

# The Daily Mining Gazette

## Resurrected: Crane on barge lifts sunken vessel



Photos by Graham Jaehnig/Daily Mining Gazette Leaving very little room with which to work, workers successfully raised the sunken fishing boat, "Dawn," which sank April 1 at the south Portage Entry.

CHASSELL TOWNSHIP — The U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Tech of Duluth were in the South Entry of the Keweenaw Waterway Tuesday to raise the fishing vessel "Dawn," which had sunk beside the pier on April 1.

Jeromy Kowell of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Duluth commanded the operations. He said the operation began with divers working on the boat to secure it in preparation of being raised.

*"Right now, we've got a recovery barge on site," Kowell said, "and they're just getting ready to sling up the vessel for a lift, to lift it out and put it on the barge. Once they put it on the barge, they're going to take it (to) Julio's in Hancock for final disposition."*

Kowell said before recovery operations could start, the boat needed to be inspected by divers to determine its condition, which was found to be in fairly poor shape.

*"The structural integrity of the vessel is in question, due to the rotting nature of the*

*wooden hull,” Kowell said.*



Photos by Graham Jaehnig/Daily Mining Gazette A recovery barge, being powered by the tug boat “Jean C.,” passes beneath the Portage Lake Lift Bridge Tuesday morning at approximately 10:50 a.m. The tug and barge, belonging to Marine Tech of Duluth, were used in the recovery of a sunken fishing vessel in the South Portage Entry.

---

In raising the boat, he said its condition caused some concern it might break apart.

*“It is a 40-foot vessel, and there are no tag lines, because it’s too heavy. Without any water the vessels weighs over 11 gross tons.”*

The vessel could only be raised a few feet at a time because its frail condition required it be pumped free of water as it raised from the lake floor.

*“We believe the vessel is no longer usable,” Kowell said. “Through the structural survey and the salvage plan, the naval architects with T&T Marine and Salvage, we looked at it and approved it.”*

From the time the divers secured the four slings around the hull, it took approximately two hours to lift the boat, as recovery crew members worked from shore and on the barge in a brisk east wind and driving rain.

The vessel was successfully recovered, in spite of its poor condition.

*“We don’t know the reason it sank,” Kowell said, “but we may have a better idea once it’s up on the barge or at Julio’s.”*

## COMMENTS