

Wisconsin



Boating Law Administrator

[Roy Zellmer](#)

Bureau of Law Enforcement

PO Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707-7921

Phone: 608-264-8970

Wisconsin Specific Information

Registered Boats 626,304 Ranking #5

Documented vessel—Any documented vessel used upon the waters of the State for more than 60 days in any calendar year shall be registered, the registration decals are to be displayed on either side of the documented name of the vessel.

Minimum Operator Age

No one under the age of 10.

Children 10 years of age but less than 16 if accompanied in the boat by a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian.

Persons at least 12 years of age may operate a motorboat if they have successfully completed a DNR prescribed boating safety course and possess a boating safety certificate issued by the WI DNR or another state.

Life Jackets Wear

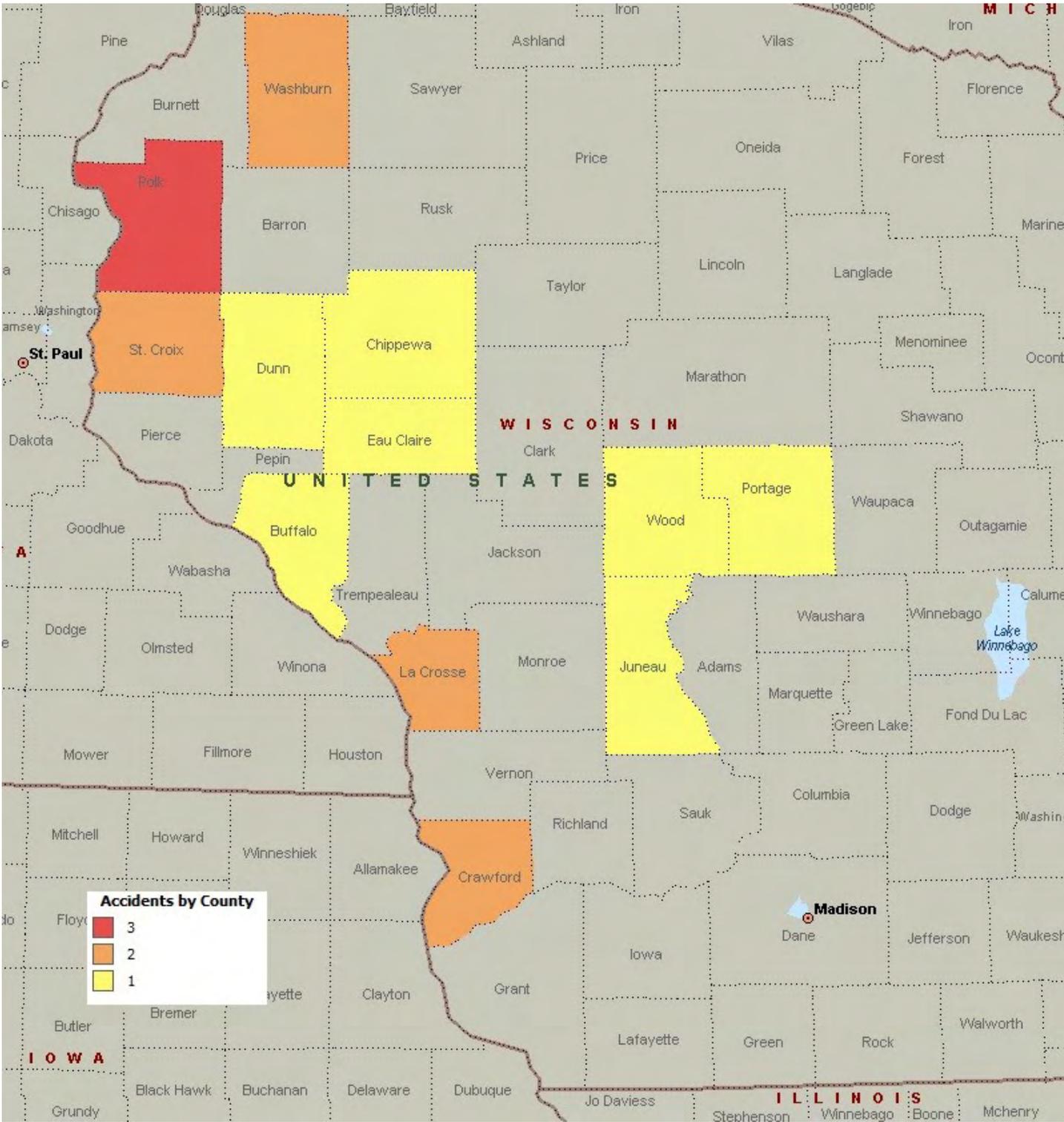
Federal regulations apply

Each person on board a PWC

Boating Under the Influence

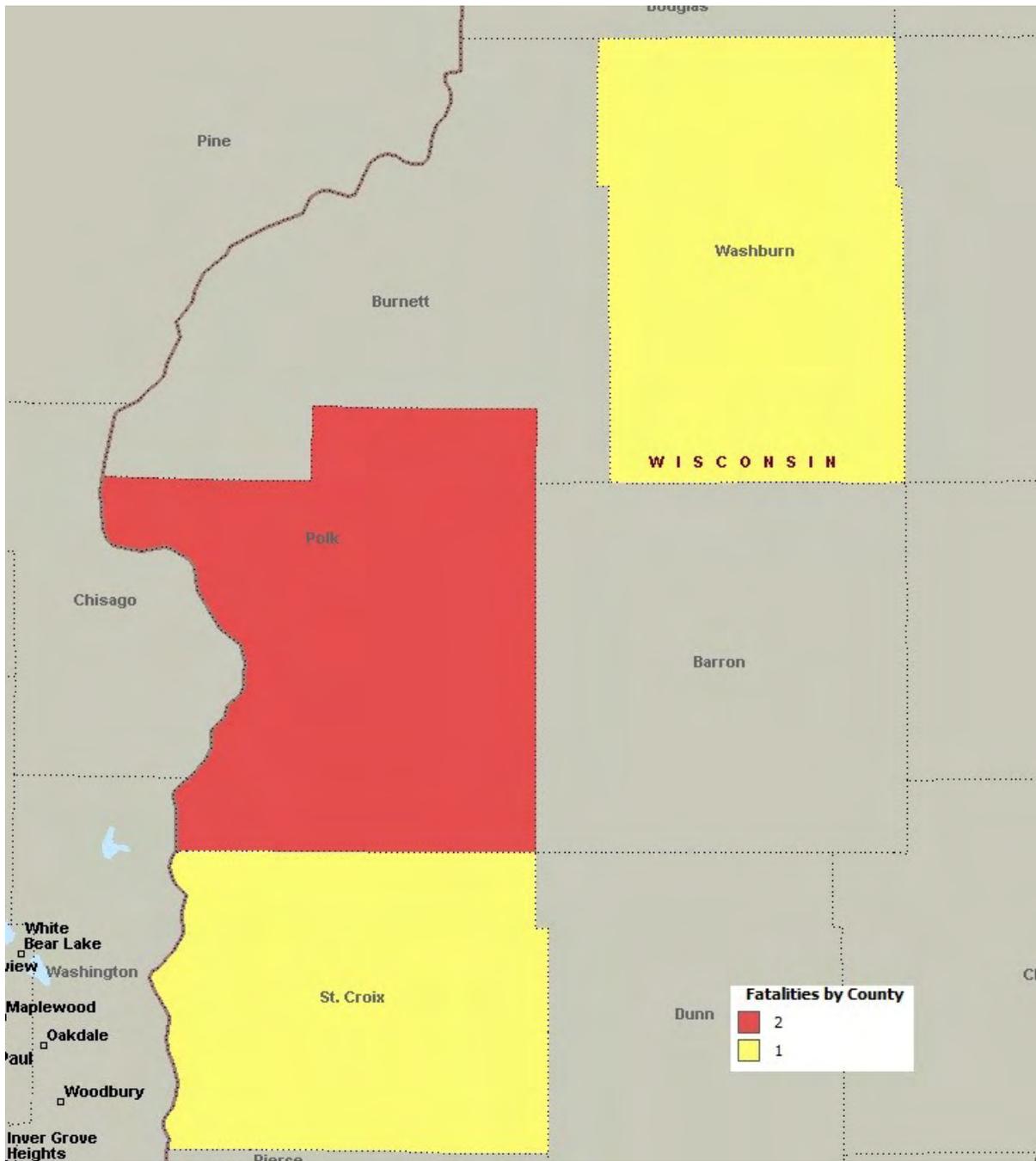
.08 BAC

Under 21 years old must be .00 BAC



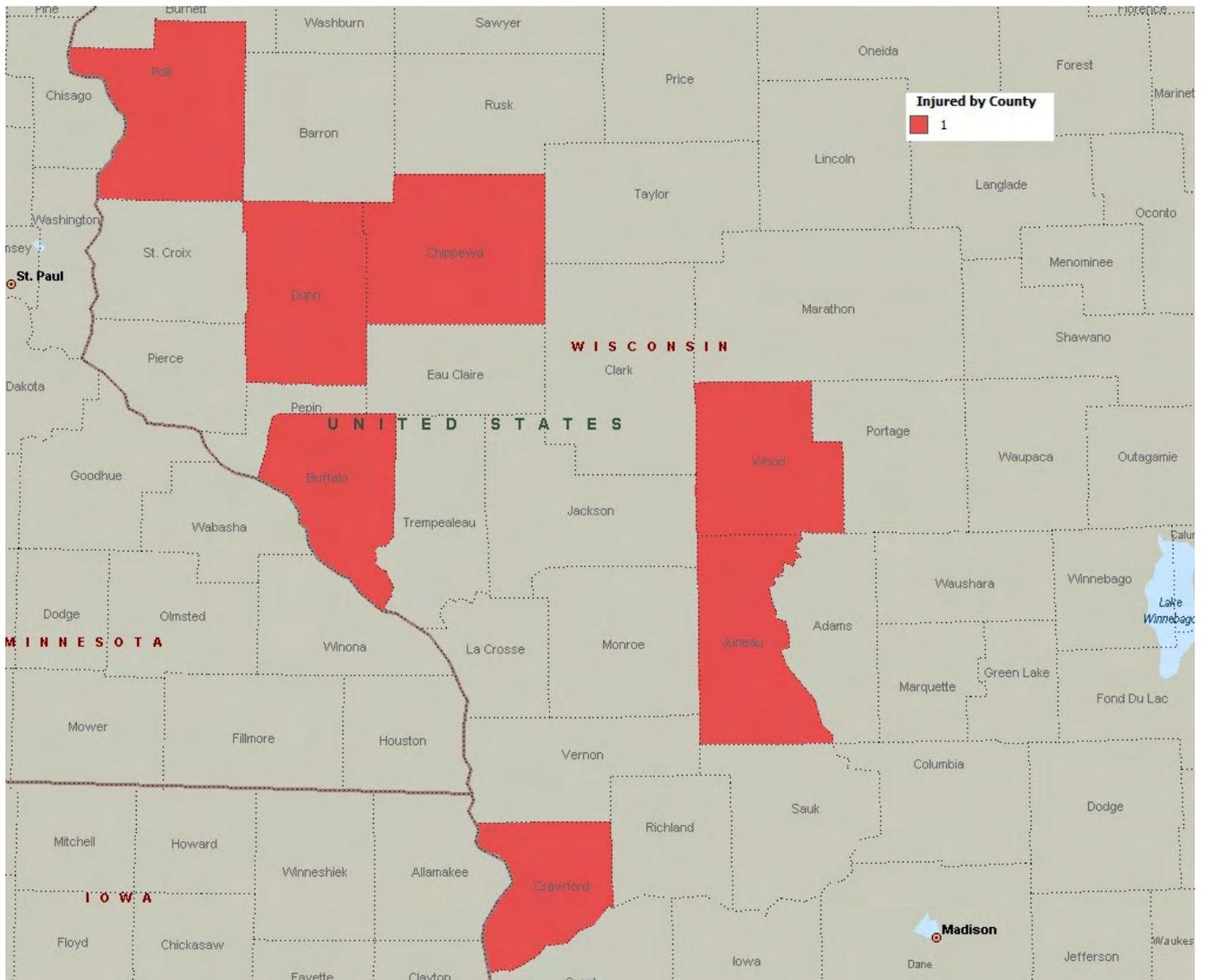
County	Accidents
POLK	3
CRAWFORD	2
LACROSSE	2
ST CROIX	2
WASHBURN	2
BUFFALO	1
CHIPPEWA	1
DUNN	1
EAU CLAIRE	1
JUNEAU	1
PORTAGE	1
WOOD	1

