



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program
SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

Tug *Powhatan* Sinking

SITREP #: 4

SPILL #: 17119910901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 1:00 p.m. May 25, 2017

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Samson Tug & Barge

INCIDENT LOCATION: The Tug *Powhatan* sank at the Samson Tug & Barge (Samson) dock and moved 330 meters to the Northwest in Starrigavan Bay, approximately 7 miles north of Sitka. The tug moved from an initial depth of 15 meters to its current depth of approximately 60 meters. **The tug is currently located at 57° 07' 52.47" N, 135° 22' 48.58" W.**

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: April 19, 2017 at approximately 10:15 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Detachment Sitka reported the sinking through the National Response Center on April 19, 2017 at 10:15 p.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Initial estimates provided to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) of 340 gallons of oil on board were in error. The amount of oil released is unknown.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel sank at the dock; the cause for the sinking is currently being investigated.

SOURCE CONTROL: Alaska Commercial Divers (ACD) arrived the morning of April 25, 2017 on their vessel, the *Alaskan Salvor*. Divers from ACD were able to cap the two main fuel tank vents by 2:00 p.m. on April 25. Subsequent dives identified multiple locations where oil could escape the vessel. These locations have been secured by capping and/or other means.

RESPONSE ACTION: Samson Tug & Barge has submitted a Pollution Mitigation and Wreck Removal Plan to ADEC, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), and USCG. ADEC, ADNR, and USCG have provided comments towards finalizing the plan. Pollution mitigation efforts to recover oil from the *Powhatan* have been ongoing as the plan was developed. ACD continues to complete dives to recover fuel from the tug's tanks. As of May 23rd, 4,335 gallons of oil/water mixture have been recovered from the tug. The water surface above the *Powhatan* remains encircled by 1,500 feet of containment boom with sorbent boom inside to collect any surfacing oil. An additional 1,300 feet of deflection boom remains in place to protect Starrigavan Beach. Southeast Alaska Petroleum Response Organization (SEAPRO) continues to maintain the boom and assist in the recovery of fuel from the *Powhatan*. Daily overflights to monitor the oil released from the tug and potential impacts to sensitive areas are conducted using a drone. Aerial imagery shows decreased sheen within the containment boom surrounding the *Powhatan* and no additional oiling of the shoreline.



RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: Herring larvae recently emerged from the last spawning event and may be in the surface water in the vicinity of the sinking and salmon fry are migrating from nearby streams and are known to use the shoreline in the area regularly. There is the potential for exposure to marine wildlife, however no sea mammals have been observed by response teams or reported. Starrigavan Beach is used for clam harvesting. Deflection boom remains in place to protect against oil reaching the beach. ADEC, Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (ADH&SS), and U.S. National Park Service (NPS) coordinated to make alert signs asking the public to refrain from using the beach and harvesting shellfish due to the potential presence of oil. Signs were posted at both North and South Starrigavan Beach access points. Sitka Tribe of Alaska has also posted a shellfish advisory notice on the Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research website. The Unified Command continues to monitor the situation and potential impacts to wildlife.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The Pollution Mitigation and Wreck Removal Plan developed by Samson Tug & Barge includes plans for the delivery of a large crane from Seattle to lift the tug onto a barge for removal. SEAPRO intends to have the Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) Neka Bay on scene during the wreck removal process. The OSRV Neka Bay is a Bay Class vessel with on-board skimming capabilities.

WEATHER: The National Weather Service forecast for Lisianski Point calls for a chance of light rain. The high temperature is expected to be 47°F with northwest winds around 12 mph. A slight chance of rain is expected for Thursday night with northwest winds of 5 to 12 mph. The low temperature is expected to be 45 °F.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: George Baggen, Samson Tug & Barge

SOSC: Bob Mattson, ADEC

SOSCR: David Pikul, ADEC

FOSC: Captain Shannan Greene

FOSCR: CWO Jay Willimon

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As situation requires.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: David Pikul, Southeast Region Unit Supervisor,
ADEC (907)465-5234

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm



Containment boom around the tug *Powhatan* and deflection boom off of Starrigavan Beach. (Photo provided by Samson Tug & Barge; May 19, 2017)

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed April 21, 2017 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.