



**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**

## **F/V Laura Grounding Sitkalidak Island**

**SITREP #:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final

**SPILL #:** 21249930501

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** November 9, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** O'Callaghan Fisheries, LLC, Michael O'Callaghan

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Central Region 56°59.75' N, 153°17.10' W | Sitkalidak Island, AK

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The morning of November 1, 2021

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The F/V Laura ran aground the morning of November 1. The US Coast Guard (USCG) reported the potential release to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) at 11:30 a.m.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** An unknown amount of fuel has been released from the vessel. During an overflight on November 1, 2021, a 5-mile long light sheen was observed approximately 1 mile offshore of Sitkalidak Island. The maximum fuel capacity of the vessel is 4,000 gallons of diesel. It is estimated by the vessel owner that there were 3,000 gallons of diesel and 425 gallons of lubricants and oils on board at the time of the grounding. All fuels, oils and lubricants were released when the vessel broke apart during inclement weather.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The spill occurred after the F/V Laura ran aground on Sitkalidak Island, AK.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** The source is controlled; no fuels, oils or lubricants remain on the vessel.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The USCG rescued the four-person crew from the vessel at 8:00 a.m. November 1, 2021. No crew remains on the vessel. The USCG, ADEC, and other state and federal agencies have been coordinating response efforts. Multiple overflights by the USCG and on behalf of the PRP have been conducted to monitor the vessel. No further sheen was observed during these overflights. Conditions at the site made removal of the vessel or lightering of the fuels onboard unsafe and the vessel broke apart on the rocks due to wave action. Over the weekend of November 6 and 7, the community of Old Harbor traveled to the beach adjacent to the site of the vessel grounding to conduct cleanup of debris released from the vessel when it broke up. Several 5-gallon buckets of oil were recovered during this beach cleanup.

**RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED:**

There have been no observations or reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline to date. Southwest Alaska Distinct Population Segment (DPS) Northern sea otters (threatened), Western DPS Steller sea lions (endangered), humpback whales (Western North Pacific DPS (endangered) and Mexico DPS (threatened)), and fin whales (endangered) are likely to be present and may be common in the area near the grounded vessel. Sperm whales



(endangered) and North Pacific Right whales (endangered) may be present in the area in lower numbers. The waters around the grounded vessel are designated critical habitat for the Northern sea otter, Steller sea lion, and Western North Pacific humpback whale DPS. Critical habitat designated for the North Pacific right whale occurs offshore from this location. The grounding location is within the range of short-tailed albatrosses, although they are likely to be further out to sea than the location of this incident. Bears are known to forage along shorelines in this area. Overwintering migratory birds may be present in low numbers. Sitkalidak Island and surrounding waters are an important subsistence harvest area for residents of the nearby Village of Old Harbor and the island is of cultural importance to the community. There is likely some sport fishing in the area targeting halibut, rockfish, lingcod, and Chinook salmon.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Nets from the vessel have been observed entrained in the sand and cobble on the beach. An additional net was observed to be “open” in the water on November 8<sup>th</sup> during an overflight. This net will be evaluated during the afternoon of November 9<sup>th</sup>. Efforts to organize the removal of these nets are underway and will be part of additional efforts to evaluate potential shoreline impacts and remove remaining debris. The vessel is currently in multiple pieces, some of which have drifted onto shore on Sitkalidak Island, and some remain submerged at the site of the original grounding. Salvage of the vessel for scrapping is being coordinated.

**WEATHER:**

Today: W wind around 10 kt. Mostly sunny. Seas around 3 ft.

Tonight: W wind 5 to 15 kt becoming N after midnight. Mostly cloudy. Seas around 3 ft.

Wednesday: WNW wind 5 to 10 kt becoming S 10 to 15 kt in the morning. Rain and snow showers likely before 3pm, then a chance of rain showers. Seas 3 to 4 ft.

Wednesday Night: S wind 10 to 15 kt. Rain likely, mainly before 9pm. Seas 3 to 4 ft.

