



Travelers Data: More Boaters Hitting the Water in 2020

Boaters are Out in Numbers This Summer

According to a recent Travelers study of consumer behaviors since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than half of boat owners surveyed say they plan to use their boat more than last year. In addition, boat sales were rising ahead of summer according to [Discover Boating](#), with the activity noted as ideal for families with social distancing measures in place.

With higher volumes of boaters anticipated for 2020, Travelers is reminding consumers to prioritize safety measures before and during their time on the water.

Travelers Claim Data Shows a Spike in Collisions and More in 2020

According to new Travelers claim data, the first half of 2020 represents a 6-year high in reported boating claims. For the first half of 2020, claim volume is up 20% compared to the same time period in 2019.

Collisions – which would include running your boat aground or crashing with a submerged object – have been the leading cause, representing 41% of claims to date.

Looking Ahead: Claims Could Continue to Rise

As the weather continues to improve and we hit the peak summer months, there is potential for the upward trend in boating claims to continue, especially with more first-time boat owners on the water as the [NMMA reports](#). In 2020, May and June saw marked highs, up 15% and 29%, respectively, compared to the same months last year.

What Can Boaters Do to Ensure Safety?

Travelers recommends following these steps to help protect everyone on the water:

- Familiarize yourself with your boat's navigation and safety equipment.
- Keep a safety preparedness kit on board and stocked with items you may need in case of an emergency, such as a fire extinguisher, flares, a first-aid kit and towlines/ropes.
- Always navigate within marked channels to avoid running aground or hitting submerged objects near the shoreline.
- Stay alert when approaching objects such as mooring fields, navigational buoys and marine traps set in the water. Be aware that after a storm, high tides may have carried debris into the water.

- If a storm is approaching, haul out your vessel and remove objects that could become airborne. Additionally, if your boat is on a lift, consider removing it before inclement weather hits.
- Review any COVID-19-related guidance from local boating authorities, such as adhering to social distancing recommendations when gassing up and while launching and docking.

Even when following recommended precautionary measures, accidents can still happen. A boat or yacht insurance policy can help protect from the financial impact incurred in the event of damage to boats and other personal watercrafts or liability-related losses.

For more information on boating insurance from Travelers, visit www.travelers.com/boat-yacht-insurance.

###