



AUXILIARY PADDLECRAFT (AUXPAD) Overview

References

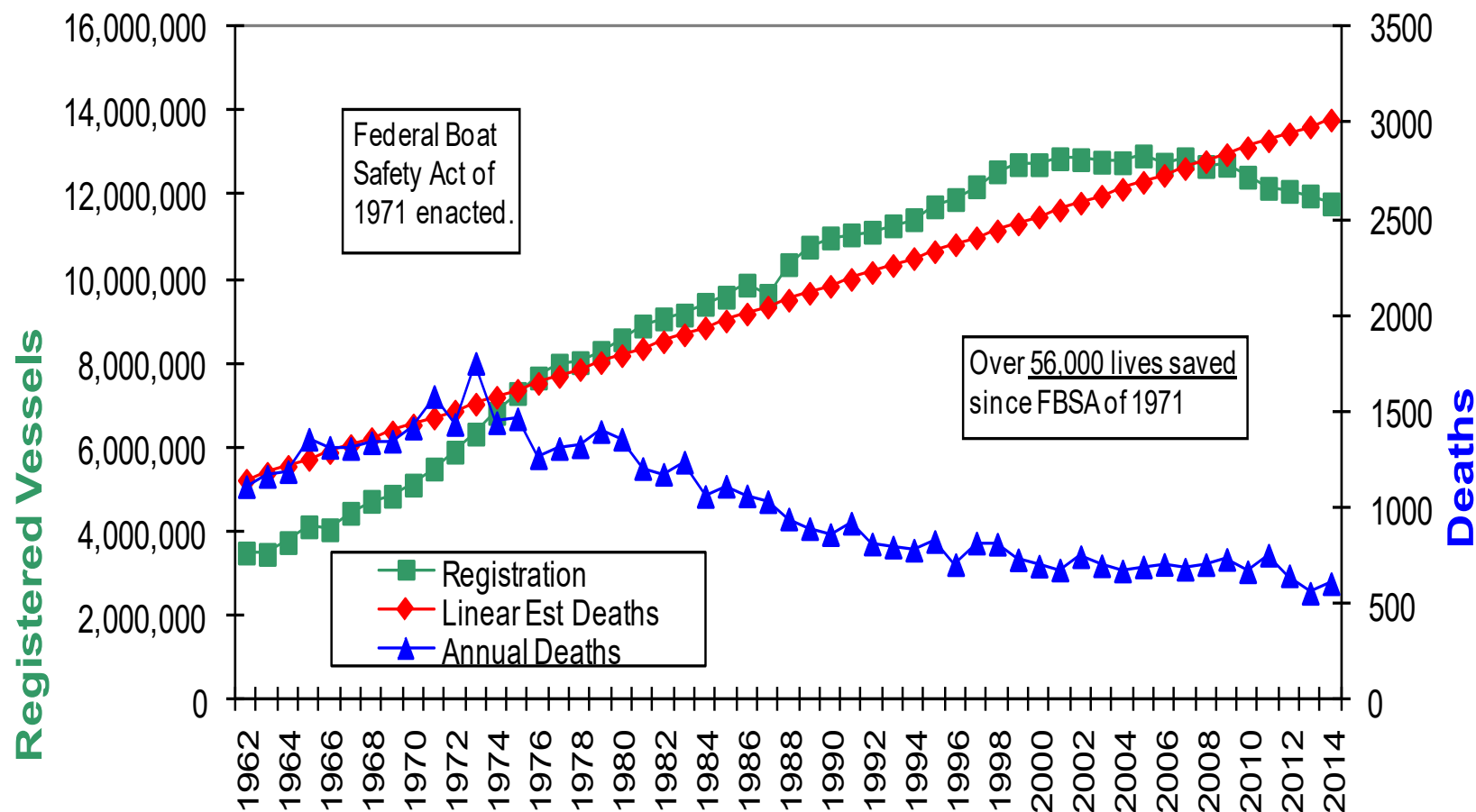
- Commandant's Instruction on AUXPAD dated 08 AUG 2018
https://media.defense.gov/2017/Mar/16/2001717333/-1/-1/0/CI_16794_11.PDF
- Paddle craft VSC
<http://forms.cgaux.org/archive/a7012A.pdf>
- Auxiliary Strategic Plan:
http://cgaux.org/leadership/documents/Strategic_Plan.pdf



