

National Update

**Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety
CMAC Standing Committee on Recreational Boating
November 12, 2020 – Virtual Meeting**

RDIMS # 16839726



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Reorganization within Transport Canada Marine Safety



2020 Boating Season

With Covid-19 – more Canadians took “staycations” ...with many including recreational boating in their summer plans.

This lead to:

- More people trying boating for the first time
- Challenges finding entry-level boats to rent or buy,
especially human-powered vessels
 - Record numbers of people seeking:
 - Pleasure Craft Licences (PCL)
 - Boating Safety Information;
 - Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC)



2020	PCL Transactions	Boating Safety Infoline Call Volume
April	4,990	769
May	9,986	Closed
June	22,445	10,166
July	26,893	13,148
August	26,586	10,236
Total	90,900	34,209

2020 – On the Water

Fatalities

Region	Number*
Atlantic	6
Quebec	16
Ontario	24
Prairie and Northern	20
Pacific	10
Totals <i>(To end of Sept.)</i>	76

Collisions

Region	Number*
Atlantic	4
Quebec	4
Ontario	4
Prairie and Northern	3
Pacific	4
Totals <i>(To end of Sept)</i>	19

* Estimates only, gathered through media reports and information from enforcement partners

Program Expansion



In 2019, the mandate of the Office of Boating Safety (OBS) was expanded to include education, engagement and awareness activities targeting:

- Recreational boaters,
- Coastal Indigenous communities,
- Fishing vessel operators, and
- Operators of small vessels (non-pleasure craft)

The focus of these activities will be to:

- Increase boating safety awareness,
- Improve safe navigation, and
- Reduce risk of collisions between vessels, including larger vessels in ports and shipping lanes.

Near-Miss Initiative

For the next five years, TC will be collecting data on all dangerous navigation incidents involving large and small vessels.

This data will be used to:

- Better understand factors leading to collisions and near-miss situations;
- Collect statistics on how often these situations occur; and
- Identify possible trends in these occurrences



Incidents between large commercial vessels and smaller vessels

By the end of September 2020, the following was reported:

Type of Incident	# of Incidents
Collisions	1
Dangerous Maneuver	1
Dangerous Navigation	13
Unsafe Crossings	9
Near Misses	14
Total	38

Region	# of Incidents
PAC	13
PNR	0
ON	6
QC	16
ATL	3

This data is from official reporting channels.

The number of vessel near-misses across the country that go unreported is unknown....but believed to be significant.

How will this data be used?

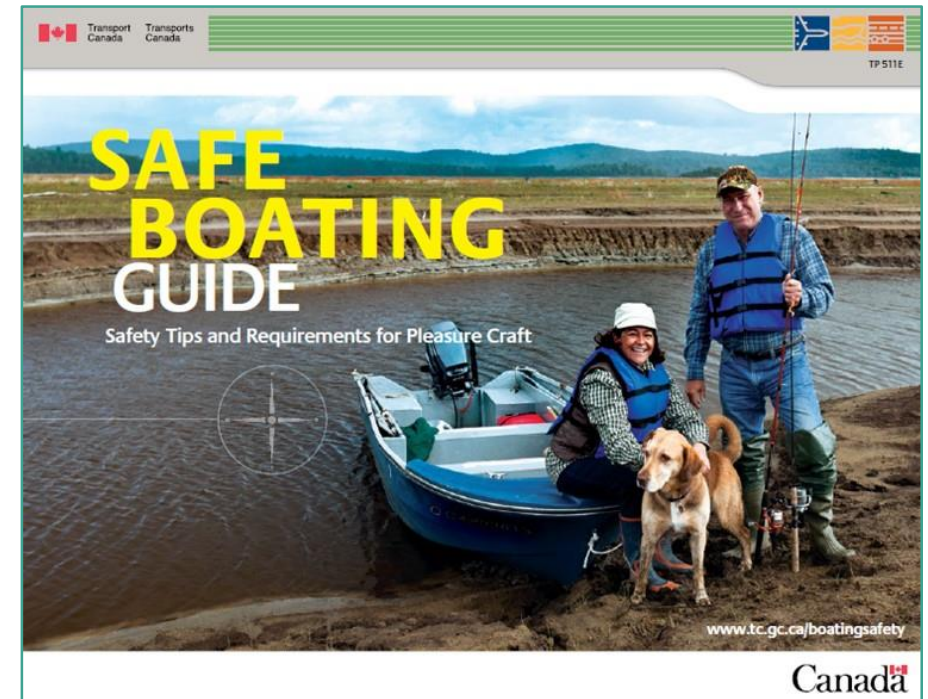
Data collected will be analyzed and used to develop:

- New recommendations;
- Ship Safety Bulletins;
- A safety booklet or educational materials; and
- A national awareness campaign targeting small vessel operators



OBS accomplishments this year...

