



# Safe Boating: National Trends, Mandatory Education, and the Prevention of Boating Under the Influence

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

# Meeting Orientation Slide



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Ø Type any additional questions or comments into the Q&A box on the left.

# Presenters

**Pam Dillon**

Education director

National Association of State Boating Law  
Administrators (NASBLA)



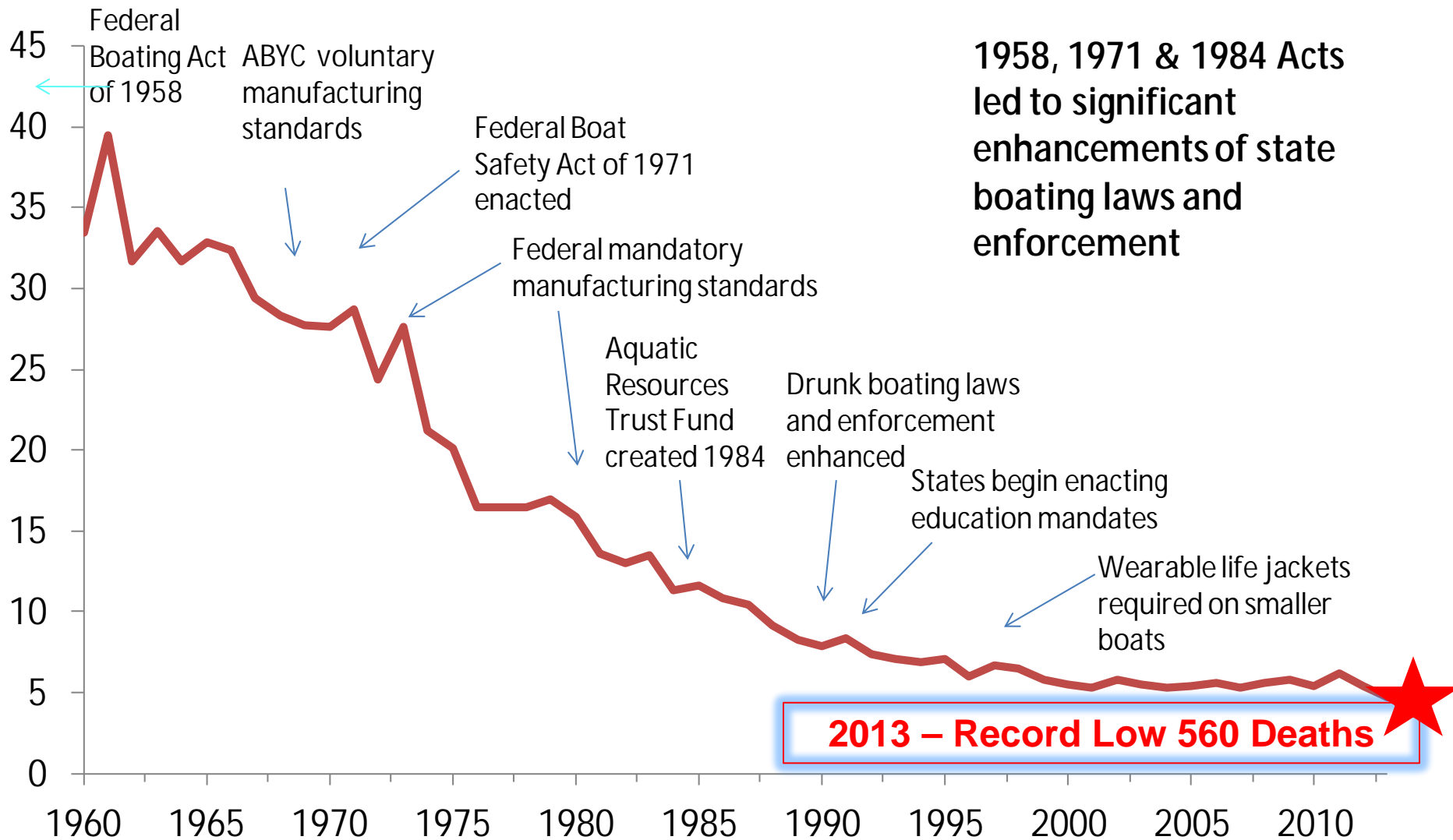
# Safe Boating: National Trends, Mandatory Education and Prevention of Boating Under the Influence

Pamela Dillon, Education Director  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

