



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

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

Tug *Polar Wind* and Barge *Unimak Trader* Grounding



Ukolnoi Island

SITREP #: 8

SPILL #: 12259931901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. November 26, 2012

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Northland Services

INCIDENT LOCATION: The tug and barge grounded on the south side of Ukolnoi Island, which is located approximately 206 miles east-northeast of Dutch Harbor and 40 miles east of Cold Bay, AK Lat/Long: 55.200, -161.613

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The tug and barge grounded at approximately 9:00 p.m. November 13, 2012. The grounding was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard at approximately 10:00 p.m. and ADEC was notified at approximately 11:00 p.m. November 13, 2012.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An assessment team boarded the *Polar Wind* on Wednesday November 21 and estimates that 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel has been lost. It is suspected that this fuel was lost between the grounding and November 16th. The barge *Unimak Trader*, at the time of this report, has an estimated 200 gallons on-deck fuel stores for the crane, fork-lift and generators located on the deck. Operational quantities of hydraulic and lubricating oils remain on both vessels.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The tug and barge were transiting from Sand Point to Dutch Harbor when they grounded. An investigation as to the cause of the grounding is ongoing by USCG and Northland Services.

SOURCE CONTROL: Containment and sorbent boom are being maintained around the *Polar Wind*. The barge *Unimak Trader* has deck cargo and heavy equipment on board but there are no indications this equipment poses an environmental threat. At the time of the grounding, the barge *Unimak Trader* carried 97 refrigerated containers; 33 of which contained over 1,475,000 lbs of frozen seafood products, 64 containers were empty.

RESPONSE ACTION: Northland Services has removed approximately 13,000 gallons of diesel fuel and lube oils from the *Polar Wind*. Additional lube and hydraulic oils are being removed today. The below deck fuel tanks will be examined and all residual fuel will be removed. An anchor has been positioned at the stern of the *Polar Wind* to help secure the vessel in place during the salvage operation. All remaining shipping containers should be removed from the Barge *Unimak Trader* today. Divers conducted a survey of the hull of the *Unimak Trader* on the night of November 25, 2012 and discovered significant damage to the starboard side and bottom of the vessel.

The Unified Command has approved the Lightering, Cargo Removal and an Incident Action Plan for the recovery operations. **All containers holding frozen seafood have been transferred to the barge *Nushagak Trader* and their contents have been maintained at -15°F throughout the event.**

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There are no reported impacts to wildlife. The area is used by waterfowl for overwintering including the Stellar's eiders, which are listed as a threatened species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sea otters are also present; this population is listed as a threatened species on the ESA. Harbor seal are present in the area. The grounding is within the designated critical habitat for Stellar sea lions and the southwest sea otter critical habitat.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Global Diving and Salvage are developing a salvage plan for ADEC and USCG review. The Unified Command is scheduled to meet daily unless conditions change requiring earlier meetings.

WEATHER: Today: NE winds to 25 kts. seas 9 feet, fog. Tonight: E winds 25 kts. fog. Tuesday: E winds 20 kts. increasing to NE 30 kts. seas 8 feet, fog.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Kerry Walsh, Global Diving and Salvage
SOSC: Steven Russell, ADEC
FOSC: Captain Mehler, USCG

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: Additional situation reports will be forthcoming when the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Russell, State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 262-3401

or

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/polarwind>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

Please refer to the first sitrep distributed November 14, 2012 for the agency/stakeholder notification list.