- Each region has staffed Boating Safety Officer positions back to the 2010-11 levels.
- Program funding increase of **\$6.5 Million** in funding until 2022 to support the outreach and education activities.
- Attended several regional boat shows.
- Printed Transport Canada publications
 - *Safe Boating Guides*
 - *Pukta Activity Booklets*
 - *Small Commercial Vessel Safety Guides*
 - *Sharing the Waterways Brochures (new)*



Next Steps...

Regional staff are developing plans to:

- Increase boating safety education and outreach activities to the four target groups identified.
- Continue building partnerships with organizations interested in promoting boating safety.
- Visit marinas, boat launches and other venues to speak with boat operators.
- Identify additional education and outreach tools.

HQ staff are busy working on several regulatory amendments.



National Pleasure Craft Operator Competency (PCOC) Program

Program update

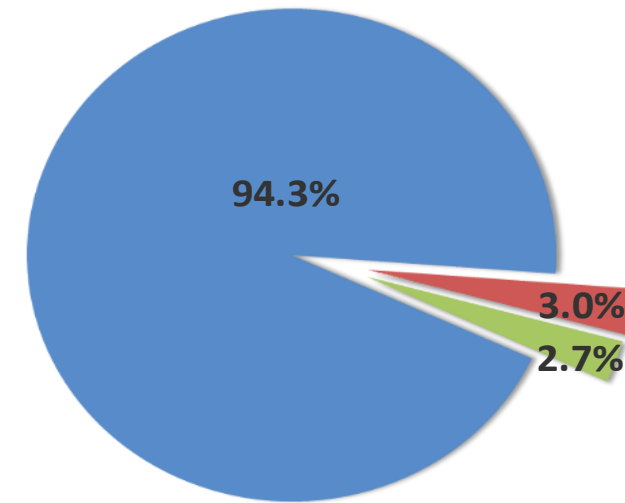
- Recap of 2019
 - Statistics
 - Course Provider Annual Reports
 - 2020
- Next Steps for the Program



TOTAL PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR CARD ISSUED / TOTAL DE CARTES DE CONDUCTEURS D'EMBRACATION DE PLAISSANCE ÉMISES 2019

		A	B	C
		Classroom Courses/ Cours en classe	Online Courses/ Cours en ligne	Challenge Tests/ Examens seulement
		2.7%	94.3%	3.0%
		(A)	(B)	(C)
	Province	Classroom Courses/ Cours en classe	Online Courses/ Cours en ligne	Challenge Test/ Examen défis
1	BC	760	17,671	186
2	AB	792	13,230	113
3	SK	31	4,467	211
4	MB	211	4,865	39
5	ON	1,027	56,102	650
6	QC	753	28,898	2,451
7	NB	14	2,289	52
8	PEI	20	371	0
9	NS	182	2,448	41
10	NF	29	1,190	8
11	YK	0	188	0
12	NT	19	82	0
13	NU	5	20	0
14	*Unknown Inconnu	14	1772	462
		3,857	133,593	4,213
Total 2017 (A+B+C)		141,663		

