

# Why is the Coast Guard on Lake Michigan? It's a LAKE!



## A breakdown of Search and Rescue Cases on Lake Michigan.

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Lake Michigan has 1,640 miles of shoreline and a surface area of 22,000 square miles, which makes it the **5th largest lake in the world**.

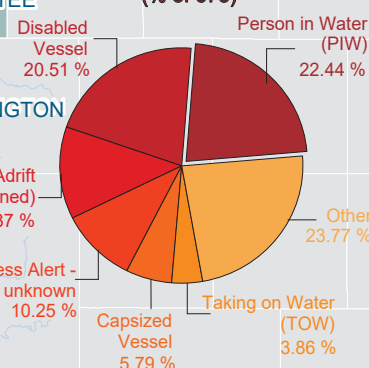
Sector Lake Michigan (SLM) responded to **673 search and rescue (SAR) cases** during fiscal year 2019.

SLM is able to provide assistance to the entirety of Lake Michigan by strategically placing **U.S.C.G. Small Boat Stations** across the lake and outlining their jurisdictions.

**68.5%** of SAR cases occurred between **Memorial Day and Labor Day**, which is known as "SAR Season".

SLM also has **seasonal stations** ("SM" for smalls) that are only operational during the busier "SAR" season. During the "**hard-water**" (winter) season, the smalls are closed due to less activity on the lake.

### Types of Search and Rescue (SAR) Cases (% of 673)



**Person in water (PIW)**, which is when a person in the water is in distress, was the most common type of SAR case in 2019.

**95%** of those PIW cases were **LESS THAN A MILE** from shore.

The second most common type of case was **Disabled Vessel**, which is any vessel that requires Coast Guard assistance to safely return to shore.

