

**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 #:** 6

**SPILL NUMBER:** 06259920501

**LEDGER CODE:** 14203960

**TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT:** The M/V *Cougar Ace* had been adrift since approximately 11:00 PM on, July 23, 2006, when the crew attempted to adjust ballast and the vessel keeled over onto its port side. The tug *Emma Foss* took the *Cougar Ace* in tow on July 31, 2006 at 11:00 PM. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) reported the vessel's status to ADEC at 8:00 AM on July 24, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 1:30 PM August 8, 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's 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 4,813 vehicles as cargo.

**LOCATION:** The vessel location as of August 8, 2006 is 53°13 N, 166°37 W. The vessel is under tow by the tug *Sea Victory* and the present location is approximately 12 nautical miles of Unalaska Island.

**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 Monday, August 7, 2006, sea swells forced the discontinuation of transferring ballast water from the number nine cargo deck until the ship can be safely brought to a mooring in Wide Bay near Unalaska Island. The salvage vessel M/V *Makushin Bay*, which is being used as a staging area for pneumatic pumps, was unable to remain close enough to the *Cougar Ace* without striking the ship. Wide Bay sea conditions will pose a lesser risk to the salvage team's safety. A double tow by the tug *Sea Victory* and the tug *Gladiator*, which replaced the tug *Emma Foss* on Monday, will be used to control the vessel.

A total of four tugs, the M/V *Makushin Bay* and a spill response barge will remain on scene once the vessel is positioned on a double mooring at Wide Bay. The on-scene salvage team has not observed any oil sheening from the vessel. In addition the Coast Guard Cutters, the *Sycamore* and the *Morgenthau* will continue to support the towing and mooring operations. Once the vessel is safely moored in Wide Bay the ballast water transfer will be re-initiated in order to upright the vessel.

The State-On-Scene-Commander (SOSC), Federal-On-Scene-Commander (FOSC), USCG Engineering and Strike Team are enroute to Dutch Harbor as part of the Unified Command's effort to work with the Mayor and City Council of Dutch Harbor. Public meetings will be scheduled to keep the residents and stakeholder of the city updated and involved.

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, ADNR, ADFG, USCG, DOI, NOAA and the USFWS.

PRP has been in communications with Alaska Chadux, PENCO, National Response Center, the Marine Spill Response Corporation, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Lynden Transport and CISPRI to confirm availability to provide near-shore, and on-shore response services.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** None at this time.

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

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Arrange safe mooring in Wide Bay with safety of the salvage team and protection of the local environment as paramount concerns of the Unified Command. Continue to support the salvage team by providing salvage equipment in preparation of dewatering car deck number 9 and add ballast to ballast tank number 5. Keep the residents and stakeholder of the city updated and involved with the Unified Command through scheduled community meetings. Develop a demobilization plan for resources not needed. Continue to complete operational period objectives per a revised Incident Action Plan.

**WEATHER:** Current weather: winds from SW at 15kts and seas to 2 feet. Overcast skies and patchy fog with visibility at eight miles as reported on scene. Unalaska Bay for Tuesday through Wednesday: SW winds 20 kts., Seas 3 feet, rain showers.

**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: Frank Wesser (907) 269-3062 and cell: (907) 244-4206.

USCG: Anc. – Sara Francis (907) 343-3175 or (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, USDOI, 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 Regional 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
Ounalashka Corporation	CEO Wendy Svarny- Hawthorne	Fax		581-1276	581-1496
Quawalangin Tribal Council	Sharon Svarny-Livingston	Fax		581-2920	581-3644