

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STRATEGY

BACKGROUND PAPER
NOVEMBER 2023



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SA RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STRATEGY

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) seeks feedback from the community on how recreational boaters and other users can enjoy our waterways safely. This includes those undertaking recreational boating activities in powered and non-powered vessels on coastal and inland waters, as well as other community members who share these waterways.

Gathering input from the community, industry partners, recreational boating stakeholders, Australian marine safety agencies and local government is vital to creating a robust and effective strategy that meets the needs of all users. Our primary objectives are to minimise boating incidents and reduce drowning deaths.

South Australian waters include approximately 5000 kilometres of coastline, 700 kilometres along the River Murray, plus a variety of other rivers, lakes and reservoirs. These waterways are used by a range of recreational boaters and other users.



Approx. 300,000
boat licence holders



Approx. 55,000
registered vessels



Increasing number of canoes, kayaks,
surf skis, kite boards and paddleboards



SA RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STRATEGY

Recreational boating is an activity enjoyed by many, but our waterways and boating activities can be unpredictable. Incidents do occur. Sadly, 69 people died on our waterways due to boating and non-powered watercraft activities over the past 20 years (1 July 2002 – 30 June 2022). Of these deaths, only one person was known to be wearing a lifejacket.

There are many more cases of boaters who experienced near misses and incidents, or who required rescue after a trip went wrong.

The development of a Recreational Boating Safety Strategy will guide decisions and actions over the next five years to improve safety on our waterways. This will help the Government deliver on its commitment to the **Water Safety in South Australia: State Water Safety Plan 2021-2030**.

Milestones for development of this strategy are as follows:

- **Stage 1** — Community consultation (now – January 2023)
- **Stage 2** — Public release of draft strategy for comment (April – June 2024)
- **Stage 3** — Publication of final strategy (October 2024)

To have your say on what can be done to help everyone enjoy our waterways safely, please complete the survey at www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au after you read this document.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.



SA RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

FATALITIES

The following statistics, provided by Royal Life Saving Australia, are taken from the *National Fatal Drowning Database*, August 2022.

Over the past 20 years, 69 people drowned while boating in South Australia. This includes people boating in powered vessels and non-powered watercraft such as kayaks and canoes.

Of these drownings, 13 happened in the past five years.

Boating activities were the second leading cause of drowning deaths in South Australian waters over the past 20 years. Swimming and recreational activities accounted for the majority of deaths by drowning during this period.

Lifejacket Use

Wearing a lifejacket is critical to help prevent drownings while boating. Of the 69 drowning deaths from boating over the past 20 years, the following statistics were identified:

- Only one person who drowned was confirmed to be wearing a lifejacket.
- A further 18 people who drowned were confirmed not to be wearing a lifejacket.
- Lifejacket use is unknown in the other drowning cases.



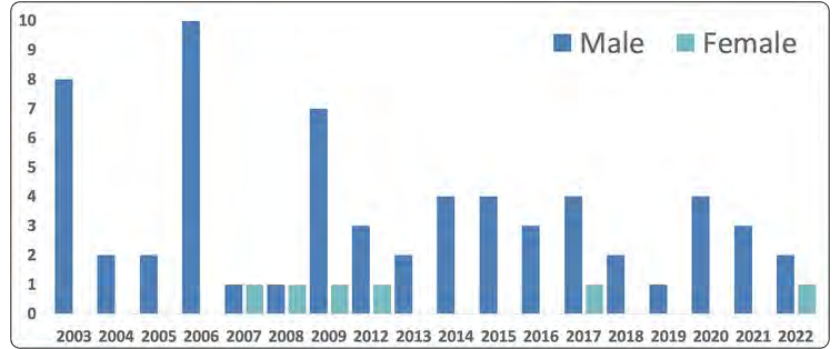
Over the past 20 years there has been an increase in the requirement to wear lifejackets on vessels.

Over the past 20 years, the average number of drowning deaths from boating activities in South Australia reduced from four people per year (2002-2012) to three people per year (2012-2022) — a 25% reduction in drowning deaths.

SA RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Gender

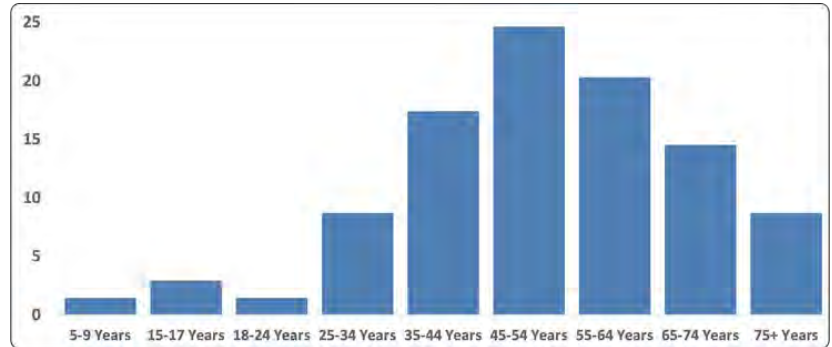
63 males and 6 females drowned in South Australia due to boating and watercraft incidents over the 20 years to 30 June 2022.



Graph 1: boating and watercraft drownings in SA over the 20 years to June 2022

Age

The 45–54 age group is most at risk, accounting for 24.6% of deaths (17 deaths over the past 20 years).



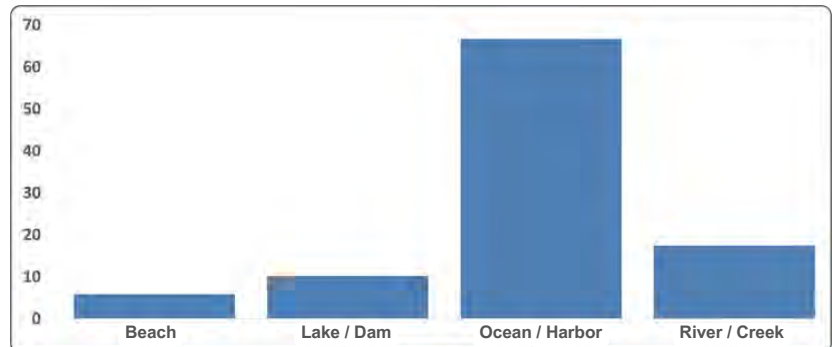
Graph 2: percentage of drownings by age over the 20 years to June 2022

Drug and alcohol use

11 incidents involved drugs (16%).
9 incidents involved alcohol (13%).

