



# Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information July 2021



## Ohio River

**Ninth Street Bridge (90.8):** Rehabilitation and painting. Vertical clearance reduced by 4 inches until Oct. 2022.

**Bellaire Bridge (94.3):** Demolition date to be determined.

## Tygart River

**1-79 Twin Bridges Replacement (2.6):** Pre-application stage.

## Areas of Interest

### **1. Policy Letter: Update to use of doublers on Subchapter M towing vessels: [Policy Letter 21-03](#)**

“Guidance Concerning the Use of Doubler Plates for Repairs Involving Towing Vessels Subject to 46 CFR Subchapter M” was issued to provide guidance to Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), the Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise (TVNCOE), and 46 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter M Third Party Organizations (TPO) on the use of doubler plates for repairs involving towing vessels subject to inspection under 46 CFR Subchapter M. Questions concerning this policy should be directed to

[CGCVC@uscg.mil](mailto:CGCVC@uscg.mil).

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/06/02/policy-letters-update-to-harbor-assist-towing-beyond-the-boundary-line-and-use-of-doublers-on-subchapter-m-towing-vessels/>

### **2. U.S. Coast Guard releases 2020 Boating Safety Statistics Report:**

The U.S. Coast Guard has released its [2020 Recreational Boating Statistics Report](#), revealing that there were 767 boating fatalities nationwide in 2020, a 25.1 percent increase from 2019.

From 2019 to 2020, the total number of accidents increased 26.3 percent (4,168 to 5,265), and the number of non-fatal injured victims increased 24.7 percent (2,559 to 3,191). There is evidence that boating activity increased significantly during the pandemic, from reports of increased boat sales, insurance policies taken out, insurance claims, and calls for towing assistance. With the increased exposure (i.e., more boating hours), there was greater risk of deaths, injuries, and accidents. The Coast Guard is analyzing variables associated with boating activity to normalize this accident data.

Alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2020, accounting for over 100 deaths, or 18 percent of total fatalities.

The report also shows that in 2020:

The fatality rate was 6.5 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels, the highest in the program’s recent history. This rate represents a 25 percent increase from last year’s fatality rate of 5.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.



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Property damage totaled about \$62.5 million.

Operator inattention, operator inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed, and machinery failure ranked as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.

To view the 2020 Recreational Boating Statistics, visit [http://uscgboating.org/statistics/accident\\_statistics.php](http://uscgboating.org/statistics/accident_statistics.php). For more information on boating responsibly, visit <http://www.uscgboating.org>.  
<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/06/30/u-s-coast-guard-releases-2020-boating-safety-statistics-report/>