



# Accident Database

## Report ID# 98697

Help

2020-05-23

Date

Brandon Lee Flatford

Victim

26

Victim Age

River Raisin, Monroe

River

Recovery at S. Telegraph Road Bridge, over River Raisin, Monroe, MI United States Mich

Location

High

Water Level

N/A

River Difficulty

Cause Code(s)

– Caught in Low Head Dam Hydraulic

Injury Type(s)

– Does not Apply

Factors

– Inexperience

Inexperienced

Victim Experience Level

Private

Trip Type

Kayak - Other

Boat Type

Group of 3 persons

Group Info

Reported

Status

---

## Accident Description

Fatal drowning. Group of three paddlers in recreational kayaks. Two were rescued or self rescued. Mr. Flatford was recovered at island in the river, within Veteran's park. A low head dam is upstream of the island.

Media coverage of events slightly chaotic for coverage. The Monroe County Emergency Management listed 3 water rescue events in that day, two were on this river stretch. Details on incidents were intermingled.

Best information here: <https://www.monroenews.com/news/20200524/fatality-results-from-river-raisin-boating-accident>

The river at this point is generally flat moving water.  
Water at this time was four days after flood level; diminished flow each day after.  
Seasonal spring high at time of incident. Media reporting of flood levels incorrect.

Reviewer could not confirm type of warning at dam.

This section of river popular for recreational kayak use. There was a large influx of recreational boaters on this weekend due to the recent ease of restrictions for Covid stay-at-home orders.

No pfd use.





## Our Organization

[About AW](#)

[Outdoor Alliance](#)

[News](#)

[Stewardship](#)

[Safety](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[Professional Staff](#)

## Support AW

[Join or Renew](#)

[Donate](#)

[Giving](#)

[Become a Volunteer](#)

[AW Store](#)

[Industry Partner Program](#)

[Advertising Information](#)

## River Info

## Library

[AW Journal](#)

## Community

[Clubs](#)

[Events](#)

[Industry Partners](#)

## Account

[AW Site Login](#)

[New Account](#)

[Password Reminder](#)

[Create AW Account](#)

Administrator

Content

Users

© 1999-2025 American Whitewater

Terms of Service