Location

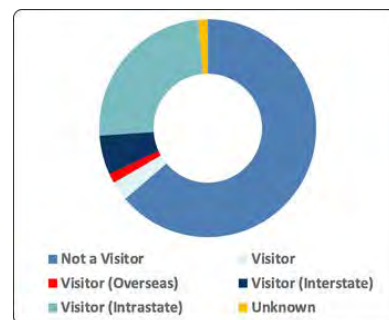
Drownings usually occurred in the ocean and harbors, accounting for 66.7% of deaths (46 deaths over the past 20 years).



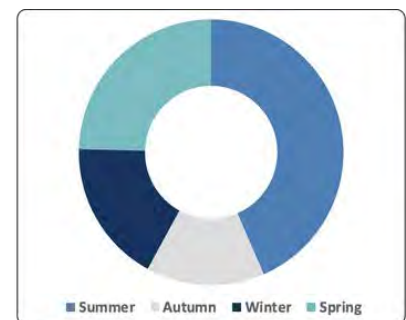
Graph 3: percentage of drownings by location over the 20 years to June 2022

Where they lived

64% of victims were local to the area and 25% lived elsewhere in South Australia.



Graph 4: drownings by residency



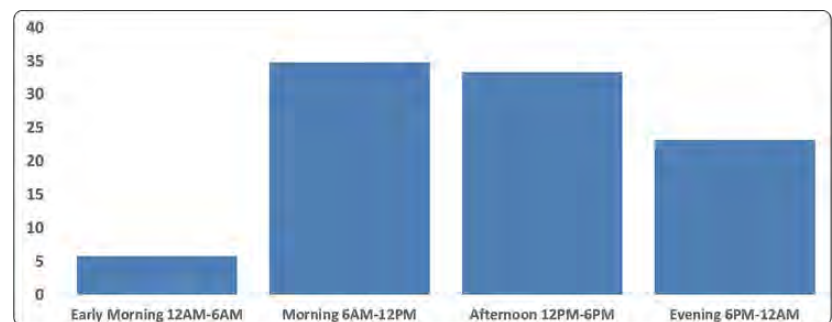
Graph 5: drownings by season

Season

Most drownings occurred during summer (43.5%) and spring (24.6%).

Timing

Most drownings (70.1%) occurred between 6AM and 6PM.



Graph 6: percentage of drownings by time of day

Refer to Appendix A for more boating demographic statistics.

SA RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

INCIDENTS

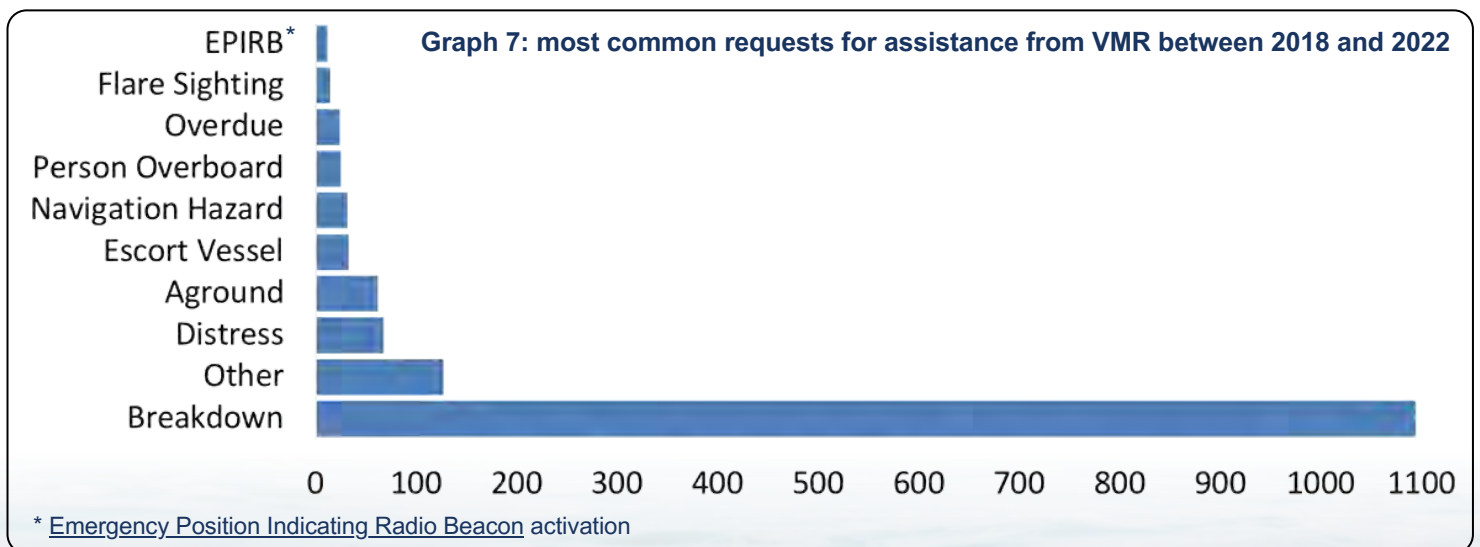
There is under reporting of incidents and near misses of recreational vessels in South Australia. The Department has created an [online reporting tool](#) to collect data about incidents. It also allows people to report marine safety concerns and hazards.

Recreational boaters must report incidents involving their vessel in South Australian waters that result in loss of life, personal injury or property damage. A report is not required if personal injury is minor and doesn't require medical attention, or where property damage is less than \$1000. Reports must be lodged within 48 hours.

RESCUES

Between 2018 and 2022 there were approximately 1800 requests from boaters to the State Emergency Service (SES) and Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) for assistance on coastal and inland waters. Vessel use was restricted during part of the COVID-19 lockdown. This is likely to have reduced boating activity.

Incidents often involve vessels that must be towed to shore due to breakdown, flat batteries or running out of fuel. The following graph shows the most common incidents reported to VMR.



Making sure your vessel is seaworthy is vital for boating safely and helping to prevent call outs for assistance.

Having the right [safety equipment](#) on board and knowing how to use it will help if you do get into trouble on the water.

RECREATIONAL BOATING LICENCES

BOAT OPERATOR LICENCE

South Australians must meet these conditions to gain a Boat Operator Licence:

- Be aged 16 years or over.
- Provide proof of identity.
- Disclose medical conditions.
- Pass a paper-based theory exam consisting of compulsory and non-compulsory questions through a Service SA centre or an approved registered training provider.

In April 2023 there were 305,207 Boat Operator Licence holders in South Australia.

