A diesel spill occurred in Neva Strait starting on March 21, 2022 which lasted several days. The spill has been stopped, but a weathered surface sheen remains in the area. At its maximum observed extent, surface sheen was seen as far north as southern Salisbury Sound. And to the south, the maximum observed extent was seen on March 24, 2022 into Krestof Sound as far as the north end of the Magoun Islands and into Olga Strait.

Most diesel spills into open water rapidly evaporate and naturally disperse within a few days, but it may linger in the environment for longer and be visible as a surface sheen. Diesel fuel components can also adhere to fine-grained sediments such as those found in tidal mudflats, which can increase retention time and allow for re-floated diesel to cause additional sheening. Diesel is unlikely to adhere to bedrock, especially in areas with strong flushing by tidal currents.

Diesel fuel can contaminate species harvested as food including shellfish, kelp/algae, and herring roe. Potential impacts to food sources are presumed to be greatest in the immediate vicinity of the spill source and less as distance increases.

To minimize potential human health risks, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Environmental Conservation recommend the following:

- **Do not harvest** any shellfish, herring roe, or kelp/algae from Neva Strait or St. John Baptist Bay at this time.
- **Do not eat** any harvested food if you see, smell or taste oil on it.
- **Avoid setting gear or harvesting** wherever oil and/or sheens can be seen or smelled on the beach or water.
- **Relocate harvesting efforts** outside of the area where surface sheen has been observed, to the extent practical.

Additional information will be posted at [https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr) as it becomes available.

For more information about food safety contact the Department of Health and Social Services at 907-269-8000.