



National Coasteering Charter

promoting safe coasteering

Accident incident & near miss data report 2012 – 2022

About this release

This release provides the number of coasteering accidents, near miss & incidents in the UK from the years 2012 – 2022, excluding the years 2013, 2015 and 2017 as no data was available for these years. These were reported by coasteer providers either verbally via National Coasteer Charter regional post season meetings around the UK and then brought to the national meeting and recorded on the meeting minutes or online via the National Coasteer Charter website online incident report forms.

Please note: Limited information was recorded on the meeting minutes and only 4 online incident report were completed via the National Coasteer Charter website, all of which in the year of 2018.

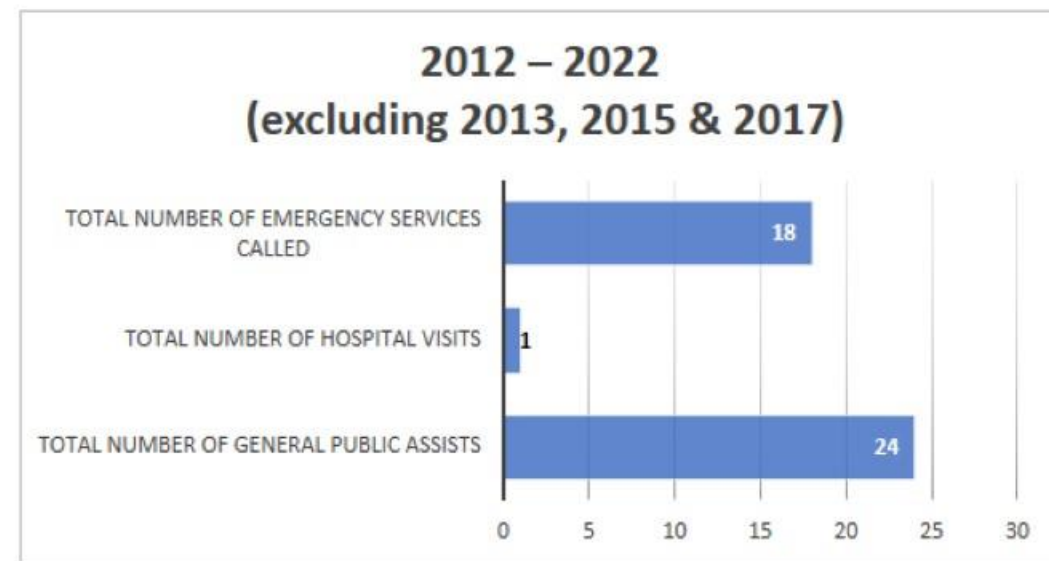
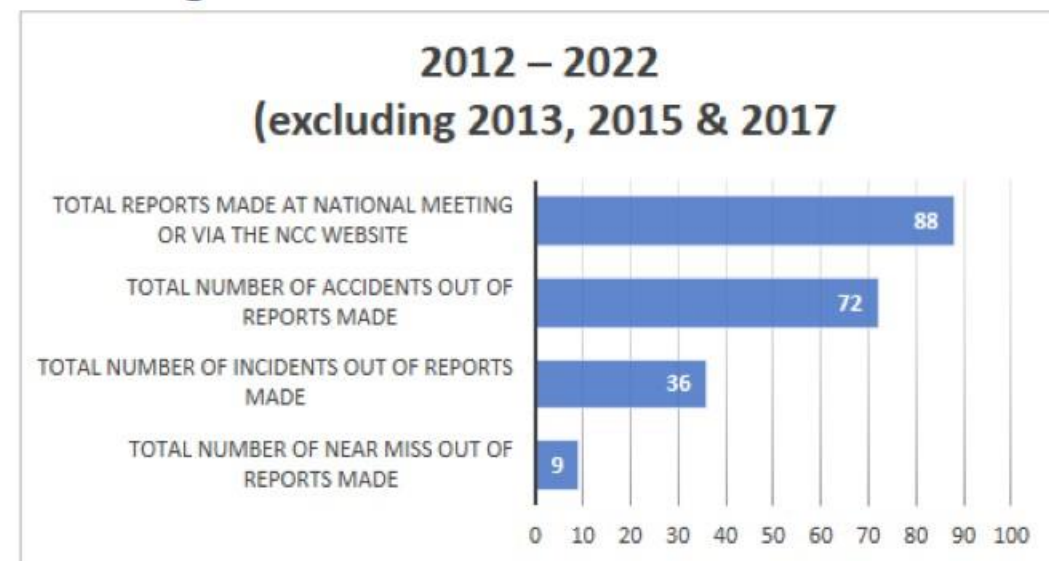
More information on how coasteer accident/ incident data is collected and how these figures are produced can be found in the background notes.

Data coverage

There is no obligation for all coasteer provider to report all coasteer accidents/ incidents to the National Coasteer Charter. But the National Coasteer Charter provider members are asked to 'openly share and gather information about coasteering near misses, incidents and accidents in order to improve and review its own guidance and members' safe delivery of coasteering activity.' (National Coasteering Charter (NCC) Constitution - Aims of the NCC 2.3). These figures, therefore, do not represent the full range of all coasteering accidents, near miss & incidents in the UK .

Further information about the data collected, notes, definitions and guidance is available in the background notes.

Headline figures



Summary of trends

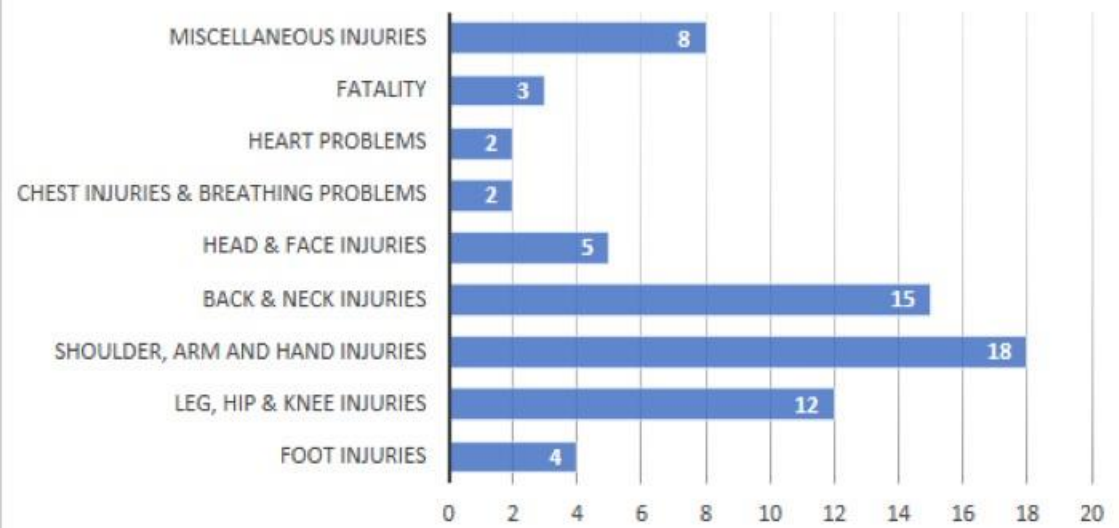
Accidents

Total number of emergency services called out	16
Total number of hospital visits	1
Total number of general public assists	13

Incidents

Total number of emergency services called out	2
Total number of hospital visits	0
Total number of general public assists	11

Types of injuries 2012 – 2022 (excluding 2013, 2015 & 2017)



Top three type of injuries:

Shoulder, arm & hand – 18

(dislocated shoulder, ripped existing pins out, Jellyfish sting to Wrist, Cut hand and grazes & deep cut on arm)

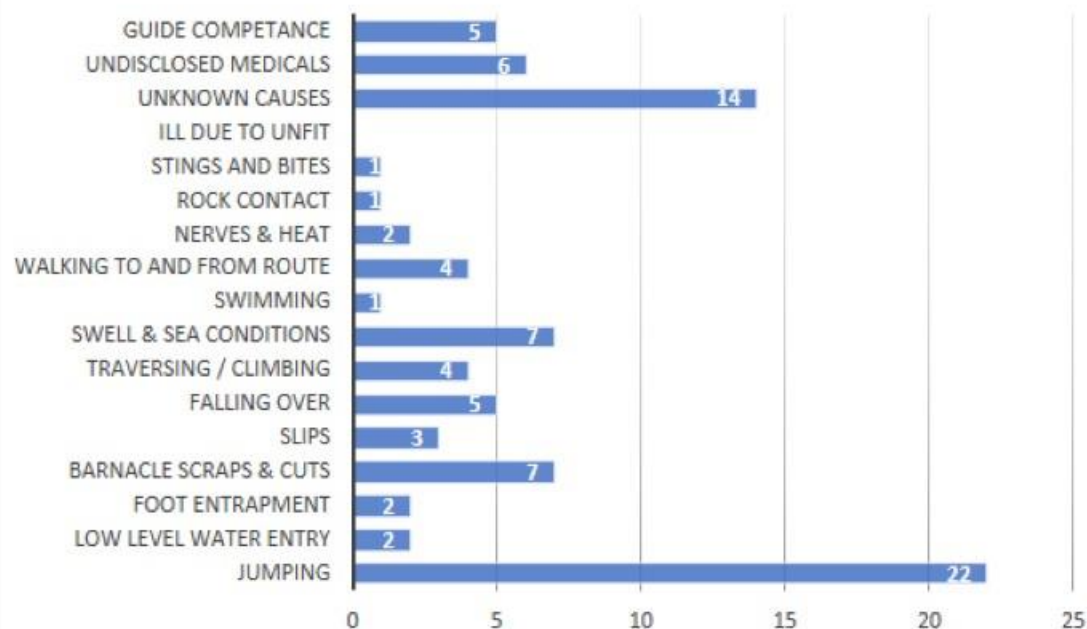
Back & neck – 15

(cracked vertebrae, bruised coccyx, suspected spinal client bleeding ear, muscle spasms, Pain in neck & spinal fractures)

