stage waters. Once in the water, they struggled to stay afloat and called for help. Two witnesses on shore heard the calls and paddled out to the two men. At this point, the surviving paddler got his foot caught in the anchor line. He ducked under water to free his foot. When he resurfaced, the victim had disappeared. The rescuers then reached the surviving paddler and took him to shore. He was transported to the hospital and treated for hypothermia and chest pains. The victim's body was discovered the next day approximately 3/4-mile downstream from the accident location. The victim was an above-average swimmer. However, the water temperature was 53 degrees, so hypothermia was a factor in this accident. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe. It is unknown if the victim had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety.

5. 1 Fatality Pymatuning Lake Crawford County
5/25/98 11:00 A.M. Monday

A 72-year-old angler lost his life when his 12-foot open motorboat swamped and capsized. The victim and his son were fishing. They began to return to the launch when their overloaded boat flooded over the transom and capsized. Both men were wearing PFDs, but they were too small for either man. After their boat capsized, the two men held on to the capsized boat. The victim's son also held on to his father. In fact, he removed his father's life jacket and held on to him by his shirt. After about 20 minutes they were pulled from the water by the occupants of a passing boat. Upon reaching shore, the victim was in cardiac arrest. Paramedics arrived and performed CPR, and then transported the victim to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning. The total weight capacity of the small boat was 500 pounds. The two occupants, without additional gear, weighed approximately 600 pounds. The victim could not swim. The operator was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety.

6. 1 Fatality Allegheny River Warren County
6/13/98 11:30 A.M. Saturday

An 83-year-old angler lost his life when his 12-foot open motorboat swamped and capsized. The victim and another man went fishing in the victim's boat. The passenger went ashore to wade-fish, and the victim took his boat about 600 yards downstream where he deployed an anchor over the boat's stern. Later, the victim restarted his motor and was bringing in his anchor when the boat swamped and

capsized. Witnesses downstream saw floating objects from the capsized boat pass them on the river. They then saw the wading angler calling for help. The men paddled canoes to the accident location where the victim's friend was trying to pull him out from under the boat. They immediately began to assist but were unsuccessful until one of them cut the anchor line. This freed the vessel from the current and they were able to remove the victim from under the boat. His lips were blue and he was not breathing. It is estimated by the wading angler that the victim was under the boat for about 20 minutes. One of the rescuers was a fireman and he began CPR. Paramedics arrived and continued CPR, but the victim did not respond. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The victim was an average swimmer and an experienced boater, but he had no formal instruction in boating safety.

7. 1 Fatality Hickory Acre Pond Pike County
7/28/98 6:45 P.M. Monday

An 87-year-old angler lost his life when the 15-foot canoe from which he was fishing capsized. The victim was observed launching the canoe at approximately 6:00 P.M. At approximately 6:35 P.M., the victim's grandson saw that the canoe was now empty, drifting near a stump. The grandson rowed to the canoe, saw that it was swamped, and began to search. He asked a neighbor to call 911 and continued his search until rescue personnel arrived. The rescue personnel recovered the victim's body a short time after arriving. They noted that there were significant wind gusts in the pond area. The grandson said that he had capsized several times on the pond in similar conditions because of the numerous stumps and limbs just below the surface. The victim was a below-average swimmer. He was not wearing a PFD, though one was found at the scene. He was an inexperienced operator and had no formal instruction in boating safety.

8. 1 Fatality Gifford Pinchot Lake York County
8/16/98 3:15 P.M. Sunday

An 19-year-old man lost his life when the 17-foot canoe he was paddling capsized. The victim and two other people were paddling a rented canoe from the park livery vendor when the canoe for some unknown reason capsized. Horseplay may have been involved. The victim attempted to assist one of the other paddlers struggling in the water. Unfortunately, the victim was a poor swimmer and disappeared beneath the water's surface. Lifeguards from a nearby swim area and park rangers arrived at the scene soon after the incident and began to dive for the victim. They had no success in the murky waters of the lake. The victim's body was recovered late the following day by a dive team. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The victim was an inexperienced boater and had no formal instruction in boating safety.

9. 1 Fatality Pymatuning Lake Crawford County
9/6/98 11:30 A.M. Sunday

A 62-year-old woman lost her life when the 16-foot open motorboat in which she was a passenger swamped and then capsized. Three people were fishing from the boat, which was anchored from the bow and stern. They decided to change position, but could not manually dislodge the stern anchor. They then tried to use the boat's motor to free the anchor, causing the boat to swamp over the transom. A passenger on board cut the anchor line, but it was too late; the boat filled with water and capsized. The victim was trapped under the capsized boat for 15 to 20 minutes. She later died at the hospital. The operator of the boat was experienced but had no formal instruction in boating safety. PFDs were onboard but not worn. It is unknown if the victim could swim. Additional information may be available when the investigation is complete.

10. 1 Fatality Schuylkill River Berks County
9/18/98 10:00 P.M. Friday

A 35-year-old woman lost her life while waterskiing when she collided with a partially submerged rock. It was almost three hours after sunset when the operator of the 19-foot open motorboat signaled the skier with his horn that he was about to start turning upstream. As the boat was completing the turn, the occupants heard a noise, like a ski hitting a rock. The victim's skis had apparently hit a rock and she was pitched forward into the base of a tree and rocks located directly under a bridge. The operator turned the boat, stopped, and called to the victim. Hearing no reply, he and the two female passengers entered the water to find the victim. The operator found the victim quickly and immediately transported her to shore where EMS personnel were called. She suffered massive head injuries. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. A post mortem analysis of the victim's blood showed a B.A.C. of .21. Alcohol was a major factor. She was wearing a PFD and was an average swimmer. The boat operator was NOT under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. He was a very experienced boat operator but had no formal instruction in boating safety.

11. 1 Fatality Juniata River Mifflin County
3/3/99 1:00 P.M. Wednesday

A 53-year-old fisherman lost his life while fishing for walleyes in the river when his 12-foot rowboat apparently capsized. The victim was fishing alone on the swollen river. When he did not return as expected, his wife called two friends who drove to the area where he was fishing. They discovered his vehicle and saw his capsized boat at anchor near the middle of the river. They searched the banks for a short time and then called 911. Rescue boats were launched but with no effect. During the night the boat became dislodged and disappeared. The search continued, and friends found the victim's body on March 6th. The victim was an above-average swimmer. He was not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident. It is unknown if the victim had any formal instruction in boating safety. He had some boating experience but should not have been boating alone on a swollen river in a small boat with no motor or PFD. The water temperature was a bone-chilling 42 degrees. Hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was major factors in this accident.

12. 1 Fatality Stoneycreek River Somerset County
4/10/99 11:15 A.M. Saturday

A 53-year-old man lost his life when his 9-foot kayak capsized while paddling in whitewater on the river. He attempted to right the kayak twice before exiting. The victim was in front of the kayak, holding on and facing upstream when he was washed into a log jam (strainer). According to a witness, he was caught in the strainer for 30 to 90 seconds before he was washed over the jam. Another witness then saw the victim get caught in a hydraulic for about 30 seconds before being washed downstream. Two other paddlers saw the victim about 10 minutes later. They attempted to rescue him but were unsuccessful. They stated that he appeared delirious and frightened and was making no strong attempt at self-rescue. About an hour after the incident began, another witness saw the victim about two miles downstream float under a bridge. He was facedown at the time. A helicopter found the victim at 2:00 P.M. about a mile downstream from the bridge. He was found in brush on the upstream side of an island, facedown in the water. The victim was an average swimmer and he was wearing a PFD at the time of the accident. The victim had no formal instruction in boating safety other than kayaking skills courses. He was a very experienced paddler. Evidence indicates that the victim may have received a head injury when he went over the strainer, which may have caused his failure to rescue himself. The water temperature was only 52 degrees. Hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was major

factors in this accident.

13. 1 Fatality Allegheny River Clarion County
4/25/99 10:15 A.M. Sunday

A 26-year-old man lost his life when his 12-foot open motorboat apparently swamped and sank. The facts surrounding this incident are vague; the surviving witness is a five-year-old girl. The little girl related that the boat began to fill with water and then sank, putting her and her father in the river. PFDs were onboard but the victim was not wearing one. Thankfully, his daughter did. Four hours after the accident, the little girl was found on shore by a bicyclist, crying and nearly dry. Rescue companies were called to the scene. The victim's boat drifted into shore about 5.5 miles downstream from the accident. The boat was missing the seat, all equipment and the motor. Some of the equipment, including the seat and a PFD, was recovered the same day. The motor is still missing. The boat was badly damaged, including cracks in the fiberglass hull. This damage may have occurred after the accident. Most importantly, no plug was in the boat. The boat operator was an inexperienced boater. He could swim, but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. Hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a probable factor because the water temperature was only 48 degrees. The victim's body was recovered on May 3rd, 12 miles downstream.

14. 1 Fatality Kinzua Reservoir Warren County
5/29/99 6:00 P.M. Saturday

A 12-year-old girl lost her life when she fell overboard and was struck by the propeller of a 24-foot open motorboat (pontoon). Three girls were riding on the bow; none was wearing a PFD, although the boat had the required number onboard. The operator of the boat was traveling at a high rate of speed, making tight turns when the victim fell off the bow of the boat. The victim was struck by the propeller and possibly by the boat. The victim could swim. The operator was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. He was arrested for 15 separate charges including homicide by watercraft while under the influence of alcohol. A dive team recovered the victim's body the next day. Alcohol was a major factor.

