



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 # 4

SPILL #: 12389931001

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 11:15 a.m. on December 7, 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.

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: On November 20, additional over flight was performed by the UAF Marine Advisory Program, and representatives of Gambell and Savoonga. The UAF Marine Advisory Program was conducting an aerial survey to document the total number of Steller sea lions using the St. Lawrence Island in the fall. During the survey process, representatives on board the flight looked for oily debris or oiled animals along the perimeter of the island; nothing new was discovered.

On December 6, Unified Command held a teleconference with stakeholders to discuss the lab results received from the USCG Marine Safety Laboratory. Lab results revealed that the thick-billed murre from Gambell, and the common murre from Savoonga did have degraded heavy oil on them; however, none of the wildlife samples are a match with any suspected sources sampled.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been reports of potentially oiled wildlife which include three murre, one crested auklet, one common eider, one kittiwake, two spotted seals and one ringed seal.

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 situation over the winter and follow up with the Unified Command in the spring. The lab results will be reviewed more closely during the monitoring period to determine if more conclusive sample results can be reach. In spring 2013, the Unified Command will perform another site visit to St. Lawrence Island for further assessment.

WEATHER: Today, partly cloudy with a low chance of snow; 12 to 14°F; winds 23 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.