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Regarding: **US Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries: 2014 (Public Dissemination)**

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Executive Summary

There were a total of 5,181 Watercraft thefts in 2014, a 6% decrease in watercraft thefts from 2013. The watercraft most likely to be stolen in 2014 was a “Yamaha - Jet Ski” (453 thefts), closely followed up by the “Bombardier Corp. Jet Ski” (406 thefts). Of the 5,181 watercrafts stolen in 2014, 2,140, or 41% were recovered. The highest number of watercraft thefts in 2014 took place in Florida (24%). The Top 3 watercraft theft counties were Miami-Dade, Florida (255 thefts), Broward, Florida (106 thefts), and Lee, Florida (84 thefts). The Top 3 watercraft theft cities in 2014 were all located in Florida: Miami (177 thefts), Tampa (63 thefts), and Fort Lauderdale (61 thefts). Of the 5,181, stolen watercrafts in 2014, 21% were recovered within 9 days of being stolen. The holidays with the most watercraft thefts in 2014 was Labor Day and Memorial Day, each with 29 thefts.

In the furtherance of watercraft theft awareness and prevention, NICB brochure “Boat Theft: Leave Thieves in Your Wake” suggests that boat owners should use a common sense approach to protecting their watercrafts. The suggested prevention methods tell boat owners to: “dock your craft in well-lit areas; secure your boat to the dock with a locked steel cable; remove expensive equipment from your boat when not in use; lock the boat’s cabin, doors, and windows when not in use; remove registration or title papers in the craft; disable the boat when not in use by shutting off fuel lines and removing the battery or distributor cap; install an alarm system and a kill switch in the ignition system; use a trailer hitch lock after parking a boat on its trailer; park your trailer in a locked garage, secured boat storage facility, or a well-lit, fenced area; and ensure your marine insurance policy includes your equipment, boat, and trailer. Also, to be prepared for the possibility of a watercraft theft, NICB encourages boat owners to take photos of their boat, and to be sure that their boat and equipment are marked with a Hull Identification number (HIN), a serial number that uniquely identifies every boat and will ultimately help law enforcement with recovery efforts.

Introduction

Throughout the year 2014, there were a total of 5,181 watercraft thefts within the United States (US). Of these thefts, 2,140, or 41%, were recovered by May 31, 2015 while 3,041, or 59%, remain at large. This ForeCASTSM Report analyzes the 5,181 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries¹ with information reported to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) National Crime Information Center (NCIC). There are 3 sections to this report consisting of an analysis of the watercrafts, a geographical analysis, and a temporal analysis. “Section 1: The Watercrafts” analyzes the 2014 watercraft thefts and recoveries by manufacturer, boat type², manufacturer and boat type combined, and boat type and propulsion type combined. “Section 2: Geographic Analysis” analyzes the 2014 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries by state, by boat type and state, then by county and city. “Section 3: Temporal Analysis” analyzes the 2014 watercraft thefts and recoveries by month, holiday, and the number of days between the theft date and recovery date.

There will be a number of graphical representations throughout this report, including tables, charts, and maps. With the exception of the maps, ‘Red’ relates to theft information, while ‘Blue’ relates to recovery information. Additionally, all percentages, including those already mentioned, are rounded to the nearest whole number.

¹ A corresponding recovery is defined as recovery information that relates to its respective theft.

² The terms “watercraft” and “boat” will be used interchangeably throughout this report.

Section 1: The Watercrafts

This section will provide an analysis of the 2014 watercraft thefts and recoveries in 5 ways: [1] by the Top 10 manufacturers; [2] the 13 boat types recognized by the NCIC; [3] the Top 10 manufacturers and boat type combinations; [4] and the boat type and propulsion type combinations.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Manufacturer

There were 561 different manufacturers³ identified in the 2014 watercraft theft and recovery data. The table below lists all manufacturers with 10 or more thefts along with recovery information in descending order by number of thefts. The Top 10 stolen manufacturers are shown in 'Bold' font, and are surrounded by a black box. Totalling 1,745 thefts, the Top 10 manufacturers represent 34% of all watercraft thefts in 2014. The manufacturer with the largest number of stolen watercrafts was "Yamaha" with 547 thefts. Of the Top 10 manufacturers, "Sea Ray Boats Inc." had the highest recovery rate of 58%, while "Old Town Canoe Co." had the lowest recovery rate of 23%.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Manufacturer

