2016 BOATING SAFETY REPORT
Annual Report of Boating Safety Achievements and Boating Accident Statistics
The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you: have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.
Greetings,

On behalf of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s (DEEP) Boating Division, I am pleased to bring you a summary of work performed to enhance boating safety and the enjoyment of Connecticut waters and to ensure that all boaters have the tools to keep our waters clean. Our state offers many recreational boating opportunities and DEEP’s 118 state boat launches are positioned to help you to get to them in a safe manner. The Boating Division is working hard to reach all boaters and inform them about the importance of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Prevention methods include: inspecting boats and removing all plant materials and mud, draining all areas that may have received water from the day out on the water, and drying the boat for prescribed times based on air temperature to ensure that any larval forms of the AIS are killed. By practicing simple steps we can stop the spread of AIS by recreational boaters. Additionally, by using pumpout facilities that are available to remove boat sewage, boaters can directly improve the quality of Connecticut’s waters. By implementing these environmentally sound actions, we are protecting Connecticut’s waters and ensuring that recreational boating opportunities exist now and into the future.

The Boating Division continues to review boating accident statistics to improve public safety and enhance the recreational boating experience. Specifically, we utilize the statistics to target boating safety education initiatives to reduce the number of fatal boating accidents, accidents with injuries and damage to vessels. Our major initiatives continue to stress the importance of boating sober and the importance of wearing life jackets.

I hope this report serves to inspire good stewardship of our waters and safety on our waterways. If there are things that you believe the Boating Division should be doing to enhance boating safety, improve water quality or augment infrastructure in an area for access to or from the water, please let us know by contacting us at: deep.boating.division@ct.gov, Facebook.com/BoatingInConnecticut, or 860 434-8638. Don’t forget to get a copy of our Boater’s Guide or access it through our website at http://www.ct.gov/deep/boatersguide to stay current on boating laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Mariani
Director DEEP Boating Division
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016 there were 96,069 registered recreational vessels in Connecticut.

- 2.3% decrease from last year when 98,361 recreational vessels were registered.
- Registered recreational vessels continued to be composed primarily of boats less than 26 feet (88%).

In 2016 there were 50 state reportable accidents that involved 3 deaths, 40 injuries, 14 vessels lost and approximately $1,181,598 of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

- The fatality rate was zero per 100,000 registered vessels. Three fatalities occurred on non-registered vessels.
- The accident rate was 41.64 per 100,000 registered vessels. That is a decrease from the previous year which was 65.07.
- All three of the boating fatalities in Connecticut were drowning incidents. The victims were not wearing a life jacket.
- 40 people were injured in 25 boating accidents. 6 accidents with injuries (24%) were alcohol related.

Where were the accidents?

- 58% of reportable boating accidents were on Long Island Sound or coastal waters.
- 26% were on inland lakes and ponds.
- 16% are on Rivers.

There were 5 BUI arrests. Three of which were made by EnCon Police.

3,338 students graduated from the state combined safe boating and safe personal watercraft handling courses conducted by the Division. A total of 11,610 students received their diplomas.

- 7,745 certificates were issued.
- The mandatory boating education requirement for registered vessels took effect 20 years ago in 1993.

- Since the requirement, the fatality rate has decreased 56.6% and accident rate has decreased 26% for registered vessels.

- 380 Safe Waterskiing Endorsements were issued.

3,952 new Vessel Safety Checks performed.

8,247 clean boater pledges received.

1,267,166 gallons of recreational marine sewage was pumped from vessels. This is a 8.167% increase from the previous year.
DEEP BOATING

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Boating Division's mission is to provide safe access to our waters, to keep our waterways safe and to promote clean boating practices among recreational boaters. The Boating Division (Division) accomplished this mission by:

- Improving the safe navigation of our waters to reduce casualties, congestion and conflict.
- Ensuring that recreational boaters and youth are able to improve their knowledge of key boating safety topics and enhance boat handling skills.
- Ensuring, along with Department of Motor Vehicles, that boats are properly numbered, identified with hull identification numbers and meet federal and state identification requirements.
- Working with DEEP EnCon Police to see that boating law enforcement services and enhanced enforcement effort.
- Reporting recreational boating accidents including the accuracy of reporting alcohol and/or drug use in boating accident investigative reports in a timely manner to US Coast Guard.
- Advancing safe boating practices through regulation, legislation, administrative procedure and reporting and analyses of boating accidents.
- Improving marine law enforcement proficiency.
- Increasing voluntary life jacket wear rates amongst boaters in both registered and non-registered boats and reduce alcohol and drug use by operators and passengers.
- Staying active in state and national initiatives and with state and national organizations with similar goals of reducing boating accidents.

In addition to state funding, the Division relies on stable funding from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is supported by excise taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and engine fuels. Funds are then administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the US Coast Guard (USCG). Funds are received by DEEP from the USFWS for operation and development of boating access projects for trailerable boats, development of boating infrastructure projects for boats 26 feet and larger (Boating Infrastructure Grant Program) and for promoting the use of pumpout facilities by boaters to handle boat sewage (Clean Vessel Act Program). Monies received annually from the US Coast Guard are used to promote recreational boating safety on Connecticut’s waters (Recreational Boating Safety Grant). State funding is used to

FY 2016 Boating Funding Sources

- Recreational Boating Safety (USCG), $1,151,048
- Clean Vessel Act (USFWS), $1,388,481
- State Funding (Special Transportation Funds & General Funds), $939,000
- Motoboat Access (USFWS), $541,616
supplement all programs and entirely for programs to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and to administer the State’s abandoned boat program.

Working with a small core staff of 9 people, the Division works to carry out its mission. Funding received by the Division is provided to other Divisions of the DEEP for assistance including Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Division, Division of Parks and Agency Support Services. The Division partners with other Divisions within DEEP’s Bureaus of Natural Resources, Water Protection and Land Reuse; Financial and Support Services, Materials Management and Compliance Assurance; and Air Management to support recreational boating activities in Connecticut and with the Department of Motor Vehicles for vessel registration.

NAVIGATION SAFETY/ACCESS

UNIFORM STATE WATERWAY MARKING SYSTEM—STATE MARKERS

The Division worked closely with contractors to provide:

- 6 navigation and 4 regulatory buoys on Candlewood Lake.
- 37 regulatory buoys on the Connecticut River.
- 6 regulatory buoys on the Housatonic River.
- 8 regulatory buoys on the Mystic River.

PRIVATE MARKERS

The Division reviewed and processed marker permit applications for navigation and regulatory markers for swim areas, speed zones, danger and information markers. Applications were also reviewed and processed for water ski slalom courses and jump markers. A total of thirteen marker permits were issued during 2016.

The marker permits that were issued are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L.I. Sound</th>
<th>Inland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Swim</td>
<td>6 Swim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Info</td>
<td>1 Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Speed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARINE EVENTS

The Division requires a permit for all marine parades, regattas, races, tournaments (other than fishing), exhibitions, or other activities held on inland state waters. In addition, a state permit is required on federal waters when using a state boat launch, or when requesting certain boating regulation exceptions. In 2016, 62 permits were issued to various groups for events. The permit requirement continues to improve boating in Connecticut by reducing user conflicts and overcrowding at popular locations. There is no charge for a marine event permit. Note-Fishing tournaments are issued by the DEEP Fisheries Division.
The marine event permits issued were as follows:

- 4 Boat Parades
- 1 Boat Races
- 5 Canoe/Kayak Paddle Events
- 11 Canoe/Kayak Races
- 20 Crew Events
- 1 Fishing Tournament
- 3 Sailboat Regattas
- 2 Swimming Races
- 3 Triathlons
- 5 Waterski
- 3 Misc.
- 4 Fireworks Displays

**DAM SAFETY**

The Division placed and removed barrier floats at 3 state-owned dams and maintained signage at 19 other dams.

**STATE BOAT LAUNCHES**

DEEP supplied the standardized regulation and information sign posting system at state boat launches, keeping the boating and fishing public informed of regulations and important safety information. The Division continued to work with maintenance crews to ensure that all state boat launches are in a safe and clean condition. In 2016 the Division had a few projects underway to improve boating operations and provide a safe and efficient launching facility for all boats – trailered or car-top. These improvements are part of DEEP’s efforts to serve the boating community across Connecticut.

Projects completed in 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat Launch</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dooley Pond</td>
<td>Middlefield</td>
<td>Complete Renovation</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>$30,187.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East River</td>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>Redesign parking and install wheel stops</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>~ $2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgo Pond</td>
<td>Griswold</td>
<td>Replace ramp and redesign parking lot for ADA</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>~ $50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Reservoir</td>
<td>Windsor</td>
<td>Redesign and paving</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>$140,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dooley Pond Boat Launch
Renovations, Middletown
BOATING EDUCATION

BOATS OTHER THAN PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Residents of Connecticut, persons owning real property in Connecticut or persons with vessels registered in Connecticut must have either a Safe Boating Certificate or a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation to legally operate any vessel with a motor, or a sailboat 19.5 feet in length or longer.

Exceptions:

↓ On inland bodies of water with a 10 hp limit or less and during day time hours, no certificate is required for a person operating an electric motor (rated at 106 lbs. of thrust or less). However, the vessel must be registered.

↓ A person who has a valid operator’s license issued by the United States Coast Guard does not require a Safe Boating Certificate to operate a vessel other than a personal watercraft. They must have a copy of the license on board the recreational vessel on which they are operating.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ONLY

Any person operating a personal watercraft must possess either a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation issued by Connecticut or a certificate issued by a state recognized by Connecticut. Connecticut recognizes certificates from New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for use upon our waters.

NON-RESIDENT CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

↓ Connecticut recognizes a valid Certificate of Personal Watercraft operation issued by a reciprocal state (NY, MA, RI or NH) for a non-resident even if they own real property in Connecticut or have their PWC registered in Connecticut. Personal watercraft operators MUST have a recognized certificate of personal watercraft operation to operate legally.

COASTAL BOATER ENDORSEMENT

The Coastal Boater Endorsement recognizes recreational boaters that receive additional education in basic navigation and plotting methods. Such education further promotes safety in coastal waters.

The Division partnered with United States Power Squadrons and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary on this initiative and we continued to promote classes that met the requirements for the endorsement.

