

THE DAILY DISPATCH



Saturday, August 8, 2015

Serving Henderson, Vance County and surrounding area.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Authorities urge caution on the water

BY SARAH MANSUR
DISPATCH STAFF

Law enforcement and Kerr Lake officials are reminding boaters to remain cautious and attentive on the water as the summer season comes to close.

"In the last couple years, I've actually seen people texting while they are driving a boat," said Frank Timberlake of the Kerr Lake Park

Watch. "People should not be paying attention to things other than operating the boat."

In May, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Management released its annual report detailing boating accident statistics for 2014.

The state had 23 fatal incidents in 2014 and 130 total boating accidents.

Kerr Lake did not have any fatal

boating accidents in 2014 and only two non-fatal accidents.

In the introduction to the report, Wildlife Resources Director Gordon Myers said the purpose of the document is to provide statistics on the causes, frequency and location of serious boating accidents.

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BY THE NUMBERS

Fatal boat accidents in North Carolina and Kerr Lake

North Carolina

2014:	23
2013:	17
2012:	23
2011:	25

Source: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

WATER

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"These statistics are analyzed to aid in determining the direction of measures to deter boating accidents," Myers said in the introduction.

Timberlake said he has also observed hazardous situations when boaters fail to obey right of way in the water.

According to the N.C. Wildlife boating manual, non-motorized sailboats and boats using oars or paddles have the right of way over motorboats.

The exception to this rule is in overtaking situations where the vessel being overtaken always has the right of way.

"I see people ignore those rules all the time," Timberlake said.

He said boaters should always be respectful of other people using the lake to do other activities, like fish, ski and tube.

"What we all need to be cautious of is the lake is not here for one purpose," Timberlake said. "We all need to share the lake and be mindful of each other."

Contact the writer at smansur@hendersondispatch.com.

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Wednesday, August 26th



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BY THE NUMBERS

Fatal boat accidents in North Carolina and Kerr Lake

	North Carolina	Kerr Lake
2014:	23	0
2013:	17	0
2012:	23	1
2011:	25	0

Source: N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission