

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** M/V LeConte Grounding

**SITREP #:** 2

**SPILL NUMBER:** 04119913101

**LEDGER CODE:** 14953360

**TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10:00 AM on May 10, 2004 .

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 12:30 PM on May 13, 2004

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 12:00 PM on May 14, 2004

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT:** Potential Spill Only. The vessel has not spilled any oil at this time. At the time of the grounding the ferry system reported the vessel had on board approximately 26,600 gallons of diesel fuel and 1962 gallons of auxiliary oils. On May 12, the ferry system revised the volume on board to approximately 19,500 gallons of diesel fuel. Approximately 10,000 gallons of fuel oil was off loaded on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and approximately 7,000 gallons remain on the vessel. Approximately 3000 gallons will remain on board to supply fuel to the auxiliary generators.

**LOCATION:** Cozian Reef, Peril Straits on the north end of Baranof Island (135<sup>o</sup> 26.5' W long; 57<sup>o</sup> 34.01 N lat), NE of Sitka, AK.

**CAUSE OF INCIDENT:** The ferry grounded on Cozian Reef. The cause of the grounding is under investigation.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** State of Alaska DOT/Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The M/V LeConte grounded on Cozian Reef at approximately 10:00 AM on May 10, 2004 on a falling tide. Passengers and non-essential personnel were removed from the vessel in lifeboats to "Good Samaritan" vessels. Passengers were taken to Sitka and Angoon. There was no loss of life and three injuries reported, none life threatening.

The US Coast Guard Command Center directed two Coast Guard cutters to respond to the grounding as well as three Coast Guard aircraft.

AMHS contracted with Alaska Steamship Response Company (ASR) to manage all pollution related issues. The Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization (SEAPRO), a spill response contractor for the AMHS, has been activated and is responding. SEAPRO personnel have placed an oil containment boom around the vessel.

On May 12, personnel began lightering the fuel on board and offloaded approximately 10,000 gallons to the Poundstone. During the lightering process, the ferry developed a 4.5 degree starboard list during the incoming tide. The lightering was suspended and about 7,000 gallons remain to be transferred. The vessel settled back onto an even keel during the outgoing tide. The salvage team considers the vessel in stable condition.

The Unified Command conducted an overflight and boarded the LeConte on May 12, 2004. After returning from the vessel yesterday, the Unified Command had a press briefing.

Today, May 13, 2004 the primary tasks in the field are to build coffer dams at the engine room and marine sanitation device entry ways to prevent flooding and resume lightering remaining fuel and oils on board.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:** The Environmental Unit has identifies sensitive areas around the grounding in Cozian Reef and a wildlife assessment has been completed. A bird hazing permit has been approved and equipment on hand in case the need for bird hazing arises. Two priority sites for potential places of refuge near the grounding site were identified following consultation with stakeholders and agencies and has been forwarded to the salvors for consideration in the salvage plan. The lightering plan has been approved. DEC has contacted 5 tribal organizations for environmental input and local concerns.

**SOURCE CONTROL** The fuel and oils on board are being removed.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The vessel is aground on Cozian Reef

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC will oversee lightering and waste management.

**WEATHER:** Clear skies, light winds, seas 1-2 ft., temperatures high near 60 and lows near 40.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Capt. Falvey, AMHS  
 F.O.S.C.: CDR John Sifling, USCG MSO Juneau  
 S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson, Southeast Alaska Response Team

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bob Mattson, ADEC at 321-3425. Photographs and other spill information are available on the DEC web site at [www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm) and the Unified Command website at [www.state.ak.us/dec/leconte.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/leconte.htm)

## AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
AMHS	Capt. Falvey	Hand			
ADF&G Sitka	Phil Mooney	Email	<a href="mailto:phil_mooney@fishgame.state.ak.us">phil_mooney@fishgame.state.ak.us</a>	747-2683	747-6239
ADF&G	Mark Fink	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	267-2338	267-2464
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	<a href="mailto:doug_sanvik@dnr.state.ak.us">doug_sanvik@dnr.state.ak.us</a>	465-3400	465-3513
USCG (MSO Juneau)	CDR John Sifling	Email	<a href="mailto:jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil">jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil</a>	463-2453	463-2445
USCG (MSO Juneau)	Lt. Tyrone Jones	Email	<a href="mailto:tljones@cgalaska.uscg.mil">tljones@cgalaska.uscg.mil</a>	463-2470	463-2445
EPA	Matt Carr	Email	Sent via Spill Report Group	271-3616	271-3424
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	<a href="mailto:Jon.kurland@noaa.gov">Jon.kurland@noaa.gov</a>	586-7638	586-7358
USCG (MSD Sitka)	CWO 4 Don Pack	Fax		966-5454	966-5457
Other	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Sitka Tribes	Robie Craig	Fax		747-3207	747-4915
Angoon Tribal Council	Edward Gambell	Fax		788-3411	788-3412
Senate/Dist. A	Jim Elkins	Fax	Session : Interim:	465-3873 874-2318	465-3922 874-3470
House/ Dist.2	Peggy Wilson	Fax	Session : Interim:	465-3824 874-3088	465-3175 874-3955
Sitka City Mayor	Fred Reeder	Fax	<a href="mailto:reederf@atat.net">reederf@atat.net</a>	747-3294	747-7403
Sitka City Administrator	Tony Zimmer	Fax		747-3294	747-7403