



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 #: 6

SPILL #: 12259931901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:30 p.m. November 22, 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 boarded the *Polar Wind* on Wednesday, November 21st and estimates that 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel has been lost. It is suspected that this fuel was lost between the time of the grounding and November 16th. The amount of fuel and oil on board the *Polar Wind* at the time of grounding was estimated to be 20,580 gallons of diesel fuel with 1,200 gallons of lube and hydraulic oils. The assessment team is currently on board the *Polar Wind* and updating the remaining quantities of petroleum products on board. The barge *Unimak Trader*, at the time of this report, has an estimated 800 gallons of 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 are being maintained around the *Polar Wind*. 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 continue to hamper response operations. Northland Services have activated eleven response vessels and approximately 70 personnel to conduct fuel recovery, grounded vessel assessment, barge cargo offload, and other response operations relating to the groundings.

The Unified Command has approved the Lightering Plan, Cargo Removal Plan and an Incident Action Plan for the recovery operations. The generators on board the *Unimak Trader* have maintained the containerized seafood at -15°F throughout this event.

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. The Unified Command is scheduled to meet daily unless conditions change requiring earlier meetings.

WEATHER: Response crews reported winds reaching 100 knots in the Pavlof Bay area last night. Today: N wind to 35 kts. seas 11 feet, heavy freezing spray. Tonight: N wind to 30 kts. seas 14 feet, heavy freezing spray. Friday: NW wind to 25 kts. diminishing, seas 10 feet, heavy freezing spray. Saturday: Variable winds, 10 kts. seas 5 feet.

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

or

<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.