

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 #: 8

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: 12:00 PM August 16, 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: Upon planned departure from Unalaska.

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. An undetermined amount of lubricant and transmission fluids spilled from the vehicles onto the cargo decks while the vessel was heeled over.

LOCATION: The vessel location as of August 16, 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 Sunday, August 13, 2006 the ballasting of tank #4S was completed and free water on # 9 deck port side, was pumped over the side.

On Tuesday, August 15, 2006, the USCG Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) in Dutch Harbor reported that the *Cougar Ace* is currently at 12 degrees and vessel stable. The owners, Mitsui OSK Lines, and Titan are conducting soundings of all tanks to verify the vessel stability in order for Titan, the contracted salvor, to return operation of the vessel to Mitsui OSK Lines.

The vessel's emergency generator is on line and the service generator is being considered for placing back on line once Titan releases the ship back to the owners. The owners plan to clean transmission fluid and lubricants from all the car decks and containerize the recovered fluids for proper disposal. MSD personnel reported that most decks suffered vehicle damage and all vehicles must be re-secured. MSD also reported the water, sewage systems, fire main and low pressure CO2 systems are inoperable and will be evaluated for repairs by the owner.

The Tugs *Sea Victory* and *Gladiator* remain standing by *Cougar Ace* on scene in Wide Bay with the *Makushin Bay*, *Kashega Barge* and the M/V *Redeemer* in port.

The salvage crew has boarded the *Cougar Ace* and recovered and organized all salvage equipment back onboard the *Makushin Bay* and *Redeemer*. This equipment will be kept on stand by at the dock for demobilization back to Titan's warehouse in Florida.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Maintain secure mooring lines of vessel to bouys. Complete inspection of vessel and conduct final stability calculations. Clean all cargo decks. Draft towing plan being reviewed by USCG for expected departure from Unalaska. Continue to update Unalaska city council daily.

WEATHER: Today: NW Winds 15 KT, Seas 4 FT, Patchy Fog. Tomorrow: Variable winds 10 KT, Seas 2 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 | | 581-1251 | 581-1417 |
| 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 Svarny-Hawthorne | Fax | | 581-1276 | 581-1496 |
| Quawalangin Tribal Council | Sharon Svarny-Livingston | Fax | | 581-2920 | 581-3644 |