



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 #: 3rd and Final

SPILL #: 17119906002

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: **MARCH 6, 2017 AT 3:30 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. **There were no reports of sheening at any time while the tug and barge were in Alvin Bay.**

SOURCE CONTROL: **The barge ZB335 was towed without incident to Sitka. The tug *Ocean Eagle* was towed to Ketchikan where it is secured at Ketchikan Shipyard with precautionary boom deployed. On scene personnel report no further intrusion of water into the tug.**

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. **On Friday March 3, Alaska Commercial Divers Inc. (ACD) completed underwater hull surveys of the tug *Ocean Eagle* and the barge ZB335. The dive survey of the barge indicated that the barge hull had sustained some dents but the barge could be safely towed to Sitka. The dive survey of the tug *Ocean Eagle* found several cracks in the hull and damaged rudders. The**

divers repaired the cracks and removed the damaged rudders. The dive survey report concluded that the tug *Ocean Eagle* was safe for tow to Ketchikan. On Friday March 3, the transit plans for the barge ZB335 and the tug *Ocean Eagle* were approved by the Unified Command. The tug *Anna T* towed the barge to Sitka, arriving Saturday afternoon.

On the morning of Saturday March 4, the tug *Jennie B* began to tow the *Ocean Eagle* to Ketchikan. However, the *Ocean Eagle* was swinging from side to side while under tow and the master of the *Jennie B* decided it was prudent to cease the effort until the transit plan could be amended and a second tug could arrive to assist. The amended transit plan was approved by the Unified Command Saturday afternoon. The tug *Anna T* arrived early Sunday morning to join the *Jennie B* in towing the *Ocean Eagle* to Ketchikan. Additionally, the MV *Alaskan Salvor*, operated by ACD, served as the pollution response escort vessel. The tug *Ocean Eagle* arrived in Ketchikan early in the morning of Monday March 6, was secured in Ketchikan Shipyard, and precautionary boom has been deployed.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The USCG will continue their investigation to determine the cause of the grounding.

WEATHER: The weather report for Monday March 6 in Ketchikan is for snow showers with a high near 29 and north winds around 13 to 22 mph. The weather report for Monday night in Ketchikan is snow showers with a low around 28. Southeast winds of 17 to 26 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: This is the final situation report.

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

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

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.