



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

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

St. Lawrence Oiled Wildlife Incident



SITREP # 2

SPILL #: 12389931001

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 4:00 p.m. on November 9, 2012

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): The responsible party is unknown at this time.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Reports of oiled wildlife have been confirmed in the St. Lawrence Island communities of Gambell and Savoonga. The source of the discharge has not yet been determined.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: On November 7, 2012 at 12:16 p.m., ADEC received a National Response Center (NRC) incident report regarding an unknown discharge which had effected wildlife, and caused oil soaked debris to wash ashore.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: At this time, the product spilled is unknown. The ADEC has provided samples to a laboratory in Anchorage in an effort to characterize the substance.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause of the release is unknown. **The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and ADEC are working with the local communities to investigate the discharge and control the source.**

SOURCE CONTROL: Source control has not been established. At this time the source of the release remains unknown.

RESPONSE ACTION: ADEC is mobilizing one responder in coordination with USCG to St. Lawrence Island today. The team will visit Savoonga and Gambell to assess the situation. **A HC-130 Hercules over flight by USCG representatives on November 8, 2012 reported no visible sheen in the waters surrounding St. Lawrence Island.**

A Unified Command for this incident response was established the morning of November 8, 2012. The Unified Command is made up of federal, state and local agencies. A command post has been established at the USCG facility in Anchorage.

Unified Command is working towards issuing a subsistence advisory to ensure hunters are aware of what to do if they encounter oiled wildlife.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: **At the time of this report, there have been confirmed reports of oiled wildlife which include three common murre, one crested auklet and two spotted seals.**

There are many environmentally sensitive habitats within the area that have the potential to be affected. Nearshore waters are an important habitat for Spectacled and Steller's eiders and have been designated as a

critical habitat area. Many other seabirds may be present. Ringed and spotted seals, as well as clams and crabs may be found in the nearshore environment. Blue, fin, orca and North Pacific right whales are present within the nearshore and offshore environment. Stellar sea lions are found in the area and are listed within the Endangered Species Act. St. Lawrence Island lagoons are habitats for overwintering waterfowl and are connected to anadromous streams.

Potential impacts to subsistence fishing and hunting areas are being monitored.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: ADEC will continue to monitor the response actions and work as part of Unified Command to determine the source of the pollution and work towards remediation.

WEATHER: Today, mostly cloudy with a chance of snow; 10 to 20°F; winds 20 mph NE.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

- SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC
- FOSC: Captain Paul Mehler III, USCG
- LOSC: Myron Kingeekuk, City of Savoonga
- LOSC: Erika Apatiki, City of Gambell
- Field SOSC: Paul Lhotka, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As the situation warrants

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Ty Keltner, ADEC (907) 388-8822

Unified Command website is available at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/stlaw>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first sitrep distributed November 8, 2012 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first sitrep can be found in the **Additional Information** box above.