

# Three Boaters Rescued After Rough Day On The Water

*Story and Photos by PAC Donnie Brzuska, PADET Jacksonville, Fla.*

Three boaters were rescued by the Coast Guard after their 22-foot vessel capsized approximately eight-miles east of St. Augustine, Fla., at around 3 p.m., May 11.



*Tim Davis, 21, Bobby Jackson, 22, and Corey Kuzel, 22, all from Middleburg, Fla., step off a Coast Guard rescue boat from Station Mayport, Fla. The men were rescued after their vessel capsized off the coast of St. Augustine, Fla., May 11.*

Tim Davis, 21, Bobby Jackson, 22, and Corey Kuzel, 22, all from Middleburg, Fla., called a commercial salvage company after their vessel became disabled and started taking on water while they were fishing. Coast Guard rescue coordinators from Sector Jacksonville launched a 47-foot rescue boat crew from Station Mayport, Fla., as a precaution because of the heavy seas and high winds.

“Our engine stopped running, and the big waves ended up dumping over into the boat,” said Davis, the owner of the boat. “Our bilge wasn’t big enough to hold it all because it just kept coming in and coming in. It just happened so quick - just like that.”

Shortly after the rescue boat was launched, the Coast Guard and the commercial salvage company lost radio communications with the crew of the 22-foot vessel. The commercial salvage company arrived at the vessel’s last known position, and there was no sign of the three men or their vessel.

With the help of rescue coordinators, the Coast Guard rescue boat crew

arrived at the scene and located the three men clinging to the hull of the over turned vessel. The men were rescued and were transported to Coast Guard Station Mayport. They received no injuries as a result of the accident and were reunited with their families.

“They told us to stay right on top of the boat if it capsizes, so we did that and about an hour later the guys came out and rescued us,” said Davis.

The weather off shore where the Coast Guard crew located the men was approximately five-to-seven foot seas with 23-to-28 mph winds.



*Don Davis hugs his son, Tim, at Coast Guard Station Mayport, Fla., after Tim and two of his friends were rescued from their capsized vessel by a Coast Guard rescue crew.*