

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** *F/V Top Notch* Grounding

**SITREP #:** Sitrep 3

**SPILL NUMBER:** 06119927001

**LEDGER CODE:**

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** 4:30 p.m., September 27, 2006. The spill was reported to ADEC by the Coast Guard at 1:43 p.m., September 28, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 3:00 p.m., October 13, 2006

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 2:00 p.m., October 16, 2006.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The amount of fuel discharged is unknown at this time. The owner/operator reported an estimated 400 and 450 gallons of fuel was on-board the vessel at the time of the grounding. He also reported 30 gallons of hydraulic oil and 5 gallons of gasoline on-board the vessel. The vessel's maximum fuel capacity is 1200 gallons.

**LOCATION:** Nichols Bay, on the south end of Prince of Wales Island, is approximately 50 miles south of Ketchikan, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The owner reported that the vessel grounded on the afternoon of September 26, 2006.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Michael Steele, Thorne Bay.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** On October 9, 2006, Alaska Commercial Divers (ACD) of Ketchikan, under contract to the US Coast Guard, flew to the scene of the grounding for an on-site survey. ACD reported the vessel's fuel tanks were in tact, and fuel vent plugs remained in place. ACD estimated 400 gallons of fuel remained in the vessel's fuel tank. A small amount of sheen was visible coming off the vessel.

On the afternoon of October 11, 2006 ACD departed Ketchikan with two vessels en route to Nichols Bay to conduct oil removal operations.

At 1:25 p.m. on October 12, 2006, ACD reported they were on scene and response operations were underway.

At 9:00 a.m. on October 13, 2006 ACD reported 200 gallons of fuel had been removed from the Top Notch's fuel tanks and operations were continuing. ACD will also remove any lube oil, hydraulic oil and batteries located during the response.

The USCG reports that ACD anticipates all work regarding the removal of pollutants will be completed on the afternoon of October 13, 2006 and plans to return to Ketchikan on October 14, 2006.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The fuel vents on the vessel were plugged. Removal of fuel and other pollutants is underway.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The marine waters and shoreline of Nichols Bay on Prince of Wales Island have been impacted by the discharge of oil from the *F/V Top Notch*. ADNOR & ADF&G have been contacted to determine environmentally sensitive areas nearby. Salmon streams were a concern. However, due to the vessel's location, ADNOR Habitat deemed the potential of the discharged oil impacting these areas to be minimal. There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife in the area.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC and MSD Ketchikan will continue to monitor the situation and debrief ACD personnel when they return to Ketchikan.

**WEATHER:** On scene weather: south winds at 20 kts and seas of 4 feet. Temperature is approx 54 degrees in mixed rain and fog.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Michael Steele (PRP)  
F.O.S.C.: Capt Mark Guillory (USCG)  
S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson (ADEC)  
Field S.O.S.C.: Bob Fultz (ADEC – Ketchikan)

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bob Fultz, ADEC at 225-6200X1. Photographs and other spill information when obtained will be available for viewing at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

**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	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
<i>FV Top Notch</i>	Michael Steele		Hand deliver		
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax	interim	465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thoma	Fax	interim	465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (Sector Juneau)	LT Chris Williammee	Email	christopher.j.williammee@uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Tom Schumacher	Email	tom_schumacher@fishgame.state.ak	465-4346	
ADNR (Habitat) Craig / F	Mark Minnillo	Email	mark_minnillo@dnr.state.ak.us	772-5224	772-9336
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117