

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

**SITUATION REPORT**  
**As of 8:00 AM on December 20, 2011**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Tug *Nathan E Stewart* and Fuel Barge **SITREP #:** 2

**SPILL NUMBER:** 11119935001

**LEDGER CODE:** 14321060

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** This is a potential spill. At 2:40 PM on December 18, 2011, the United State Coast Guard (USCG) reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) that the Tug *Nathan E Stewart* and Barge *DBL-55*, an articulated tug/barge system, were adrift 20 miles west of Cape Fairweather. The crew of the vessel reported a loss of power to the starboard engine to the USCG at 1:00 PM.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 12:00 PM on December 20, 2011

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** 12:00 PM on December 21, 2011

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** No spill has occurred at this time. The Tug *Nathan E Stewart* is a 95-foot commercial tug with six crew members aboard. The tug was towing the Barge *DBL-55*, a 300-foot fuel barge, en route to Skagway. The tug has 45,000 gallons of diesel and 500 gallons of lube oil on board. The cargo on board the fuel barge is reported to be 2.2 million gallons of diesel fuel, 1028 gallons of aviation fuel and 700 gallons of other petroleum products.

**LOCATION:** The Tug *Le Cheval Rouge*, Tug *Nathan E Stewart* and Barge *DBL-55* are currently anchored in Mud Bay, approximately three and one-half miles south of Lemesurier Island.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** This is a potential spill. The crew of the Tug *Nathan E Stewart* reported to the USCG that a series of 30-foot seas washed over the vessel, and water entered the engine air intakes. Power was lost in both the starboard and port engines. The starboard engine remains non-operational, but partial power has been restored to the port engine. The power in the port engine was not enough to fully navigate the vessels during the severe weather on December 18. At 10:56 PM on December 18 the weather improved enough to allow the tug and barge to transit southeast under their own power.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** K-Sea Transportation

**RESPONSE ACTION:** At 11:35 AM on December 19, the Tug *Le Cheval Rouge* took Barge *DBL-55* and Tug *Nathan E Stewart* under a stern tow. The *Le Cheval Rouge* used the slack tides at 3:00 AM on December 20 to tow the disabled tug and barge through North Inian Pass. As of 7:30 AM the group was anchored in Mud Bay to reset and reconfigure the towing gear. They are expected to be anchored for four to six hours and then continue underway to Skagway.

The USCG Cutter *Maple* is escorting the tow and is ready to assist if necessary.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** There has been no release.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** There were no reported natural resources affected.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Tug *Le Cheval Rouge*, Tug *Nathan E Stewart* and Barge *DBL-55* are estimated to arrive in Skagway on the morning of December 21. Once in Skagway, the petroleum products onboard Barge *DBL-55* will be offloaded.

The Tug *Altair*, owned by K-Sea Transportation, is en route from Seattle and is estimated to arrive in Skagway on December 23. The *Altair* will transport the *Nathan E Stewart* and *DBL-55* to Seattle for repairs.

**WEATHER:** Today – Winds out of the southwest at 20 knots. Seas 4 feet. Tonight – Winds out of the southwest shifting to the southeast at 15 knots increasing to 25 knots late. Seas 3 feet building to 5 feet. Tomorrow – Southeast gale up to 35 knots diminishing to 20 knots in the afternoon. Seas 7 feet subsiding to 4 feet in the afternoon.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

F.O.S.C.: Capt. Scott Bornemann, USCG  
S.O.S.C.: Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Crystal Smith, ADEC, 907-465-5346

As more spill information and photographs become available they will be posted at:  
<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

