

March 2024



BOATING IN CONNECTICUT

A Briefing on Boating Safety



REGISTERED VESSELS IN CONNECTICUT

Connecticut law requires that all vessels with motors, regardless of size, and sailboats powered by sail alone, 19 1/2 feet or longer in length, be registered and numbered before launching.

YEAR	CT REGISTERED VESSELS
2018	93,271
2019	92,175
2020*	87,168
2021	93,074
2022	91,161

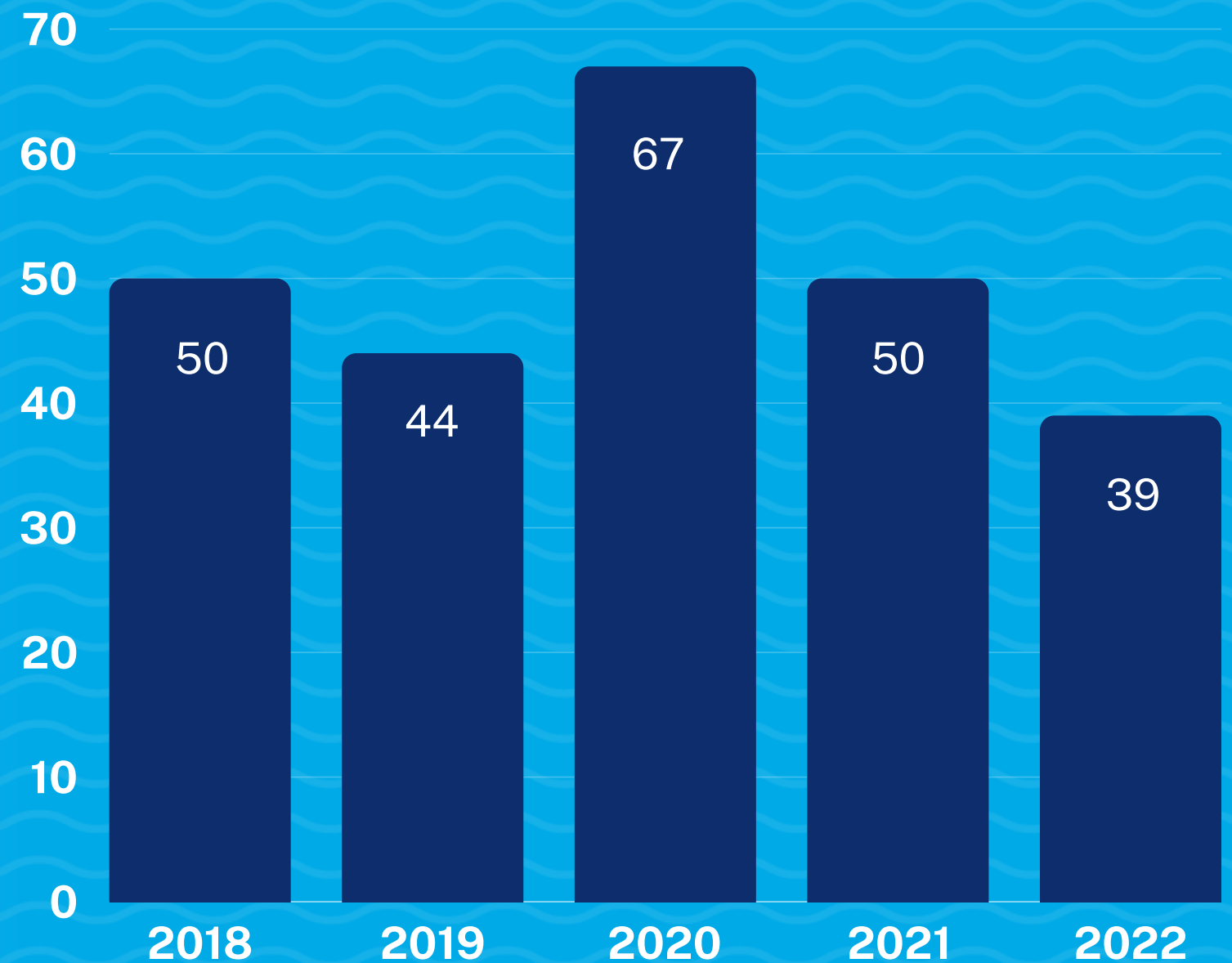
* Decrease in number of CT Registered Vessels – The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) extended the vessel registration renewal expiration date to the end of November of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore many boat owners did not renew their vessel’s registration in 2020.

WHAT MAKES A BOATING INCIDENT REPORTABLE IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT?



The operator of a vessel involved in a boating incident is required to submit an incident reporting form to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) if the incident resulted in the death of any person, injury of a person who requires medical attention beyond first aid, if the incident totals damages to all property affected is in excess of \$500, or if the vessel is a total loss.

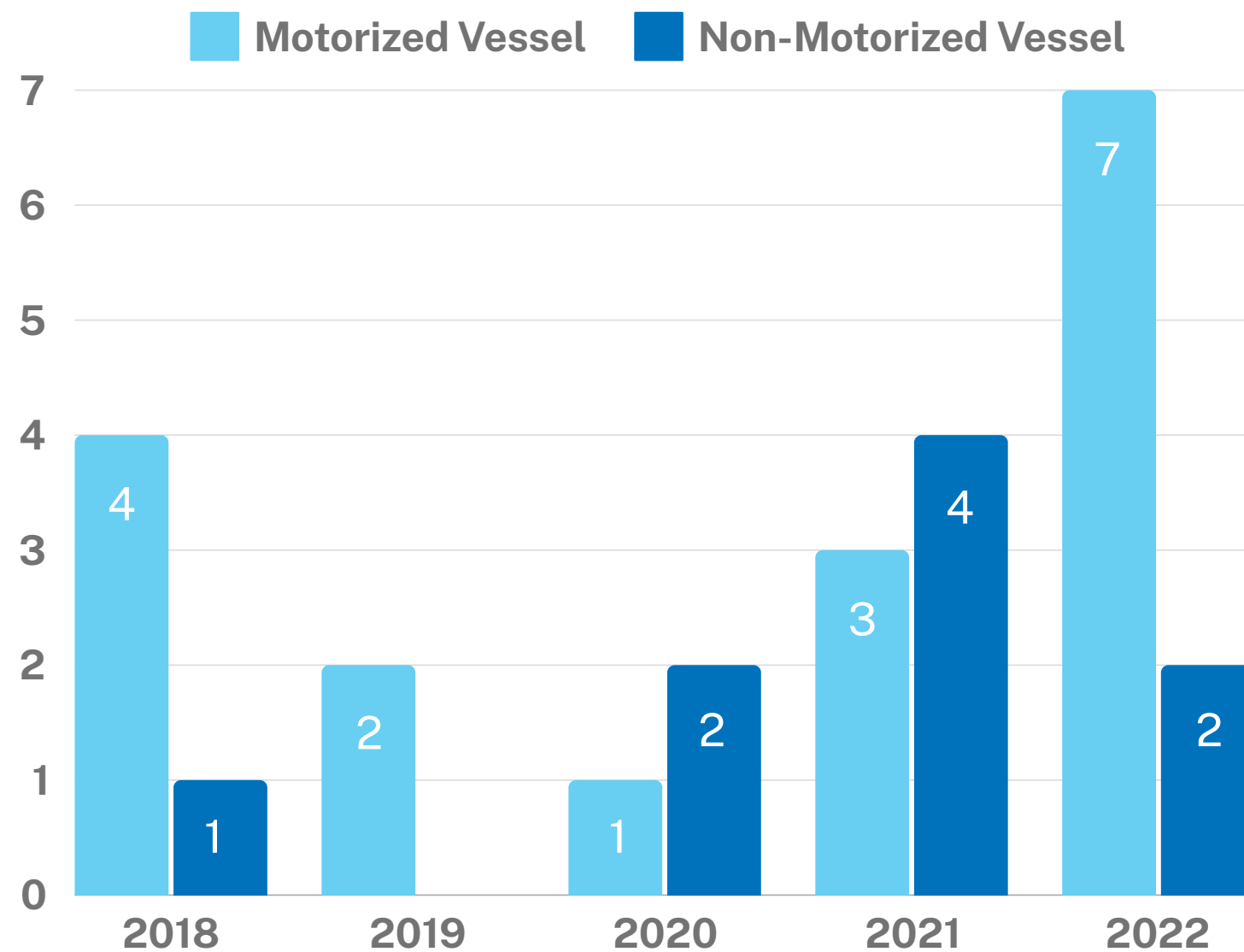
STATEWIDE REPORTABLE BOATING INCIDENTS 2018-2022