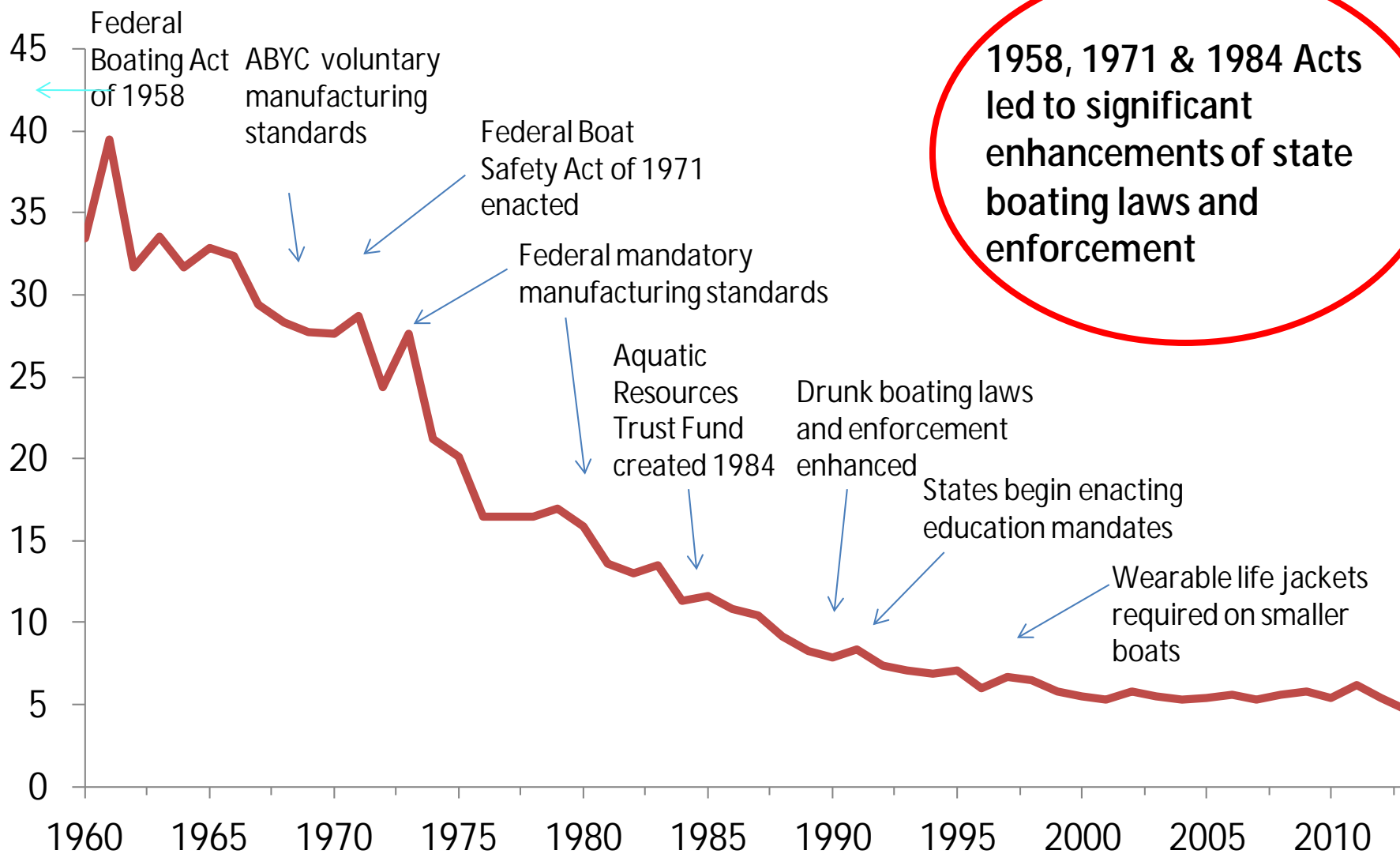


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# Fatalities/100,000 Boats

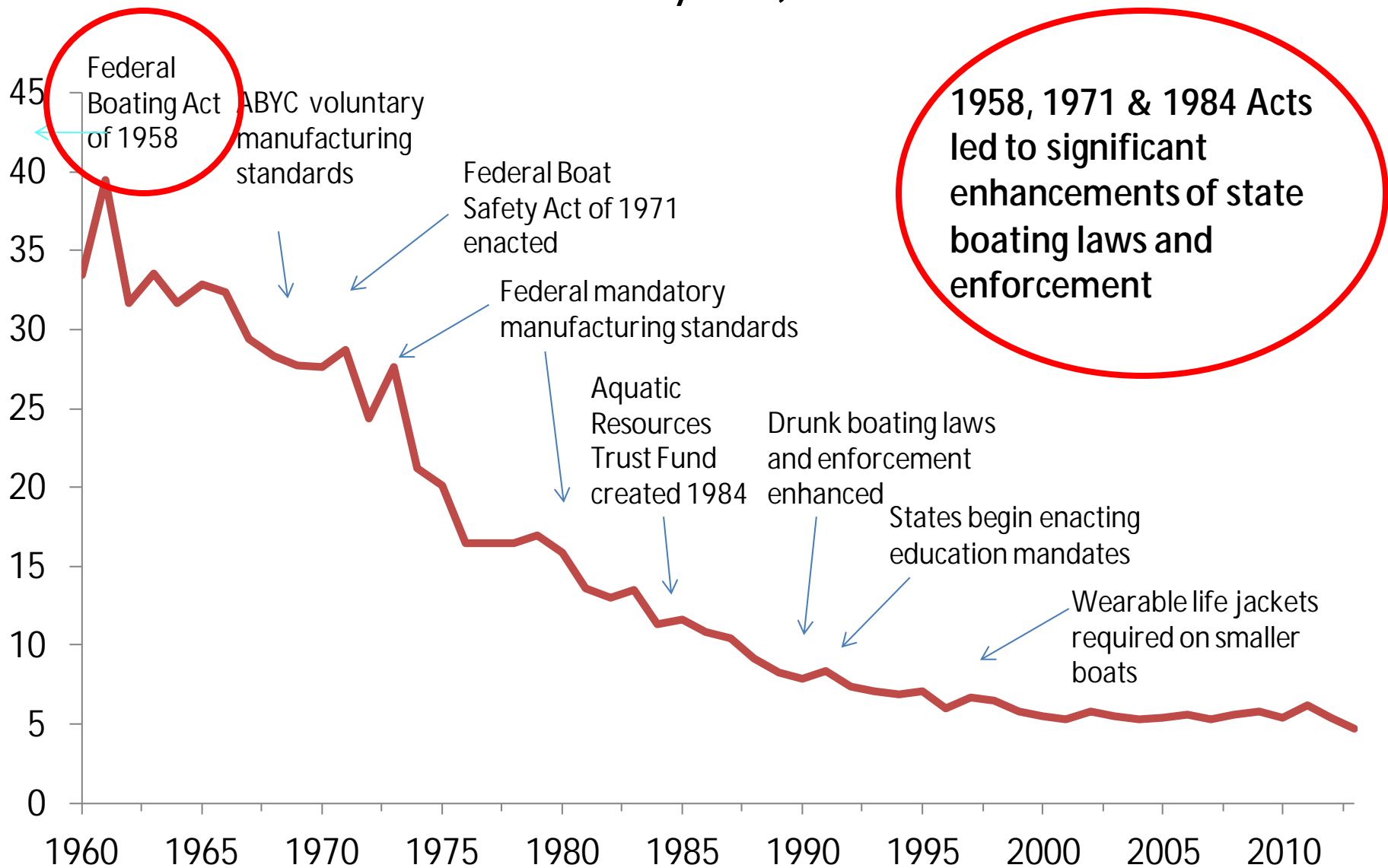


# Fatalities/100,000 Boats



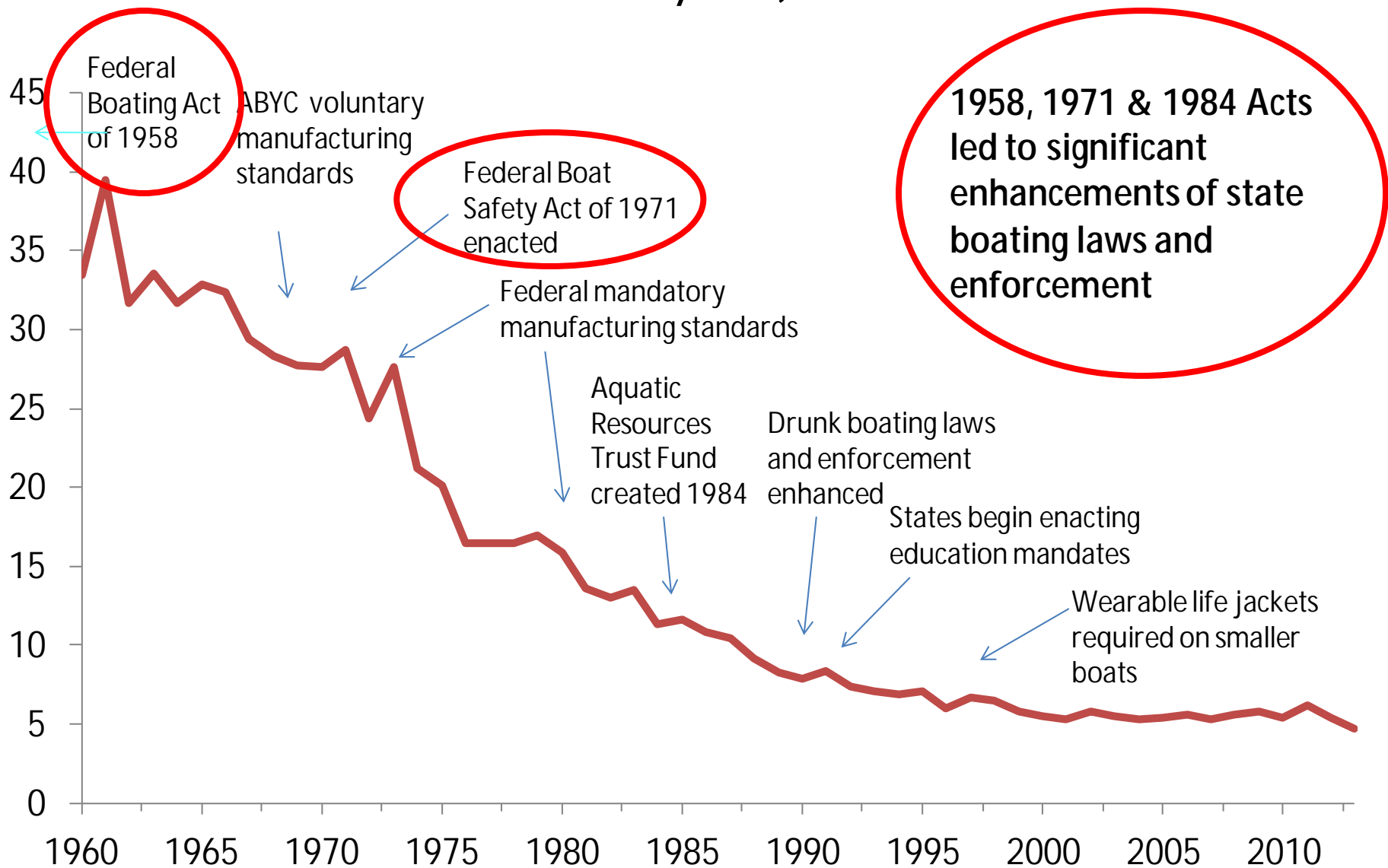
**1958, 1971 & 1984 Acts led to significant enhancements of state boating laws and enforcement**

