The Columbia County Sheriff's Office committed extra manpower and boats to the Columbia River over the Labor Day Weekend. The extra resources helped ease the burden on marine deputies as the weather favored a large turnout on the water.

Deputies put three boats on the river during peak hours and logged 152 man hours and 86 boat hours over the three-day weekend. Deputies responded to three Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicant calls. One culminated in the drowning death of a SeaDoo operator adjacent to Collins Beach on Sauvie Island, while the other two resulted in BUII arrests.

Deputies also were able to make 28 boater contacts on the water, as well as assisting two boaters with disabled vessels. Deputies were also the first to respond to Collins Beach on an additional medical assist--a day after they had responded to the same area on a BUII drowning.

"We prepared for this weekend with additional personnel to handle the expected increase in boaters during the holiday weekend," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. "The extra staff enabled us to increase the number of positive contacts on the water, as well as to conduct the criminal and death investigations involving operators who were boating under the influence.

"The extra people on the water paid off for us, especially with the beautiful weather that drew even more people to the water for the three-day weekend," the sheriff said.

Marine Deputies responded to this location on Collins Beach, the day after a SeaDoo operator drowned. The call shown here was for a medical assist on the beach.