Leg, hip & knee – 12

(spiral lower leg fracture, hairline fracture of leg, dislocated knee, popped a ligament – Knee, Cut Knee & bruised hip)

Types of accident causes 2012 – 2022 (excluding 2013, 2015 & 2016)



Top types of accident causes

Jumping	22
Unknown causes	14
Swell & sea conditions	7
Barnacle scraps & cuts	7
Undisclosed medicals	6

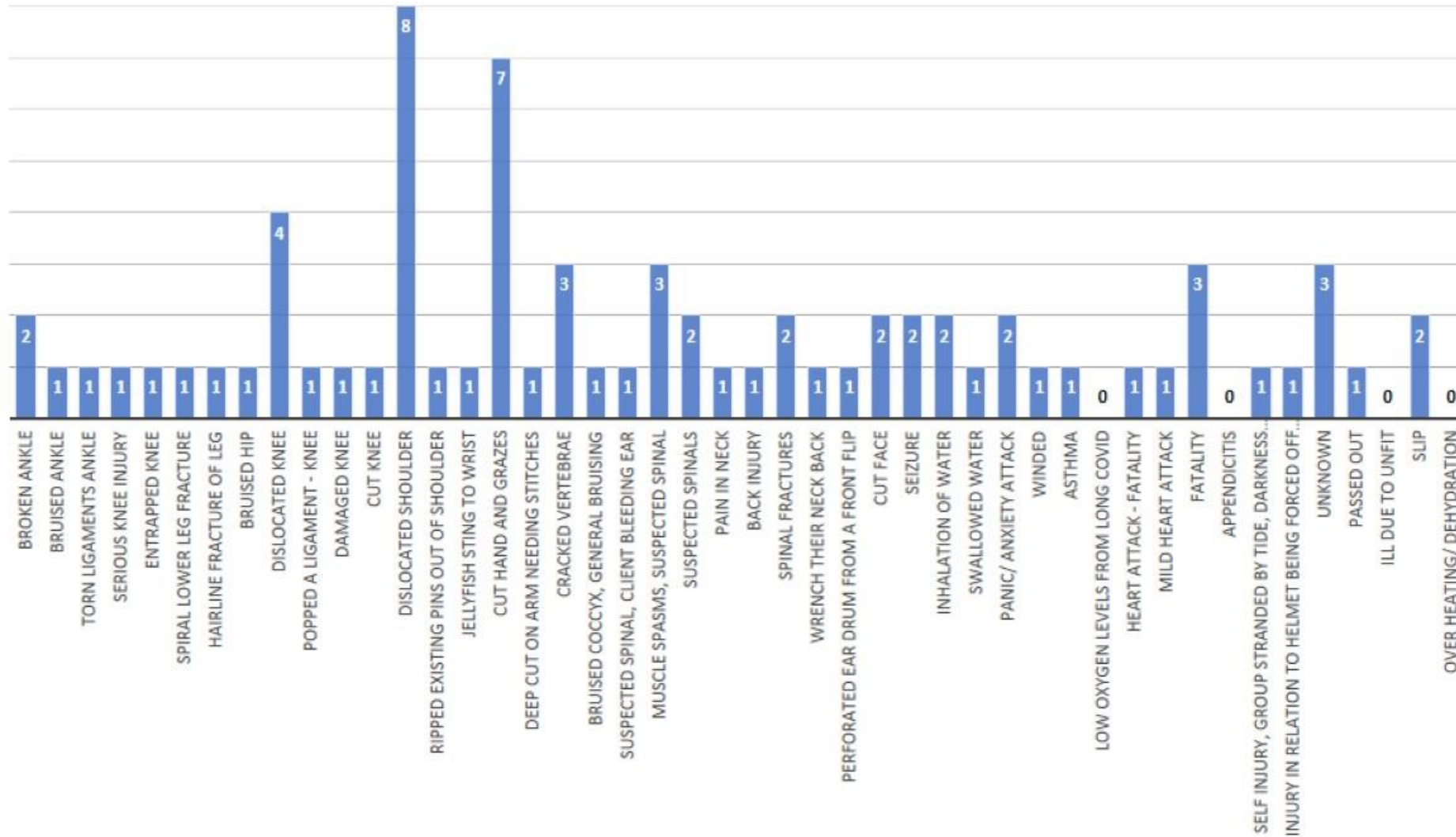
Types of incident causes 2012 - 2022 (excluding 2013, 2015 & 2016)



Top types of incident causes

Nerves and heat	4
Undisclosed medicals	2
Swell & sea conditions	2
Local community	2

Injury Breakdown 2012 - 2022 (excluding 2013,2015 & 2017)



Top types of Injuries

Dislocated Shoulder	8
Cut hands and grazes	7
Dislocated Knee	4
Cracked Vertebrae	3
Muscle spasms, suspected spinal	3
Fatality	3
Unknown	3

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	15
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	13
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	2
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	0

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	?
Total number of regions that made reports	8
Approximate coasteer participation number	?
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2012 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	0

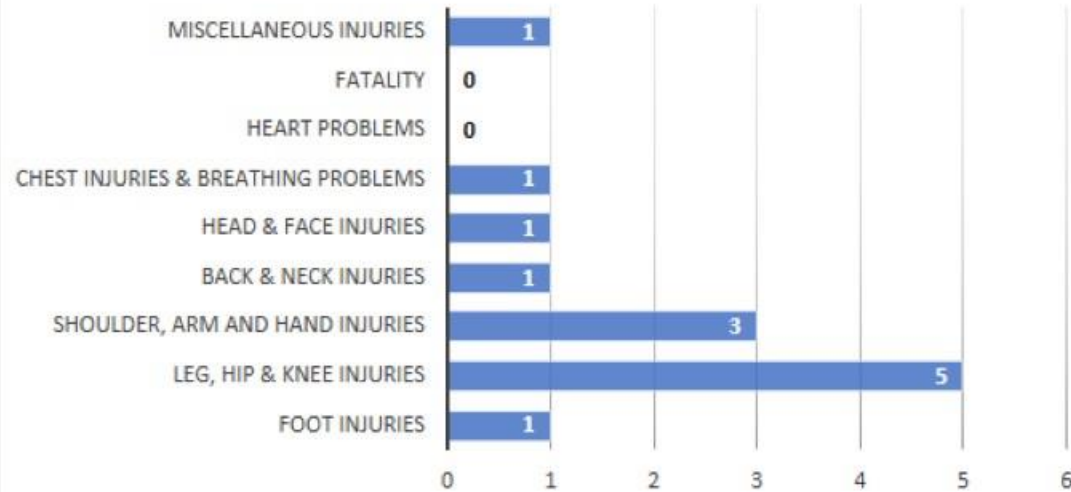
Incidents

Emergency services called out	0
General public assists	0

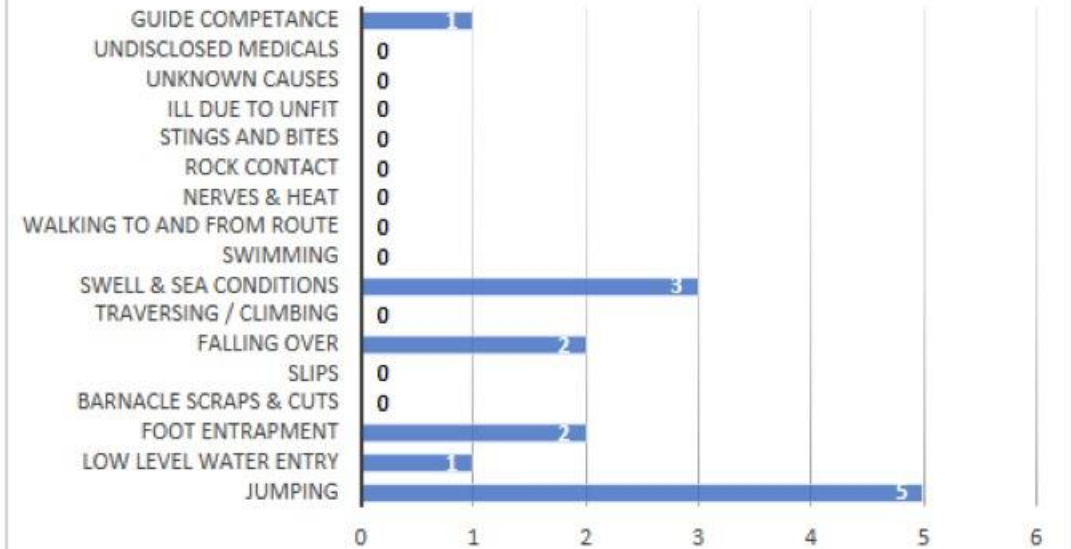
Accidents

Emergency services called out	0
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	1
Types of clients	Unknown
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	0

