

## ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Unalaska

Division of Spill Prevention and Response Prevention Preparedness and Response Program

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

Changes from last SITREP denoted in red

## F/V Akutan

SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 17259921901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 9:30 A.M. August 25, 2017

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Klawock Oceanside, Inc. and Alaska Growth Capital BIDCO, Inc.

INCIDENT LOCATION: Captains Bay, City of Unalaska (53° 50.433' N, 166° 35.640' W)

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 12:00 pm, August 8, 2017 (anhydrous ammonia), potential (petroleum)

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The ammonia release was reportedly discovered by the crew on August 8, 2017. Both the ammonia release and the potential petroleum release was reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation at 09:15 August 11, 2017.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** An unknown amount of anhydrous ammonia was reportedly released from a plate freezer in the vessel's refrigeration system. To date there have been no known petroleum releases. Currently the vessel is believed to have approximately 20,000 to 23,000 gallons of mostly marine diesel and oily water as well as hydraulic, lube, and engine oils remaining on board.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** Potential petroleum release. The vessel arrived under its own power, and anchored in Captains Bay on August 7, 2017.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Resolve Magone removed approximately 16,000 gallons of fuel, oily water, and sludge from the bilge and three slop tanks. Resolve Magone has also conducted limited maintenance operations on the F/V Akutan to improve stability of the vessel.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, a marine chemist contracted by the United States Coast Guard arrived to inspect the refrigeration system for the safety of the crew and responders. On Sunday, following the marine chemist's inspection, an ADEC Division of Environmental Health Food Safety Inspector boarded the vessel to inspect the condition of the catch. The inspector found the catch to be wholesome and unadulterated at the time of the inspection. The catch was reportedly still frozen on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and remains subject to disputed ownership. The United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the City of Unalaska formed a unified command to manage the potential pollution incident. The Unified Command had established a forward operating base in Dutch Harbor that included representatives from the USCG, ADEC, and the City. Resolve began operations to remove oily water and fuel from the bilge on August 18<sup>th</sup>. A total of approximately 16,000 gallons were removed from the bilge and three slop tanks between August 18<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Environmental Protection Agency personnel and contractors

provided technical assistance, conducting air monitoring for the safety of the responders and crew. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> an internal assessment of the vessel was conducted. The assessment indicates that the vessel is no longer an imminent and substantial threat. As a result, the USCG, ADEC and the City of Unalaska have agreed to suspend operations with the Unified Command remaining in close coordination to monitor the situation.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:** Captains Bay is designated Critical habitat for sea otters and Steller sea lions. Other marine mammals present could include endangered humpback, northern right, and fin whales, as well as harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise, gray whales and killer whales. The Captains Bay islets tufted puffin and pigeon guillemot seabird colony is located near the head of the bay and South Amaknak supports two seabird breeding colonies for pigeon guillemots and horned puffins. Other migratory birds are present.

The area is essential fish habitat for all five species of pacific salmon and several groundfish species. There is no commercial fishing in Captains Bay, but the area is active with subsistence fishing and sport fishing. Shaishnikof River, Iliuliuk River, and Pyramid Creek south of Obernoi Point are anadromous streams.

Captains Bay is vital for both recreational and commercial activities. There are two seafood facilities in the area and vessels frequently use Captains Bay to anchor and wait for access to the nearby seafood and fuel facilities. There are also a number of private moorings in the bay.

There are at least six known prehistoric sites near the shoreline of Captains Bay, not on the National Register, that are important to the tribe and community. Additionally the S.S. Northwestern Shipwreck Site, a National Register-listed historic site related to the Battle of Dutch Harbor is 4,000 feet away from where the F/V Akutan is anchored.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Unified Command will continue to meet to monitor the situation and disposition of the vessel.

## **UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

SOSC: Geoff Merrell, ADEC

FOSC: Captain Sean MacKenzie, United States Coast Guard LOSC: Scott Brown, Deputy Director Port of Dutch Harbor

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Krebs-Barsis, EPS IV, ADEC (907) 342-5798