

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: F/V Mar-Gun Grounding St. George Island

SITREP #: 20

SPILL NUMBER: 09259906401

LEDGER CODE: 14251760

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The US Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Anchorage notified ADEC at 6:15 AM on March 5, 2009 that the F/V Mar-Gun, a 112-foot trawl vessel had run aground with five (5) people on board and was taking on water.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 2:00 PM on Friday, May 1, 2009

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 2:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 2009

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: An unknown amount of diesel fuel has been released. 18,371 gallons of fluids have been removed from the vessel.

LOCATION: North shoreline of St. George Island, at approximately Latitude 56° 36' N, Longitude 169° 36' W. St. George Island is one of the Pribilof Islands located in the Bering Sea, approximately 250 miles northwest of Unalaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause of the grounding is being investigated by the USCG.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Margun Enterprises, LLC.

RESPONSE ACTION: On April 27, 2009 the Unified Command and trustee agencies met and approved the F/V Mar-Gun Proposed Place of Refuge Plan, which identifies several safe harbors available to the vessel once it is refloated. Upon the successful removal of the Mar-Gun from the shore, the hull will be inspected immediately for additional damage and leaks; equipment and personnel will be in place to complete any temporary hull repairs. Upon completion of any repairs and Coast Guard approval, the M/V Redeemer will tow the Mar-Gun to Dutch Harbor, the preferred place of refuge, where the vessel will be moored and boomed at the Magone Marine dock. For additional information, a copy of the proposed place of refuge plan is posted on the Unified Command website (see below)

The plan to remove the vessel from its grounding site calls for the use of large anchors and multi-block systems, which will be connected to a trawl winch onboard the Mar-Gun, to provide the forces needed to pull the vessel off the shore. Salvors completed the placement of the two 10-ton anchor systems, which included the running of two 2-inch wire rope cables to the vessel. The crew of the Redeemer finished the placement of the 8-ton anchor on April 29, 2009.

During helicopter operations, the salvors continued the transfer of additional steel and fabricated parts to the vessel. In addition, 550 gallons of fuel was transported to the Mar-Gun in 55-gallon drums and placed in the starboard day-tank. The helicopter operations removed drums of oily water and solid waste as fuel tanks were re-inspected, cleaned, and sealed. The helicopter assisted with the passing of the tow wires and bridle from the Redeemer to the Mar-Gun. The helicopter demobilized on April 29, arrived in Cold Bay last night, and will return to King Salmon today.

Salvors continued with additional welding and prep-work, installing a tow-point on the port side of the Mar-Gun to help turn the vessel stern first as it comes off the shoreline. Workers welded a patch over the damaged area in the number three port-wing tank; port-wing tanks two, four, and five have all been sealed shut. Salvors finished drilling, tapping, and bolting the shaft alley cover down in the number one fish hold and reinforced the soft patch under the reduction gear by installing a bracket over the soft patch.

During the morning high tide on April 30, the Redeemer performed a test pull on the Mar-Gun. The vessel stood up on its keel with just the port trawl alley gear being utilized, and then the vessel laid gently over on its starboard side. It was reported to be a very slow revolution, with no significant impact between the starboard side and the rocks as Mar-Gun laid over. After the event, a small amount of oil sheen was observed coming from the aft port double-bottom. A shoreline assessment determined that the sheen was very light in nature and unrecoverable. Later in the day, work crews removed two large trawl nets from the Mar-Gun and disconnected the rudder and placed on the stern of the vessel.

Crews remained onboard through the evening and began pulling on the wires around 1:00 AM last night as the 2:30 AM high tide approached. Crews cut the highline, which held the vessel stable, at 2:00 AM in preparation for the vessel to move seaward. The vessel rocked back and forth on its keel with the wave action, but did not appear to move seaward. Crews stopped pulling at 3:45 AM and remained on board the rest of the night. The highline was restrung this morning.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been no reports of impacted wildlife at this time. To determine if there has been and contamination left by the F/V Mar-Gun grounding, a subsistence sampling plan is under development and will be initiated once the F/V Mar-Gun is removed from the shoreline.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue vessel removal preparations. Salvors will attempt to use the next two early morning high tides to remove the Mar-Gun from the shoreline.

The Coast Guard and ADEC will continue to monitor vessel removal operations and provide support as needed.

WEATHER: Small craft advisories through Saturday, winds east 30 knots, seas 11 foot, patchy fog, temperature highs in the upper 30's. Winds and seas decreasing Sunday, north winds 25 knots, seas 7 foot.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Kristina O'Connor (PRP)
 F.O.S.C. : Captain Mark Hamilton (USCG)
 S.O.S.C. : Gary Folley (ADEC)
 L.O.S.C : Sally Mercurief (St. George Traditional Council)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gary Folley, ADEC, 262-5210 ext 234
 Weld Royal, ADEC Public Information Officer, 465-5009/321-5491

A Unified Command Web site has been established at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/mar-gun>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

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
Ounalashka Corp.	David Gregory	Fax		581-1276	581-1496
St. George Traditional Council	Maxim Malavansky Jr	Fax		859-2447	859-2251
City of St George		Fax		859-2205	859-2242
Senate S/Bethel	Lyman Hoffman	Fax	Bethel/Juneau	465-4453	465-4523
House 38/Unalaska	Bryce Edgmon	Fax	Anchorage 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0275 465-4451	269-0274 465-3445