Fishermen not involved in kill

A commercial fishing crew has been crticized after news reports of a fish kill in Lake Koshkonong that the crew was not involved in.

Jason Dillon has the 2011 contract for rough fish removal on Lake Koshkonong.

However, it was his predecessors who were charged with killing nearly 700 game fish while netting carp on Wisconsin's third largest natural inland lake.

Steven Kallenbach, 54, of Stoddard, and John Bruring, 47, of LaCrosse, pleaded guilty in Jefferson County were each fined $15,477 for killing an estimated 645 walleye and white bass.

Kallenbach and Briring had the 2010 contract with the Department of Natural Resources.

They are accused of burying the fish along the shoreline in an attempt to hide the kill and subsequently had their fish removal contract with the state revoked.

Kallenbach and Bruring were charged following a lengthy investigation by DNR game wardens.

A paragraph in a news story that appeared in the July 6 edition of the Edgerton Reporter did not specify that it was Kallenbach and Bruring who were accused of burying the dead fish and subsequently had their license revoked.

As a result, Dillon and his crew have come under fire from the public and the Lake Koshkonong community in particular.

"We're trying to build a relationship with the community," Dillon said. "We are trying to get cooperation with the community. It will be tough after that."

Don Bush, the DNR's former fisheries team leader for the Rock River Basin, said Dillon was thoroughly investigated.

Bush said Dillon had been thoroughly checked out by the DNR. No evidence of wrong doing in Wisconsin or Minnesota, was discovered, Bush added.

"This is more a matter of clarification. Hopefully things will straighten out for these guys and there will be no ill will coming down on them."

Dillon's crew began seining carp the first week in June. "We are trying to clean this up for the good of the community," he said. "There is a lot of carp in there. You've got to get the carp out of there or they will over run the lake."