Manufacturer	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate%
Yamaha Motor Corp.	547	204	37%
Bombardier Corp.	509	200	39%
Kawasaki Motors Mfg.	138	48	35%
Alumacraft Boat Co.	116	34	29%
Bass Tracker Corp.	100	37	37%
Carl A. Lowe Ind., Inc.	91	28	31%
Starcraft Co.	65	22	34%
Sea Ray Boats, Inc.	63	34	54%
Old Town Canoe Co.	61	14	23%
Sea Nymph Mfg.	55	26	47%
Pelican Intl.	52	11	21%
Sears Roebuck & Co. (Marine Div.)	51	17	33%
Tracker Seacraft of Florida	48	20	42%
Wellcraft Marine	45	23	51%
Marba Glas	44	11	25%
Polaris Ind. LP	42	21	50%
Boston Whaler, Inc.	42	20	48%
Smoker-Craft	42	21	50%
Carolina Skiff, LLC	37	23	62%
Coast Catamaran Corp.	33	11	33%
Zodiac of North America	32	10	31%
Bayliner Marine Corp.	30	19	63%
Lund American, Inc.	30	16	53%
Monark Boat Co.	29	9	31%
Fisher Marine, Inc.	29	15	52%
Glastron Boat Co.	28	15	54%
Forrest Wood Mfg. Co.	27	14	52%
Polar Kraft Mfg. Co.	27	7	26%
Ocean Kayak	25	5	20%
Bayliner Marine, Inc.	25	19	76%
Duracraft Boats, Inc.	25	9	36%
Skeeter Products, Inc.	21	10	48%
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.	20	8	40%
Wilderness Systems	20	2	10%
Godfrey Conveyor Co.	19	11	58%
Achilles KCI Corp.	19	11	58%
West Marine Products	19	8	42%
Sylvan Ind., Inc.	19	7	37%
Hydra-Sports, Inc.	18	4	22%

Manufacturer	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate%
Alumaweld Boats	17	6	35%
Valco Aluminum Boats	17	4	24%
AMF Crestliner	17	10	59%
Landau Boat Co.	17	4	24%
Crownline Boats, Inc.	16	8	50%
Bentz Craft	16	3	19%
Carolina Boat Co.	15	11	73%
Pro Craft, Inc.	15	9	60%
Grumman Boats	15	7	47%
Mastercraft Boat Co.	15	8	53%
Malibu Boats	14	8	57%
Gregor Boat Co.	14	9	64%
Alwelt Commercial Boats	14	7	50%
Midwest Seat Mfg. Co., Inc.	14	5	36%
Mirro Marine	14	3	21%
Glasspar Boat Div.	14	4	29%
Watercraft America, Inc.	13	2	15%
Triton Ind., Inc.	13	9	69%
Eldo Craft Boat Co.	13	3	23%
Key West Boats, Inc.	13	5	38%
Harris Inds.	12	3	25%
Ouachita Marine & Ind. Corp.	12	3	25%
VIP Marine Ind.	12	5	42%
Coleman Co.	12	4	33%
Sea King	12	1	8%
Grady-White Boats, Inc.	12	5	42%
Mako Marine, Inc.	12	6	50%
Nitro Marine	12	8	67%
Avon Rubber Co.	12	7	58%
Correct Craft, Inc.	11	7	64%
Grumman Allied Ind., Inc.	11	3	27%
Sea Fox Boat Co., Inc.	10	7	70%
Century Boat Co.	10	5	50%
Baja Boat Co.	10	4	40%
Rinker Boat Co., Inc.	10	6	60%
Seaswirl Boats	10	5	50%

³ There was 1 record where the manufacturer's identification was not able to be confirmed using the NCIC Boat Codes Manual or the US Coast Guard's Manufacturer's Identification website (<http://www.uscgboating.org/>) and are therefore not included in the number of different manufacturers.

Manufacturer	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate%
Chaparral Boats, Inc.	18	7	39%
Gheen Mfg. Co.	18	4	22%
Florida Homemade Boats	17	3	18%

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Boat Type

There are 13 boat types recognized by the NCIC (refer to [Appendix 1](#)) and 3,816 of the 2014 theft records identified 1 of those types as the type of boat stolen. The remaining 1,365 provided a boat code not recognized by NCIC (50) or did not provide a code at all. Of the 3,816 records with NCIC-recognized boat codes, 25%, or 1,318, were identified as “All Other”. Excluding the “All Other” category, the Top 5 stolen boat types comprised 47% (2,436) of all 2014 watercraft thefts. The most frequently stolen watercraft was the “Jet - Ski,” with 1,121 thefts. Of the Top 5 boat types, “Sailboat” had the highest recovery rate of 53%, while “Jet Ski” had 39%. . An analysis of the number of thefts of each boat type per state is located on [page 8](#) of this report.

The list below provides the number of thefts and recoveries per boat type in 2014 in descending order by number of thefts, excluding the “All Other” category. The Top 5 stolen boat types are ranked and numbered, and a sample photo⁴ for each boat type is provided.

1. Jet Ski

- Thefts: 1121
- Recoveries: 435
- Recovery Rate: 39%



2. Runabout

- Thefts: 755
- Recoveries: 376
- Recovery Rate: 50%



3. Utility

- Thefts: 325
- Recoveries: 145
- Recovery Rate: 45%



⁴ Pictures are not of actual stolen watercrafts; all images were found through Google Images to provide one general example of what each type of boat may look like.