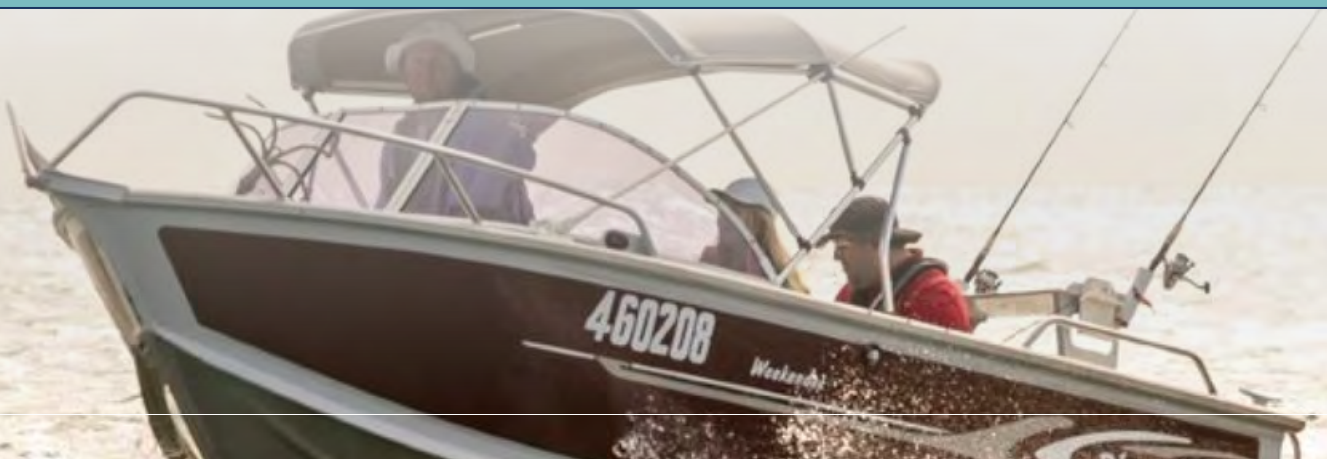
Each state and territory imposes different requirements to obtain a boat licence.

In SA and VIC, a theory exam is sufficient. Most states, including SA, offer online theory practice tests to let candidates prepare for the real exam.

In NSW, QLD, WA and TAS, a theory and practical test is required to gain a boat licence, and training providers are accredited to provide practical testing.

Information is available at the Marine Safety SA website to help maintain and increase existing boat licence holders' knowledge of safe boating. No specific refresher courses are currently required.

- **No practical experience or testing is required to gain a boat licence in SA.**
- **Once you gain your licence by passing a theory exam you can operate any motorised vessel including high powered boats and personal watercraft (commonly known as jet skis).**
- **Practical experience and / or practical testing can increase knowledge and experience to help people boat safely.**



RECREATIONAL BOATING LICENCES

STATE	LICENCE	AGE	THEORY	PRACTICAL	RESTRICTIONS	RENEWAL
SA	Boat Operator Licence	16+	Exam	Not required	None	Lifetime licence No renewal fee
NSW	General Boat Licence	12+	Exam	Complete practical logbook with an experienced skipper. Or complete an approved practical boat course with authorised provider.	Restrictions apply to general boat licence holders aged 12–16 No licence required if operating vessel under 10 knots	1-year licence 5-year licence <u>Fees apply.</u>
VIC	Marine Licence	16+	Exam with accredited training provider (includes 4-hour face-to-face tuition). Or computer-based test at VicRoads customer service centre.	Not required	N/A	5-year licence <u>Fees apply.</u>
QLD	Recreational Marine Licence	16+	Exam	BoatSafe course through registered training provider	N/A	Lifetime licence No renewal fee
WA	Recreational Skipper's Ticket	14+	Exam	Required, through an RST assessment provider	Restrictions apply for children under 16. No licence required if operating a vessel with a motor less than 6 horsepower.	Lifetime licence No renewal fee
TAS	Motorboat Licence	17+	Exam	BoatSafe practical course with an accredited provider	No licence required if operating a vessel with a motor less than 4 horsepower	3-year licence <u>Fees apply.</u>
NT	Not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



RECREATIONAL BOATING LICENCES

SPECIAL PERMIT

A Special Permit is a modified boat licence that allows 12- to 15-year-olds to operate a motorised vessel with certain restrictions. When a Special Permit holder turns 16 they can apply for a full boat licence, which requires passing the boat licence theory exam. South Australians must meet these conditions to gain a Special Permit:

- Be aged between 12 and 15 years.
- Provide proof of identity.
- Disclose medical conditions.
- Pass a paper-based theory exam in a Service SA Centre or with an approved registered training provider (to operate with a full boat licence holder on board).
- Pass a practical on-water assessment with a Department Marine Safety Officer (to operate solo with restrictions — refer to page 11 for restrictions).

In April 2023 there were 1,416 special permit holders in South Australia.

Most states allow young people to obtain a boat licence or modified boat licence with restrictions applied from the age of 12 years.

Restrictions vary from state to state, but may include operating at lower speeds, only operating during daylight hours, not operating personal watercraft (commonly known as jet skis), only operating smaller vessels and not towing water skiers.

Queensland is the only state where all boat licence holders must be aged 16 or over, while in Western Australia they must be at least 14 years old.

SA has no restrictions on where young boaters can operate (no requirement to boat closer to shore). This is in line with other states that do not enforce restrictions on where young boaters can operate. There is increased risk when boating a long distance from shore.

RECREATIONAL BOATING LICENCES

The table below shows the boat licensing requirements for young people in each state.