Once a course was successfully completed, the endorsement was printed on qualifying print-on-demand boating certificates. In 2016, one hundred sixteen people received the endorsement.
The Division allocated many hours to Public Act 15-25 that was passed during the 2015 legislative session. The new safe waterskiing endorsement requirement became effective on October 1, 2015. A safe water skiing informational insert was developed, printed and distributed at boat shows, fairs and to registered vessels in the renewal notice. (see Attachment I) The Boating staff have been working with an online licensing vendor to allow for existing and new customers to obtain the boating certificate as well as a revocable Safe Waterskiing Endorsement. The Safe Waterskiing Endorsement statute allows for online education, so DEEP staff had put a Request for Proposal out, which included the requirements of the educational portion of the online class as well as communication between the online course vendor and the online licensing vendor. The temporary online course and examination has been available on the DEEP-Boating website for boaters needing the Safe Waterskiing Endorsement. Three hundred eight safe waterskiing endoresements were issued in 2016.

**Equivalency Examination**

The Division’s equivalency examination is a 50-question multiple choice test that is designed for the experienced boater to qualify for a certificate. The Division recommends that all boaters take a class to ensure they are up-to-date with current boating laws.

In 2016, there were 13 applications were submitted for the equivalency exam, of which all passed.

**DEEP Sponsored Boating Classes**

The Division utilized its team of 36 volunteer instructors to conduct a total of 115 eight-hour combined safe boating and safe personal watercraft handling courses (Boat Connecticut). Volunteer instructors contributed a total of 924 hours to teach classes. The Boat Connecticut course provided a comprehensive introduction to boating safety. During 2016, 3,338 students graduated from this course. The courses were held statewide through our community college system and at dozens of sponsoring organizations.

The combined safe boating and safe personal watercraft handling course program was also offered through various local middle schools, high schools, technical schools and aquaculture institutes. Course material was built into the regular science curriculum and taught throughout an entire semester. In 2016, 15 classes were completed with 392 students.

The Division conducted 4 stand-alone 2½ hour safe personal watercraft handling (SPWH) courses for a total of 50 student graduates. The courses were held statewide at personal watercraft dealerships and at our Division Headquarters in Old Lyme, CT.

**Other Boating Education Classes**

In addition to the Division’s classes, the US Power Squadrons, USCG Auxiliary, US Sailing and private providers teach the classes for a fee. For upcoming classes visit our website, ([www.ct.gov/deep/boating](http://www.ct.gov/deep/boating)) There were 18 private companies that were approved by the Commissioner of the DEEP and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) to teach basic boating safety classes within the state.

The private companies and national organizations graduated approximately 8,200 students in 2016.
CERTIFICATES

In 2016, 7,745 certificates were issued.

WHAT’S NEW?

This year, for National Safe Boating Week, there was a grand opening of the Boating Safety Display at the Mystic Aquarium (see Attachment B). The partnership at the aquarium allows for 800,000 visitors a year to view the boating safety messages and play at the interactive display.

STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The student ambassador program ran for a second year. The program provided an opportunity for high and middle school students to complete senior year or school community projects by delivering important boating safety messages to students throughout their school. The projects were on display at the Legislative Office Building during National Safe Boating Week. This year, DEEP had 25 schools participate and had 34 students. (see Attachment C)

BOATING EDUCATION AT STATE BOAT LAUNCHES

In 2016, fourteen Boating Education Assistants (BEAs) were utilized during the boating season to provide boating education at state boat launches. Due to funding reductions, the BEAs worked fewer hours and there were less interactions with boaters; however the contacts made by the BEAs were still successful.

The BEAs were assigned to the high use launches such as Highland Lake, Lattin’s Cove and Squantz Cove on Candlewood Lake, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. BEAs also visited the other state boat launches and private marinas throughout the state.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS (VSCs)

The Division and USCG Auxiliary entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in February 2013 to carry out Vessel Safety Checks. The signing of this MOA has ensured the partnership continues so as to benefit both organizations. Connecticut is the only state agency in the country to perform VSCs.

The BEAs performed 3,952 VSC at state boat launches and reported to the USCG Auxiliary as required.

A VSC for trailered boats usually takes 10-15 minutes. If all federal safety requirements are met the boater is issued a decal.
CLEAN BOATING PROGRAM

The Division’s clean boating program encourages state boaters to learn about and implement clean boating techniques. Connecticut waters are a valuable natural resource. Our waters provide food, jobs, recreation and beauty, as well as special habitat for fish, birds and wildlife. The cumulative impact of the approximately 165,000 recreational boats on Long Island Sound (LIS), for example, can be considerable, which is why it is important for each boater to share the responsibility for keeping our water clean for activities such as fishing, swimming, scuba diving and viewing wildlife.

Boaters are provided common clean boating practices to help keep pollutants out of our waters and to ensure the future health of Connecticut’s waters.

The BEAs distributed spill prevention kits to “clean boaters” at the state boat launches. The kits included an oil absorbent pad, disposal methodology and tips for keeping pollutants out of the water. In 2016 the BEAs collected 8,247 clean boater pledges from recreational boaters. The pledge states that the boater will refrain from disposing trash and sewage in the water as well as preventing the spread of invasive species.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Over the years, a variety of non-native species (plants, animals, and other organisms) have been introduced to Connecticut. Non-native species are those that are alien to the ecosystem in which they have been introduced and whose introduction can cause harm to the environment or human health. Some non-native species exhibit an aggressive growth habit and can out-compete and displace native species. These are referred to as invasive species and they are a problem in Connecticut and elsewhere.

Efforts have been enhanced at our state boat launches with regard to educating boaters about stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Waters especially in western Connecticut are prone to introductions of zebra mussels. While zebra mussels have been in the Twin Lakes in Salisbury since 1998, they more recently were found in the Housatonic River impoundments of Lakes Lillinonah, Zoar and Housatonic.

