Date: April 28, 2016
Regarding: **2015 US Watercraft Theft and Recovery (through 03/15/2016) Report** (Public Dissemination)
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Executive Summary

There were a total of 5,051 Watercraft thefts in 2015, a 3% decrease in watercraft thefts from 2014. The watercraft most likely to be stolen in 2015 was a "Yamaha – WaveRunner® personal watercraft (PWC) (463 thefts), followed up by the "Bombardier Corp. Sea-Doo© PWC (339 thefts). Of the 5,051 watercraft stolen in 2015, 2,114, or 42% were recovered through 03/15/2016. The highest number of watercraft thefts in 2015 took place in Florida (24%). The Top 3 watercraft theft counties were Miami-Dade, Florida (299 thefts), Broward, Florida (104 thefts), and Lee, Florida (69 thefts). The Top 3 watercraft theft cities in 2015 were all located in Florida: Miami (192 thefts), Tampa (63 thefts), and Fort Lauderdale (59 thefts). Of the 2,114, recovered watercrafts from 01/01/2015 through 03/15/2016, 51% were recovered within 9 days of being stolen. The holidays with the most watercraft thefts in 2015 was Labor Day and Fourth of July, each with 36 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 2015, there were a total of 5,051 watercraft thefts within the United States (US). Of these thefts, 2,114, or 42%, were recovered by March 15, 2016, while 2,937, or 58%, remain at large. This ForeCAST[SM] Report analyzes the 5,051 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries[1] 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 Watercraft" analyzes the 2015 watercraft thefts and recoveries by manufacturer, boat type[2], manufacturer and boat type combined, and boat type and propulsion type combined. "Section 2: Geographic Analysis" analyzes the 2015 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries by state, by boat type and state, then by county and city (excluding recovery records from outside of the US). "Section 3: Temporal Analysis" analyzes the 2015 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries by month, holiday, and the number of days between the theft date and recovery date from 01/01/2015 through 03/15/2016.

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.

Section 1: The Watercraft

This section will provide an analysis of the 2015 watercraft thefts and recoveries in 4 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.

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[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.

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/2016) by Manufacturer

There were 530 different manufacturers[3] identified in the 2015 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. Totaling 1,786 thefts, the Top 10 manufacturers represent 35% of all watercraft thefts in 2015. The manufacturer with the largest number of stolen watercrafts was "Yamaha" with 573 thefts. Of the Top 10 manufacturers, "Bayliner Marine, Corp." had the highest recovery rate of 43%, while "Yamaha Motor Corp., USA had the lowest recovery rate of 16%.

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Manufacturer

Manufacturer	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate%
Yamaha Motor Corp., USA	**573**	**92**	**16%**
Bombardier Corp.	**428**	**146**	**34%**
Kawasaki Motors Mfg.	**163**	**66**	**40%**
Alumacraft Boat Co.	**129**	**45**	**35%**
Bass Tracker Corp.	**108**	**39**	**36%**
Bayliner Marine, Corp.	**91**	**39**	**43%**
Carl A. Lowe Ind., Inc.	**84**	**32**	**38%**
Pelican Intl.	**76**	**29**	**38%**
Old Town Canoe Co.	**71**	**28**	**39%**
Starcraft Co.	**63**	**26**	**41%**
Sea Ray Boats, Inc.	62	25	40%
Sea Nymph Mfg.	51	21	41%
Tracker Seacraft of Florida	48	17	35%
Boston Whaler, Inc.	47	17	36%
Marba Glas	46	16	35%
Landau Boat Co.	42	18	43%
Polaris Ind. LP	41	15	37%
Monark Boat Co.	40	15	38%
Smoker-Craft	37	13	35%
Lund American, Inc.	36	13	36%
Wellcraft Marine	31	14	45%
West Marine Products	30	13	43%
Zodiac of North America	30	13	43%
Forrest Wood Mfg. Co.	30	12	40%
Glastron Boat Co.	28	13	46%
Sears Roebuck & Co.	27	12	44%
Ocean Kayak	26	12	46%
Carolina Skiff, LLC	26	11	42%
AMF Crestliner	25	12	48%
Florida Homemade Boats	25	12	48%
Wilderness Systems	25	11	44%
Fisher Marine, Inc.	24	11	46%
Polar Kraft Mfg. Co.	24	9	38%
Chaparral Boats, Inc.	22	10	45%
Bentz Craft	21	10	48%
Coast Catamaran Corp.	21	10	48%
Duracraft Boats, Inc.	21	9	43%
Skeeter Products, Inc.	21	9	43%
Chris Craft	21	9	43%
Pro Craft, Inc.	20	9	45%

