



DEC NEWS RELEASE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
410 Willoughby Ave., Juneau, AK 99801-1795
Phone: (907) 465-5009 Fax: (907) 465-5070
www.dec.state.ak.us

Contact: Gary Folley (907) 262-5210 extension 234, or (907) 390-4368 or Leslie Pearson at (907) 269-7543, or (907) 244-3390

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC lifts Threatened Water Body status in Selendang Ayu spill zone *Shoreline cleanup completed for the season and response personnel demobilized*

Anchorage, Alaska-October 6, 2005--The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has removed the Threatened Water Body status for state waters in the *M/V Selendang Ayu* spill zone between Cape Kovizhaka and Spray Cape, Unalaska Island, which includes Makushin and Skan Bay. DEC changed the water body status on September 30, after consulting with federal, state, and local representatives.

DEC issued the Threatened Water Body status on December 27, 2004 based on the presence of oil on the water and shorelines, the threat of additional oil being released from the wreck, and its potential to impact more shoreline. The effect of a Threatened Water Body declaration is to impose stricter seafood inspection requirements on fishing vessels, tender vessels, buying stations, and processing facilities that catch or process seafood from the water body to ensure Alaska meets its standard of zero tolerance for contamination. The additional requirements protected Alaska's commercial fisheries from oil contamination.

The Unified Command's cleanup crews made significant progress removing oil from Unalaska Island shorelines. Of the 123 shorelines affected, 97 have been cleaned. The 26 remaining areas received some level of cleanup. Given the significant progress in cleaning up the oil, the limited threat posed by the remaining oil and the onset of fall storms that will hinder field efforts, all response personnel are being recalled, and equipment and facilities are being decommissioned for the season. The state will reexamine the situation and decide on viability and form of further efforts next spring.

"The cleanup crews have made remarkable progress," said Gary Folley, DEC's state on-scene coordinator. "These dedicated staff worked long days in some of the harshest weather conditions Alaska has to offer. Everyone involved has done a fantastic job. Local government officials, tribal leaders, businesses, and Unalaska citizens contributed

significantly to this ongoing response effort. The level of expertise involved in this response is unparalleled and the results show it.”

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For more information, please see the DEC website at www.dec.state.ak.us and click on Selendang Ayu grounding.