



2012 National Recreational Boating Survey Fact Sheet

Boating by Type of Body of Water

December 2014

About the 2012 National Recreational Boating Survey (NRBS)

The NRBS is a nationwide survey that gathers data about the number and types of recreational boats, their use and characteristics of their owners and boating participants. The 2012 survey was conducted by ICF International, and collected data about 30,000 boat owning households, and 17,000 recreational boating participants, and more than 80,000 boating trips. The survey summary report can be downloaded from the Boating Safety Division's website (www.uscgboating.org).

The NRBS Fact Sheets

A series of fact sheets, each focusing on a specific topic, will be produced and made available to the boating community. Each Fact Sheet will cover additional analyses not included in the overall 2012 NRBS Report. This fact sheet focuses on the different types of waters on which recreational boating occurs.

Types of water on which recreational boating took place in 2012.

- In 2012, approximately 57% of the estimated 244 million boating days took place on inland lakes. It is estimated that boaters logged over 2 billion exposure hours on inland lakes.
- Approximately 21% of all boating days and 649 million hours of boating representing 18.1% of all exposure hours took place on the nation's rivers.
- Almost a quarter of the total hours of recreational boating in 2012 took place either on oceans and gulfs (253 million hours) or on bays (621 million hours).

- The fatality rate calculated as ratio of the number of deaths per 100 million exposure hours was highest for rivers with approximately 27 deaths. The bays have the lowest fatality rate with 12 deaths per 100 million exposure hours.

Table 1: 2012 Exposure hours by type of water

Body of Water	Exposure Hours (Millions)	2012 Fatalities per 100 Million Exposure Hours	2012 Boating Accidents per 100 Million Exposure Hours
Lakes	2,051	17	94
Rivers	649	27	134
Bays	621	12	157
Ocean/Gulf	253	17	117
Other & Unknown	9	0	33
All	3,583	18	113

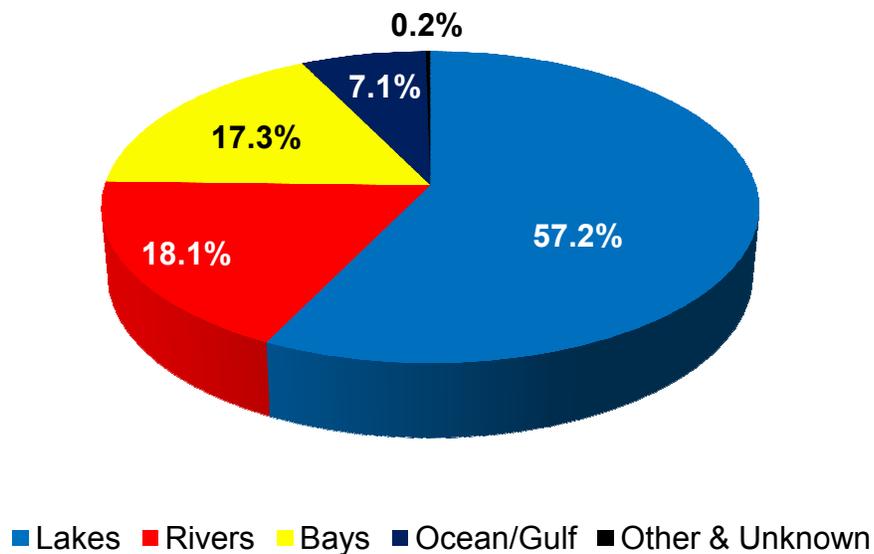


Figure 1: Distribution of Exposure Hours by Body of Water (%)

Types of boats used on the different bodies of water

- Powerboats were used most often on freshwater. Only 23% of powerboat days and 24.2% of hours took place on saltwater. Powerboats logged 86 million days and a total of 1.4 billion hours on freshwater, which accounts for 69.2% of all power boat exposure hours. Most of freshwater exposure hours (76.4%) occurred on inland lakes.
- About 60% of the 153 million hours logged by sailboats took place on saltwater. About 58% of these exposure hours or 88 million hours were spent on oceans, gulfs, or bays. About one third of sailboat use took place on inland lakes.
- About 92% of the days and 90% of the hours for pontoon boats use occurred on freshwater and mostly on inland lakes.
- In 2012 paddlecrafts were used primarily on lakes and rivers. However, kayakers spent close to 100 million exposure hours on saltwater and brackish water. Rowboats and inflatables exhibited a similar pattern of use.