15. 1 Fatality Youghiogheny River Allegheny County
6/19/99 11:30 P.M. Saturday

A 28-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from an 18-foot cabin motorboat. The operator of the boat was approaching the dock when the victim fell overboard. Alcohol and controlled substances were major factors in this accident. The victim may not have been conscious when he fell overboard. The victim could not swim and was not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident, although the boat had the required number onboard. The operator had minimal experience operating a boat. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. A dive team recovered the victim's body the next day.

16. 1 Fatality Allegheny River Armstrong County
7/2/99 6:40 P.M. Friday

An 18-year-old man lost his life when a 20-foot cabin motorboat struck him after falling off a tube towed by a 16-foot open motorboat. The operator of the boat that struck the victim was not keeping a proper lookout because he was watching his own skier. The operator was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim was wearing a PFD when he was struck. It is unknown if the victim could swim. The victim's body was recovered at the scene. Alcohol was a

factor in this accident.

17. 1 Fatality Lake Erie Erie County
7/9/99 11:00 P.M. Friday

A 49-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from a 28-foot auxiliary sailboat during a night race. The victim was standing aft of the mainsail mast and leaning against the mainsail boom when a wind gust hit the mainsail causing an uncontrolled violent jibe to starboard. This essentially launched the victim overboard to starboard. A passenger immediately went aft and threw a type IV PFD toward the victim, but he had disappeared. The victim could swim. Although PFDs were onboard, he was not wearing one in the three-foot to five-foot seas and 15 mph to 25 mph winds. The operator of the vessel was an experienced boater and had taken a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary boating course.

18. 1 Fatality Lake Marburg York County
7/23/99 11:30 P.M. Friday

A 29-year-old fisherman lost his life when the 14-foot canoe from which he was fishing capsized. The two fishermen in the canoe were brothers-in-law. The victim was on his knees urinating over the gunwale when the canoe suddenly capsized. Both men surfaced and grabbed a PFD and the still-floating canoe. The victim began to panic and before his friend could stop him, left the canoe and his PFD behind and swam toward shore. The survivor then swam to shore and began to search on foot along the shoreline for the victim. He then walked to the boat launch and called for help. A local scuba team recovered the victim's body in 20 feet of water the next morning. PFDs were onboard but not worn. Alcohol use was a factor. The victim could swim but had very limited paddling experience and no formal instruction in boating safety.

19. 1 Fatality Delaware River Philadelphia County
7/24/99 5:00 P.M. Saturday

A 13-year-old boy lost his life when he was struck by the propeller of a 19-foot motorboat. The operator, a 15-year-old boy accompanied by his father, the boat's owner, was approaching the dock when he struck the youth swimming in the water. The father had been giving rides to the youths swimming near the dock. The boy took over operation of the boat under his father's direction. The boy throttled the boat forward and then thrust it into reverse after he thought he saw a swimmer in front of the boat. The victim was struck at that time. The boy who was operating the boat had limited boating experience and no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered at the scene. The boat was adequately equipped with PFDs, although PFD information is not applicable to this accident because the victim was a swimmer.

20. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Lancaster County
9/6/99 6:00 A.M. Monday

A 26-year-old man lost his life when the 12-foot open motorboat in which he was a passenger swamped and capsized. Three men went hunting on the rain-swollen river. After launching, they realized that the conditions were bad and headed back toward the dock. The boat swamped and capsized. The victim disappeared and the other two men onboard swam to shore. The victim was a poor swimmer. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The operator was a very experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The boat was overloaded, which was a major factor in this accident. The victim's body was recovered the following day.

21. 1 Fatality Cross Creek Lake Washington County

5/7/00

1:25 p.m.

Sunday

A 19-year-old man lost his life when he capsized his 10-foot kayak. The victim was paddling on the lake in the company of his brother. The two paddlers were some distance apart when the mishap occurred. The victim removed his life jacket to take off his shirt. In the process he capsized his kayak. Once in the water he was unable to grab his life jacket or kayak. Hearing his screams for help, the brother approached and threw his life jacket toward the victim. This effort was unsuccessful and the second paddler also capsized in the process. At this time the victim had already disappeared beneath the surface. The second paddler was now in trouble and screamed for help. Fortunately, a nearby fisherman pulled him out of the water. The victim was a poor swimmer and he was not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident. The victim had no formal instruction in boating safety. He was an inexperienced paddler, and had purchased his kayak the day before. The victim's body was recovered six days later.

22. 1 Fatality
5/13/00

Kielar's Pond
4:00 p.m.

Luzerne County
Saturday

A 67-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from a 12-foot rowboat. The victim and another man were fishing from the small boat when the victim stood to urinate. The boat was overloaded, so this action caused the boat to tip sharply, throwing both anglers into the water. Both men held onto the sides of the boat as the victim reached up and started the electric motor, using it to propel the partially swamped boat to shore. The shoreline was very steep where they reached shore, so the two men could not exit the lake at that place. At this point, the victim stated that he wasn't feeling well and sat down, slumping over. The remaining boater then tied a rope to the victim and to a tree on the shoreline so the victim would not fall in the water. He took the victim's car keys, bailed out the boat and went for help. Police and rescue personnel found the victim still secured to the shoreline sitting in the water. Death was caused by heart failure. There were no wearable PFDs on board the boat. It is unknown if the victim or the other angler had any formal instruction in boating safety or boating experience. It is unknown if the victim could swim.

23. 2 Fatalities
5/24/00

Perkiomen Creek
4:15 p.m.

Montgomery County
Wednesday

A 14-year-old male paddler and his 42-year-old father lost their lives when they apparently capsized their 15-foot canoe. Little is known about this accident because there were no witnesses. They launched the canoe in the swollen waters of the creek for a 10-mile float trip. After waiting several hours, the person who was to meet them reported them missing. A general search began, which resulted in rescuers finding the canoe stuck in the boil below Goodrich Dam. Two Type III PFDs and a canoe paddle were also in evidence. An extensive search ensued. The body of the 14-year-old victim was recovered on May 30. His father was not found until July 21. A witness stated that he talked to the two paddlers just upstream from the dam and helped them launch their canoe after a brief rain shower. The water temperature was 62 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion may have been a factor. Neither paddler was wearing a life jacket. It is unknown if the victims had any formal instruction in boating safety or boating experience. It is unknown if they could swim. It is also unknown if the paddlers capsized their boat above the dam or if they were swept over it.

24. 1 Fatality
6/26/00

Youghiogheny River
12:15 p.m.

Fayette County
Tuesday

A 46-year-old man lost his life when he capsized his rented 12-foot inflatable kayak at Dimple Rock on the river. The victim was paddling with another person when he struck the rock sideways. This

caused the kayak to capsize, putting both paddlers in the water. The surviving paddler, after losing sight of the victim, made it to shore and called for help. A witness stated that the victim was trapped against the rock for two or three minutes. After the victim floated out of the rapid he was quickly retrieved and given two rescue breaths. He was taken to shore and CPR was administered. Unfortunately, the victim never regained consciousness. Both paddlers were wearing life jackets and protective helmets. It is unknown if the victims had any formal instruction in boating safety or boating experience. The victim was a strong swimmer.

25. 1 Fatality Allegheny River Westmoreland County
7/1/00 6:13 p.m. Sunday

A 36-year-old woman lost her life when the operator of the personal watercraft she was towed behind made a turn, causing the tube to collide with the shoreline. There were three other women on the tube with her, even though it is illegal for more than one person to be towed behind a personal watercraft. All of the other women towed were injured, one seriously. The boat operator had been issued a Boating Safety Education Certificate for successful completion of the PWC Equivalency Examination. It is unknown if the operator had any boating experience. PFD use and the swimming ability of the victim were not factors in this accident.

26. 1 Fatality East Branch Lake Elk County
7/8/00 4:00 p.m. Saturday

A 21-year-old man lost his life when he was struck by the propeller of a 21-foot motorboat. The boat operator was maneuvering back to pick up the victim who had been towed on a tube when the boat operator ran over him, striking him with the propeller and completely severing his arm. The operator turned off the boat's motor, jumped into the water and got the victim onboard. A cell phone was used to call 911. An EMT unit was waiting when they reached the dock. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The boat operator had some boating experience but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim was wearing a life jacket when the propeller struck him.

27. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Lancaster County
8/27/00 1:30 p.m. Sunday

A 45-year-old man lost his life when he was pushed overboard by a friend from a 16-foot open motorboat. Horseplay resulted in the victim ending up in the water. He surfaced, grabbed his boat's anchor line and began to swim toward shore. He yelled for a life jacket and then disappeared beneath the surface. He was some 60 yards from the boat in about seven feet of water when he went under. Several people entered the water and brought the victim to the surface. Two people performed CPR, but without success. The victim could swim but was not wearing a life jacket. A witness stated that the anchor line from the boat had become wrapped around the victim's leg. The victim was a very experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety.

28. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Lycoming County
9/3/00 7:30 p.m. Sunday

A 30-year-old man lost his life when the 14-foot canoe from which he was fishing capsized. Apparently the boat was struck by a wake. The accident occurred at dusk in an area where several powerboats were operating. No lights were on display, nor were there any PFDs onboard the canoe. The victim's body was recovered in eight feet of water by a dive team that same evening. Alcohol was a factor. The victim could swim but had no formal instruction in boating safety. It is unknown if he had any boating experience.

29. 1 Fatality
9/7/00

Youghiogheny River
3:00 p.m.

Fayette County
Thursday

A 63-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from a 12-foot inflatable raft at Dimple Rock on the river. The victim was wearing a PFD. Though the trip was guided, the guide was not in the boat. After the boat capsized, the victim stayed on the surface but appeared to be scared and confused. He very soon became unconscious and was grabbed by a party in another raft. The victim was not breathing, so the guides who were accompanying the trip began CPR immediately. The victim went into cardiac arrest. Even though the victim's head had been under water only for a very short period of time, the cause of death was asphyxiation due to drowning. It is unknown if the victim could swim, had any formal instruction in boating safety, or boating experience.

30. 1 Fatality
9/16/00

Youghiogheny River
2:30 p.m.

Fayette County
Saturday

A 16-year-old woman lost her life when she capsized her rented 12-foot inflatable kayak at Dimple Rock on the River. The victim was paddling with another person when she struck the rock and capsized, putting both paddlers in the water. The victim was wearing a helmet and PFD at the time of the accident. The surviving paddler floated to the right side of the rock looking downstream. When she looked back, the victim had disappeared. The victim's life jacket came off and was found shortly after the accident. Volunteers and DCNR personnel recovered her body the next day underneath Dimple Rock in four to six feet of water. The victim had very little boating experience and no formal instruction in boating safety. She was an average swimmer.

31. 1 Fatality
12/10/00

Kiskimintas River
After 4:00 p.m.

Indiana County
Sunday

A 47-year old man died when he apparently fell overboard from his 17-foot canoe. There were no witnesses to this accident. The victim went paddling alone on the cold river on Sunday, planning to stay overnight and then return on Monday. When he did not return as scheduled, family members called the police. Rescue personnel found the victim's body in his partially swamped canoe on Tuesday at 11 a.m. He had died of hypothermia or exposure. Evidence indicated that the victim had entered the water and had died after struggling back aboard his canoe. He was not wearing a life jacket and none was found at the scene. He was not wearing any protective clothing like a wet or dry suit. He was dressed in cotton clothing. Alcohol was a factor. The victim has very little boating experience and no formal instruction in boating safety. He was an average swimmer.

32. 1 Fatality
2/8/01

Susquehanna River
2:00 p.m.

Lancaster County
Thursday

A 49-year old angler lost his life when he apparently fell overboard from his 14-foot open motorboat. The victim was reported missing when he did not return to his vehicle. A search was begun and the victim's boat was found anchored 4-miles downriver from the launch. The victim was not onboard. The jet outboard motor was tilted up and the cover had been removed. Tools were laid out on the deck of the boat. The victim was not wearing his PFD at the time of the mishap though one was onboard. The water temperature of the river was 33 degrees so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water may have been factors. It is unknown if the victim could swim. The victim was a very experienced boater but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered on March 21, 2001.

33. 1 Fatality Delaware River Bucks County
4/7/01 12:22 p.m. Saturday

A 32-year old angler lost his life when his 14-foot open motorboat swamped, capsized and sank. The three men onboard got into trouble when they entered a section of the river that had strong current. The bow dipped under water, swamping the boat. Almost immediately, it capsized and began to sink. All three men went into the water. The victim began having trouble staying afloat and though assisted by the other two men, he stopped breathing. He was given CPR on shore by two witnesses and a pulse was recovered. Unfortunately, he died on the way to the hospital or shortly thereafter. The victim was an average swimmer. There were no PFDs onboard the boat. Hypothermia or sudden immersion was a major factor in this accident. The water temperature was 46 degrees. The boat had a maximum weight capacity of only 325 pounds and was rated for two people. The three men in the boat weighed approximately 600 pounds without the motor, gas, cooler and fishing equipment that was onboard. The boat was heavily overloaded and was not seaworthy, especially in heavy current. Alcohol was a factor though not major one. The boat operator was an inexperienced boater and had no formal instruction in boating safety.

34. 1 Fatality Slippery Rock Creek Lawrence County
4/8/01 5:30 p.m. Sunday

A 23-year old paddler lost his life when his 8-foot kayak capsized and was “pinned” in a tree in the swift waters of the creek. The victim was paddling with two other individuals when he became entrapped in a tree in the water. The victim was wearing a PFD. Two fellow paddlers attempted a rescue by pulling on the victim’s PFD but were unsuccessful. The victim was an inexperienced paddler. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. He was a below average swimmer. Unfortunately, two volunteer fire department divers lost their lives at approximately 8:00 p.m. that same evening when they attempted to extricate the victim’s body from the “strainer.” The victim’s body was recovered the next day.

35. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Lycoming County
4/13/01 4:30 p.m. Friday

A 38-year-old man lost his life when his 16-foot open motorboat swamped and flooded. The victim was trying to start the motor of the boat as it was being launched. The current carried him downstream while he continued to try to start the motor. The boat struck a bridge pier and began to flood. Two other members of the boating party followed the boat’s progress by traveling along the bank and called to the victim to swim to shore. Both members of the party attempted to swim to the boat to assist but were unable to do so because of the cold water and the refusal of the victim to throw them a rope or leave the boat. The boat sank and the victim began to swim to shore. As he neared the shoreline he stopped swimming and went face down in the water. The would-be rescuers observed the victim float away and left the scene apparently to call for help. Alcohol was a major factor in this accident. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The victim was an experienced boater but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. He was a poor swimmer. The water temperature was 52 degrees so hypothermia or sudden immersion may have been factors. The victim’s body was recovered less than an hour after the accident occurred by Fire and Rescue personnel.

36. 1 Fatality Lake Dresser Monroe County
4/14/01 4:00 p.m. Saturday

A 55-year old paddler lost his life when he capsized his kayak. The victim was circling the small lake in his kayak when he apparently capsized. There were no witnesses to the capsizing. However,

witnesses saw the victim swimming in the lake towing the kayak toward shore. They watched for about 5 minutes, wondering why someone would be swimming in the cold waters of the lake. The then saw the victim disappear and called 911. The water was 45 degrees so hypothermia was a factor. The victim was a strong swimmer and an expert paddler. In fact, he was an Olympic kayaker in Poland and a member of the U.S. national team. He often trained on the lake perfecting his stroke. He was not wearing a PFD and none was recovered. It is doubtful that there was one onboard. He had taken an American Red Cross boating course. Divers recovered his body approximately one hour after he had disappeared. CPR was ineffective.

37. 1 Fatality Lily Pond Pike County
5/7/01 10:00 a.m. Monday

An 81-year old angler lost his life when he capsized his 12-foot rowboat. The likely course of events is that the victim was anchored, fishing and got his lure hooked into his anchor line. He attempted to remove the lure's hook from the anchor line, untying the anchor. During this procedure he capsized the small boat, catching the lure and hooks in his left sleeve, which then caught in his trousers, restricting the movement of his left hand. As he rolled from the vessel, he caused the fishing line to wrap around his feet. He also snagged his hand on a lure further restricting his movement. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The boat was a johnboat and had a seat welded on top of the operator one increasing its instability. When divers found the victim's body, they had to cut fishing line so they could bring it to the surface. The victim could not swim and was a very experienced boater. It is unknown he had any formal instruction in boating safety.

38. 1 Fatality Delaware River Pike County
6/4/01 3:00 p.m. Monday

A 52-year old paddler lost her life when she capsized a 17-foot rented canoe. Two paddlers were in Staircase Rapids on the river in the national park when they unexpectedly went into the water. The survivor stayed with the canoe and floated to the Pennsylvania shoreline. The victim was in an eddy trying to swim. The survivor refloated the canoe but could not paddle to the victim. He then attempted a swimming rescue. The victim was then "flushed" from the eddy into another rapid. The survivor pursued and caught the victim, taking her to shore. CPR was unsuccessful. The river was high, swift and still very cold with a temperature of 57 degrees. PFDs were onboard but not worn. Hypothermia or sudden immersion were possible factors. The victim was a poor swimmer and an inexperienced boater. It is unknown if she had any formal instruction in boating safety.

39. 1 Fatality Lehigh River Lehigh County
6/19/01 6:00 p.m. Tuesday

An 18-year-old woman lost her life when the 13-foot motorboat in which she was a passenger turned into the path of a 10-foot personal watercraft resulting in a collision. The operator of the motorboat had just picked up the victim to give her a boat ride. He was cruising upriver when he did an abrupt turn into the path of a personal watercraft, which was in the act of overtaking the motorboat. The operator of the PWC was unable to take evasive action and struck the motorboat amidships on the port side. The point of impact was approximately the seating location of the victim. The operator of the PWC and his two passengers were thrown into the water but were uninjured. The operator of the open motorboat escaped injury as well. The operator of the PWC had taken a Coast Guard Auxiliary boating course. The operator of the motorboat had no formal instruction in boating safety. Both were experienced boat operators. The victim's swimming ability is unknown but was not a factor. The victim was not wearing a PFD at the time of the accident though they were onboard. PFD use was also

not a factor.