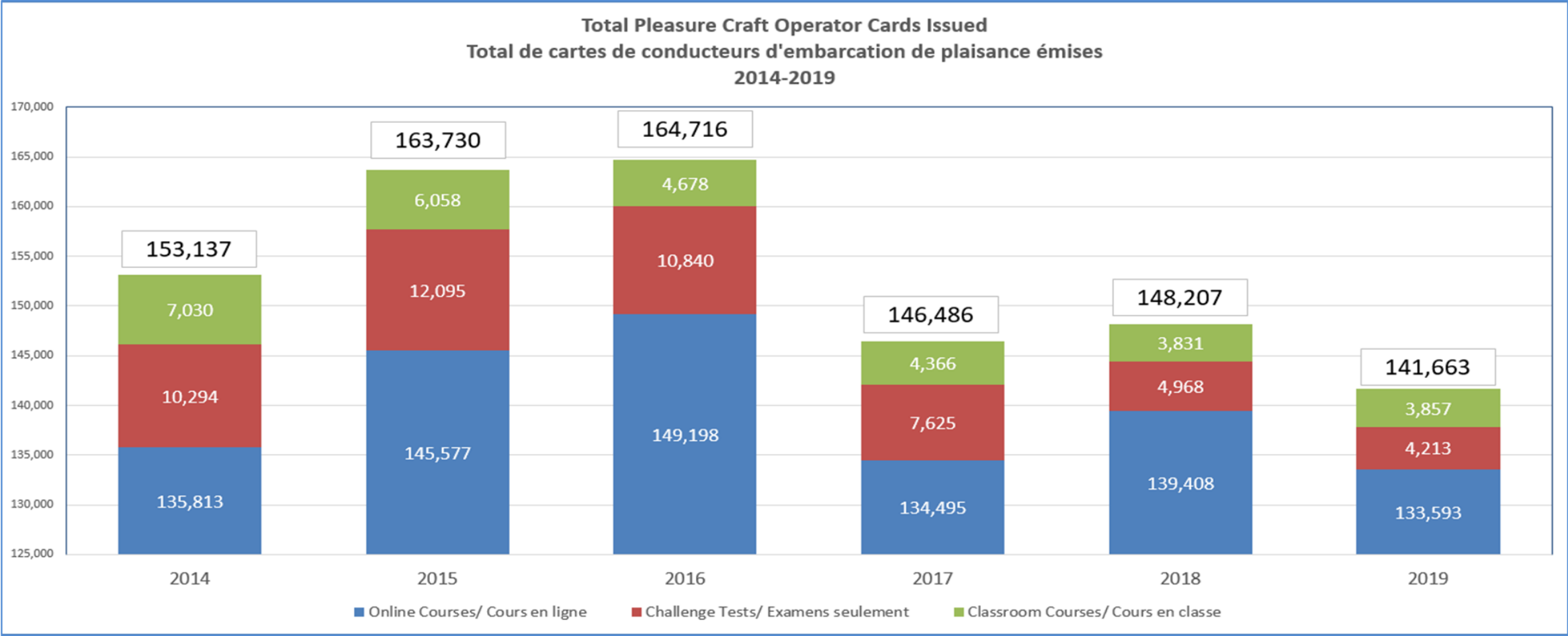
■ Classroom Courses/
Cours en classe
 ■ Online Courses/
Cours en ligne
 ■ Challenge Tests/
Examens seulement



Source:

Course Provider Annual Reports to Transport Canada - 2019

Rapports Annuels Soumis à Transport Canada par les Prestataires de Cours - 2019

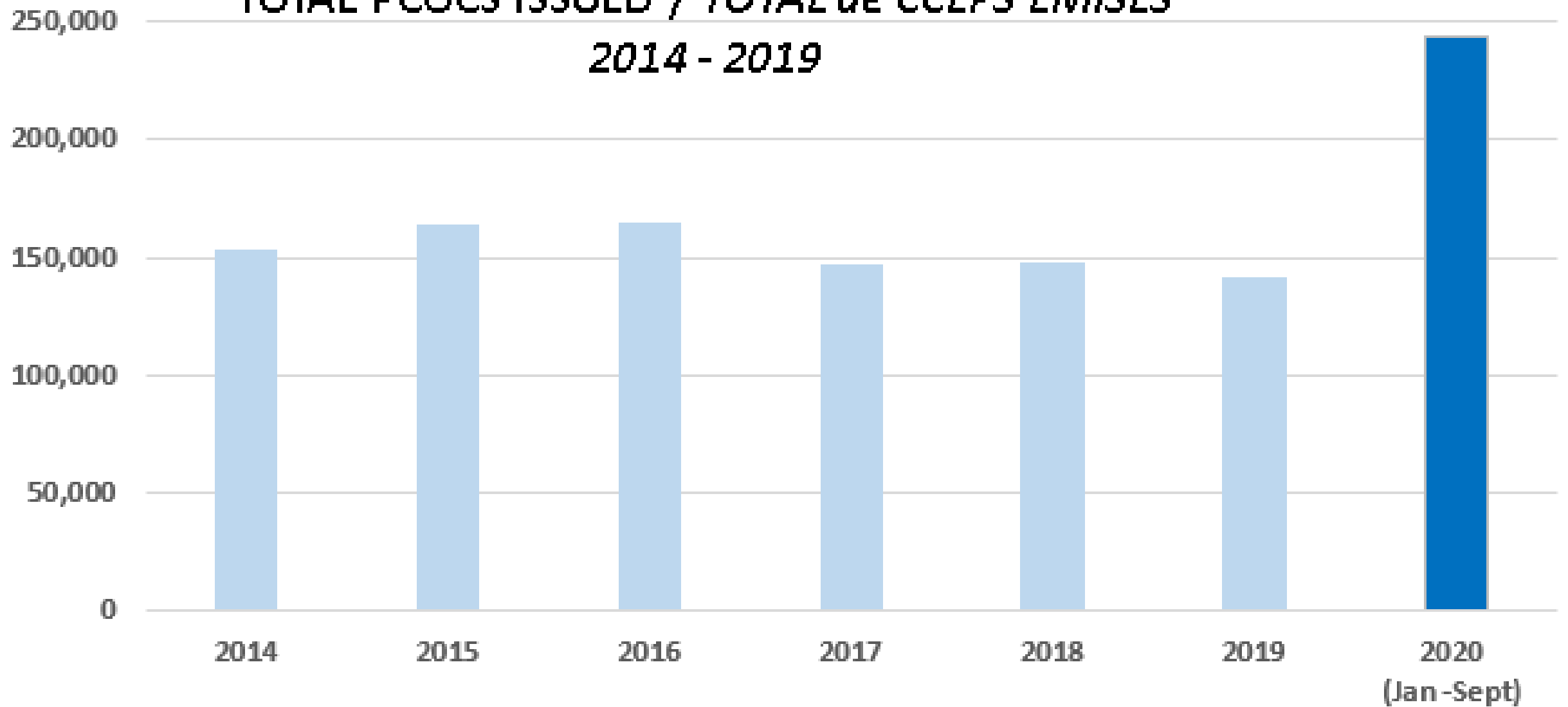


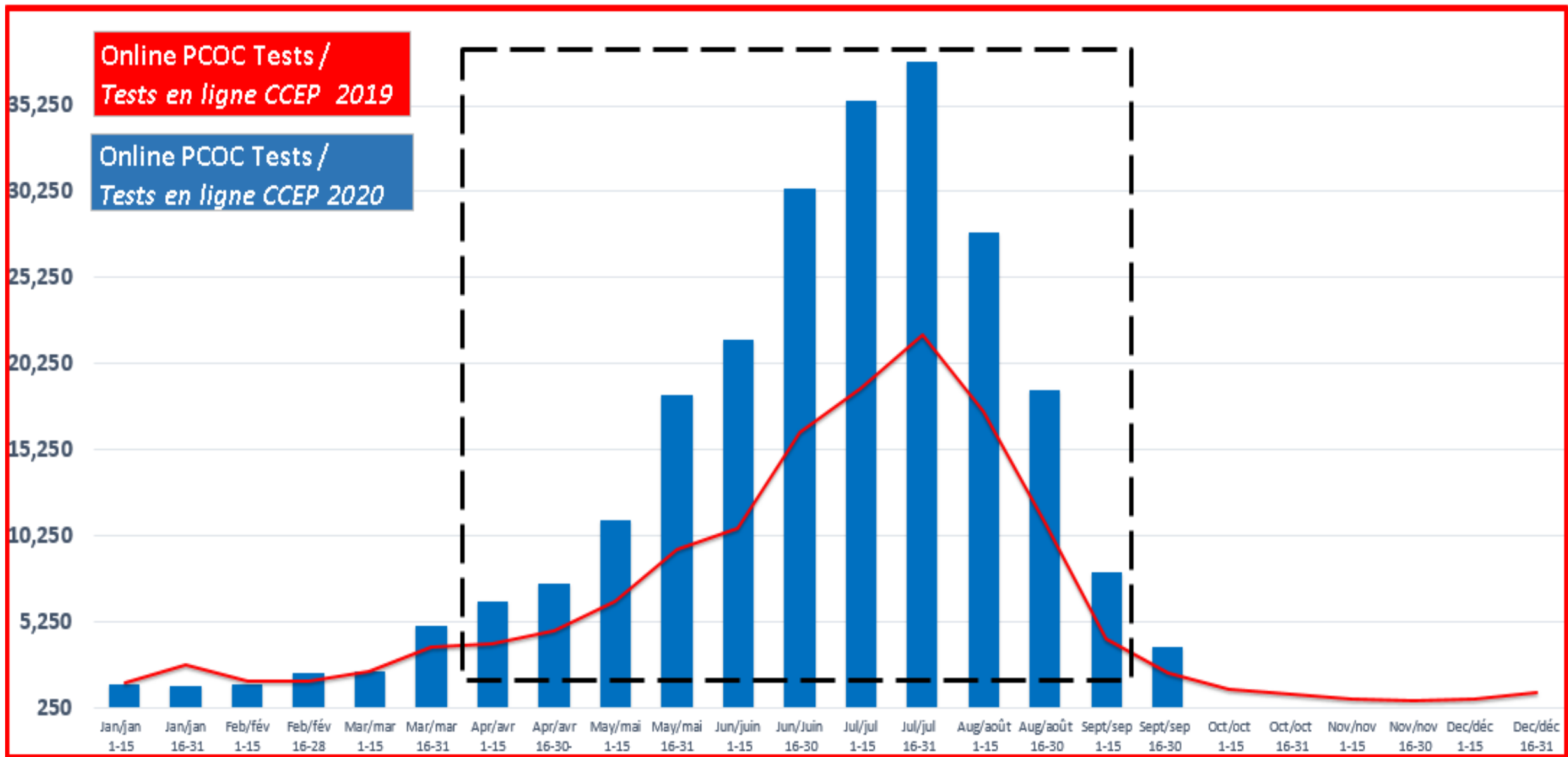
Source:

Course provider Annual Reports to Transport Canada - 2014 to 2019

Rapports annuels soumis à Transports Canada par les prestataire de cours - 2014 à 2019

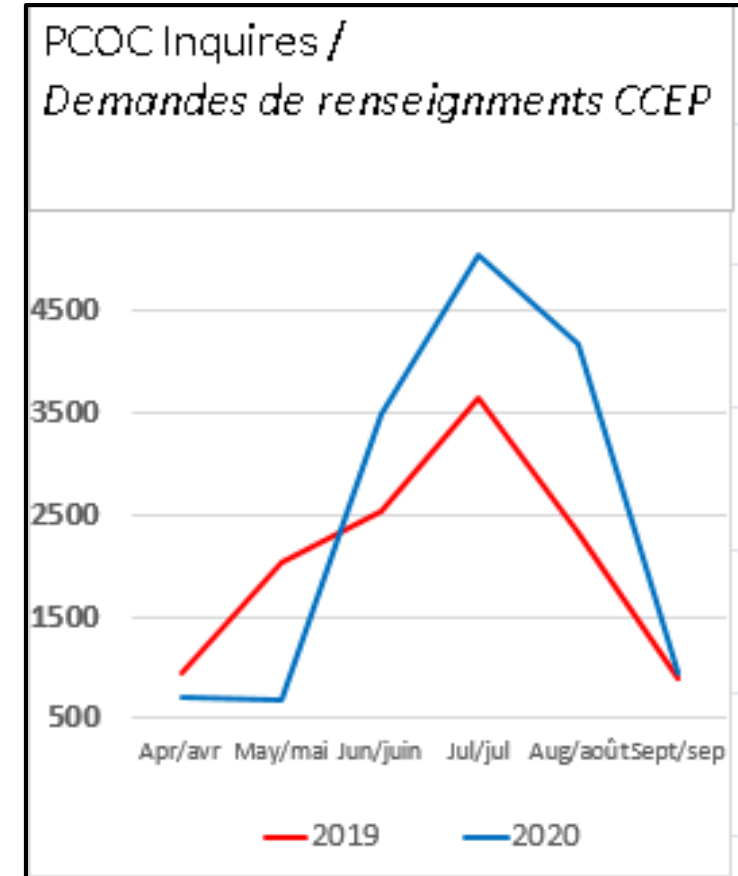
TOTAL PCOCS ISSUED / TOTAL de CCEPS ÉMISES 2014 - 2019





