Why Outboard Motors on Bass Tournament Boats Break Off and Flip Into Boats

Many Tournaments Require Participants to Sign Legal Waivers & Have Insurance

Maximum Horsepower Limited to 250 HP

Many Tournaments Require Wearing Life Jackets & Kill Switch Lanyards When Underway

Manufacturers of Rods, Reels, Navigational Aids & Equipment, Marine Electronics, Trolling Motors, Fishing Lures, Jack Plates, Shallow Water Anchors, Tow Vehicles, etc.

Endemic Sponsors

Non-Endemic Sponsors

Boat Dealers

Long Season

Tournaments Held Across the United States

Checks & Balances to Prevent Cheating

Cities Pay Large Sums to Host Major Tournaments

Those Much Older Than Pros in Most Sports Can Still Participate At Highest Level

Retailers from Bait Shops up to Bass Pro & Wal-Mart

Pro Angler Jerseys & Boat Wraps

Tournament Entry Fees

Free Admission

Media

Internet Media

Local Bass Clubs

New High Tech Products Frequently Announced

Exhibit Halls Show Products at Major Tournaments

It is Easy for Regular Anglers to Imagine Themselves as Pro Bass Anglers

Lakeside Restaurants & Lodging

Bass Tournament Organizations

Pro Anglers

Tens of Thousands of non-Pro Anglers

Steady Stream of New Participants

Outboard Motor Manufacturers

Boat Builders

Marinas

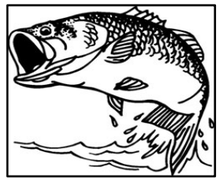
Popularity of Activity Results in More Tournaments and More Tournaments With Larger Purses

Winners Receive Products, Fame & Prize Money

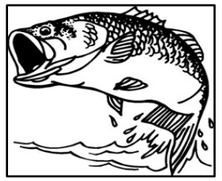
Some Sponsored Anglers Paid in Products

Some Tournaments Enforce Speed Limits in Certain Areas

Some Tournaments Have Mandatory Safety Meetings



The Business of Bass Tournaments



Outboard Powered Boats

Fully Equipped Tournament Bass Boats Are Heavy (momentum)

Desire of Anglers to Get to Where the Bass Are

Rough Water Can Break Off Outboard Motors

Some Tournaments Use Shotgun Starts

Outboards Often Bolted to Jack Plates

Outboards Branded for Bass Fishing Now Available in Lower Horsepower Models

Floating Debris

Boating in Areas With Floating and Underwater Hazards

Boating at Speeds Up to 70s mph

Floating Logs

Boating in Shallow Water

Boater Fatigue

Stumps

Changing Water Levels

Anglers Hustle to Get to Prime Fishing Spots

Rocks

Rough Water Reduces Visibility of Hazards

Quickly Move From One Fishing Spot to the Next

Submerged Concrete Structures

Boating With Poor Visibility of Floating and Underwater Hazards

Anglers Hustle Back to Weigh In

Dredging

Most Submerged Objects Are Invisible to Seated Bass Boat Operators

Anglers Spend Much Time on the Water Practicing

Sometimes Long Runs at Speed

Tournament Conditons

Bass Tournaments

Outboard Motor Strikes of Floating & Submerged Objects Are Inevitable

Some Outboards Break Off in Log Strikes

Some Outboards That Break Off Will Flip Into the Boat

Boat & Outboard Motor Design

No Boat Builders Publicly Acknowledge the Problem

Extreme Emphasis on Speed

Boating Industry Does Not Use Existing or Proposed Solutions

Manufactures Log Strike Test at 30 to 40 mph Bass Boats Run in 70s

Special Light Weight High Horsepower Outboards Go Faster

On Land Log Strike Tests Do Not Replicate On Water Log Strikes

Existing Warnings Are Weak or Non Existent

Outboard Manufacturers Do Not Fail-Safe Test Outboards

Not All Outboard Manufacturers Publicly Acknowledge the Problem Exists

Low Gunnel, Outboard Powered Bass Boats

Outboard Manufacturers Advertise and Promote Speed as a Major Feature

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