



Unified Command: M/V Selendang Ayu Grounding

Information for Public Release: Selendang Ayu Fisheries Information Program

1/4/05

A work group has been formed to consider fisheries at risk of contamination by the Selendang Ayu oil spill. The group consists of managers from state and federal fishery agencies; experts in environmental health, fishery biology, and oceanography; and representatives of local government and seafood marketing. Due to the ongoing spill response, potential additional oil releases from the wreck, and evidence of oil contamination in Makushin Bay and Skan Bay, all fishing in the state waters in the Makushin Bay and Skan Bay areas of the Eastern Aleutian District has been closed. To put this into perspective, the closed area is approximately 16 x 20 miles, while the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands fishing grounds extend approximately 600 x 850 miles. Less than one tenth of one percent of the fishing grounds has been impacted by the Selendang Ayu oil spill. All other commercial fisheries, including the Unalaska Bay Tanner crab, Bering Sea snow crab, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands pollock, Atka mackerel, flatfish, and Pacific cod fisheries remain unaffected by the spill.

A water quality sampling program is underway to provide information regarding potential contamination in fishery areas. A fishing vessel is being used to monitor water and seafood quality in areas adjacent to the spill where commercial fishing, processing, and fishing vessel transits occur. So far, no evidence of oil contamination has been found outside the immediate vicinity of Makushin Bay. To further ensure the highest quality product, seafood inspections will be increased when seafood processing begins in surrounding fisheries.

See the Unified Command website:

<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/selendang>

for fisheries fact sheets, particulars on the Makushin-Skan Bay closure, and information about the other fisheries that remain open at this time.