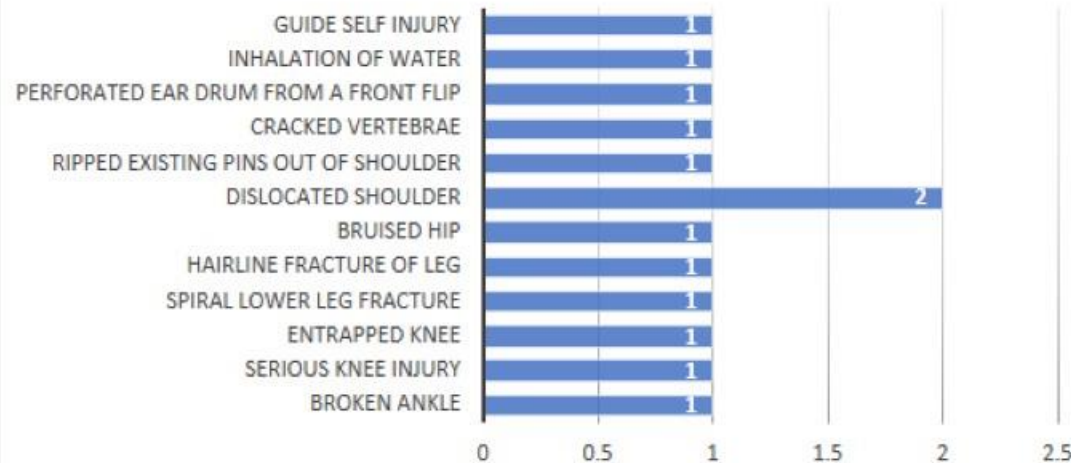
2012 Types of injuries



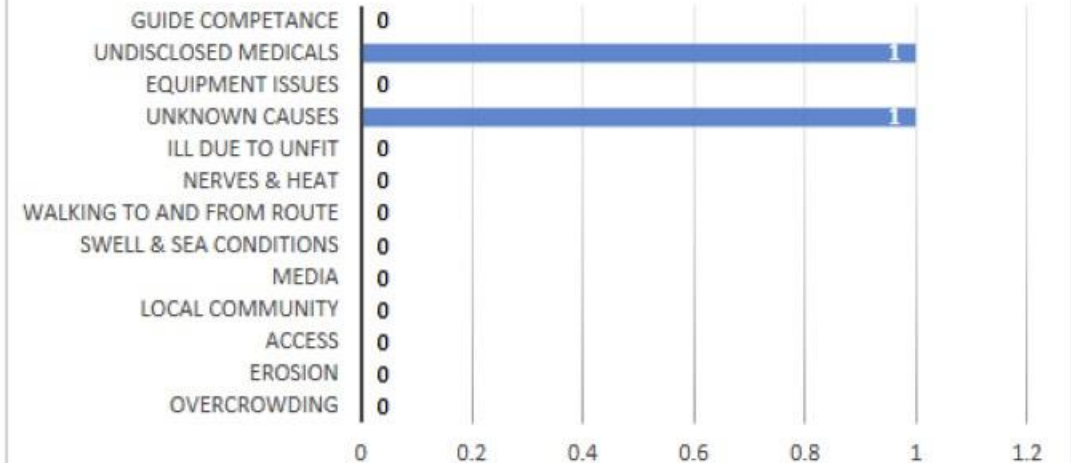
2012 Type of accident causes



2012 Injury breakdown



2012 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

Check height of step in relation to depth of water.

Providers to record step height on accidents or incidents.

Learning - check medical forms are carefully written to help people fill them in accurately and then for providers to check thoroughly.

It's a client experience, not for the leader's fun, 'water entry in line with group ability, progressive route' "not to encourage" (guideline 2.5).

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	8
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	7
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	1
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	0

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	67
Total number of regions that made reports	8
Approximate coasteer participation number	33033
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2014 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	0

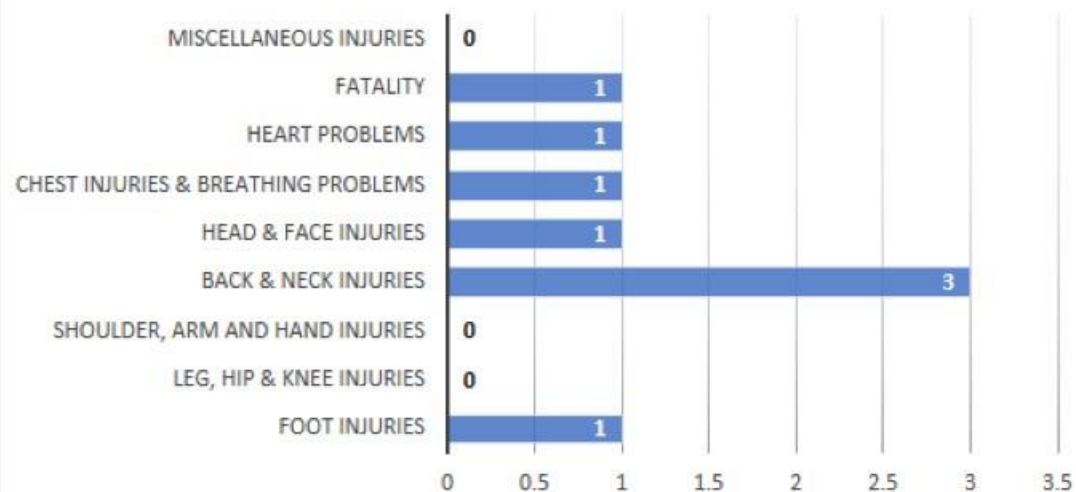
Incidents

Emergency services called out	0
General public assists	1

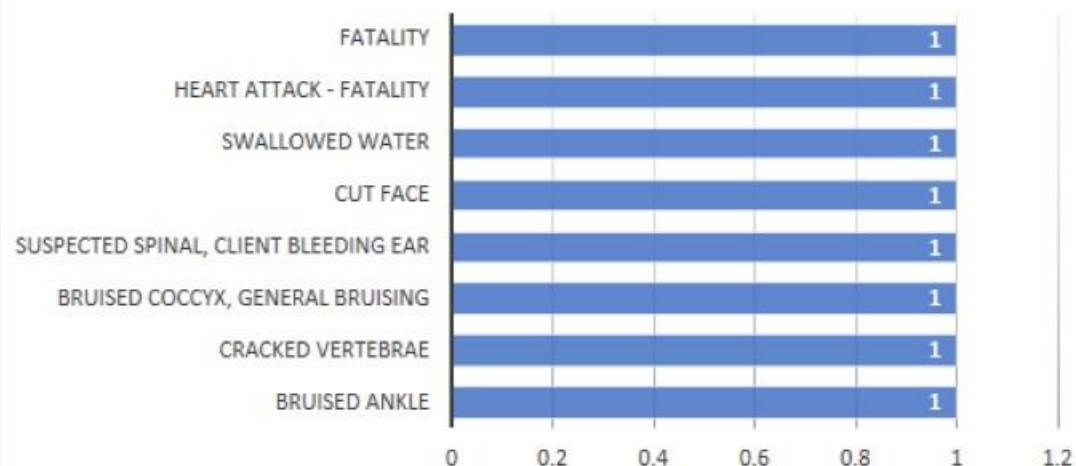
Accidents

Emergency services called out	2
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	0
Types of clients	Unknown
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	1

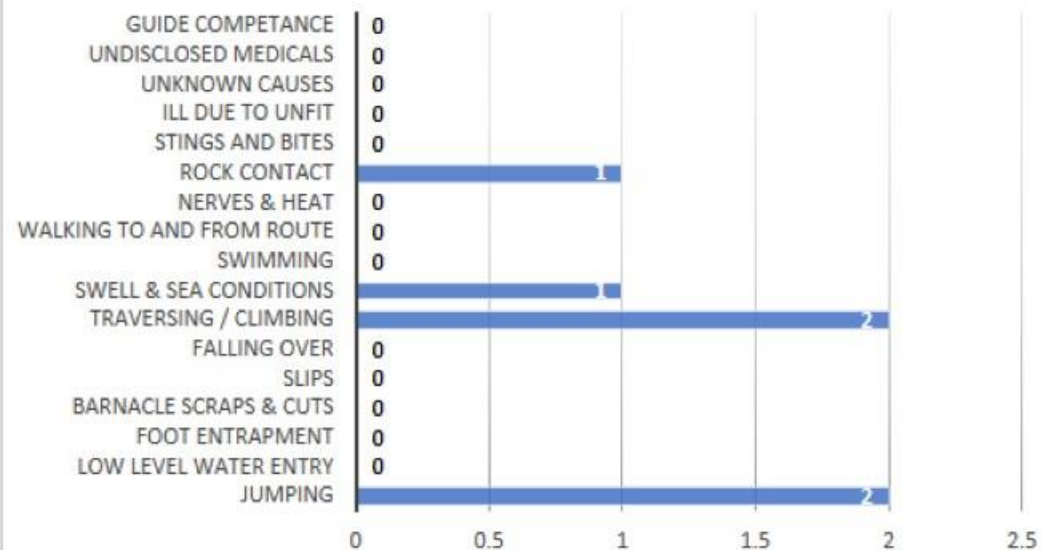
2014 Types of injuries



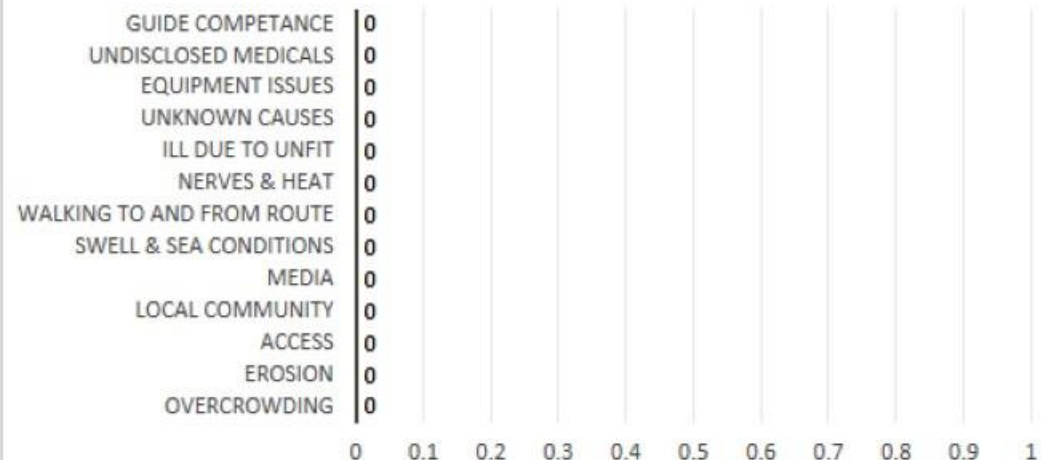
2014 Injury breakdown



2014 Types of accident causes



2014 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

Spotting essential, but may not prevent injury

Be aware that pre-existing conditions may be concealed by clothing / attire,

Public perception needs to be managed where possible. Communicate with other water users, eg. scuba divers, fishermen, know where multi-use areas exist or may occur

Guides to formalise procedure in case of hesitation or multiples of? Stress that group is to do as directed. Discussion; (even if informed), Employers and employees wellbeing?