Overview

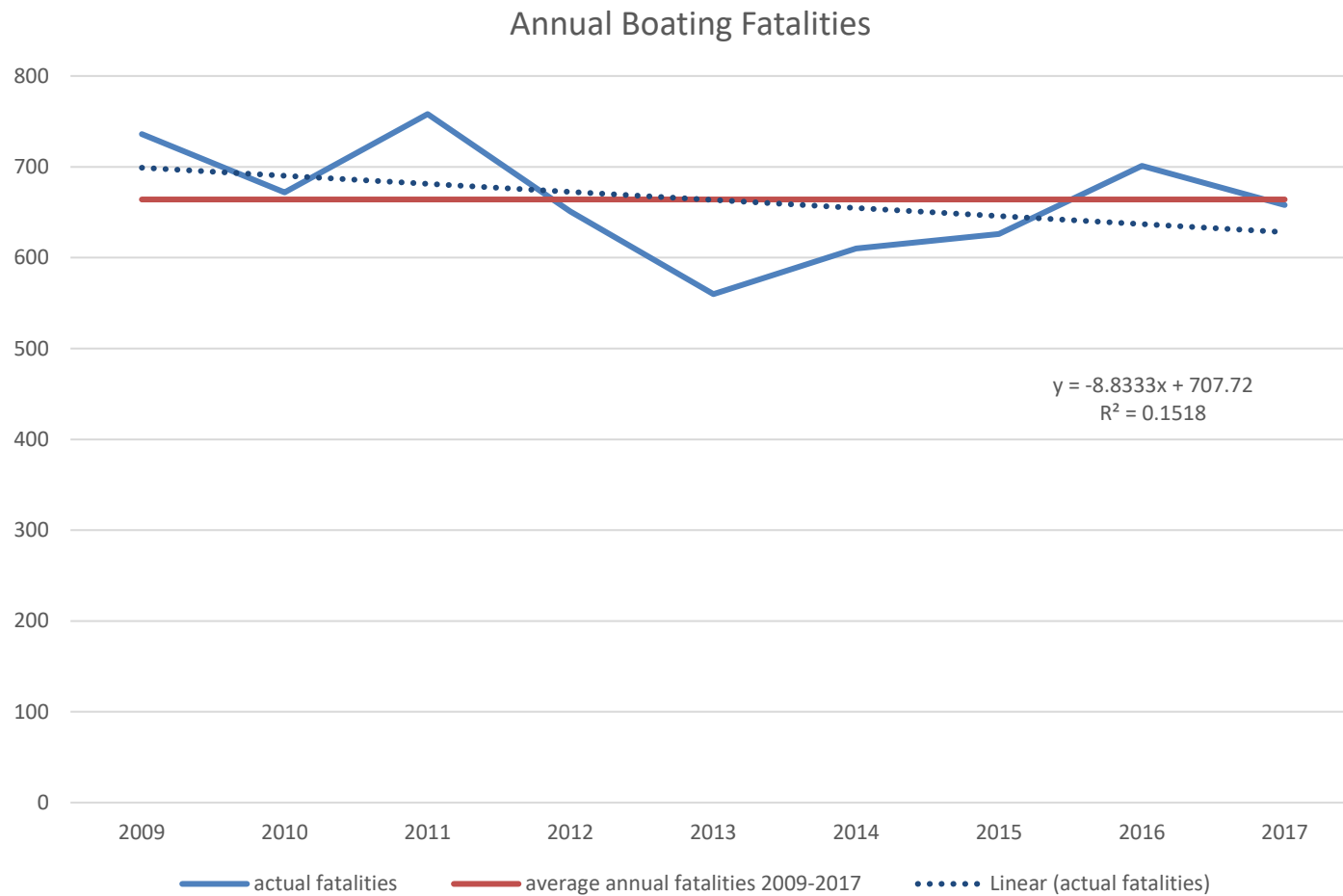
- Introduction and Scope of Problem
- AUXPAD missions
 - Ashore
 - Afloat
- Other resources