STATE	LICENCE	AGE	THEORY	PRACTICAL	RESTRICTIONS
SA	Special Permit	12-15	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required to operate a vessel without a full licence holder on board (solo operation) Not required to operate with a full licence holder on board 	<p>All Special Permit holders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate a personal watercraft must not tow a water skier <p>Special Permit holders (solo operation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate at night (after sunset and before sunrise) must not operate vessels greater than 4 metres in length must not operate vessels with a potential speed faster than 10 knots <p>Special Permit (supervised operation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate solo (must be supervised by a Boat Licence holder)
NSW	General Boat Licence (restrictions apply until age 16)	12-15	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a boating licence practical logbook with an experienced skipper Or complete an approved practical boat course with an authorised provider 	<p>All licence holders under 16 using a vessel or personal watercraft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate at a speed greater than 20 knots must not operate at night (after sunset and before sunrise) must not tow anyone must not participate in any race, display, regatta, exhibition or similar operation <p>If driving a vessel other than a PWC at a speed of 10 knots or more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must have someone with a General Boat Licence who is 16 years of age or older present in the vessel must not drive at these speeds between sunset and sunrise must not tow anyone <p>If driving a personal watercraft at a speed of 10 knots or more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must have someone with a personal watercraft licence who is 16 years of age or older present on the personal watercraft must not drive at these speeds while towing anyone
VIC	Restricted Marine Licence	12-15	Yes	Not required	<p>All Restricted Marine Licence holders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate at a speed greater than 10 knots must not operate at night (after sunset and before sunrise) must not tow anyone
QLD	No licences under 16 yrs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WA	Recreational Skipper's Ticket	14-16	Yes	Required, through an RST assessment provider	<p>All Recreational Skipper's Ticket holders under the age of 16 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate at a speed greater than 8 knots must not operate at night
TAS	Provisional Boat Licence	12-16	Yes	BoatSafe practical tuition course with an accredited provider	<p>All Provisional Boat Licence holders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> must not operate solo (must be accompanied by a responsible adult) must not operate at night must not exceed a speed of 20 knots must not tow a skier
NT	Not required	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

RECREATIONAL BOATING LICENCES

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LICENCE

Most states require individuals to pass a separate theory test, or a theory test and practical test, before being licensed to operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC), commonly known as a jet ski.

SA and WA don't impose this additional requirement, and NT does not require any type of boat licence to operate a PWC.

Some states require a separate licence for operating a PWC. Others require an endorsement to add the ability to operate a PWC to an existing boat licence.

The table below shows the states that require a separate PWC endorsement or licence.

STATE	LICENCE	AGE	THEORY	PRACTICAL	RESTRICTIONS	RENEWAL
NSW	PWC Licence	16+	Must have a general boat licence and pass a PWC knowledge test	Not required	Must be 16+ to operate a PWC	1-year licence 5-year licence <u>PWC licence fees apply.</u>
VIC	PWC Endorsement	16+	Must have a Marine Licence and pass exam	Not required	N/A	5-year licence <u>Marine licence with PWC endorsement fees</u>
QLD	PWC Licence	16+	Exam	BoatSafe course through a registered training provider	N/A	Lifetime licence
TAS	PWC Endorsement	17+	Exam	BoatSafe practical course with an accredited provider	N/A	3-year licence <u>Motorboat licence with PWC endorsement fees</u>

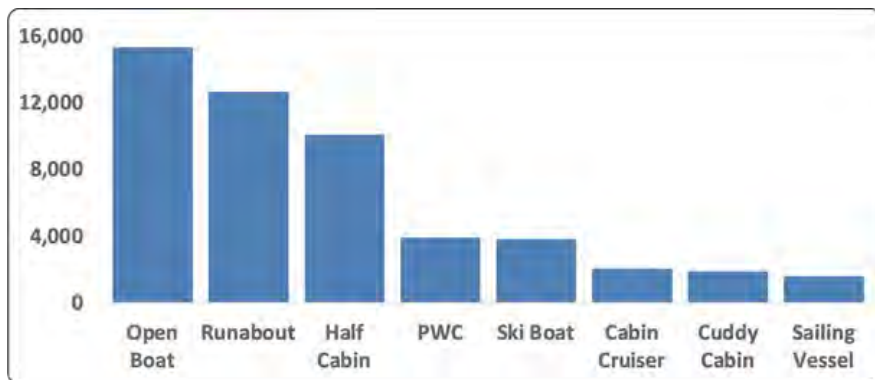
- PWC are fast and powerful vessels.
- They are lighter and more maneuverable than traditional powerboats and can be dangerous to operate.
- In SA, you must have a boat licence to operate a PWC. No further testing or endorsement is required.



VESSELS USED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

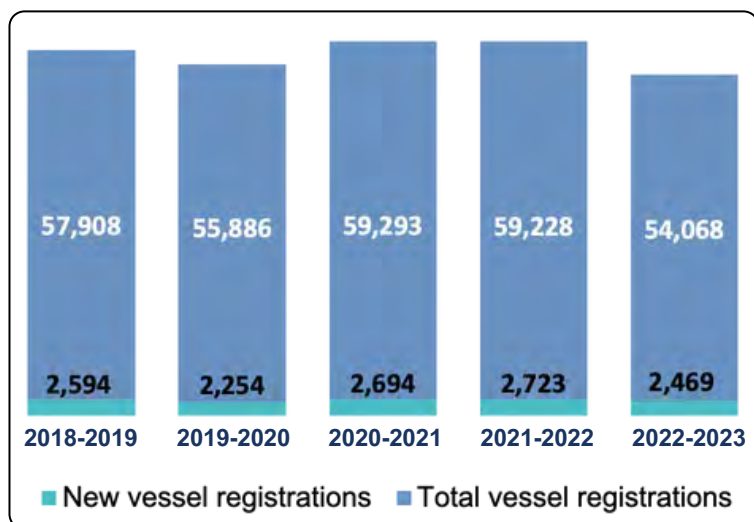
POWERED CRAFT

Department data shows most vessels registered in South Australia are open boats, runabouts and half cabins, followed by PWCs, ski boats and cabin cruisers.

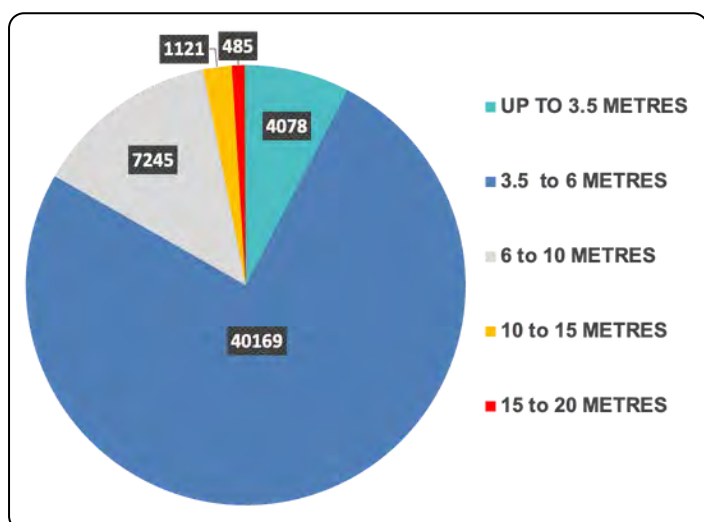


Graph 8: registered powered craft as of 4 May 2023

The graphs below show changes in motorised vessel registration over the past five years, and the length of vessels registered. Most registered (83%) vessels are no more than six metres long.



