



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 #: 3

SPILL #: 17119910901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 p.m. April 26, 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) arrived the morning of April 25, 2017 on their vessel, the *Alaskan Salvor*. Divers from ACD were able to cap the two main fuel tank vents by 2:00 p.m. on April 25. These appeared to be the primary source of oil being released.

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. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (ADH&SS), and U.S. National Park Service (NPS) coordinated to make alert signs asking the public to refrain from using the beach and harvesting shellfish due to the potential presence of oil and posted the signs at both North and South Starrigavan Beach access points.



Sitka Tribe of Alaska has posted a shellfish advisory notice on the Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research website. **Shoreline assessments are continuing to be conducted twice daily to monitor for sheens at Old Sitka boat launch, Starrigavan Beach, and No Name Creek. No fresh oil has been observed. ADEC's State on Scene Coordinator (SOSC) for Southeast Alaska remains 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. **Weathered oil sheens appears in the clam beds of North Starrigavan Beach when the sediment is disturbed. This beach is used for clam harvesting. No sea mammals have been observed by response teams or reported.** ADF&G has provided recommended priorities for protection.

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. **ACD will make additional dives on April 26, 2017 to assess the vessel for salvage and stop any additional sources of oil release.**

WEATHER: The forecast calls for cloudy weather with rain likely in the afternoon. The high temperature is expected to be 53°F with east winds of 5 to 9 mph. The low temperature tonight is expected to be 41°F with rain and east winds of 7 to 10 mph shifting to southeast winds of 8 to 10 mph after midnight.

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



ACD vessel *Alaska Salvor* inside the booming of the Tug *Powhatan* (ADEC Photo, April 25, 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.