

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: F/V Cape St Elias sinking

SITREP #: 2 and Final

SPILL NUMBER: 07119919501

LEDGER CODE: 14240060

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The vessel was reported to be taking on water and was partially submerged at approximately 7:00 AM July 14, 2007. The state was notified of the sinking by the Alaska State Troopers at 8:23 AM.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 4:30 PM July 18, 2007

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT: This is the final report.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The vessel, a 58 ft. seine vessel, was reported to have 4000 gallons of diesel fuel on board at the time of the incident. The amount of the discharge was initially estimated to be 10 gallons. This figure was later revised to a total of 50 gallons of mixed diesel, hydraulic and engine lubricating oils.

LOCATION: The vessel was located approximately 500 yards north of Long Island in Sitka Sound at the time of the incident. Long Island is three and a half miles south of Sitka, Alaska.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel took on water for unknown reasons and began sinking.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Randy L. Stewart.

RESPONSE ACTION: A Good Samaritan vessel found the vessel in distress, rescued the crew, and towed the vessel into shallow water. The vessel was then tied off to the shoreline to prevent it from drifting.

A construction company from Sitka Alaska, W. S. Construction, was hired to salvage the sunken vessel. A construction barge loaded with salvage equipment was moved to the site at 2:00 P.M. on July 14. The portion of the F/V Cape St. Elias stern that remained above the waterline was secured to the barge. The barge and boat were then towed to St. James Bay, directly off Sitka, arriving at approximately 7:00 PM.

Salvage operations began on Sunday, July 15, 2007. The vessel was stabilized with float bags and further secured to the barge crane. As the tide came in, the vessel was moved further inshore to remove any risk of the vessel sinking during the salvage operation. Salvage operations including continued on Monday July 16 when the vessel was de-watered and refloated at 12:00 PM.

Upon refloating of the vessel, fishing and other gear was removed from the vessel. The last of the oil and water in the vessel was removed at 2:00 PM today. The diesel fuel was left in the fuel tanks as no water entered the tanks and there is no evidence of damage.

SOURCE CONTROL: The fuel vents were plugged and the vessel refloated.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: There was a light sheen reported on the marine waters of Sitka Sound. There are no reports of impacts to wildlife or the shoreline of Long Island at this time.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The vessel will be moved to a slip in the Sitka's New Thompson Harbor and moored within the next two days.

WEATHER: The current on scene weather is partly cloudy and a temperature of 68 degrees. The winds are light Southwest winds and the seas are calm.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Randy L Stewart PRP
F.O.S.C.: Capt Mark Guillory USCG Sector Juneau
S.O.S.C.: Scot W. Tiernan ADEC
Field S.O.S.C.:N/A

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scot W. Tiernan at 907-465-5378 or 907-321-3428

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
Secure Fisheries Inc	Randy L. Stewart	mail			
Senate Dist. A	Senator Bert Stedman	Fax	interim	907-225-8088	907-225-0713
House Dist. 2	Representative Peggy Wilson	Fax	interim	907-874-3088	907-874-3055
USCG (MSD Sitka)	CWO3 Ken Boyer	Email	kenneth.j.boyer@uscg.mil	966-5480	966-5457
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.us	465-4346	
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	Pres. Lawrence Widmark, Jr.	Fax		747-3207	747-4915
City and Borough of Sitka	Administrator John Stein	Fax		747-3294	747-7403
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	dave@seapro.org	225-7002	247-1117



F/V Cape St. Elias and construction barge in St. James Bay
Photograph courtesy of the US Coast Guard