

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: F/V Alaska Ranger

SITREP #: 1 & Final

SPILL NUMBER: 08259908301

LEDGER CODE: Not requested

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The U.S. Coast Guard (USGC) notified ADEC at 4:41 AM on March 23, 2008, that the F/V Alaska Ranger had lost control of its rudder and was sinking. The F/V Alaska Ranger is a 190 foot catcher-processor vessel which was transiting to the fishing grounds in the Bering Sea.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM, March 24, 2008

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: N/A

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An unknown amount of diesel fuel spilled. USCG reported that there was as much as 140,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board.

LOCATION: Southern Bering Sea, 60 nm NW of Umnak Island, 120 nm W of Dutch Harbor and 38 nm N of the coast of Islands of Four Mountains at Latitude 53° 53'N, Longitude 169° 59'W

CAUSE OF SPILL: Vessel sank in 1,053 fathoms (6,318 feet) after losing rudder and taking on water.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Fishing Company of Alaska, Seattle, Washington

RESPONSE ACTION: The 47 crew members on board the vessel had abandoned ship after the vessel lost control of the rudder and began taking on water. USCG Cutter Munro was dispatched to the scene and along with the F/V Alaska Warrior, sister ship of the F/V Alaska Ranger, and a USCG helicopter, were able to safely recover 42 crew members. Initial reports indicate an area of a quarter mile by a half mile slick in the area of the sinking. Weather at the time of the sinking was reported to be 8-foot seas and 25 knot winds. Any cleanup efforts are unlikely due to weather reports for the area which indicate strong winds and high seas. NOAA trajectory analysis for either a catastrophic or a slow release from the vessel indicates that no shoreline impact would be expected. In a slow release from the vessel, the resulting droplets that would reach the surface after an estimated 2 hour rise would be widely scattered with no continuous sheen and be readily dispersed. A catastrophic release would most likely create a sheen that would be dispersed within 1-2 days by the high seas and strong winds which are forecast to continue throughout the week.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time. Depth of the sunken vessel would preclude any attempted lightering.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: The Bering Sea. Although the diesel is not expected to reach the shore, it is important to note that the Aleutian Islands are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge which includes the largest nesting population of seabirds in North America. The islands are important migration and staging areas for a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds. More than half the land area in the Aleutians is part of the National Wildlife Preservation System.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The USCG is investigating the incident. Lightering of the vessel would not be possible due to its depth in water. The USCG has scheduled an overflight for the afternoon of March 24, 2008 to further assess the situation.

WEATHER: Winds from Northwest at 35 knots with gusts to 50 knots, Seas 11 feet with snow showers and heavy freezing spray through Tuesday. Winds and seas are predicted to remain strong throughout the week.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Mike Szymanski, Fishing Company of Alaska
 F.O.S.C. : Capt. DeVries, USCG
 S.O.S.C. : Gary Folley, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Petit, ADEC 262-5210 x236

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	U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage, Response Incident Management Division	Fax		271-6700	271-6751
USEPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-3616	271-3424
OTHER	NAME	Sent Via	Session/Interim	Telephone	Facsimile
DH Port Director	Alvin Osterback	Fax		581-1254	581-2519
Unalaska Mayor	Shirley Marquardt	Fax		581-1211	581-1695
Aleut Regional Native Corporation/Anc office		Fax		561-4300	563-4328
Senate S/Bethel	Lyman Hoffman	Fax	Bethel/Juneau	465-4453	465-4523
House 37/Unalaska	Bryce Edgmon	Fax	Anchorage 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0275 465-4451	269-0274 465-3445