Graph 9: motorised vessel registrations as of 4 May 2023



Graph 10: motorised vessel registrations by length of vessel

COVID-19 travel restrictions probably impacted registrations over this period.

From May 2020 to May 2022 there was a **4.5% increase** in registrations (possibly due to more people holidaying within the state during travel restrictions).

From May 2022 to May 2023 there was a **8.7% decrease** in registrations (possibly due to people traveling outside the state when restrictions were lifted).



VESSELS USED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NON-POWERED CRAFT

Non-powered vessels don't require registration. This makes it hard to estimate the number of craft in operation. Non-powered vessels include canoes, kayaks, surf skis, paddleboards, kite surfing boards and similar vessels.



NOVELTY CRAFT

The *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993* determines the types of vessel that can be registered for use on SA waterways. With the emergence of new technologies, there's a growing array of novelty craft that sit outside existing regulations.

Examples include powered surf boards and hydrofoils. These are usually assessed as personal watercraft in South Australia, as there's no definition of novelty craft.

Novelty craft regulations vary from state to state. A national working group is considering a common definition for novelty craft so consistent legislation can be applied.



RECREATIONAL BOATING COMPLIANCE

The Department's Marine Safety Officers help keep our waterways safe. They ensure boaters have the right safety equipment on board and are operating safely. They conduct regular vessel safety checks by intercepting vessels on the water, or during launch, where they provide safety advice. They may issue a formal caution or expiation when necessary.

Compliance activities occur all year, with a focus on the peak boating period of October to April. Targeted compliance and education operations occur during school holidays and long weekends.

Approximately 12,000 vessels were checked between March 2020 and March 2023.

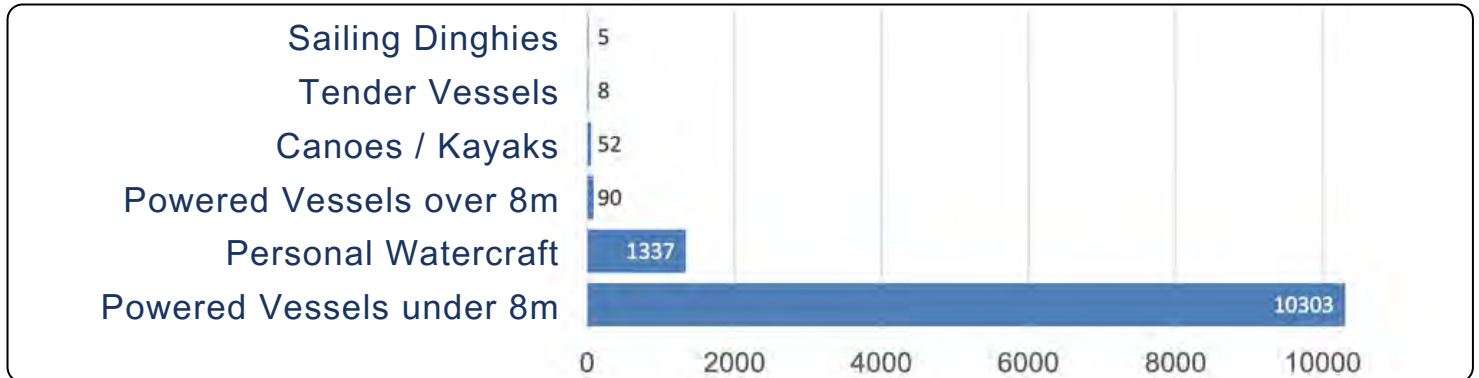
60% were found to be compliant and 40% were non-compliant.



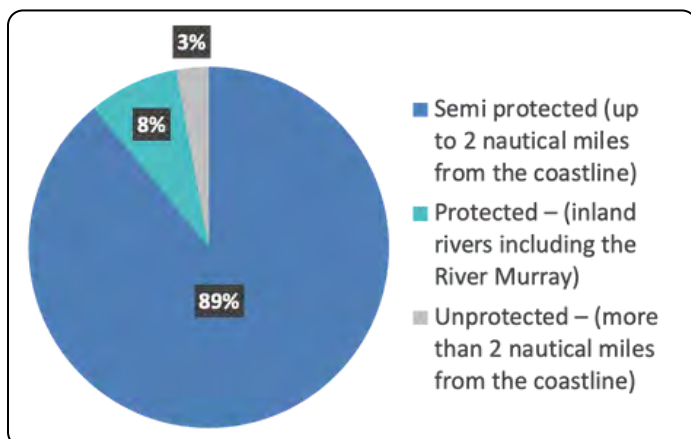
RECREATIONAL BOATING COMPLIANCE

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS

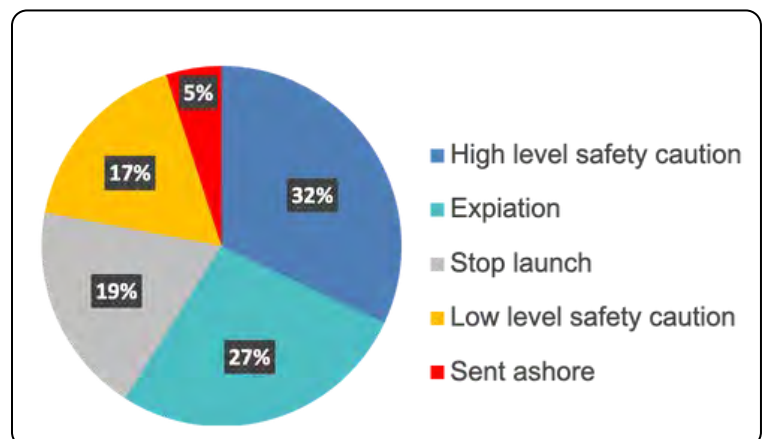
The following graphs break down the types of vessels checked, their location, actions taken for non-compliant vessels, and any expiations or cautions issued.



