

Boat mishap claims 12 lives in Bayelsa

From FEMI FOLARANMI, Yenagoa

Twelve people have been confirmed dead in a boat mishap that occurred on Ikoli River, Ayama community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Among the dead are undergraduate students of the state owned Niger Delta University and a lecturer in the university.

According to reports, the

incident, which happened about 8pm on Christmas Day resulted from a head-on collision between a passenger boat and a cargo boat.

The NDU students who lost their lives were returning from a picnic at Otubula also in Ogbia Local Government Area.

Eyewitness account said two people in the passenger boat survived the accident, while eight corpses had been recovered from the river.

The recovered bodies were immediately taken to the morgue of the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Alex Akhigbe who confirmed the incident in an interview yesterday, however, said only six bodies had been recovered.

"Yes there was a boat mishap and six bodies have been recovered so far. Local divers are still searching for more bodies," he said.