



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention and Emergency Response Program  
**SITUATION REPORT**

**CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED**

**Tug *Polar Wind* and  
Barge *Unimak Trader* Grounding**



**SITREP #:** 3

**SPILL #:** 12259931901

**TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION:** 3:00 p.m. November 16, 2012

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Northland Services

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** The tug and barge grounded on the south side of Ukolnoi Island, which is located approximately 206 miles east-northeast of Dutch Harbor and 40 miles east of Cold Bay, AK (Lat/Long: 55.200, -161.613).

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The tug and barge grounded at approximately 9:00 p.m. November 13, 2012. This is a potential spill incident; no release of fuel or lube products has been observed at this time from the grounded vessels. The grounding was reported to the U.S. Coast Guard at approximately 10:00 p.m. and ADEC was notified at approximately 11:00 p.m. November 13, 2012.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** No spill has occurred. The tug *Polar Wind* has 18,500 gallons of diesel fuel in its internal tanks. The barge *Unimak Trader* has 5,000 gallons on-deck fuel stores for the crane, fork-lift and generators located on the deck. The barge has no internal fuel storage tanks and no drums are on board. Operational quantities of hydraulic and lubricating oils remain on both vessels.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The tug and barge were transiting from Sand Point to Dutch Harbor when they grounded. Investigation is ongoing by USCG.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** No spill has occurred. The tug *Polar Wind* is a 78-foot long by 30-foot breadth vessel. The barge *Unimak Trader* is loaded with a crane, fork-lift, two generators and 90 refrigeration containers; thirty are operational and contains over 1,475,000 lbs of frozen seafood products and 60 containers are empty.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The five crew members were rescued from the vessel by USCG. The crew had no reported injuries. A unified command has been formed with Northland Services, USCG and ADEC. Multiple over flights are scheduled to evaluate the condition of the tug and barge. Northland contracted Alaska Chadux to mitigate any potential pollution threats, and Global Diving and Salvage to provide incident management. Two over flights conducted November 14 verified that both vessels remain intact and stable. No sheen or evidence of pollution was visible. **According to USCG and Global Salvage, over flights conducted today indicate no changes. An assessment team currently staged in Sand Point is scheduled to arrive on site today weather permitting. The salvage and lightering crews are expected to arrive on Sunday, November 18 to stabilize the vessels and remove the fuel from onboard the tug *Polar Wind*.** Vessels are transiting to the area to offload the shipping containers from the barge. Offloading is scheduled to begin the middle of next week.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** This is a potential spill. There are no reported impacts to wildlife. The area is used by waterfowl for overwintering including the Stellar's eiders, which are a threatened species on the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Sea otters are also present. This population is a threatened species on the ESA. Harbor seal are present in the area all year. The grounding is within the designated critical habitat for Stellar sea lions and the southwest sea otter critical habitat.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Global Diving and Salvage will be developing a salvage plan for ADEC and USCG review. Chadux is developing a lightering plan for ADEC and USCG review. The unified command is scheduled to meet tomorrow morning unless conditions change requiring earlier meeting.

**WEATHER:** Today: NW wind 30 kt diminishing to 20 kt in the afternoon with gusts to 40 kt diminishing to 30 kt in the afternoon out of bays and passes. Seas 9 ft. Tonight: SW wind 20 kt becoming W 30 kt after midnight. From the Shumagin Islands E...W wind 15 kt becoming variable 10 kt after midnight. Seas 6 ft. Rain and snow. Sat: NW wind 35 kt. From the Shumagin Islands e...variable wind 10 kt becoming NW 20 kt in the afternoon. Seas 10 ft

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Kerry Walsh, Global Diving and Salvage  
SOSC: Steve, Russell, ADEC  
FOSC: Captain Mehler, USCG

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** Additional Situation Reports will be forthcoming when the situation warrants.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Steven Russell, State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 262-3401  
[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr\\_active.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr_active.htm)

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first sitrep distributed November 14, 2012 for the agency/stakeholder notification list.