Registered Vessels and Deaths 1962-2014



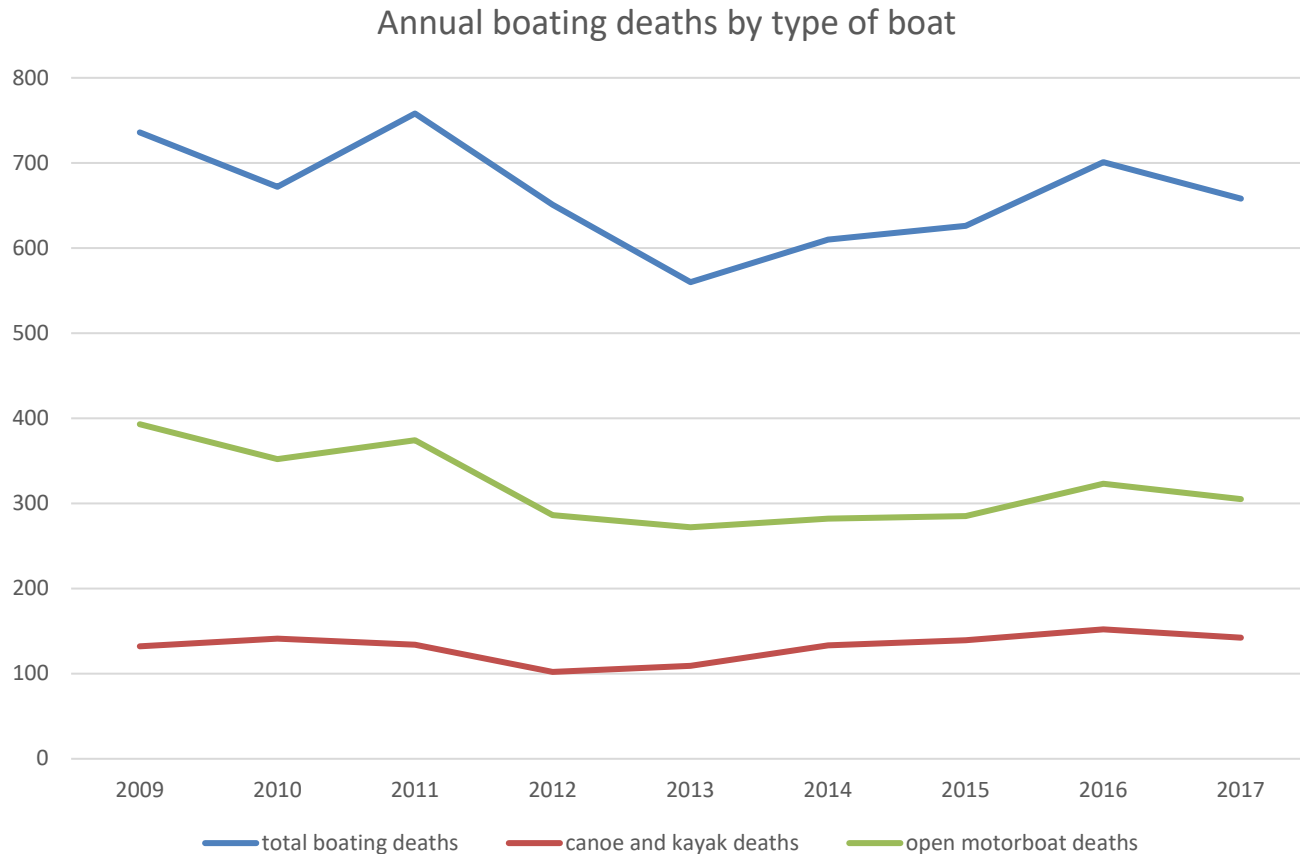


More Recently...



