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NEWS

Game warden drowns trying to save colleagues

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A game warden drowned when his boat capsized and he was sucked by powerful currents through the floodgates of Coffeerville Lock and Dam while trying to rescue two colleagues whose disabled boat was stuck at the floodgates.

James Lanceford Horner, 32, of Grove Hill, drowned about 11:20 a.m. Sunday at the dam on the Tombigbee River in Clarke County.

Alabama Marine Police Capt. Michael Patrick said Horner was helping another game officer, Sgt. Steve James, and an intern, Ira Hobson, who were patrolling the river above the dam when their engine became disabled. "They were swept downstream and forced against the floodgates," said Lt. Ryan Bennett, assistant district supervisor for Marine Police in District 4.

Horner, an enforcement officer in the Clarke County area, arrived about 45 minutes after James called him for help. As Horner tried to throw the stranded boaters a line, turbulence from the flood gates made the boat capsize.