Manufacturer	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate%
Coleman Co., The	20	7	35%
Alweld Commercial Boats	19	9	47%
Grumman Boats	18	8	44%
Godfrey Conveyor Co.	18	8	44%
Glasspar Boat Div.	18	8	44%
Charger Custom Boats	18	8	44%
Gregor Boat Co.	17	8	47%
American Honda Motor Co.,	17	7	41%
Sylvan Ind., Inc.	17	6	35%
Grumman Allied Ind., Inc.	16	7	44%
Gheen Mfg. Co.	16	7	44%
Watercraft America, Inc.	16	6	38%
Alumaweld Boats	14	7	50%
Century Boat Co.	14	6	43%
Grady-White Boats, Inc.	14	6	43%
Rinker Boat Co., Inc.	14	6	43%
Sea King	14	6	43%
Triton Ind., Inc.	14	6	43%
Sea Fox Boat Co., Inc.	13	6	46%
Malibu Boats	13	5	38%
Mirro Marine	13	5	38%
Reinell Boats, Inc.	13	5	38%
Aquasport, Inc.	12	5	42%
Hydra-Sports, Inc.	12	5	42%
Valco Aluminum Boats	12	5	42%
Action Boats	11	5	45%
Carolina Boat Co.	11	5	45%
Harris Inds.	11	5	45%
Mad River Canoe Co., Inc.	11	5	45%
Crestliner, Inc.	11	5	45%
Pro-Line Boat Co.	11	5	45%
Mercury Marine	11	5	45%
Baja Boat Co.	11	4	36%
Necky Kayaks, Ltd.	11	4	36%
Ouachita Marine & Ind. Corp.	11	4	36%
Caribe Inflatable USA, Inc.	10	4	40%
Key West Boats, Inc.	10	4	40%
Weldbilt	10	3	30%
Champion Boats	10	2	20%

[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.*

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/2016) by Boat Type

There are 13 boat types recognized by the NCIC[4] (refer to Appendix) and 3,699 of the 2015 theft records identified 1 of those types as the type of boat stolen. The remaining 1,352 provided a boat code not recognized by NCIC or did not provide a code at all. Of the 3,699 records with NCIC-recognized boat codes, 36%, or 1,339, were identified as "All Other". Excluding the "All Other" category, the Top 5 stolen boat types comprised 45% (2,297) of all 2015 watercraft thefts. The most frequently stolen watercraft was the "Personal Watercraft," with 1,108 thefts. Of the Top 5 boat types, "Houseboat" had the highest recovery rate of 60%, while "Yacht" had 17%. 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 2015 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 photo[5] for each boat type is provided.

1. Personal Watercraft
   - Thefts: 1,108
   - Recoveries: 375
   - Recovery Rate: 34%

2. Runabout
   - Thefts: 678
   - Recoveries: 331
   - Recovery Rate: 49%

3. Utility
   - Thefts: 278
   - Recoveries: 115
   - Recovery Rate: 41%

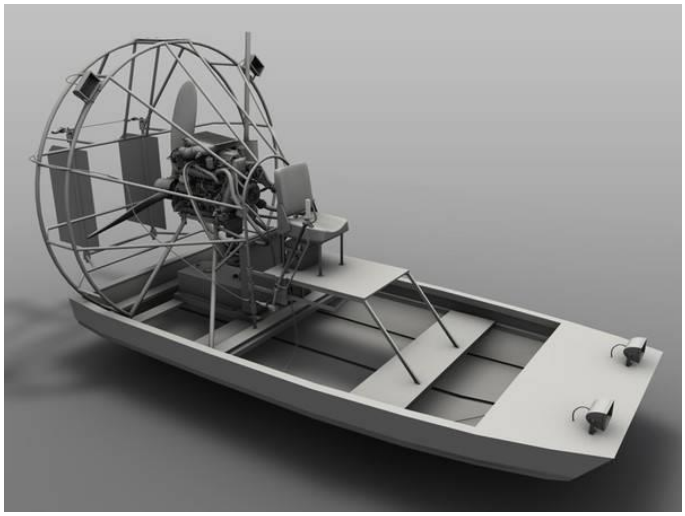
[4] As noted in the Appendix, *NCIC uses "Jet Ski" to describe all personal watercraft (PWC). "Jet Ski" is the trademarked brand name for Kawasaki Motors Corporation's PWC. Thus, the term "Jet Ski" has been replaced with personal watercraft, or PWC, unless referring specifically to the Kawasaki product.*

[5] *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: 181
    - Recoveries: 90
    - Recovery Rate: 50%

5. Sailboat
    - Thefts: 52
    - Recoveries: 28
    - Recovery Rate: 54%

Commercial
- Thefts: 25
- Recoveries: 12
- Recovery Rate: 48%



Airboat
- Thefts: 21
- Recoveries: 6
- Recovery Rate: 29%

Houseboat
- Thefts: 10
- Recoveries: 6
- Recovery Rate: 60%

Yacht
- Thefts: 6
- Recoveries: 1
- Recovery Rate: 17%

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

Hydroplane

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

Hydrofoil

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

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) 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 1,252 thefts, the Top 10 manufacturer and boat type combinations comprised 25% of all watercraft thefts in 2015. The most frequently stolen combination in the Top 10 was the "Yamaha – WaveRunner® PWC, with a total of 463 thefts. The combination with the highest recovery rate, in the Top 10, was "Kawasaki – Jet Ski® PWC at 43% recovered. The lowest recovery rate was for both the "Pelican Intl'– Other", and the "Polaris – Other" at a recovery rate of 17%.

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries (through 03/15/16) for the Top 10 Manufacturer & Boat Type Combinations

Manufacturer	Boat Type	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. Yamaha	PWC	463	145	31%
2. Bombardier Corp.	PWC	339	119	35%
3. Kawasaki Motors Mfg.	PWC	147	63	43%
4. Pelican	Other	58	10	17%
5. Old Towne Canoe Co.	Other	57	11	19%
6. Marba Glas	Other	51	13	25%
7. Polaris	Other	40	7	17%
8. Polaris	PWC	38	11	29%
9. Bass Tracker Corp.	Other	31	7	23%
10. Carl A. Lowe Corp.	Other	28	5	18%

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Boat Type & Propulsion Type Combined

The table below 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 2,459 thefts, the Top 10 boat type and propulsion type combinations represent 49% of all 2015 watercraft thefts. Of the Top 10 boat type/propulsion type combinations, "PWC – Inboard" had the highest number of thefts with 645. The Top 10 combination with the highest recovery rate of 55% was "Cruiser – Inboard", while the combination with the lowest recovery rate was "Other–Manual" at 22%.

