



Unified Command Transitions North Trading Bay Sheen Response to Monitoring and Ongoing Investigation

August 27, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The Unified Command (UC), consisting of the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Hilcorp Alaska, has transitioned response activities related to the reported sheen in Cook Inlet near the North Trading Bay Unit and inactive Spark platform to a monitoring and investigation phase.

Based on response activities conducted since the initial report on August 24, the Incident Management Team (IMT) response has been stood down. Response crews conducted methodical on-water grid searches, aerial surveillance, and surface monitoring of the area, with no visible product encountered or recovered since the initial report of sheening.

Investigation crews aboard the Spark platform have not identified a source of the reported sheen and did not observe any product associated with the initial report. While the active response is complete, the investigation into the source and nature of the initially reported sheen remains ongoing. Surface monitoring, aerial surveillance and other investigative activities will continue as appropriate and under regulatory oversight.

The Unified Command will remain intact to coordinate ongoing monitoring and investigation, share information among state and federal agencies, and coordinate activities in the area.

The Unified Command's Joint Information Center (JIC) will also remain in place to coordinate public information and provide updates as additional information becomes available. A Unified Command website has been established <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/response/2026/04-2026-north-trading-bay-sheen/>.

The Spark platform has been inactive since 1992. Wells historically associated with the platform were plugged and abandoned by the previous operator in 2009.

Additional information will be provided as the investigation progresses.

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Coast Guard Overflight: U.S. Coast Guard personnel conduct aerial survey of the North Trading Bay sheen location and the inactive Spark platform on August 26, 2026. Photo credit: Chief Petty Officer Christopher Houvener, U.S. Coast Guard.



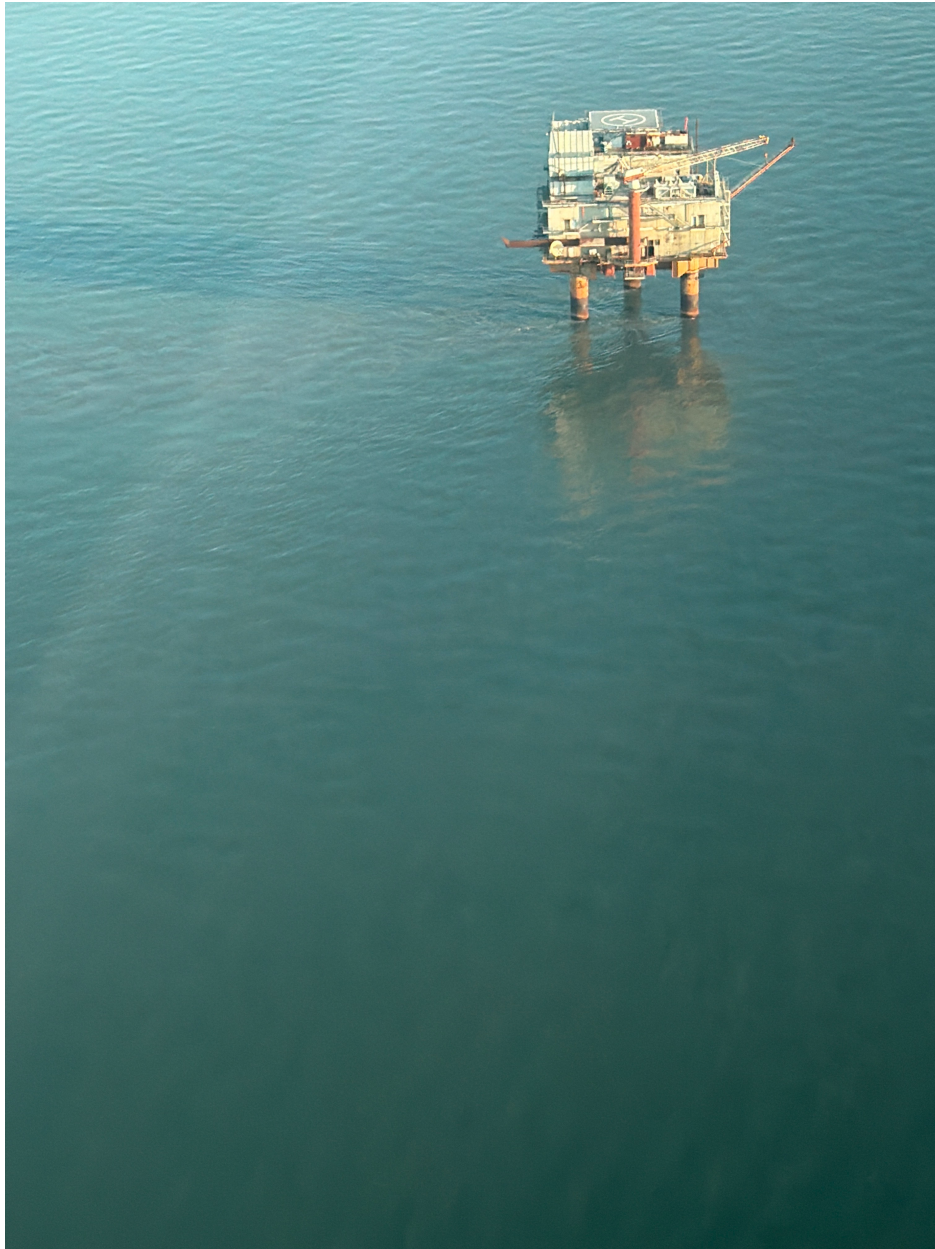
North Trading Bay Overflight: Alaska Response Corporation (ARC) aerial image of the North Trading Bay sheen location, with the ARC response vessel *Endeavor* visible below, taken during an overflight on August 25, 2026, at approximately 12:15 p.m. Photo credit: Alaska Response Corporation.



North Trading Bay Overflight: Alaska Response Corporation (ARC) aerial image of the North Trading Bay sheen location and the inactive Spark platform, taken during an overflight on August 25, 2026, at approximately 12:15 p.m. Photo credit: Alaska Response Corporation.



North Trading Bay Overflight: Alaska Response Corporation (ARC) aerial image of the North Trading Bay sheen location and the inactive Spark platform, taken during an overflight on August 26, 2026, at approximately 7:50 a.m. Photo credit: Alaska Response Corporation.



North Trading Bay Overflight: Alaska Response Corporation (ARC) aerial image of the North Trading Bay sheen location and the inactive Spark platform, taken during an overflight on August 26, 2026, at approximately 7:50 a.m. Photo credit: Alaska Response Corporation.