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Illinois Conservation Police Continue to Investigate Fatal Boat Accident on Mississippi River

MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOL 16 - Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police continue to investigate a fatal boating accident on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River Pool #16, approximately one mile north of Fairport, Iowa near the Shady Creek Boat Launch.

The accident happened at approximately 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 20 when seven duck hunters, including one nine-year old youth, were traveling to their hunting blind in a Jon boat to hunt on opening day of the Illinois North Zone waterfowl season. While traveling on the Mississippi River, the boat, which was rated for twelve occupants and was equipped with a sufficient number of personal flotation devices (PFDs), struck a concrete marker on the Illinois side of the main channel. One of the passengers was ejected from the watercraft. The youth on board the watercraft was reportedly wearing a PFD. Five hunters sustained injuries as a result of the accident and were transported to an Iowa hospital.

The actions and quick response of an injured passenger on board the watercraft, nearby hunters, and emergency fire and police personnel from Iowa were instrumental in preventing additional casualties and in the recovery of one of the deceased victims.

As of Monday afternoon, October 22, four subjects remain hospitalized. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation by the Illinois DNR Conservation Police. The cause of death will be released by the Rock Island County Coroner.