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Drowned woman recovered

May 24, 2002

The body of a woman, believed to be drowning victim Connie Corbett, was recovered Thursday afternoon from the Kankakee River near Custer Park.

A fisherman spotted the body in a logjam at the north end of Hoffman Island, about 18 miles downstream from the dam in Kankakee.

Officials are reasonably certain the body is Mrs. Corbett, 40, of Bourbonnais, who drowned in a May 3 boating accident at the Kankakee dam. A formal identification is expected later today when Will County Coroner Patrick O'Neil conducts an autopsy.

The body was recovered by Conservation Police Sgt. Mark Simon and Officer Holly Vadbunker.

"The river is still pretty high, about a couple of feet higher than normal this time of year," Simon said.

High water has hampered search efforts since Mrs. Corbett and Jack Menard were swept over the dam in their powerboat. The boat broke up in the violent currents at the dam's base. Menard escaped with minor injuries.

Rescue workers have been searching the river from Kankakee downstream to the Dresden Island Lock and Dam west of Wilmington since the accident, Simon said. Mrs. Corbett is survived by a daughter Paige, 20, and son Ian, 15, and her mother, Mercedes Ward.

