



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

## M/V *Aiviq* Tow-Gulf of Alaska

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 12249936201

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:30 p.m., December 31, 2012

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): To be determined.

INCIDENT LOCATION: 18.7 nautical miles south southeast of Sitkinak Island. Lat/Long 56.22150N, -153.68550W (as of 7:54 a.m., December 30). The current location of the vessel group is approximately 20-25 miles offshore, southeast of Kodiak Island.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: No spill has occurred. The towline between the M/V *Aiviq* and the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) *Kulluk* parted on December 27 due to mechanical failure of the tow shackle. The tow was subsequently regained at position 56 17'.5N 152 09.5W, about 65 miles SSW of Kodiak. The Coast Guard notified DEC on December 27 at approximately 4:30 p.m., followed by immediate notification by Shell. The two tugs (M/V *Aiviq* and M/V *Nanuq*) lost the tow of the MODU *Kulluk* shortly after 2 p.m. on December 30. The M/V *Alert* and the M/V *Aiviq* were able to re-establish the tow early morning December 31.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED: This is a potential spill.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: None.

CAUSE OF SPILL: This is a potential. After the tow was regained, the M/V *Aiviq* experienced multiple engine failure and loss of propulsion. The cause of the engine failure will be determined during a follow-on investigation.

SOURCE CONTROL: The M/V *Aiviq* regained the tow, and yesterday afternoon the M/V *Nanuq* joined the M/V *Aiviq* in towing the MODU *Kulluk*. The M/V *Alert* has arrived on scene as of approximately 1:30 p.m. to assist. A Salvage Plan and a Spill Response Plan are being developed to address the possibility of any potential grounding of the drill rig. Both the *Nanuq* and the *Aiviq* lost their tow of the MODU *Kulluk* shortly after 2 p.m.

RESPONSE ACTION: The Unified Command has been formed and consists of Shell, the Coast Guard, DEC, and the local on-scene coordinator from Kodiak. The Coast Guard airlifted fuel injectors and filters to the M/V *Aiviq*, and the engines were brought back to partial operational status on December 28 and full operational status on December 29. A Refueling Plan for the M/V *Aiviq* is also being developed to replace any contaminated fuel. A work group is preparing a Place of Refuge Plan to address the issues associated with towing the drill rig to a sheltered location. The issues addressed include sensitive area protection and operational issues associated with anchoring the vessel at that location. The M/V *Alert* and the M/V *Aiviq* were able to re-establish the tow of



the MODU *Kulluk* early morning December 31. A potential place of refuge is identified. The vessels will proceed to this area when it is safe to do so, based on the forecasted severe winds and rough seas.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** None at this time. The Incident Management Team has identified the resources that may be at risk from a potential grounding of the drilling rig and the resources at risk along the tow route.

**Future Plans and Recommendations:** Continue supporting the on-scene towing effort and develop supporting plans to prepare for other potential contingencies. **As well as to continue to support the vessels and crews during the transit and upon arrival at the place of refuge, and support repairs to the vessels and the tow systems.**

**WEATHER:** Currently, E winds 35-42 knots with gusts to 52 knots; seas 15-18 feet. Forecast for 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. tonight: ESE winds 43-50 knots with gusts to 60 knots, seas 21-26 feet with occasional waves to 40 feet.

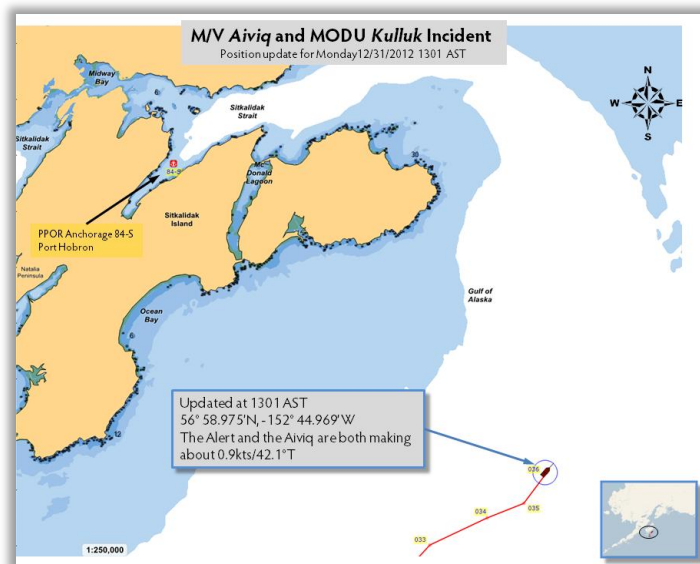
**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Sean Churchfield, Shell  
 SOSC: Steve Russell, ADEC  
 FOSC: Paul Mehler, USCG Sector Anchorage  
 LOSC: Jim Mullican, Deputy Fire Chief (Kodiak)

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** 2 p.m., January 1, 2013

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shannon Miller, Public Information Officer, (907) 269-7684 or Ty Keltner, Public Information Officer, ADEC (907) 388-8822. To contact the Joint Information Center, please call (907) 433-3417, or visit the following website for additional information:

<https://www.piersystem.com/go/site/5507/>



**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first Sitrep distributed on December 30, 2012 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first sitrep can be found at the following weblink:

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