This graph represents the total number of reportable boating incidents between 2018 and 2022 in the State of Connecticut.

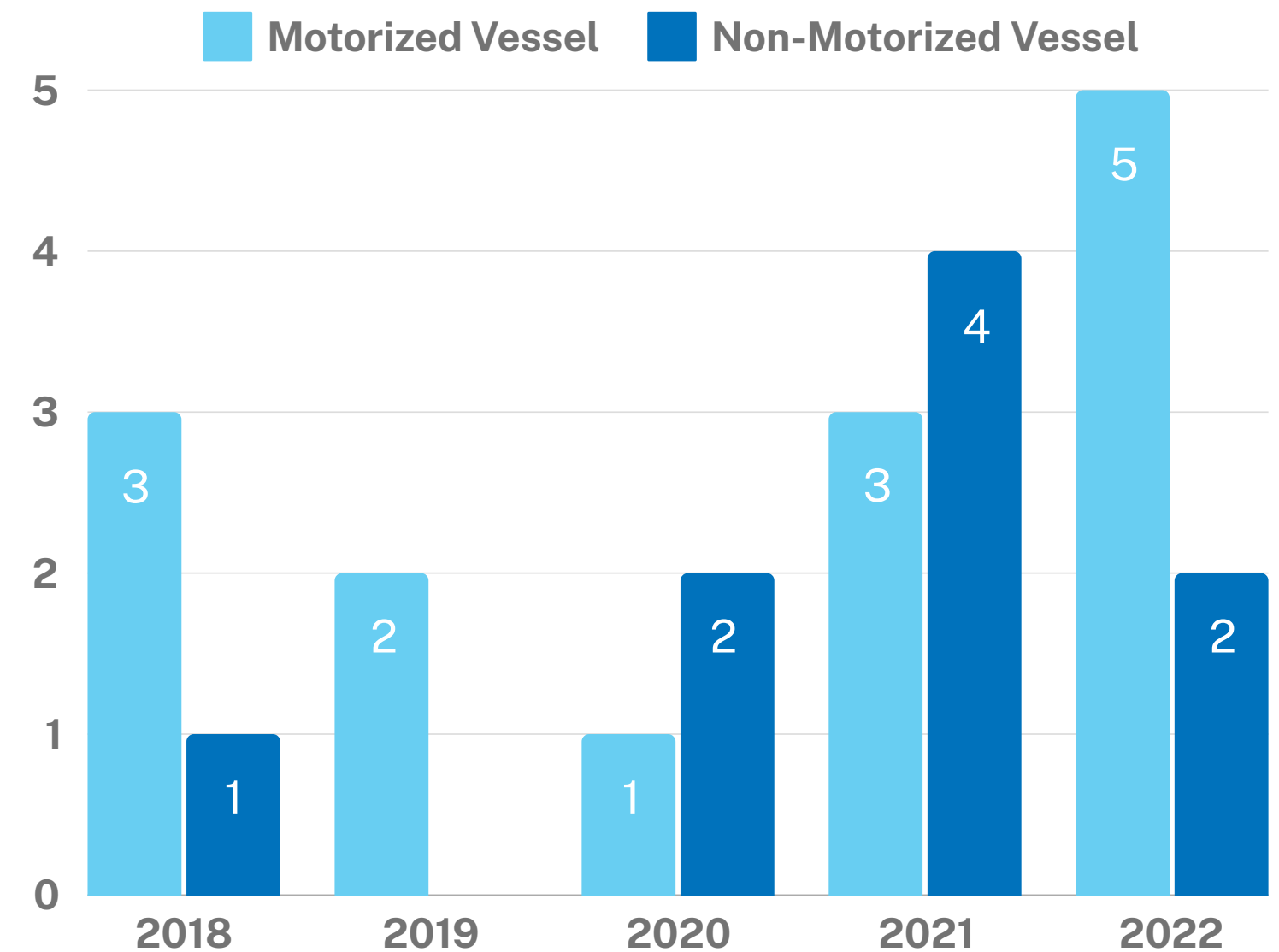
BOATING FATALITIES IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT BOATING FATALITIES BY VESSEL TYPE



This graph represents the total number of fatalities each year and the type of vessel involved in the fatality between 2018 and 2022.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT FATAL BOATING INCIDENTS BY VESSEL TYPE