40. 1 Fatality Loyalsock Creek Lycoming County
6/24/01 1:30 p.m. Sunday

A 59-year-old paddler lost her life when the 12-foot kayak she was paddling with her husband capsized. The Delaware couple attempted to paddle the rain-swollen creek, which was about a foot above normal, 62 degrees F. and muddy. Both paddlers were experienced boaters and were qualified scuba divers (good swimmers). Both were wearing PFDs and had taken a basic boating course in their home state of Delaware. Their kayak was borrowed from a friend and was a one-piece hard plastic ocean kayak (one that is sat on top of and not within). After launching, they floated only 1/4 mile downstream when they went sideways in a riffle above a large sycamore tree that had fallen across the creek channel. They capsized and floated into the tree feet first. The man managed to grab hold and pull himself up. The victim disappeared under the log strainer and did not resurface. After several attempts to find his wife the survivor forded the stream, ran to a roadway and called for help. Emergency response and Commission personnel recovered the victim's body at 7:00 p.m. The manufacturer of the kayak lists it for use in flat water, moderate ocean swells or waves, and slow-moving rivers. This model kayak does not appear to be suitable for use for swift water.

41. 1 Fatality Darby Creek Delaware County
7/18/01 11:00 p.m. Wednesday

A 43-year old man lost his life when his 20-foot open motorboat collided with a fixed object (bridge). The vessel struck the bridge head-on while the bridge was in a down position and clearance was less than required for passage. The vessel was traveling at a high rate of speed. Alcohol was a factor. There were three people onboard, one of which was injured critically. PFDs, though not a factor, were onboard but not used. It is unknown if the operator had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety. Swimming ability was not a factor.

42. 1 Fatality Allegheny River McKean County
7/28/01 time unknown Saturday

A 42-year old man lost his life when he apparently fell overboard from a 9-foot canoe. The victim was with other boaters but became separated during a short float trip. When he didn't show up his friends began a search and found his canoe still afloat showing no sign that an accident had occurred. A volunteer searcher found the victims body the following day approximately two miles downriver from where he was last seen. Alcohol was a major factor in this accident. The victim was a very experienced boater. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety or could swim. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe and the victim was not wearing one when his body was found.

43. 2 Fatalities Schuylkill River Berks County
9/3/01 4:20 p.m. Monday

A 29-year old woman and her 3-year old daughter lost their lives when their rented 15-foot canoe capsized. There were three occupants in the canoe. The primary paddler was a man; the victims were his wife and daughter. They approached a Penn DOT bridge pier, entered a strong current, struck debris on the pier and capsized. The surviving paddler called for help which did not arrive for about 15-minutes. The canoe was pinned against the debris on the pier. The 3-year old victim was trapped under the canoe. Emergency response personnel recovered the

victim from underneath the canoe with great difficulty due to the strong current. Her mother's body was recovered in a cavity in the bridge pier later the same day. Though both victims were wearing type II PFDs at the time of the accident, the mother's PFD was not on her body when she was recovered. The paddlers were unfamiliar with this part of the Schuylkill River. The paddlers took the wrong channel through the bridge and were inexperienced boaters. The victims had no formal instruction in boating safety. Neither victim could swim. The water currents at the location of this accident can be dangerous. The cavity in the pier makes this location even more hazardous

44. 1 Fatality Farm Pond Greene County
9/4/01 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

A 66-year old fisherman lost his life when he fell overboard from a 10-foot rowboat. Two men were fishing on a farm pond when the victim fell overboard for an unknown reason. The victim's friend jumped into the water and attempted a rescue but couldn't get the victim to shore or back to the rowboat that had drifted away. There were no PFDs onboard. The victim could not swim. The pond is 14-foot deep. The surviving fisherman had limited boating experience and had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered the same day by a local dive team.

45. 1 Fatality Ohio River Beaver County
3/9/02 12:30 a.m. Saturday

A 17-year-old paddler died when the 18-foot canoe he was paddling with a friend capsized. The surviving paddler said that he and the victim were returning to the spot where they launched when they capsized the canoe. Both men began swimming to shore. The surviving paddler stopped to remove his shoes and pants. The victim called out for help. Two-thirds of the way to shore the victim caught up to his friend, grabbed onto him and began to pull him underwater. Fearing for his life, the survivor kicked off from the victim and swam to shore. He passed out for a short period, made his way to the highway and flagged down a passing motorist. Emergency services were called at a nearby gas station. The victim was not wearing his PFD at the time of the mishap and there were none onboard. The water temperature of the river was 42 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water may have been factors. The victim could swim, but he was an inexperienced boater and did not have any formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered on April 17, 2002.

46. 1 Fatality Gold Key Lake Pike County
5/4/02 7:30 a.m. Saturday

A 46-year-old angler died when he apparently fell overboard from his 12-foot open motorboat. The boat was a v-hull equipped with an electric motor. The victim was fishing alone. His empty boat drifted to the dock. A person found the boat and called security, which called county communications. The victim could swim. The victim was not wearing a PFD and none was onboard his boat or found floating on the lake. The water temperature was 50 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water may have been factors. The victim was an experienced boater, but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The next day, divers recovered the body 30 feet from shore.

47. 1 Fatality Delaware River Northampton County

6/3/02

10:00 a.m.

Monday

An 82-year-old angler died when his 14-foot open motorboat apparently swamped and capsized. There were no witnesses to the accident. The investigation reveals that the anchor line may have become entangled in the boat's propeller, causing the stern to turn upstream. This action may have resulted in the boat's flooding and capsizing. A witness on shore saw the victim and the victim's boat floating downstream. According to the witness, the victim was calling for help and was probably clutching a PFD to his chest. The victim was a very experienced boater, but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The water temperature was 67 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water may have been factors. The victim was a poor swimmer. His body was recovered a short time after the accident floating facedown in the water. The victim was not wearing a PFD; it was found floating just downstream.

48. 1 Fatality
6/4/02

Allegheny River
11:58 p.m.

Allegheny County
Tuesday

A 27-year-old man died when a commercial towboat collided with the 18-foot open motorboat on which he was a passenger. The open motorboat was broken down for about 10 minutes when its operator saw the towboat approaching with two empty barges. He could not get his boat started, so all six people onboard went into the water. The lead barge collided with the open motorboat. The tugboat then stopped to assist and hailed another recreational boat to assist by picking up some of the people in the water. The operator of the open motorboat was inexperienced and it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The water temperature was 68 degrees, so sudden immersion may have been a factor. The victim was not wearing a PFD, though the boat was legally equipped, and he could not swim. The victim's body was recovered four days later.

49. 1 Fatality
7/6/02

Wigwam Park Lake
1:00 p.m.

Monroe County
Saturday

A 32-year-old paddler died when the 16-foot canoe he was paddling capsized. The victim was paddling on the water only for five minutes when he capsized the canoe. He hung onto the canoe and called for help, then went underwater. He resurfaced but went under again. The witness and the victim's friends attempted to rescue the victim but did not get to him in time. The victim was a poor swimmer. It is unknown, but doubtful, if the victim had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety. The water temperature was 60 degrees, so sudden immersion may have been a factor. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe. The victim's body was recovered four hours later.

50. 1 Fatality
7/7/02

Lake Erie
8:00 p.m.

Erie County
Sunday

A 49-year-old passenger on a 41-foot auxiliary sailboat died when he jumped overboard while the boat was underway. The boat was under power at the time. The boat turned to retrieve the victim, but the victim swam away from the boat, apparently ignoring the panic his action had caused to his family onboard. His wife threw him a PFD, but it did not reach him. The victim started to struggle. He called for help and then disappeared beneath the surface. There was a

one-foot chop on the lake at the time of the mishap. The victim was a poor swimmer, had some health problems, and was not wearing a life jacket, though the boat was adequately equipped with PFDs. Even though it is not a factor, the boat operator was very experienced, but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered four days later, washed up on a beach.

51. 1 Fatality Emerald Lake Monroe County
7/7/02 7:00 a.m. Sunday

A 32-year-old paddler died when he voluntarily left his 10-foot kayak to assist his nephew. Both boaters were paddling kayaks when the nephew fell out of his boat and was in danger of drowning. The victim left his kayak and pushed his nephew to one of the empty kayaks. The victim then disappeared beneath the surface. Divers recovered his body 40 minutes later. Rescue personnel began CPR and transported him to a medical center, but they were unable to revive him. Neither boater was wearing a PFD, nor was any onboard. The nephew could not swim. The victim was a poor swimmer. Neither boater had any boating experience. It is unknown but doubtful that they had any formal instruction in boating safety. Alcohol was a factor.

52. 1 Fatality Schuylkill River Montgomery County
8/11/02 Unknown Sunday

A 73-year-old paddler died. There were no witnesses. The activity at the time of the accident is unknown. The victim was paddling a 10-foot kayak earlier in the day upstream toward the Plymouth dam, but it has not been recovered. His body was found the following morning "stuck" to the dam. It is unknown if he was boating at the time he went into the water. The victim could swim. He was wearing a Type III PFD when recovered. The victim was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. Alcohol may have been a factor. The cause of death was ruled as drowning by the coroner.

