



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

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

## Kulluk Tow Incident

SITREP #: 5

SPILL #: 12249936201

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 6:30 p.m., January 2, 2013

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Shell Exploration and Production Company

**INCIDENT LOCATION:** The conical drilling unit (CDU) *Kulluk* grounded at a location between the north end of Ocean Bay and Partition Cove on Sitkalidak Island. The location of the grounded vessel is Lat 57° 5' 28.099N, Long 153° 6' 23.546W.

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The CDU *Kulluk* grounded at 8:48 p.m., December 31. No evidence of an oil spill was observed during over flights conducted on January 1 and 2. The *Kulluk* is upright and is not showing any signs of a breach of the hull. The tug *Aiviq* and the tug *Alert* lost their tow of the CDU *Kulluk* on December 31. The M/V *Aiviq* lost its tow shortly after 4:30 p.m. While the tug *Alert* was attempting to hold the *Kulluk* in place an engine warning system alerted crew of over taxing the engine and required the *Alert* to temporarily reduce power on the engine, which impacted the towing operation. The towline was released at approximately 8:10 p.m. due to safety concerns. The CDU *Kulluk* subsequently drifted and went aground at the above location.

**HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED:** At the time of the grounding, the CDU *Kulluk* was currently carrying 143,000 gallons of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel and 12,000 gallons of other petroleum products.

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** Over flights conducted on January 1 and 2 reported no visible signs of pollution or debris in the area of the grounding.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The CDU *Kulluk* went aground after the towlines between the vessel and the two tow vessels parted.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** Unknown at this time.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** The Unified Command continues to mobilize spill response and salvage equipment. The spill response contingency plan has been modified for the specific areas near the *Kulluk* and the plan is being updated daily. As a precaution, staging areas have been established in Anchorage, Kodiak and Seward. Spill responders remain mobilized and will be deployed as soon as conditions allow if necessary. There are currently over 600 people taking part in the response effort.

An assessment team was transported by helicopter to the *Kulluk* to evaluate the condition of the vessel and deliver one emergency towing system (ETS). A second ETS will be delivered when weather conditions improve.



The ETS is a pre-staged package of equipment that may be deployed in the event a disabled vessel requires assistance in towing to a place of refuge. The assessment team has returned to Kodiak and will report on the results of their assessment.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** The shorelines of Partition Cove on Sitkalidak Island are primarily comprised of mixed sand and gravel beaches. Several anadromous streams are also in the general area. There have been two locations identified where measures can be taken to protect two known salmon streams in the immediate area. Harbor seal concentrations are present in MacDonald Lagoon. Overwintering waterfowl, shorebirds, other bird species may be present. Steller's eiders are potentially present in the nearshore waters. Steller's eiders are an Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species. Partition Cove is within designated critical habitat for the ESA-listed Southwest sea otter population. Steller sea lions may be present in the area. Partition Cove is within designated critical habitat for the Steller sea lion.

Sea lions were spotted in the water in the vicinity of the Kulluk and goats were spotted on the adjacent uplands by the Kulluk assessment team.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Unified Command is now managing the salvage and potential spill response phase. Spill responders and equipment are currently mobilized and will implement spill response operations as soon as weather permits, if necessary. The salvage plan is being developed for implementation as soon as all equipment, personnel, weather and conditions of the *Kulluk* meet operational expectations.

**WEATHER:** Currently, SE winds 28 to 32 knots with gusts to 42 knots; seas 11 to 13 feet, with occasional wave heights of 18 feet. Tomorrow morning SE winds 10 to 17 knots, gusting to 22 knots, seas 6 – 9 feet, occasional wave heights of 12 feet.

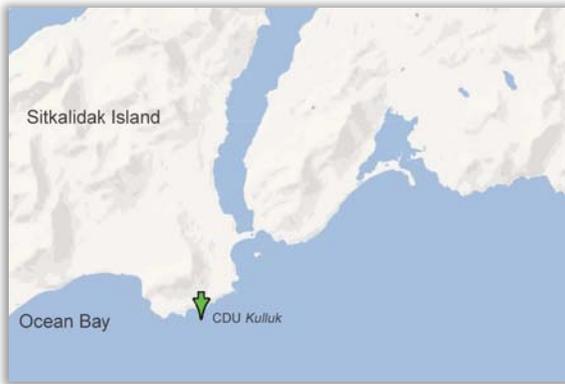
**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Sean Churchfield, Shell  
SOSC: Steve Russell, ADEC  
FOSC: Paul Mehler, USCG Sector Anchorage  
LOSC: Bud Cassidy, Kodiak Island Borough

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shannon Miller, Public Information Officer, (907) 269-7684 or Ty Keltner, Public Information Officer, ADEC (907) 388-8822. To contact the Joint Information Center, please call (907) 433-3417, or visit the following website for additional information:  
<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/aiviq> Or <https://www.piersystem.com/go/site/5507/>

**Location of the Grounded Vessel**



(Kulluk grounded at Sitkalidak Island Jan. 1, 2013 both photos by USCG)



**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:**

The following stakeholder list has been updated from the initial Sitrep distributed on December 30, 2012.