# Fatalities/100,000 Boats

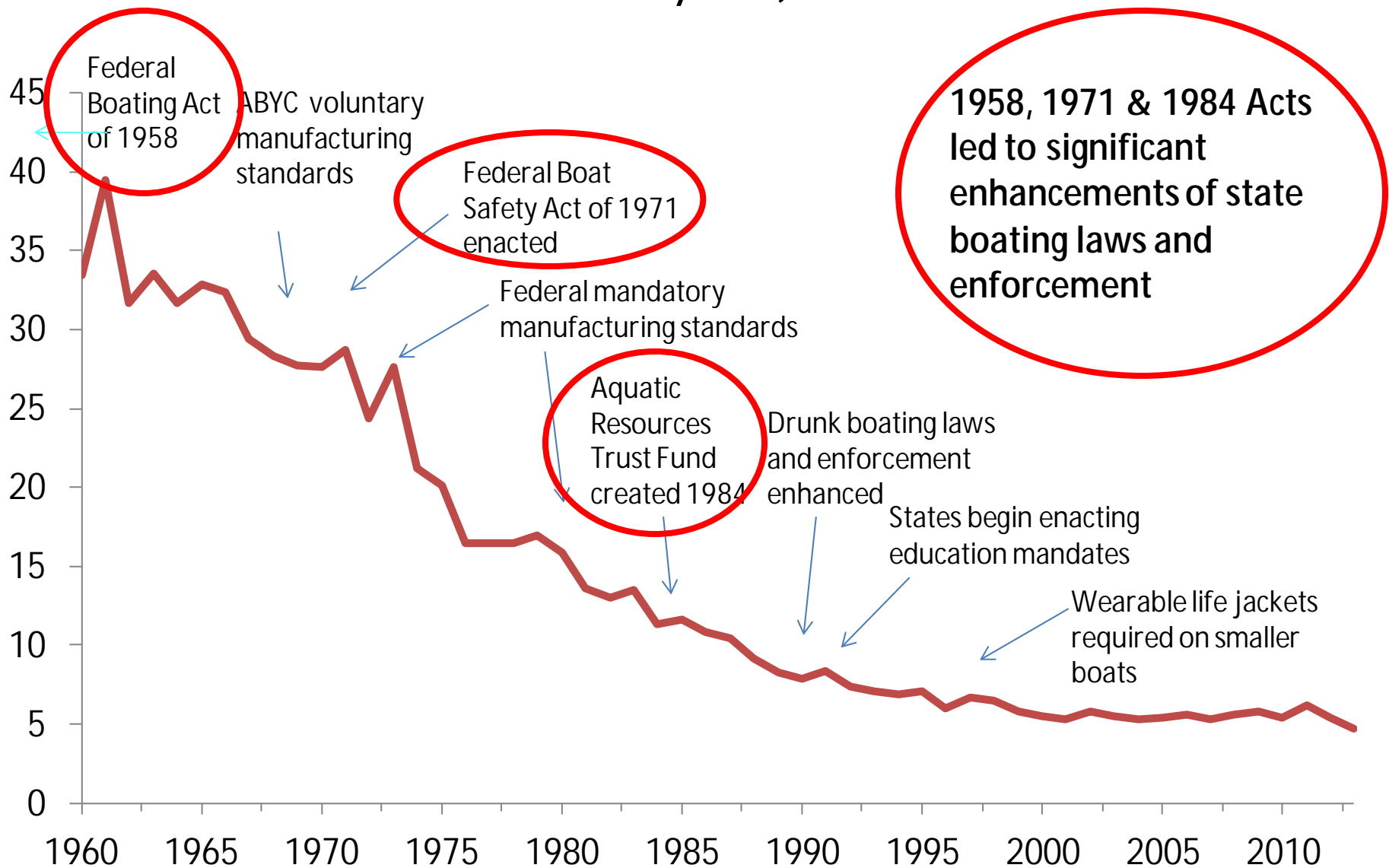




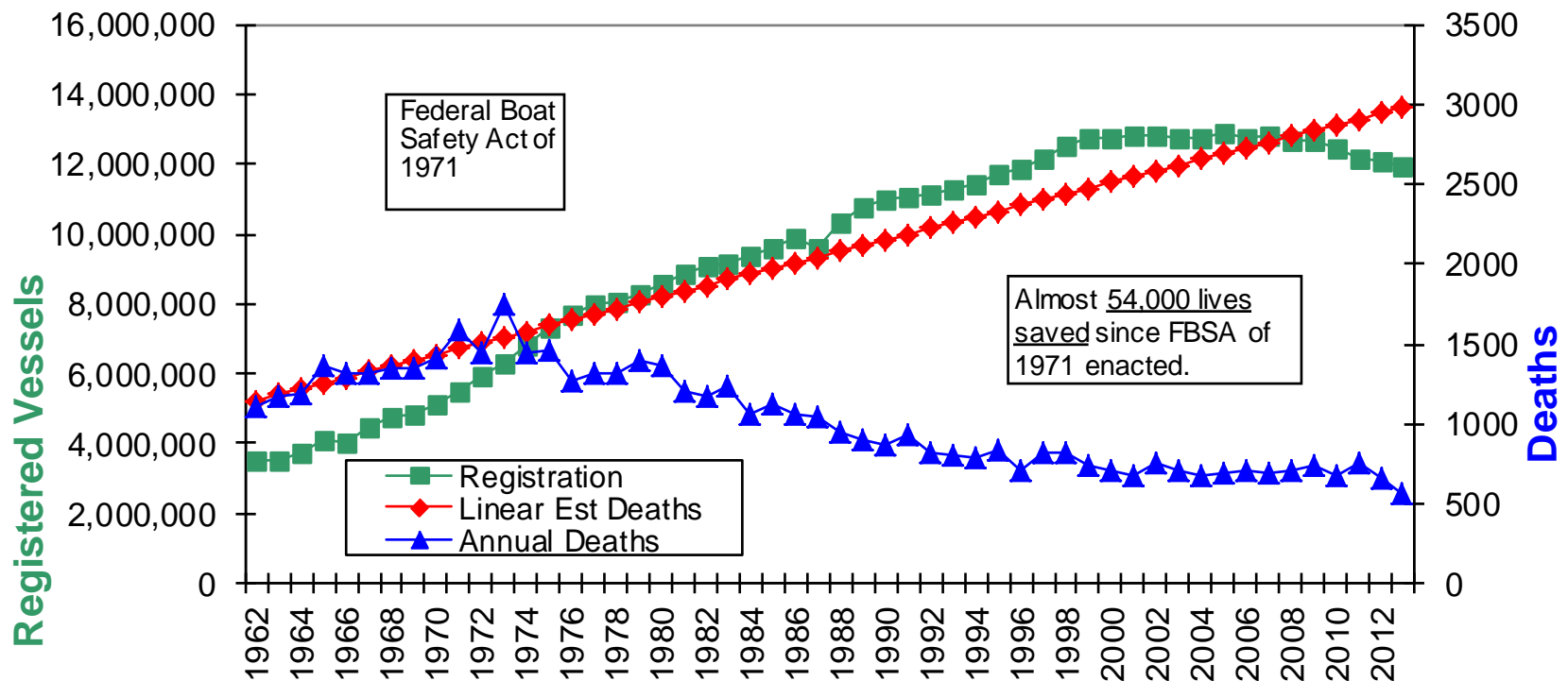
# Fatalities/100,000 Boats



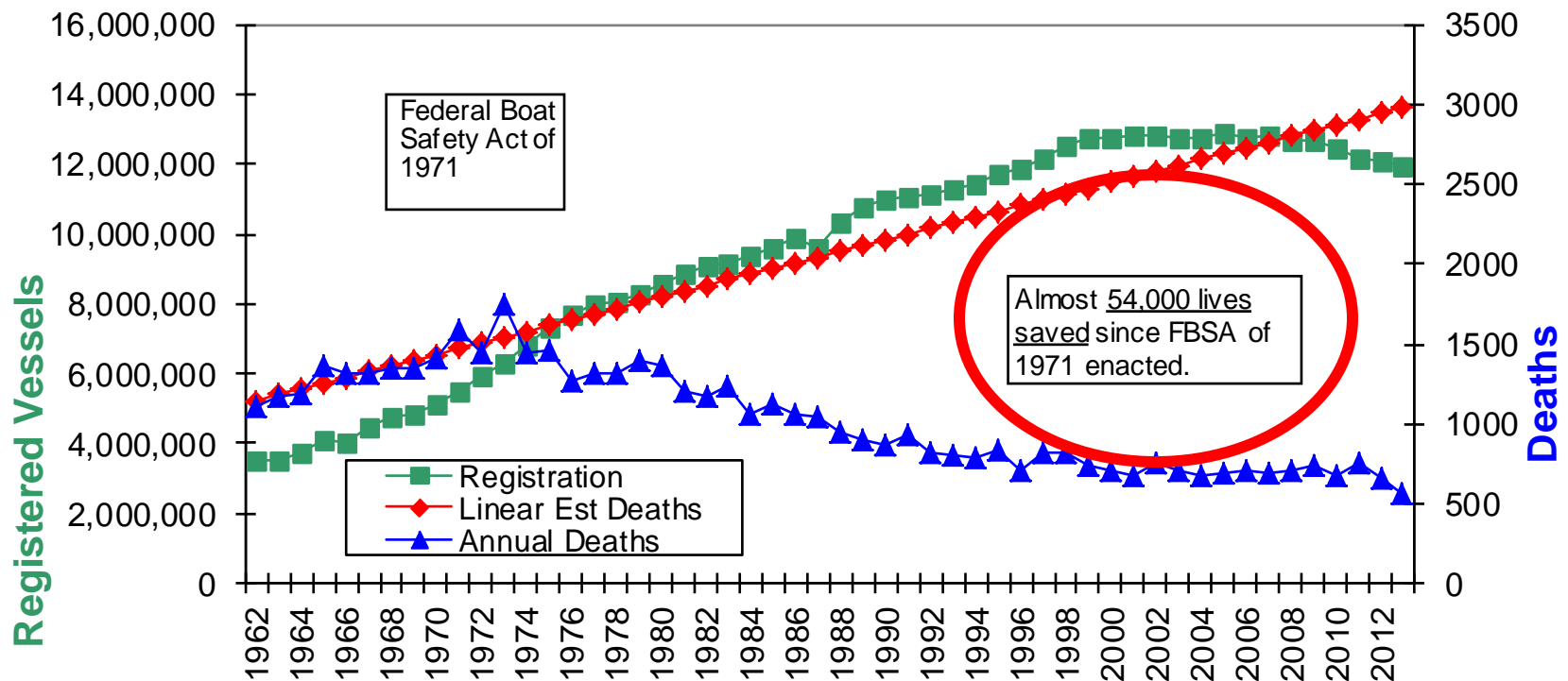
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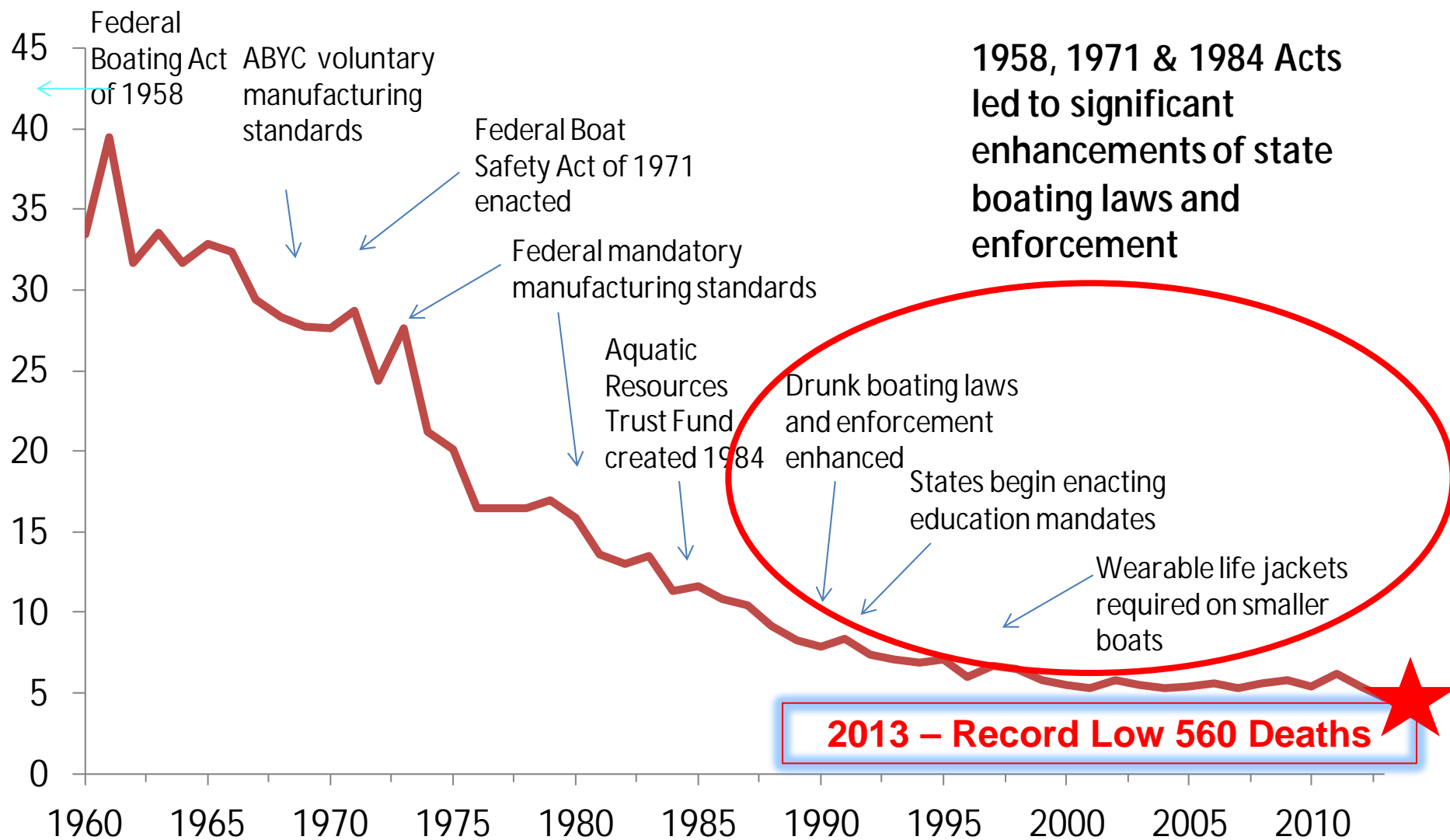
# Registered Vessels and Deaths 1962-2013