4. Cruiser

- Thefts: 186
- Recoveries: 93
- Recovery Rate: 50%



5. Sailboat

- Thefts: 49
- Recoveries: 26
- Recovery Rate: 53%



Commercial

- Thefts: 19
- Recoveries: 13
- Recovery Rate: 68%



Houseboat

- Thefts: 16
- Recoveries: 5
- Recovery Rate: 31%



Airboat

- Thefts: 14
- Recoveries: 2
- Recovery Rate: 14%



Hovercraft

- Thefts: 5
- Recoveries: 3
- Recovery Rate: 60%



Yacht

- Thefts: 4
- Recoveries: 3
- Recovery Rate: 75%



Hydroplane

- Thefts: 3
- Recoveries: 0
- Recovery Rate: 0



Hydrofoil

- Thefts: 1
- Recoveries: 0
- Recovery Rate: 0



2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Manufacturer & Boat Type Combined

The table below ranks the Top 10 stolen manufacturer and boat type combinations along with recovery information, listed in descending order by number of thefts. Only records that identified a manufacturer and a NCIC-recognized boat type were included in the analysis. Totaling 1,263 thefts, the Top 10 manufacturer and boat type combinations comprised 24% of all watercraft thefts in 2014. The most frequently stolen combination in the Top 10 was the “Yamaha – Jet Ski”, with a total of 453 thefts. The combination with the highest recovery rate, in the Top 10, was “Polaris – Jet Ski” at 47% recovered. The lowest recovery rate was for the “Pelican Intl – Other”, at a recovery rate of 15%.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries for the Top 10 Manufacturer & Boat Type Combinations

Manufacturer	Boat Type	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. Yamaha	Jet Ski	453	165	36%
2. Bombardier Corp.	Jet Ski	406	163	40%
3. Kawasaki Motors Mfg.	Jet Ski	124	46	37%
4. Old Town Canoe Co.	Other	52	13	25%
5. Carl A. Lowe Ind.	Other	45	12	27%
6. Alumacraft Boat Co	Other	42	13	31%
7. Pelican Intl.	Other	39	6	15%
8. Marba Glas	Other	38	8	21%
9. Polaris	Jet Ski	34	16	47%
10. Bass Tracker Corp.	Other	30	7	23%

* Corresponding recoveries from 01/01/2014 through 05/31/2015

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Boat Type & Propulsion Type Combined

The table on the following page ranks the Top 10 stolen boat type and propulsion type combinations, including the number of recoveries and recovery rate for each, listed in descending order by number of thefts. Only records that identified a boat type and a propulsion type recognized by the NCIC were included in the analysis. Totaling 2,630 thefts, the Top 10 boat type and propulsion type combinations represent 51% of all 2014 watercraft thefts. Of the Top 10 boat type/propulsion type combinations, “Jet - Ski – Inboard” had the highest number of thefts with 680. The Top 10 combination with the highest recovery rate of 59% was “Cruiser – Inboard”, while the combination with the lowest recovery rate was “Utility – Outboard” at 26%.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries for the Top 10 Boat Type & Propulsion Type Combinations

Boat Type	Propulsion Type	Thefts	Recoveries*	Recovery Rate %
1. Jet Ski	Inboard	680	240	35%
2. Other	Outboard	509	219	46%
3. Runabout	Outboard	479	235	46%
4. Other	Manual	352	65	40%
5. Utility	Outboard	195	93	26%
6. Runabout	Inboard	162	88	45%
7. Cruiser	Inboard	90	53	59%
8. Cruiser	Outboard	71	32	45%
9. Other	Inboard	59	29	49%
10. Jet Ski	Outboard	33	13	39%

* Corresponding recoveries from 01/01/2014 through 05/31/2015

Section 2: Geographic Analysis

The Geographic Analysis Section analyzes the 2014 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries in 3 parts: [1] the 2014 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries by theft state; [2] the 2014 watercraft thefts per state by boat type; [3] the 2014 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries for the Top 10 theft counties; [4] the 2014 watercraft theft and corresponding recoveries for the Top 10 theft cities.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries by Theft State

All of the 5,181 watercraft thefts in 2014 identified the state where the theft occurred and almost every state reported at least one theft, with the exception of Hawaii and the District of Columbia (DC). The following table lists the thefts and corresponding recoveries⁵ for each state in descending order by number of thefts. The Top 10 theft states are identified with 'Bold' font, ranked, and surrounded by a black box in the below table. Totalling 3,297 thefts, the Top 10 theft states comprised 64% of all 2014 watercraft thefts. Consistent with 2013, the state with the highest number of thefts was Florida with 1,290, representing 25% of all watercraft thefts in 2014. This is more than twice as many thefts as the next highest theft state, making Florida a watercraft theft hotspot. Of the Top 10 theft states, Washington had the highest recovery rate of 53%. The state with the lowest recovery rate of the top 10 was Tennessee, with 32% of stolen watercrafts being recovered.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries by Theft State

State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
FL	1290	469	36%
CA	507	262	52%
TX	386	156	40%
WA	201	106	53%
NC	169	63	37%
GA	163	68	42%
TN	159	51	32%
SC	146	50	34%
AR	139	49	35%
AL	137	56	41%
LA	132	39	30%
MI	126	33	26%
OH	110	40	36%
MO	102	41	40%
MN	100	39	39%
VA	53	22	42%
KY	50	23	46%
KS	41	9	22%
NV	37	17	46%
NJ	36	10	28%
IA	33	8	24%
CT	32	18	56%
NB	28	13	46%
NH	25	10	40%
WV	22	5	23%
AK	21	10	48%
CO	20	7	35%
ME	19	4	21%
RI	15	4	27%
UT	14	5	36%

⁵The recovery information for this section corresponds to the thefts per state in order to provide an accurate recovery rate. If a watercraft was recovered in a different state than where it was stolen, it was counted in the recovery information for the theft state, as opposed to the recovery information for the recovery state.

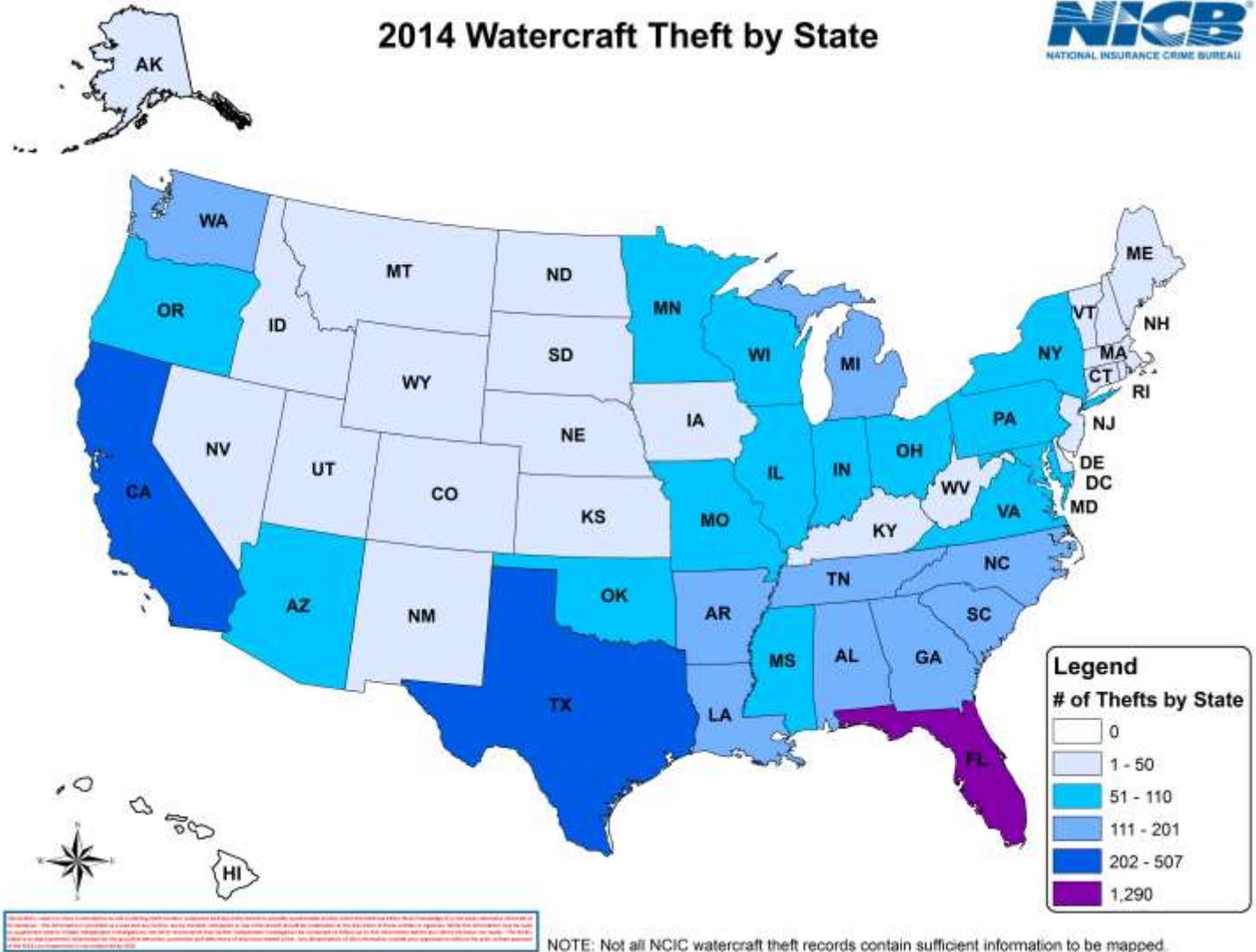
OR	97	36	37%
PA	93	16	17%
AZ	90	40	44%
OK	90	33	37%
IN	79	25	32%
NY	78	31	40%
MS	71	24	34%
WI	71	25	35%
MD	63	22	35%
IL	60	19	32%

