

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: M/V *Cougar Ace*

SITREP #: 3

SPILL NUMBER: 0625992050

LEDGER CODE: 14203960

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: The M/V *Cougar Ace* has been adrift since approximately 1:00 AM, July 24, 2006, when the crew attempted to adjust ballast and the vessel keeled over onto its port side. The US Coast Guard reported the vessel's status to ADEC at 8:00 AM on July 24, 2006.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 2:00 PM on August 2, 2006. This and subsequent situation reports are being distributed to disseminate information on the vessel's status, incident management and salvage plans for the vessel.

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: As the situation warrants.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: A small sheen of what appeared to be lubricating oil has stopped from the vessel bow thruster area. The vessel is carrying a reported 142,184 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO) 380 and 34,182 gallons of Marine Diesel Oil (MDO) as estimated by the PRP. Former estimates did not account for fuel remaining in tanks prior to bunkering. The vessel is reported to be carrying approximately 4813 vehicles as cargo.

LOCATION: The vessel location as of August 2, 2006 is 50-43.3 N, 169-30.8 W. The vessel is under tow by the tug *Sea Victory* and last reported 150 nautical miles southeast of Adak.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause of sheen from the bow thruster area has not been determined. All efforts are being made to salvage the vessel prior to further incident.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Mitsui OSK Lines, Tokyo, Japan.

RESPONSE ACTIONS: On July 30, 2006 the marine surveyor died of injuries following an accidental fall on the vessel. The marine surveyor was a member of a four-person team conducting a damage assessment of the ship.

On July 31st, 2006 at 10:00 pm the tug *Emma Foss* took the *Cougar Ace* in tow by the stern heading in an East North East direction toward the tug *Sea Victory*.

On August 1, 2006 at 7:00 am the tug *Sea Victory* arrived on scene and commenced preparation for taking over the tow from the *Emma Foss*. At 11:00 am the tug *Gladiator* departed Anacortes, Washington en-route to Dutch Harbor in preparation to relieve the tug *Emma Foss* of the vessel's responsibilities. Its estimated time on scene is 11:00 am on August 6, 2006. At 3:45 pm a five person assessment team was air lifted to the *Cougar Ace* to finish the internal assessment by inspecting decks 7 and 8 and other compartments not previously visited by the inspection team. In addition water transfer pumps and associated equipment were air-lifted to the *Cougar Ace* in preparation of pumping water from car deck number 9 to the number 5 starboard ballast tank. Additional pumps and equipment will be transferred to the *Cougar Ace* today. It is estimated that it will take 2 days to line up all the pumping and safety equipment to overcome a 100' pumping head pressure where access can be gained to the number 5 ballast tank.

Incident Management Team (IMT) is assembled at the Incident Command Post (ICP) in Anchorage. The IMT consists of the PRP Mitsui OSK Lines, Titan Salvage Representative, O'Brien's Group, Nippon Salvage, ADEC, ADNRR, ADFG, USCG, DOI, NOAA and the USFWS.

The Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) Morgenthau, M/V Makushin Bay with salvage assessment team and the Tug Emma Foss remain on scene assisting the response. The CGC Sycamore is estimated to arrive on scene at 8:00 pm with another salvage assessment member and salvage staff.

PRP has been in communications with Alaska Chadux, National Response Center (NRC) and the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), and CISPRI to confirm availability to provide near-shore, on-shore, and dispersant response services, if needed.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters. No oiled wildlife has been observed.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Complete the salvage, port of refuge, and transit plans. Continue to transport pumps, generators, and associated equipment to the Cougar Ace in preparation of dewatering car deck number nine and transferring the water to ballast tank number 5 to help reduce the vessels list. Continue to complete operational period objectives per the Incident Action Plan.

WEATHER: Today northeast wind 20 knots, seas 5 ft. patchy fog. Tonight northwest wind 15 knots, seas 6 ft. patchy fog. Thursday northwest wind 20 knots, seas 7 ft. Friday north wind 15 knots, seas 7 ft. Saturday north winds 15 knots, seas 7 ft.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL

F.O.S.C: Capt. Mark DeVries (USCG)
S.O.S.C: John Brown (ADEC)
R.P.I.C: Theo Camlin (O'Brien's Group)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

ADEC: John Brown (907) 269-7688 and cell: (907) 748-1639
USCG: Anc. – Sara Francis (907) 271-2660.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at the following Unified Command website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/cougarace>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor's office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

AGENCY	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
USCG-Sector Anchorage	Captain DeVries	Fax		271-6700	271-6751
USEPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-3616	271-3424
OTHER	NAME	Sent Via	Session/Interim	Telephone	Facsimile
Adak Port of Operations	Port Director	Fax		592-0185	592-0184
City of Adak		Fax		592-4513	592-4262
Native Village of Atka		Fax		839-2229	839-2269
Aleut Reegional Native Cooperation/ Anc office		Fax		561-4300	563-4328
DH Port Director	Alvin Osterback	Fax		581-1254	581-2519
Unalaska Mayor	Shirley Marquardt	Fax		581-1211	581-1695
House 38/Unalaska	Carl Moses	Fax	Anchorage 5/16 – 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0275 465-4451	269-0274 465-3445
Senate S/Bethel	Lyman Hoffman	Fax	Bethel/Juneau	465-4453	465-4523