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Recoveries (through 03/15/16) for the Top 10 Boat Type & Propulsion Type Combinations

Boat Type	Propulsion Type	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. PWC	Inboard	645	189	29%
2. Other	Outboard	474	191	40%
3. Runabout	Outboard	416	213	51%
4. Other	Manual	338	74	22%
5. Utility	Outboard	177	75	42%
6. Runabout	Inboard	145	65	45%
7. Cruiser	Inboard	78	43	55%
8. Other	Inboard	73	37	51%
9. Cruiser	Outboard	71	32	45%
10. PWC	Outboard	42	12	29%

Section 2: Geographic Analysis

The Geographic Analysis Section analyzes the 2015 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries in 3 parts: [1] the 2015 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries by theft state; [2] the 2015 watercraft thefts per state by boat type; [3] the 2015 watercraft thefts and corresponding recoveries for the Top 10 theft counties; [4] the 2015 watercraft theft and corresponding recoveries for the Top 10 theft cities.

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Theft State

All of the 5,051 watercraft thefts in 2015 identified the state where the theft occurred and almost every state reported at least one theft. The following table lists the thefts and corresponding recoveries[6] 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. Totaling 3,248 thefts, the Top 10 theft states comprised 64% of all 2015 watercraft thefts. Consistent with 2014, the state with the highest number of thefts was Florida with 1,205, representing 24% of all watercraft thefts in 2015. 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, California had the highest recovery rate of 50%. The state with the lowest recovery rate of the top 10 was Tennessee, with 28% of stolen watercrafts being recovered.

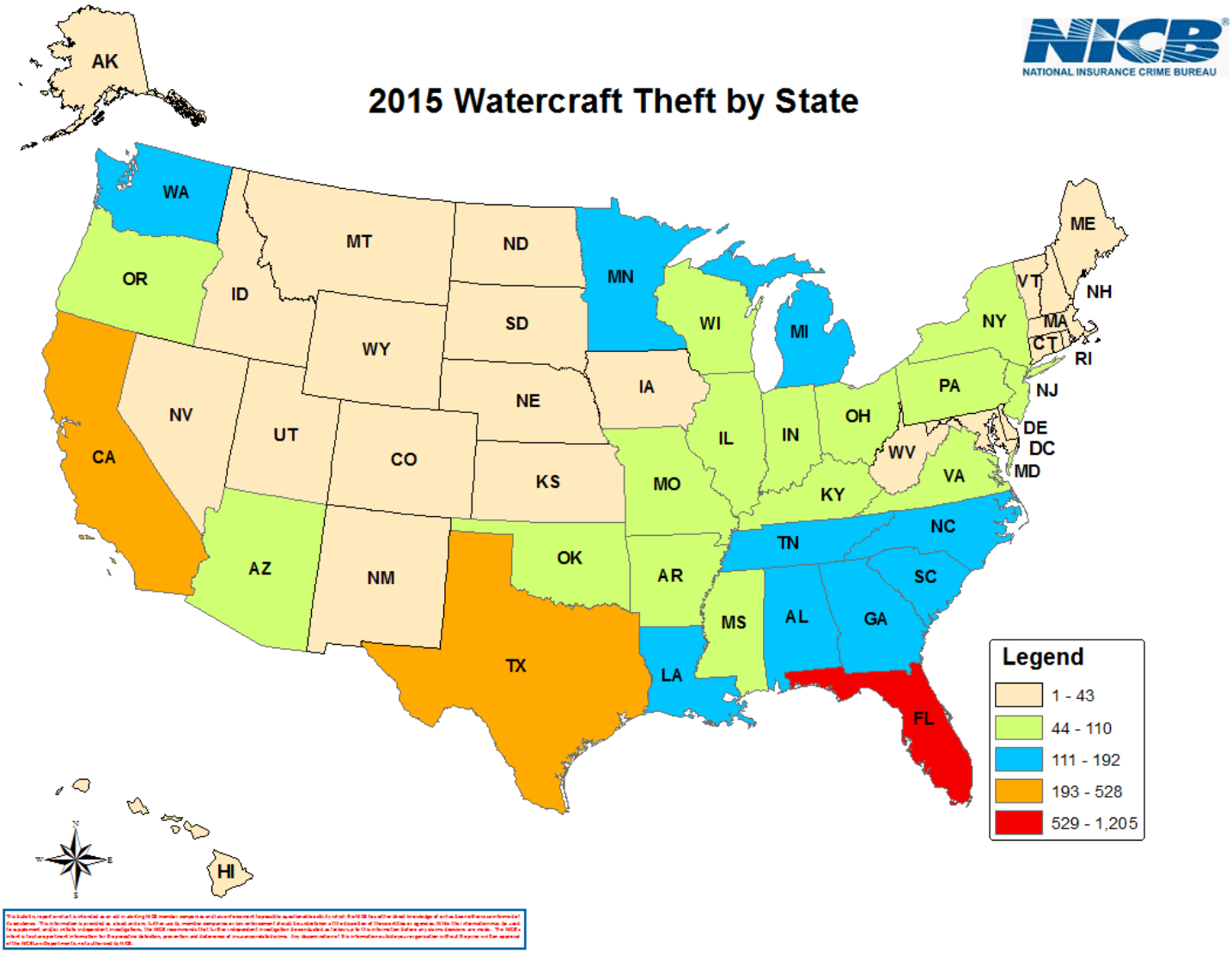
[6]*The recovery information for this section corresponds to the thefts per state in order to provide an accurate recovery rate. If a watercraft was recovered in a different state than where it was stolen, it was counted in the recovery information for the theft state, as opposed to the recovery information for the recovery state. Also, records from outside of the U.S. were not included in the counts.*

