

Reasoner Dam

[Previous Dam Upstream \(LHDrutland.html\)](#)[Next Dam Downstream \(LHDcornbelt.html\)](#)

River/Stream: Des Moines River, West Fork

Location: Humboldt, Humboldt County

Latitude: 42.726752

Longitude: -94.229834

Click here to view an aerial map of the dam. (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=42.726752,-94.229834+%28Reasoner+Dam%29&z=15&ll=42.726752,-94.229834&t=h>)

Built: 1912

Owner: Humboldt County Conservation Board

Height: 15 feet

Length: 300 feet

Hazards (HazardDefs.html): drowning, height

Warning Signs:

Portage: There is a boat ramp just above the dam. Portage for about a half mile along the Cottonwood Trail and put in below the rock dam across from the power plant. This dam will tear the bottom out of your boat. -- Gerry Rowland

Comments: obvious impoundment

Fatalities 2

- May 6, 2006 - angler Michael Milligan
- June 1, 1905 - Joseph Greagor, his fishing boat went over dam

Incident Report:

Officials said 50-year-old Michael Mulligan of Humboldt may have fallen in the water at the Reasoner Dam on the West Fork of the Des Moines River and drowned. He was reported missing Saturday morning after he was last seen fishing near the dam.

Someone called 9-1-1 after finding his fishing tackle and vehicle near the dam. Crews spent much of Saturday and Sunday searching for Mulligan, including dive teams from Story and Polk counties.



Photos courtesy of Dave Hillman (river at a very low flow)

Promoting river safety, education, and recreation

Last Updated: 1/24/2022