Ensure emergency services know where coasteering takes place. Have someone to direct them.

In addition to info on medical form – verbally check clients before, during and after activity.

Ensure product sold matches activity delivered - brief group fully.

Communicate with other water users, e.g., scuba divers, fishermen, know where multi-use areas exist or may occur.

Despite previous good form, clients can behave differently to expected or previously observed. Progression is essential to each activity session.

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	7
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	7
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	0
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	0

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	74
Total number of regions that made reports	9
Approximate coasteer participation number	47875
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2016 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	0

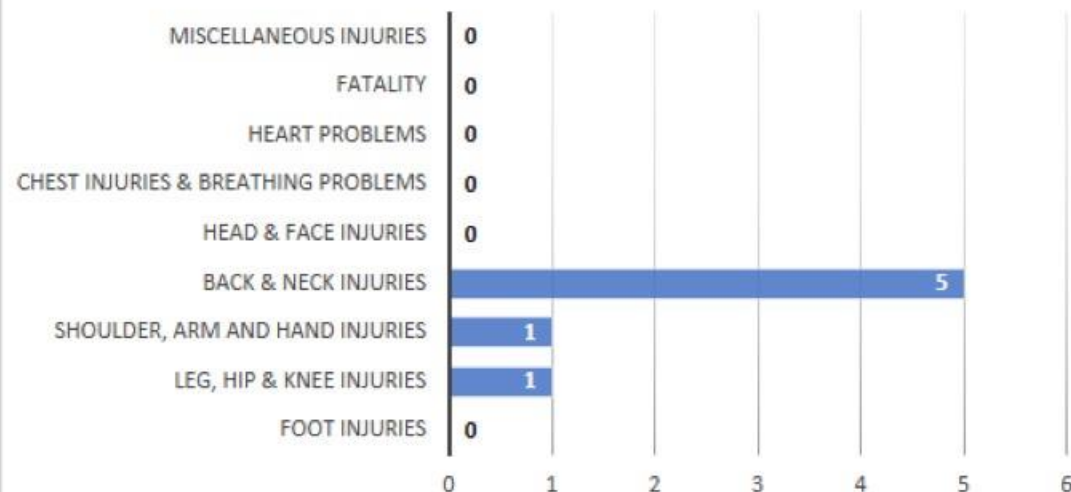
Incidents

Emergency services called out	1
General public assists	1

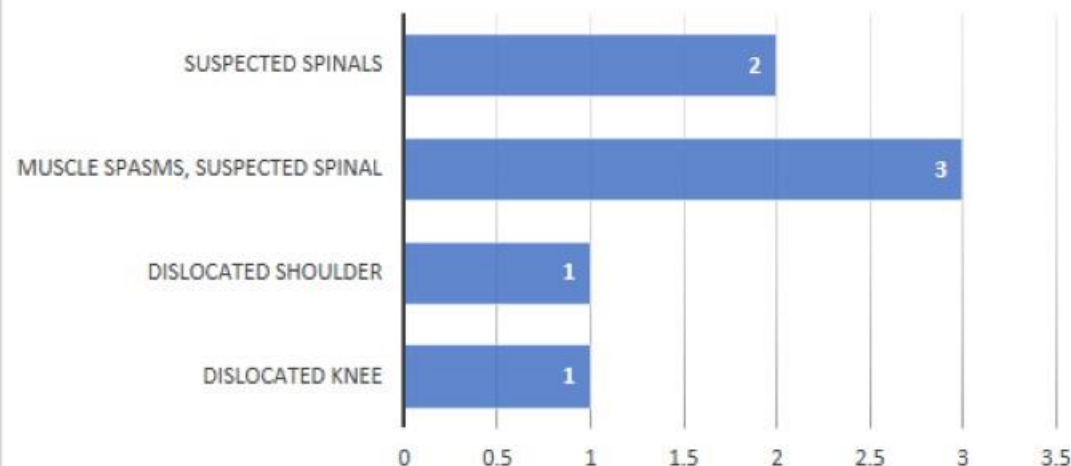
Accidents

Emergency services called out	6
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	0
Types of clients	Unknown
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	0

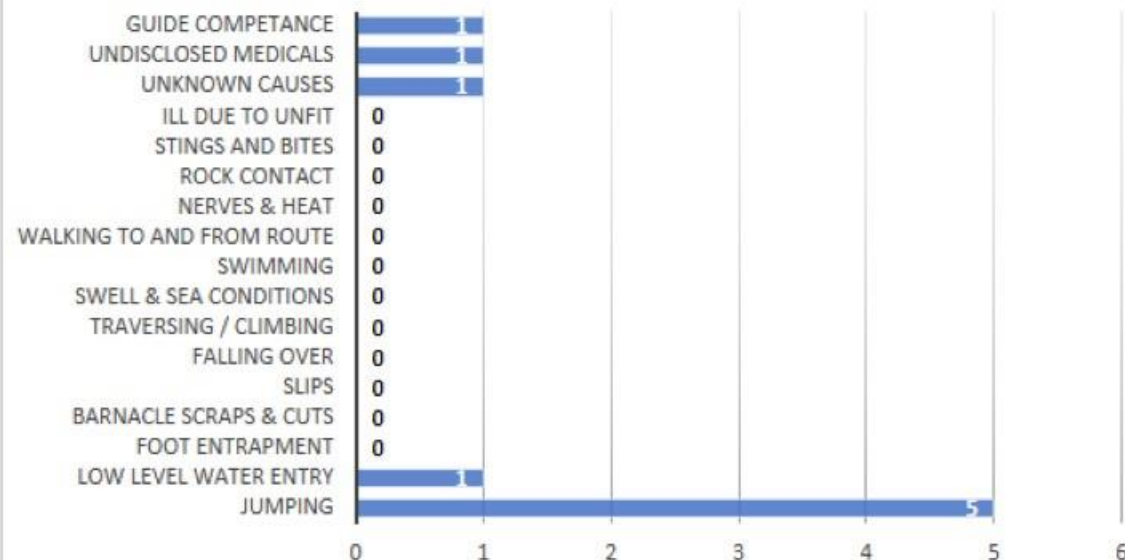
2016 Types of injuries



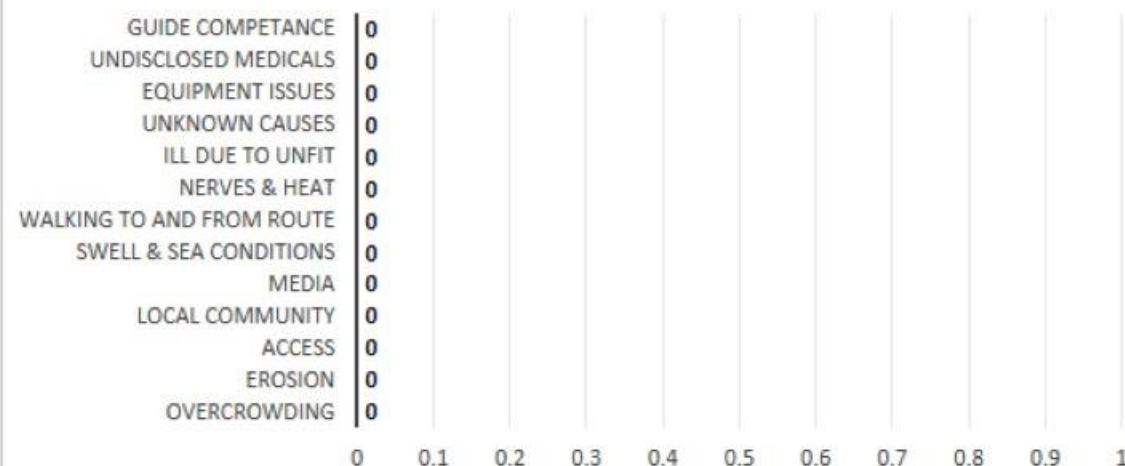
2016 Injury breakdown



2016 Types of accident causes



2016 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

Now don't do sideways superman from height (anything above 30cm).

The provider was commended for their efforts.

They are now getting the Emergency Phone to work at the venue as a result

A reminder to all, to always call for help if you are not sure about the outcome.

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	4
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	4
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	6
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	2
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	2

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	101
Total number of regions that made reports	8
Approximate coasteer participation number	86136
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2018 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	2
One near miss reported with customer having reoccurring injury. Coastguard called. Injury in relation to helmet being forced off customers head.	1
Situation regarding guide needing to give customer his own helmet for the session whilst within vicinity of further equipment & being within ratio & not needing to guide with in the session caused some friction & complaint. Complaint dealt with at regional level.	1

