

Missing since 1999: Juneau man's remains identified decades after discovery

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ANCHORAGE, Alaska (KTUU) - Human remains recovered from the Gastineau Channel more than two decades ago have been identified as a Juneau man who was reported missing in 1999, authorities [announced](#) Thursday.

The Juneau Police Department, in coordination with the Alaska Department of Safety and the State Medical Examiner's office, confirmed that the remains belong to Darryl Bruce Fawcett. Fawcett was 28 and experiencing homelessness when he was last seen in September 1999.



Darryl Fawcett reported missing in 1999; his remains were recovered in the Gastineau Channel in 2004(Juneau Police Department)

According to Juneau police, Fawcett had not been in contact with family since that month. Checks sent to him were returned uncashed beginning in October, prompting a missing person report to be filed in December.

Authorities also received unconfirmed reports that he has traveled to Yakutat later that year. The Yakutat Police Department later confirmed that he had been in the area briefly before disappearing again.

On March 13, 2004, a diver discovered human remains 83 feet below the surface of the Gastineau Channel near Merchant's Wharf. The remains were recovered and sent to the State Medical Examiner's office but could not be identified with the technology available.

Advancements in DNA analysis recently made it possible to extract genetic profiles from the bones and teeth, police said. Using the new method, the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection laboratory confirmed on Thursday that the remains were Fawcett's.

The Juneau Police Department had [listed Fawcett](#) on its "missing persons" website, and the Charley Project — a separate effort to bring awareness to missing people — listed him on its website.

Alaska State Troopers have notified his next of kin.

No additional information has been released about the cause of death.

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