



Unified Command: M/V Selendang Ayu Grounding

Subsistence Advisory for Unalaska Island

March 8, 2005

Known Facts:

- Oil observations from the Selendang Ayu oil spill show that oil may be present along the shoreline, in the water column, and on the seafloor in certain areas of Unalaska Island.
- State waters from Cape Kovrizhka to Spray Cape are presently closed to commercial fisheries.
- The largest amounts of stranded oil is in areas of Skan Bay and Makushin Bay; however random, scattered tar balls and tar patties have been observed as far south as Umnak Pass and in areas of Unalaska Bay.
- Many shoreline areas seem to be free of oil impacts; however, it is known that the oil may be transferred from one beach to another, so it is important to check the whole shoreline before gathering items for consumption.
- Beaches that appear clean on the surface may have oil below the surface. When digging for resources, check the subsurface for signs of oil before collecting subsurface resources such as clams.
- Oil from the Selendang Ayu freighter generally appears to be brown or black in color, with a thick, sticky consistency.
- Tar balls and tar patties on the shoreline often have beach grass, sand, and other materials mixed in.

If you are a subsistence user:

- Take care when collecting fish, shellfish, plants, or intertidal species in areas where oil has been observed.
- Special care should be taken in inspecting consumable items prior to use.
- Oil may be detected on food by visually inspecting and smelling for oil.
- If you suspect or find oil on a subsistence item, do not use or consume the item.
- Please remember that other environmental contaminants may be present in local areas, so pay attention to any and all signs, advisories, and other local cautions reported about subsistence foods.

If you find any signs of oil on items harvested in the Unalaska area, or if you observe tar balls or tar patties on the beach or in the water, please report your findings to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation at 1-800-478-9300.