In July 2016, Connecticut marked its first-ever Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness weekend. In an Official Statement issued to officially designate the weekend, Governor Malloy urged Connecticut’s residents and those recreating on Connecticut’s waters to help prevent the spread of AIS. (see Attachments H & I) 56 vessels were inspected over the weekend.

DEEP Boating staff and BEAs had a concentrated effort at Lattins Cove and Squantz Cove on Candlewood Lake, Lake Zoar, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, and Coventry Lake educating boaters about clean and safe boating practices and conducting AIS inspections.

To heighten the message to boaters to clean, drain and dry their boats to keep AIS from spreading, the BEAs increased their inspection of vessels for aquatic weeds and zebra mussels. Continued
education and enforcement is needed to empower the boater and make the mantra of clean-drain-dry a normal part of boating. Starting in 2011, boaters were asked several questions regarding their habits. It was the first year that actual boat inspections were performed to check for AIS, 1,260 vessel inspections were performed. In 2016, 5,227 inspections were performed.

RESULTS OF THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEY*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Inspections</th>
<th>Self Inspected/Removed</th>
<th>Disposed of Bait</th>
<th>Washed Boats</th>
<th>Drained Boats</th>
<th>Aware of AIS Laws</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,691</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,563</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3,380</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4,087</td>
<td>99.8%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,227</td>
<td>97.1</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>97.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Boaters were asked these questions regarding their habits
** Data was not captured.

The Division developed and implemented a training program in 2012 for volunteer ramp monitors that could commit to inspections at local boat launches. The program is called “invasive investigator program”.

CLEAN VESSEL ACT (CVA)

Since 1993, all of the waters of Long Island Sound (LIS) in Connecticut and New York have been designated by the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) as a federally approved no-discharge area.

The Federal Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant program, has awarded more than $13 million in grants, funding more than 606 projects in Connecticut. A total of 142 marine sewage disposal facilities (pumpouts/dump stations) have preserved and protected the water quality in LIS, Fishers Island Sound and more recently Candlewood Lake:

- 98 land-based pumpout facilities
- 21 dump stations
- 23 pumpout vessels

This program helps keep coastal waters clean for recreation by safely disposing of millions of gallons of boaters’ sewage annually. The marine facilities provide 25% of the cost of each project.

In 2016, DEEP was awarded approximately $1.1 million to assist marinas, boatyards, yacht clubs, and pump-out vessels ensure that boaters have options for removing boat sewage. A total of 1,267,166 gallons of sewage was removed from recreational boats in Connecticut. That is a 8.167% increase from last year.
### 2016 Clean Vessel Act Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brewer Yacht Haven Marina</td>
<td>$74,384.39</td>
<td>Operation and maintenance of two pumpout vessels and upgrade of one marine engine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Marina</td>
<td>$13,751.25</td>
<td>Construction and annual operation and maintenance of one new stationary facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Island Marina, Inc.</td>
<td>$3,934.50</td>
<td>Repair of one holding tank for recreational boat waste associated with a stationary facility and pumpout boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocker’s Boatyard</td>
<td>$12,305.25</td>
<td>Upgrade and annual operation and maintenance of an existing stationary facility and one dump station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilots Point Marina Inc.</td>
<td>$54,890.25</td>
<td>Annual operation and maintenance of three stationary facilities, three solar/electric pumpout vessels and installation of two new marine monitoring systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;S Marine, LLC</td>
<td>$34,725.93</td>
<td>Upgrade of a portable pumpout facility to a stationary unit and associated dock and fenders, and annual operation and maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SoundKeeper</td>
<td>$33,745.13</td>
<td>Engine replacement for two pumpout vessels and upgrade of pump equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Stratford</td>
<td>$10,500.00</td>
<td>Engine replacement for one pumpout vessel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Division hired a seasonal employee to promote the use of pumpout facilities and the importance of clean water along the coastline. Brochures and promotional items with the pumpout
logo were distributed to marinas and boaters throughout the state to remind them of the availability of pumpout services and the negative environmental effects of boat sewage. All pumpouts for recreational boaters continue to be free in Connecticut.

During the boating season, program staff continued to distribute hands-free adapter kits for distribution to boaters along the Connecticut shoreline. The hands-free adaptor kits were very well-received by both the marine facilities and recreational boaters.

The interactive [CVA map](http://www.ct.gov/deep/pumpoutdirectory) can be utilized to locate the CVA funded facilities and pumpout boats. The latitude and longitude location/address, hours of operation, contact information, and facility web links are updated regularly for boaters to access.

New solar-electric pumpout vessel which was manufactured by Pilot’s Point Marina.

**BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM (BIG)**

The Division administered the [boating infrastructure grant program (BIG)](http://www.ct.gov/deep/transientboaterfacilities) on behalf of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](http://www.fws.gov). Congress created this program *(Federal Register, 50 CFR 86, January 18, 2001)* recognizing that insufficient tie-up facilities exist for transient, non-trailerable boats. Specifically, this program aims to assist boaters to enjoy many recreational, cultural, historic, scenic, and natural resources of the United States.