Body of Water	Accidents
MISSISSIPPI RIVER	3
BLACK RIVER	2
ST CROIX RIVER	2
WISCONSIN RIVER	2
BONE LAKE	1
LAKE DUBAY	1
LAKE EAU CLAIRE	1
LAKE HOLCOMBE	1
LAKE MENOMIN	1
LAKE WAPOGASSET	1
LONG LAKE	1
LOTUS LAKE	1
NAMEKAGON RIVER	1



County	Fatalities
POLK	2
ST CROIX	1
WASHBURN	1

Body of Water	Fatalities
LAKE WAPOGASSET	2
ST CROIX RIVER	1
NAMEKAGON RIVER	1



County	Injured
BUFFALO	1
CHIPPEWA	1
CRAWFORD	1
DUNN	1
JUNEAU	1
POLK	1
WOOD	1

Body of Water	Injured
MISSISSIPPI RIVER	2
WISCONSIN RIVER	2
LAKE HOLCOMBE	1
LAKE MENOMIN	1
LOTUS LAKE	1

Accident Cause	Accidents
Operator Inattention	4
Alcohol	2
Force of wave/wake	2
Operator Inexperience	2
Other	2
Excessive Speed	1
Hazardous Waters	1
improper lookout	1
inadequate on-board navigation	1
Starting in Gear	1
Sudden medical condition	1

Accident Event	Accidents
Collision with recreational Vessel	7
Fall Overboard	2
Skier mishap	2
Capsizing	1
Collision with Fixed Object	1
Collision with submerged object	1
Departure from Vessel	1
Fall in Vessel	1
Flooding	1
Grounding	1

Federal/State Cooperative Recreational Boating Safety Agreement

*Statement of Understanding
Between
The State of Wisconsin
&
The United States Coast Guard*

1. PURPOSE. To continue the existing relationship between the State of Wisconsin and the United States Coast Guard in the conduct of recreational boating safety programs, including the mutual enforcement of laws relating to boating safety on waters within the concurrent jurisdiction of the State and the United States.

2. BASIC GUIDELINES.

a. The State and the United States exercise concurrent jurisdiction over those waters that are within the boundaries of the State and are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

b. The State has exclusive jurisdiction over those waters within the State that are not waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or waters of the United States.

c. This understanding does not abrogate, modify or limit the jurisdiction of the State or the United States.

d. All vessels equipped with propulsion machinery, and those as determined by the State (except vessels exempt under the provisions of 33 CFR Part 173.11 or vessels documented or required to be documented by the Coast Guard) that are principally operated on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Wisconsin are subject to the numbering laws of that State.