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Theft State

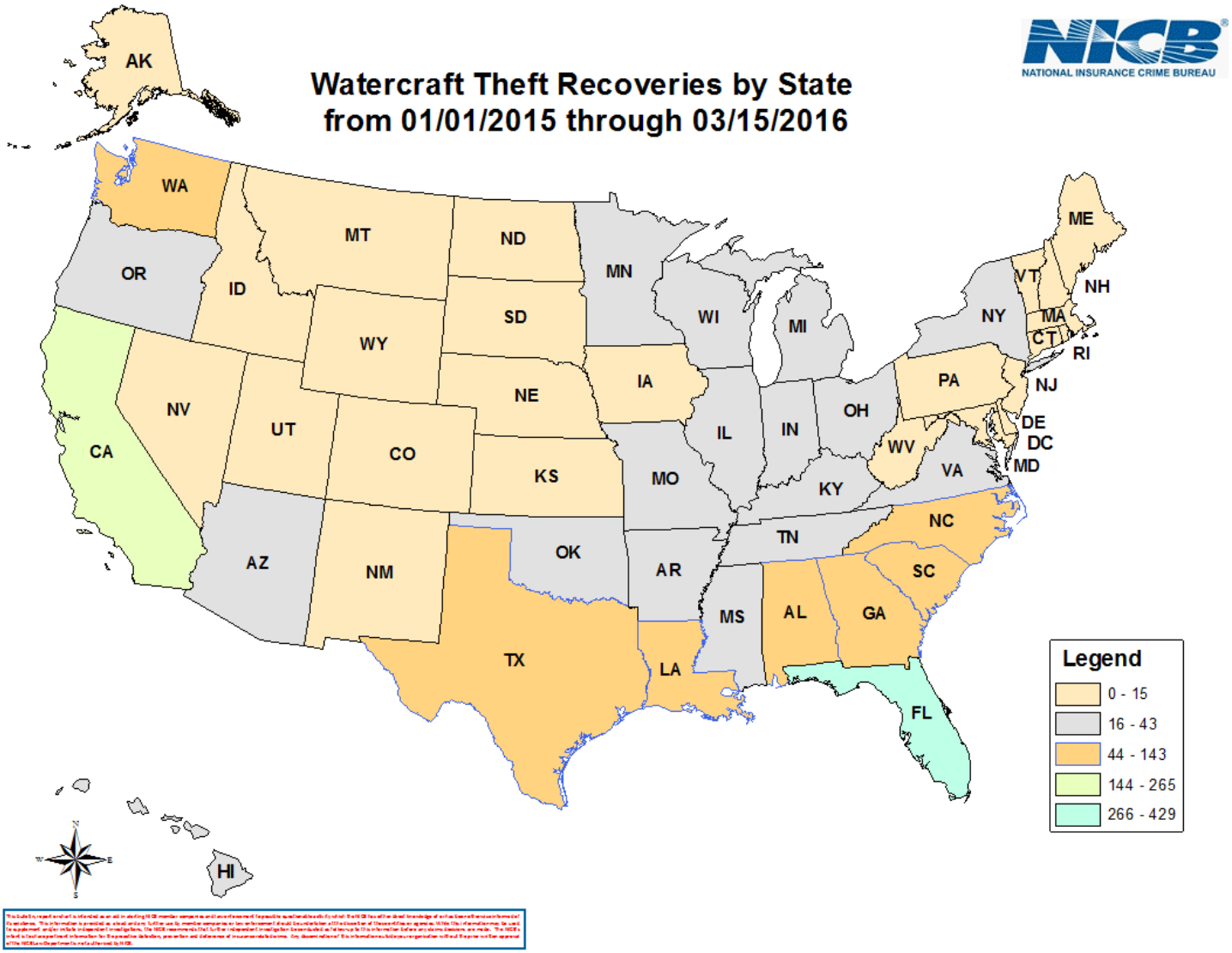
State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
FL	**1,205**	**429**	**36%**
CA	**528**	**265**	**50%**
TX	**399**	**143**	**36%**
NC	**192**	**62**	**32%**
WA	**173**	**80**	**46%**
AL	**171**	**58**	**34%**
GA	**170**	**59**	**35%**
SC	**154**	**51**	**33%**
LA	**137**	**56**	**41%**
TN	**119**	**33**	**28%**
MN	117	34	29%
MI	116	41	35%
AR	110	43	39%
OK	99	32	32%
MO	88	29	33%
IN	80	23	29%
OH	80	24	30%
NY	77	28	36%
OR	74	36	49%
PA	72	11	15%
AZ	71	30	42%
MS	71	23	32%
IL	69	28	41%
VA	67	23	34%
KY	65	25	38%
NJ	55	15	27%

State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
WI	54	20	37%
MD	43	11	26%
IA	42	15	36%
KS	33	9	27%
NV	32	11	34%
CT	28	11	39%
ME	26	2	8%
ID	23	8	35%
MT	23	14	61%
NE	23	11	48%
NM	21	8	38%
HI	19	19	100%
CO	19	5	26%
MA	17	7	41%
AK	16	10	63%
WV	15	4	27%
NH	13	2	15%
RI	12	4	33%
UT	11	6	55%
VT	11	5	45%
DE	10	2	20%
SD	10	3	30%
ND	6	1	17%
WY	3	1	33%
DC	1	0	0

The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of Watercraft thefts by state in 2015.