MA	14	2	14%
DE	13	2	15%
ID	12	7	58%
MT	10	2	20%
NM	9	2	22%
SD	6	4	67%
VT	5	1	20%
ND	4	2	50%
WY	3	1	33%
VA	53	22	42%

The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of Watercraft thefts by state in 2014.



2014 Watercraft Theft by State



The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of Watercraft recoveries by state in from 2014 through 05/31/2015.

OK	29	LA	4
TN	29	ID	3
NY	23	ME	3
OH	21	SD	3
SC	21	AK	2
GA	20	MT	2
AR	16	ND	2
AL	15	NM	2
MO	15	UT	2
IN	13	CT	1
NB	12	DE	1
NJ	12	IA	1
NV	12	NH	1
MS	11	WY	1
MD	10		
MN	10		
OR	10		

AR	22	MO	4
AZ	21	NH	4
MS	21	OK	4
OR	21	KS	3
SC	19	PA	3
TN	19	RI	3
GA	18	VA	3
AK	16	DE	2
IL	15	UT	2
AL	14	CO	1
WI	13	ME	1
IN	12	ND	1
CT	9	OH	1
IA	9	VT	1
MD	9		

CA	15	DE	2
MS	15	KS	2
MO	14	NV	2
AR	10	WV	2
OH	10	CO	1
IA	8	CT	1
TN	8	ID	1
KY	6	ME	1
OK	6	MT	1
AZ	5	NH	1
MI	5	NJ	1
OR	5	NM	1
IN	4	UT	1
MA	4	WA	1

Other

State	Count	State	Count
FL	241	NY	20
CA	73	NH	16
MI	73	KS	15
TX	65	CT	12
SC	56	ME	11
AR	54	CO	10
OH	47	MS	10
TN	46	IA	9
MO	44	WV	9
PA	44	MA	7
NC	42	NJ	7
IL	39	RI	6
MN	37	AZ	5
WA	34	NB	5
LA	33	ID	4
OR	33	NV	4
GA	30	MT	3
AL	29	AK	2
MD	25	DE	2
KY	24	NM	2
OK	23	VT	2
VA	21	ND	1
WI	21	SD	1
IN	20	WY	1

Cruiser

State	Count	State	Count
FL	39	KY	3
NC	11	LA	3
GA	8	NY	3
MI	8	OH	2
AL	7	SC	2
TX	7	AK	1
IL	5	CO	1
MD	5	IA	1
OR	5	MN	1
NV	4	MO	1
OK	4	NJ	1
TN	4	NM	1
VA	4	RI	1
WA	4	SD	1

Sailboat

State	Count	State	Count
FL	12	MN	2
CA	6	WI	2
TX	6	IL	1
MD	4	KY	1
MI	3	MS	1
NC	3	OR	1
WA	3	SC	1
AZ	2	VA	1

Commercial

State	Count
FL	11
AL	1
CA	1
CT	1
GA	1
IN	1
NC	1
NH	1
TX	1

Airboat

State	Count
FL	8
CA	1
LA	1
MS	1
OR	1
UT	1
VA	1

Hovercraft

State	Count
DE	1
FL	1
MD	1
MO	1
TX	1

Houseboat

State	Count
CA	3
AR	2
FL	2
SC	2

Hydroplane

State	Count
KS	1
MS	1
PA	1

Yacht

State	Count
CA	1
FL	1
OR	1

Hydrofoil

State	Count
CA	1

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries by Theft County

Of the 5,181 theft records, there were 1,218 unique counties identified in the 2014 Watercraft theft and recovery data, two records did not contain theft county information. The theft county with the highest number of stolen watercrafts was Miami-Dade, Florida with 255 thefts. Of the Top 10 theft counties, Orange, Florida had the highest recovery rate of 73%, while Broward, Florida had the lowest at 11% recovered. Of note, 8 of the Top 10 theft counties were located in Florida, with the remaining being located in California (2).