53. 1 Fatality Lake Wallenpaupack Wayne County
8/19/02 3:45 p.m. Monday

A 29-year-old man died when he fell off an inflatable tube towed behind a 20-foot open motorboat. The operator turned the boat to pick up the victim who was noticeably in distress. The operator approached the victim and anchored the boat. The observer threw a line to the victim but it was short. The operator then dived into the water and swam to the victim. The victim, who had panicked, grabbed his friend and climbed up onto him, forcing him underwater. The rescuer pushed off and fought his way to the surface. He maintained a hold on the victim's hand, but the victim was then underwater. He tried to tow the victim to the boat, but couldn't hold on. The victim disappeared. Seeing this, the observer dived into the water but was unable to locate the victim. Both rescuers then re-entered their boat and called 911. He was not wearing a PFD, though one was offered to him and Commission regulations require anyone towed behind a boat to wear one. The boat was legally equipped with PFDs including a throwable device that no one thought to use. The operator was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. It is unknown if the victim could swim. The victim's body was recovered on September 6.

54. 1 Fatality Youghiogheny River Fayette County

3/15/03

1:00 p.m.

Saturday

A 19-year-old paddler died when he became separated from the 7-foot kayak he was paddling. The type of accident is unknown. The victim launched his boat into the high, swift waters of the river on a day the river was rated as Class IV on the International Scale of Difficulty. Two anglers spotted the victim, as he was being washed downstream, calling for help. He momentarily held onto a log wedged onto some rocks but was again swept away. The witnesses were unable to help but called 911. A helicopter spotted the victim, and two paddlers arrived on the scene to assist. They began CPR but it was too late. The victim was wearing a properly fitted PFD and a wet suit. However, the water temperature was a bone-chilling 41 degrees. Hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a probable factor. The victim was a good swimmer and a very experienced boater, having served as a river guide on the Youghiogheny for one of the outfitters. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety.

55. 1 Fatality
4/12/03

Canoe Lake
11:31 a.m.

Blair County
Saturday

A 44-year-old angler lost his life when the 10-foot open motorboat in which he was a passenger swamped and flooded. The two brothers went fishing from the small boat on the first day of trout season. This was the first time they had used this boat. The boat was equipped with after-market, swivel pedestal seats. Witnesses stated that the boat had only two or three inches of freeboard. The victim was seated in the bow of the boat, and as he was retrieving the anchor, flooded the boat. Both men then fell into the lake's cold waters. The surviving angler apparently partially donned a type III PFD. The victim was not wearing a life jacket, though there was one onboard for him. They called for help and the victim tried to swim for shore. He went a short distance with difficulty and returned to the swamped boat where his brother was floating in the water. The survivor stated that both men were having extreme difficulty and swallowing water while waiting for rescue. Other anglers heard their calls for help and responded. This took several minutes. The rescuers threw a type III PFD to the victim but he was unable to hold on. The victim called out that he couldn't swim and began to panic. He went under and was shortly thereafter grabbed by the rescuers who hauled him into their boat. CPR was given to the victim in the boat and continued on shore. The surviving angler was treated at the hospital for hypothermia and released the following day. The water temperature was 48 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a probable factor. Neither boater had any formal instruction in boating safety. The operator was an inexperienced small-craft operator. Ironically, the anglers had been warned earlier in the day by Commission Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers to stay off the water because the boat would be overloaded if they both went fishing.

56. 1 Fatality
6/16/03

Pecks Pond
6:00 a.m.

Pike County
Monday

A 25-year-old man lost his life when he apparently fell overboard from a 10-foot rowboat. Two cousins took a boat from a rental business at approximately 3 a.m. They rowed the boat to an island and drank whiskey. The victim passed out or fell asleep. The survivor rowed the boat to shore, deployed a small anchor and went to get breakfast. When he returned to the boat, his cousin was missing. He returned three times to look for him with no luck. At about 10 a.m. he reported his cousin as missing to Bureau of Forestry personnel who were passing by. They

found the victim's body shortly thereafter 30 feet from shore in two feet of water. It is possible he hit his head when he fell overboard. PFDs were onboard but not worn. Alcohol and sudden immersion were major factors in this accident. The water temperature was 60 degrees. The victim was an inexperienced boater and had no formal instruction in boating safety. He was an average swimmer.

57. 2 Fatalities French Creek Venango County
6/18/03 3:00 p.m. Wednesday

Two 12-year-old girls lost their lives when their 16-foot rented canoe capsized and was pinned against a strainer. There were three girls in the canoe as part of a church-sponsored float trip. The three inexperienced paddlers lost control of the boat in the heavy current and went sideways. They intentionally headed toward a large tree that was partially submerged in the water so they could right their boat. They capsized when they struck the tree and were pinned upside down. The survivor flushed through and was rescued from an island downstream. The individuals in the sweep boat went to shore and tried to wade out to assist, but were swept away by the current. This also happened to another rescuer who arrived on the scene. Using boats, local emergency response personnel had to cut the strainer into parts to free the two victims' bodies. This took three-and-a-half hours. Both girls were wearing life jackets, though a type II came off of one of the victims. Both victims could swim. They had no formal instruction in boating safety other than the pre-trip orientation presented by the livery operator immediately before the float trip. Though the water was still only 61 degrees, hypothermia or sudden immersion were NOT factors in this accident.

58. 1 Fatality Delaware River Pike County
7/4/03 11:30 a.m. Friday

A 48-year-old man lost his life when the 16-foot rented canoe capsized in the Shohola Rapids. The victim was paddling with his wife. They had rented the boat in their home state of New York and launched it earlier in the day on the Pennsylvania side of the river. The surviving paddler wore a PFD; unfortunately, the victim did not. There was a PFD onboard for the victim and he had been instructed to wear it by the boat livery. His body was discovered a short distance downstream from the rapid. The victim could swim and may have hit his head on a rock when the canoe capsized. Though the victim was an experienced boater, he had no formal instruction in boating safety.

59. 1 Fatality Youghiogheny River Fayette County
7/5/03 2:30 p.m. Saturday

A 46-year-old man lost his life when the 12-foot rubber raft he was paddling as part of a group capsized at Dimple Rock in Swimmers Rapid on the river. After capsizing, the victim was carried by the current into Swimmers Rapid. According to witnesses, he was conscious with his head above water. As he floated through Swimmers Rapid, a river guide paddled his kayak over to assist. The victim grabbed onto the kayak but began drifting into unconsciousness. Soon the victim was completely unresponsive. The guide pulled the victim into the raft and paddled him to shore. The guide and a doctor, who was paddling in the area, administered CPR but had no success. The victim was wearing a PFD and a helmet. Though the trip was guided, the guide was not in the boat. The victim was an inexperienced boater but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. He was a below-average swimmer.

60. 1 Fatality Private Pond Allegheny County
7/26/03 5:45 p.m. Saturday

A 43-year-old man lost his life when the 14-foot canoe he was paddling swamped in a private pond. The victim was with two other people at a private pond and took a nearby canoe out onto the water. The pond was about 100 yards across. When the victim reached the middle of the pond, the canoe began to flood. He jumped into the water and began to swim to shore. He had difficulty and called to the two people on shore that he wasn't going to make it. The two people on shore waded into the water to assist. One would-be rescuer went under. The other, who also could not swim, went for help. The would-be rescuer was pulled from the pond and given CPR, and then taken to the hospital. He died two days later. The victim's body was recovered the same day by a dive team. Alcohol use was a major factor in this accident. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe. The victim's swimming ability is unknown, though it is probable that the victim was a poor swimmer. It is also unknown if the victim had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety.

61. 1 Fatality Shenango River Lawrence County
12/23/03 9:30 p.m. Tuesday

A 55-year-old man lost his life when his 13-foot canoe capsized. It was after dark when the victim and another man launched their canoe to hunt raccoons. They were both wearing headlights powered by batteries that were belted at their waists. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe. They shot several raccoons and were attempting to retrieve one from a logjam when their boat hit a submerged object and capsized. The survivor struggled but made it to the bank and climbed onto a logjam. He saw the victim in the water and called to him to take off his headlight. He then traveled through the woods to a highway where he flagged down a motorist who called 911. Rescue teams arrived at the scene and began to search. The canoe and some of the men's equipment were retrieved. As of this writing, the victim is still missing. The water temperature was a bone-chilling 36 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a possible factor. The victim was a better-than-average swimmer. He was also an experienced boater and had taken a Commission boating course.

62. 2 Fatalities Lake Nockamixon Bucks County
12/30/03 unknown Tuesday

A 25-year-old man and a 19-year-old man lost their lives when their 15-foot canoe apparently capsized. The two men were duck hunting on the lake. A park employee recovered a canoe floating capsized in the lake. A search was begun and the hunter's truck, gear and canoe were recovered. A duck blind was also located near the place where the canoe was found. The blind contained several dead ducks, food and clothing, and one shotgun. It is probable that the victims capsized the canoe, possibly while attempting to retrieve a duck. Paddles and other personal items were recovered at a later date. One victim was recovered through the use of underwater sonar on 1/5/04; the other victim was recovered using the same equipment the following day. The bodies were found close together. Though the cause of the accident is unknown, both men were very inexperienced paddlers and had no formal instruction in boating safety. The canoe had been purchased the day before the accident. No PFDs were onboard. Though both victims could swim, hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a possible factor.

