

# Seiner rescued after boat capsizes on lake

By Ryan Whisner Union regional editor | Posted: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:39 am

KOSHKONONG — A man involved in a commercial seining operation for rough fish such as carp was rescued when his boat reportedly sank Tuesday morning off Bingham's Point in Lake Koshkonong.

The Fort Atkinson Fire Department was notified at approximately 10:49 a.m. of a boat that possibly had overturned with one person in it on Lake Koshkonong.

The caller reportedly observed the boat from Vinnie HaHa Road in the Town of Koshkonong, saying that there was a boat taking on water.

Fort Atkinson Fire Department Lt. Dion Brown said the caller indicated that when the boat appeared to sink, he could no longer see the person who had been standing in the boat.

Brown said the fire department's rescue boat was launched from the Groeller Road boat launch along the Rock River.

Fort Atkinson Fire Chief Mike Reel, Brown, Lt. Rob Allard and firefighter Josh Weber responded in the boat. Another crew was sent out to Vinnie HaHa in the vicinity from which the caller had observed the boat.

Brown said Weber and Allard suited up in dive gear in the event that it was needed.

However, upon arriving in the vicinity where the boat reportedly was last seen, the firefighters came upon a commercial fishing boat with three people aboard.

Brown said apparently that trio rescued the man from the other boat and took him to shore at Dallman's Landing in the Town of Milton. The subject reportedly was checked out at the scene by Milton EMS. Brown was unaware of the man's condition as the Fort Atkinson emergency personnel ended up having no direct contact with the patient.

By the time the Fort Atkinson firefighters arrived on the scene, the other three fisherman had returned to attempt to recover some of their equipment in the water.

The boat involved was not recovered and likely sank. It was not clear whether the carp in its sealed containers were released or will end up washing up at some point along the shorelines.

Brown said the three fisherman got into the water for a short time to retrieve some of the gear in the area where the boat likely sank. The firefighters remained on scene until the trio were safely back in their boat and on their way back to Dallman's Landing.

No other boats were visible on the lake at the time, according to Brown, who acknowledged that the waters were fairly choppy due to the windy conditions.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office, along with Fire/EMS personnel from Edgerton, Milton and Lake Mills fire departments, also were dispatched for the water rescue.

It appeared that while some units might have arrived on the scene, none ultimately launched their boats due to the subject having been rescued by his apparent co-workers in the commercial fishing operation.