Watercraft Thefts by top 10 Counties

County	State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. Miami-Dade	FL	255	97	38 %
2. Broward	FL	106	12	11 %
3. Lee	FL	84	25	29 %
4. Palm Beach	FL	79	28	35 %
5. Los Angeles	CA	79	30	38 %
6. Hillsborough	FL	64	23	36 %
7. Orange	FL	63	46	73 %
8. Monroe	FL	60	32	53 %
9. Sacramento	CA	52	30	58 %
10. Polk	FL	48	22	46 %

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries by Theft City

All of the 5,181 theft records identified the city in which the theft occurred, 924 of the 2,140 recovery records reported the city where the watercraft was recovered. There were 1,784 unique theft cities identified in the 2014 watercraft theft and recovery data. Totalling 630 thefts, the Top 10 theft cities account for 12% of all watercraft thefts in 2014. The theft city with the highest number of stolen watercrafts was Miami, Florida with 177 thefts. Of the Top 10 theft cities, Sacramento, California had the highest recovery rate of 51%, while Fort Lauderdale, Florida had the lowest at 13% recovered. Of note, 9 of the Top 10 theft cities were located in Florida, with the remaining being located in California (1).

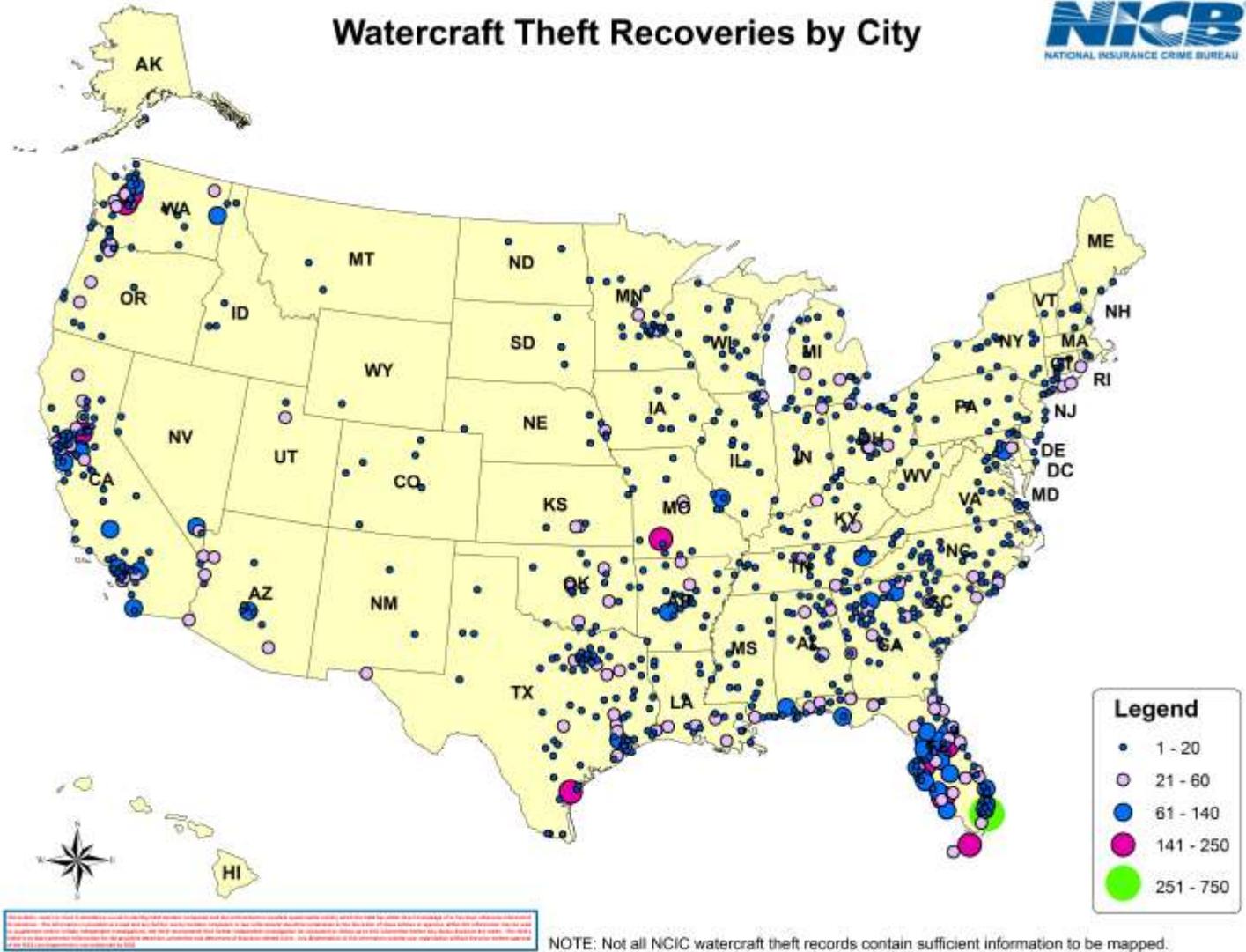
2014 Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries by Theft City

City	State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. MIAMI	FL	177	75	42%
2. TAMPA	FL	63	21	33%
3. FORT LAUDERDALE	FL	61	8	13%
4. FORT MYERS	FL	58	19	33%
5. ORLANDO	FL	55	23	42%
6. MARATHON	FL	54	20	37%
7. SACRAMENTO	CA	49	25	51%
8. DELAND	FL	40	11	28%
9. WINTER HAVEN	FL	38	14	37%
10. WEST PALM BEACH	FL	35	14	40%

The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of Watercraft thefts by city in 2014.