BIG program funds are made available to public and private agencies, marinas and facilities that provide transient tie-up opportunities for non-trailerable (26’ or over in length) recreational boats. Eligible projects include the construction, renovation, and maintenance of publicly or privately owned facilities including docks and moorings; one-time dredging to give transient vessels safe channel depths between the tie-up facility and channels or open water; installation of navigational aids for safe passage to the tie-up facility and education materials.

There are two levels of BIG funding: Tier I - State competitive projects up to $190,000 Tier II – Nationally competitive projects from $200,000 to $1.2 million.

Ten projects have been completed and can be found on the newly created DEEP interactive Facilities for Transient Boaters Facility Map at [www.ct.gov/deep/transientboaterfacilities](http://www.ct.gov/deep/transientboaterfacilities). In 2016, the Division funded one new project for the City of Middletown.

- **City of Middletown, Middletown Harbor Park, Connecticut River:** 5 new transient floating dock slips located on the Connecticut River at Harbor Park in Middletown in close proximity to restaurants, shops and downtown cultural attractions. Completion is expected in 2018.
Four previously funded projects were completed during the 2016 boating season including:

- **Saybrook Point Marina, Old Saybrook**: 4 new floating dock transient slips adjacent to the fuel dock at the mouth of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound, and new gasoline and diesel underground storage tanks for fuel sales to recreational boaters.

- **Town of East Haddam, East Haddam**: 2 new floating dock transient slips located on the Connecticut River in downtown East Haddam in close proximity to restaurants, shops and the historic Goodspeed Opera House.

- **S&S Marine, Old Saybrook**: 8 new floating dock transient slips in the Connecticut River and an upland bathroom facility including ADA accessible showers, sinks, toilets and changing areas.

- **Town of Wethersfield, Wethersfield Cove Marina**: 51 new transient moorings, and 7 transient floating dock slips. The marina will also maintain 10 new navigation aids.

**OUTREACH**

**PUBLICATIONS**

The Division made significant efforts to reach the boating public and promote boating safety. (see Attachments F, D & G)

The Division made significant efforts to reach the boating public and promote boating safety. 95,000 Connecticut Boater’s Guide were printed and distributed throughout DEEP offices, boating classes, boat shows, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices, organizational meetings and town clerk offices. The Boater’s Guide is a handbook of boating laws and regulations. It also contains registration information, guidelines for a safe boat operation, boat launch information, a boating accident report form and environmental initiatives. This summer displays were installed with boating safety messages throughout six major DMV offices.

National Safe Boating Week was promoted by the Division with a press release (see Attachment A), the grand opening of the Boating Safety Display at the Mystic Aquarium (see Attachment B) and the Great Park Pursuit, No Child Left Inside event at Bluff Point that included a Ready, Set, Wear It event. The partnership at the aquarium allows for 800,000 visitors a year to view the boating safety messages and play at the interactive display.

To view the news clips visit:

- [http://wtnh.com/2016/05/19/boating-safety-display-up-at-mystic-aquarium/](http://wtnh.com/2016/05/19/boating-safety-display-up-at-mystic-aquarium/)

The EnCon Division maintained its effort to bring public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence and focus patrols in areas of high activity to strictly enforce Connecticut’s boating under the influence laws. EnCon Police Division officers received refresher training in DUI/BUI detection prior to summer patrols. The EnCon Division kicked off the recreational
boating season just before the July 4th weekend with Operation Dry Water. Local TV Stations WTNH & WFSB covered the story:


The EnCon Police Division and local police departments participated in additional patrol initiatives focusing on BUI on the lower Connecticut River, Barn Island and Niantic River Access areas and on Candlewood Lake. EnCon Police Division officers arrested three boaters for BUI.

EnCon Police and Essex marine officers during Operation DryWater, Connecticut River

The Division’s priority was to encourage the use of life jackets and the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages. Utilizing local print, radio, TV media, websites and social media networks, these messages were delivered to the public. Radio ads were translated to Spanish and aired on the Hispanic channels. Banners were made and placed on display at the Marine Headquarters.

To increase intoxication awareness at such events, the Division utilized attention grabbing tools such as Fatal Vision® Goggles which educate people of all ages about the consequences of alcohol misuse and abuse. The Fatal Vision® Goggles use special lens technology that allows the wearer to experience a realistic simulation of impairment. The Division utilized ‘Intoxi-clock’ an interactive tool used to demonstrate visually how drinking different types and amounts of alcoholic beverages raises a person’s blood alcohol concentration (B.A.C.).
**Events**

The Division participated in various community events including safety fairs, marine industry trade shows, educational programs and much more around the state. The events are as follows: The Division staff participated in the following events throughout the grant period:

- NASBLA Methods of Instruction training
- CMTA Hartford Boat Show
- Hunting and Fishing Show
- Passenger Vessel Safety Day
- International Water and Boating Safety Summit and NASBLA Education Committee Meeting
- Aquatic Invasive Species training at Bantam Lake
- Great Park Pursuit - Boating Day
- No Child Left Inside Winter Festival
- United States Coast Guard, Sector Long Island Sound Open House
- Ready, Set, Wear it
- Law Enforcement seminar
- Student Ambassador Appreciation ceremony (Attachment C)
- National Guard Safety Day
- Mystic Seaport, Safety on Sea & Shore
- Mystic Aquarium Boating Safety Interactive Display Grand Opening
- Law Enforcement Marine Safety Days
- Human powered event in New Haven
- Berlin Fair, Hebron Harvest Fair, Durham Fair, Norwalk Boat Show, DEEP Hunting and Fishing Day
- Provided state initiatives at the States Organization for Boating Access Conference
- Safety Day at Old Lyme Middle School
- Marine Law Enforcement Refresher Workshop
- Whitewater Paddle Event
- Boating Safety Class as part of the Emily Fedorko Foundation
- Coldwater presentation at LL Bean
- Safety at Sea sponsored by Landfall Navigation and Windcheck magazine
- Watertrail Paddle Event
- Franklin Hunting and Fishing day
- Highland Lake Splash Paddling Event
- On-Water Sailing Standards Sailing Verification, Buffalo NY
- Boat Show at Brewers- Essex Island
- Regan Elementary School Paddle Event (Attachment E)
- Aquatic Invasive Species- First Annual Awareness Weekend

