

# Flotation Devices Were Not Used

As the result of a recent boating mishap in the vicinity of Resurrection Bay, one woman is dead and her husband is missing and presumed drowned.

When reviewing the facts surrounding the accident, it is hard to justify the results. The couple was in an 18-foot, outboard, wooden boat they borrowed from a friend. The weather at the estimated time of the accident was, visibility 10-15 miles, seas calm, winds calm, with over cast skies.

First knowledge of the mishap came when the woman's body was found washed ashore. The authorities were notified and the boat, overturned, was found adrift.

Following the preliminary investigation, the woman was identified, the boat owner contacted and hence the search for the missing man.

As the reports continued to come in, it was learned that there were two personal flotation devices with the overturned boat and two more adrift.

This is where the outcome of this mishap is so tragic. No one will ever know if the wear-

ing of the life jackets would have positively saved their lives, but the odds would have been in their favor.

Granted, in these cold and treacherous Alaskan waters from the time you are forced into the water until the time you lose consciousness is only minutes.

But, with the aid of a PFD, life expectancy is better than four hours in 47° water. Give yourself every possible break.

Another thing to remember, as unpleasant as it is, is your family and friends. You have no doubt known of other cases where a person fell victim to these northern waters and was never recovered.

The family must then live for weeks or even months hoping and praying for recovery of something, anything, so they can be sure. But without the help of a personal flotation device, a body, in these cold waters, will sink.

In order to prevent deaths of this nature, the Coast Guard has regulations which state that there will be a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device readily accessible to every

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person on board the vessel.

Laws and regulations can do just so much. After that it is up to the individual to comply with them.