Analysis of Significant Incidents reported in 2018

2086 incidents were reported, 2% fewer than in 2017. 1257 of the reports were of significant incidents (1388 in 2017) and 829 reports were of simple capsizes (744 in 2017). There is a similar pattern in the causes of incidents over the last 5 years.

There were 2 rowing fatalities, both were heart related. There were 59 incidents with serious injuries requiring more than one week off rowing (67 in 2017), 101 with significant injuries requiring a few days off rowing (61 in 2017), 85 with minor injuries (124 in 2017) and 1010 resulting in no personal injuries (1131 in 2017). There was a sharp increase in the number of incidents caused by Falls and Other Injuries that resulted in more than one week off rowing: 31 incidents in 2018 (19 in 2017). The injuries caused by these incidents included concussion and broken bones.

The overall value of damage to property, mostly boats, was around £245,000 (£225,000 in 2017). 2 incidents resulted in the loss of a boat (3 in 2017), 21 resulted in damage valued at more than £1000 (33 in 2017), 372 resulted in damage valued at under £1000 (420 in 2017), and 870 (67%) of incidents resulted in no damage to property (928 in 2017).

As in previous years, in 2018, over 90% of significant incidents were the result of at-risk behaviour. The proportion of incidents due to not keeping a good lookout, not adhering to the navigation code, or doing both at the same time increased to 62% compared with 57% in 2017 and 2016.

Collisions continue to be the most common type of incident, 59% of the significant incidents in 2018. The majority of collisions are between rowing boats and, as in 2017, over 90% of collisions are caused by poor lookout, non-adherence to navigation code or doing both at the same time.

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