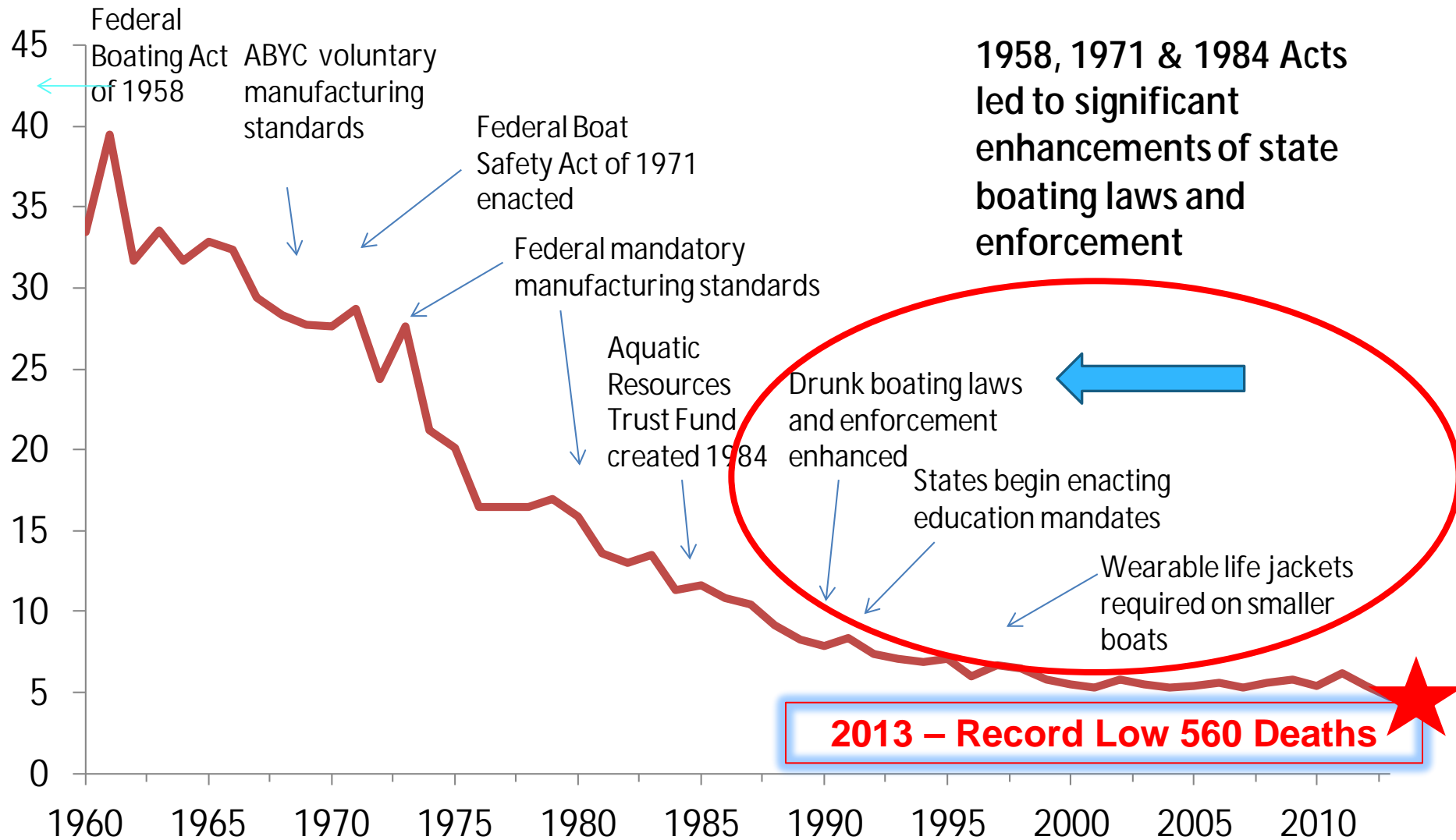
# Registered Vessels and Deaths 1962-2013



# Fatalities/100,000 Boats



# Fatalities/100,000 Boats



# OperationDryWater.org

[HOME](#)[BOATERS](#)[LAW ENFORCEMENT](#)[OUTREACH](#)[CONTACT](#)

# NEVER BOAT UNDER THE INFLUENCE!



## June 27-29, 2014



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

[operationdrywater.org](http://operationdrywater.org)

[Boaters >](#)

Take the pledge.  
Learn about BUI.

[Law Enforcement >](#)

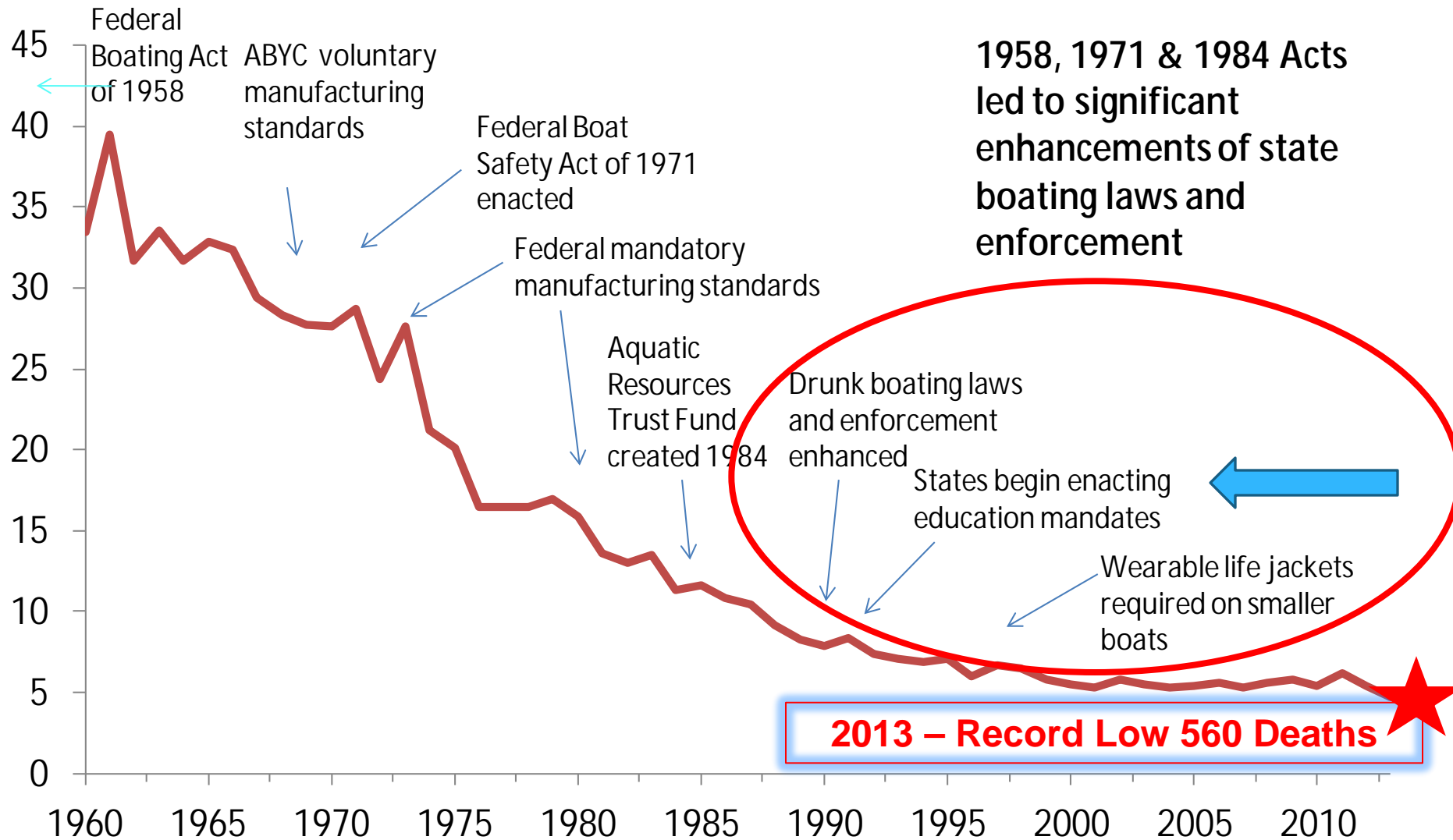
Report your ODW  
weekend activity.

[Media >](#)

Spread the word!  
Download resources.



# Fatalities/100,000 Boats





# NASBLA Model Acts for Education:

## **EDUCATION**

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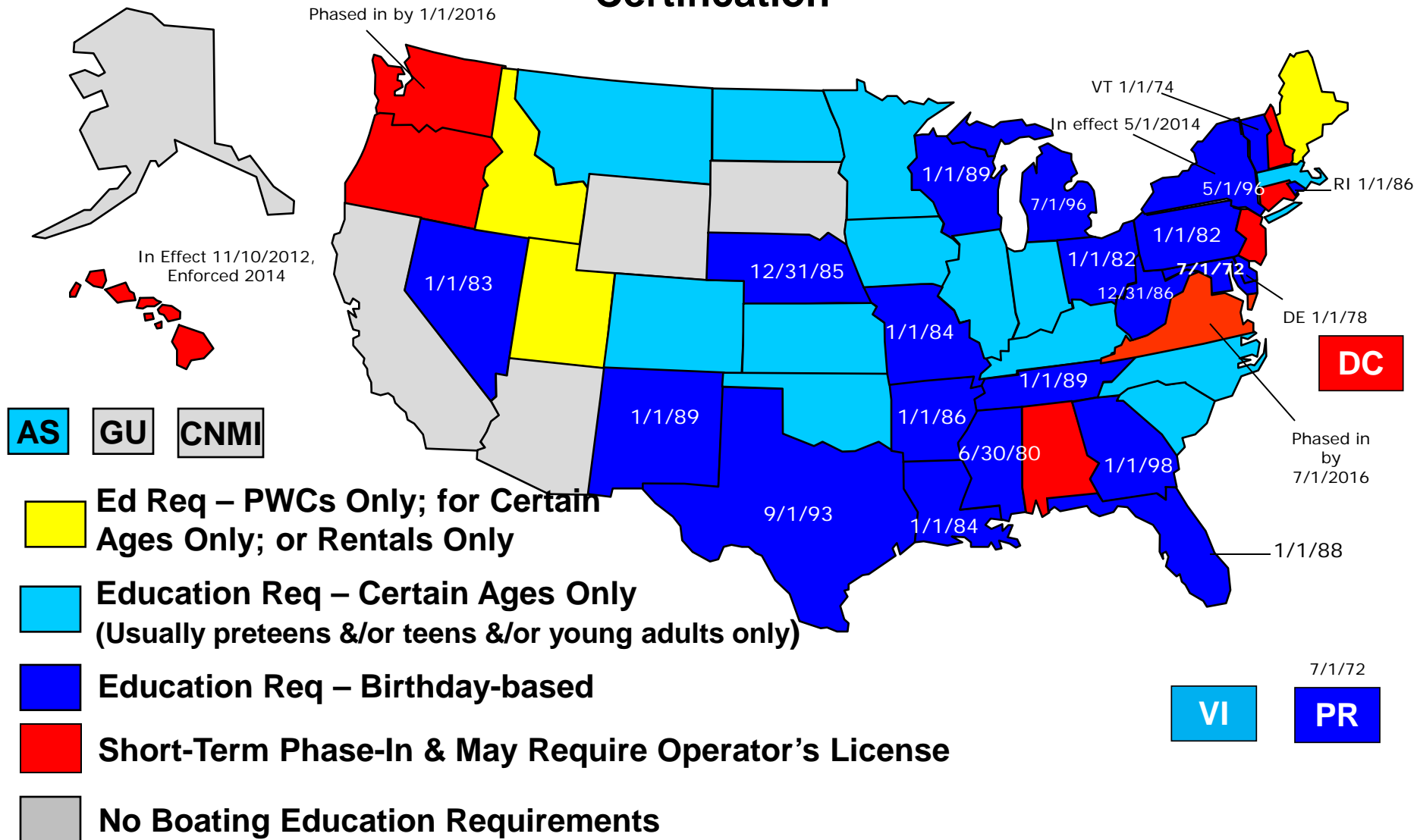
[Model Act for Mandatory Boating Safety Education](#)