e. The State shall, to the fullest extent practicable, endeavor to conform its laws, rules and regulations with Federal law, subject to the Federal preemption provisions contained in 46 U.S.C. 4306. The Coast Guard and the State shall promptly furnish to each other the text of any proposed or enacted law, rule or regulation having to do with the operation of vessels; operator education and licensing; or numbering, titling and equipping vessels that are the subject of this Agreement and any administrative interpretations thereof.

f. The Coast Guard and the State will provide to each other a copy of statistical and other data pertinent to the matters agreed to herein.

g. Under Section 13109(b) of Title 46 United States Code, the Coast Guard may issue orders to the Coast Guard Auxiliary to assist the State in the promotion of boating safety on State waters. At no time will Auxiliarists become directly involved in law enforcement actions.

h. On those occasions when the assistance of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is expressly desired by the State of Wisconsin for a specific purpose, such requests for assistance will be initiated by competent authority in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and will be directed to either Director of Auxiliary, Ninth Coast Guard District, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44199-2060 or Director of Auxiliary (O8E), Gene Snyder Federal Courthouse Building, 601 West Broadway, Room 634A, Louisville, KY 40202-2243.

3. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING.

a. Law Enforcement.

(1) The State has concurrent law enforcement responsibility concerning recreational vessels and other watercraft (e.g. commercial fishing vessels) where related State statutes are applicable on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States that are also within the boundaries of the State. In these waters the United States has responsibility for the enforcement of all applicable Federal statutes and regulations.

(2) In order to provide the most effective maritime law enforcement possible with the vessels and personnel available, and to avoid duplication of efforts in a given area at a given time, the Boating Law Administrator, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, State of Wisconsin and the appropriate Coast Guard District shall endeavor to coordinate recreational boating safety enforcement patrols on waters subject to concurrent jurisdiction. Furthermore, the State and the Coast Guard shall share information on incidents of mutual concern.

(3) Numbering violations observed by the Coast Guard boarding officers will be reported to the State of Wisconsin for processing. In addition, other recreational boating violations may be reported to the State at the discretion of the District Commander.

(4) Violations of Federal safety standards for boats and associated equipment detected by State Conservation Wardens may be reported to the Coast Guard for disposition at the discretion of the Boating Law Administrator.

(5) Violations of vessel inspection or related Federal laws by non-recreational vessels that are observed by the State Conservation Wardens may be reported to the Coast Guard for disposition at the discretion of the Boating Law Administrator.

(6) When a complaint is made to the Coast Guard alleging an offense that is a violation of the State recreational boating laws or regulations, the Coast Guard will normally refer the complaint to the proper State or local authority in the appropriate State jurisdiction. Similarly, when a complaint is made to the State of a violation of any vessel laws or regulations within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, the State will normally refer the complaint to the Coast Guard.

(7) A Coast Guard boarding officer who has observed a violation of State boating laws or regulations, or a State Conservation Warden who has observed a violation of any vessel laws or regulations within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, will generally be made available to testify for the State or Federal prosecution for the observed offense or to testify in any other proceeding relating to the violation. The cost of travel will be borne by the agency providing the testimony.

(8) To increase the effectiveness of joint operations between the State and the United States Coast Guard in the enforcement of safe boating laws as well as the support of search and rescue efforts on the Mississippi River, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and their tributaries, the Department of Natural Resources is authorized to communicate with the Coast Guard while directly involved in a Search and Rescue, Law enforcement or marine safety incident. The Department of Natural Resources should operate on VHF-FM Channels 21A (157.05MHZ), 22A (157.10MHZ), 23A (157.150MHZ) and 81A (157.075MHZ). This authorization is subject to the following conditions:

(a) Use of these frequencies by the Division of Law Enforcement shall be on a not-to-interfere basis with regard to Coast Guard operations.

(b) Use of these frequencies is subject to net control by the Coast Guard Group in the area of operations. Commander, Coast Guard Group Sault Ste. Marie, MI, will be responsible from Wisconsin's northern shoreline north to the International Border. Questions regarding circuit operating procedures should be directed to Group Sault Ste. Marie's Telecommunications Specialist in Charge at (906) 635-3236.