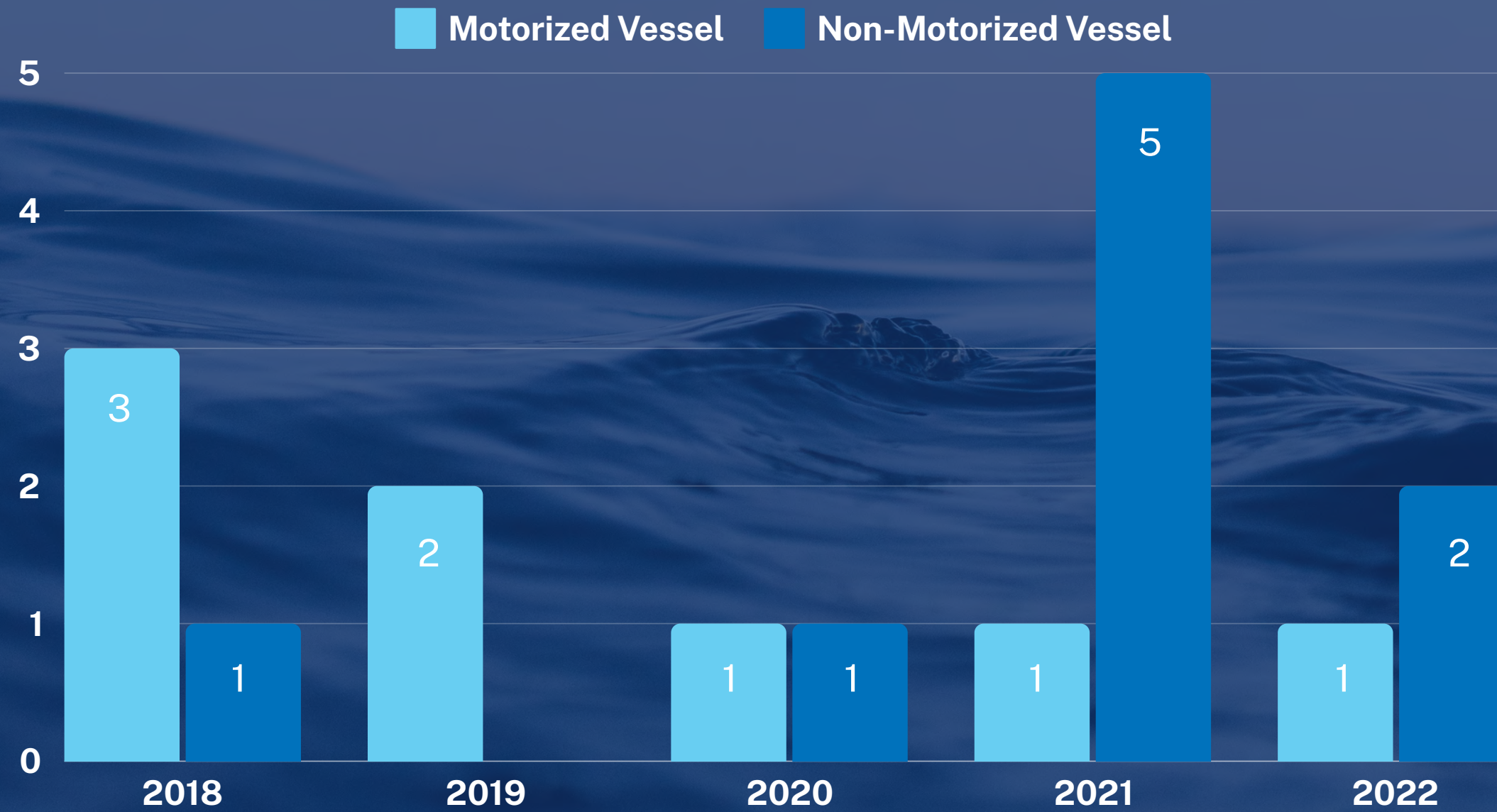


*A boating incident may involve more than 1 fatality

This graph represents the total number of fatal boating incidents each year and the type of vessel involved in the fatal incident between 2018 and 2022.

DROWNING FATALITIES

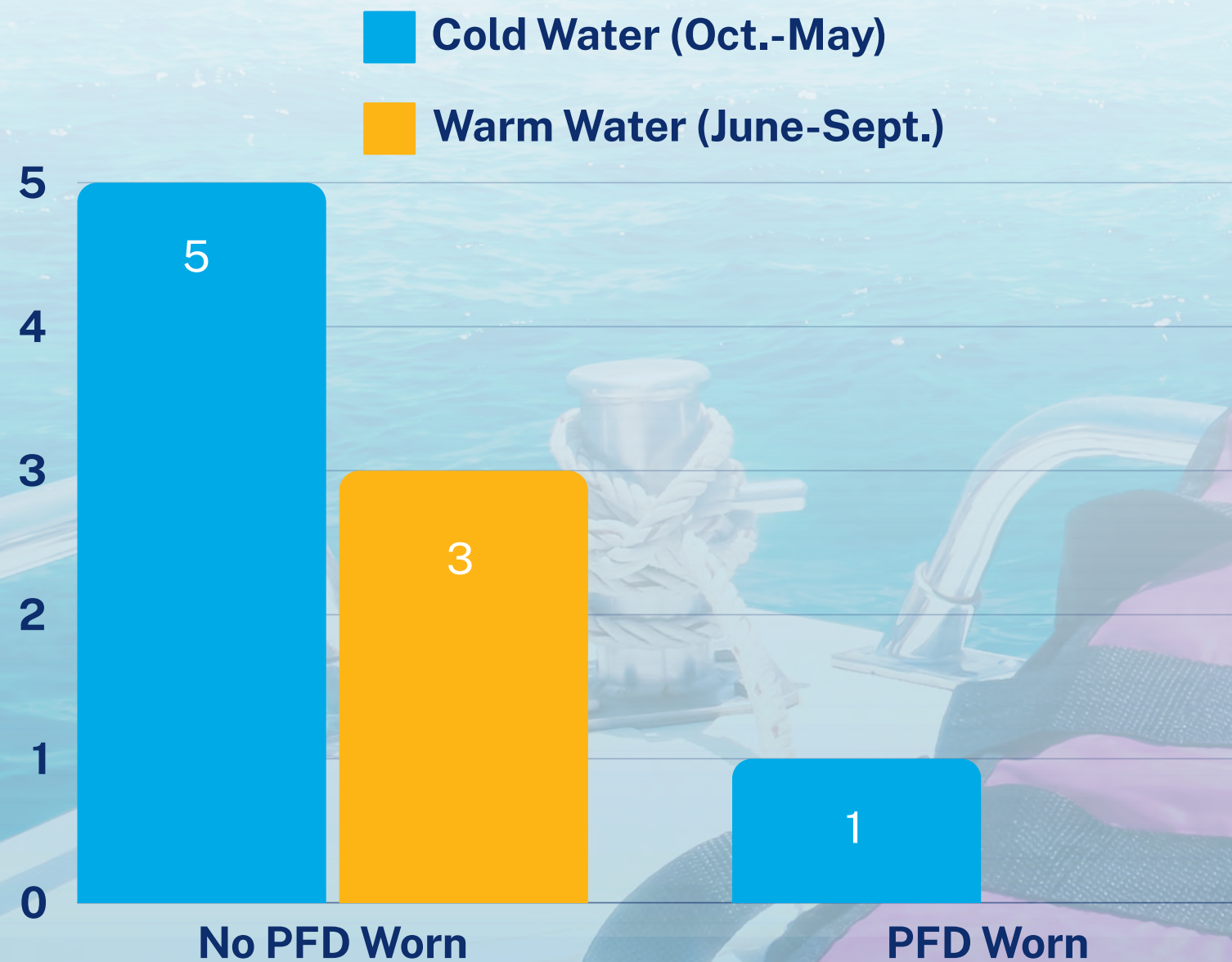
DROWNINGS BY VESSEL TYPE 2018-2022



This graph represents the total number of drowning fatalities determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner each year and the type of vessel involved in the boating incident between 2018-2022.

