

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

**SITUATION REPORT**  
**As of 10:00 AM on April 27, 2010**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Princess Kathleen

**SITREP #:** 16

**SPILL NUMBER:** 10119904701

**LEDGER CODE:** 14284160

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The *S/S Princess Kathleen* grounded and sank off Point Lena on September 7, 1952.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 2:00 PM on April 27, 2010

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 2:00 PM on April 30, 2010

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The total volume of number 6 bunker oil onboard the vessel at the time of sinking is unknown. The volume of bunker oil identified in 10 of the ship's tanks is estimated to be between 14,000 and 34,000 gallons. Four additional tanks remain to be surveyed. The volume of other oils that remain on the ship is currently unknown.

**LOCATION:** Point Lena, Favorite Channel, north of Juneau, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The vessel grounded on Point Lena and suffered damage to the forward-most section of the bow. As the tide came in, the vessel flooded from the stern and slid off the point. The vessel now sits at an angle on its port side at a depth ranging from 52 feet at the bow to 134 feet at the stern. Recent increases in the frequency of sheen being reported in the area were investigated and traced to the *Princess Kathleen*, possibly indicating a change in the vessel's condition.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Undetermined

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Global Diving and Salvage (Global) determined the oil recovered from the overheads of the *Princess Kathleen* was approximately 840 gallons. This oil is being stored in the Foss Maritime (Foss) tank barge and will be recycled or disposed of at the completion of operations.

On April 25, 2010, Global cut off and patched the piping associated with the number 1 starboard wing tank. The cutting and patching was done in preparation of fuel pumping operations.

Global finished preparing the barge *Red Cedar* as an operations platform for pumping fuel. A large collection tank on the barge was filled with water and heated. A viscous oil pump is connected to the *Princess Kathleen* number 1 starboard wing tank and suction is applied. Oil is pumped up to the collection tank where oil collection equipment separates the oil from the water and transfers the oil to the tank barge for storage. Heated water from the collection tank is gravity fed into the fuel tank. The heated water flows through the tank, heating the oil and water. Heating of the oil and water reduces the viscosity of the bunker oil making it flow toward the suction port and making the oil easier to pump. The water in the collection tank is continuously heated and recycled to the fuel tank on the ship in a closed loop. The cycle will continue until U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation personnel determine no additional recoverable fuel remains in the fuel tank.

At 8:40 PM on April 26, fuel pumping operations on the number 1 starboard wing tank were started with an immediate recovery of oil.

The *Princess Kathleen* releases small amounts of oil on a periodic basis, which is what drew the Unified Command's attention to the vessel for this operation. These drops of oil float through the water column and surface

as small tarballs or light sheen. Additional booming strategies have been planned and implemented in preparation for the fuel pumping operations. Booms were deployed closer to the operations platform to address intermittent sheens in the area and will provide additional protection in the unlikely event of a large release. However, the operations platform cannot be completely encircled with boom because of safety concerns. In addition, weekly shore patrols and twice weekly overflights are conducted to continually monitor any sheening and the environmental conditions.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** None at this time. Global has installed temporary patches over the exposed starboard portholes to prevent oil trapped within the vessel from escaping. Global has plugged fuel tank vent pipes to prevent the loss of bunker oil during fuel removal operations.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline. SEAPRO has begun conducting active bird hazing in the area as a preventative measure. The Unified Command and NOAA have developed a communication plan for when marine mammals are in the vicinity. The *Princess Kathleen* is of historic significance and is listed as a historic shipwreck by the State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Fuel pumping operations will continue, moving from one fuel tank to the next.

**WEATHER:** Today: Small craft advisory. North wind 25 knots decreasing to 15 knots in the afternoon. Seas 5 feet diminishing to 3 feet. Tomorrow: South winds 10 knots. Seas 3 feet.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

F.O.S.C. : Capt. Melissa Bert, USCG  
S.O.S.C. : Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC, (907) 465-5378 or JIC officers at 463-2065.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing on the Unified Command website:  
[www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/princesskathleen](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/princesskathleen)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The situation report was also distributed to the various agency staff listed on the standard distribution list. The receiving agencies listed in the standard distribution list includes: Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, ADF&G, ADNDR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS.

Agency/ Stakeholders	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate Dist. B	Senator Dennis Egan	Fax	session	465-4947	465-2108
House Dist. 3	Representative Beth Kerttula	Fax	session	465-4766	465-4748
House Dist. 4	Representative Cathy Munoz	Fax	session	465-3744	465-2273
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Capt. Melissa Bert	Email	Melissa.bert@uscg.mil	463-2836	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Latarsha McQueen	Email	Latarsha.s.mcqueen@uscg.mil	463-2835	463-2445
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Matt Jones	Email	Matt.n.jones@uscg.mil	463-2452	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Kurt Clarke	Email	Kurt.a.clarke@uscg.mil	463-2475	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	MSTC James Highfill	Email	James.L.Highfill@uscg.mil	463-2461	
USDA Forest Service - Juneau Ranger District	District Ranger Pete Griffin	Email	pgriffin@fs.fed.us	789-6244	586-8808
USDA Forest Service -	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5896

Agency/ Stakeholders	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Tongass Env. Engineer					
USDA Forest Service - Admiralty Island National Monument	District Ranger Marti Marshall	Email	mmmarshall01@fs.fed.us	789-6202	
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Doug.Sanvik@alaska.gov		
ADF&G	Joe Hitselberger	Email	Joe.Hitselberger@alaska.gov	465-4346	465-4759
Douglas Indian Association	Doug Dobyns, Environmental Planner	Email	DougDobyns@yahoo.com	364-2916	364-2917
Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska	L. Knight	E-mail	LKnight@cchita.org		
City and Borough of Juneau	Mayor Bruce Botelho	E-mail	city_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-5240	586-5385
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	Dave@seapro.org		
SEAPRO	Cheryl Fultz	Email	Cheryl@seapro.org		



Fuel removal fleet including operations platform, tank barge, and transport vessels off Point Lena.