**M/V PRUDENCE-DIVISION’S OUTREACH VESSEL**

During the year, *M/V Prudence* was deployed 9 times on Connecticut waters and spent approximately 38 hours on the water with the intent to target recreational boaters.

The Division scheduled *M/V Prudence’s* voyages around marine events such as fireworks, concerts, charities and parades, seeking the greatest potential for exposure and impact. The *M/V Prudence’s crew* encountered 135 vessels and delivered safety messages to over 680 persons; 563
adults, 59 teenagers and 60 children. The Division obtained promotional items from local retailers to thank the boaters for taking the time to learn about safe boating practices as part of our BOATS (Because Our Acquaintances Think Safety) Program.

The M/V Prudence is an effective resource to deliver safety messages to the recreational boating public. Even though limited time is spent on-the-water, the impact is invaluable.

National Safe Boating Week-May 21-27, 2016

As part of National Safe Boating Week, DEEP partnered with the US Coast Guard, US Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG AUX), and the United States Power Squadrons (USPS), to renew the state’s commitment to promote the importance of making safe and responsible boating choices while on the water. Boaters were reminded to avoid factors that can lead to boating accidents such as inattention, careless or reckless operation, excessive speed, and alcohol consumption.

National Safe Boating Week was promoted by the Division with a press release (see Attachment A) and the grand opening of the Boating Safety Display at the Mystic Aquarium (see Attachment B). The partnership at the aquarium allows for 800,000 visitors a year to view the boating safety messages and play at the interactive display.

To view the news clips visit:

↓ http://wtnh.com/2016/05/19/boating-safety-display-up-at-mystic-aquarium/

↓ http://www.mysticaquarium.org/2016/05/19/mystic-aquarium-and-ct-deep-join-forces-to-open-safe-boating-exhibit/

Great Park Pursuit-No Child Left Inside®

The Great Park Pursuit (GPP) began its 11th season in May. The GPP is a State Parks Family Adventure that provides planned recreational opportunities for children as part of the No Child Left Inside initiative. The activities are located throughout Connecticut in the state parks. The planned events for children and families took place on weekends between May and June.

In May, DEEP hosted a GPP Family Boating Day event at Bluff Point State Park. The event attracted 714 individuals. Some of the boating activity stations included:

↓ Paddle Smart Game
↓ Boating Bingo
↓ Canoeing adventure on Poquonnock River
↓ Keep It Clean
↓ Completing a paddling float plan
↓ ABC Trail Game
↓ Code Flags
↓ Snakes
↓ Float Your Boat
↓ Boating Bean Bag Toss
↓ Boating Safety
GPP was combined with the Ready, Set, Wear It event. The event promotes people on one single day inflating life jackets or just wearing one. Connecticut had the largest participation in the nation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Division has over 2,431 followers on its Facebook page. Safe boating posts on the page reached thousands and engaged hundreds of people on a weekly basis.

These messages focused on the importance of wearing a life jacket, boating sober and cold water boating preparedness.

Facebook.com/BoatinginConnecticut

In 2015, a Twitter account was created (@CTBoatingInfo) to notify boaters of temporary state boat launch closures and other important information. In 2016 the Division reached out to approximately 250 boaters via Twitter.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

2015 NASBLA Boating Officer of the Year- Officer Alexander Johnston

Officer Alexander Johnston is a three year veteran of the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Division. Prior to joining the Division he worked as an Emergency Dispatcher for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, as a seasonal worker for both the Wildlife and State Parks Divisions, as a Lake Patrol Officer for the Candlewood Lake Authority, and as a National Park Service Law Enforcement Ranger on Lake Roosevelt and the Colombia River in the state of Washington.

Officer Johnston attended Advanced DUI Enforcement as well as NASBLA’s Boating Accident Investigation Comprehensive Level Course, in order to expand his on water capabilities and his accident investigation skills. He was appointed in 2015 to the Division’s Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU).

During Connecticut’s 2015 Boating Season, Officer Johnston displayed outstanding initiative in boating enforcement and led the Division in boating enforcement patrol hours and citations, as well as calls for service in regard to boating activities. He investigated multiple vessel accidents and had the most arrests for Boating Under the Influence (BUI) in the Division.

Officer Johnston spent many hours during the season patrolling and protecting boaters on Candlewood Lake, which is located in the western area of Connecticut. Candlewood Lake is the largest lake in Connecticut, and is surrounded by a highly populated area, attracts
many tourists from neighboring states, and is the most active and utilized lake for boating activities.

Officer Johnston’s proactive boating enforcement resulted in increased compliance to safety regulations, fewer critical boating incidents during the season, and increased overall public safety. He is an exemplary representative of the Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Division and is commended for his professionalism and dedication to boating safety.

