



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

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREP ARE DENOTED IN RED

## Tug Challenger Sinking

**SITREP #:** 2 and Final

**SPILL #:** 15119925501

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 3:00 p.m. September 18, 2015

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY (RP):** R.D. Robinson

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** In the Gastineau Channel at 58° 18.098'N, 134° 26.340'W.

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The vessel sank on September 12, 2015 at 2 p.m. in approximately 20 feet of water.

**HOW AND WHEN THE SPILL WAS DISCOVERED:** The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Juneau Command Center received phone calls after the vessel sank on Saturday afternoon.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The RP estimated that there is a maximum of 250 gallons of diesel onboard the vessel.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The vessel sank in approximately 20 feet of water. The cause of the sinking is under investigation by the USCG.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Containment boom was placed around the vessel by USCG responders on Sunday, September 13, 2015. Global Diving & Salvage and Southeast Alaska Lighterage (SEAL) have removed all accessible pollution sources and hazards from the vessel.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** After arriving on scene on Saturday, minimal sheening was observed by members of the USCG. The sheen was determined to be unrecoverable. The USCG deployed 500 feet of containment boom at the site of the vessel on Sunday. Southeast Lighterage (SEAL) and Global Diving & Salvage, Inc. were contracted to evaluate and remove pollution sources aboard the tug. Diving and lightering operations were completed on September 15, 2015. SEAL changed out the USCG containment boom this morning and replaced it with their own containment boom. SEAL will maintain and inspect the boom daily. Any recoverable oil that surfaces will be recovered to fullest the extent possible. The USCG and ADEC continue to monitor the vessel and surrounding areas for any signs of pollution.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** There have been no reports of impacted fish or wildlife in the area.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Coast Guard and ADEC will continue monitoring for any further oil seepage and environmental impacts.



The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) has directed the owner to remove the vessel from state land and has reminded the owner that he is financially responsible. The owner is required to submit a draft salvage plan to ADNR no later than Wednesday, September 23, 2015. ADNR will administratively assist the owner as appropriate, however if the owner fails to comply, ADNR may seek other legal remedies.

Weather: Today: Showers. Highs around 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Variable wind 10 mph becoming west to 15 MPH in the afternoon. Tonight: Rain showers. Slight chance of thunderstorms late. Lows around 40 degrees Fahrenheit. West wind 10 MPH in the evening becoming light and variable. Saturday: Numerous rain showers and slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 49 degrees Fahrenheit. Southwest wind 10 mph.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

SOSC:	Bob Mattson, SOSC
FOSC:	Shannan Greene, FOSC
FOSCr:	LT Mickey Sanders, Chief of Incident Management, Sector Juneau

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** This is the final SITREP.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Allison Natcher, Environmental Program Specialist, ADEC (907) 465-5367.

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr\\_active.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** Please refer to the first SITREP distributed September 14, 2015 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first SITREP can be found in the Additional Information box above.