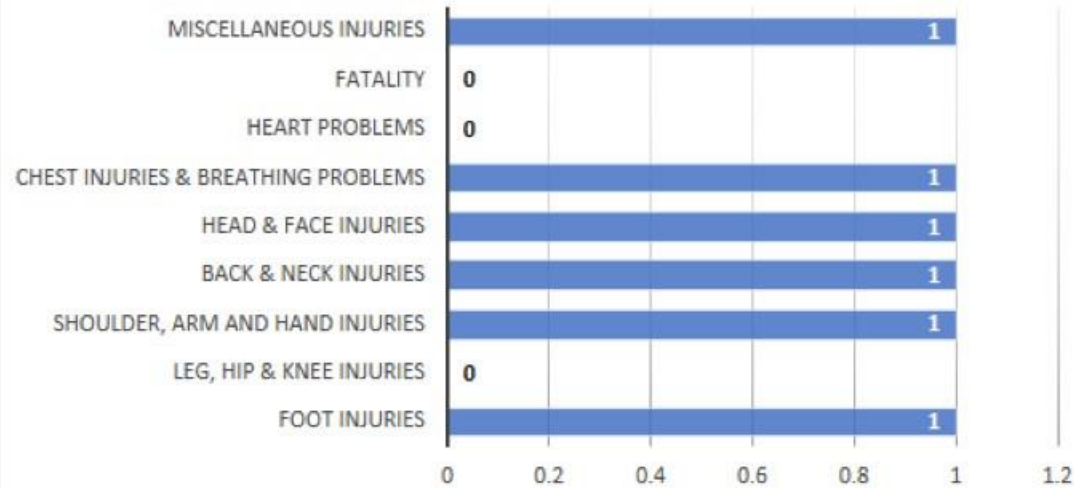
Incidents

Emergency services called out	1
General public assists	1

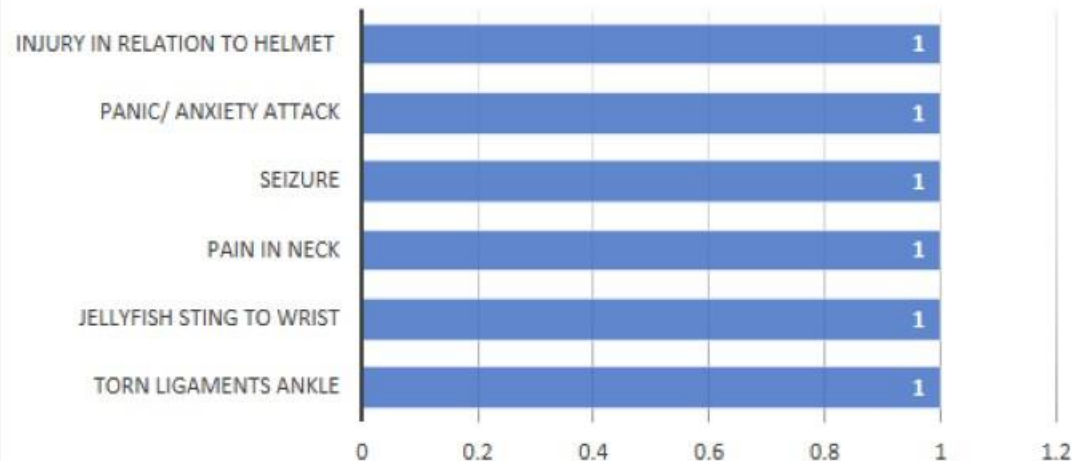
Accidents

Emergency services called out	3
Hospital visits	1
Guide injuries	1
Types of clients	2x youths, 2x Adults & x1 guide
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	1

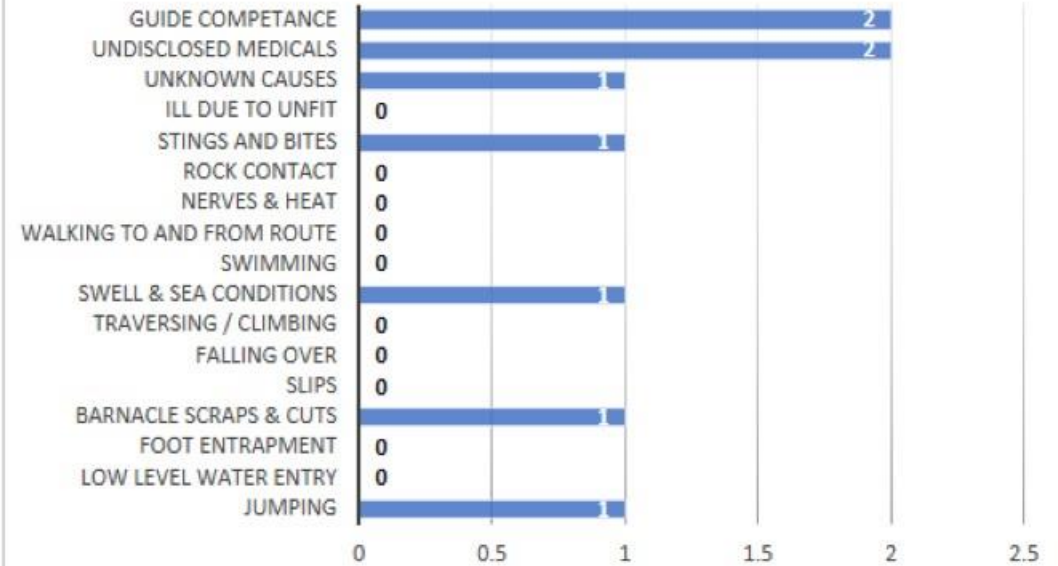
2018 Types of injuries



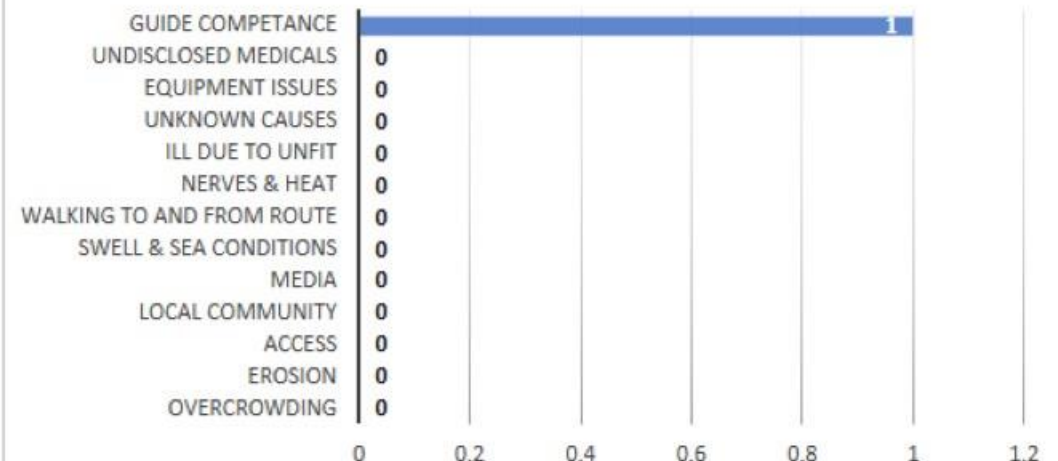
2018 Injury breakdown



2018 Types of accident causes



2018 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting and via the NCC website:

Always Coasteer with a helmet & take opportunity to rectify a situation.

Verbally ask about any potential history which might help in the event of potential incidents

Discussion on members of the public using easily accessible known Coasteer routes. These areas have signs "Only Coasteer with a licence provider" It's suggested that similar signage could be useful in other regions

correct placement of emergency mobile phone and keys for vehicle. - After a thorough debrief, there was not much we would have done differently

The only lesson learnt would have been to reinforce holding onto the top of the reef and keeping feet on the sheltered side of the reef at all times. - These things can happen for no apparent reason to otherwise healthy and able clients.

On closer inspection of the client's medical form, get trip organisers to check this in more detail, and instructors/office staff to check in more detail. We may prepare a grab bag with a sleeping bag, karrimat and hand warmers as casualty got cold (despite being in a warm synthetic jacket and blizzard bag) whilst waiting for the ambulance.

Gloves could have been useful in these circumstances when there is excess jellyfish

If bigger jumps are done then only those confident, that show they can jump and land well should be allowed to do them, those that don't should be discouraged or high jumps should just be avoided. Coasteering is not just about jumping (as was sold here), different parts of the activity should have been explored more.

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	7
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	4
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	3
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	0

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	124
Total number of regions that made reports	8
Approximate coasteer participation number	51241
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2019 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	0

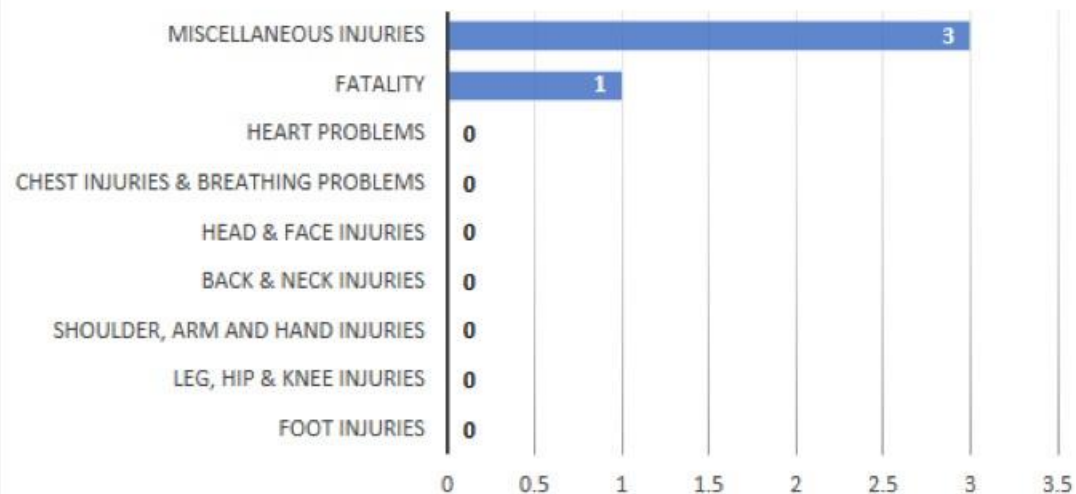
Incidents

Emergency services called out	1
General public assists	0

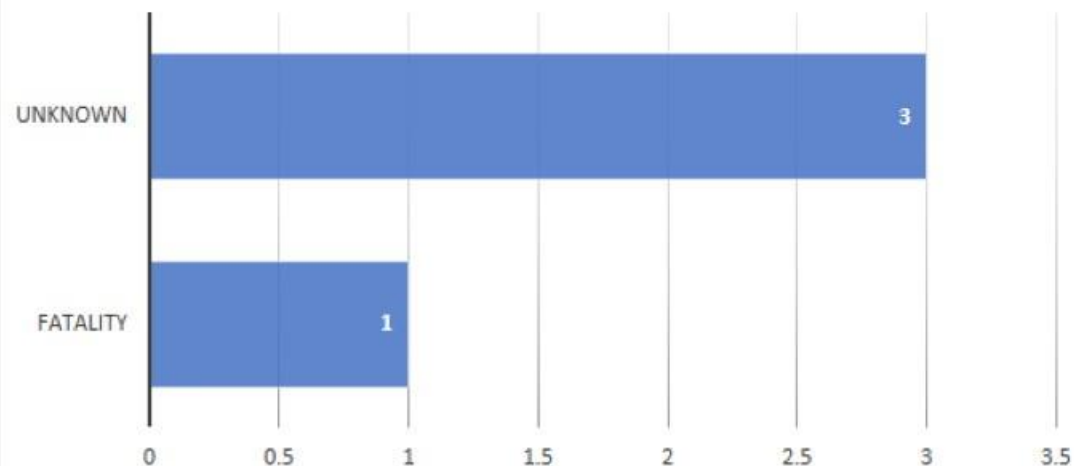
Accidents

Emergency services called out	2
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	0
Types of clients	Unknown
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	0