**MADD 2016 Law Enforcement Recognition Award**

In May of 2016, Sergeant Keith Williams and Officer Alexander Johnston were recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) CT Chapter for their outstanding 2015 BUI enforcement efforts.

![MADD National President Colleen Sheehey-Church with Sgt. Williams, Officer Johnston and Captain Lundin at CT MADD 2016 Law Enforcement Recognition Award Ceremony](image)

**MADD Community Champion Award/Community Service Award**

Captain Eric Lundin was honored by MADD in November 2016 for his contributions in helping further MADD’s mission.

**VESSEL REGISTRATION**

In 2016, there were 96,069 vessels registered in Connecticut. 88% of Connecticut numbered vessels are less than 26 feet. All motorized vessels and sailboats greater than 19 ½ feet in length are required to be registered. Vessels displaying Connecticut registration numbers receive a certificate of number. Vessels used in Connecticut waters for more than 60 days and registered in other states or holding a valid USCG documentation certificate, must display a Connecticut certificate of decal. The number of vessels registered does not capture manually propelled vessels, which are not required to be registered. In the 2012 National Recreational Boating Survey conducted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the northeast region had the highest percentage (19.2%) of households with one or more persons who either canoed or kayaked. Of those surveyed in Connecticut, 21.8% used either a kayak or canoe.
BOATING ACCIDENTS AND REPORTING

All operators of vessels involved in an accident must remain at the scene and assist any other vessel or person involved, if possible, without endangering their own vessel or the people aboard. The operator must also give his/her name, address and vessel identification number to the other operator(s) or owner of the damaged property.

Operators involved in a boating accident which results in any of the circumstances noted below shall immediately notify the nearest law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area and, not later than 48 hours after the accident, report the matter to DEEP on a form provided by the Commissioner.

- The death of any person from whatever cause.

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**NUMBER OF VESSEL REGISTRATIONS-1989-2016**

**LENGTH OF VESSELS REGISTERED-2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 16 Ft</td>
<td>41666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 to Less than 26 Ft</td>
<td>42917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to Less than 40 Ft</td>
<td>9845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 65 Ft</td>
<td>1615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 65 Ft</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The disappearance of any person from on board.

The injury of any person sufficient to require medical attention beyond simple first aid.

Any accident in which the total damages to all property affected is in excess of $500 must be reported by the operator not later than 5 days after the accident on forms provided by the Commissioner. The form can be downloaded by visiting the Division’s webpage: www.ct.gov/deep/boating.

The operator of the vessel must make out the report, if they cannot do so, the owner or a survivor of the accident must initiate the report.

Many accidents are not reported because boaters are not aware of the accident reporting requirements. In an effort to increase boating accident reporting, the Division included a usable boating accident report in the 2016 Boater’s Guide.

BOATING ACCIDENT STATISTICS

The Division continued to maintain the computerized boating accident database using the US Coast Guard’s boating accident report database system (BARD). The fifty states, five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are required to report recreational boating accident data to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The national data is available through the USCG at: http://www.uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.aspx. The standards and guidelines for reporting recreational boating accidents, established by the USCG, are described in Title 33, Section 173 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Please Note: Connecticut General Statutes Section 15-149a, requires an accident report to be filed if property damage is $500 or more. The USCG utilizes $2000 in property damage as a threshold for reporting.

In 2016 there were 50 reportable accidents (involving 66 vessels) with 25 accidents with injuries for a total of 39 injuries and 3 accidents that resulted in 3 fatalities. The three victims were not wearing a life jacket and were on manually propelled vessels.

The Division strives to reduce the number of recreational boating accidents, injuries and deaths on Connecticut’s waterways and to provide a safe enjoyable experience for the boating public. The purpose of combining boating education, law enforcement initiatives, regulatory and administrative procedures, with visual marking of the waterways is to create a knowledgeable and skilled boating public with safety ethics. The benefits of these efforts is to create a safety environment that results in reduced number of boating fatalities, serious injuries and property damage to boats and reduces user conflicts.

Since the inception of mandatory boating education for registered vessels in 1993, the fatality rate has decreased 56.6% between 1993 and 2013. The accident rate has also decreased 26.0%. These rates do not include manually propelled vessels since they are not required to be registered.
**Rates of Accidents and Fatalities in Connecticut per 100,000 registered vessels - 1985-2016**

### Rates of Accidents and Fatalities in Connecticut

*Per 100,000 registered boats*

**Note:** The accident rate only includes registered vessels and is calculated using the number of accidents and the number of registered vessels in CT (#accidents/# registered vessels) * 100,000

The fatality rate only includes registered vessels and is calculated using the number of deaths and the number of registered vessels in CT (# fatalities (persons)/# registered vessels) * 100,000

**DROWNING ACCIDENTS**

There have been more drowning accidents from manually propelled vessels (non-registered) in the last 5 year periods analyzed. Reducing these fatalities is something the Division will be focusing its efforts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Drowning Accidents</th>
<th>Manually Propelled Vessels</th>
<th>Motorized Vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002-2006</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9 died</td>
<td>11 died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2011</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17 died</td>
<td>15 died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2016</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8 died</td>
<td>8 died</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALL BOATING (REGISTERED AND NON-REGISTERED VESSELS) ACCIDENTS 2008-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Vessels Registered</strong></td>
<td>105,499</td>
<td>103,992</td>
<td>101,887</td>
<td>99,658</td>
<td>98,361</td>
<td>96,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accidents</strong>*</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fatalities</strong>*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accidents with at least 1 injury</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accidents with no injuries</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes registered and non-registered vessels

