



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



Ukolnoi Island

SITREP #: 9

SPILL #: 12259931901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. November 30, 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. 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: An assessment team boarded the *Polar Wind* on Wednesday November 21 and estimates that 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel has been lost. It is suspected that this fuel was lost between the grounding and November 16th. The barge *Unimak Trader*, at the time of this report, has an estimated 200 gallons on-deck fuel stores for the crane, fork-lift and generators located on the deck. 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. An investigation as to the cause of the grounding is ongoing by USCG and Northland Services.

SOURCE CONTROL: Containment and sorbent boom are being maintained around the *Polar Wind*. The barge *Unimak Trader* **HAS** deck cargo and heavy equipment on board but there are no indications this equipment poses an environmental threat. At the time of grounding the barge *Unimak Trader* carried 97 refrigerated containers; 33 of which contained over 1,475,000 lbs of frozen seafood products, 64 containers were empty. **The crew removed 95 containers which have been transported to Dutch Harbor by the *Nushagak Trader*. Two empty containers, a generator, a crane and two forklifts remain on the barge to assist with the salvage operation.**

RESPONSE ACTION: Northland Services has removed approximately 13,000 gallons of diesel fuel and lube oils from the *Polar Wind*. An anchor has been positioned at the stern of the *Polar Wind* to help secure the vessel in place during the salvage operation. **The Unified Command has approved the salvage plans for the tug and barge. The barge is being rigged today for salvage operations scheduled to commence as early as tomorrow afternoon's high tide. Response teams are currently preparing the salvage gear on site for the tug. The**

remaining fuel on the tug is being consolidated into one tank to be pumped onto the *Redeemer* at the next opportunity. The remaining oils on the tug are being pumped into barrels that will be offloaded to the *Redeemer*.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The Unified Command is scheduled to meet daily unless conditions change requiring earlier meetings.

WEATHER: Today: N winds to 25 kts, seas 14 feet. Tonight: N winds 30 kts. Saturday: NW winds 30 kts, seas 10 feet.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Kerry Walsh, Global Diving and Salvage
SOSC: Steven 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

or

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/polarwind>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

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



Barge *Unimak Trader* and Tug *Polar Wind*
Photo taken 11/28/2012 by USCG