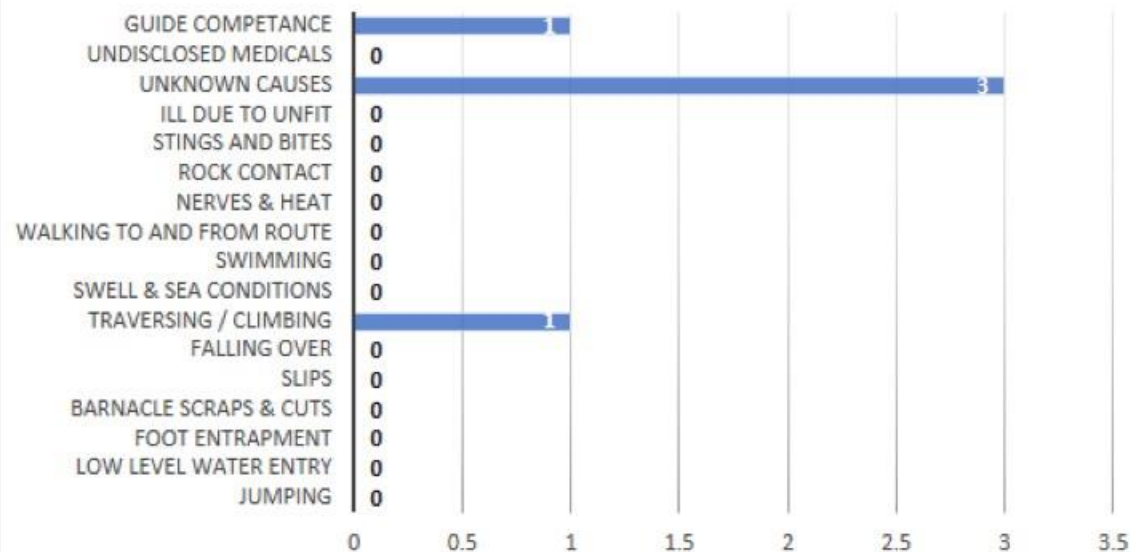
2019 Types of injuries



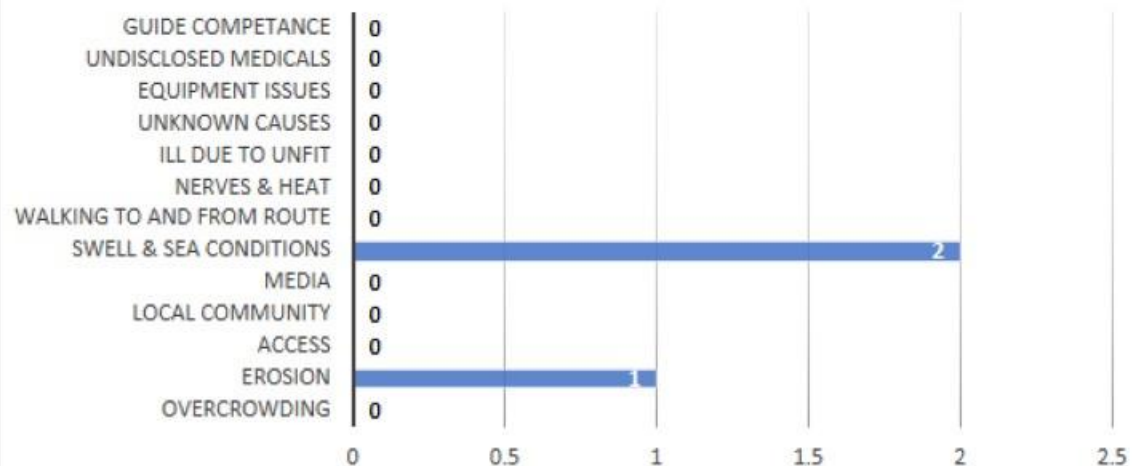
2019 Injury breakdown



2019 Types of accident causes



2019 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

Only write 1 report as versions vary

injury possibly the result of in experienced guide & lack of training.

Good decision made by lead guide in calling services. Use of VHF radio deemed paramount for all sessions in the area.

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	15
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	13
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	12
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	6

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	129
Total number of regions that made reports	10
Approximate coasteer participation number	76867
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2020 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	2
Two clients less flexible & larger found hard to walk slipped footing close to edge of cliff with slippery grass & big cliffs.	1
lots of near misses involving tourists people following and fishing them out but not sure where.	1

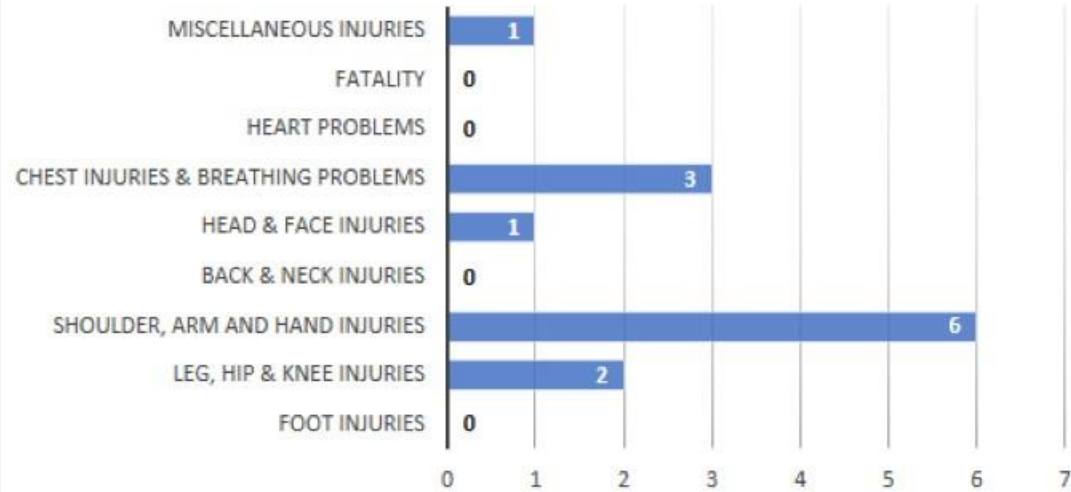
Incidents

Emergency services called out	0
General public assists	8

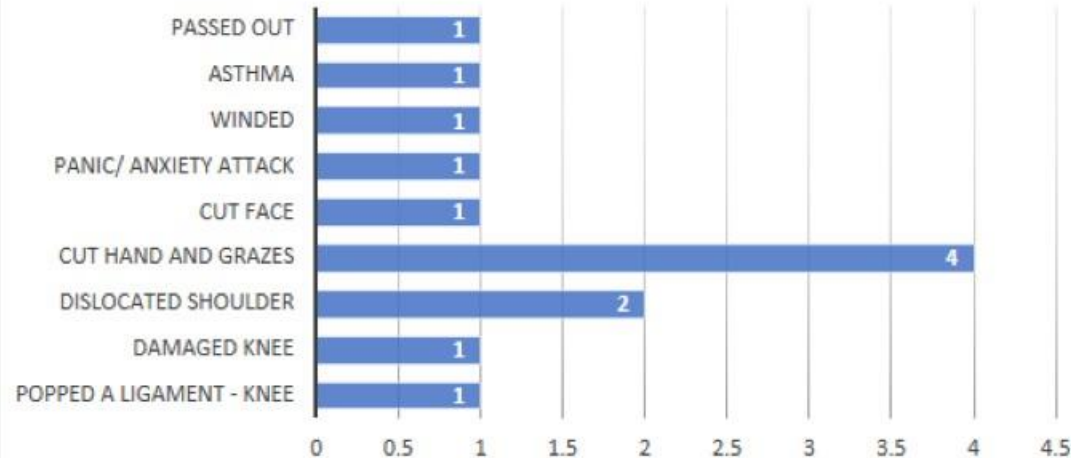
Accidents

Emergency services called out	2
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	0
Types of clients	11x Unknown x1 young male, x1 Member of public
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	1

