



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

Unknown Oil Spill at Sitka Sound Science Center



SITREP #: 1

SPILL #: 21119932201

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: November 19, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Sitka Fine Arts Camp

INCIDENT LOCATION: 801 Lincoln Street, Sitka, Alaska

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: The spill was discovered on November 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The spill was discovered by contractors near the Sitka Sound Science Center (Science Center) hatchery penstocks at approximately 9:30 a.m. on November 18. The department and U.S. Coast Guard were notified at 11:15 a.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The volume and type of product spilled is unknown at this time. The spilled product is dark and viscous sharing characteristics with used oil or bunker oil.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The cause of the spill is not yet determined. The source of the spill also is under investigation. A potential source has been identified uphill of the Sitka Sound Science Center on property owned by the Sitka Fine Arts Camp.

SOURCE CONTROL: Source control has not been achieved yet. The U.S. Coast Guard is sampling the spilled material and the identified potential source for confirmation. The Department, U.S. Coast Guard, and Sitka Fine Arts Camp are discussing options for managing the oil identified as the potential source for this spill.

RESPONSE ACTION: Oil is seeping from the seawall under the Science Center building into a pond of water from Indian River that feeds the penstocks. The Department has two responders onsite with U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Sitka staff, a U.S. Coast Guard contractor, and Science Center staff. Indian River water was already diverted as part of scheduled maintenance at the Science Center before the spill was discovered. A U.S. Coast Guard contractor deployed containment and sorbent boom to recover as much oil as possible before it reaches Sitka Sound. Additionally, two layers of containment boom was deployed near the penstocks. The volume of oil seeping from the seawall appeared to decrease between the initial discovery in the morning on November 18th and late afternoon on the same day. At this time there is no estimated rate of discharge or volume estimate.

To protect the wooden pipe supplying water from Indian River, water was rerouted back through the pipe and to the pond at noon today while responders were onsite to ensure adequate recovery and containment of oil. In addition to boom and sorbents a skimmer is onsite in case the additional waterflow produces recoverable oil.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: The Science Center operates a hatchery, but because of previously planned maintenance, they do not have any active fish present at the hatchery at this time. Additionally, there are no fish present in the outside penstocks due to normal seasonal operations. The empty penstocks and shoreline immediately around them have been impacted by the spill. There have been no observations or reports of impacts to wildlife.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Recovery of oil will continue near the Sitka Sound penstocks. The U.S. Coast Guard and Department will continue efforts to confirm the source of the release and develop a plan for source control. The team is also reassessing booming and potential water diversion operations to limit the area impacted by the oil. The Science Center is just beginning a multi-month project for facility improvements. The Unified Command will continue to coordinate closely with them on impacts from the spill.

WEATHER:

Today: Variable winds 5 kt or less. A slight chance of snow showers. Seas around 2 ft.

Tonight: S wind 10 - 15 kt becoming NE after midnight. Slight chance of snow showers before 9pm. Seas 2 to 3 ft.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

SOSC: Rachael Krajewski, ADEC

FOSCr: Allysia Helton, USCG

DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As the situation warrants; Friday, November 26, 2021, at 2:00pm

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachael Krajewski, Environmental Program Manager, ADEC (907) 465-6648

[\[https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/\]](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/)



Satellite image from Google Earth.



Photo taken by ADEC. November 18, 2021 Oil and sheen before it reaches the penstocks.

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	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE
AK State Legislature; Senate R	Senator Bert Stedman	Email	Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Ketchikan (4/20-1/15)	907-465-3873 907-225-8088
AK State Legislature; House 35	Representative Jonathan Kreiss- Tomkins	Email	Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov Juneau (1/18-4/15) Sitka (4/20-1/15)	907-465-3732 907-747-4665
Sitka Tribe of Alaska; Resource Protection Dept	Jeff Feldpausch	Email	Jeff.Feldpausch@sitkatriben-sn.gov	907-747-7469
ADF&G Habitat	Greg Albrecht	Email	Greg.Albrecht@alaska.gov	907-465-6384
ADF&G Habitat	Kate Kanouse	Email	Kate.Kanouse@alaska.gov	
ADF&G Habitat	Evan Fritz	Email	Evan.Fritz@alaska.gov	
ADF&G Marine Mammals	Lori Polasek	Email	Lori.Polasek@alaska.gov	907-465-6167
ADNR SE Region	Aaron Timian	Email	Aaron.Timian@alaska.gov	907-465-3513
USCG (Sector JNU)	Capt. Darwin Jensen	Email	Darwin.A.Jensen@uscg.mil	907-463-2836
USCG (Sector JNU)	CDR Michael Kahle	Email	Michael.P.Kahle@uscg.mil	907-463-2452
USCG (Sector JNU)	CDR Byron Hayes	Email	Byron.H.Hayes@uscg.mil	907-463-2475
USCG (Sector JNU)	CDR Meredith Gillman	Email	Meredith.S.Gillman@uscg.mil	907-463-2452
USCG (MSD Sitka)	CWO William Glenzer	Email	William.K.Glenzer2@uscg.mil	907-966-5490
USCG (MSD Sitka)	MST1 Brian Wereda	Email	Brian.M.Wereda@uscg.mil	907-966-5480
USCG (MSD Sitka)	MST2 Josh Andresky	Email	Allysia.R.Helton@uscg.mil	907-966-5481
US EPA	Bob Whittier	Email	Whittier.Robert@epa.gov	907-271-3616
USFS	Michele Marie Parker – Tongass Environmental Engineer	Email	Michele.Parker@usda.gov	907-518-1079
Sitka Municipal Administrator	John Leach	Email	administrator@cityofsitka.org	907-747-1812
Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research (SEATOR)		Email	seator@sitkatriben-sn.gov	907-966-9650
NOAA; Fisheries	David Gann – Marine Mammal Specialist	Email	David.Gann@noaa.gov	907-586-7285
NOAA; Fisheries	Sadie Wright – Protected Species Biologist	Email	Sadie.Wright@noaa.gov	907-586-7630
NOAA; Office of Response and Restoration	Catherine Berg – Scientific Support Coordinator	Email	Catherine.Berg@noaa.gov	907-529-9157
NOAA; National Weather Service – Southeast Office	Jonathon Suk – Warning Coordination Meteorologist	Email	Juneau.Weather@noaa.gov	907-790-6824
USFWS; Oil Spill Response	Angela Matz	Email	FWSAKSpillResponse@fws.gov	907-242-6893