[Vessel Operator Licensing](#)

[Mandatory Boating Safety Course for Certain Violations](#)



# States Requiring Motorboat Operator or PWC Proof of Certification



Note that each state has unique requirements that may impact different age operators. Some states have additional requirements for PWC or non-motorized operation which may not be reflected in this illustration.

**As of October 18, 2013**

***Title:*** Basic Boating Knowledge

***Scope:*** This is the minimum required standard that applies to all basic boating courses in the U.S. states and territories and District of Columbia.

***Purpose:*** To establish the national standard for use by course providers to meet the needs of recreational boaters for basic boating knowledge in order to identify and reduce primary risk factors and mitigate their effects on recreational boating.

# State Education Standards (since 1999)

- \* **NASBLA-103-2015 Basic Boating Knowledge – Power**
  - \* Approved and authorized for publication.
  - \* Effective for courses approved in 2015.



# Snapshot Current Status 2014

## NASBLA Course Approvals

- Approx. 400 Approved courses
- Over 100 Approved Course Providers

2013 NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
EARNING BOATING EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATE BASED ON  
NATIONAL STANDARDS

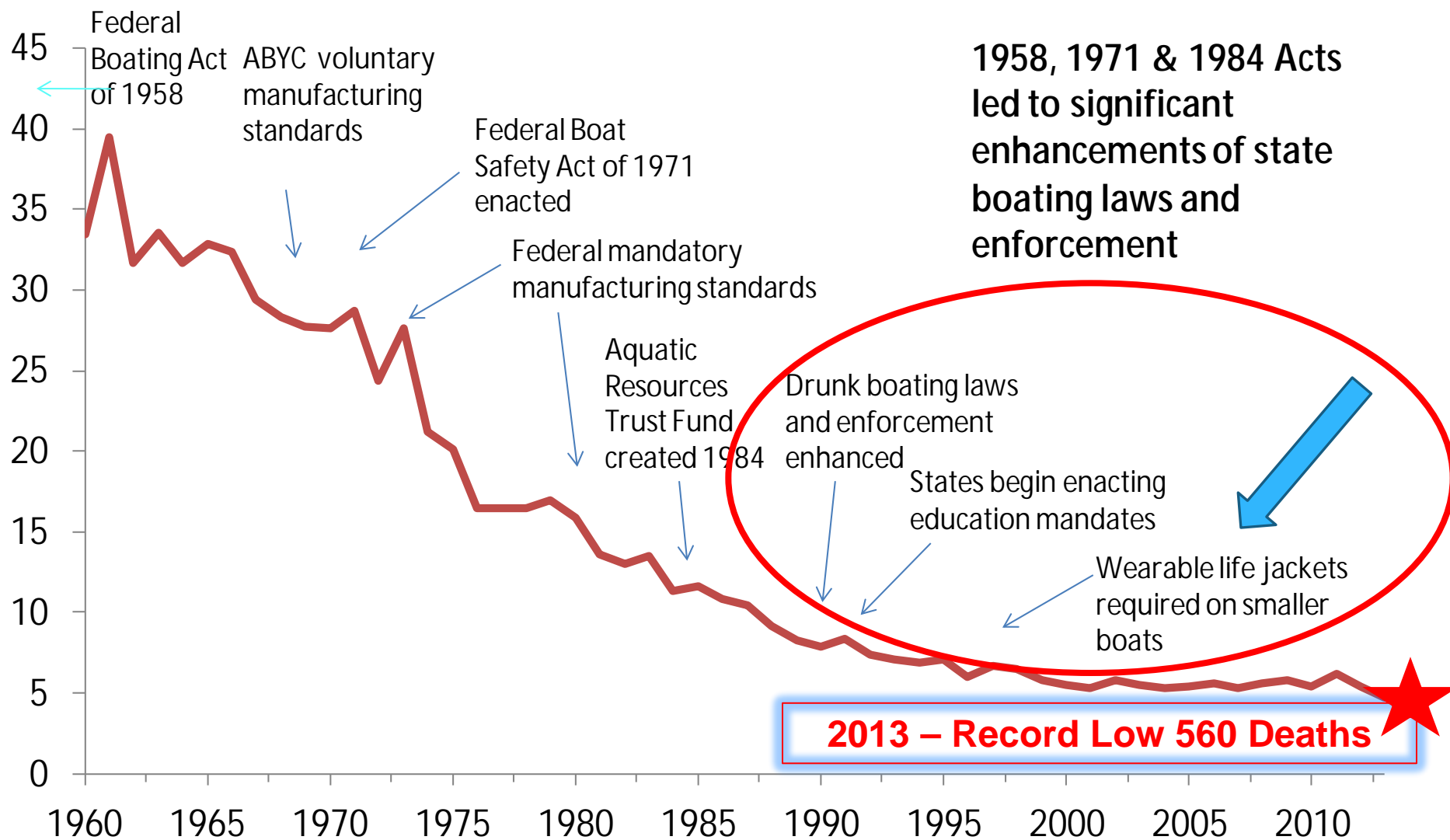
**509,443\***

National Boating Education  
Standards



Education Standards Panel at  
<http://esp.nasbla.org/esp/>

# Fatalities/100,000 Boats



# SafeBoatingCampaign.com

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# WEAR IT!

**ALWAYS  
WEAR YOUR  
LIFE JACKET!**

SafeBoatingCampaign.com

[Wear It Campaign](#)[Educational](#)[Communications](#)[Evaluation](#)[Site Index](#)[Mobile-Friendly Site](#)

## From State to State, "Wear It!" is Everywhere

[Boating Safety Sidekicks](#)[Fun in the Sun Contest](#)[Ready, Set, Wear It!](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Pledge Card](#)[Take the Pledge!](#)

~~560~~

Goal: 0



# *Questions??*

Contact: [pam@nasbla.org](mailto:pam@nasbla.org)

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators  
[www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org) 859.225.9487



# Presenters

## **Brian Kempf**

Senior Marine Service Representative  
New York State (NYS) Office of Parks and  
Recreation and Historic Preservation



# NEW YORK STATE BOATING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS



Brian Kempf, BLA State of New York

## NEW YORK SAFE BOATING



# History of Boater Education

- New York boater education requirement established in 1959 for youths
- PWC operators phased in from 1999 to 2004
- All boat operators born after May 1, 1996



# Boat Operators

- Anyone born on or after May 1, 1996. (Eff 5/1/14)
  - Youths less than 18 years of age may operate a motor boat without a certificate when accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older who is either:
    - A holder of a boating safety certificate
    - Born before May 1, 1996
  - Adults 18 years of age or older, who are required to hold a certificate, may operate a motor boat without a certificate when accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older who is the holder of a certificate





# Personal Watercraft Operators

- 14 years of age and complete a boating safety course
- Or accompanied by someone 18 years of age or older who has a boating safety certificate



# What satisfies these requirements?

- US Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Safety Course
- US Power Squadron Boating Safety Course
- New York Safe Boating Course



# Exemptions

- NY Safe Boating Course Instructors
- USCGA or USPS Members
- NYS licensed Public Vessel Operators
- US or Canadian Coast Guard licensed operators





# Exemptions

- Police Officers, Peace Officers, Firefighter, lifeguard and Emergency Rescue Personnel when acting pursuant to their duties
- Out of state residents with an approved boating safety certificate from their home state
- Owner of a boat purchased within the previous 120 days



# Boat Rentals

## Livery Exemption

- Liveries may rent a boat to an operator without a certificate provided:
  - The person is at least 18 years of age
  - The livery demonstrates the operation of such vessel and location of safety equipment
  - The renter is able to demonstrate the information back to the livery
  - The vessel is not rented to the same person for a period exceeding 60 days



# PWC Rentals

- Must be 16 to rent with a boating safety certificate
- Persons without a boating safety certificate may rent and operate a personal watercraft if:
  - They are at least 18 years of age.
  - Remain within 2500 feet of the rental business or within 500 feet of a provided guide





# Online Education

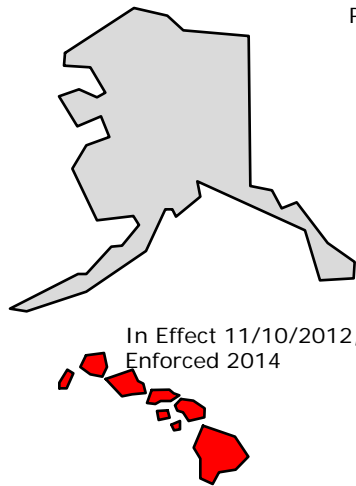
- Commissioner of OPRHP is authorized to approve internet-based boating safety courses at his or her discretion
- On-line options being examined



