

# Drownings in the U.K., 1990

## BY ACTIVITIES/BEHAVIOUR

|              |           |                   |    |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|----|
| Angling:     |           | Playing           | 12 |
| Professional | 14        | In vehicle        | 17 |
| From Land    | 7         | Boating           | 41 |
| From Boat    | 22        | Sub-aqua          | 7  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>43</b> | Canoeing          | 4  |
|              |           | Water skiing      | 4  |
| Swimming     | 52        | Attempting rescue | 4  |
| Fell in      | 65        |                   |    |

Despite one of the hottest summers for many years, the 1990 drowning total is the second lowest recorded. Most lives were lost in May and August, due it would seem, to hot weather. It is worth noting that ten young men between the ages of 15 and 27 drowned in open water during the first two weeks of May, when open water temperatures were still hypothermic. Most of these were with friends and seemed just to disappear under the surface.

Drownings among the 15-25 age group is once again prominently high (94), while children of school age maintained their excellent record (31).

It is pleasing to note the continuing downward trend of drownings in swimming pools (this year's total of 22 is the second lowest recorded).

The severe winters with the gales and floods are reflected in the relatively high number of deaths at the beginning and end of the year, resulting in the "flat" appearance of the histogram (by month).