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
Shell	Sean Churchfield	Email	<a href="mailto:Sean.churchfield@shell.com">Sean.churchfield@shell.com</a>		
Shell	Curtis Smith	Email	<a href="mailto:curtis.smith@shell.com">curtis.smith@shell.com</a>	646-7182	
Shell	Cam Toohey	Email	<a href="mailto:Cam.toohey@shell.com">Cam.toohey@shell.com</a>		
Shell	Michelle Romak	Email	<a href="mailto:Michelle.D.Romak@shell.com">Michelle.D.Romak@shell.com</a>	771-7210	646.7135
Shell CMT Advisor	Drue Pearce	Email	<a href="mailto:DPearce@crowell.com">DPearce@crowell.com</a>		
ADEC	DEC-EH Seafood	Email	<a href="mailto:Mike.gentry@alaska.gov">Mike.gentry@alaska.gov</a>	269-7596	269-7510
ADNR	Clark Cox	Email	<a href="mailto:Clark.cox@alaska.gov">Clark.cox@alaska.gov</a>	269-8565	269-8913
ADF&G	Brad Dunker	Email	<a href="mailto:Bradley.dunker@alaska.gov">Bradley.dunker@alaska.gov</a>	267-2541	267-2499
USCG-MSO/KOD	USCG -Office	Fax		486-5918	487-5585
USCG-MSO/ANC	USCG- Office	Fax		271-6700	271-6751
US EPA	Bob Whittier	Fax	<a href="mailto:Whittier.robert@epa.gov">Whittier.robert@epa.gov</a>	271-1342	271-3424
PWS/RCAC	Mark Swanson	Fax	<a href="mailto:Mark.swanson@pwsrca.org">Mark.swanson@pwsrca.org</a>	834-5000	835-5926
CIRCAC	Mike Munger	Fax/Email	<a href="mailto:munger@circac.org">munger@circac.org</a>	283-7222	283-6102
City of Kodiak	City Manager	Fax		486-8636	486-8600
Kodiak Is. Borough	Borough Office	Fax		486-9310	486-9374
Ouzinkie Tribal Council	Council Office	Fax		680-2259	680-2214
City of Ouzinkie	Office	Fax	<a href="mailto:cityofouzinkie@ouzinkie.org">cityofouzinkie@ouzinkie.org</a>	680-2209	680-2223
Native Village of Port Lions	Office	Fax		454-2234	454-2434
City of Port Lions	Office	Fax	<a href="mailto:cityofportlions@hotmail.com">cityofportlions@hotmail.com</a>	454-2332	454-2420
Native Village of Karluk	Office	Fax		241-2218	241-2208
Afognak Native Corp.	Office	Fax		486-6014	486-2514
Koniag Inc.	Office	Fax	<a href="mailto:wanderson@koniag.com">wanderson@koniag.com</a>	486-2530 Anc: 561-2668	486-3325 Anc: 562-5258
Natives of Kodiak, Inc	Office	Fax		486-3606	486-2745
Shuyak, Inc.	Office	Fax		486-3842	486-5097
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak	Office	Fax		486-4449	486-3361
City of Larsen Bay	Office	Fax		847-2211	847-2239
Governor's Office	Jeffrey Jones	Email	<a href="mailto:Jeffrey.Jones@alaska.gov">Jeffrey.Jones@alaska.gov</a>		
City of Old Harbor		Email	<a href="mailto:cityofoldharbor@gmail.com">cityofoldharbor@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:oldharborcitycouncil@gmail.com">oldharborcitycouncil@gmail.com</a>		
Village of Old Harbor		Email	<a href="mailto:ohtribal@hotmail.com">ohtribal@hotmail.com</a>	286-2215	286-2277
Old Harbor Native Corporation		Email	<a href="mailto:info@oldharbor.org">info@oldharbor.org</a>	286-2286	286-2287
<b>Senate President</b>	Charlie Huggins	Email	<a href="mailto:Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us">Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us</a> Juneau Session	376-4866 465-3878	373-4724 465-3265
<b>House Speaker</b>	Mike Chenault	Email	<a href="mailto:Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us">Representative Mike Chenault@legis.state.ak.us</a> Juneau Session	283-7223 465-3779	283-7184 465-2833
<b>House 36/Kodiak</b>	Alan Austerman	Fax	Kodiak 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau Session	486-8872 465-2487	486-5264 465-4956
<b>Senate R/Kodiak</b>	Gary Stevens	Fax	Kodiak 5/16 - 1/09 Juneau Session	486-4925 465-4925	486-5264 465-3517