# States Requiring Motorboat Operator or PWC Proof of Certification

As of October 18, 2013

Phased in by 1/1/2016



**AS** **GU** **CNMI**



**Ed Req – PWCs Only; for Certain Ages Only; or Rentals Only**



**Education Req – Certain Ages Only  
(Usually preteens &/or teens &/or young adults only)**



**Education Req – Birthday-based**

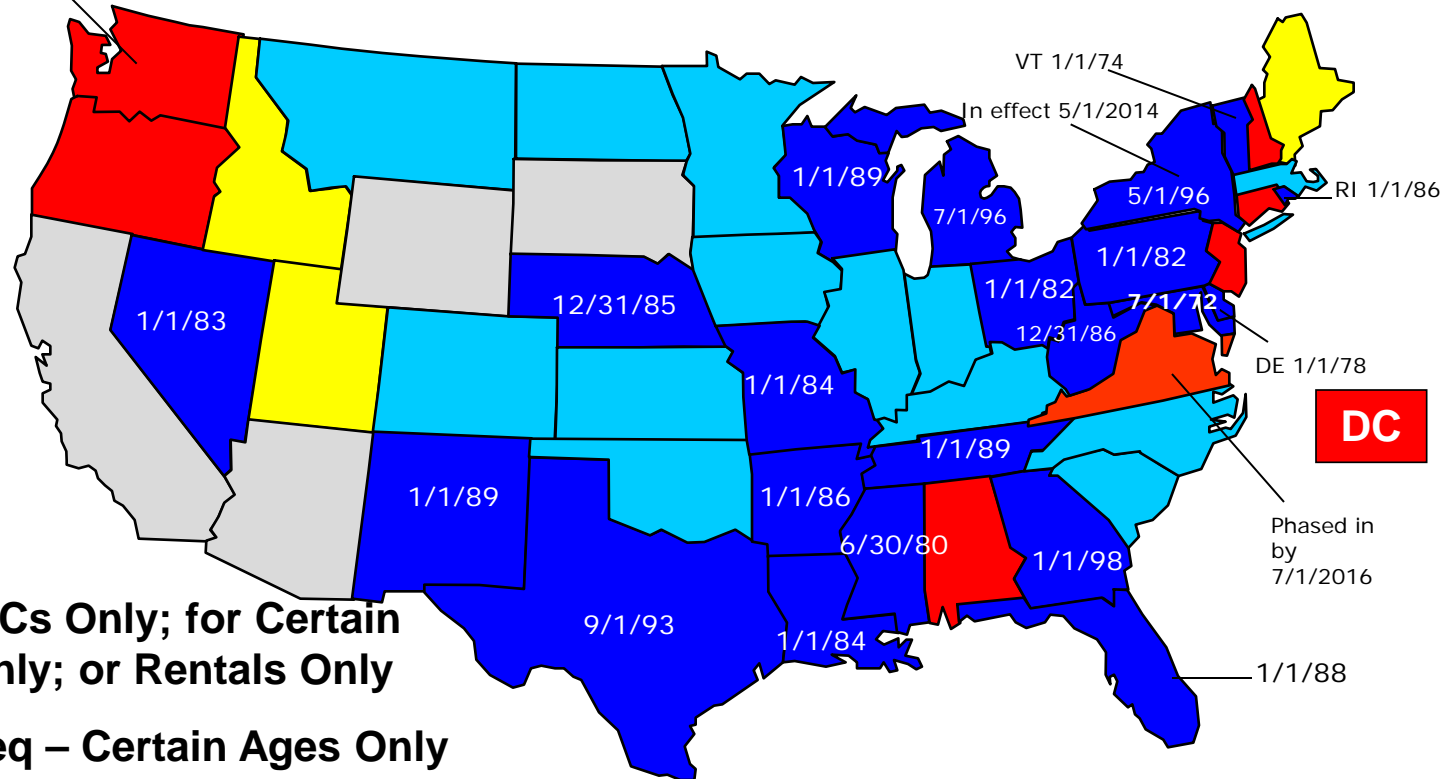


**Short-Term Phase-In & May Require Operator's License**



**No Boating Education Requirements**

Note that each state has unique requirements that may impact different age operators. Some states have additional requirements for PWC or non-motorized operation which may not be reflected in this illustration.