**2016 Boating Accident Statistics**

AGE OF OPERATORS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS-2016
SIZE OF VESSELS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS-2016

WHERE ARE THE ACCIDENTS OCCURRING?-2016
**Type of Accidents Occurring-2016**

- Standing/Sitting on Gunwhale, Bows and Transom
- Sharp Turn
- Restricted Vision
- Passenger or Skiier Behavior
- Weather
- Wake
- Unknown
- Reckless Behavior
- Operator Inexperience
- Operator Inattention
- Navigation Aid Missing
- Machinery Failure
- Improper Lookout
- Excessive Speed
- Equipment Failure
- Alcohol Use

**Cause of the Accident-2016**

- At Least One Fatal
- At Least One Injury
- Property Damage Only
Vessels Types Involved in Accidents-2016

Fatality Data-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body of Water</th>
<th>Accident Type</th>
<th>Primary Cause of Accident</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
<th>Vessel Type</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake of Isles</td>
<td>Capsizing</td>
<td>Standing/Sitting on Gunwhale, Bows and Transom</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Canoe</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Lake</td>
<td>Capsizing</td>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Canoe</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island Sound</td>
<td>Person Left Vessel</td>
<td>Reckless Behavior</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
<td>Inflatable</td>
<td>Drowning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There were 30 vessels involved in 25 accidents that resulted in 40 injuries.

Capsizing 19% (5), falls in boat accounted for 15% (4), flooding/swamping accounted for 15% (4), & Falls overboard accounted for 12% (3)
BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (BUI)

The Division, EnCon Police and local law enforcement maintained its effort to bring public attention to the dangers of boating under the influence and focus patrols in areas of high activity to strictly enforce Connecticut’s boating under the influence laws. The Division coordinated efforts with the EnCon Police Division and added another Operation Drywater weekend in August as part of the BUI campaign. EnCon Police Division officers arrested three boaters for boating under the influence.

ALCOHOL RELATED ACCIDENTS -2006-2015

Of the 589 boating accidents that occurred between 2006 and 2015, alcohol was involved in the following:

↓ 3% of the accidents with PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY. (9 accidents out of 327 accidents)
↓ 15% of the accidents with at least one injury. (33 accidents out of 216 accidents)
↓ 47% of the fatal accidents. (26 accidents out of 60 accidents) In 2014, the national average was 21%.

The number of BUI arrests:

↓ 2008-6
↓ 2009-4
↓ 2010-15
↓ 2011-15
↓ 2012-12
↓ 2013-9
↓ 2014-4
↓ 2015-10
↓ 2016-5

Accidents involving alcohol by the vessel’s occupants shows that as the seriousness of the accident increases, so does alcohol involvement. (2006-2015)
The Division’s priority was to encourage responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages. Utilizing local print, radio, TV media, websites and social media networks, like Facebook and Twitter, these messages were delivered to the public.

To increase intoxication awareness at such events, the Division utilized attention grabbing tools such as Fatal Vision® Goggles which educate people of all ages about the consequences of alcohol misuse and abuse. The Fatal Vision® Goggles use special lens technology that allows the wearer to experience a realistic simulation of impairment. The Division utilized ‘Intoxi-clock’ an interactive tool used to demonstrate visually how a person’s level of intoxication changes with increasing levels of alcohol consumption and the rate at which a body metabolizes alcohol given the person’s weight, gender and drinking pattern.

**BOATING LEGISLATION**

The Division provided a legal structure that promoted safe boating practices and ensured consistency with federal and state requirements pertaining to boating safety and boat operation. The Division tracked twelve proposed legislation initiatives for boating, assessed impacts, and provided testimony to the DEEP Commissioner.

Relevant legislation was adopted during the session:


The Division continued to promote boating safety through advancing a uniform regulatory structure that enhances safe boating practices consistent with federal and state requirements pertaining to boating safety and boat operation. The Division proposed:

- Modifications to Connecticut regulation’s definition of waterskiing to take into account the expanding activities occurring behind a vessel. This was passed during the 2016 legislation session.
- Modifications to state law to safely accommodate levitation unit attachments that are gaining popularity with personal watercraft operators, including requiring both the operator and observer to have a certificate of personal watercraft operation. This was passed during the 2016 legislation session.

The Division completed the regulatory process to extend an existing slow-no-wake zone in the Squantz Cove portion of Candlewood Lake, New Fairfield.

The Division reviewed and provided comments on revisions to 4 municipal ordinances during the reporting time and conducted one harbor management plan review.
MARINE DEALERS

The Division conducted site visits for new marine dealer registration numbers (MDRNs) applicants. The Division inspected and approved 4 new marine dealers for receipt of MDRNs. In 2016, Connecticut issued a total of 297 MDRNs to 156 marine dealers and marine surveyors. Approved dealers may display assigned numbers temporarily on vessels in the water that they may be selling or fixing.

ABANDONED BOATS

The Division recently amended its abandoned boat law, effective January 1, 2015. The Division received inquiries about abandoned boats and provided assistance for removing approximately one hundred-twenty abandoned vessels in 2016.