Watercraft Theft Recoveries by City

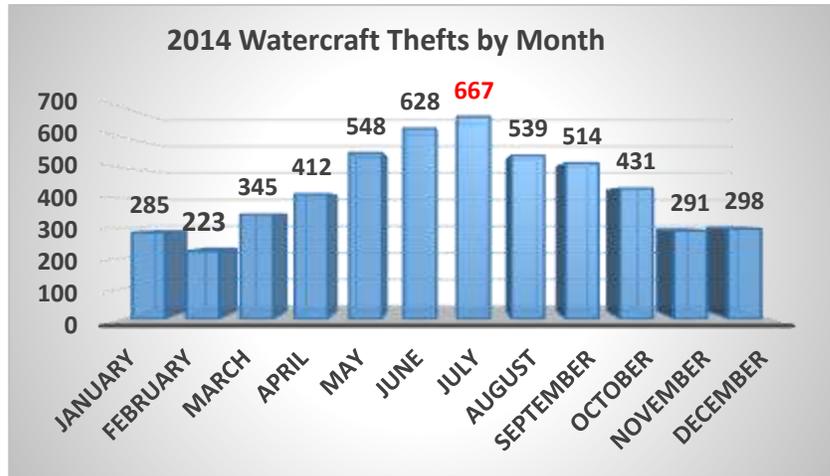


Section 3: Temporal Analysis

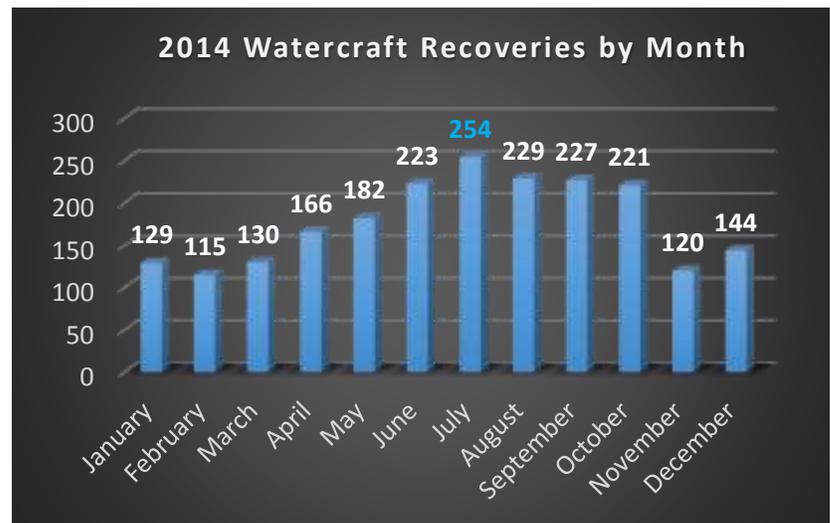
On average, there were approximately 14 watercraft thefts per day, 100 per week, or 432 per month in 2014. However, watercraft thefts are not distributed evenly over time and the following Temporal Analyses will aim to show when to be the most prepared for potential thefts by analyzing the 2014 watercraft thefts and recoveries in 3 ways: [1] by theft month and recovery month; [2] by holiday [3] by the average number of days between the theft date and recovery date for each boat type recognized by the NCIC.

2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Theft Month

The graph to the right displays the 2014 watercraft thefts per theft month. As previously mentioned, watercraft thefts are not evenly distributed over the year and this graph clearly highlights that. Watercraft theft is a seasonal crime with more thefts occurring in spring and summer, as the months of April through September all exceeded the monthly average of 432. July had the highest number of thefts with 667, while February had the fewest thefts with 223.

