

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

SITUATION REPORT

INCIDENT NAME: RO/RO *Cougar Ace*

SITREP #: 2

SPILL NUMBER: 06259920501 - Potential Spill

LEDGER CODE: Requested

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: The Roll-on/Roll-off (RO/RO) *Cougar Ace* has been adrift since approximately 1:00 AM, July 24, 2006, when the ship attempted to adjust ballast and heeled over onto its port side. The vessel's status was reported to ADEC at 8:00 AM, July 24, 2006 by the USCG.

TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT: 12:00 PM July 31, 2006.

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

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: A small sheen (25-75 yards in length) of unknown substance has been seen near the bow. The vessel is carrying 142,184 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO) 380 and 34,182 gallons of Marine Diesel Oil (MDO). The vessel is reported to be carrying approximately 4813 vehicles as cargo.

LOCATION: The vessel position as of 8:00AM, July 31, 2006 was 50° 03.00 N, 171° 30.00 W. The vessel has been drifting in an easterly direction (Set 080°T @ 1.0 kts) and is approximately 140 miles south of the Aleutian island of Adia.

CAUSE OF SPILL: This is a potential spill only. All efforts are being made to salvage the vessel prior to further incident.

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Mitsui OSK Lines, Tokyo, Japan.

RESPONSE ACTIONS:

On July 29, 2006, the U.S. Coast Guard vessel *Morgenthau* and the tug *Emma Foss* arrived on scene. The *Morgenthau* relieved the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Rush* which had been on scene since July 25, 2006. Helicopter operations were conducted to assess condition of the vessel and get estimate of any discharge of fuel. Plans were examined for stabilizing and righting the *Cougar Ace*.

On July 30, 2006, the *Makushin Bay* arrived on scene with salvage master and team. Salvage personnel boarded the *Cougar Ace* from the stern but were unable to access the vessel. After returning to the *Makushin Bay*, the five salvage personnel with equipment were hoisted onto *Cougar Ace* by helicopter and basket-hoist from the *Morgenthau*. A vessel survey was conducted including the engine room, which showed no signs of flooding. Preliminary reports indicate that cargo of cars on deck # 9 are still secured to the deck and have not shifted. This free board deck is partially flooded. Cargo deck #1 showed no signs of water.

Contingency strategies have been identified, in the event of a discharge. The PRP has communicated with response organizations to confirm availability in order to provide nearshore and onshore response services, if needed.

An Incident Action Plan (IAP) has been approved by the Unified Command. This plan addresses overall incident objectives for this operational period.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time.

RESOURCES AFFECTED: Marine waters. No oiled wildlife has been observed.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue inspection of *Cougar Ace* cargo decks. Develop a salvage plan. The tug *Sea Victory* is proceeding to the scene to assist (ETA 2:00 PM August 1, 2006). The tug *Redeemer* is standing by in Dutch Harbor to transport equipment to the scene on completion of assessment. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Sycamore* will be arriving on scene today and will provide Spill Oil Recovery System (SORS) pollution response equipment.

WEATHER: Weather for Monday, July 31, 2006: Cloudy with patchy fog, highs in the mid 50s, West winds to 25 kts and seas to 7 feet.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL

F.O.S.C.: Capt. Mark DeVries (USCG)
S.O.S.C.: Gary Folley (ADEC)
R.P.I.C.: Theo Camlin (O'Brien's Group)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

ADEC: John Brown (907) 269-7688, cell: (907) 748-1639;
USCG: Anc. – Sara Francis (907) 271-2660.

For more information, see ADEC website:

http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy07/060728201/060728201_index.htm

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST

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

AGENCY	NAME	Sent Via		Telephone	Facsimile
USCG-Sector Anchorage	Captain DeVries	Fax		271-6700	271-6751
USEPA	Matt Carr	Fax		271-3616	271-3424
OTHER	NAME	Sent Via	Session/Interim	Telephone	Facsimile
Adak Port of Operations	Port Director	Fax		592-0185	592-0184
City of Adak		Fax		592-4513	592-4262
Native Village of Atka		Fax		839-2229	839-2269
Aleut Regional Native Corporation/ Anc office		Fax		561-4300	563-4328
DH Port Director	Alvin Osterback	Fax		581-1254	581-2519
Unalaska Mayor	Shirley Marquardt	Fax		581-1211	581-1695
House 38/Unalaska	Carl Moses	Fax	Anchorage 5/16 – 1/09 Juneau 1/10 - 5/15	269-0275 465-4451	269-0274 465-3445
Senate S/Bethel	Lyman Hoffman	Fax	Bethel/Juneau	465-4453	465-4523

Salvage team attempting to access Cougar Ace from stern. (USCG photo)