Thursday: Variable winds 5 kt or less. Scattered snow showers before 9am. Seas around 3 ft.

Thursday Night: NW wind around 10 kt. Mostly cloudy. Seas 3 to 4 ft.

Friday: WNW wind 10 to 15 kt. Mostly sunny. Seas 3 to 5 ft.

Friday Night: WNW wind 10 to 15 kt. Partly cloudy. Seas around 3 ft.

Saturday: WNW wind 5 to 10 kt becoming N in the afternoon. Mostly sunny. Seas around 3 ft.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

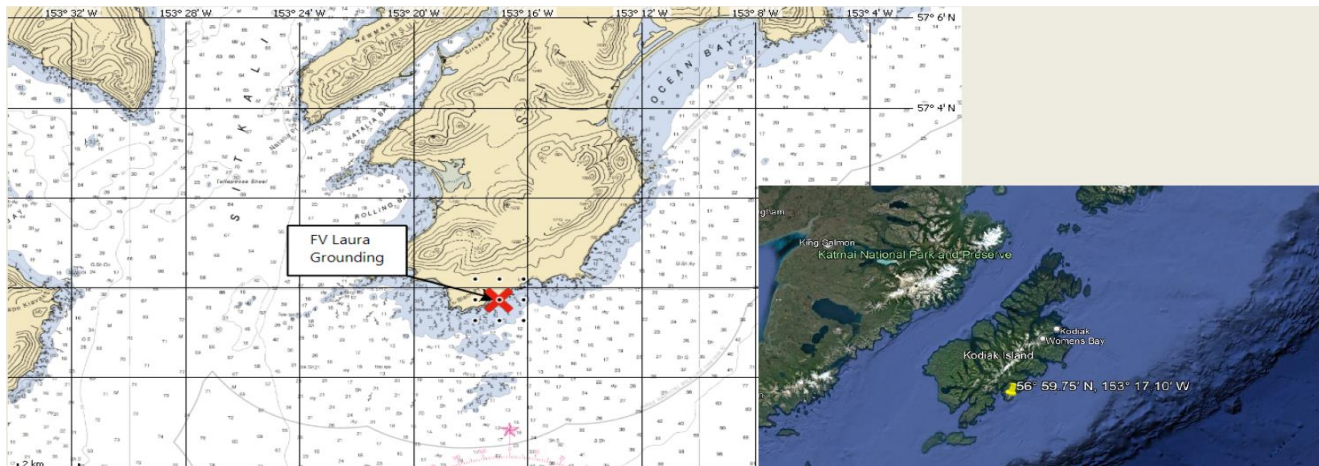
INCIDENT COMMANDER: Michael O’Callaghan

SOSCR: Jade Gamble

FOSCR: MST1 Joshua Thorne

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anna Carey, State On Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 419-0219  
<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2021/08-fv-laura/>



Photos taken by Nate Svoboda Vessel Stern Aground on Sitkalidak Island, AK.

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:** This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Senate P	Senator Gary Stevens	Email	<a href="mailto:senator.gary.stevens@akleg.gov">senator.gary.stevens@akleg.gov</a> Juneau (1/18-4/15) Kodiak (4/20-1/15)	465-4925 486-4925	465-3517 486-5264
House 32	Representative Louise Stutes	Email	<a href="mailto:representative.louise.stutes@akleg.gov">representative.louise.stutes@akleg.gov</a>		

			Juneau (1/18-4/15) Kodiak (4/20-1/15)	465-2487 486-8872	465-4956 486-5264
USCG MSD/Kodiak	USCG -Office	Email	<a href="mailto:msdkodiak@uscg.mil">msdkodiak@uscg.mil</a>	486-5918	
US EPA	Bob Whittier	Email	<a href="mailto:whittier.robert@epa.gov">whittier.robert@epa.gov</a>	206-553-1263 or 206-553-1264	271-3424
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Kodiak Is. Borough	Code Enforcement Officer	Email	<a href="mailto:jdixon@kodiakak.us">jdixon@kodiakak.us</a>	486-9364 942-7568	486-9396
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