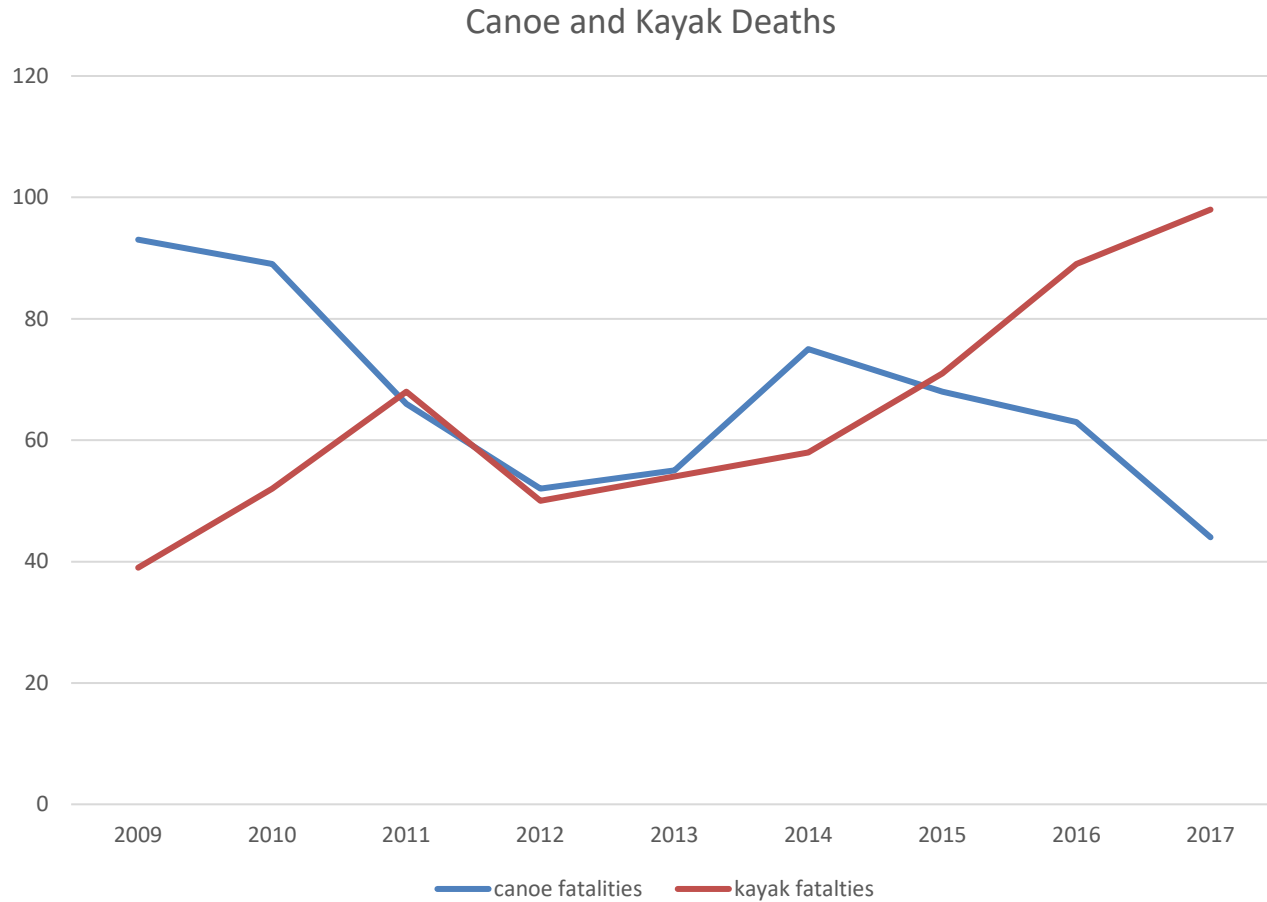


Annual fatalities by craft





Annual fatalities in canoes and kayaks



Scope of Problem

- Paddle craft fatalities make up roughly a quarter of all boating fatalities
- Many paddlers receive little or no instruction before going on the water
- RBS data demonstrate inexperience is a significant factor contributing to fatalities

Big Box Paddle Craft





Contributing Factors for Boating Fatalities

- Open Motorboat
 - Primary contributing factors – poor lookout and inattention
 - Primary type of accident – collisions
- Canoe and Kayak
 - Primary contributing factors – inexperience and hazardous waters
 - Primary type of accident – capsize and falls overboard



Educational Interventions for All Boaters

- For all types of craft
 - Alcohol consumption contributes to about 10% of all accidents but is the leading contributing factor for fatal accidents
 - 80% of all boating deaths are drownings. 80% of drowning victims aren't wearing life jackets.

All boaters need to wear life jackets and abstain from alcohol consumption.

Educational Interventions

- Open Motorboat
 - Give boaters the knowledge and skills to not run into things
- Canoe and Kayak
 - Give boaters the knowledge to recognize, avoid or mitigate hazardous waters, and the skills to prevent or manage capsize and falls overboard

Different boating populations need different educational and safety-related interventions



Expanding Efforts in Paddlecraft Water Safety

- **Goal:** Increase Auxiliary presence and relevance in the paddlecraft community.
- **Activities:** Develop paddlecraft safety advocates.
- **Partner** with the American Canoe Association (ACA) on public education.
- Expand existing programs to provide outreach to the paddlecraft community
- Expand **recruiting** efforts in the paddlecraft community.
- Develop **trained** paddlecraft vessel examiners and instructors.

AUXPAD

- AUXPAD – the USCG Auxiliary Paddle Craft program – seeks to meet the specific unmet safety needs of the paddling community
 - AUXPAD Ashore
 - Provides on-land educational information
 - AUXPAD Afloat
 - Provides on-water example of safe paddling



AUXPAD Missions

- Extend boating safety outreach
- Promote life jacket wear
- Promote compliance with required safety equipment within the paddle craft community
- Create relationships between the Auxiliary and the paddling community.
- Not an operational program – AUXPAD focus is on recreational boating safety

Where does AUXPAD stand?

