



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 #: 5

SPILL #: 12259931901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 4:00 p.m. November 20, 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 arrived on site the afternoon of Friday, November 16 and reported a thin sheen of diesel fuel in the area. The amount of fuel and oil on board the *Polar Wind* is revised to 20,580 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,800 gallons of lube and hydraulic oils. The barge *Unimak Trader* has 1,200 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 were placed around the *Polar Wind* on Friday, November 16. The barge *Unimak Trader* has deck cargo and heavy equipment on board but there are no indications this equipment poses an environmental threat. The barge *Unimak Trader* is loaded with 97 refrigeration containers; 33 are operational and contain over 1,475,000 lbs of frozen seafood products, 64 containers are empty.

RESPONSE ACTION: Extreme weather conditions prevented on site response operations on Sunday and Monday. Conditions improved enough today to allow the response fleet to transit from Cold Bay to King Cove to prepare for site visits this afternoon, which are weather dependant.

The unified command has approved an incident action and lightering plan for the removal of fuels from the *Polar Wind* and to prepare for removal of the containers and heavy equipment from the *Unimak Trader*. Defueling of the *Polar Wind* is expected to begin late today or tomorrow depending on weather. Dive surveys to assess the conditions of both vessels will be conducted when weather permits safe travel to the site.

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: Global Diving and Salvage will be developing a salvage plan for ADEC and USCG review. Chadux is developing a lightering plan for ADEC and USCG review. The unified command is scheduled to meet tomorrow morning unless conditions change requiring earlier meeting.

WEATHER: Today: N wind to 35 kts diminishing, seas 8 feet heaving freezing spray. Tonight: N wind to 35 kts seas 9 feet heavy freezing spray. Wednesday: N wind to 35 kts. seas 10 feet, heavy freezing spray. Thursday: N wind, 35 kts. seas 11 feet, heavy freezing spray.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Kerry Walsh, Global Diving and Salvage
SOSC: Steven Russell, ADEC
FOSC: Captain Mehler, USCG

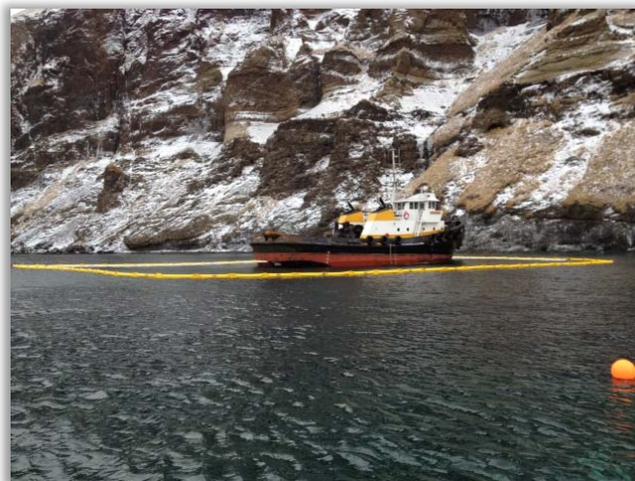
TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: Additional situation reports will be forthcoming when the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Russell, State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC (907) 262-3401

<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.



Tug Polar Wind
Alaska Chadux photo taken 11/17/2012