Commander, Coast Guard Group Milwaukee, WI, will be responsible from Wisconsin's eastern shoreline north and east to the Michigan border and south to the Illinois border. Questions regarding circuit operating procedures should be directed to Group Milwaukee's Telecommunications Specialist in Charge at (414) 747-7190.

Commander, Coast Guard Group Upper Mississippi, will be responsible for the Mississippi River along Wisconsin's western border. Questions regarding circuit operating procedures should be directed to Group Upper Mississippi's Telecommunications Specialist in Charge at (319) 524-7511.

(c) This authorization will remain in effect for the duration of this Agreement unless rescinded sooner by competent Coast Guard authority. The Department of Natural Resources is allowed to use all other appropriate frequencies in day to day operations pursuant to Federal law.

b. Boating Under the Influence.

(1) A common goal of the Coast Guard and the State of Wisconsin is to rid the waterways of boaters operating under the influence of alcohol or a dangerous drug in violation of Federal or State law. To this end, the State of Wisconsin and the Coast Guard agree to coordinate their Boating Under the Influence (BUI) efforts so that the most effective enforcement option is pursued in each case, and will encourage mutual assistance on a local level.

(2) In the course of normal operations, the Coast Guard may detect a boat operator suspected of BUI within State waters where concurrent jurisdiction exists. When this occurs, the Coast Guard may administer a Field Sobriety Test (FST) to the operator, including a chemical analysis of the operator's breath.

(3) If the operator is determined to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the Coast Guard will:

(a) Remove the intoxicated operator, provide for the safety of the operator, the vessel, and any remaining passengers, in accordance with governing instructions, and attempt to notify State enforcement officials.

(b) Document the case completely for whichever jurisdictional prosecution is followed (State arrest, Federal arrest or civil penalty).

(c) Discuss enforcement options available for the particular case with State enforcement officials.

(d) Make the determination of which option(s) to select and proceed with prosecution.

(e) Provide case documentation and appropriate witnesses to pursue case prosecution should the State decide to proceed with case prosecution.

(f) If the State proceeds with case prosecution, the Coast Guard will suspend BUI related civil penalty action until the case is decided. If State prosecution is not successful, the Coast Guard reserves the right to proceed with civil penalty action.

(4) The Coast Guard will, as operations permit, respond to calls for assistance from State marine law enforcement agencies with respect to BUI enforcement.

(5) Toward the common goal of removing intoxicated boaters from the waterways, and as operations permit, State marine law enforcement agencies will:

(a) Respond to calls for assistance from the Coast Guard with respect to BUI enforcement.

(b) Determine the extent of assistance the State can offer and advise the Coast Guard.

(c) Provide appropriate assistance within the agency's operational, logistical and legal constraints, including arrest of intoxicated boaters when appropriate.

(d) Provide local Coast Guard commands with a point of contact to facilitate and enhance mutual enforcement efforts and concerns.

c. Public Education and Training.

(1) The parties will cooperate in public education and safety information programs. Dependent upon availability, the State will distribute the pamphlet, "Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats," and other Federal boating publications as agreed upon. Dependent upon availability, the Coast Guard will distribute State of Wisconsin applications and other forms for vessel registration, State vessel casualty report forms, and such State boating pamphlets as are made available for that purpose by the State of Wisconsin. The coordination of public education courses that are sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary within the State will be in accordance with the terms set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Coast Guard Auxiliary, dated September 29, 2000.

(2) The Coast Guard will provide boating safety instructor training on a "space available" basis for State law enforcement personnel through the Marine Patrol Officer Course located at Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, VA. Similarly, the State will provide to the Coast Guard, on an "as available" basis, instructors and facilities for the training of Coast Guard personnel. In addition, safe boating and/or boat handling programs may be arranged with Auxiliary resources.

d. Boating Accident Reports and Investigative Reports.