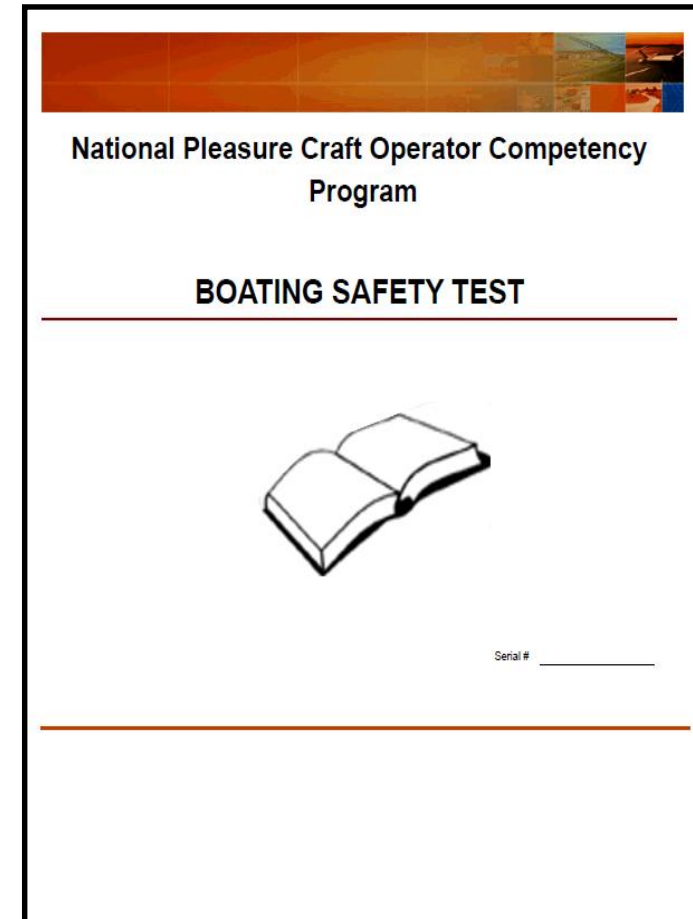
How will this data be used?

- Service Canada – 1-800 Boating Safety
 - Lost and replacement cards
- Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC)
 - Weekly updates
 - On water enforcement purposes.

