F/V Pacific Venture Sinking

SITREP #: 3

SPILL #: 15119924402

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 p.m. September 4, 2015

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): William (Bill) Manos

INCIDENT LOCATION: In the vicinity of the Twins, roughly 0.5 to .75 nm off the mouth of Indian River in Sitka, Alaska (Lat./Long: 57° 02.060, -135° 18.73).

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The vessel initially grounded on rocks on September 1, 2015 at 7:15 pm, resting on its side, and then rolled over at around 2:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, sinking in approximately 25 feet of water. Sheening was observed at approximately 8:00 p.m. according to Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Sitka.

HOW AND WHEN THE SPILL WAS DISCOVERED: The grounding was reported to the Coast Guard at approximately 7:15 p.m. on September 1, 2015. Sheening was discovered at approximately 8:00 p.m. according to MSD Sitka.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The owner of the Pacific Venture estimates that 600 gallons of diesel fuel, 50 gallons of hydraulic and lube oils in the vessel systems, and 20 gallons of lube oil in sealed 5 gallon buckets were on board the vessel when it grounded. MSD Sitka estimates 10-30 gallons of oil were released as a result of the grounding.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel grounded, rolled over, and sank in approximately 25 feet of water. The cause of the sinking is still under investigation by the USCG.

SOURCE CONTROL: The pollution source is mostly contained on board the Pacific Venture. The boom and anchor systems around the vessel are being functionally maintained by SEAPRO and sorbents within the boom changed out as needed in order to control any release of oil from the vessel. The vessel has settled down on the rock it grounded on, and is considered stable. Additional lines will be added to further secure the vessel to shore.

RESPONSE ACTION: Fuel vents on the port side of the vessel have been plugged and other product remains in closed systems. The starboard vent is resting on the sea floor and will be assessed during lightering operations. Global Diving has mobilized and is expected to begin lightering operations this afternoon. The 60-foot landing craft, Seamount will be used for staging of divers, lightering operations and temporary storage of recovered oil.
600 feet of harbor boom and anchors have been pre-staged at the mouth of Indian River in preparation for response should it be necessary.

Effort to secure a salvage company to raise the vessel is on-going.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There have been no confirmed reports of impacted fish or wildlife in the area.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Diving operations, waste management, and demobilization plans are being developed.

Weather: Today: partly sunny, becoming cloudy, with chance of rain in the afternoon. High temperature around 52, and south winds around 5 mph increasing to 15 mph in the afternoon. Tomorrow: rain, southwest winds at 10 to 15 mph, high temperature around 55.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: David Willoughby, Insurance underwriter
SOSC: Dave Pikul, SOSC
FOSC: Shannan Greene, FOSC
FOSCr: Michael Wortman, Chief Warrant Officer
National Park Service: Mary A. Miller, Superintendent

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: TBD

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Natcher, Environmental Program Specialist, ADEC (907) 465-5367.

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm
AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP distributed September 2, 2015 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to the first SITREP can be found in the Additional Information box above.