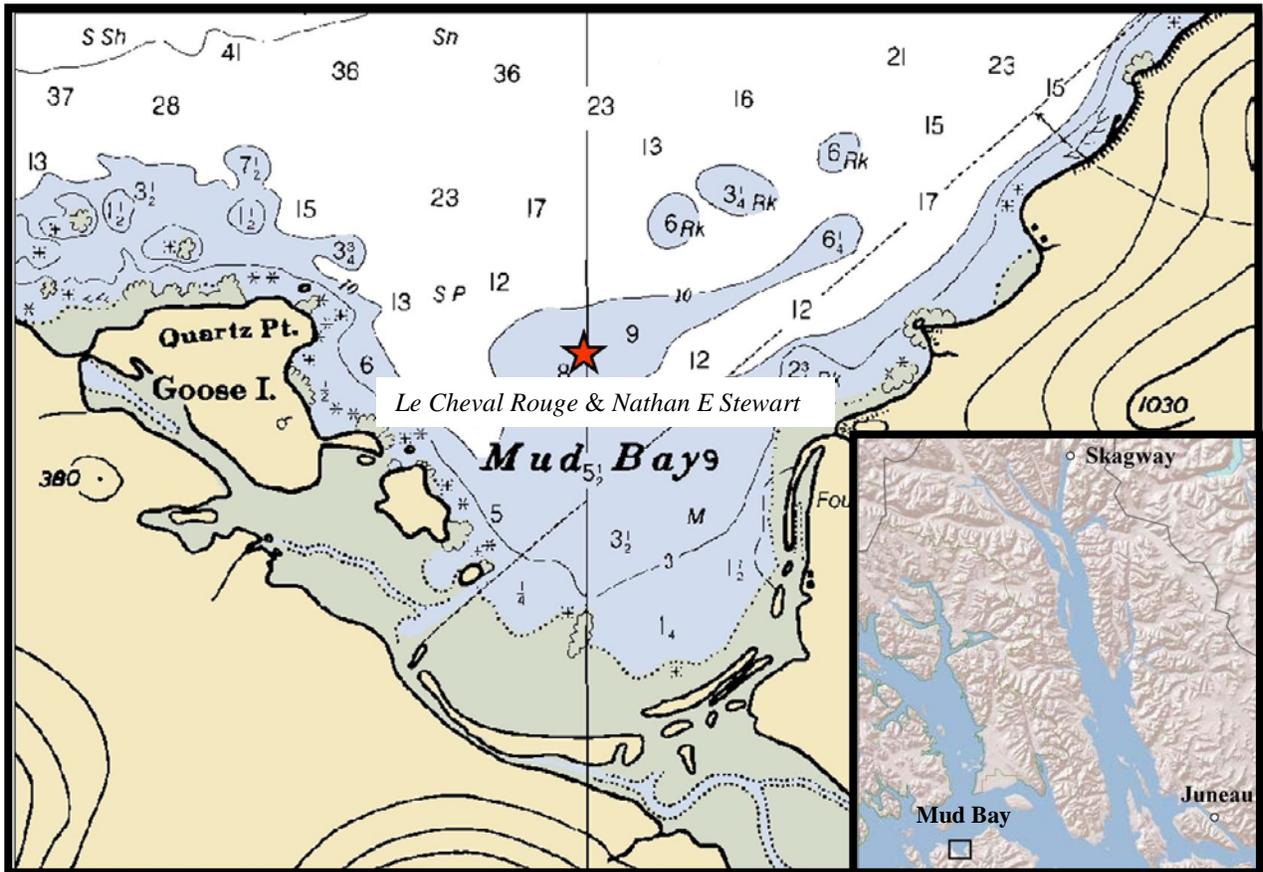
This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, SECC, DOI, NMFS, and USFWS. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
K-Sea Transportation	Clark Jennison		cjennison@k-sea.com		
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax	session	465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thomas	Fax	session	465-3732; 766-3581	465-2652; 766-3592
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Lt. Ryan Erickson	Email	ryan.r.erickson@uscg.mil	463-2835	463-2445
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Matt Jones	Email	Matt.n.jones@uscg.mil	463-2452	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Cdr. Kurt Clarke	Email	Kurt.a.clarke@uscg.mil	463-2475	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	Capt. Scott Bornemann	Email	Scott.w.bornemann@uscg.mil	463-2836	
USCG (Sector Juneau)	MSTC James Highfill	Email	James.L.Highfill@uscg.mil	463-2461	
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Env. Engineer Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5896
USDA Forest Service - Yakutat Ranger District	District Ranger Lee Benson	Email	labenson@fs.fed.us	784-3359	784-3457
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Joe Hitselberger	Email	joe.hitselberger@alaska.gov	465-4346	465-4759
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	President Victoria Demmert	Fax		784-3238	784-3595
SEAPRO	General Manager Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Doug.sanvik@alaska.gov	465-3513	



Photo courtesy of USCG.

The Tug *Le Cheval Rouge* towing the Tug *Nathan E Stewart* and Barge *DBL-55*.



Location of anchored Tug *Le Cheval Rouge*, Tug *Nathan E Stewart* and Barge *DBL-55*.