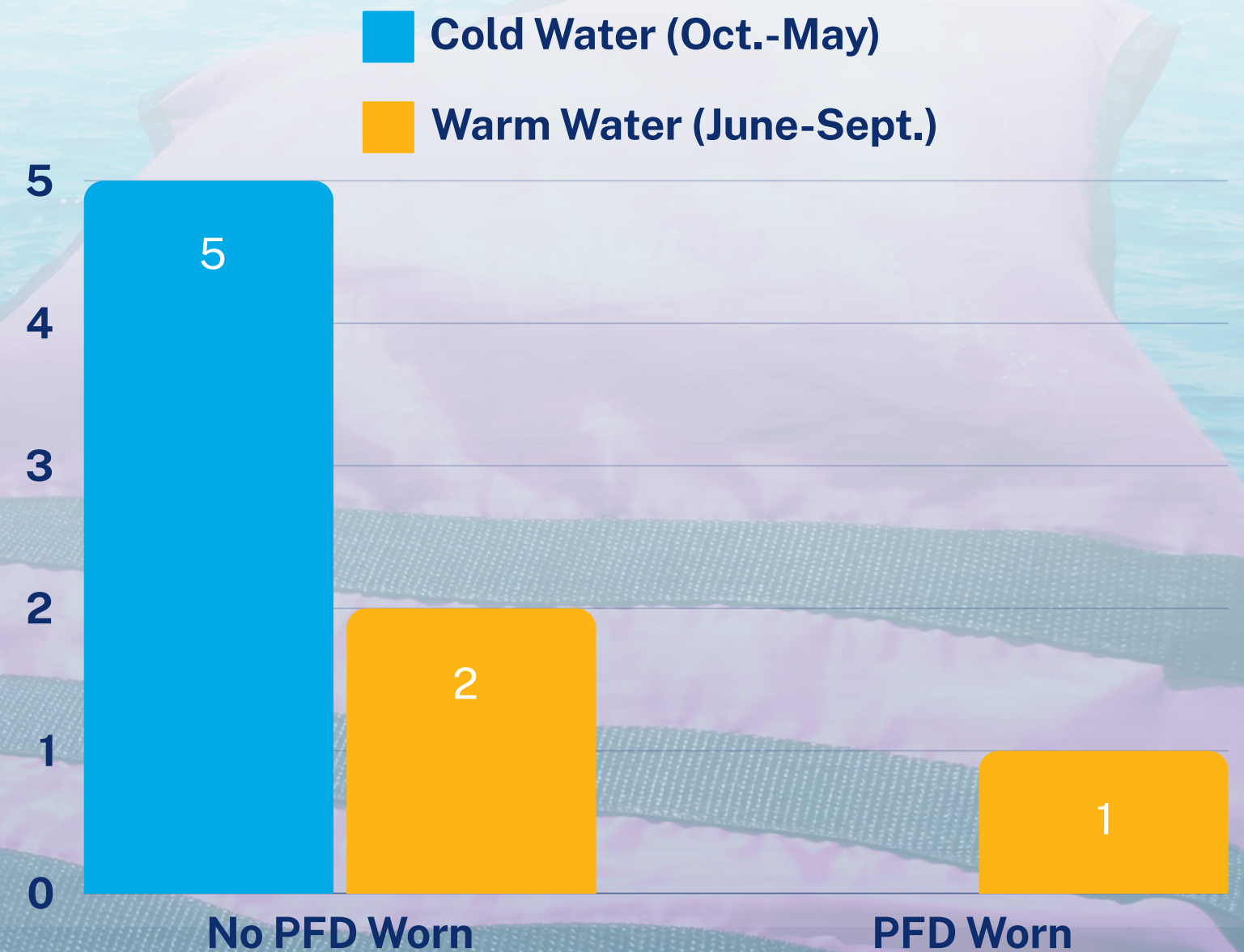
PFD USE AND WARM/COLD WATER DROWNINGS

DROWNINGS IN NON-MOTORIZED VESSELS 2018-2022



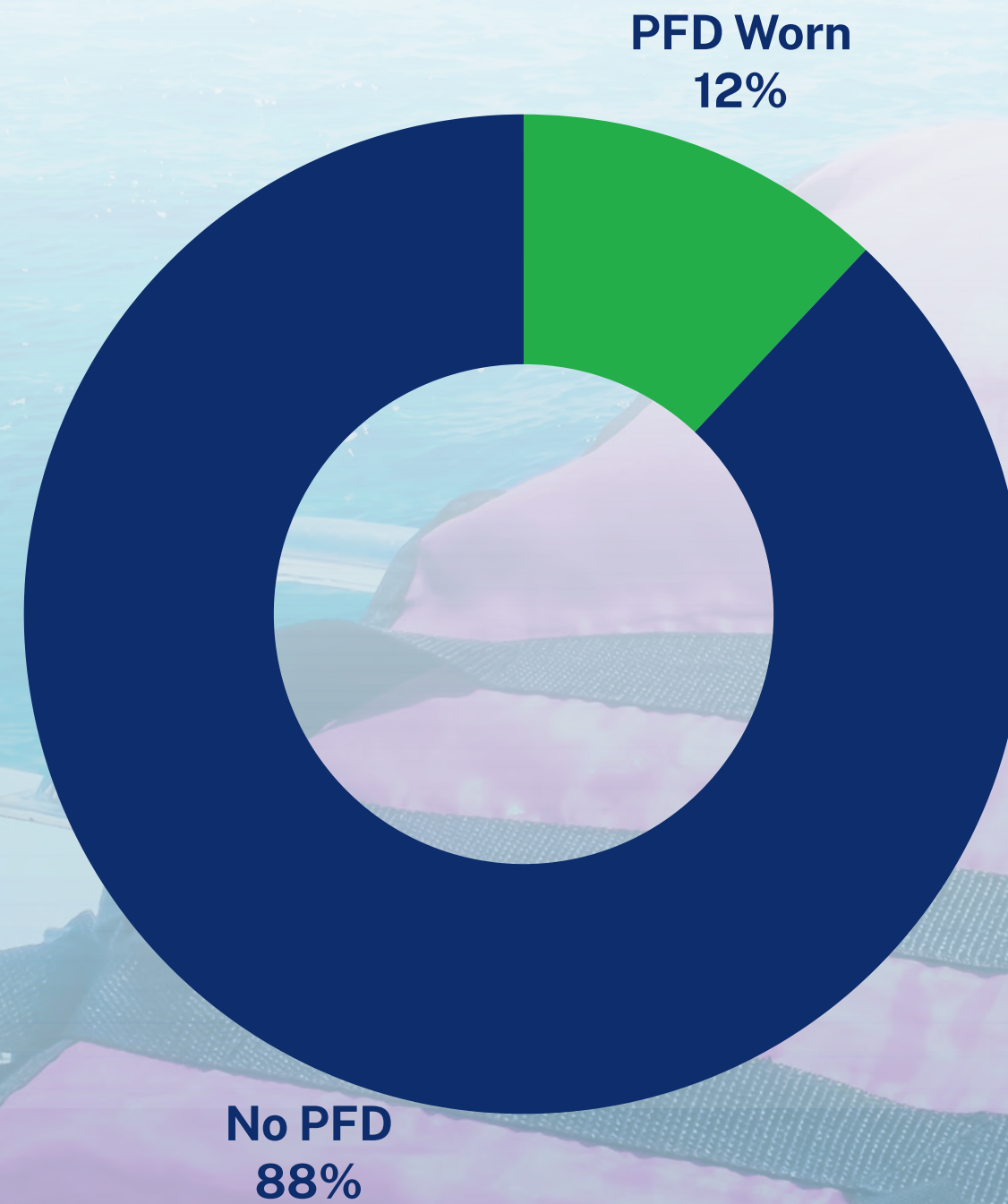
This graph represents PFD usage for drowning fatalities that occurred in cold water & warm water months that involved non-motorized vessels between 2018 and 2022.

DROWNINGS IN MOTORIZED VESSELS 2018-2022



This graph represents PFD usage for drowning fatalities that occurred in cold water & warm water months that involved motorized vessels between 2018 and 2022.

PFD USAGE IN DROWNING FATALITIES 2018-2022



This graph represents the percentage of drowning victims wearing and not wearing a PFD that occurred between 2018 and 2022. In the 12% of drowning fatalities, the PFD failed or was not worn properly.



BOAT SOBER AND RESPONSIBLY

IN CONNECICUT, IT IS ILLEGAL TO OPERATE A VESSEL WITH A BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT LEVEL OF 0.08 OR HIGHER.

