

Accident Database

Report ID# 278

Help

1989-05-29
Date
Louis Gelato
Victim
29
Victim Age
Musconetcong River
River
Bloomsbury to Delaware River
Section
United States New Jersey, US
Location
Gage
Medium
Water Level
N/A
River Difficulty
Caught in a Natural Hydraulic
Cause

Injury Type(s)

– Does not Apply

Factors

– One Boat Trip

Private

Trip Type

Open Canoe

Boat Type

Group Info

Other Victim Names

Reported

Status

Accident Description

DAMS CLAIMS TWO JERSEY PADDLERS

May 21, 1989: Muscoenetcong River, N.J. Louis Gelato, 29, paddling with two friends in a 17 foot canoe, drowned after an attempted run of a dam near Riegelsville. All three were caught in the reversal; one was pronounced dead at the scene after being washed one mile downstream; another companion was hospitalized in critical condition two days later.

Source: Appalachian Mountain Club (NJ) "Paddle Splashes"

COMMENTS: This incident further illustrates the danger of low-head dams.

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