



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

Tug *Powhatan* Sinking

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 17119910901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. April 24, 2017

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Samson Tug & Barge

INCIDENT LOCATION: The Tug *Powhatan* sank at the Samson Tug & Barge (Samson) dock and moved 330 meters to the Northwest in Starrigavan Bay, approximately 7 miles north of Sitka. Moving from an initial depth of 15 meters to its current depth of approximately 60 meters.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: April 19, 2017 at approximately 10:15 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Detachment Sitka reported the sinking through the National Response Center on April 19, 2017 at 10:15 p.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Samson estimates there is approximately 325 gallons of lube oil, 12 gallons of diesel, and possible sludge in the bottom of the main tanks. Released amount of oil is unknown.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel sank at the dock, the cause for the sinking is currently being investigated.

SOURCE CONTROL: Alaska Commercial Divers (ACD) are mobilizing to the scene. They are scheduled to arrive early on April 25, 2017. Their objectives are to minimize further release of oil and then assess the vessel for salvage.

RESPONSE ACTION: The initial response actions were based on the vessel's immediate resting location under the dock in approximately 15 meters of water. Boom was deployed to contain surfacing oil released from the vessel. Hanson Maritime Company (Hanson), has completed dives on the vessel confirming its initial location. Hanson reported that vessel had shifted downslope approximately 330 meters offshore resting at its current position in approximately 60 meters of water. Southeast Petroleum Response Organization (SEAPRO) is on scene to maintain boom, recover oil, and conduct shoreline assessment. An underwater camera was used to confirm the *Powhatan's* current position. Hanson attached a line to the *Powhatan* to serve as a marker and guide for divers in preparation for the arrival of ACD. 1,500 feet of containment boom is deployed around the vessel. Containment and sorbent boom is also deployed around Samson's dock to collect oil which is emerging from under the dock. Deflection boom is deployed at the mouth of No Name Creek and the small anadromous creek on the north side of Starrigavan Bay at the picnic area. The USCG and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) have posted signs at Starrigavan Beach asking the public to refrain from using the beach and harvesting shellfish due to the potential presence of oil. Sitka Tribe of Alaska has posted a shellfish advisory notice on the Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research website. Shoreline assessments are



being conducted twice daily to monitor for sheens at Old Sitka boat launch, Starrigavan Beach, and No Name Creek. ADEC's State on Scene Coordinator (SOSC) for Southeast Alaska and Deputy SOSC are currently on scene. The Unified Command continues to monitor the situation and potential impacts to wildlife.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: Herring larvae recently emerged from the last spawning event and may be in the surface water in the vicinity of the sinking and salmon fry are migrating from nearby streams and are known to use the shoreline in the area regularly. There is the potential for exposure to marine wildlife (i.e. sea otters and birds) but there have been no reports of impacts to, or observations of, any in the immediate area. ADF&G has provided recommended priorities for protection. **Starrigavan Beach is used for clam harvesting.**

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: USCG and ADEC personnel are on scene and continue to monitor the situation. SEAPRO will continue shoreline assessment and boom management. The national weather service incident meteorologist will continue to provide weather updates. The response team will continue to monitor for impacts to fish and wildlife.

WEATHER: The National Weather Service spot forecast calls for weather conditions to be relatively favorable, with light winds and low seas through Tuesday. The high temperature is expected to be 53°F with southwest wind around 7 mph. There is a chance for scattered showers today, with the chance of showers diminishing through late tonight. The greatest chance of showers tomorrow is during the late afternoon as shower activity increases through the day.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: George Baggen, Samson Tug & Barge

SOSC: Bob Mattson, ADEC

SOSCR: **David Pikul**, ADEC

FOSC: Captain Shannan Greene

FOSCR: CWO Jay Willimon

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: David Pikul, Southeast Region Unit Supervisor,
ADEC (907)465-5234

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm



SEAPRO and ADEC responders look at the booming of the Tug *Powhatan* (ADEC Photo, April 23, 2017)

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed April 21, 2017 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.