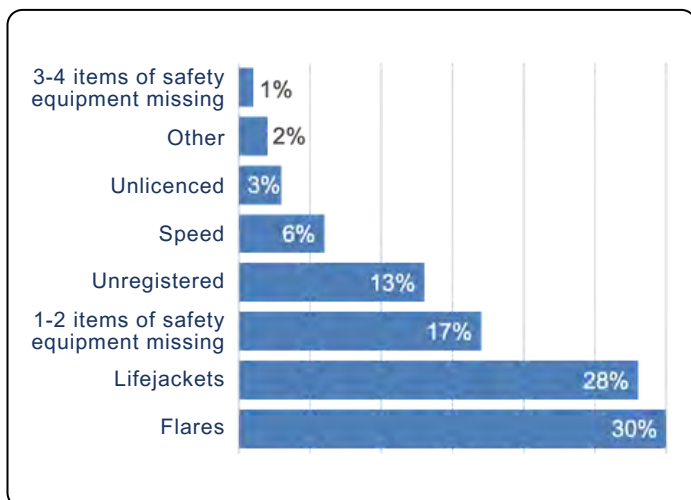
Graph 11: vessels checked by type (March 2020 to March 2023)



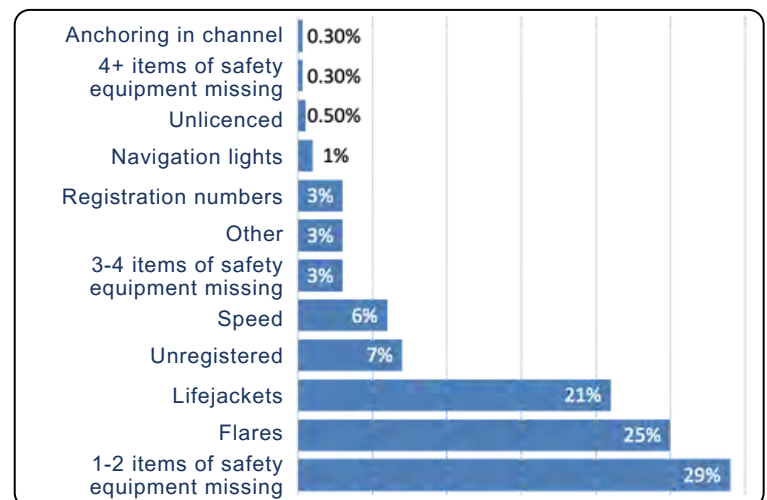
Graph 12: waters where vessel was checked (Mar 2020 to Mar 2023)



Graph 13: action taken for non-compliant vessels (Mar 2020 to Mar 2023)



Graph 14: expiations issued (March 2020 to March 2023)



Graph 15: high-level safety cautions issued (March 2020 to March 2023)

A key focus for the Department is to promote safe vessel operation and reduce non-compliance on SA waters. The Department has a targeted approach to compliance activities with a focus on reducing risk to human life. Safety messaging and education activities support compliance checks to help promote safe boating.

RECREATIONAL BOATING COMPLIANCE

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Most recreational boaters operate vessels up to six metres long. Operators must carry a range of safety equipment depending on the type and size of vessel, time of operation and waters where they operate. Appendix B provides a breakdown of SA waters into protected, semi-protected and unprotected. The online [safety equipment checker tool](#) lets operators know what equipment they need.



LIFEJACKETS

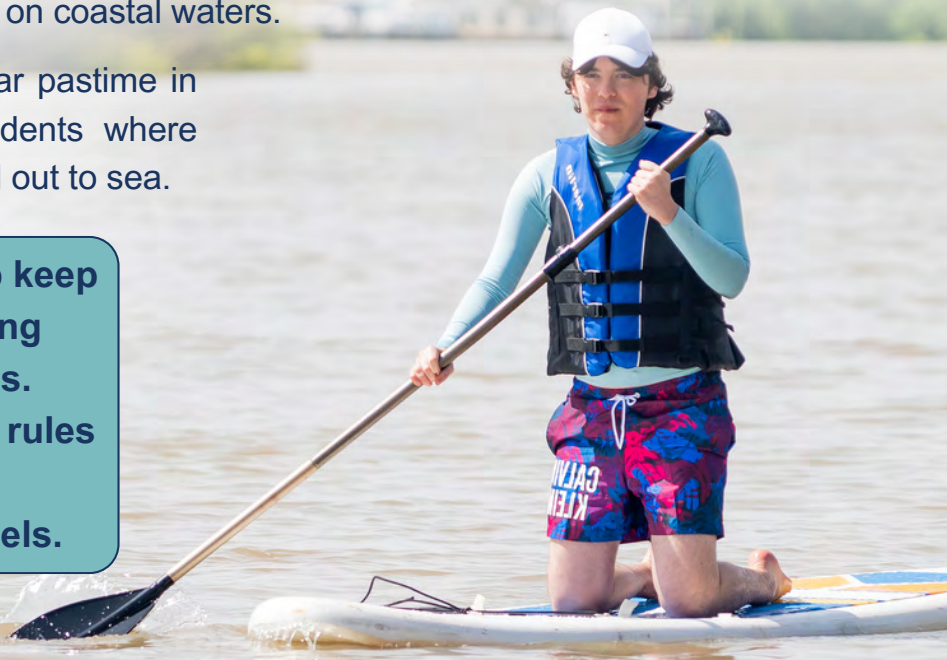
The type of lifejacket needed, and where it must be worn, depends on the type and size of vessel, the boater's age, where they are operating, and the conditions. The online [Which lifejacket do you need?](#) tool allows boaters to check which lifejacket they need to wear.

A lifejacket must always be worn on recreational vessels 4.8 metres and under.

The rules can be inconsistent when using non-powered vessels in SA. For example, kayakers and canoeists are always required to wear a lifejacket on both coastal and inland waters. But a paddleboarder is only required to wear a lifejacket when operating on inland waters like the River Murray, and not when paddleboarding on coastal waters.

Paddleboarding has become a popular pastime in Australia, and there have been incidents where paddleboarders were blown or pushed out to sea.

- Wearing a lifejacket can help keep people safer when undertaking non-powered vessel activities.
- In SA, there are inconsistent rules around lifejacket use while operating non-powered vessels.



RECREATIONAL BOATING COMPLIANCE

Inflatable Lifejackets

Inflatable lifejackets are becoming increasingly popular. They inflate when a pull cord is activated. Some models automatically activate on contact with water.

Inflatable lifejackets must be serviced in line with manufacturers instructions (generally once a year).

Lifejacket Standards and Servicing

In Tasmania in 2014, a coroner's report found that a person who died in a boating incident was wearing an inflatable lifejacket that had not been serviced for three years, did not meet Australian Standard AS4758, and was in extremely poor condition.

There have been no known fatalities in South Australia due to an inflatable lifejacket not inflating or failing to be serviced, but the importance of regular servicing should be emphasised as this style of lifejacket becomes more common.

