

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** *M/V Cougar Ace*

**SITREP #:** 4

**SPILL NUMBER:** 06259920501

**LEDGER CODE:** 14203960

**TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT:** The *M/V Cougar Ace* has been adrift since approximately 11:00 PM on, July 23, 2006, when the crew attempted to adjust ballast and the vessel keeled over onto its port side. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) reported the vessel's status to ADEC at 8:00 AM on July 24, 2006.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 2:00 PM August 4, 2006. This and subsequent situation reports are being distributed to disseminate information on the vessel's status, incident management and salvage plans for the vessel.

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

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** A small sheen of what appeared to be lubricating oil has stopped from the vessel bow thruster area. The vessel is carrying a reported 142,184 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO) 380 and 34,182 gallons of Marine Diesel Oil (MDO) as estimated by the PRP. Former estimates did not account for fuel remaining in tanks prior to bunkering. The vessel is reported to be carrying approximately 4,813 vehicles as cargo.

**LOCATION:** The vessel location as of August 4, 2006 is 51°59 N, 169°49 W. The vessel is under tow by the tug *Sea Victory* and the present location is approximately 30 miles south of Samalga Pass.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The cause of sheen from the bow thruster area has not been determined. 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 August 2, 2006 at 2:00 PM the Unified Command gave permission for the tug *Sea Victory* with the *Cougar Ace* in tow to proceed in a Northerly direction toward Salmaga Pass. The intention is to bring the *M/V Cougar Ace* through the pass and maintain a safe course to avoid large swells from the Pacific Ocean. As large swells pose a risk to worker safety, and may result in vessel movement that may cause fatigue stresses on vehicle cargo lashings. Because of weather conditions salvage crew members were not able to gain access to the *M/V Cougar Ace* on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On August 3, 2006 at 1:00 PM salvage crew members were able to board the *Cougar Ace* by Coast Guard helicopter. An additional water pump and associated equipment was also transferred to the *Cougar Ace*.

During the morning of August 4, 2006 the tug *Sea Victory* is in the process of rigging a second independent towline in preparation of towing the *Cougar Ace* through Samalga Pass. In addition salvage personnel plan to get aboard the *Cougar Ace* to continue with the vessel survey.

Incident Management Team (IMT) is assembled at the Incident Command Post (ICP) in Anchorage. The IMT consists of the PRP Mitsui OSK Lines, Titan Salvage Representative, O'Brien's Group, Nippon Salvage, ADEC, ADNR, ADFG, USCG, DOI, NOAA and the USFWS.

The Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Morgenthau*, CGC *Sycamore*, *M/V Makushin Bay* with salvage assessment team and the tug *Emma Foss* remain on scene assisting the response. The tug *Gladiator* is expected to be on scene Sunday.

PRP has been in communications with Alaska Chadux, National Response Center, the Marine Spill Response Corporation, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Lynden Transport and CISPRI to confirm availability to provide near-shore, on-shore, and dispersant response services, if needed.

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

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

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** Continue to adjust the salvage, potential place of refuge, and transit plans as operational conditions warrant. Continue to support the salvage team by providing additional salvage equipment in preparation of dewatering car deck number 9 and add ballast to ballast tank number 5. Continue to complete operational period objectives per the Incident Action Plan.

**WEATHER:** Today southwest wind 20 knots, seas 7 ft. patchy fog. Tonight south wind 20 knots, seas 6 ft. patchy fog. Saturday east wind 20 knots, seas 6 ft, patchy fog. Sunday variable wind 15 knots becoming south wind 20 knots, seas 7 ft.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL**

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

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

ADEC: John Brown (907) 269-7688 and cell: (907) 748-1639  
USCG: Anc. – Sara Francis (907) 343-3175 or (907) 271-2660.

Photographs and other spill information are available for viewing at the following Unified Command website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/cougarace>

**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		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 Cooperation/ 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