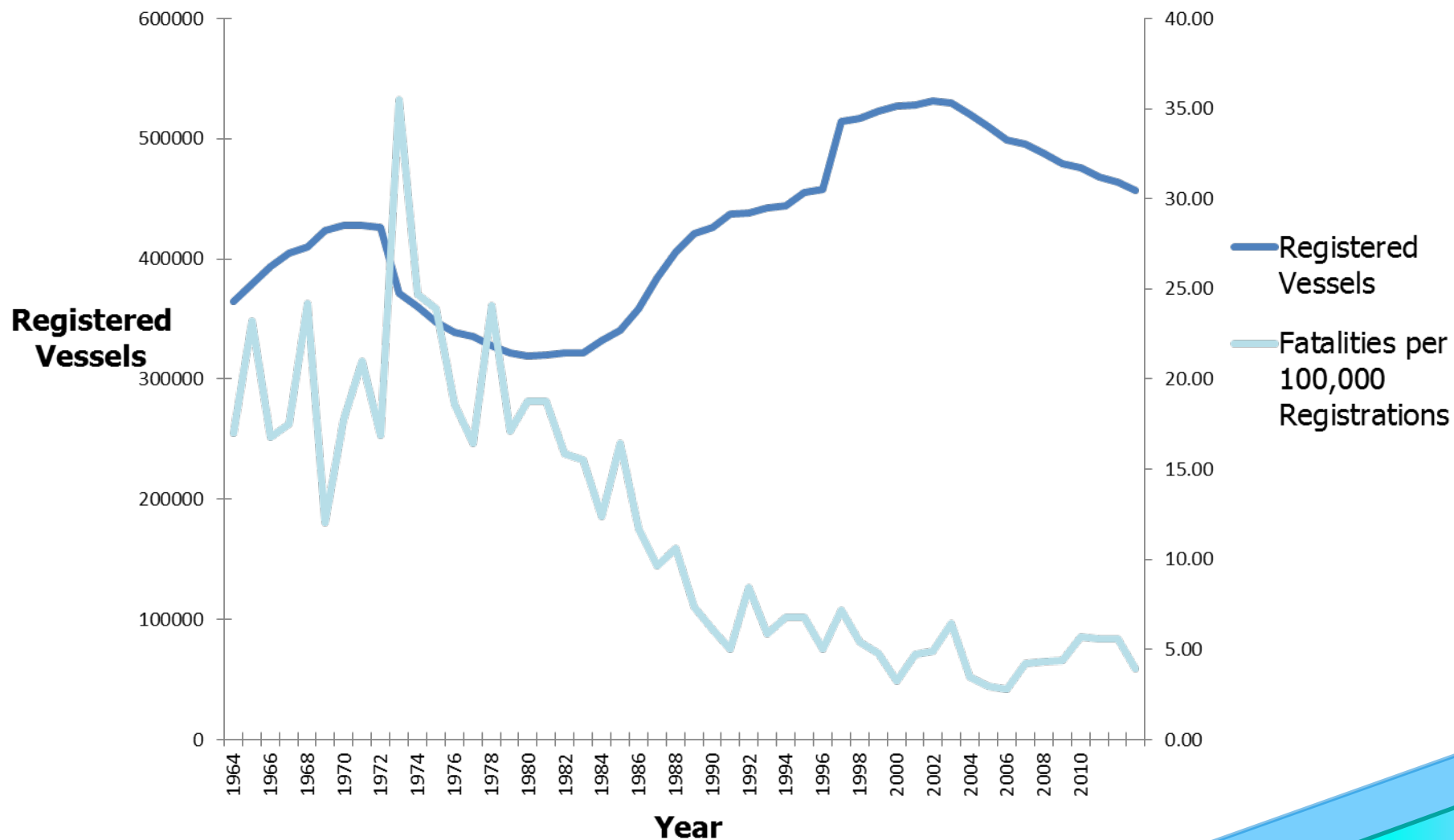
7/1/72

**PR**

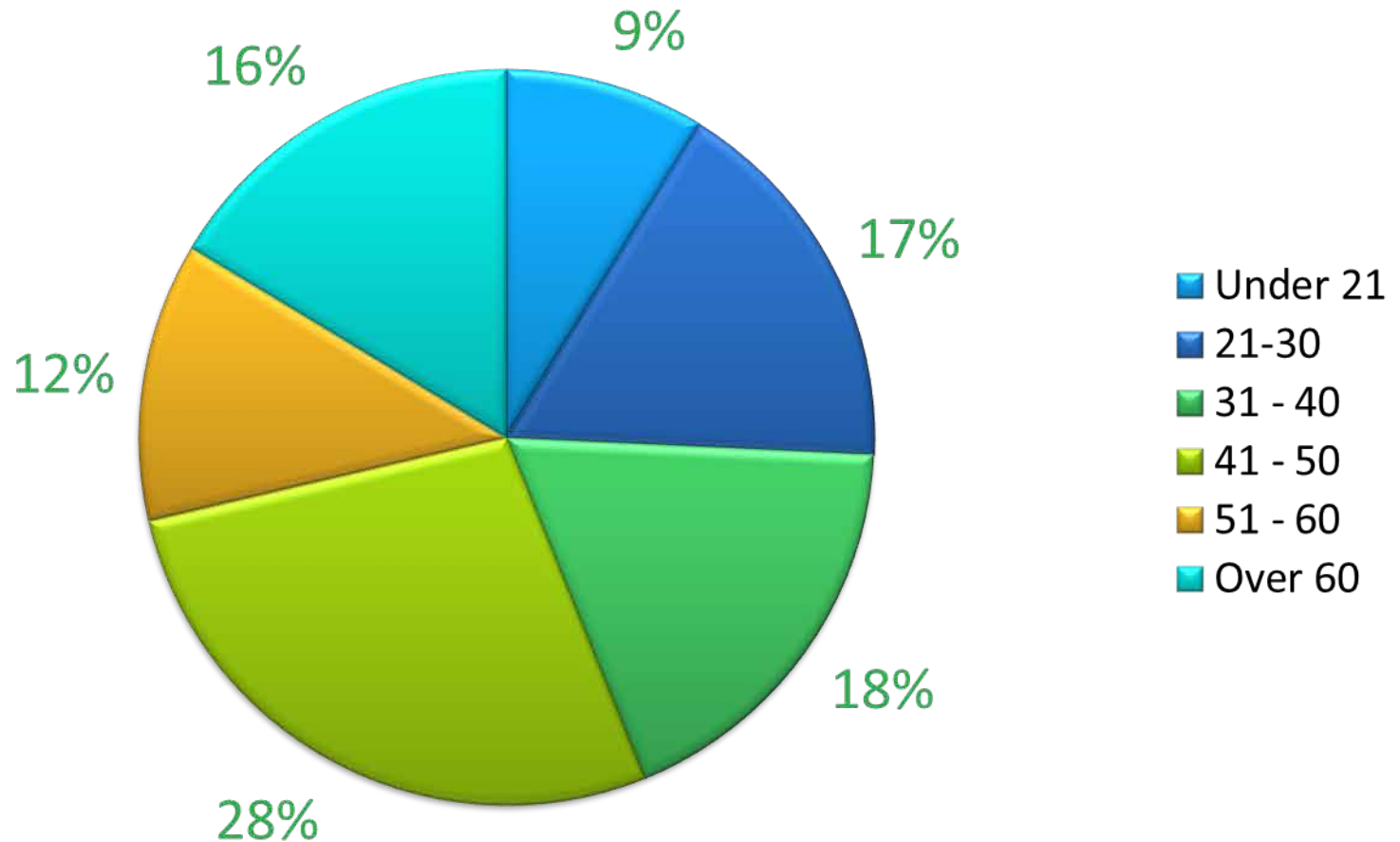
**VI**

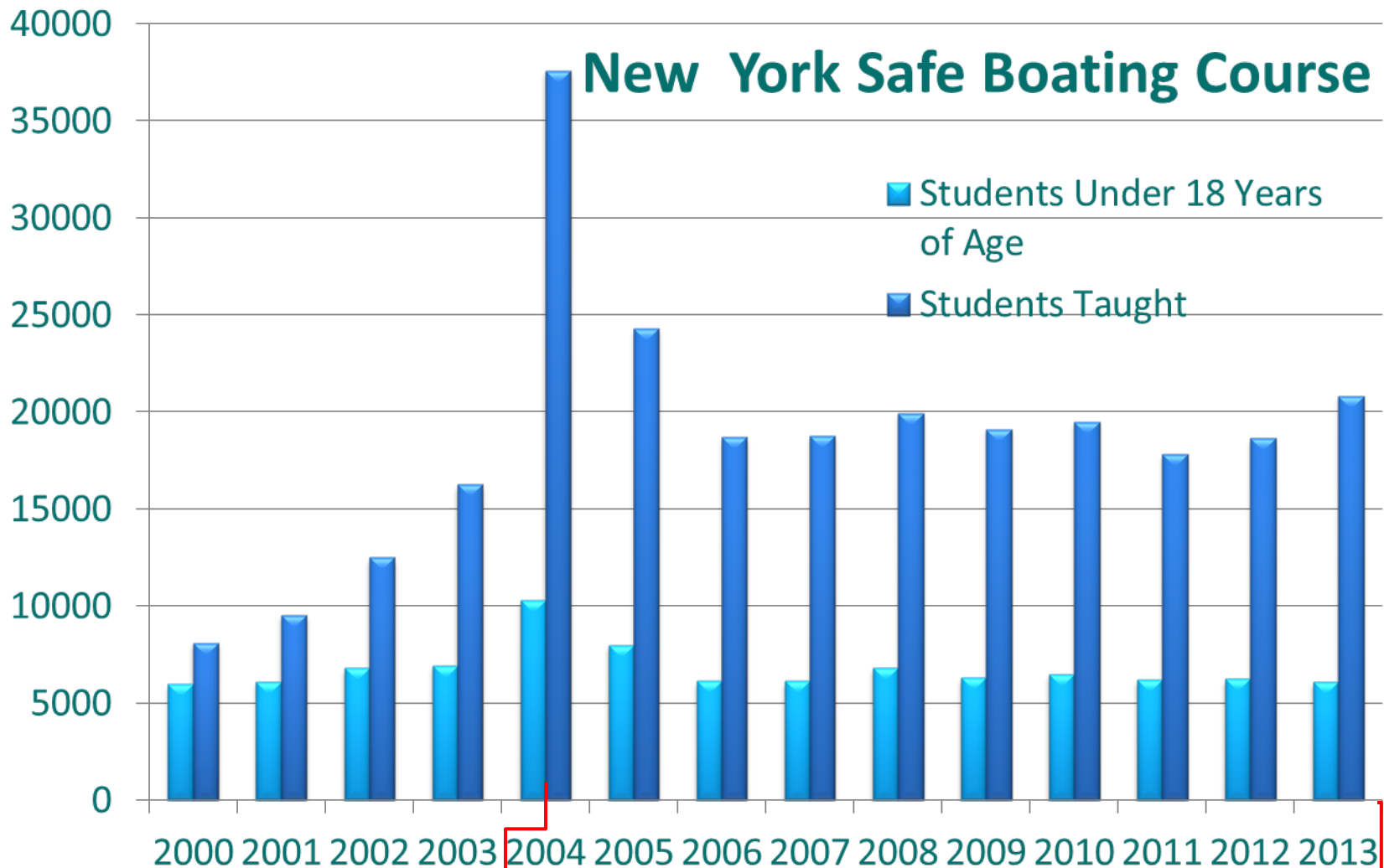


# Registrations and Fatalities/100,000 Registrations



## Age of Operator in Fatal Accidents 2005-2013





PWC Law  
Takes Affect 2004

Born on or After Law  
Takes Affect 2014





518.474.0445 | On the web: [nysparks.com/recreation/boating](http://nysparks.com/recreation/boating)



New York State Parks  
Marine Services Bureau  
Albany, NY 12238

# Presenters

**Wade Alonzo**

Boating Program Manager

Washington State Parks and Recreation  
Commission





# Boating Safety in Washington State

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**Wade Alonzo**

Boating Program Manager  
Washington State Parks and  
Recreation Commission



















**SHERIFF**













# Boating Safety Advisory Council

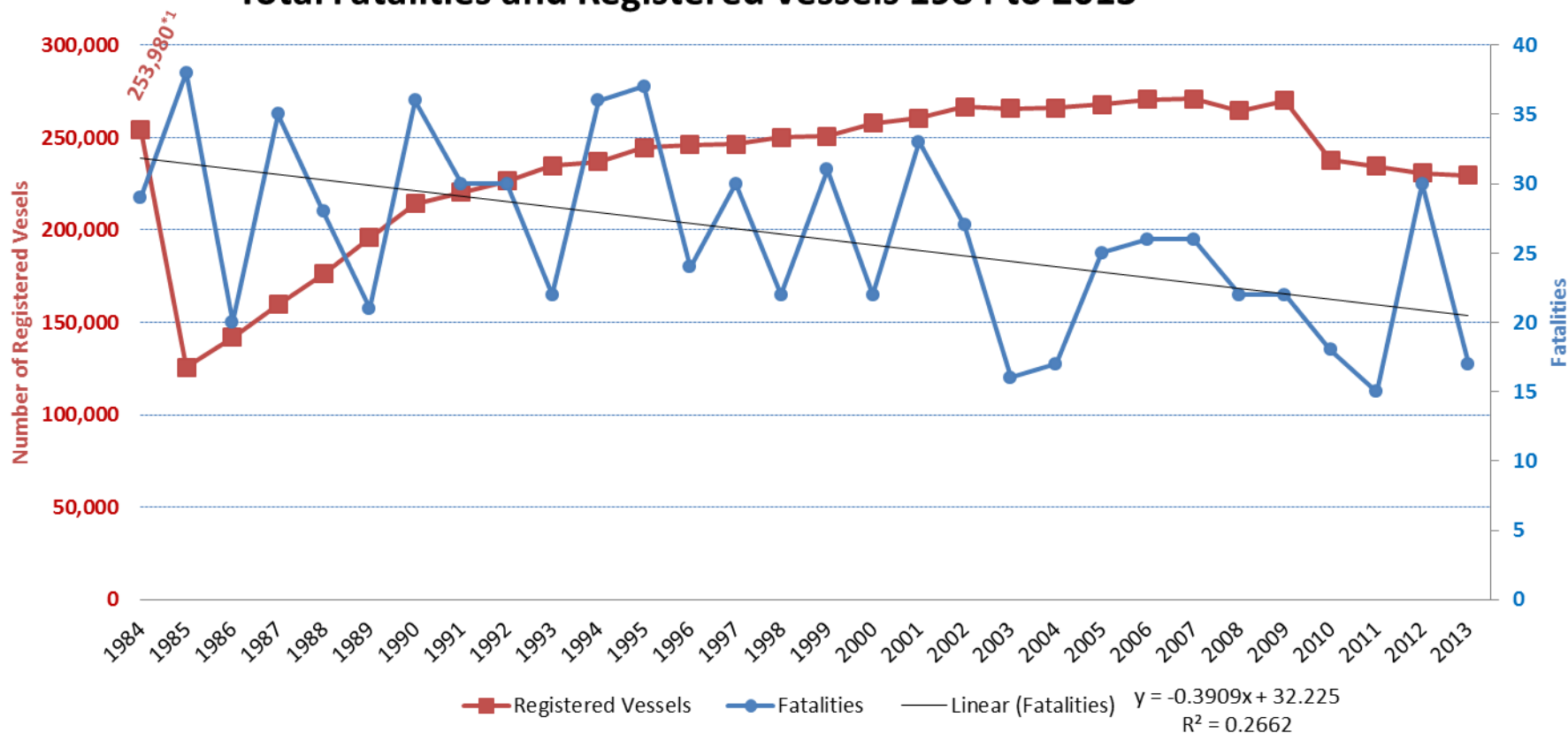
- } Robert Miller, US Power Squadrons
- } Dan Shipman, 13th Dist, USCG
- } Jan Visser, Pac. Int'l Yachting Assoc.
- } Peter Schrappen, NW Marine Trade Assoc.
- } Raymond Williams, Unaffiliated Boaters
- } Sheriff Bill Benedict, Wa. Assoc. of Counties
- } Gerald Hodge, Wa. Water Trails Assoc.
- } Bonita M. Harding, USCG Auxiliary
- } Frances Troje, Kayakers
- } John Dawson, Rec. Boating Assoc. of Wa.
- } Bonney Lake Police Chief, Dana Powers
- } Paul Wenzel, Anglers & Hunters
- } Nigel Malden, Personal Watercraft Owners
- } Mary Roberts, Educators
- } **Kathy Williams, Injury Prevention, WA DOH**