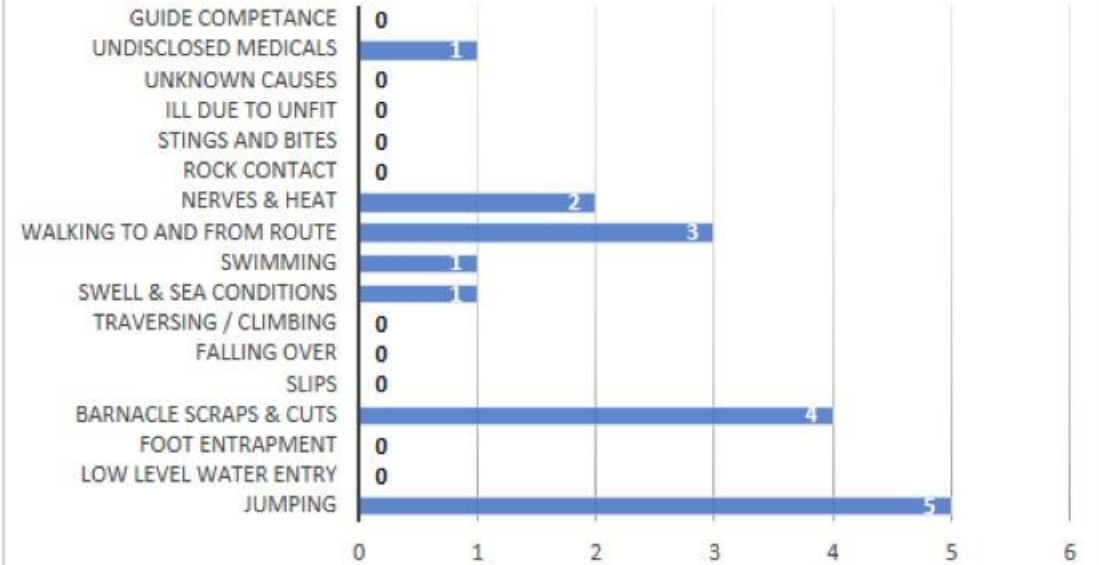
2020 Types of injuries



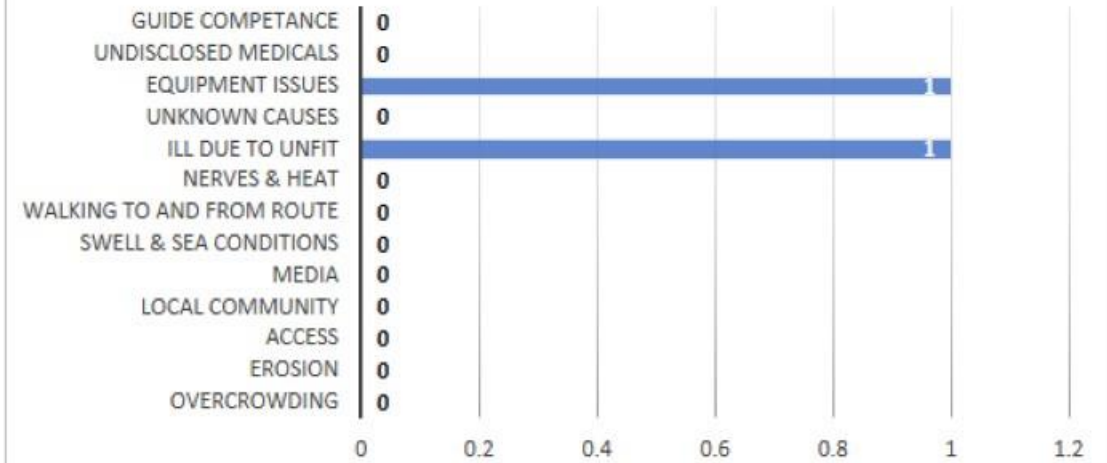
2020 Injury breakdown



2020 Types of accident causes



2020 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

expect this if previous injuries have been declared & people are not declaring injuries.

beach shoes were raised, not to wear beach shoes
& not allow them out in these but must wear trainers.

file down nails or take off extensions.

10-year-old needed fluid to keep going snacks taken - ensure have fluids, snacks or glucose in safety bags.

General public coasteering happening around Cornwall without providers.

lots of near misses involving tourists people following and fishing need to raise awareness.

General public not used to the outdoors, National Trust talking about grading walks around Dorset.

VHF problems with low power

details of the model were provided in the chat and will be circulated with the minutes (VHF radios).

Observation: with asthma inhaler shove it in the crook of the shoulder to give the person back the responsibility of using it when required – not the powder-based inhaler.

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	11
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	12
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	4
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	0

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	260
Total number of regions that made reports	8
Approximate coasteer participation number	96782
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2021 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	0

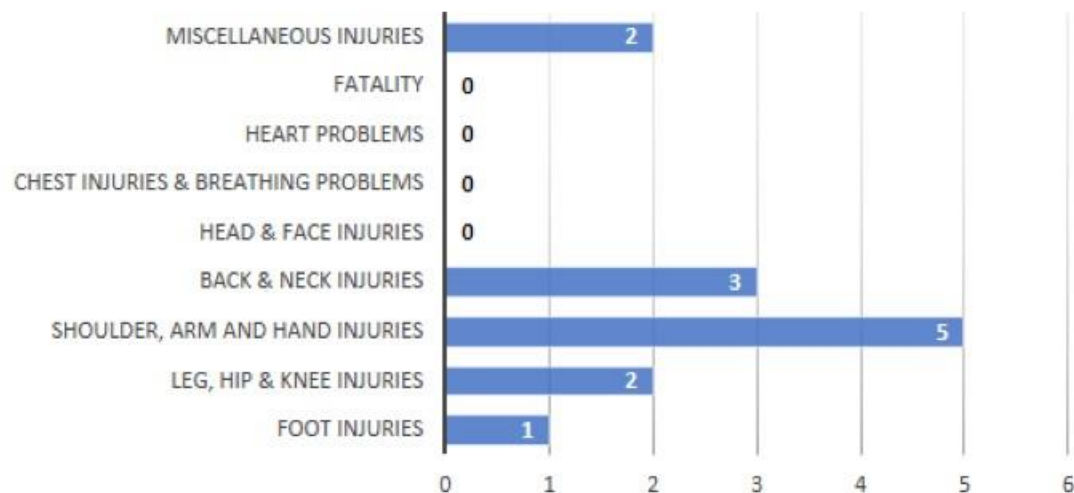
Incidents

Emergency services called out	0
General public assists	0

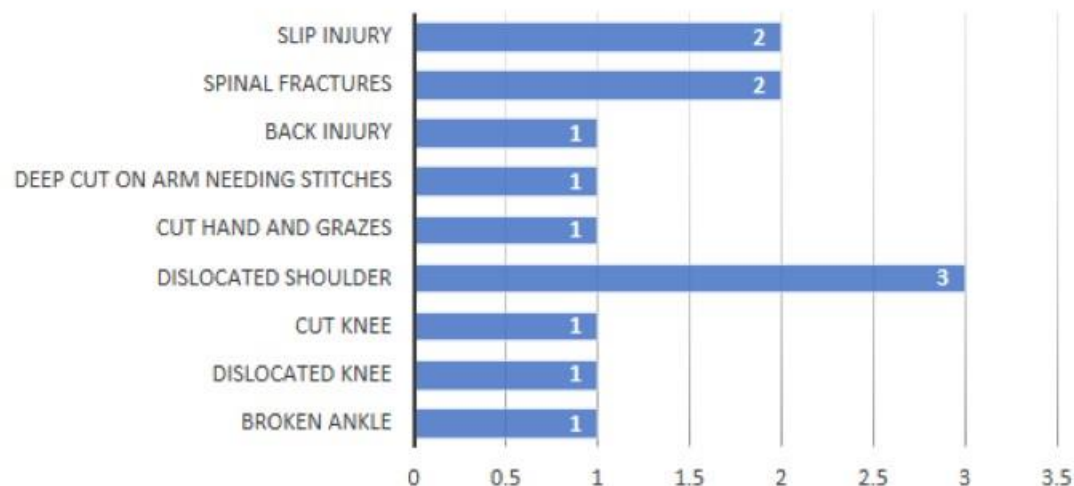
Accidents

Emergency services called out	1
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	1
Types of clients	1x Guide & 10x Unknown
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	9

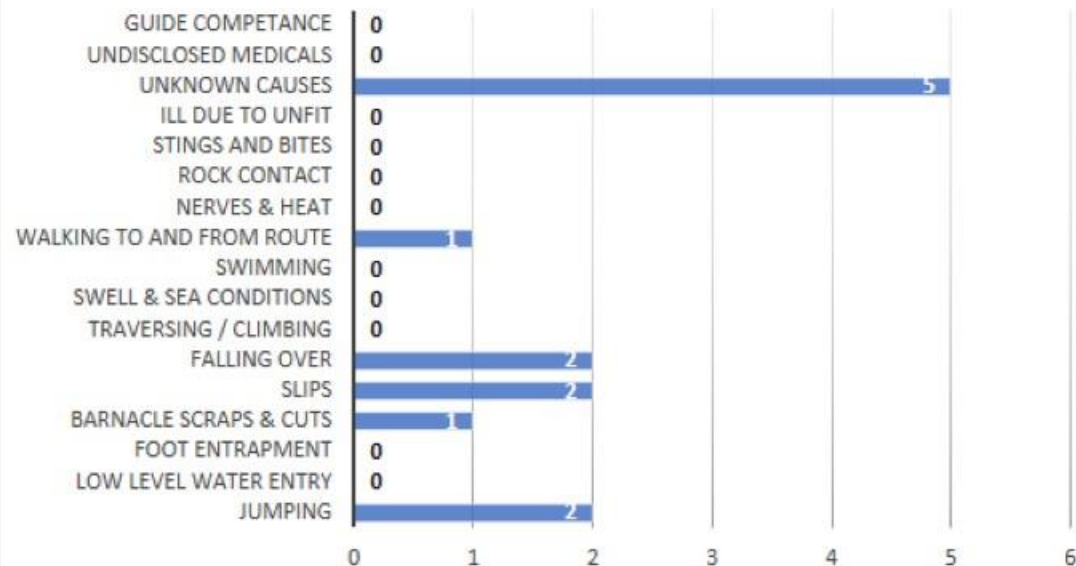
2021 Types of injuries



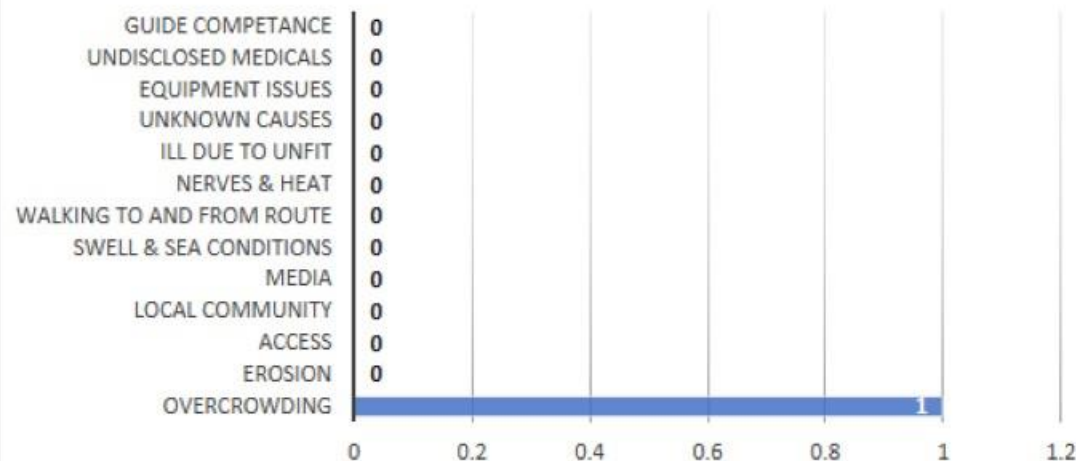
2021 Injury breakdown



2021 Types of accident causes



2021 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

possible underlying and undisclosed medical condition and the jump was unsuitable for the client.

