



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program
SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

Barge Alaganik Fire Release

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 19239918901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 pm July 11, 2019

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Alaganik LLC

INCIDENT LOCATION: City of Whittier DeLong Dock, Whittier, Alaska.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: Approximately midnight on July 8, 2019.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: A bystander reported the release to ADEC in the early morning hours of July 8, 2019.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The PRP estimates there was 1,000 gallons of gasoline, 2,800 gallons of diesel, and some hydraulic and engine oil on board. The maximum capacity of the barge is up to 5,500 gallons.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The barge Alaganik and the pier caught fire. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time.

SOURCE CONTROL: The barge sunk at the end of the pier in 60-80 feet of water. The PRP contracted Alaska Chadux Corporation (Chadux) and Global Diving and Salvage (Global) for spill response and salvage operations.

RESPONSE ACTION: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) have completed search and rescue operations. Chadux arrived and deployed containment boom around the sunken barge. USCG and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) responders arrived on site to assess the extent of the release and coordinate the pollution response with the PRP on July 8th. The USCG established a safety zone around the pier and are asking mariners and the public to 100 yards away from the site to allow response operations to continue. ADEC Division of Environmental Health Food Safety Program personnel worked with commercial fishing operators on the pier to assess whether seafood stored at pier facilities had been contaminated. The State Fire Marshal and Alaska State Troopers were also on scene to conduct investigations.

Global conducted diving operations on Wednesday to assess the condition of the hull and the presence or absence of fuel in the four tanks. Global confirmed that there was no observed remaining fuel in the tanks and response personnel on site report minimal to no sheening from the sunken vessel. Containment booming around the pier has been removed and Chadux and Global have begun demobilizing. The USCG safety zone around the pier will be lifted when Chadux and Global equipment are removed.



RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The pier, owned by the City, was damaged by the fire. The fire impacted commercial interests of several business that operate at the pier. The Alaska Marine Highway Ferry Terminal is to the west of the pier but was not impacted by the fire. The small boat harbor is west of the pier and was also not impacted by the fire. Light sheen from the release was observed in both areas on July 8th. On July 9th sheen had dissipated in the small boat harbor and no response actions were required. This area has a high use commercial and recreational fishery with a large amount of vessel traffic. Light sheening was observed on the beach at Smitty's Cove on Monday and Tuesday. Responders checked Smitty's Cove on Wednesday and Thursday, unrecoverable sheen was still present but weathered and dissipating. **No response actions are recommended and light sheening and weathered product may be observed in the cove until it completely attenuates.**

ESA listed marine mammals likely to be present include humpback whales, Stellar sea lions, and possibly fin whales. Other marine mammals likely to be present include harbor seals, gray whales, harbor porpoise, killer whales, minke whales, and Pacific white sided dolphins. **Sea otters are common in the area and have been seen in the vicinity of the pier.**

A number of anadromous streams exist in the area supporting coho and pink salmon. There is a terminal king salmon fishery in Cove Creek and a substantial amount of recreational fishing in the area. Whittier and Passage Canal have Essential Fish Habitat for Kamchatka flounder, Alaska plaice, Dover sole, Flathead sole, Rex sole, Walley Pollock, Yellowfin sole, Arrowtooth flounder, Northern Rock sole, Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, Sablefish, Souther rock sole, and all five species of Pacific salmon. NOAA has an artificial reef located in Passage Canal.

Numerous seabird nesting and feeding areas are found in Passage Canal. This includes black-legged kittiwake, pigeon guillemot, glaucous-winged gull, mew gull, herring gull, common loon, red-throated loon, red-necked grebe, marbled murrelet, common murre, pelagic cormorant, harlequin duck, black-oystercatcher, surfbirds, yellowlegs, and low numbers of other shorebirds. Bald eagles, northwestern crows, and Steller's jays could be foraging along shorelines.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: **Responders will continue to monitor attenuation at Smitty's Cove and work with other agencies and the Responsible Party to plan for potential salvage operations.**

WEATHER: **Today: Overcast, highs lower 60s to lower 70s, isolated afternoon thunderstorms possible, variable wind less than 10 kt., Seas 2 ft., Areas of smoke. Friday: Mostly cloudy scattered showers in the am, high of 62°, variable wind less than 10 kt., Seas 2 ft., Areas of smoke.**

PERSONNEL:

Responsible Party: Robert Eckley, Alaganik LLC

State On-Scene Coordinator representative: Lisa Krebs-Barsis, ADEC

Federal On-Scene Coordinator representative: Jeffrey Crews, USCG

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As the situation warrants.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed July 9, 2019, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box below.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Krebs-Barsis, EPS IV, ADEC (907) 269-8487
<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/>