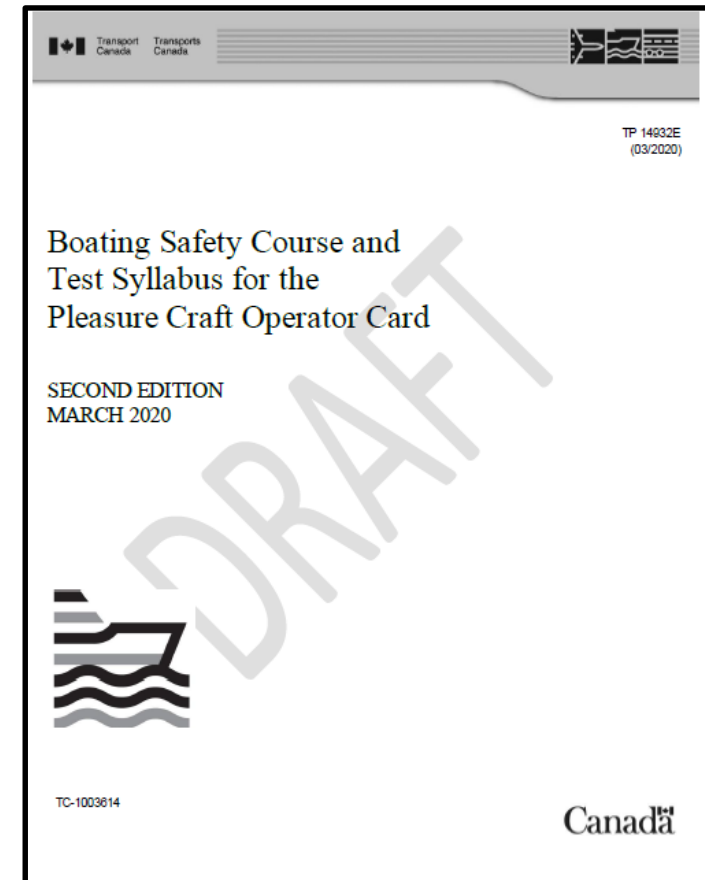


Other Activities

- Test Questions for PCOC Test
- Advisory Group formed in November 2019
- Course Providers and Program Staff
- Thank-you to all Course Providers who contributed time and effort



- **Updated** *Boating Safety Course and Test Syllabus for the Pleasure Craft Operator Card TP14932*
- 2018 SVR amendments
- Abandoned & Wrecked Vessels
- Whale Safety



Next Steps

- Program HQ staff will increase oversight activities
- Consult on proposed regulatory changes:
 - Amendments to the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations* are planned to address gaps and inconsistencies in program delivery practices and outdated policies.
- The amendments will:
 - strengthen the accreditation requirements for course providers;
 - include minor amendments, consequential amendments and new provisions; and will
 - introduce fees for services provided to course providers.

Regulatory Updates

What's happening in the world of Regulations....



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Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR)

2018 Amendment Package

The proposed amendments for the **2018 submission** include:

- Updating subsection 2(3) to include a maximum kilowatt aggregate power of 7.5 kW for electric motors – this will include an administrative change to subsection 9(1) for the necessary change to signage requirements.
- Updating the geographical coordinates for:
 - 2 water-bodies in Saskatchewan;
 - 10 water-bodies in Ontario;
 - 31 water-bodies in Quebec;
 - 3 water-bodies in British Columbia

	Timeline (<i>Target</i>)
By end of 2020	Published in <i>Canada Gazette, Part II</i> and Coming into force

VORR – 2019 Amendment Package

- Amendments to the VORR are being drafted.
- The VORR **2019 package** includes:
 - Changes to the permitting approach in Subsection 10.1(1) - Operation of a Vessel for Certain Purposes, and Subsection 12(1) – Special Events or Activities;
 - Three new restrictions on waterways;
 - Providing designated enforcement authority to City of Edmonton Peace Officers; and
 - Corrections to existing restrictions listed in the Schedules (i.e.: geographic coordinates and/or description).

Changes to VORR – Permitting Approach

The Minister may issue permits under s. 10.1(1) allowing vessels to access waterways with a restriction under certain circumstances

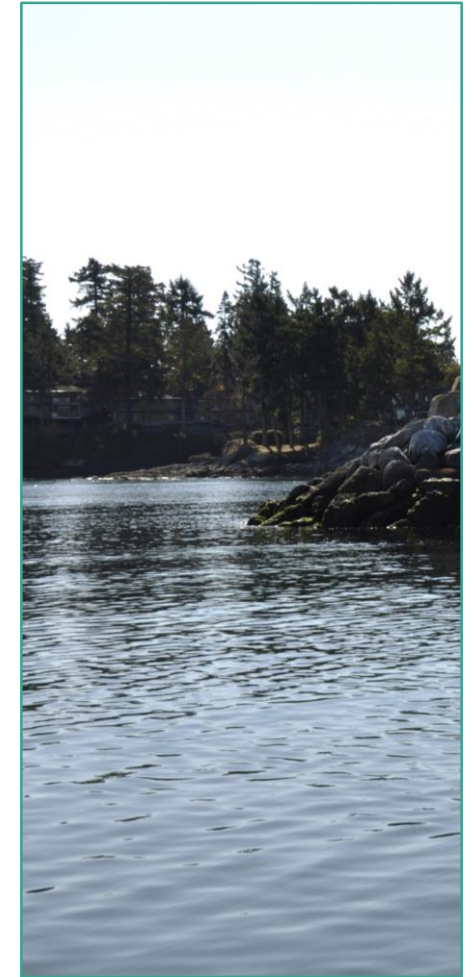
(e.g.: scientific research, public education, developing aquaculture, etc.)

