Fishing Vessel Safety Procedures Fatality File

An American Man Died While Fishing in An Ontario Lake After a Boat Capsized.

A fishing expedition took a tragic turn over the weekend after a sudden boating accident cost a man his life.

According to Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), members of its Dryden detachment responded to a report of a boat capsizing on Clay Lake at around 5:15 p.m. on June 4.

The vessel, which was carrying two individuals, was reportedly overturned while the pair were fishing near some rapids.

“One of the individuals was able to hang onto the boat and call for help and was later rescued by employees from a nearby lodge,” the report states.

Sadly, the other fisherman, later identified as 71-year-old David Nitzel of Rhineland, Wisconsin, was unable to cling to the craft, with OPP ultimately needing to charter a helicopter to locate him.

The police say the case is a “suspected drowning” and Nitzel was pronounced deceased at the scene.

“Year after year, the vast majority of victims killed in boating incidents were not wearing a lifejacket or PFD,” the release concludes. “With capsized vessels and falling over the top contributing factors in boating deaths every year, a significant number of lives stand to be saved if boaters and paddlers wore lifejackets/PFDs.”