



Unified Command: M/V Selendang Ayu Grounding

FEBRUARY 25, 2005

NOTICE TO FISHING VESSELS OPERATING IN STATE WATERS FROM SPRAY CAPE SOUTH TO UMNAK PASS

Cooperative efforts between the fishing industry, the State of Alaska and the M/V Selendang Ayu Unified Command continue with the goal of collecting data and taking steps to minimize the risk of oil contamination in fish/shellfish.

Results from overflights, shoreline surveys, and water quality sampling in state waters from Spray Cape south to Umnak Pass have shown that random, widely dispersed, small tar balls may be present in these waters. The risk to commercial fisheries is believed to be minimal; however the Unified Command recommends that all fishing vessel operators who operate in this area be aware of the following information:

- Aerial observations from overflights conducted from 12/12/04 through the present have shown little or no oil on the surface of the water. Occasionally, sheens have been observed immediately adjacent to areas of heavy shoreline oiling in Skan and Makushin Bays during spring tides.
- Shoreline surveys conducted from 12/27/04 to 2/5/05 have shown isolated areas of light to moderate oiling of the shoreline from Spray Cape south to Kismaliuk Bay.
- A water quality sampling program conducted in state waters from Spray Cape south to Umnak Pass from 2/5/05 through 2/12/05 showed the presence of small, randomly scattered tarballs in the upper water column (depths ranging from 2-10 feet below the surface) in Umnak Pass, Chernofsky Harbor, Kismaliuk Bay, Alimuda Bay, Kashega Bay, and Pumicestone Bay. Intermittent sampling of the seafloor in these areas using longline gear rigged with sorbent snares found no evidence of bottom oiling.
- Shoreline cleanup activities have been suspended through approximately April 15, 2005. When cleanup activities are resumed, the potential may exist for remobilization of oil in cleanup areas. Vessel operators should be aware of this potential when fishing in areas near shoreline cleanup sites.
- For the latest information on oiling observations, visit the Unified Command website at http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/response/sum_fy05/041207201/041207201_index.htm#oiling

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Division of Environmental Health will continue with enhanced seafood inspections for seafood caught in the Unalaska area, including state waters from Spray Cape to Umnak Pass. Processors are requested to contact ADEC for deliveries from this area. Vessel operators and crew are encouraged to inspect catch and gear for signs of oiling, and to report any oil observations to ADEC at 1-800-478-9300. A complete advisory on the seafood inspection process is available at: http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/response/sum_fy05/041207201/fish/041207201_seaf_adv_01.pdf