

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention and Emergency Response Program

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: M/V *Morning Cedar* Adrift Incident **SITREP #:** 3

SPILL NUMBER: 11259930901

LEDGER CODE: 143202260

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: This is a potential spill. At 9:01 AM on December 5, 2011, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) that the M/V *Morning Cedar* was adrift 10 miles north of Tanaga Island. The crew of the vessel reported the loss of steering to the USCG at 9:29 on December 5, 2011.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 3:00 PM on December 8, 2011

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: 3:00 PM on December 9, 2011

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: No spill has occurred. The M/V *Morning Cedar* is a 656-ft, Singapore-registered vessel with 23 crew members aboard. The USCG reports that the vessel's cargo is packaged lumber and that there are 227,143 gallons of bunker C oil and 60,295 gallons of diesel on board.

LOCATION: The M/V *Morning Cedar* is currently drifting 15 nautical miles off of Brobrof Island. As of 1:30 PM, the vessel's position was 52° 09.275N 177° 37.035W. Tanaga and Brobrof Islands are located more than 1,200 miles southwest of Anchorage.

CAUSE OF SPILL: This is a potential spill. The crew of the M/V *Morning Cedar* reported to the USCG that there was some type of steering casualty and that the crew was not able to make repairs while they were underway.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): The ship is operated by Wallenius Marine Singapore and the owner of the vessel is Eukor Car Carriers Seoul, South Korea.

RESPONSE ACTION: The USCG Cutter *Sherman* remains on scene with the M/V *Morning Cedar*. It was determined that USCG boarding teams could not provide immediate assistance to repair the rudder upon completion of a Coast Guard boarding on December 6, 2011. The Cutter *Sherman* will continue to provide technical support and resources as needed.

The M/V *Morning Cedar* has started to use its engine and bow thruster in a limited capacity to minimize set and drift toward land.

The USCG HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter and crew remain at Adak to provide assistance. If needed, the USCG is staged to transport the Emergency Towing System, which is staged at Adak, to the M/V *Morning Cedar* or the USCG Cutter *Sherman* by the safest way possible. Information about the Emergency Towing System in Adak can be found at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/ets/index.htm>

Three steering gear technical engineers who are familiar with the rudder system arrived on the *Morning Cedar* this afternoon and will begin their assessment of the steering assembly.

The Crowley Tug *Guardsman* departed Seattle last night at 6:00 PM Alaska time. Estimated transit time to the M/V *Morning Cedar* from Seattle is nine days. The Tug *Guardsman* is an Invader class tug, 127-ft, with 7,200 horsepower. The tug's towing equipment consists of a Markey TDSDW 36C double drum towing machine outfitted with 3,000-ft of 2.75-in wire on each drum. Her emergency towing gear consists of 450-ft of 7-inch Spectra SK-75.

The USCG Pacific Strike Team remains on standby. Information about the Pacific Strike Team can be found at: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/nsfweb/PST/pstdefault.asp>

O'Brien's Response Management has been contacted by the vessel's representative in Anchorage and remains on standby in the event additional incident management is needed.

SOURCE CONTROL: There has been no release. The crew on board the M/V *Morning Cedar* continues to try to make repairs to the steering system. In addition the M/V *Morning Cedar* has been using its engine and bow thruster in a limited capacity to minimize set and drift toward land.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: The coastline of Tanaga Island are primarily comprised of exposed rocky outcrops and cliffs shoreward of exposed wave-cut platforms. The shorelines at the head of the bays are comprised of medium-grained and coarse-grained gravel beaches.

Steller sea lion haulouts are present near Bumpy Point and Falls Point. Water around Tanaga Island is designated Steller sea lion critical habitat. Steller sea lions are listed on the Endangered Species list and may require consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) & National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Sea otters are also present around the island. Sea otters are part of the Endangered Species-listed SW Sea Otter population. Waters around Tanaga Island are also designated critical habitat for the SW Sea otter population. A Section 7 consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may be warranted.

Resident waterfowl may include Common Eiders, Harlequin Duck, Glaucous-winged gulls, Cormorants, Pigeon guillemot, Tufted puffins, and Black oystercatchers.

Anadromous streams support pink and coho salmon and Dolly Varden. These anadromous streams will not have adults present, but rearing juveniles may be present near the mouth of the streams. Essential Fish Habitat is present around the islands. Atka Mackerel, Pacific cod, and halibut are known in the area. Atka Mackerel spawn on rocky substrates in relatively shallow waters. Eggs develop into planktonic larvae in the winter months and move to the surface. These fish are an important prey base for Steller sea lions.

Uplands of Tanaga Island are included in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Tidelands and submerged lands are managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. During World War II, there was a military presence on Tanaga Island. Remnants of the military presence may be present in the area of any potential grounding and spill.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The USCG HH 60 Jayhawk helicopter will remain in Adak to assist if needed. The Cutter *Sherman* will stand by and assist the M/V *Morning Cedar* until repairs are made to the steering system or until a tug boat can arrive to tow the M/V *Morning Cedar* to a safe place of refuge where permanent repairs to the steering system can be made.

The three steering gear technical engineers will investigate the steering casualty and provide a report and recommendations and affect repairs to the steering system if possible.

The Crowley Tug Guardsman is en route to the M/V *Morning Cedar*'s location and is scheduled to arrive on scene the December 16.

WEATHER: Western Aleutians Adak to Kiska; Gale warning through Friday. Today: Southwest winds 20 knots, seas 14-ft. Tonight: South wind 40 knots, seas 14-ft. Friday: South wind 40 knots, seas 15-ft. rain. Friday night: Southwest winds 50 knots, seas 29-ft.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander:	Gilbert Cabrea, Vessel Master
F.O.S.C.:	Captain Jason Fosdick, USCG
S.O.S.C.:	Steve Russell, ADEC

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Russell, ADEC, (907) 262-3401

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list and includes: governor's office, Senator Begich's office, SECC, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
ADNR	Clark Cox	Email	clark.cox@alaska.gov	269-8565	269-8913
ADF&G	Brad Dunker	Email	Bradley.dunker@alaska.gov	267-2541	267-2499
USCG Sector Anchorage	USCG Anchorage Office	Fax		271-6700	271-6751
EPA	Robert Whittier	Fax	Whittier.robert@epa.gov	271-3616	271-3424
Adak Port of Operations	Port Director	Fax		592-0185	592-0184
City of Adak	Layton Lockett	Fax	llockett@adak-ak.gov	592-4513	592-4262
City of Atka		Fax		839-2233	839-2234
Native Village of Atka		Fax		839-2229	839-2269
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association	Community Services Department	Fax		276-2700	279-4351
Aleut Corporation/ Anchorage Office		Fax		561-4300	563-4328
Dutch Harbor Port Director	Alvin Osterback	Fax		581-1254	581-2519
Unalaska, Mayors Office	Shirley Marquardt	Fax		581-1251	581-1417 581-4469
AK Maritime Wildlife Refuge	Steven Delehanty	Email/Fax	steve_delehanty@fws.gov	226-4627	235-7783
House 37/Dillingham	Bryce Edgmon	Fax	Anchorage 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0275 465-4451	269-0274 465-3445
Senate S/Bethel	Lyman Hoffman	Fax	Juneau	465-4453	465-4523



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