Rescues performed near cliffs included climber with foot injury, a dog but gave the RNLI good practise to rescue near the cliffs.

Staff training is in order.

Learnings = use 'whatthreewords' when sharing the location . 4 incidents reported via the website, and it was reiterated these are anonymous

One company is being sued for incompetence following an ankle injury when they jumped where they were told not to – using the system helps especially in these circumstances

Total number of reports made at the national meeting	17
Total number of reports made via the NCC website	0
Total number of accidents from the reports made at the national meeting	10
Total number of incidents from the reports made at the national meeting	9
Total number of near miss from the reports made at the national meeting	1

Total number of NCC members (Including all categories)	?
Total number of regions that made reports	8
Approximate coasteer participation number	?
Total number of accident or incident that legal action was taken	?

2022 Near miss reports

Total number of near miss reports made	1
Near misses with public jumping in and the company have now changed their session times	1

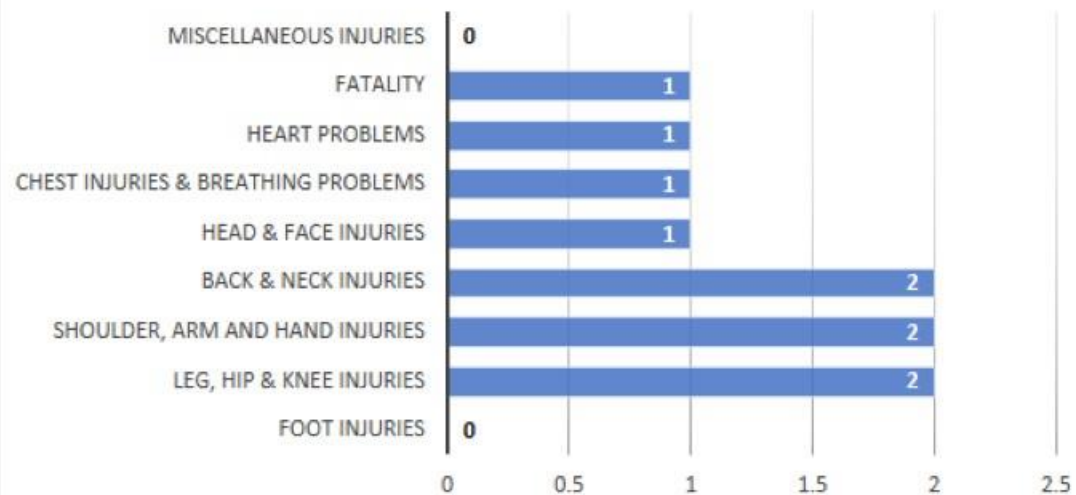
Incidents

Emergency services called out	0
General public assists	1

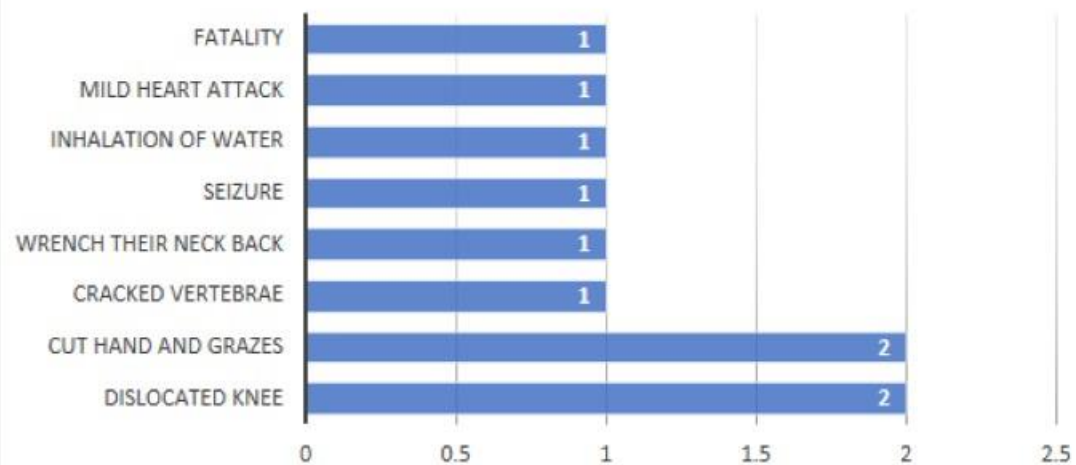
Accidents

Emergency services called out	0
Hospital visits	0
Guide injuries	1
Types of clients	2x female & 16x Unknown
Sea Conditions	Unknown
General public assists	1

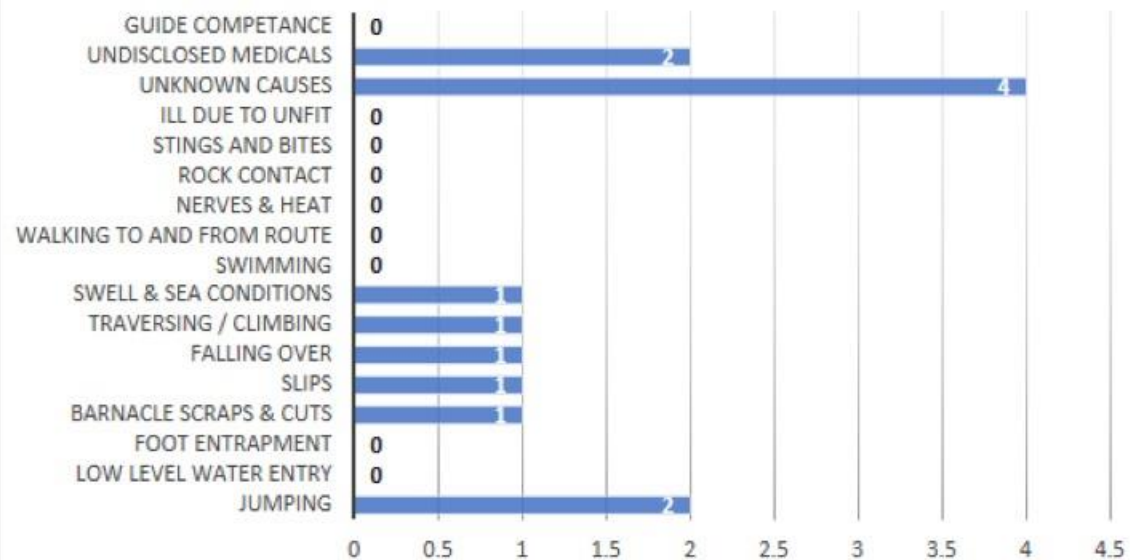
2022 Types of injuries



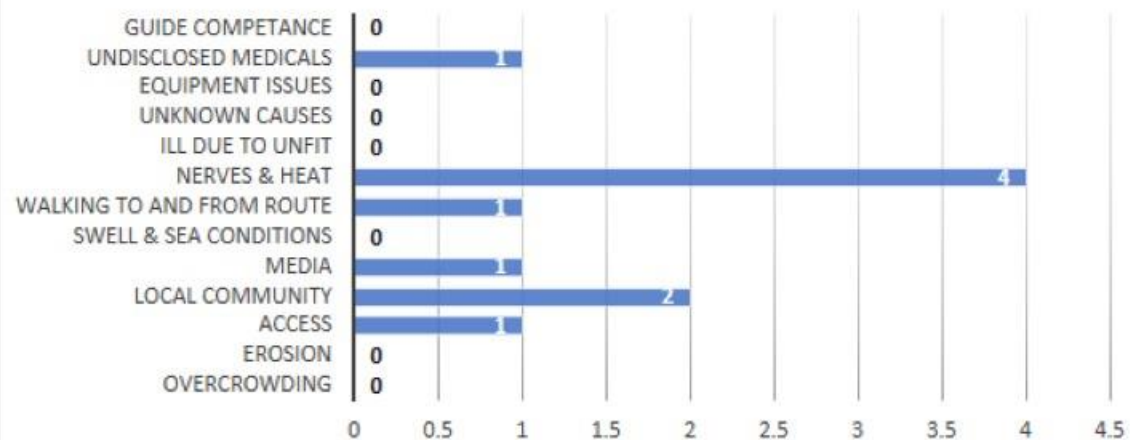
2022 Injury breakdown



2022 Types of accident causes



2022 Types of incident causes



Lesson Learnt reports made at the national meeting:

No lessons learnt reports recorded

Definitions:

NCC – National Coasteer Charter

Accident – ‘an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury’ ([Oxford Dictionaries](#))

Incident – ‘an instance of something happening; an event or occurrence: "several amusing incidents"' ([Oxford Dictionaries](#))

Near Miss – ‘a narrowly avoided collision or other accident’ ([Oxford Dictionaries](#))