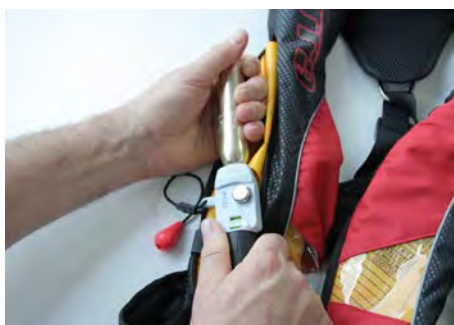
In other Australian states, lifejacket servicing clinics operate at boat ramps to teach users how to service inflatable lifejackets. Some states offer a voucher system to help users replace non-compliant lifejacket as part of these education sessions.

A similar scheme was introduced in South Australia when compulsory wearing of lifejackets in vessels 4.8 metres and under was introduced. The scheme encouraged boaters to replace old and damaged lifejackets with new lifejackets meeting Australian Standard AS4758.

6,251 vouchers were issued as part of this scheme in 2018 and 2019.

From 1 January 2025, lifejackets that meet older Australian Standards AS1512, AS1499 and AS2260 will no longer be acceptable in South Australia.

- Regular servicing is vital to ensure inflatable lifejackets function when needed.
- Educating boaters and providing advice about lifejacket servicing is critical.



RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY CONCERNS

Community members in South Australia can report marine safety concerns via an [online reporting tool](#) that can be linked to an individual's mySAGOV account if desired.

This tool helps the Department track complaints and organise appropriate responses. Concerns can also be emailed or phoned in. For urgent or life-threatening concerns, community members can contact South Australia Police.

SPEEDING

Most complaints and concerns reported between April 2018 and April 2022 were related to speeding. Other common complaints were related to speed limits and signage, failure to wear lifejackets, and boats operating too close to shore.

The most commonly reported concerns from the public include:

- Speeding in 4 and 7 knot speed zones
- Speeding near other vessels
- Personal watercraft (commonly known as jet skis) operating faster than 4 knots along coastal waters within 200 metres of shore
- Personal watercraft operating or speeding within exclusion zones along coastal waters
- Speeding in marinas and harbors and along the River Murray
- Speeding near recreational water users
- Speeding near marine wildlife

Laws and regulations define speed limits for motorised vessels in specific areas and exclusion zones. There are differences in speed limits and exclusion zones in different areas along the coast and river.

There are specific speed limits and requirements in place when operating vessels near marine mammals. More speed limit details can be found at [Marine Safety SA](#).

- **There are differences in speed limits across coastal and river waters.**
- **A review of current speed limits across coastal and river waters can help to provide more clarity and understanding of speed limits on SA waters.**



RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia is a member of the Australian Recreational Boating Safety Committee (ARBSC) and the Australian New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group (ANZSBEG). These groups shape policy and promote safe boating messages.

The Department runs an annual boating safety campaign. The campaign focuses on the prime boating period between October and April, but regular messaging occurs all year.

[Marine Safety SA](#) provides these resources to help South Australians stay safe:

- How to boat safely – before you leave and while on the water
- Online checking tools – lifejacket and equipment requirements
- Tool for reporting safety concerns, hazards and incidents
- Videos that promote safe boating
- Webcams at five selected boat ramps
- Online practice test to prepare for the boat licence exam
- Recreational boating safety handbook
- News feed
- Link to subscribe to the Marine Safety SA monthly newsletter
- [Marine Safety SA Facebook page](#)



A Marine Safety SA newsletter is delivered to approx. 4,300 subscribers each month

Radio interviews reinforce the message, along with digital virtual message boards at boat ramps across the state.

The Department attends events throughout the year to provide safe boating information, including regional field days on the Yorke Peninsula and River Murray, water safety days, larger marine based events and boat shows. It also participates in National Safe Boating Week each October.

The Department's Marine Safety Officers regularly visit boat ramps to provide advice, education and compliance checks to the public before launching their vessels.

- **Boating safety signage at boat ramps on coastal and river waters can provide more consistent messaging to the public.**
- **Digital signs enable real-time message updates for boating safety information.**

RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

OTHER STATES

All Australian states and territories run annual boating safety marketing campaigns.

WA, NSW, VIC and QLD run successful education sessions for the public, mainly held at boat ramps, and focusing on lifejacket checking and servicing.

NSW works with retailers of marine safety equipment and marine-based clubs to promote the safe boating message by providing promotional boating safety merchandise and safety equipment information.

TAS has a strong educational program targeted at schools. They provide learning sessions and lesson plans in line with the Australian school curriculum.

New boating safety education initiatives that could be introduced in SA include:

- **Lifejacket servicing clinics at boat ramps.**
- **Student education package aligned with the Australian Curriculum.**
- **Improved education for retailers about boater safety requirements.**



TECHNOLOGY

Boating App

The WA, TAS and NSW governments encourage the use of a free app designed for boaters and fishers. The app provides advice and risk analysis specific to a user's needs, including:

- Weather conditions
- Vessel size
- Location
- Sharing (to notify others of your journey)
- Map guidance (navigation aids, restricted zones, speed limits, moorings)
- Safety alerts and weather warnings
- Mariner alerts (geofenced to alert users of hazards in their vicinity)
- Safety equipment checking tool

The app can identify busy periods and highly frequented areas to help agencies better target their safe boating messages. In WA, a successful app has been downloaded by more than half of all registered boat owners. Marine rescue agencies can use the app to track and ensure the safety of users who log their trips.

- **Boating safety apps have proven to be a useful tool to help promote boating safety in other states.**
- **SA does not currently partner with or promote a boating safety app to the recreational boating public.**
- **Boating safety apps offer an effective way for the public to remain up to date with safety requirements.**



RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION

Web Cameras

South Australia has five Department managed webcams located beside boat ramps at West Beach, North Haven, Outer Harbor, O'Sullivan Beach and Edithburgh. Live footage lets the public view water conditions, weather, and activity at the ramp. The cameras were recently upgraded to provide clearer images. Some SA councils also host webcams near marine infrastructure like boat ramps and wharf areas.

