

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** *F/V Top Notch* Grounding

**SITREP #:** Sitrep 2

**SPILL NUMBER:** 06119927001

**LEDGER CODE:**

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** 4:30 p.m., September 27, 2006

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 4:00 p.m., October 6, 2006

**TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT:** As the situation warrants.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The amount of fuel discharged is unknown at this time. The owner/operator reported an estimated 400 and 450 gallons of fuel was on-board the vessel at the time of the grounding. He also reported there are 30 gallons of hydraulic oil and 5 gallons of gasoline on-board the vessel. The vessel's maximum fuel capacity is 1200 gallons.

**LOCATION:** Nichols Bay, on the south end of Prince of Wales Island, is approximately 50 miles south of Ketchikan, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The owner reported the vessel grounded on the afternoon of September 26, 2006.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Michael Steele, Thorne Bay.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** On October 2, 2006, Alaska Commercial Divers (ACD) of Ketchikan reported that due to monetary constraints, the vessel owner was unable to contract with them to salvage the *F/V Top Notch*. The MSD contacted the owner, who reported that all fuel tank vents on the vessel had been plugged and valves in the fuel system had been closed. The owner reported he was not able to refloat the vessel at high tide as planned due to an insufficient number of de-watering pumps on October 1, 2006.

The owner reported he had located additional pumps and was going to attempt to salvage the vessel on October 3, 2006. This effort was delayed due to an October 4 weather front that moved through the area with strong winds and high seas.

The owner contacted MSD Ketchikan and reported the salvage attempt would be made on October 5 and if successful all pollutants would be removed from the vessel. The owner further reported to MSD Ketchikan that he would not be able to get underway until approximately 4:00 pm.

On October 6, ADEC, MSD Ketchikan personnel, and a representative of ACD flew to the site of the grounding. Upon arrival, a large amount of sheen was sighted in the waters of Nichols Bay and around the *F/V Top Notch*. When unable to contact the owner or seeing any efforts at salvage or pollution mitigation during the overflight, the MSD Ketchikan requested funding from the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) to begin pollution mitigation efforts.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** None at this time.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The marine waters and shoreline of Nichols Bay on Prince of Wales Island have been impacted by the discharge of oil from the *F/V Top Notch*. ADNR & ADF&G have been contacted to determine environmentally sensitive areas nearby. Salmon streams were a concern. However, due to the vessel's location, ADNR Habitat deemed the potential of the discharged oil impacting these areas to be minimal. There have been no reports of impacts to wildlife in the area.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** MSD Ketchikan has contracted with ACD to return to the vessel to sound the fuel tanks and further assess the situation. ADEC and the Coast Guard will continue to assess the situation

**WEATHER:** On scene weather at the time of the morning overflight was 50° winds SE at 5 kts and seas of 2-4 feet.

The forecast for Friday, October 6 is for SE winds at 10 kts with 2 foot seas. The winds are predicted to increase to 15 – 20 kts on Saturday and 25 kts on Sunday with seas reaching 5 feet on Sunday

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Michael Steele (PRP)  
F.O.S.C.: Capt Mark Guillory (USCG)  
S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson (ADEC)  
Field S.O.S.C.: Bob Fultz (ADEC – Ketchikan)

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bob Fultz, ADEC at 225-6200X1. Photographs and other spill information when obtained will be available for viewing at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed via email to the Governor’s office, ADF&G, ADNR, SECC, USEPA, USDOJ, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS in addition to the following.

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
FV Top Notch	Michael Steele		Hand deliver		
Senate Dist. C	Senator Al Kookesh	Fax	interim	465-3473	465-2827
House Dist. 5	Representative Bill Thoma	Fax	interim	465-3732	465-2652
USCG (MSD Ketchikan)	LT Jason Boyer	Email	jason.boyer@uscg.mil	225-4496	225-4499
USCG (Sector Juneau)	LT Chris Williammee	Email	christopher.j.williammee@uscg.mil	463-2470	463-2445
USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer	Michele Marie Parker	Email	mmparker@fs.fed.us	772-5850	772-5895
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	Jon.kurland@noaa.gov	586-7638	586-7358
ADF&G	Tom Schumacher	Email	tom_schumacher@fishgame.state.ak	465-4346	
ADNR (Habitat) Craig / F	Mark Minnillo	Email	mark_minnillo@dnr.state.ak.us	772-5224	772-9336
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117



F/V Top Notch aground Nichols Bay, Prince of Wales Island. Photo by ADEC