Boating Under the Influence (BUI) No person should operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A person shall be considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor if the ratio of alcohol in the blood is eight-hundredths (.08) of one percent. If the person is under 21 years of age, the level is .02.

ALCOHOL AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN BOATING INCIDENTS 2018-2022

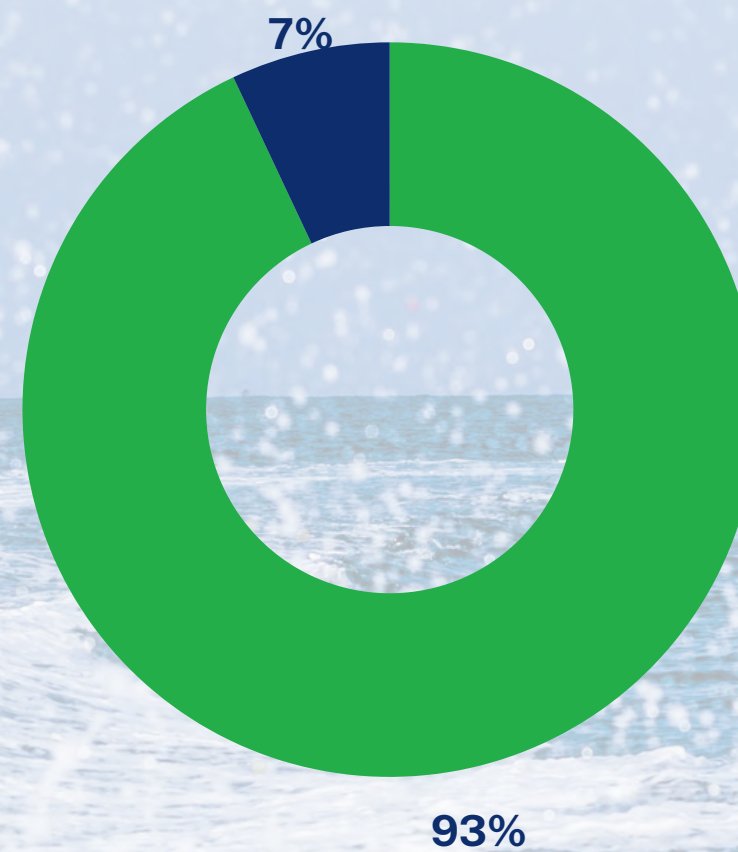
250 REPORTABLE BOATING
INCIDENTS IN CT



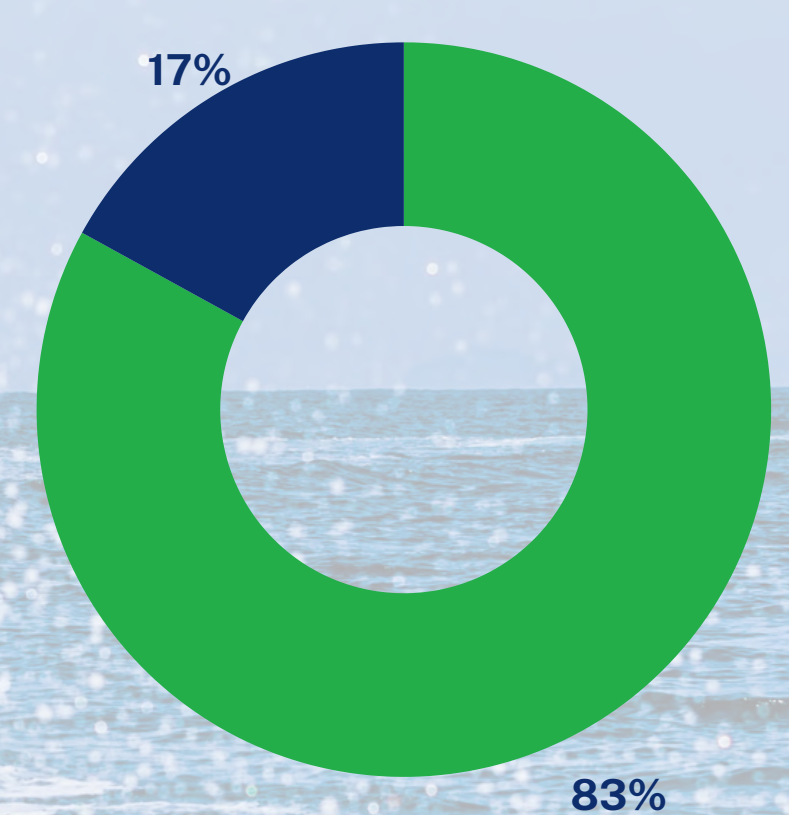
150 PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY



82 INJURY RELATED



23 FATAL



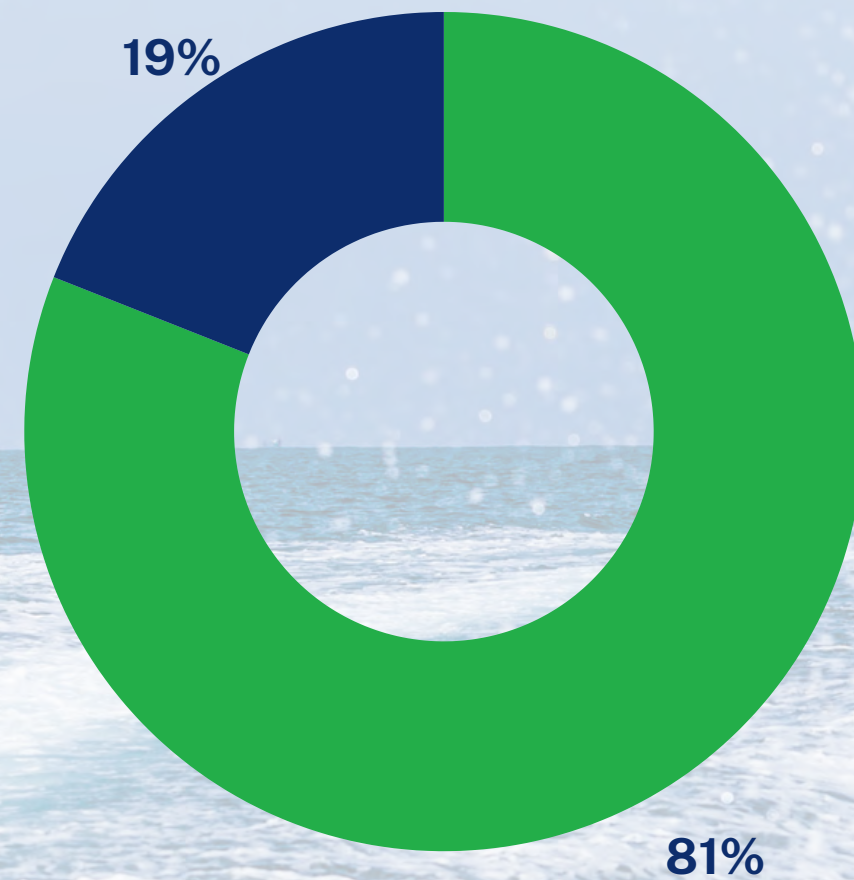
■ Alcohol as a Contributing Factor

■ Other Causes

These graphs represent the percentage of incidents that occurred where alcohol was determined to be a contributing factor between 2018 and 2022 in reportable boating incidents, fatal incidents, injury related incidents, and property damage only incidents

ALCOHOL AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR IN BOATING FATALITIES & INJURIES 2018-2022

26 BOATING FATALITIES



115 BOATING INJURIES



■ Alcohol as a Contributing Factor

■ Other Causes

These two graphs represent the percentage of boating fatalities and injuries where alcohol was determined to be a contributing factor between 2018 and 2022.