The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of Watercraft theft recoveries by state from 01/01/2015 through 03/15/2016.



2015 Watercraft Thefts by Boat Type per Theft State

The following table lists the number of boat type thefts for each state. They are listed by boat type. Florida had the highest number of reported thefts for PWC (396), Sailboats (14), Airboats (12), and Commercial boats (12), California reported the highest number of thefts of Runabouts (99), and Cruisers (43).

2015 Watercraft Thefts per State by Boat Type

PWC

State	Count	State	Count
FL	396	PA	9
CA	137	LA	8
TX	91	MN	8
GA	42	NE	7
WA	36	NM	7
AL	34	WI	7

Runabout

State	Count	State	Count
CA	99	AK	6
WA	87	NY	6
FL	70	OH	6
TX	59	IA	5
NC	41	MD	5
MN	34	NJ	5

Utility

State	Count	State	Count
TX	28	AZ	3
LA	27	DE	3
NC	26	ID	3
FL	21	IA	3
CA	16	NY	3
SC	16	ME	2

NC	30	CT	5
MI	25	MD	5
MO	23	MT	5
SC	22	AK	3
AZ	20	IA	3
OK	18	MA	3
NJ	16	CO	2
TN	16	NH	2
AR	14	ND	2
IN	14	UT	2
MI	13	ID	1
NV	13	ME	1
OH	12	RI	1
OR	12	SD	1
VA	11	VT	1
KS	10	WV	1
NY	10		
KY	9		

SC	31	NV	4
LA	26	OK	4
MS	18	VA	4
IL	16	CT	2
IN	16	DE	2
AL	15	ID	2
GA	15	MT	2
OR	15	NE	2
AZ	12	UT	2
KY	11	KS	1
MO	11	ME	1
MI	10	ND	1
TN	10		
PA	8		
AR	7		
WI	7		

MO	13	MN	2
MS	12	MT	2
GA	11	NJ	2
KY	11	OR	2
NE	8	CO	1
VA	8	KS	1
WI	8	NH	1
MI	7	NM	1
MD	6	PA	1
AR	5	RI	1
OH	5	UT	1
TN	5	WV	1
WA	5		
IN	4		
AL	3		

Other

State	Count	State	Count
FL	233	IA	19
TX	99	ME	17
CA	66	CT	16
MI	57	MS	16
AR	53	IN	15
SC	53	ID	13
IL	47	KS	11
NC	47	NJ	11
MN	43	CO	9
GA	40	AZ	8
LA	39	RI	8
AL	35	MA	7
OH	35	NH	7
PA	35	WV	7
OK	33	MT	6
TN	32	AK	5
KY	29	NM	5
VA	28	NE	3
MO	25	SD	3
WA	25	VT	3
NY	24	WY	3
OR	24	UT	2
WI	21	DE	1
MD	20	ND	1

Cruiser

State	Count	State	Count
CA	43	CO	1
FL	39	CT	1
MI	14	LA	1
TX	9	ME	1
AL	8	MA	1
TN	7	MA	1
NC	6	AR	1
IL	5	CO	1
GA	4	CT	1
NV	4	LA	1
OK	4	ME	1
SC	4	MA	1
AZ	3	MS	1
AK	2	MT	1
IN	*2*	NE	1
KY	2	NM	1
MD	2	NY	1
MO	2	OH	1
NJ	2	VA	1
OR	2	WV	1
WA	2	WI	1
AR	*1*		

Sailboat

State	Count	State	Count
FL	14	MN	1
CA	8	MS	1
NC	6	NE	1
AL	4	NJ	1
TX	4	NY	1
WA	3	OH	1
MI	2	OR	1
AZ	1	SC	1
MD	1		
MA	1		

Commercial

State	Count
FL	12
CA	5
LA	3
GA	1
KS	1
ME	1
MO	1
TX	1

Airboat

State	Count
FL	12
CA	2
RI	2
AL	1
GA	1
IL	1
LA	1
MA	1

Hovercraft

State	Count
FL	1

Houseboat

State	Count
FL	4
AZ	2
DC	1
LA	1
MI	1
NM	1

Yacht

State	Count
FL	5
CA	1

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Theft County

Of the 5,051 theft records, there were 1,201 counties identified in the 2015 watercraft theft and recovery data. Twenty-seven (27) counties were not identified in as a theft but only a recovery location. The theft county with the highest number of stolen watercrafts was Miami-Dade, Florida with 299 thefts. Of the Top 10 theft counties, Orange, California had the highest recovery rate of 45%, while Broward, Florida had the lowest at 17% recovered. Of note, 8 of the top 10 theft counties were located in Florida, with the remaining being located in California (2). * Indicates a tie in theft rank

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by top 10 Counties

County	State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. Miami-Dade	FL	299	95	32%
2. Broward	FL	104	18	17%
3. Lee	FL	69	22	32%
4. Los Angeles	CA	67	24	36%
5. *Pinellas	FL	66	22	33%
5. *Hillsborough	FL	66	18	27%
7. Polk	FL	51	14	27%
8.Orange	CA	49	22	45%
9. Monroe	FL	48	17	35%
10. Palm Beach	FL	47	20	43%

