



Ontario Provincial Police Marine Program





Traffic Safety



"Saving Lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through Professionalism, Leadership and Visibility" - H.S.D. Mission Statement

380+ uniform members available for marine duties

120 vessels deployed throughout Ontario

Patrols and response are managed and directed at the Detachment/
Regional level

Provincial oversight by Marine Programs

Crime Prevention

- Canada Shipping Act 2001 and Regulations
- Property Crimes: Criminal Code Canada
 - Thefts
 - Damage (collision, break-ins)
- Organized Crime



Competency of Operators

- As of September 2009 all operators of power driven craft
- PCOC
 - Basic knowledge
 - Not a licence
 - Valid for life
- Intended to increase recreational boating safety awareness

2010 Fatal Marine Investigations

26 Incidents with 28 Lives Lost

Only 3 victims were wearing a lifejacket/PFD

Alcohol was a contributing factor in 46% of the investigations



The Call for Mandatory “Wear” Legislation

- Amend the Small Vessel Regulations of the CSA2001 to require the wearing of an approved Lifejacket/PFD on a pleasure craft under 6m while underway.



Some Stats

➤ U.S.A.

- USCG reported 709 boating fatalities in 2008 with only 13% wearing PFD's
- PFD surveys – adult wear rate of 8.1%
- 40 of 50 states have wear laws for children
- Wear rates for <18 is 64.5%

➤ National

- Red Cross: 1991 – 1996 an average of 186 boating deaths
- 90% not wearing PFD's...23% had one but didn't wear it

➤ O.P.P.

- Since 2000, 379 boaters have died on OPP patrolled waters
- In that same time, only 13% involved vessels over 6m

PFD's Save Lives

- An abundance of data prove the odds of survival are increased
- It is estimated that if mandatory wear existed as many as 19 deaths could have been prevented in 2010 and over 320 since 2000

Why don't we wear them?

- Under-estimation of risk
- The argument of comfort

It's time!

- Mandatory wear is working in other jurisdictions
- No new costs for police to enforce proposed legislative change
- Police may not be able to prevent incidents because boaters use bad judgment but if they are wearing a PFD it doesn't need to be a fatal decision.

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