(1) The State agrees to investigate all recreational boating fatalities and selected other accidents. The Coast Guard may investigate any recreational accident on vessels used on waters of concurrent jurisdiction if the case warrants further investigation.

(2) The State shall review for accuracy and completeness all accident reports and shall determine the cause and circumstances surrounding each reportable accident, including whether or not alcohol or drugs were a factor.

(3) Coast Guard field units shall immediately notify the appropriate Department of Natural Resources office of any boating accident. The State shall notify the appropriate Coast Guard field unit of any boating accident occurring on Lake Michigan or Lake Superior. Furthermore, the State and Coast Guard agree to share information available concerning any boating accidents on these waters.

(4) For the purpose of this agreement and in accordance with 33 CFR 173:

(a) A boating accident is defined as an occurrence involving a vessel or its equipment that results in a fatality, a disappearance, a personal injury that requires medical treatment beyond basic first aid or an occurrence involving damage to a vessel and other property totaling more than \$500, or the total loss of a vessel.

(5) If compatible with the State's boating accident database, the State shall abstract the required data from each boating accident report form and enter such data into the Boating Accident Report Database (BARD), which was developed in cooperation with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). The State shall endeavor to ensure the quality of data entered is accurate and complete providing for a successful data transfer into the national BARD located at Coast Guard Headquarters.

(6) An electronic copy of the State's accident and investigative report data, including any alcohol/drug test results, shall be forwarded to the Office of Command and Control Architecture (G-OCC-2) at Coast Guard Headquarters within 30 days of receipt of the initial casualty or accident report, and no later than 30 days following prosecution of any criminal case resulting from an accident. States that lack electronic data transfer technology may forward copies of the accident and investigative reports to (G-OCC-2). The Coast Guard will review the reports received for appropriate action.

e. Search and Rescue.

(1) On State waters upon which the Coast Guard has no jurisdiction, the State, or its political subdivisions, has exclusive responsibility for providing search and rescue services. On waters subject to concurrent jurisdiction, the State and the Coast Guard have joint responsibility. On offshore waters, coastal waters and harbor areas, the State will look primarily to the Coast Guard to coordinate search and rescue efforts. On other inland waters subject to concurrent jurisdiction, Coast

Guard planners will look primarily to the State to coordinate search and rescue efforts.

(2) The State and Coast Guard will endeavor to coordinate their search and rescue operations so that the most effective assistance will be rendered to those in distress on waters within the State. To this end, each will encourage the establishment of mutual assistance and cooperative arrangements between Coast Guard and State facilities that are located in the same geographic area. Coast Guard field units shall endeavor to notify the appropriate Bureau of Law Enforcement field office of any search and rescue incident and the State shall endeavor to notify the appropriate Coast Guard field unit of any search and rescue incident on Lake Michigan or Lake Superior. Furthermore, the State and the Coast Guard each agree to share all information available regarding respective search and rescue operations.

The competent authority for providing Federal search and rescue assistance on Federal waters within the State North of latitude 46-20'N and East of longitude 90W is: Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District, 1240 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH, 44199-2060. This authority is exercised through the Ninth District's Command Center (CC) Cleveland, OH, telephone number (216) 902-6117 or 1-800-321-4400.

The competent authority for providing Federal search and rescue assistance on Federal waters within the State South of latitude 46-20'N and West of 90W is: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Hale Boggs Federal Bldg., 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130-3396. This authority is exercised through the Eighth District's Command Center (CC) New Orleans, LA, telephone number (504) 589-6225.

The competent authority for exercising coordination of State search and rescue activities on waters within the State is the Boating Law Administrator, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 7921, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707-7921, telephone number (608) 264-8970.

(3) The State and the Coast Guard agree to actively support and participate in local search and rescue workshops, water safety councils and other such organizations to foster closer cooperation and coordination among federal, state and local agencies, and others who have an interest or responsibility in search and rescue matters.

f. Regattas and Marine Parades.