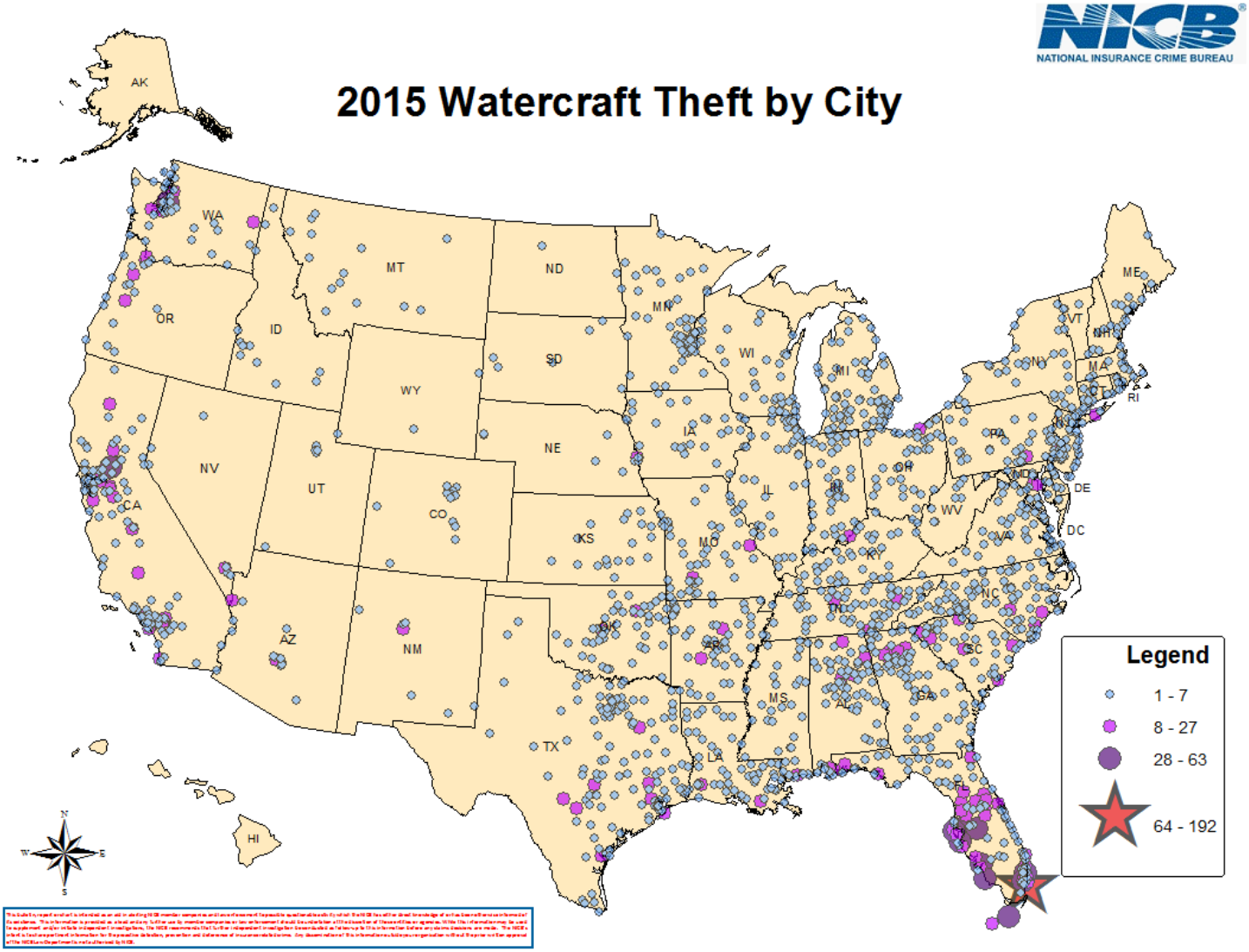
2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Theft City

All of the 5,051 theft records identified the city in which the theft occurred, while 891 of the 2,114 recovery records reported the city where the watercraft was recovered. There were 1,731 unique theft cities identified in the 2015 watercraft theft and recovery data. Totaling 592 thefts, the Top 10 theft cities account for 12% of all watercraft thefts in 2015. The theft city with the highest number of stolen watercrafts was Miami, Florida with 192 thefts. Of the Top 10 theft cities, Bradenton, Florida had the highest recovery rate of 59%, while Hialeah, Florida had the lowest at 14% recovered. Of note, 9 of the Top 10 theft cities were located in Florida, with the remaining being located in California (1).

