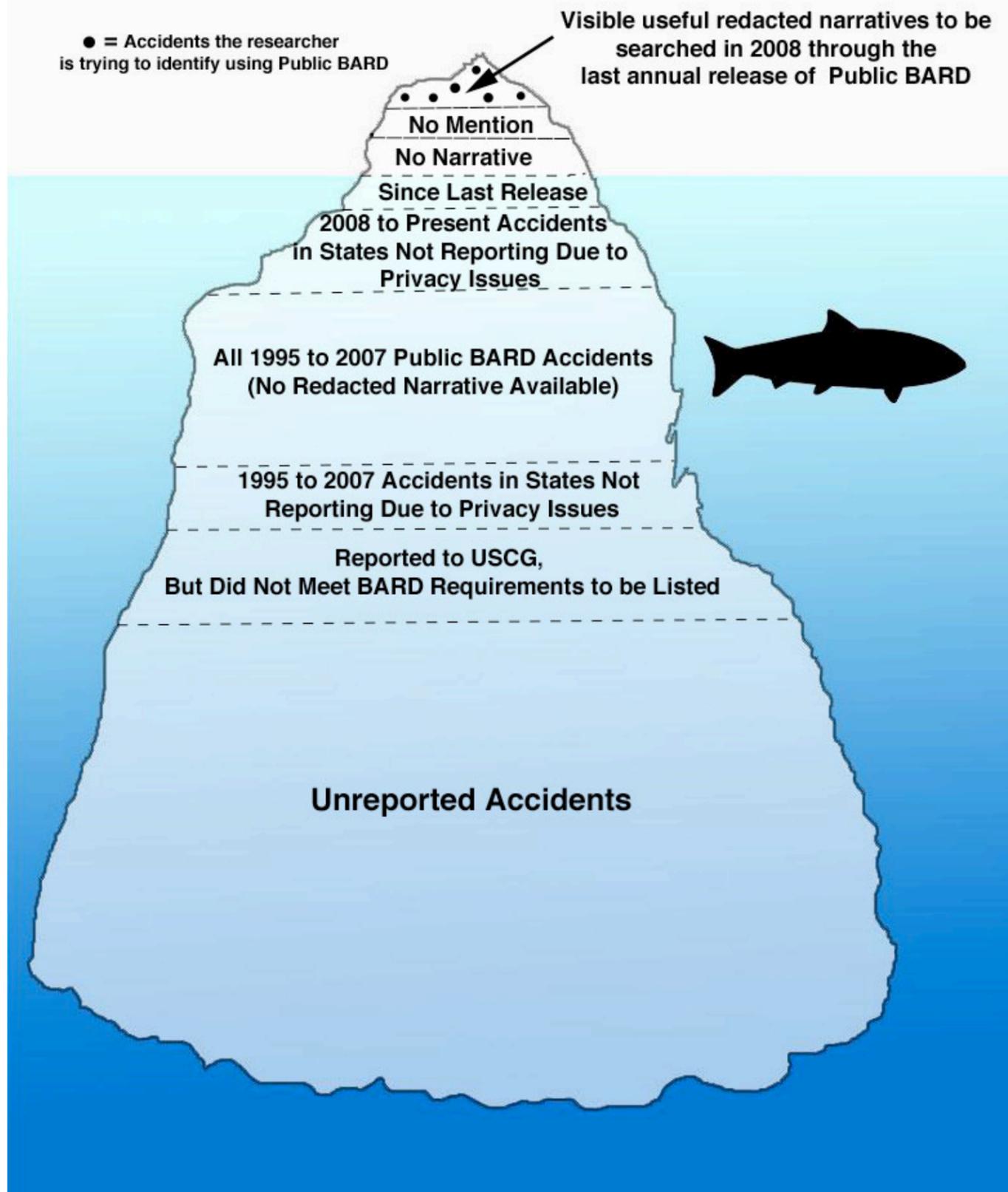


Using BARD to Identify Individual Boat Accidents From 1995 to Present of Types Not Specifically Classified by BARD



Limitations to Using BARD to Identify Types of Accidents Not Specifically Classified by BARD

U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Accident Report Database (BARD) is used by researchers to identify and count accidents of types that are not specifically classified by BARD. This is done by using Public BARD, the annually released version available to researchers to search verbal narratives of the accidents, sometimes in conjunction with limiting the search to certain categories of accidents classified by BARD. For example, if trying to identify accidents in which someone struck a dredge pipe, the search of narratives might be limited to BARD categories in which the vessel struck a floating, submerged, or fixed object.

As seen in the iceberg graphic at left, these narratives are only available in Public BARD for accidents from 2008 through the last issue of Public BARD (typically in May or June of the following year). In addition some states do not allow their data to be included in Public BARD for privacy issues, some accident reports do not include a narrative, and some accidents that do include a narrative and may have involved the specific type of accident being sought by the researcher may not mention it in their narrative. That leaves researchers looking at the very top peak of the iceberg (2008 though the last annual release for states that allow their data to be included, for accidents that include a narrative, and for narratives that involved this specific type of accident in which the narrative did mention the element the researcher is seeking).

As to the invisible pieces of the iceberg below the water:

Unreported accidents are those not reported to the Coast Guard.

Reported to USCG but not meeting BARD requirements includes small commercial boats, small government boats, and boats being tested by dealers.

Some states did not allow their data to be in Public BARD from 1995 through 2007 (most notably, California from 2005-2007).

Redacted narratives (privacy information removed) are not available for 1995 through 2007.

Some states did not allow their data for 2008 to present to be in Public BARD due to privacy issues. Approaching half the states did not in 2010.

Public BARD data is not available for accidents since the last annual release.

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