



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

F/V *Fate Hunter* Grounding



SITREP #: 3

SPILL #: 13229922301

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 12:00 p.m., September 5, 2013

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Kelly Smotherman

INCIDENT LOCATION: Approximately 7 miles west of Valdez, and less than a mile east of Shoup Bay, in Port Valdez. (Lat/Long: 61.1224, -146.5602)

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: 5:30 a.m., August 11, 2013

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED: At 5:33 a.m., August 11, 2013, the U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) received a report from the fishing vessel *Fate Hunter* that it had run aground. The Coast Guard reported the grounding to ADEC at 7:23 a.m., August 11, 2013.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The owner of the *Fate Hunter* estimates that 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel, 300 gallons of hydraulic oil and 100 gallons of lube oil were on board the vessel when it ran aground. The amount spilled is unknown at this time. **When the vessel orientation shifts during recovery operations, small bubbles of oil are occasionally released causing light sheen which is being collected with sorbent material. No sheen has been observed outside of the boom.**

CAUSE OF SPILL: The 65-foot steel-hulled fishing tender was returning to Valdez after taking 150,000 pounds of salmon on board, when it ran aground. The cause of the grounding is unknown at this time and is being investigated by the Coast Guard.

SOURCE CONTROL: The vessel is secured to the shore with lines. Containment and sorbent boom is deployed around the vessel and the fuel vents secured.

RESPONSE ACTION:

Dive surveys were conducted to assess the condition of the vessel along with the ocean bottom on which the vessel rests. Based on these surveys, Alaska Chadux (Chadux) and Global Diving and Salvage (Global) determined the safest option for removing the fuel, hydraulic and lube oils was to conduct lightering operations while the vessel remained at its current location. **Lightering operations began on August 15, which removed an estimated 1,295 gallons of fuel from the vessel. After completing initial vessel stabilization and lightering operations, Global and Chadux demobilized on August 20.**

Alaska Marine Response (AMR) is contracted to conduct vessel recovery operations. The recovery efforts have been complicated due to the vessel sitting on a ledge of rubble and the heavy load of fish causing the vessel to inexorably slide towards deeper water. On September 1, a large 6-inch diameter diesel powered macerating trash pump successfully pumped approximately 75,000 pounds of pink salmon from the hold of the vessel. Another 75,000 pounds of pink salmon were removed on September 2. The large macerating pump produced a pink slurry that was discharged deep underwater just offshore from the recovery operations. While fish were being removed, the fish hold hatch covers were modified to provide an air tight seal so water can be pumped out of those holds and air pumped in to provide additional lift to the vessel.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There has been no report of impacts to wildlife at this time. The area is habitat to over 20 species of birds. Sea otters may also be present but have not been spotted in the area of activity. The shoreline at the grounding location is steep rock cliff.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Over the next few days AMR will continue to conduct recovery operations of the *Fate Hunter*. The recovery operations will be monitored by ADEC and the Coast Guard.

WEATHER: Currently, south winds 10 to 20 knots; seas 7 feet. Tonight, east winds 10 to 25 knots and seas 8 feet with patchy fog. Tomorrow, gale warning with southeast winds 25 to 35 knots and seas building to 15 feet.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: David Willoughby, Willoughby Consulting & Adjusting

SOSC: Steven Russell, ADEC

FOSC: Captain Ben Hawkins, Coast Guard

FOSCR: Lieutenant Keyth Pankau, Jr, Coast Guard

Field SOSC: John Engles, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 p.m September 6, 2013

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: John Engles, ADEC (907) 835-4698

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr_active.htm

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

Please refer to the first sitrep distributed August 12, 2013 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first sitrep can be found in the **Additional Information** box above.