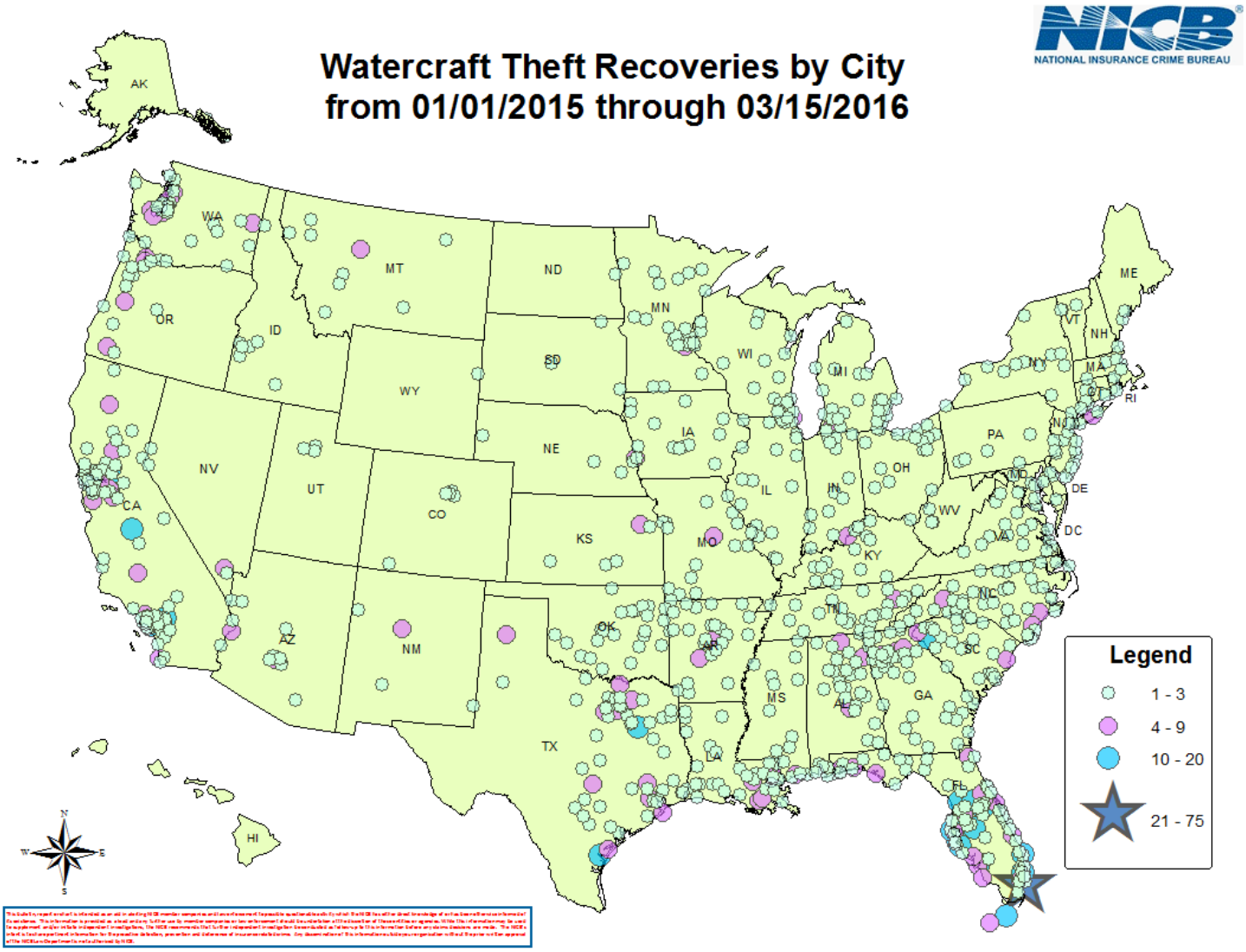
2015 Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Theft City

City	State	Thefts	Recoveries	Recovery Rate %
1. MIAMI	FL	192	73	38%
2. TAMPA	FL	63	17	27%
3. FORT LAUDERDALE	FL	59	11	19%
4. FORT MYERS	FL	53	16	30%
5. HIALEAH	FL	44	6	14%
6. SACRAMENTO	CA	43	20	47%
7. MARATHON	FL	39	11	28%
8. BARTOW	FL	36	10	28%
9. BRADENTON	FL	32	19	59%
10. NAPLES	FL	31	6	19%

The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of Watercraft thefts by city in 2015.



The map shown below is a geographic representation of the volume of watercraft theft recoveries by city from 01/01/2015 through 03/15/2016.

