



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 #: 10 and Final

SPILL #: 12259931901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. December 1, 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 have been lost. It is suspected that this fuel was lost between the time of the grounding and November 16th.

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 were maintained around the *Polar Wind* during the recovery operations. The barge *Unimak Trader* at the time of grounding carried 97 refrigeration containers; 33 are operational and contained over 1,475,000 lbs of frozen seafood products, 64 containers were empty.

RESPONSE ACTION: Since the time of the grounding Northland Services response teams and contractors removed approximately 13,000 gallons of diesel fuel and lube oils from the *Polar Wind*. All containers aboard the *Unimak Trader* were removed and transported to Unalaska for offload. The 33 containers containing frozen seafood were maintained at -15° throughout the operation.

At approximately 3:30 PM on November 30th, the *Polar Wind* was successfully recovered from the grounding site. An underwater inspection was conducted and after consultation with the USCG, the vessel was towed to Sand Point for further inspection and competition of temporary repairs.

The Barge *Unimak Trader* was removed from the grounding site at 1:00 pm today. An underwater survey of the vessel is currently being prepared by Global Diving, to determine the condition of the vessel and if immediate temporary repairs are required before transit to Sand Point.

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: After temporary repairs and inspections are completed, Northland Services, in consultation with the USCG, will select a shipyard for permanent repairs to both vessels.

WEATHER: Today: NW winds 35 kts. with higher gusts, seas 11 feet, heavy freezing spray. Tonight: NW winds 40kts. with higher gusts seas 12 feet, heavy freezing spray. Sunday: NW winds 40 kts. with higher gusts, seas 13 feet, heavy freezing spray.

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: This is the final Situation Report

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.