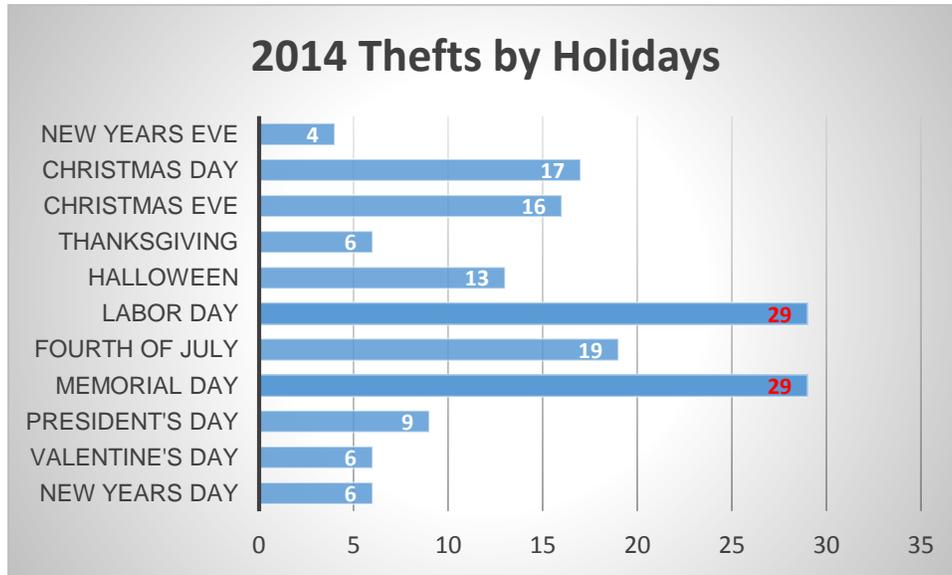


The graph to the right displays the 2014 watercraft recoveries per month. Only recoveries made in 2014 were included. Of the watercraft thefts in 2014, there was an average of 178 recoveries per month. As with the thefts, recoveries appear to be seasonal with May through October having a higher than average number of recoveries. July had the highest number of recoveries at 254, and February had the fewest number of recoveries at 115.



2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries by Holiday

The graph on the following page displays the number of watercraft thefts by holidays in 2014. The holidays with the most watercraft thefts in 2014 was tied between Labor Day and Memorial Day, both with 29 thefts each, and the holiday with the least number of thefts was New Year's Eve with 4 thefts.



2014 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries: Analysis of the Number of Days between Theft Date and Recovery Date

The following table displays the Top 10 number of days between a watercraft's theft and recovery date in descending order by number of recovered thefts (shown below in **bold Blue** font). All 1,109 recoveries from 1/01/2014 through 5/31/2015 were included in this analysis. Of the 1,109 recovered thefts, 257 were recovered either on the same day as the theft or by the end of the following day, representing 24% of all recoveries or 12% on the same day or 12% by the end of the following day. Of the Top 10 days to recovery, 21% of all thefts were recovered within 9 days of the theft date.

Top 10 Number of Days Between Theft Date and Recovery Date

Days to Recovery	Recovered Thefts	% of All Thefts	% of All Recoveries
0 (Same Day)	257	5%	12%
1	257	5%	12%
2	155	3%	7%
3	113	2%	5%
4	71	1%	3%
5	70	1%	3%
7	65	1%	3%
8	43	1%	2%
6	41	1%	2%
9	37	1%	2%
Totals	1109	21%	52%

Methodology

Data parameters were defined as all watercrafts stolen in the US between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 that were reported to the NCIC. Corresponding recovery information was collected from the NCIC and included only watercrafts that were stolen in 2014 but were recovered between January 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015. Watercrafts stolen from the US but recovered outside of the US are included, as well. Steps taken to clean the data included:

1. Removing records not classified as watercrafts by the NCIC (the NCIC classifies watercrafts by assigning a file number beginning with the letter 'B')
2. Removing all records that did not identify a HIN
3. Removing duplicate records
4. Removing records with a theft location outside of the US
5. Removing all records used for testing and training purposes.

NCIC can be considered one of the most reliable and comprehensive sources of watercraft theft and recovery data, as it is a centralized database where local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the US can report crime information. Despite its reliability, many validity issues still arise through inaccurate or incomplete information within each individual record, which may result in limitations in the data. Of all 5,181 thefts in 2014, 14% did not provide or provided an unverifiable manufacturer's code, 26% did not supply or gave incomplete information on the boat type, and 35% did not provide or gave incomplete information on propulsion type. To offer all watercraft theft stakeholders with the most valuable information, any records with miscellaneous, misidentified, or unidentified information were not included in any Top 10, within this report; however, all relevant calculations were evaluated based on the premise of 5,181 total thefts.

Appendix 1: NCIC Boat Type Definitions

Airboat	Undefined
Commercial	Ferry, oyster boat, motor barge, towboat, tug, clam dredge, coaster, riverboat, smack boat, etc.
Cruiser	A boat with an inboard motor that is at least 25 feet long but no longer than 50 feet
Houseboat	Undefined
Hovercraft	Undefined
Hydrofoil	Undefined
Hydroplane	Undefined
Jet Ski	Aqua bike
Runabout	Launch, motorboat, outrider, speedboat, etc.
Sailboat	Cat, catamaran, cutter, bark, ketch, lateen, lugger, pinnace, schooner, sloop, yawl, etc.
Utility	Fisherman, sedan, etc.
Yacht	A boat with an inboard motor that is more than 50 feet in length and is used mainly for pleasure or recreation
All Other	Canoe, dinghy, dory, johnboat, kayak, lifeboat, paddleboat, rowboat, scull, skiff, etc.