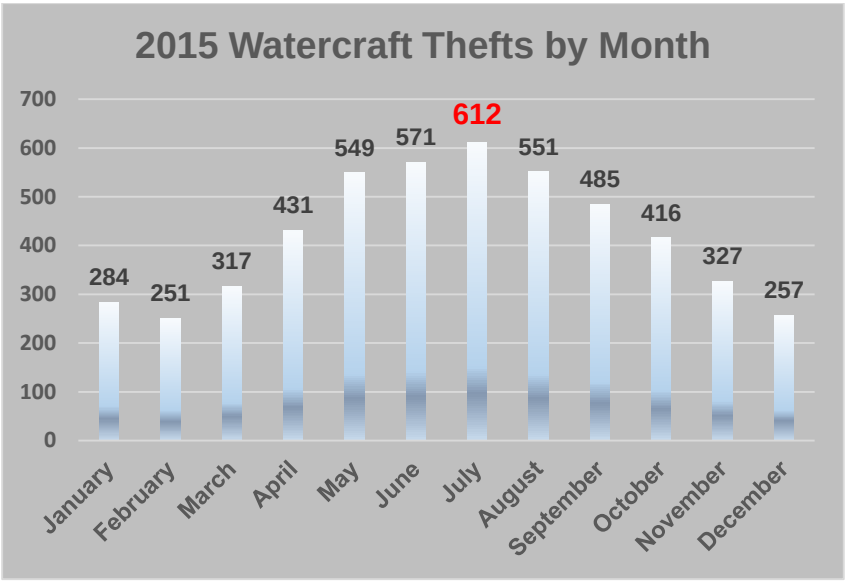


Section 3: Temporal Analysis

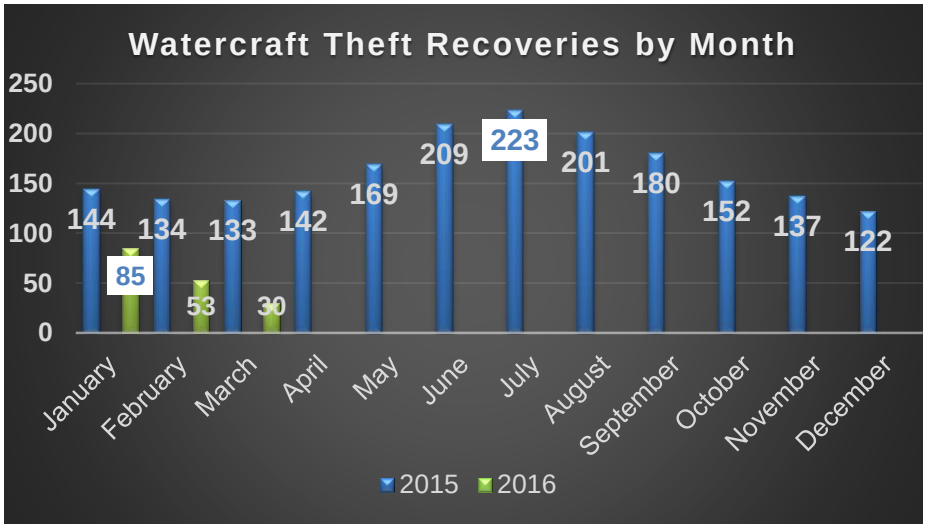
On average, there were approximately 14 watercraft thefts per day, 97 per week, or 421 per month in 2015. However, watercraft thefts are not distributed evenly over time and the following Temporal Analyses will aim to show when to be the most prepared for potential thefts by analyzing the 2015 watercraft 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.

2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Theft Month

The graph to the right displays the 2015 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 421. July had the highest number of thefts with 612, while February had the fewest thefts with 251.

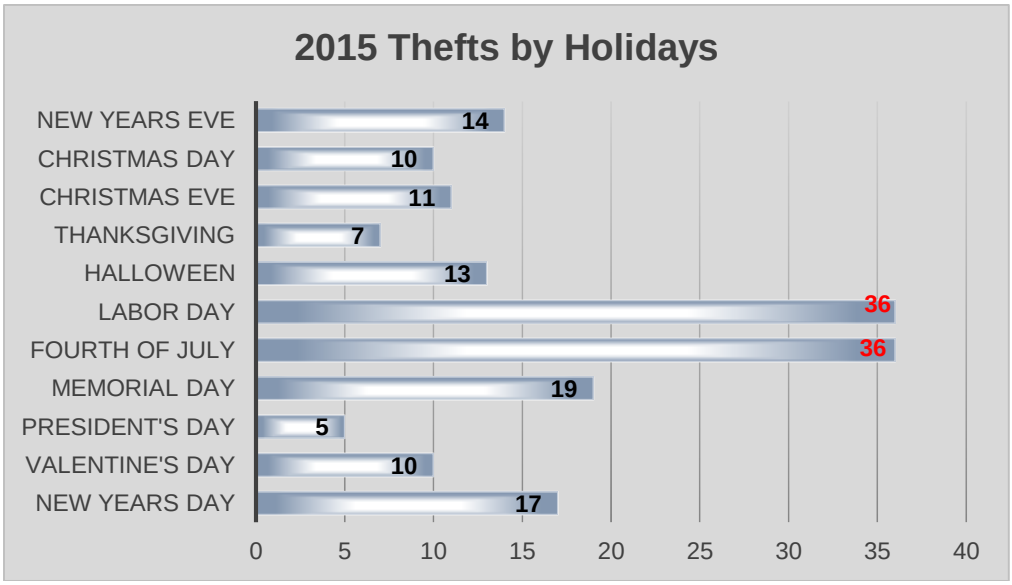


The graph to the right displays the 2015 and 2016 watercraft recoveries per month. Of the watercraft thefts in 2015, there was an average of 162 recoveries per month. As with the thefts, recoveries appear to be seasonal with May through September having a higher than average number of recoveries. July had the highest number of recoveries at 223, and December had the fewest number of recoveries at 122 in 2015.



2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16) by Holiday

The graph on the following page displays the number of watercraft thefts by holidays in 2015. The holidays with the most watercraft thefts in 2015 was tied between Labor Day and Fourth of July, both with 36 thefts each, and the holiday with the least number of thefts was President's Day with five thefts.



2015 Watercraft Thefts and Corresponding Recoveries (through 03/15/16): 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 2,114 recoveries from 1/01/2015 through 3/15/2016 were included in this analysis. Of the 2,114 recovered thefts, 266 were recovered on the same day as the theft, representing 13% of all recoveries. 245 were recovered by the end of the following day, representing 12% of all recoveries.

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)	**266**	**5%**	**13%**
1	**245**	**5%**	**12%**
2	**136**	**3%**	**6%**
3	**91**	**2%**	**4%**
4	**80**	**2%**	**4%**
6	**60**	**1%**	**3%**
5	**57**	**1%**	**3%**
7	**55**	**1%**	**3%**
9	**42**	**1%**	**2%**
8	**40**	**1%**	**2%**
Totals	**1,072**	**21%**	**51%**

Methodology

Data parameters were defined as all watercraft stolen in the US between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 that were reported to the NCIC. Corresponding recovery information was collected from the NCIC and included only watercraft that were stolen in 2015, but were recovered between January 1, 2015 and March 15, 2016. Watercraft stolen from the US, but, recovered outside of the US are not included. Steps taken to clean the data included:

1. Removing records not classified as watercraft by the NCIC (the NCIC classifies watercraft 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 5,051 thefts in 2015, 14% did not provide or provided an unverifiable manufacturer's code, 27% did not supply or gave incomplete information on the boat type, and 39% 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 5,051 total thefts.

Appendix : 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 (PWC)	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.