(1) The Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District and Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, are authorized by 33 CFR 100.10 to enter into agreements with State authorities to allow regulation by the State of such classes of regatta or marine parades on navigable waters of the United States that are subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the signatory state when, in the opinion of the District

Commander, the State is able to regulate in such manner as to ensure safety of life. This portion of the cooperative agreement between the Coast Guard and the State of Wisconsin is made pursuant to that authority.

(2) For the purpose of this agreement, the terms "regatta" and "marine parade" both mean an organized water event of limited duration that is conducted according to a prearranged schedule.

(3) Regattas and marine parades shall be administered in accordance with 33 CFR Part 100 and applicable State statutes, and the State and the Coast Guard will expeditiously provide each other copies of all permits issued on waters of concurrent jurisdiction.

(4) Pursuant to 33 CFR Part 100.10(a), the Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District or Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District may assume responsibility for permitting any regatta or marine parade on waters of concurrent jurisdiction when he or she deems such action to be in the public interest. These regattas and marine parades must also meet all applicable local and State permit requirements.

(5) The authorization and regulation of regattas and marine parades upon the navigable waters of the United States over which the State of Wisconsin exercises concurrent jurisdiction shall be managed as follows:

(a) The Coast Guard will expeditiously direct all applications for regattas and marine parades, except those identified in paragraph (4) above, to the appropriate agency of the State or states in which the event is to be held.

(b) The appropriate State agency will review each application forwarded to it using State statutes to determine whether to approve or disapprove the application.

(c) The Coast Guard will determine whether Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary operational assistance is appropriate. If the State requests additional Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary assistance, the application and all pertinent information, including a statement as to the number of State vessels to be assigned to the event, will be sent to the Coast Guard as described in paragraph 2.H., with a description of the type of assistance requested.

(d) Upon receipt of a request for assistance, the Coast Guard will use the criteria found in 33 CFR Part 100, applicable District Instructions, and an assessment of competing demands on its operational resources to determine the appropriate Coast Guard action. The Coast Guard will notify the appropriate State agency of any action the Coast Guard will take.

(e) The exercise of the Coast Guard's authority to regulate and control regattas and marine parades is discretionary. Thus, notwithstanding a State's request or recommendation to regulate an event in a certain manner, or for the Coast Guard to issue a Local Notice To Mariners, the responsible Coast Guard District Commander retains the right to regulate and control, or not to regulate or control, any such event in the manner deemed appropriate.

(6) For the purpose of this agreement, the term "navigable waters of the United States" is defined as set forth in 33 CFR Part 2.05-25.

4. LIAISON. Liaison shall be as follows:

FOR THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

Mr. John Lacenski
Boating Law Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 7921, 101 S. Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707-7921
(608) 264-8970

FOR THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Frank Jennings
Recreational Boating Safety Specialist
Ninth Coast Guard District Boating Safety Affairs
Office of Law Enforcement
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, OH 44199-2060
(216) 902-6094

5. It is understood that the Coast Guard will not release any information or reports considered confidential by the State, unless otherwise specified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, or unless required by federal law.

6. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT. This agreement remains in effect until canceled by either party. The canceling party will provide the other party with at least 30 days written notice. A representative of each party will review the agreement biennially to ascertain whether any revisions are necessary. A copy of the review will be appended to each party's copy of the agreement, and a copy will be provided to Commandant (G-OPB-2).

Federal/State Cooperative Recreational Boating Safety Agreement

*Statement of Understanding
Between
The State of Wisconsin
&
The United States Coast Guard*

STATE OF WISCONSIN

By: George E. Meyer
GEORGE E. MEYER
Secretary

Department of Natural Resources

Date: 1/31/01

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

By: James D. Hull
JAMES D. HULL
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District

Date: 2/20/01

By: Paul J. Pluta
PAUL J. PLUTA
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District

Date: 3/26/01