Killing The Kill Cord.

Ideas that exist:

* Conventional kill cord attached to driver
* Wireless device on lanyard http://www.killcord.co.uk/details/
* Throttle spring to release throttle if no pressure is applied <http://www.mby.com/news/535163/kill-cords-the-industry-and-boating-bodies-respond>
* Helm sensor idea is talked about in above article, but google search doesn’t show anything

Issues:

* People don’t want to have to wear a kill cord
* Forgetting to wear a kill cord
* Kill cord failures due to corrosion etc
* Swapping drivers on a test drive

Factors to be considered:

* Speed of boat
* Impact on waves
* Proximity of operator to controls

Items needed for project:

* Steering Wheel
* Throttle body
* Sensors

Capacitive Sensors on helm/ throttle to detect driver:

These sensors work because the human body works as a capacitor between the contact and ground plane. On a boat this could be difficult to obtain due to the fibre glass hull/ wet contacts.

Resistive Sensors:

These work through a matrix of wires to pin point the location of which pressure has been applied to. Can be operated by means of any contact making it an ideal solution for a sensor on the helm or throttle. Driver can be wearing gloves etc, but as long as contact with helm or throttle is made then sensors will work.