

HOW THE TUG BOAT SANK IN ESBJERG



As the great Russian sailing ship **Kruzenshtern** left the Port after taking part in The Tall Ships Races at the weekend, a tugboat sank as a hawser got stuck.

Now the police and the Maritime Accident Investigation Board are investigating what happened. Two tugs towed **Kruzenshtern** out from the dock. At some point one of the tug boats released the hawser which was attached to the ship while the other seemingly did not. This led to the tug being pulled down and toward the sailing ship. As the tug boat took in water, it capsized.

Police maritime unit Marsikpol consisting of personnel from the Marine Guard and specially trained police officers stood nearby with a dinghy, as they were responsible for the control of maritime safety during the arrangement. As it was about to go wrong, they sailed the dinghy up against the sinking tug boat, so two of the three crew members on board could jump straight into the dinghy. The third fell into the water, but despite strong undercurrent they managed to get him secured with a line, before he was pulled down.

Now South Jutland Police criminal examines part of the case, while the Maritime Accident Investigation Board examines the process in order to find out how to avoid similar situations.

The salvage of the tug boat is up the Port. The boat is below 10.3 meters of water with a clearance to the surface of six meters.

Source: South Jutland Police / Maritime Denmark