

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** Princess Kathleen

**SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL NUMBER:** 10119904701

**LEDGER CODE:** 14284160

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The SS *Princess Kathleen* grounded and sank off Point Lena on September 7, 1952.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 9:00 AM on March 2, 2010

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

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The total volume of number 6 bunker oil onboard the vessel at the time of sinking is unknown. The volume of bunker and other oils that remains on the ship is currently unknown.

**LOCATION:** Point Lena, Favorite Channel north of Juneau, Alaska.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The vessel grounded on Point Lena and suffered damage to the forward most section of the bow. As the tide came back in, the vessel flooded from the stern and slid off the point. The vessel now sits at an angle on its port side at a depth ranging from 52 feet at the bow and 134 feet at the stern.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Undetermined

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Historic reports indicate periodic oil discharges and sheens from the vessel in the years following the sinking. Spill reports from the last decade include similar reports of sheen and oil in the area. Recently, there has been an increase in the frequency of reports; possibly indicating a recent change in the vessel's condition. In response to these reports the United States Coast Guard (USCG) opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) to assess the condition of the vessel.

USCG contracted with Southeast Alaska Lighterage and Global Offshore Divers to evaluate damage to the vessel through the use of two remotely operated vehicles (ROV). The ROVs dove on the wreck on February 17, 18 and 19, 2010. The ROVs discovered bunker oil trapped inside the superstructure of the vessel, during certain tides the bunker oil is able to escape through broken portholes.

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

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** There have been no reports of recent impacts to wildlife or the shoreline.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Following the ROV survey, ADEC and USCG decided further assessment is needed to accurately determine the condition of the Princess Kathleen and the risk for future pollution. A dive team from Global Offshore Divers is currently en route to Juneau to conduct Phase II Assessment of the vessel. The Phase II Assessment will seek to determine the integrity of the fuel tanks and to estimate the volume of fuel remaining on the vessel.

USCG and ADEC are planning to hold an open house to discuss the plans for the Phase II Assessment. The open house is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2010 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center.

**WEATHER:** Today: Rain. East winds at 20 to 30 mph with gusts up to 45 mph. Tomorrow: Light winds. Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander:

F.O.S.C. : Capt. Melissa Bert, USCG

S.O.S.C. : Scot W. Tiernan, ADEC

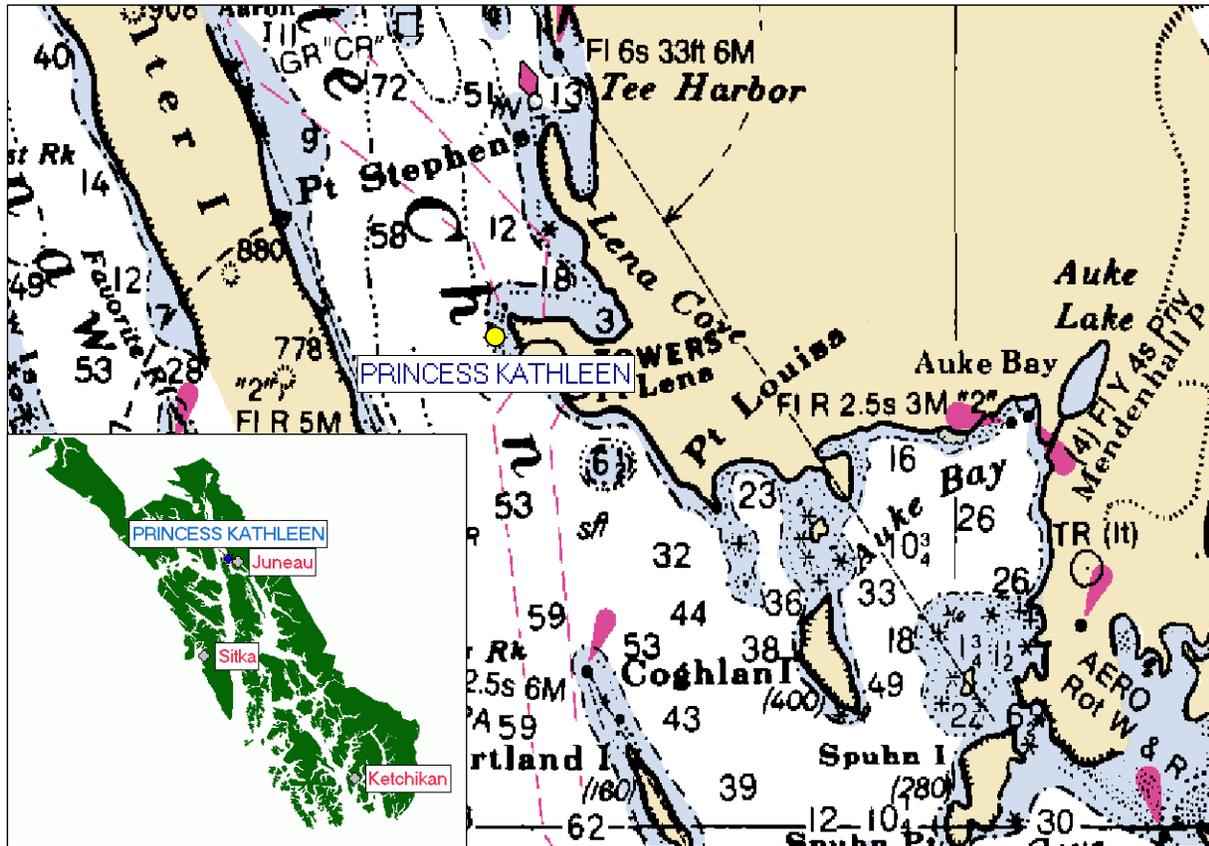
**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing on the Unified Command website:

[www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/princesskathleen](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/princesskathleen)**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

This sitrep has been distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders. The situation report was also distributed to the various agency staff listed on the standard distribution list. The receiving agencies listed in the standard distribution list includes: Governor's office, Senator Begich's office, ADF&G, ADNDR, SECC, EPA, DOI, NMFS, USFWS, and USFS.

| <b>Agency/ Stakeholders</b>                              | <b>Name</b>                    | <b>Sent Via</b> | <b>Additional Info</b>      | <b>Telephone</b> | <b>Fax</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Senate Dist. B   | Senator Dennis Egan            | Fax             | session                     | 465-4947         | 465-2108   |
| House Dist. 3  | Representative Beth Kertula    | Fax             | session                     | 465-4766         | 465-4748   |
| House Dist. 4  | Representative Cathy Munoz     | Fax             | session                     | 465-3744         | 465-2273   |
| USCG (Sector Juneau)                                     | Lt. Latarsha McQueen           | Email           | Latarsha.s.mcqueen@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. Melissa Bert             | Email           | Melissa.bert@uscg.mil       | 463-2836         |            |
| USCG (Sector Juneau)                                     | MSTC James Highfill            | Email           | James.L.Highfill@uscg.mil   | 463-2461         |            |
| USDA Forest Service - Juneau Ranger District             | District Ranger Pete Griffin   | Email           | pgriffin@fs.fed.us          | 789-6244         | 586-8808   |
| USDA Forest Service - Tongass Env. Engineer              | Michele Marie Parker           | Email           | mmparker@fs.fed.us          | 772-5850         | 772-5896   |
| USDA Forest Service - Admiralty Island National Monument | District Ranger Marti Marshall | Email           | mmmarshall01@fs.fed.us      | 789-6202         |            |
| 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   |
| Douglas Indian Association                               | President Frank Miyasoto       | Fax             |                             | 364-2916         | 364-2917   |
| City and Borough of Juneau                               | Manager Bruce Botelho          | E-mail          | city_clerk@ci.juneau.ak.us  | 586-5240         | 586-5385   |



Map of the SS *Princess Kathleen* location.



Historical photo of the *Princess Kathleen* sinking.

Photo courtesy of Alaska State Library.

Alaska State Library - Historical Collections

ROV assessment operations.



18 1:28pm  
Photo by ADEC.