



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

Unknown Oil Spill at Sitka Sound Science Center



SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 21119932201

DATE/TIME OF DISTRIBUTION: November 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Sitka Sound Science Center, and the State of Alaska are property owners in the area and have been identified as potential responsible parties. The source has not yet been located and the responsible party has not yet been determined.

INCIDENT LOCATION: 801 Lincoln Street, Sitka, Alaska

DATE/TIME OF SPILL: The spill was discovered on November 18, 2021, at approximately 9:30 a.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. Oil was observed seeping from an exposed crack in the concrete seawall when water was pumped from a manmade pond holding freshwater to feed the hatchery penstocks during scheduled maintenance at the Science Center. 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.

SOURCE CONTROL: Source control has not been achieved yet since the source remains unknown.

RESPONSE ACTION: A U.S. Coast Guard contractor deployed containment and sorbent boom to recover as much oil as possible before it reached Sitka Sound. Additionally, two layers of containment boom were deployed near the penstocks. The volume of oil seeping from the seawall appeared to decrease between the initial discovery in the morning on November 18 and late afternoon on the same day. At this time, there is no estimated rate of discharge or volume estimate.

Indian River source water had been diverted as part of the Science Center's scheduled maintenance to allow for the pond to be emptied. To protect the wooden supply pipe, water was rerouted back through the pipe and to the pond at noon on Friday, November 19 while responders were onsite to ensure adequate recovery and containment of oil. In addition to containment and sorbent boom, a skimmer was brought onsite in case the additional waterflow produced recoverable oil. Following the reintroduction of the water supply, a short period

of increased oil was observed in the pond and was recovered within the containment and sorbent boom in the penstock area. No discharge has been observed since this event.

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. **The U.S. Coast Guard has completed their Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation and no resources at risk were identified.** There have been no observations or reports of impacts to wildlife.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: **Containment boom remains deployed in the event of future releases.** The U.S. Coast Guard and Department will continue efforts to confirm the source of the release and develop a plan for source control. **Historic records are being reviewed to identify potential sources in the area. The U.S. Coast Guard has issued a Pollution Removal Fund Authorization to the Environmental Protection Association (EPA) to fund site assessments and lab analysis to positively identify the source of 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: ESE wind around 10 kt. Snow showers. Seas around 2 ft.

Tonight: SE wind 5 to 10 kt. Snow showers likely. Seas 1 to 2 ft.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

SOSC: Sarah Moore, ADEC

FOSCr: Allysia Helton, USCG

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

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Moore, Environmental Program Manager, ADEC
(907) 465-5239

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



Satellite image from Google Earth.



Photo taken by MSD Sitka. November 23, 2021 Containment and sorbent boom deployed in outfall from the pond.

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
Sitka Fine Arts Camp		Email		
Sitka Sound Science Center		Email		
State of Alaska – Sheldon Jackson Museum		Email		
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 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	Email	Juneau.Weather@noaa.gov	907-790-6824

	Meteorologist			
USFWS; Oil Spill Response	Angela Matz	Email	FWSAKSpillResponse@fws.gov	907-242-6893