63. 1 Fatality Ohio River Beaver County
3/5/04 2:55 p.m. Friday

A 57-year-old angler lost his life when the 15-foot open motorboat in which he was a passenger swamped and flooded. Three men went fishing on Raccoon Creek and decided to return to a nearby access on the Ohio River. The wind was blowing more than 25 mph and there were 2- to 6-foot waves on the river. They were heading upstream toward the access when a wave lifted the boat. A second wave then came over the bow, swamping the boat and putting all three men into the water. The operator tossed a lifejacket to the surviving passenger and then grabbed a type IV PFD and attempted to swim to shore. The surviving passenger put on the life jacket that had been thrown to him by the boat's operator. He attempted to reach for the victim but could not hold on. The victim was wearing a PFD but went under the surface in the hazardous water. After the victim surfaced, the passenger lost sight of him for good when he submerged again. The victim could not swim. A crane operator on shore heard a cry for help and saw debris bobbing in the middle of the channel. He then spotted the boat operator and the surviving passenger in the water. The crane operator radioed a commercial tug to pick up the men. The tug picked up the operator and, shortly afterward, the lifeless body of the victim. CPR was initiated when they took the two men to a landing where paramedics were standing by. Another witness then noticed the surviving passenger in the water close to shore and threw him a ring buoy, pulling him to safety. All three men were transported by ambulance to the hospital, where the victim was pronounced dead. The water temperature was a bone-chilling 40 degrees. Hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a probable factor. The victim was a very experienced boater but he did not have any formal instruction in boating safety.

64. 1 Fatality Lake Sheridan Lackawanna County
4/16/04 6:20 p.m. Friday

An 85-year-old angler lost his life when the 14-foot rowboat in which he was fishing capsized. Three men went fishing on the small lake. After a couple of hours they returned to shore for a break. After pushing off from the muddy bank, the victim had trouble re-entering the boat and getting to his seat. Another passenger stood up to assist and the boat capsized in three feet of water about 15 feet from shore. None of the three men could swim, and even though the boat was properly equipped with PFDs, none of the men was wearing one at the time of the accident. Because of the muddy bottom, the cold water and their poor physical condition, the two surviving fishermen had a difficult time getting to shore. They eventually bailed out the boat, returned to the water and found the victim floating with his face underwater. They took the victim to shore and then rowed to a nearby dock where medical assistance was called. The water temperature was 48 degrees, so hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a probable factor. Alcohol use was also a probable factor. The operator (person rowing the boat) was a very experienced boater, but he did not have any formal instruction in boating safety.

65. 1 Fatality Marquette Lake Lebanon County
4/23/04 1:00 p.m. Friday

A 77-year-old angler lost his life when he fell overboard from a 12-foot rowboat. The victim was fishing in the lake, sitting in the rowboat's stern seat, when for an unknown reason he lost his balance and fell overboard. Witnesses said the victim was swimming by the boat after he fell overboard and at one time appeared to be standing on the lake bottom with his hands on the boat's gunwale. His efforts to re-enter the boat failed. Witnesses said the victim asked if anyone had a cell phone and that his tone of voice indicated he was not in distress. Then, according to a

A 53-year old paddler lost his life when he capsized his 12-foot kayak. The victim was paddling with his wife about 30 yards from shore. He capsized for an unknown reason and called for help. His wife then also capsized. She pushed her boat to the river bank and looked back. Her husband's boat was upside down and he had disappeared. The victim was a poor swimmer and an inexperienced paddler, and he had no formal instruction in boating safety. Though he had a PFD onboard, he did not wear it. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary recovered the victim's body the following day.

70. 1 Fatality Allegheny River Venango County
8/13/04 7:45 p.m. Friday

A 42-year-old paddler lost his life when his rented 17-foot canoe capsized. During a float trip, he was fishing with friends in two other canoes and a motorboat. There was another person in the bow of the canoe when it capsized, but he was wearing a PFD and made it to shore with difficulty. The victim had been wearing a PFD earlier in the day, but he was not wearing one at the time of the accident. The victim could swim, but he was an inexperienced paddler, and he had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered the following day. Alcohol may have been a factor.

71. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Lancaster County
8/25/04 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

A 24-year-old swimmer lost his life when he could not return to the 25-foot cabin motorboat from which he was swimming. The victim and a friend left their boat and went swimming with their dog. The boat was not anchored. The current pulled them downriver, and the wind blew the boat upriver. They could not make it back to the boat. The survivor stayed afloat by holding on to a boat "bumper" they had taken out of the boat for the dog to play with. The survivor said he saw the victim flailing his arms and heard him gasping for breath, but he could not assist him. Other boaters in the area rescued the survivor and the dog. It is unknown if the victim had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety. He could swim. PFDs were onboard but not used. The victim's body was recovered two days later.

72. 1 Fatality Private Pond Mercer County
8/30/04 unknown Monday

An 85-year-old angler lost his life when he apparently fell overboard from his 7-foot rowboat. According to family members, the victim went fishing in the morning and when he did not return, they looked for him at 2:30 p.m. They discovered his body floating in a part of the lake that is inaccessible from the shoreline. Then they called 911. The boat was still floating, but it contained 2 to 3 inches of water. This type of boat is designed for one person. It has a detachable seat, which was loose when the boat was discovered. The victim probably lost his balance for an unknown reason and fell overboard. There were no PFDs onboard. The victim had some boating experience, but it is unknown if he could swim or if he had any formal instruction in boating safety.

73. 1 Fatality Saucon Creek Northampton County
11/28/04 3:20 p.m. Sunday

A 46-year-old paddler lost her life when the 16-foot canoe she was paddling capsized. A husband and wife were canoeing on the rain-swollen creek. They capsized and floated with their

boat until it struck a submerged tree, where it was pinned. Unfortunately, the canoe also pinned the victim's ankle to the tree. She had to struggle to keep her head above water. Her husband attempted rescue and held her while she intentionally submerged in the swift, cold water, trying to free her ankle. She became unconscious after several attempts and died in his arms. The victim was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. She was a strong swimmer and was wearing a PFD. Hypothermia or sudden immersion into cold water was a major factor in this accident. Rescue personnel recovered her body the same day. The surviving paddler was rescued from the creek and hospitalized for treatment of hypothermia and shock.

74. 1 Fatality Chrystal Lake Quarry Lawrence County
3/28/05 morning (a.m.) Friday

A 59-year-old man lost his life when he somehow ended up in the water after voluntarily leaving or falling overboard from a 12-foot open motorboat. At approximately 10 a.m. the victim launched a small fishing boat borrowed from a friend to try out a new "fish finder." He had told his wife that he would return at 1 p.m. At 5:23 p.m. the victim's wife notified 911 that her husband was missing. Emergency response personnel found the boat floating against the south bank of the quarry in four feet of water. The victim was suspended under the boat with the bow line wrapped loosely around his body with the bitter end still held in his hand. The interior of the boat was relatively dry. The weather was severe with sleet and freezing rain and wind gusts up to 25 mph. The electric motor on the boat was probably not powerful enough to move it in the strong wind. It is possible that the victim left his boat to "pull" the boat around the lake and fell from the bank into the water. It is also possible that he fell overboard. There was a Type III PFD lying in the bow of the boat, but the victim did not wear it. He was an average swimmer. The water temperature was a bone-chilling 43 degrees so hypothermia or cold-water shock was a probable factor. The victim was an experienced boater and it is unknown if he had formal instruction in boating safety.

75. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Lancaster County
5/31/05 5:00 p.m. Tuesday

A 41-year-old man lost his life when his 10-foot open motorboat swamped and flooded. This was the first time the victim had operated this boat with a motor. Witnesses state that the victim revved the motor in reverse causing it to immediately flood. The rushing water pulled the stern under and flipped the boat, throwing the victim into the water. The boat sank immediately. There were no PFDs onboard the boat and the victim was alone when the accident occurred. Even though he could swim, the victim only struggled briefly then disappeared. Sudden immersion into cold water may have been a factor. The current was strong and the victim was fully clothed, wearing heavy boots. The victim was an inexperienced boater and had no formal instruction in boating safety. His body was recovered four-days later.

76. 1 Fatality Delaware River Philadelphia County
6/12/05 3:10 p.m. Sunday

A 39-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from his 21-foot cabin motorboat. The boat had mechanical problems and the victim attempted repairs. There was a strong incoming tide and the boat was drifting north so the victim dropped anchor and continued his efforts. He then fell overboard. A passenger on board attempted to throw a line and a type IV PFD to the

victim but even though he could swim, he had disappeared. PFDs were onboard but not used. The boat operator was the victim. He was a very experienced operator and had taken a state boating course. The victim's body was discovered three days later.

77. 3 Fatalities Raystown Lake Huntingdon County
6/25/05 11:10 p.m. Saturday

A 47-year old man, his 45-year old wife and his five-year old daughter lost their lives when their 22-foot cabin motorboat grounded against the shoreline. The vessel appears to have been traveling at a high rate of speed during the late night hours and impacted with a steeply sloped remote part of the lake's shoreline. The victims were not discovered until nearly noon the following day. The victims

were not wearing PFDs although the boat was properly equipped. In this accident, use of PFDs is not a factor. Alcohol was involved although the coroner's evaluation is that the operator was not substantially impaired. The boat operator was very experienced but it is unknown if he had formal instruction in boating safety. Although not a factor; all of the victims could swim.

