



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response  
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program  
**SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)**

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

## Tug *Ocean Eagle* Grounding



SITREP #: 2

SPILL #: 17119906002

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: MARCH 3, 2017 AT 2:30 P.M.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Brusco Tug & Barge

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** Sumner Strait – the tug *Ocean Eagle* and its barge initially grounded at Mariposa Reef at 56° 22.938N 133° 42.00W and subsequently refloated on the high tide and drifted to a small cove in the vicinity of Alvin Bay at 56° 25.238N 133° 53.436W.

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The tug *Ocean Eagle* initially grounded on March 1, 2017 at approximately 7:15 p.m.

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED:** The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Juneau Command Center received the distress call at 7:15 p.m on March 1. USCG reported the incident to the Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) at 2:45 a.m. on March 2.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The captain of the tug *Ocean Eagle* reported 15 gallons of diesel released from the day tank vent. He reported 58,000 gallons of diesel fuel onboard the tug. The tug was towing a freight barge with a 100,000-gallon capacity tank onboard holding 52,000 gallons of fuel. The tank on the barge is elevated off of the barge bottom.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The tug *Ocean Eagle* ran aground resulting in the tug taking on water into the engine compartment. Initial assessment by contract tug personnel appears to indicate that the source of the water is the shaft packing. The tug's captain reported a sheen at Mariposa Reef that was caused by fuel escaping from the day tank vent as the tug listed and was rocked by waves. On scene personnel at the tug and barge's current location near Alvin Bay reported no visible sheening as of 2:32 p.m.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** On scene personnel report no further intrusion of water into the engine room. There continues to be no sheening.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Personnel onboard the tug were evacuated by a USCG helicopter from Air Station Sitka. ADEC, USCG, and Brusco Tug & Barge formed a Unified Command to manage the incident response. Brusco Tug & Barge contracted two tugs owned by Amak Towing Company Inc. As of 8:06 a.m., the tugs *Anna T* and *Jennie B* were on scene, along with the USCGC *Liberty*. USCGC *Maple* arrived in the area as of 11:40 a.m. on March 2 and is serving as on-scene command. As of 6:00 p.m on March 2, both the barge ZB335 and the tug *Ocean Eagle* were separated and secured with its own tug from Amak Towing Company Inc. Alaska Commercial Divers arrived the evening of March 2 and started the inspection of the barge at first light March 3. As of 9:30 a.m.,

divers completed the hull inspection on the barge and reported no damage. The dive team is staging equipment and proceeding to the *Ocean Eagle* to perform the dive survey.

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

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** USCG personnel on scene continue to monitor the situation. Brusco Tug & Barge has submitted a transit plan for the barge ZB335 and is working with the Amak Towing Company to tow the barge to Sitka for further assessment. Pending results of the dive team's structural assessment, the transit plan to Ketchikan for the tug *Ocean Eagle* will be submitted and reviewed by ADEC and USCG. The Unified Command continues to manage the incident.

**WEATHER:** The weather report for Friday at Alvin Bay is for snow showers with a high near 31 and South winds around 10 to 20 mph. The weather report for Friday night in Alvin Bay is snow showers with a low around 26. Northeast winds of 20 mph expected.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Joe Bromley, Brusco Tug & Barge

SOSC: Bob Mattson, ADEC

FOSCR: Captain Shannan Greene

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION:** March 6, 2017, at 2:00 p.m.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Pikul, Southeast Region Unit Supervisor,  
ADEC (907)465-5234

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr\\_active.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sr_active.htm)



Tug *Ocean Eagle* and barge ZB335 at their current location near Alvin Bay. Photo provided by USCG.

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed March 2, 2017, for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.