**Poll: How many of you are involved in your states boating safety program?**

# Fatality Data (1984-2013)

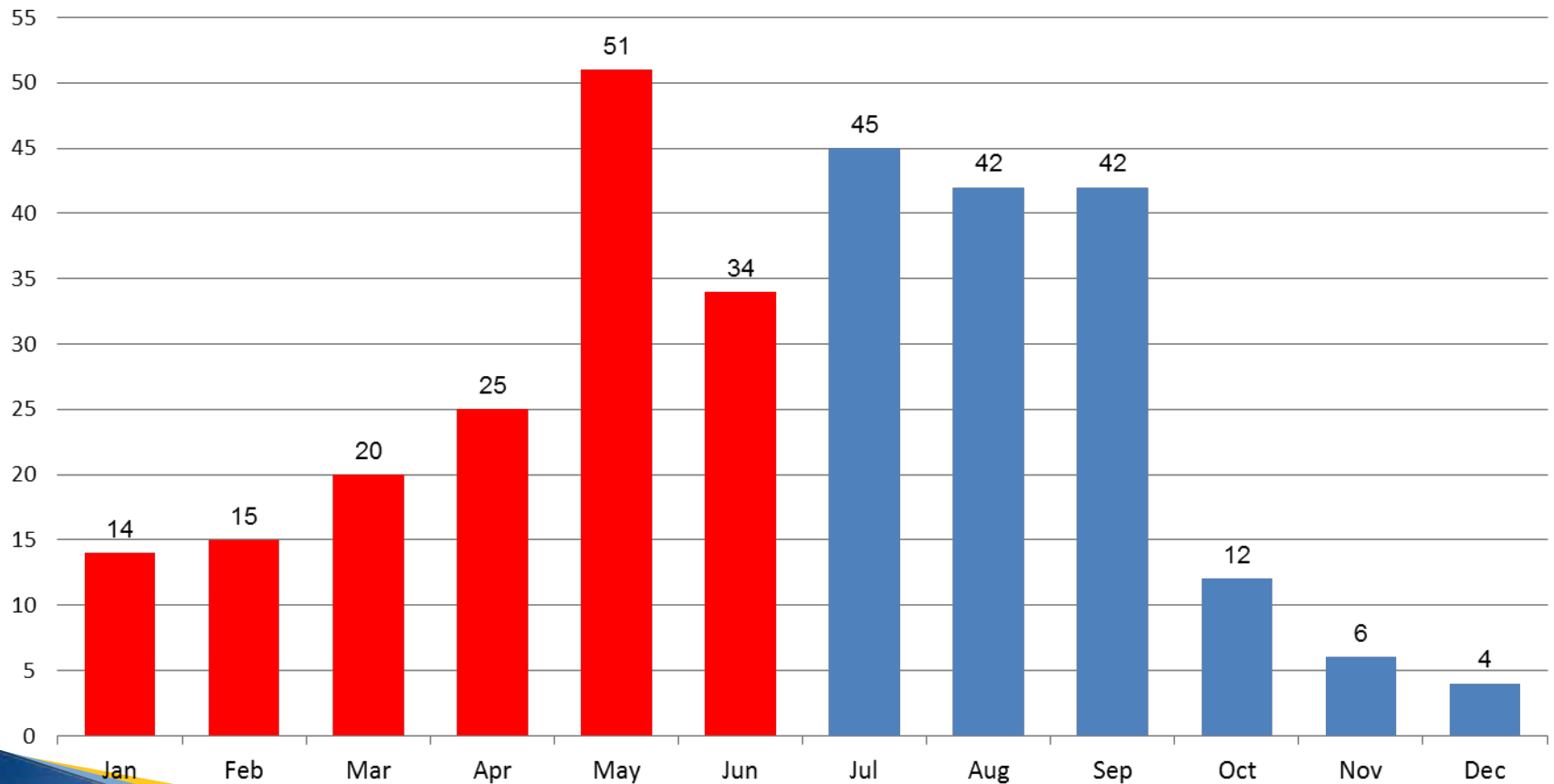
Poll: What is the month with most fatalities?

**Washington State Recreational Boating Statistics  
Total Fatalities and Registered Vessels 1984 to 2013**



\*1 Note that in 1984, vessels were still registered by the USCG. The number of vessels registered is a combination of actual registered vessels and estimates of those vessels that were required to register but were not. The actual number was likely much closer to 125K.

# Fatality Data (2001 – 2013)



# High Priority Customers

Men  
over 40

High  
Impact  
Counties

Boats  
less than  
20 feet

Freshwater  
Boaters

New &  
**Casual**  
Boaters

Paddle  
Sports

Youth

**Poll: Which audience do you think Washington paddling experts and ACA pointed out as a priority for injury prevention efforts?**

# High Priority Issues

Over  
Confidence

PFD  
Wear

Cold  
Water  
Shock

Capsizing  
and  
Overboard

Safety  
Gear

Alcohol  
and BUI




# Lake Washington – August 2012



- } BUI more dangerous than DUI?
- } Affects exaggerated on the water
- } BUI vs. DUI....different cultural norms.

# BUI presents unique issues for Law Enforcement

- 
- } How do you conduct a field sobriety test on a moving platform?
  - } What do you do with the boat if the operator is impaired?
  - } Time intensive...one BUI can end an officers day of patrol.
  - } Unfamiliar to prosecutors and judges.



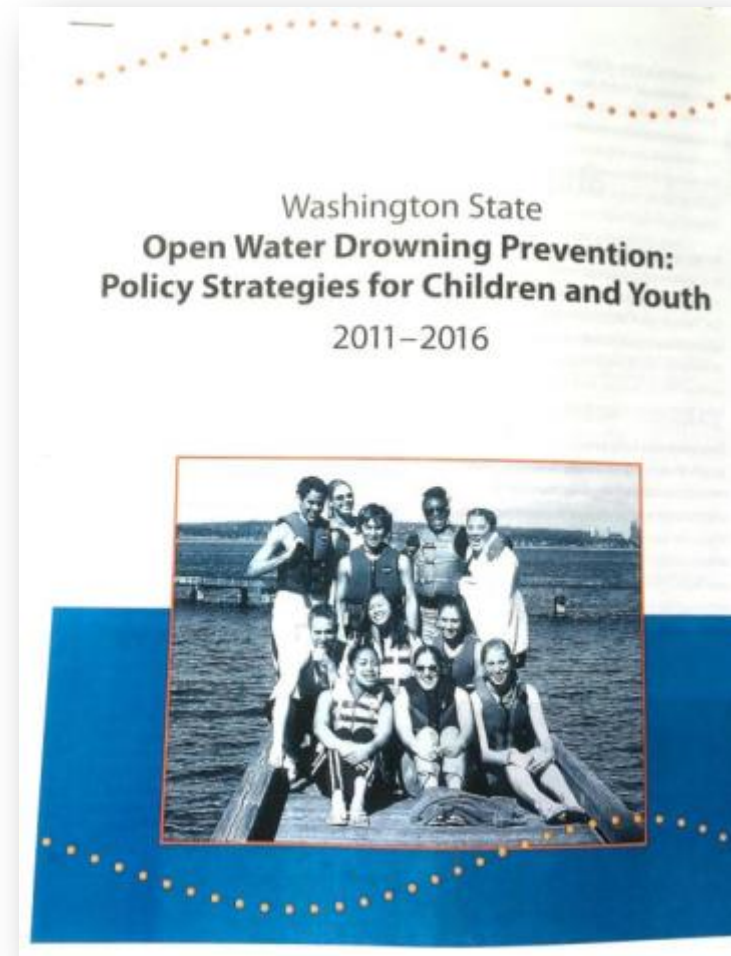
# Washington BUI Statistics

A grayscale background image showing two people on a boat. One person, wearing a cap and a dark shirt, is holding a camera up to take a photo of another person. The second person is partially obscured by a large black rectangular redaction box. The boat has a white cabin and a light fixture on top.

- } From 2005 – 2011 alcohol involved in 30% of WA boating fatalities (probably more) and 18% of injury accidents
- } From 2000-2009 at least 26% of child and youth fatalities involved alcohol

# Washington's BUI Law

- } Prior to 2013, WA had the weakest BUI law in the West
- } 2011 – 2016 Drowning Prevention Policy Plan – laid out a path to reduce drowning.




# Washington's BUI Law

## } 2012

- May - policy discussion with WASPC BSC
- June & July - Meeting of state partners...What would be a deterrent?
- September - Stakeholder outreach
- November - WASPC and agency support
- December - Legislative sponsors, meetings...off to the races

# Final Law

- } Gross misdemeanor – Up to \$5K / 364 days in jail
  - } Implied Consent = \$2K fine for refusing breathalyzer test
  - } Includes references to marijuana
  - } NO tie to drivers license or elevating penalty scheme
- 


# Keys to success

- } Start with common, deeply held values
- } Have data to back up your position
- } Consensus of stakeholders
- } Division of labor
- } Over communicate...transparency
- } Surround yourself with amazing partners (like WA DOH, Children's Hospital and WDFW)





# We're not done....

- } Kathy Williams (WA DOH) leading an effort to evaluate our law
  - } Working with Celeste Chung (Children's Hospital) & Marla Peters (WA DOH)
  - } Developing:
    - A Logic model
    - Formal evaluation plan
    - Survey Monkey for prosecutors
    - Key informant interviews for MLE, Judges, others
    - Survey of our boaters
    - BUI Bench book
    - Communication plan
- 

# Thank You!

## Wade Alonzo

Boating Program Manager  
[wade.alonzo@parks.wa.gov](mailto:wade.alonzo@parks.wa.gov)  
Office: (360) 902-8836



# Thank you for your participation



Please take a moment to complete our short  
evaluation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KC9N8BM>