

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 #: 7

SPILL NUMBER: 06259920501

LEDGER CODE: 14212360

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: The M/V *Cougar Ace* had 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 tug Emma Foss took the *Cougar Ace* in tow on July 31, 2006 at 11:00 PM. 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: 1:30 PM August 10, 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 was stopped from the vessel's bow thruster area on August 2, 2006. 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 10, 2006 is at Icicle Seafoods mooring bouy located in Wide Bay, Unalaska Bay at 53-57.2 N, 166.36.7 W.

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 Tuesday, August 8, 2006, the attending tugs brought the *Cougar Ace* to Wide Bay, Unalaska due to ballast water transfer safety concerns. The tugs assisted in securing the *Cougar Ace* to two Icicle Seafood mooring bouys on the bow and stern sections. The attending vessels on scene supporting salvage and pollution response contingency operations are: the tugs *Gladiator* and *Sea Victory*, *Makushin Bay*, *Kashega Barge*, *M/V Redeemer* and the *CGC Sycamore*.

On August 8, 2006 at 7 pm a public meeting with the Unalaska Mayor, residents and stakeholders was held at the City Council office. The USCG FOSC led a presentation on the salvage operation to bring the vessel upright supported by the ADEC SOSC, Commanding Officer USCGC MORGENTHAU, Salvage and Engineering Response Team (SERT), USCG Strike Team, Titan Maritime LLC and Magone Marine Service Inc.

On Wednesday, August 9, 2006 the command post was scaled down and moved to a board room at the Sheraton Hotel. Pumping operations by the salvage team were resumed to transfer cargo deck #9 water overboard. These salvage operations will be ongoing until the vessel is up righted in Wide Bay.

On Thursday, August 10, 2006 the vessel was reported to be at 57 degree list and securely moored at Icicle Seafood mooring bouys in Wide Bay. Salvors are attempting to rig discharge hoses closer to the waterline to decrease hydraulic head and increase pumping rate. The salvors were uncertain if the source of water on the cargo deck was ocean water or ballast tank overflow. To prevent the release of non-indigenous species into Unalaska Bay from water that may have been in the ballast tank, the water was treated with a bleach

solution prior to discharge.

Anchorage ICP will be demobilized today and UC has approved a transition plan for continued operations and stand by actions for the Cougar Ace incident. This plan includes the USCG Marine Safety Detachment, Salvage and Engineering Response Team (SERT) and Pacific Strike Team members remaining actively engaged in Dutch Harbor. The IMT will transition to standby mode. The Cougar Ace, through their ADEC approved Non-Tank Vessel Plan is prepared to deploy IMT and additional response personnel to Dutch Harbor in the event it is needed.

The State-On-Scene-Coordinator (SOSC), Federal-On-Scene-Coordinator (FOSC), USCG Engineering and Strike Team are in Dutch Harbor as part of the Unified Command's effort to work with the Mayor and City Council of Dutch Harbor. Public meetings will continue to be scheduled to keep the residents and stakeholder of the city updated and involved.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to support the salvage team by providing salvage equipment in preparation of controlled dewatering of car deck number 9. Keep the residents and stakeholder of the city updated and involved with the Unified Command through scheduled community meetings.

WEATHER: Current weather on scene: 51 degree F, 2 nautical mile visibility, winds from east at 2 kts, seas calm. Friday weather: W winds 20 kts, seas 3 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: Frank Wesser (907) 269-3062 and cell: (907) 244-4206.

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, 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 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
Ounalashka Corporation	CEO Wendy Svamy-Hawthorne	Fax		581-1276	581-1496
Quawalangin Tribal Council	Sharon Svamy-Livingston	Fax		581-2920	581-3644