



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

## Tug *Polar Wind* and Barge *Unimak Trader* Grounding



Ukolnoi Island

SITREP #: 7

SPILL #: 12259931901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. November 24, 2012

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Northland Services

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** The tug and barge grounded on the south side of Ukolnoi Island, which is located approximately 206 miles east-northeast of Dutch Harbor and 40 miles east of Cold Bay, AK Lat/Long: 55.200, -161.613

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The tug and barge grounded at approximately 9:00 p.m. November 13, 2012. The grounding was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard at approximately 10:00 p.m. and ADEC was notified at approximately 11:00 p.m. November 13, 2012.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** An assessment team boarded the *Polar Wind* on Wednesday November 21 and estimates that 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel has been lost. It is suspected that this fuel was lost between the grounding and November 16<sup>th</sup>. **Global Diving and Northland estimate that approximately 14,500 gallons of diesel fuel remain on board the *Polar Wind* with 1,200 gallons of lube and hydraulic oils.** The barge *Unimak Trader*, at the time of this report, has an estimated **200** gallons on-deck fuel stores for the crane, fork-lift and generators located on the deck. Operational quantities of hydraulic and lubricating oils remain on both vessels.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The tug and barge were transiting from Sand Point to Dutch Harbor when they grounded. An investigation as to the cause of the grounding is ongoing by USCG and Northland Services.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Containment and sorbent boom are being maintained around the *Polar Wind*. The barge *Unimak Trader* has deck cargo and heavy equipment on board but there are no indications this equipment poses an environmental threat. The barge *Unimak Trader* is loaded with 97 refrigeration containers; 33 are operational and contain over 1,475,000 lbs of frozen seafood products, 64 containers are empty.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** **Weather conditions today have allowed thirteen containers to be transferred from the *Unimak Trader* to the barge *Nushagak Trader*, which is anchored offshore. De-fueling of the *Polar Wind* is beginning today as well, with fuel and lube oil being transferred to the *M/V Redeemer*. Northlands Services *M/V Sam Taalak* and Global Diving's *M/V Sand Island* are in the area to assist in operations today. Refueling of the generators on the *Unimak Trader* will be conducted today.**

The Unified Command has approved the Lightering, Cargo Removal and an Incident Action Plan for the recovery operations. The generators on board the *Unimak Trader* have maintained the containerized seafood at -15 throughout this event.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** There are no reported impacts to wildlife. The area is used by waterfowl for overwintering including the Stellar's eiders, which are listed as a threatened species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sea otters are also present; this population is listed as a threatened species on the ESA. Harbor seal are present in the area. The grounding is within the designated critical habitat for Stellar sea lions and the southwest sea otter critical habitat.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Global Diving and Salvage will be developing a salvage plan for ADEC and USCG review. The Unified Command is scheduled to meet daily unless conditions change requiring earlier meetings.

**WEATHER:** Today: Variable winds to 15 kts. seas 7 feet. Tonight: NW winds 15 kts. increasing to 25 kts. seas 7 feet, fog, snow and rain. Sunday: N winds 25 kts. seas 8 feet, fog. Monday: E winds 20 kts. seas 7 feet .

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Kerry Walsh, Global Diving and Salvage  
SOSC: Steven Russell, ADEC  
FOSC: Captain Mehler, USCG

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** Additional situation reports will be forthcoming when the situation warrants.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Russell, State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 262-3401

or

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/polarwind>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first sitrep distributed November 14, 2012 for the agency/stakeholder notification list.