78. 1 Fatality Private Pond Lycoming County
7/4/05 11:00 a.m. Monday

A 34-year-old man lost his life while water skiing behind a 20-foot open motorboat. The victim and two friends were practicing for a water skiing demonstration at an upcoming regatta on a closed, professionally laid out course in near ideal conditions of flat water, sunny skies and temperatures in the 80s. The three men were in good shape, had skied together for years, had over 500 hours of experience on the water and competed on a professional level. The boat was equipped with a speed regulation system for competitions; the boat speed was set at 36 mph. The skier turned right to make a sharp turn around a buoy with his body extended. At some point during the turn he lost his grip on the ski rope handle, causing it to snap back (towards the boat) with tremendous force, catching the skier under his chin with the neoprene covered handle bar. He suffered severe traumatic head and neck injuries resulting in his instant death. The boat operator was very experienced and had formal instruction in boating safety. The victim was a strong swimmer and was wearing a PFD.

79. 1 Fatality Acre Lake Susquehanna County
7/8/05 12:00 a.m. Saturday

A 20-year-old man lost his life when a paddle boat he was in began to take on water. The victim jumped into the water even though the other people onboard advised him not to do so. The victim called for help as he struggled in the water but the other three people that were onboard could not find him in the darkness. There were no PFDs onboard and the victim could swim. The operator of the boat had little boating experience and no formal instruction in boating safety. Alcohol was a factor. The victim's body was recovered the following day by a dive team.

80. 1 Fatality Lake Erie (Presque Isle Bay) Erie County
7/26/05 12:00 p.m. Tuesday

A 44-year-old woman lost her life when she had a heart attack remounting a capsized 10-foot rented personal watercraft on which she was a passenger. The victim and another person rented the PWC. A short time later they were observed with a person in the water 300 yards from the dock. An employee from the rental operator went out to assist the passenger to remount but was

A 19-year-old paddler lost his life when the 17-foot canoe he was paddling with two others capsized. The two survivors remained with the overturned boat and were rescued. Both men were in the water for at least 30 minutes and were treated for hypothermia. The victim tried to swim to shore but did not make it. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe. Alcohol may have been a factor. The water temperature was 39° F, so cold water shock and/or hypothermia were factors. All three paddlers were inexperienced and had no known formal instruction in boating safety. It is unknown if the victim could swim. The victim's body was recovered on March 11.

85. 2 Fatalities Monongahela River Fayette County
4/22/06 6:25 p.m. Saturday

A 40-year-old angler and a 35-year-old angler lost their lives when their 16-foot open motorboat capsized below a lock and dam. A witness said that two men were fishing in a boat some 700 feet inside the restricted zone below a gate. When the gate opened, the boat capsized, putting both men into the water. A worker at the lock saw one of the victims attempting to hold onto the overturned boat. That victim was wearing a PFD. The workers at the lock closed the gate and attempted to lower a life ring, but the victim was pulled under in the turbulent water. The boat operator at the time of the accident is unknown. One victim was wearing a PFD; the other did not. It is unknown if the boat was properly equipped with PFDs. It is unknown if the operator had any boating experience or formal instruction in boating safety. Both victims could swim. The water was 58°F, so cold water shock was a probable factor. One of the victim's body was recovered a week later; the other was not found until August 30.

86. 1 Fatality Lake Ondawa (pond) Bradford County
5/14/06 11:30 a.m. Sunday

A 16-year-old paddler lost his life when the 15-foot canoe he was paddling capsized. A witness saw the canoe capsize, the victim right it and attempt to reboard. It capsized again and the victim attempted to swim to shore. He began having difficulty and called for help but soon disappeared. The water was only 40°F, so cold water shock was a factor. The victim was not wearing a PFD. The boat had only one Type IV throwable PFD onboard. The victim was an inexperienced boater and had no formal instruction in boating safety. He was an above-average swimmer. The victim's body was recovered two hours later.

87. 1 Fatality Wallenpaupack Creek Wayne County
5/27/06 3:00 p.m. Saturday

A 48-year-old paddler lost his life when he fell overboard from a 16-foot canoe. The water was 60°F, so cold water shock was a probable factor. It is unknown why the victim fell overboard. No one saw him fall into the water. The family of the deceased said that they did see the victim try to swim over to the canoe to retrieve it. He called out for help and disappeared. The victim was an inexperienced boater and had no formal instruction in boating safety. He was a poor swimmer and was not wearing a PFD. The boat had only one Type IV throwable PFD onboard. Alcohol use may have been a factor. His body was recovered the same day.

88. 1 Fatality Ohio River Allegheny County
5/30/06 3:00 p.m. Tuesday

A 38-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from a 17-foot open motorboat. The victim was the operator and was traveling in circles. Both people on board were standing

because the boat had no installed seats. They were ejected when the boat struck its own wake. The boat traveled about 40 feet up on the shore. The survivor heard the victim calling to him. He swam to the victim, and when they reached each other they both went under. The victim did not resurface. The boat's kill switch was attached to a PFD under the console. Neither person on board was wearing a life jacket, although there were six PFDs onboard. It is unknown if the boat operator had any boating experience, formal instruction in boating safety, or if he could swim. Narcotics were found onboard the boat. The passenger was treated and released. The victim's body was found four days later.

89. 1 Fatality Pymatuning Lake Crawford County
6/9/06 2:15 p.m. Friday

A 71-year-old angler lost his life when the 16-foot open motorboat from which he was fishing swamped and flooded. Two men went fishing and noticed water rising above the floor. They started for shore, but water came in faster and the boat capsized. The survivor was rescued by another boater, but the victim was trapped beneath the capsized boat. The victim was soon recovered by emergency response personnel and taken to the hospital, where he was revived. Unfortunately, he died the next day. Later tests of the boat by the investigating officer revealed that the boat was improperly loaded with too much weight in the stern, which caused water to enter through the scuppers, then through an external hatch. PFDs were worn. The victim could not swim. It is unknown if the operator had any formal instruction in boating safety, but he was an experienced boater.

90. 2 Fatalities Neshaminy Creek Bucks County
6/10/06 2:00 a.m. Saturday

A 47-year-old man and a 28-year-old man lost their lives when the 24-foot cabin motorboat in which they were passengers collided with a fixed object—a concrete bridge abutment in the dark. The vessel then veered toward shore and ran aground. Blunt force trauma from the impact was responsible for the death of one passenger; the other was thrown overboard and drowned, although blunt force trauma was also a major factor in his death. Alcohol was a major factor. The operator was a very experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. PFDs were onboard but not worn, although life jacket use was not a factor in this accident. Both victims could swim, but swimming ability was not a factor in this accident. One of the victim's body was still in the boat when the vessel was discovered the next morning on shore. The body of the victim that was thrown overboard was recovered four days later. The boat operator was not seriously injured and left the scene of the accident without reporting it.

91. 2 Fatalities Lake Erie (Presque Isle Bay) Erie County
6/16/06 4:00 p.m. Friday

A 19-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman lost their lives when their 10-foot personal watercraft collided with a 38-foot cabin motorboat. The victims were the operator and passenger on the personal watercraft. After the collision the victims were picked up immediately and taken to shore where EMS was waiting. They apparently died at impact or soon thereafter. No one was injured on the cabin motorboat. The victims were wearing PFDs, but life jacket use was not a factor in this accident. It is unknown if the victims could swim, although swimming ability was not a factor. The operator of the personal watercraft had taken a boating course, but it is unknown how much boating experience he had. The operator of the cabin motorboat was an

experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety.

92. 1 Fatality
6/23/06 Lake Harmony 11:00 p.m. Carbon County
Friday

A 64-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from his 20-foot pontoon boat. A couple left a bar and the operator took his new pontoon boat out onto this small lake. His dog had been left onboard while he was in the bar and had had an “accident.” The operator decided to clean the dog waste off the bow of the pontoon boat. While the boat was still in gear and moving, he went forward and dipped a bucket into the water. After taking a bucket or two of water, he fell overboard between the pontoons. The passenger onboard attempted unsuccessfully to stop the boat. She then dived into the water and tried to do a swimming rescue but was unsuccessful. She then called for help. Bystanders rescued the passenger, took her to shore, and then went back out on the lake and secured the unattended, but still operating, pontoon boat. The victim had disappeared. There were PFDs onboard but not worn; they were still encased in plastic. Alcohol was a factor. The victim could not swim. He was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The body was recovered the next day by Commission officers and local emergency response teams.

93. 1 Fatality
6/26/06 Farm Pond 9:30 p.m. Mercer County
Monday

A 51-year-old angler lost his life when he capsized a 12-foot rowboat on a farm pond. The man was fishing on the pond at night when for some unknown reason he capsized the boat in 4½ feet of water approximately 150 feet from shore. He was last seen standing in the boat. A short time later a witness heard calls for help. He ran down to the lake and saw the victim bobbing up and down in the water. He called to the victim to swim to shore and returned to the residence to get help because he could not swim. Another person at the residence was awakened and ran to the water. Because of darkness he could not see the victim. With good intentions he entered the water and tried to locate the victim but got into trouble and had to return to shore. The victim could not swim and there were no PFDs onboard the boat. Alcohol was a major factor in this accident, and the victim was in very poor physical condition. The victim was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. Emergency response was called and his body was recovered quickly.