OUTER HARBOR WEBCAM



NORTH HAVEN WEBCAM



EDITHBURGH WEBCAM



- Web cameras can provide recreational boaters with a snapshot of the weather and how busy a boat ramp is before leaving home.
- A 2022 survey of 663 people found that 58% of respondents would like to see more web cameras installed at boat ramps across SA.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Gathering input from the community is essential to developing a robust and effective strategy that meets the needs of all users. We encourage input via the following methods:

- Complete the online survey at www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au
- Email us at DIT.MarineSafety@sa.gov.au
- Share this document with others

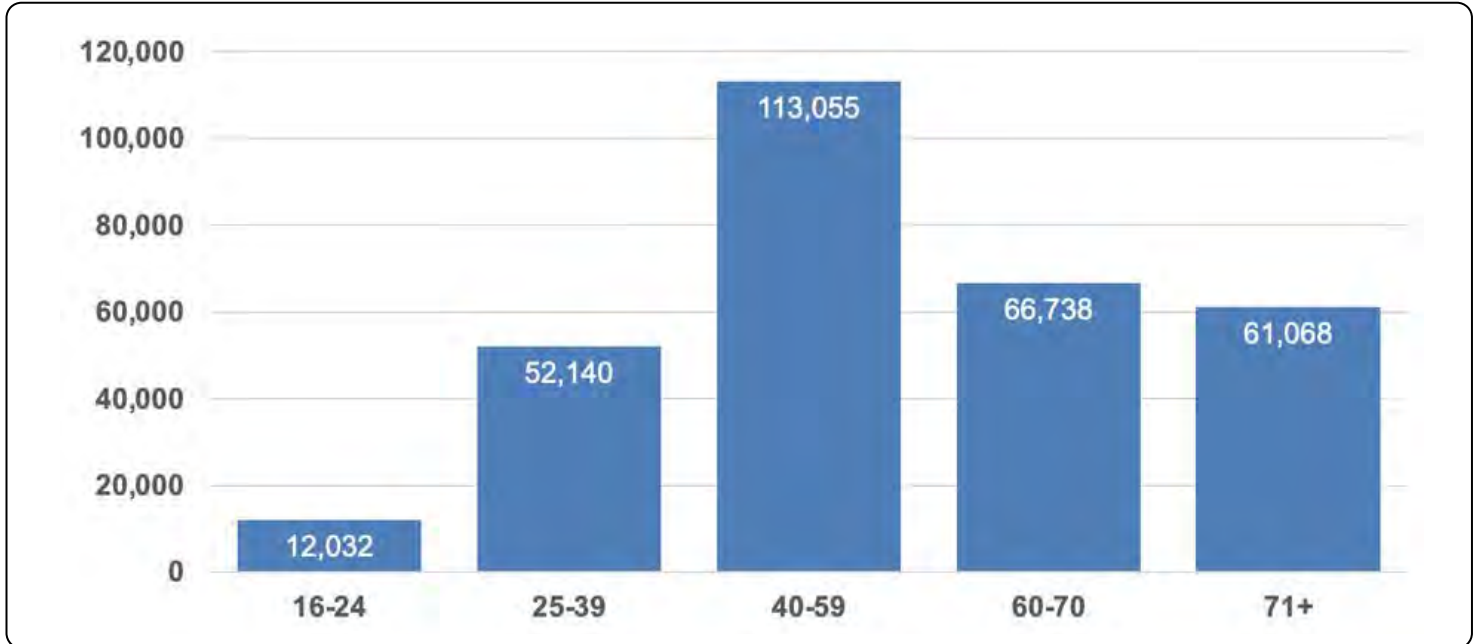
For more information about Marine Safety SA and the development of a South Australian Recreational Boating Safety Strategy, please visit www.marinesafety.sa.gov.au.



APPENDIX A: SA RECREATIONAL BOATER DEMOGRAPHICS

Age and Gender

A 2022 survey of 663 respondents found that 89% of boaters are men aged between 40 and 59. Department licensing data shows most boat licence holders are aged between 40 and 59, with 113,055 licence holders in this age bracket.

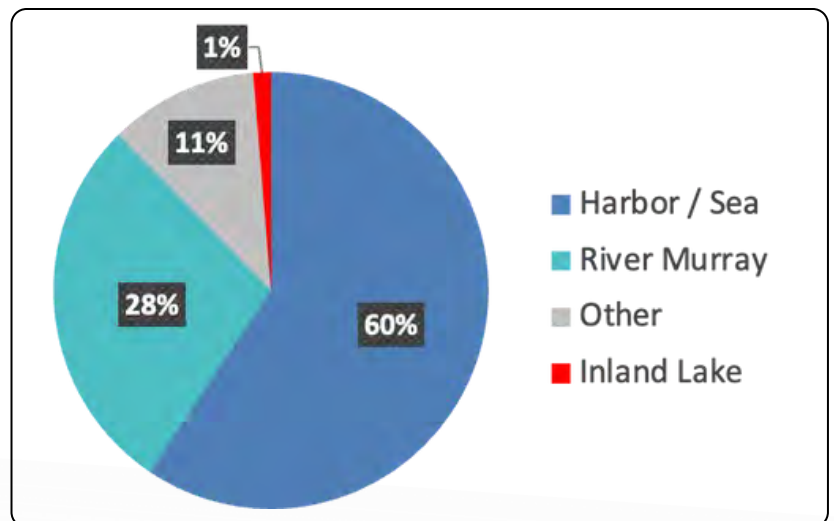


Graph 16: age of vessel operators (March 2020 – March 2023)

Location of Vessels

Department registration data shows the majority of registered vessels are used in harbors and oceans.

Most recreational boaters remain within two nautical miles (3.7 km) of the coast, and 89% of vessels checked by Marine Safety Officers since March 2020 were in semi-protected waters, indicating this is the preferred environment for boaters.




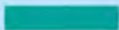
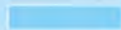



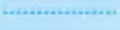
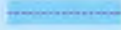

Graph 17: location where registered vessels are used (March 2020 to March 2023)



APPENDIX B: WATER PROTECTION STATUS



Legend

	Protected waters		Semi protected waters (2 nautical miles)		Unprotected waters
	Coastline		Mainland and Kangaroo Island		3 nautical miles
	Gulf limit				5 nautical miles
					10 nautical miles

The safety equipment you must carry depends on where you operate

Protected waters

All inland waters except Lake Alexandrina, Lake Albert and waters influenced by the tide.

Semi-protected waters

Waters inshore of a line 2 nautical miles to seaward of the low water mark of the coast of the mainland or Kangaroo Island, or the banks of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert. Tidal waterways such as the Port Adelaide River and the Coorong are classified as semi-protected waters.

Unprotected waters

Waters offshore of a line 2 nautical miles seaward of the low water mark of the coast of the mainland and Kangaroo Island, or the banks of Lakes Alexandrina and Albert.