- 612 Flotilla Commanders surveyed, 225 responses
 - Most aware of AUXPAD
 - Most flotillas offer no or minimal paddlesport programming (generally VSCs)
 - Less than 10 offer any on-water program
 - Strong belief that paddling is an important venue
 - Strong concern about their ability to provide effective programs for paddlers



American Canoe Association and AUXPAD

- All ACA coastal kayak instructors surveyed, 174 responses
 - Roughly half willing to work in cooperation with flotillas to offer some type of paddle sport education
 - Nearly a third expressed interest in joining
 - Strong respect and admiration for USCG but little belief that USCG will offer an effective paddle sport program
 - Strong willingness to work with USCG to share knowledge and skills, and to offer programs



AUXPAD Ashore Outreach

- AUXPAD Outreach Ashore may be executed at a pier, dockside, convention center, store location, classroom or similar venue.
- Ashore activities consist of:
 - Promotional displays-PA
 - Literature distribution to dealers-MDVs
 - Promotion of safety courses and materials- MDVs, PAs
 - Paddle craft vessel safety checks (VSC)-VEs
 - Classroom outreach and instruction-ITs



Paddlecraft VSCs

- May be performed by any Vessel Examiner
- Reported on Form 7012a
- Ideally, VSCs done by competent and knowledgeable paddlers
 - Opportunity to educate
 - Opportunity to develop relationships



Paddlecraft VSCs

- Consider providing at a shop or club meeting
- Ideally NOT done waterside
 - Missing items are often critical safety items
 - Paddlers need a chance to obtain them if missing
 - Consider providing whistles or other small items

"A Paddler's Guide to Safety"

- Only Auxiliarists qualified as an Instructor (IT) are authorized to administer the Coast Guard approved PE class "A Paddler's Guide to Safety", to recreational paddle craft users.





Paddlecraft PAs and PVs

- Opportunity to develop relationships with paddlers, paddling schools, and retailers
 - Share the Coast Guard's boating safety message
 - Recruit new members
 - Develop relationships to help further the Coast Guard's missions



AUXPAD Afloat

- AUXPAD Afloat activities place qualified AUXPAD operators in direct contact with recreational paddle craft users on the water
- Promotes paddle craft safety by personal example
- Not intended to provide search and rescue or other operational missions

AUXPAD Qualifier Training Requirements

- American Canoe Association level 2 coastal kayak instructor certification (24+ hour certification program with explicit skill tests)
- Completion of specific Boat Crew and navigational criteria
- Pass open-book Nav Rules test
- Five-mile paddle in less than 3 hours
- Recertify annually



AUXPAD Operator Training Requirements

- ACA level 2 skill assessment and AQ evaluation
- Completion of specific Boat Crew and navigational criteria
- Pass open-book Nav Rules test
- Five-mile paddle in less than 3 hours
- Recertify annually





AUXPAD PPE

- Red, yellow or orange paddling life jacket with light and whistle (boat crew PFDs may not be appropriate)
- Red or orange wicking shirt for warm weather
- Wet suit or dry suit for cold weather
- Headgear for conditions (e.g., ball cap, boonie hat, helmet, neoprene hood or watch cap)
- Foot wear for conditions (generally paddling shoes or wetsuit booties – no bare feet)
- Gloves or mittens (pogies) for conditions
- Not ODUs!



Specified Gear for Paddle Craft Facilities

Kayak with handles and/or deck lines

- VHF marine radio
- Waterproof flashlight
- Spare paddle
- First aid kit
- Compass
- Dewatering pump
- Tow system
- Notebook and pencil
- Facility label
- If found sticker
- GPS
- Chart
- Phone
- PLB



AUXPAD

Where would we like to go next?

- Identify currently enrolled qualified Auxiliarists
- Expand Ashore and Afloat educational training and resources
- Expand Afloat program to all Districts
- Involve ACA River Kayak instructors (1500+ highly skilled potential participants)



Take Home Messages

- About a quarter of boating fatalities involve paddle craft; most reported paddle craft accidents are fatal accidents
- Paddle craft accidents are not the same as power boat accidents
- Commit resources to reduce fatalities
 - Identify current Auxiliarists
 - Work with expert partners
 - Strengthen educational resources and programs



Other Resources

<http://auxbdeptwiki.cgaux.org/index.php?title=Paddlesports>

This collection includes links to instruction, clubs, and information specific to paddlers' needs in text and video formats

MYCGAux Community of Interest under RBS *Network of interested members and posts with info*

The American Canoe Association provides a wide range of written and video resources, as well as information about AUXPAD for ACA instructors, at:

<https://www.americancanoe.org/page/Resources>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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