A serene marina scene at dusk. The water is dark blue, reflecting the sky and the numerous pontoon boats docked in the background. The boats are mostly white with various colored canopies (blue, red, green). In the foreground, three ducks are swimming in the water. The background shows a hillside with houses and trees under a twilight sky. The text "LOOKING BACK AT 2022" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

LOOKING BACK AT 2022

CT REGISTERED VESSELS IN 2022

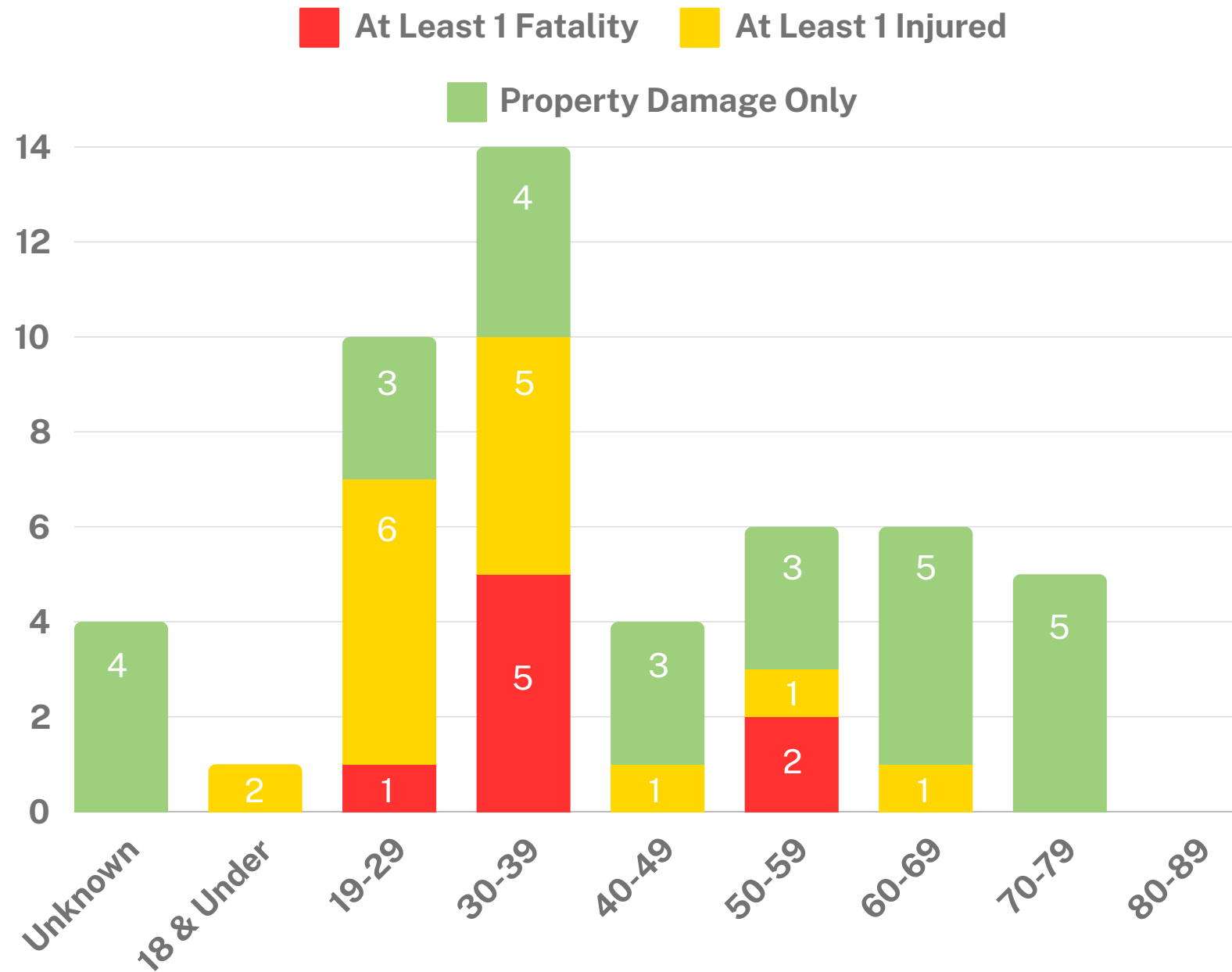
TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VESSELS	91161
Recreational Vessels	90641
Motorized Vessels	89550
Non-motorized Vessels	1091
Commercial Vessels	520

LENGTH CATEGORY (ft)

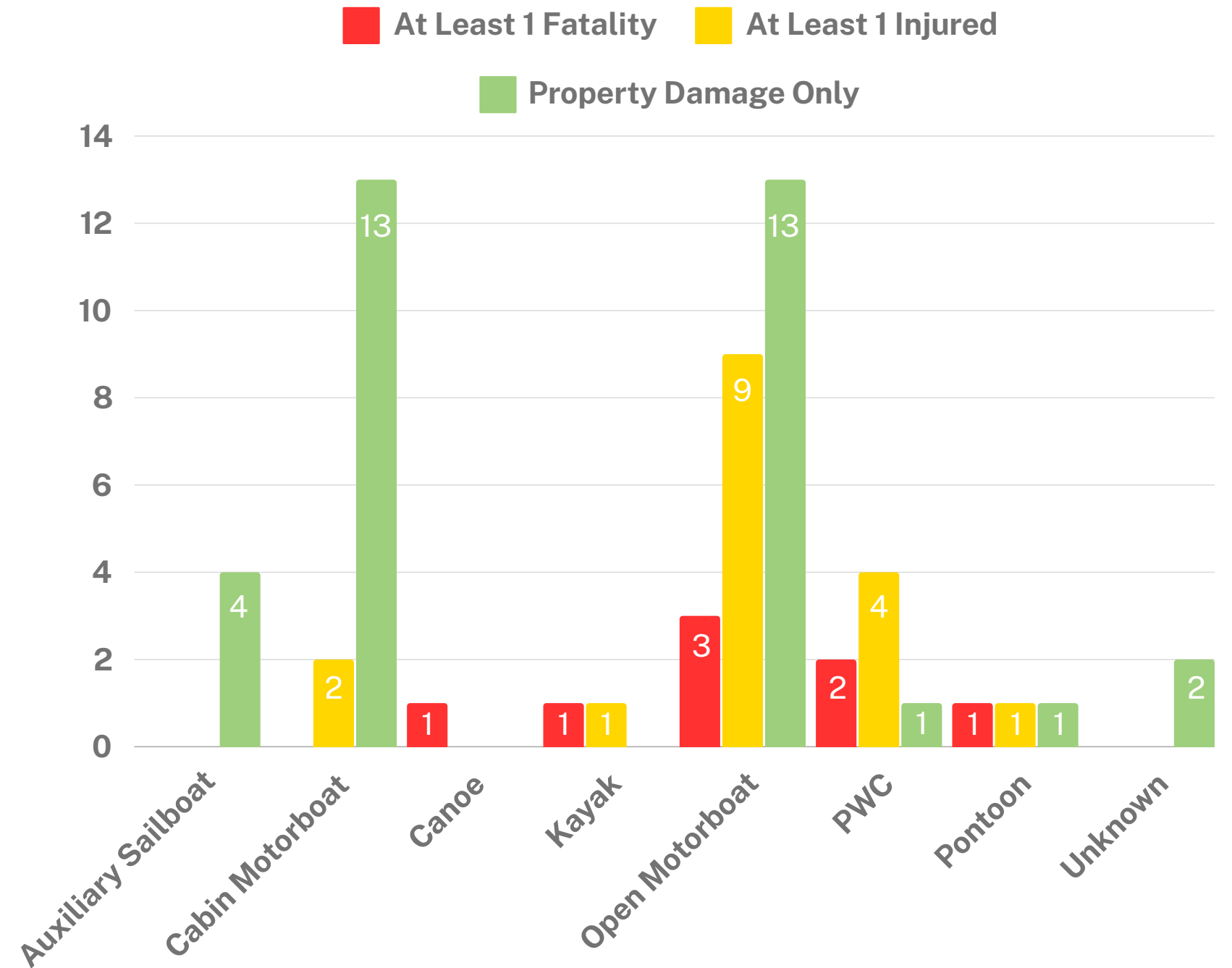
MOTORIZED VESSEL TYPES	<16	16 to <26	26<40	40 to 65	>65	All Lengths
Airboat	9	0	1	0	0	10
Auxiliary sail	222	949	1840	371	1	3383
Cabin motorboat	23	4981	5272	1122	14	11412
Houseboat	6	15	19	8	0	48
Inflatable boat	3025	104	16	1	0	3146
Open motorboat	22728	31610	1912	49	1	56300
Personal watercraft	9466	133	0	0	0	9599
Pontoon	227	3983	118	1	2	4331
Other	930	260	101	28	2	1321
NON-MOTORIZED VESSEL TYPES	<16	16 to <26	26<40	40 to 65	>65	All Lengths
Inflatable boat	318	2	0	0	0	320
Paddlecraft	171	16	1	0	0	188
Rowboat	94	3	1	0	0	98
Sail only	25	168	102	11	1	307
Other	126	43	7	2	0	178

