

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: MV Blue Star Grounding

SITREP #: 2 & Final

SPILL NUMBER: 04119928301

LEDGER CODE: 14150860

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The vessel grounded at approximately 4:00 PM, October 7, 2004. Shortly after the USCG MSO Juneau received news of the grounding they notified ADEC via the AST spill report dispatch at 11:20 AM, October 9, 2004. The MV Blue Star is a 58', 38 GT catamaran hull vessel which was built in Juneau in 1955.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 4:00 PM, October 25, 2004

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: This is the final report.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The owner estimated that up to 1000 gallons of diesel fuel was onboard the vessel. In addition, two 55 gallon drums of gasoline and ten 1 gallon containers of lubrication oils were removed from the vessel to a high point on the adjacent beach. The two drums of gasoline and the lube oil have been recovered.

LOCATION: 58° 19.1' N., 136°51.5' W. on the NE side of Sugarloaf Island at the entrance to Dixon Harbor on the outer coast between Cape Spencer and Icy Point. The site is within the boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The owner noticed the vessel was taking on water and intentionally put the vessel aground in a small, protected cove to keep the vessel from sinking.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Mr. Wayne Sharpe, King Cove, Alaska.

RESPONSE ACTION: ADEC and the USCG established a Unified Command to respond to this incident in close coordination with the National Park Service (NPS). ADEC coordinated teleconferences with the current owner, the USCG, NPS and Alaska Department of Natural Resources to determine the owner's plan for the vessel.

The last overflight conducted by the NPS on the morning of October 10, 2004, found the stern of the vessel submerged and only a very light sheen near the vessel and in the cove. No sheens were observed outside of the cove, indicating that there was no longer an active release of oil from the vessel. In addition, an interview was conducted today with the previous owner, Mr. Geoffrey Nelson, of Hoonah who has made two trips to the vessel since its grounding. Mr. Nelson stated that he last visited the vessel around October 14th and found no sheening either around the vessel or anywhere in the cove at a high tide. Mr. Nelson also reported that he removed the two 55 gallon drums of fuel, all of the small containers of lube oil, and other abandoned materials from the adjacent beach, and returned them to Hoonah. Mr. Nelson reports that there is no longer any fuel either on the vessel or on the adjacent shore.

To date the owner has not formed any clear plans for removal of the vessel from the beach.

SOURCE CONTROL: All the fuel carried aboard the vessel is believed to have been discharged. The two drums of gasoline and the containers of lube oil on the beach have been removed.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: No wildlife have been observed in the area of the spill and none were believed impacted by this spill. The site is on the outer coast and is open to the Gulf of Alaska. The shoreline is characterized as exposed rocky shores, cliffs, and wave cut platforms.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC and the USCG have completed their pollution response. The NPS is considering additional actions they might take in terms of removing the vessel from the beach. ADNR will be kept informed of any progress in vessel salvage or removal actions.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, small craft advisory, northeast winds 20 knots, seas 17 feet subsiding to 8 feet tomorrow with southerly gales to 40 knots on Thursday.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Mr. Wayde Sharpe
 F.O.S.C.: Cdr. John Sifling
 S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Les Leatherberry, ADEC at 465-5346. Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
ADF&G	Mark Fink	Email	Sent via SITREP list	267-2338	267-2464
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Sent via SITREP list	465-3400	465-3513
USCG (MSO Juneau)	CDR John Sifling	Email	jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil	463-2453	463-2445
USCG (MSO Juneau)	Lt. Gary Koehler	Email	gkoehler@cgalaska.uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
EPA	Matt Carr	Email	Sent via SITREP list	271-3616	271-3424
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
NPS	Gus Martinez	Email	Gus_Martinez@nps.gov	697-2230	697-2654
Other	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate/ Dist. C	Georgianna Lincoln	Fax	Interim:	888-461-3732	465-2652
House/ Dist. 5	Albert Kookesh	Fax	Interim:	788-3501	788-3176
City & Borough of Yakutat Mayor	Victoria Demmert	Email	Email: C/O bmanager@ptialaska.net	784-3323	784-3281
Hoonah Indian Association	Frank Wright Jr.	Fax		945-3545	945-3703
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	Bert Adams Sr.	Fax		784-3238	784-3595
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	Sent via SITREP list	225-7002	247-1117



MV Blue Star underway near Juneau in 1957. C.R. Mattson Photo