Transport Canada is proposing the following modifications to:

- Increase the scope of activities that can receive permits by adding:
 - Accessing historical, cultural, ecological or geological sites; and
 - Supporting the construction and maintenance of infrastructure.

In addition, modification to s. 10.1(1) and s. 12(1) to:

- Strengthen Minister discretion on issuing permits; and
- Provide criteria to use when deciding if a permit should be issued
(e.g.: consider safety of persons; navigation safety)



New Restrictions in the VORR Schedules

Schedule 2

Don River - Toronto, ON

- Waterway is being changed to create a “new mouth” for the river.
- Prohibits power-driven or electrical propulsion vessels on the new portion of the waterway.

Schedule 6

Lake du Portage - Sainte-Paul, QC

- Reduces speed limit to 10 km/hr within 100 meters of shore.
- Will not apply if towing a person away from shore (i.e.: at a 90 degree angle.)

Richelieu River - QC

- Reduces speed limit to 10 km/hr

VORR – 2019 *(cont.)*

Schedule 7

Richelieu River - QC

Prohibits:

Towing of a person on any sporting or recreational equipment and wake surfing

Applies to a 20 km segment of the river in the municipalities of:

- Saint-Antoine;
- Saint-Denis;
- Saint-Marc; and
- Saint-Charles (sur-Richelieu)

	Timeline <i>(Target)</i>
Winter 2021	Published in <i>Canada Gazette I</i>
Fall 2021	Published in <i>Canada Gazette II</i> and Coming into Force

2020 – VORR Amendments

Schedule 6 - Lac Manitou - la municipalité d'Ivry-sur-le-lac, QC

The geographic descriptions for two existing restrictions are being revised to better identify the specific location on the lake.

Schedule 7 - Lac du Bonnet - MB

Prohibits towing a person on any sporting or recreational equipment outside of specified times.

Other amendments

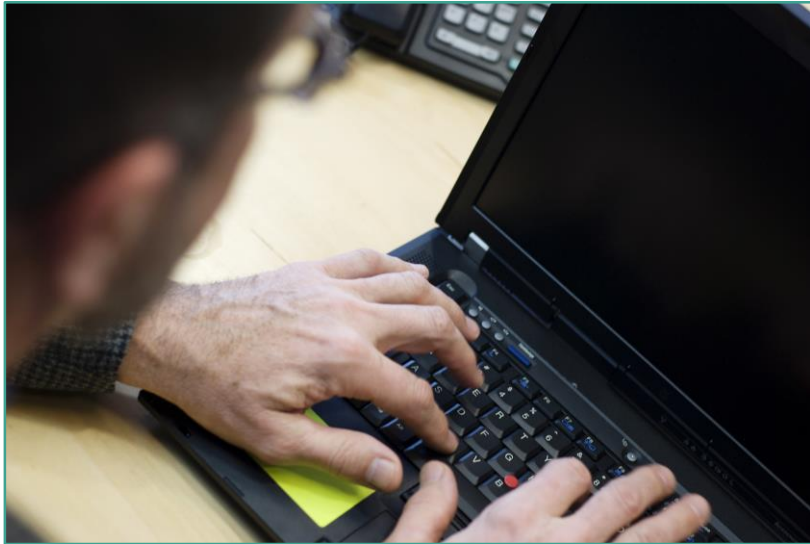
- 47 amendments to the geographical coordinates for existing restrictions - Quebec
- Two request for enforcement designation by municipalities of Lac-Simon and Ivry-sur-le-Lac (Quebec)

Target publication dates in *Canada Gazette, Part I* – late 2021/2022

VORR – Modernization Initiative

- TC is modernizing the VORR to simplify, expedite, and streamline the process for implementing vessel operation restrictions.
- Phase I – Update the Local Authorities Guide
 - Completed - updated LAG published in 2019.
- Phase II – Regulatory Improvements
 - Focused on streamlining and expedite the regulatory process for introducing and modifying vessel operation restrictions.
 - HQ staff is currently assessing a number of options.

Additional Regulatory Work



OBS is also working on amendments and fee proposal to :

- the *Small Vessel Regulations*, specific to pleasure craft licensing requirements; and
- the *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations*

Separate presentations will be provided next on this work.

Questions

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