94. 2 Fatalities
7/1/06 Allegheny River 8:04 p.m. Allegheny County
Saturday

A 42-year-old man (the boat operator) and a 19-year-old woman lost their lives when their 21-foot cabin motorboat went over the dam at Lock #2. The male victim was recovered floating face-down by Commission waterways conservation officers a few minutes after the accident. With great difficulty he was placed onboard a fire rescue boat that responded to the accident. He later went into cardiac arrest. A witness stated that the operator was operating too fast and would not slow down. The next thing she knew they were airborne as the boat went over the dam at a high rate of speed. She began handing out PFDs to the other women on the boat. There were not enough PFDs to go around for the eight people on board the boat. The boat then capsized. Another witness stated she read a sign “Restricted, Boats Keep Out” just before they became airborne. The operator was an experienced boater but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. It is unknown if the operator could swim. The female victim was

an average swimmer, which probably would not help her in the hydraulic below this dam. Alcohol was a factor. The female victim's body was recovered on July 4 a half-mile downstream.

95. 2 Fatalities Union City Reservoir Erie County
7/3/06 6:00 p.m. Monday

A 22-year-old angler and his 14-year-old brother lost their lives when the 14-foot canoe in which they were fishing capsized. A man went fishing with his two sons in the small canoe that capsized about 15 yards from shore. An shoreline angler saw the capsized canoe and heard cries for help. He entered the water and was able to right the canoe. He grabbed one of the victims and pulled him to shore. At this time two other anglers arrived to offer assistance. The rescued victim was not breathing. 911 was called and CPR started. One of the other victims was then seen pulling himself up onto the canoe to grab a life jacket. He did not secure it and re-entered the water, disappearing beneath the surface. The surviving angler was taken to the hospital in occupants and neither unit was worn. Neither victim could swim. The operator had very little boating experience and no formal instruction in boating safety. Both victims were recovered the same day in 5 to 6 feet of water.

96. 1 Fatality Lake Redman York County
7/16/06 2:00 p.m. Sunday

A 32-year-old man paddler lost his life when he capsized his rented 9-foot kayak. He was kayaking with his son on the lake, and for some reason they both capsized and ended up in the water. Neither was a good swimmer and they were having problems staying afloat. Other kayakers on the lake said that they heard a call for help and saw the victim's son struggling in the water. The victim disappeared beneath the surface of the lake as his son was being rescued. Type II PFDs were supplied with the boats but were stashed behind the seats and not worn. The victim was an inexperienced boater and it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. Alcohol use may have been a factor. The victim's body was recovered three days later.

97. 1 Fatality Lake Erie Erie County
7/22/06 2:00 p.m. Saturday

A 53-year-old angler lost his life when he apparently fell overboard from his 20-foot open motorboat. The man was fishing alone on Lake Erie and was either drifting or trolling with an electric motor. The victim's boat drifted into shore near Elk Creek with no one onboard. His landing net and favorite fishing rod were missing from the boat. Waves increased throughout the day and there were 4- to 6-foot waves on the lake. There was one walleye onboard the boat. The victim probably fell overboard while attempting to land a fish. He was in very poor health. The victim's boat was properly equipped with PFDs but he was not wearing a life jacket. He was a poor swimmer and a very experienced boater, but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered two weeks later.

98. 1 Fatality Susquehanna River Dauphin County
8/6/06 2:30 a.m. Sunday

A 56-year-old man lost his life when his 23-foot open motorboat collided with a 17-foot open motorboat. The victim's boat struck the other vessel nearly head-on in the darkness at a high

rate of speed. The force of the collision caused the victim to be ejected, as well as two passengers on the other boat. The victim was an experienced boat operator and had taken a Commission safe boating course. The victim was a poor swimmer and was not wearing a PFD, although PFDs were onboard his boat. Alcohol was a factor. The victim was killed by impact, so PFD use and swimming ability were not factors in this accident. The victim's body was found the next day.

99. 1 Fatality
8/24/06 Monongahela River 6:45 p.m. Fayette County Thursday

A 32-year-old man lost his life when he fell overboard from a 16-foot open motorboat. The victim was a passenger onboard the boat when the motor stalled. The operator and his son began working on the motor and heard a splash. They observed the victim in the water. The operator's son jumped in to assist, but the struggling victim panicked. Even a throwable PFD was onboard, the boat operator threw a *wearable* Type III PFD to the two men, but unfortunately, it fell several feet short. The would-be rescuer was able to break away from the victim and swim to the PFD. He turned to look for the victim but the victim had disappeared. There were only two wearable PFDs onboard for the three occupants. Alcohol was a factor. The victim could swim and was an experienced boater but had no formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered in the area in which he drowned.

100. 2 Fatalities
9/24/06 Ohio River 9:30 p.m. Beaver County Sunday

A 41-year-old man (the boat operator) and a 48-year-old man lost their lives when their 25-foot cabin motorboat collided with the #4 lock gate at the Montgomery Dam. Alcohol was a factor. A passenger onboard the boat survived with minor injuries. The operator was an experienced boater and had taken a Commission boating course. Neither victim was wearing a PFD, although the boat was properly equipped. PFD use was not a factor in this accident. Both victims could swim, although swimming ability was not a factor. Both victims' bodies were still in the boat when recovered.

101. 1 Fatality
11/24/06 Clairton Lake 2:35 p.m. Somerset County Friday

A 52-year-old angler lost his life when his 14-foot canoe from which he was fishing capsized. Two men were fishing from the small canoe when the operator dipped his paddle in the water, causing the canoe to capsize suddenly. The operator tried to tow the victim to shore, but when the victim panicked, the would-be rescuer lost his grip and the victim went underwater. The survivor was treated for hypothermia and released. The water temperature was only 45°F, so cold water shock and hypothermia were probable factors. There were no PFDs onboard the canoe. Alcohol was a factor. The victim could not swim. The surviving paddler was a very experienced boater. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The victim's body was recovered by a dive team late the same day.

102. 2 Fatalities
4/16/07 Pymatuning Lake 8:30 p.m. Crawford County Monday

A 21-year-old angler and a 22-year-old angler lost their lives when their 14-foot open motorboat capsized. There were no witnesses to this accident. When the men failed to show up for work, searchers found their vehicle and trailer at the access and began to search the lake.

and the victim's weight. During this struggle, the victim's mouth was open and water was splashing onto his face. A passing kayaker pulled the victim to shore and administered CPR but to no avail. The victim had a history of heart disease and the coroner determined that death was caused by heart failure. The victim was wearing a PFD. Cold-water shock was a factor because the water was only 52 degrees. The victim was a poor swimmer and had very little boating experience. It is unknown but doubtful that he had any formal instruction in boating safety.

109. 1 Fatality Allegheny Reservoir Warren County
8/17/07 7:00 p.m. Friday

A 56-year-old man lost his life when he apparently fell overboard from a 19-foot open motorboat. New York State Police reported to a Commission waterways conservations officer (WCO) that a Franciscan friar from St. Bonaventure University Monastery was overdue. The WCO located the victim's vessel washed ashore the same day. There was damage to the hull from wave action against the rocks. The key was in the off position and the throttle was in neutral. There are no known witnesses to this accident. The lake was rough with whitecaps on the day of the accident. PFDs were onboard but not worn. The victim was an experienced boater but it is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. Alcohol was a factor. The victim could swim. His body was recovered the next day floating in the water on the Pennsylvania side approximately 1.5 miles from where the vessel was recovered.

110. 1 Fatality Crooked Creek Armstrong County
11/27/07 Unknown Tuesday

A 45-year-old man lost his life after he paddled upstream in a 16-foot canoe to go hunting. The victim was seen paddling upstream by another hunter who was on a tree stand near the creek. The creek was rain-swollen and full of debris. The Commission waterways conservation officer for that district found a vehicle and boat trailer parked at an access area on the creek. This was at 6 p.m., so the officer decided to wait for the boaters to return. At 7:00 p.m. the officer called in the license number and found out that family members had already called the police with their concerns. The creek was rain-swollen and full of debris. There were wind gusts of 15 to 25 miles per hour. The following day the missing boater's canoe, a wearable Type III life jacket, paddles, other items and extra clothing were recovered in a strainer. Search operations on land and water were ineffective. The victim was a very experienced paddler. It is unknown if he had any formal instruction in boating safety. The water temperature was 40 degrees, so sudden immersion into cold water (cold-water shock) was a probable factor. The victim could swim. Search for the boater were suspended after a lengthy effort because of cold weather. His body was recovered on January 13th when hikers saw the victim's body floating in the water.

111. 1 Fatality Pond Beaver County
12/29/07 5:35 p.m. Saturday

A 23-year-old man lost his life when the 15-foot canoe from which he was goose hunting capsized. The victim was floating alone on a strip mine sediment pond at dusk. He fired two shots at geese, which apparently caused him to capsize. He surfaced, called for help and disappeared. His brother, a non-swimmer, witnessed the accident and went for help. No PFDs were on board. The water temperature was only 34 degrees, so sudden immersion into cold water (cold-water shock) is a major factor. Alcohol may have been a factor. The victim was a poor swimmer and an inexperienced boater, and he had no formal instruction in boating safety. The Beaver Falls dive team found the victim's body the following day.