Table 2: 2012 Exposure hours (in millions of hours) by type of water and boat type

Boat Type	Freshwater	Saltwater	Brackish Water	Unknown	Total
Powerboat	1,407	492	128	7	2,034
Sailboat	47	92	14	0	153
Pontoon	207	9	4	1	220
PWC	170	31	8	2	212
Canoe	312	43	6	0	362
Kayak	180	68	31	0	280
Row/Inf/Other	202	101	19	0	322
All Boats	2,524	836	211	11	3,583

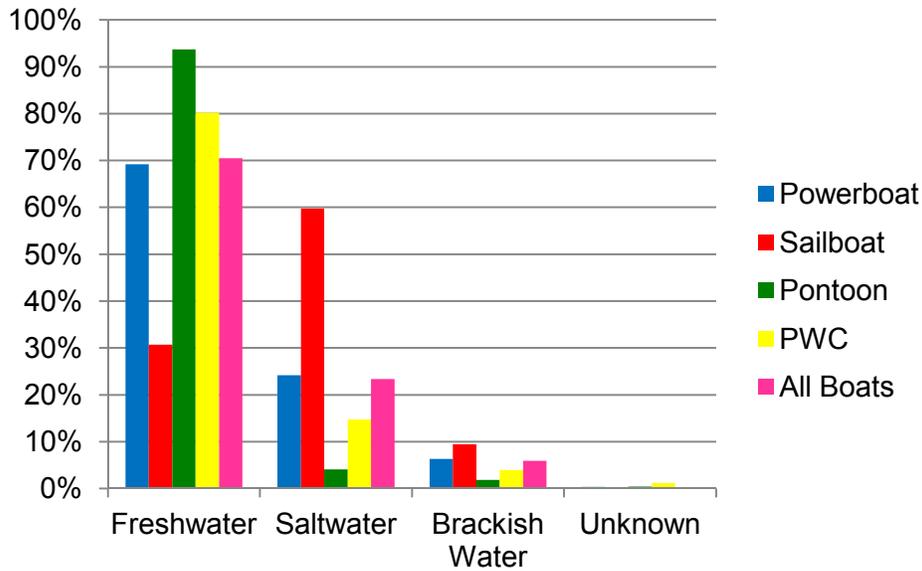


Figure 2: Distribution of Exposure Hours by Body of Water and Boat Type for Paddlecraft and all Boats (%)

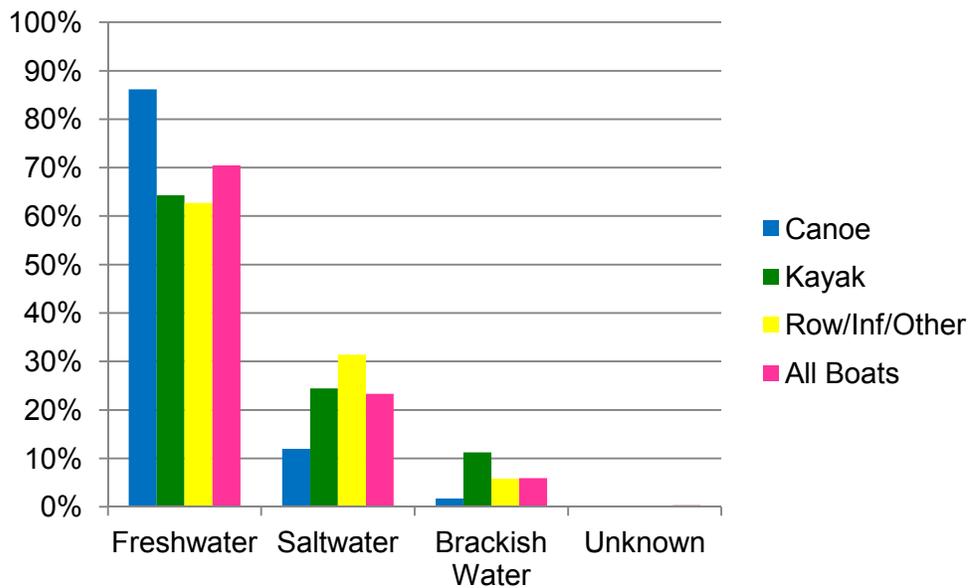


Figure 3: Distribution of Exposure Hours by Body of Water and Boat Type for Paddlecraft and all Boats (%)

Table 3: 2012 Exposure hours (in millions of hours) by type of bodies of water and boat type

Boat Type	Body of Water					
	Lakes	Rivers	Bays	Ocean	Other/ Unknown	Total
Powerboat	1,135	370	366	159	4	2,034
Sailboat	50	14	60	28	1	153
Pontoon	187	24	8	1	0	220
PWC	147	23	30	11	1	212
Canoe	213	111	23	14	1	362
Kayak	137	75	41	26	0	280
Row/Infl./Other	182	33	92	15	1	322
All Boats	2,051	649	621	253	9	3,583

Definitions:

Exposure Hours (or Boat-Person Hours)

Total number of hours persons are aboard a boat in use out on the water. The “boat-person hours” definition is most commonly used to mean “exposure” or “recreational boating exposure hours” in this report.

Boat Day

Any day that a boat is used out on the water regardless of the amount of time that day it is used.

Recreational Boats

Vessels that are operated out on the water for pleasure and recreation, not for commercial purposes. Recreational boats include: outboard, inboard and stern-drive power boats, jet boats, pontoon boats, houseboats, rowboats, canoes, kayaks, personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis), inflatable boats, kiteboards, sailboards, stand-up paddleboards and various types of sail boats. Recreational boats are also boats rented to be operated by the renter, but they do not include captained charter or party boats, ferries, cruise ships or toy boats