BOATING INCIDENTS IN 2022

AGE OF OPERATORS INVOLVED



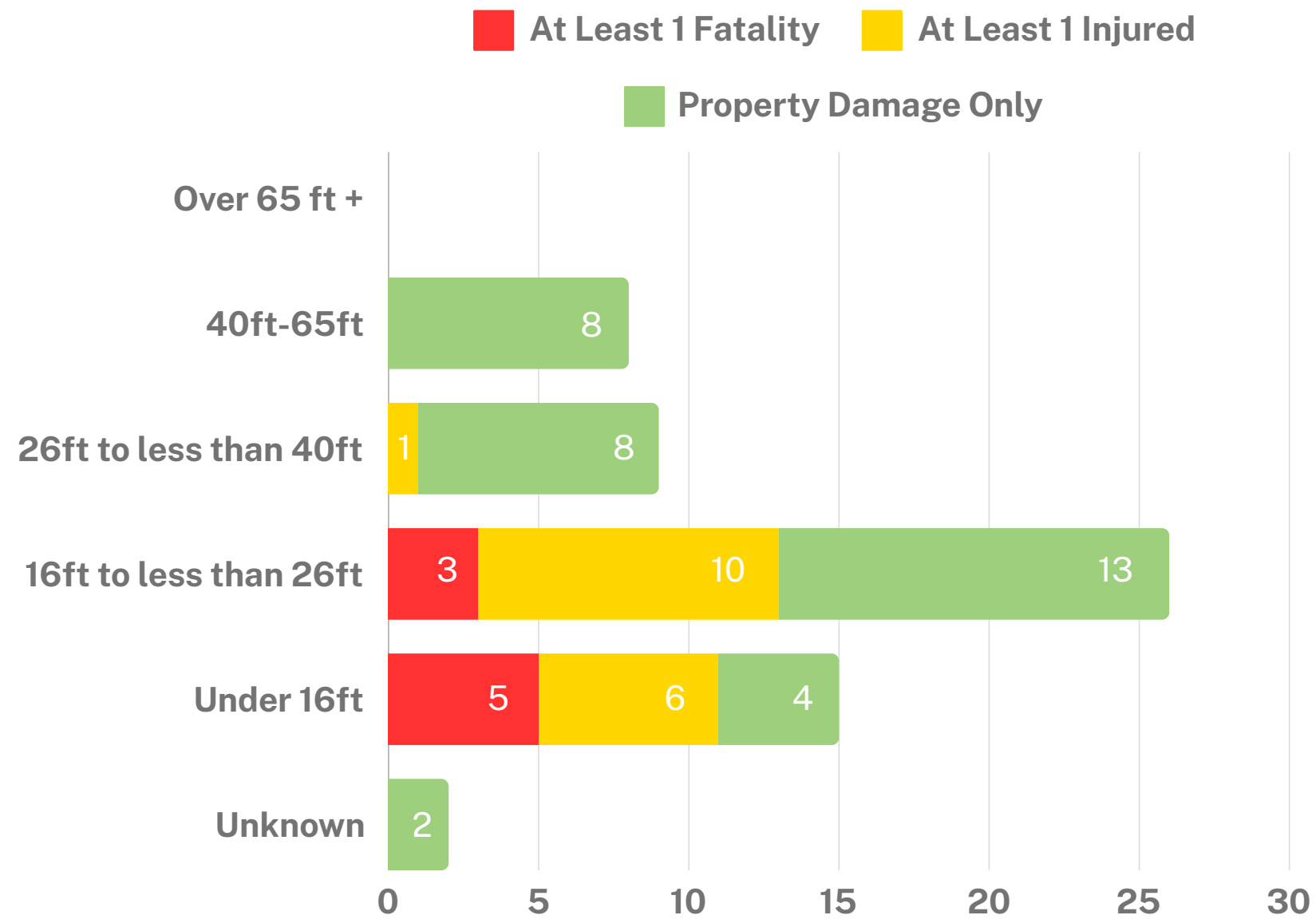
VESSEL TYPES INVOLVED



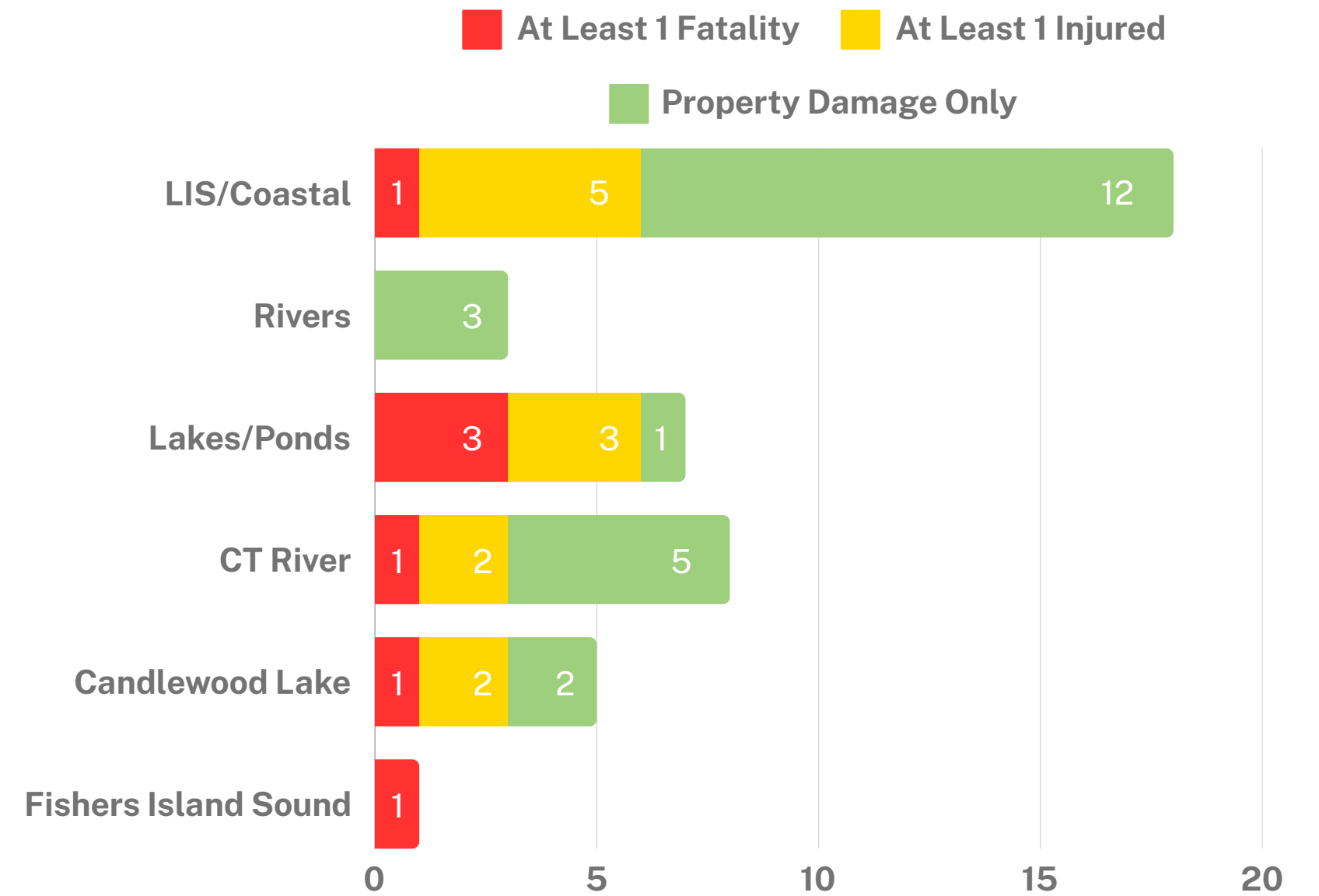
These two graphs show the age of operators and the types of vessels involved in fatal, injury related, and property damage only boating incidents in 2022.

BOATING INCIDENTS IN 2022 CONTINUED

SIZE OF VESSELS INVOLVED

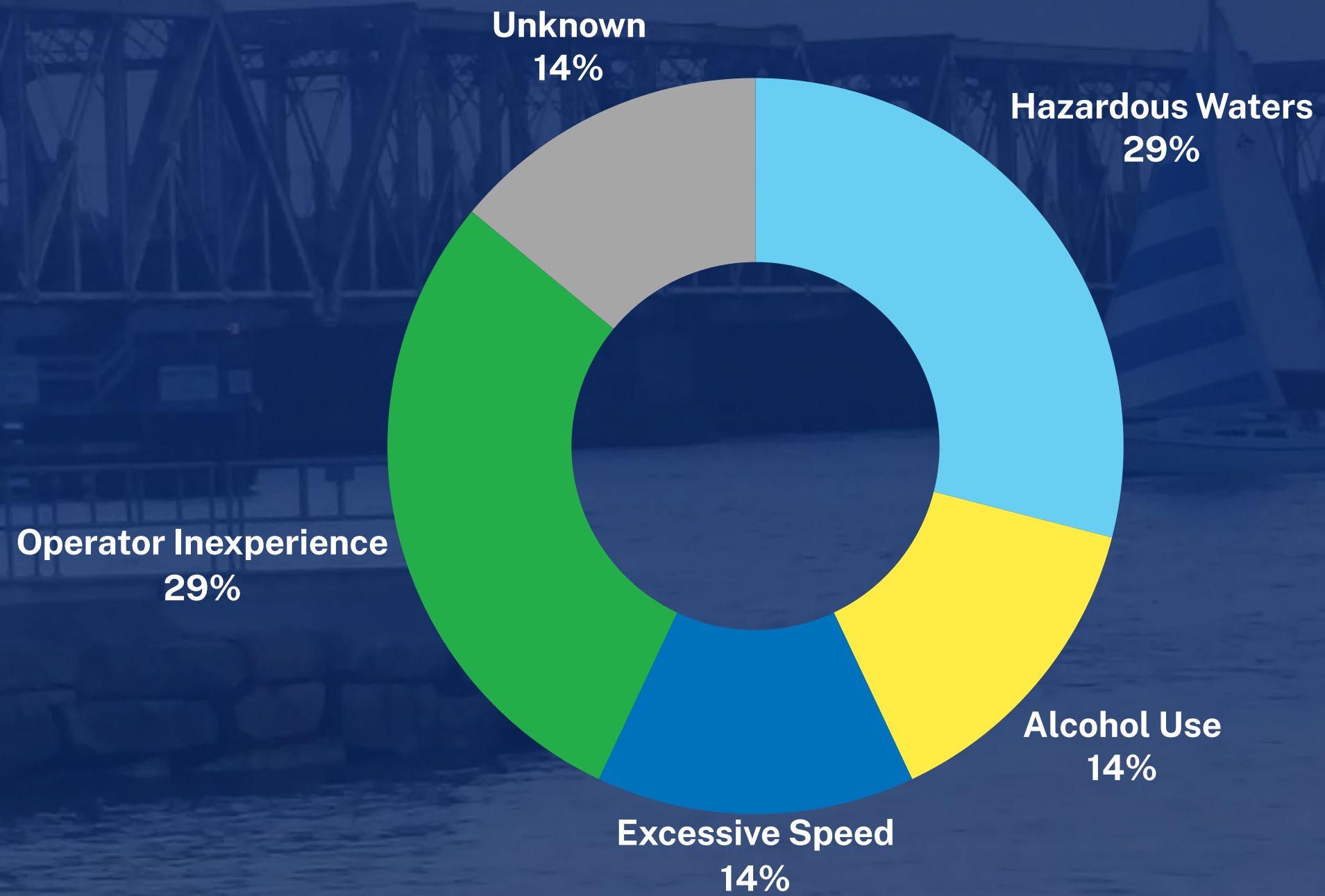


BOATING INCIDENTS BY WATERBODY



These two graphs show the size of vessels involved in the boating incident and waterbody location of fatal, injury related, and property damage only boating incidents in 2022.

PRIMARY CAUSES OF FATAL BOATING INCIDENTS 2022



This graph represents the percentage of primary causes of fatal boating incidents in 2022.

WHAT IS CT DOING TO MAKE OUR WATERS SAFER??

Statistics have shown that boating education helps create safer boaters. DEEP's Boating Division strives to provide boating education through various programs, events, and more. Most vessels in CT require a boating certificate to be operated. These certificates are obtained after an individual completes a boating safety exam. Most exams are accompanied by an eight-hour boating safety course.

The Boating Division hosts and participates in outreach events that promote safe boating and, in some cases, provide on-the-water activities for new and experienced boaters. Boating Education Staff post educational and safe boating content on social media platforms. In addition, seasonal employees are stationed at state boat launches and provide voluntary Vessel Safety Checks.

LEARN MORE AT: portal.ct.gov/DEEP-Boating

