



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 #: 13 and Final

SPILL #: 12249936201

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:00 PM, February 15, 2013

Potential Responsible Party (PRP): Shell Exploration and Production Company

INCIDENT LOCATION: The previously grounded conical drilling unit (CDU) *Kulluk* has been refloated and relocated to a place of refuge within Kiliuda Bay on Kodiak Island. The lifeboats from the CDU *Kulluk* grounded between the North end of Ocean Bay and Partition Cove on Sitkalidak Island.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: The CDU *Kulluk* grounded at 8:48 p.m., December 31, 2012. Approximately 316 gallons of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel was released from the tanks on board the life rafts sometime after the grounding. There continues to be no sign of leakage in the vicinity of the CDU *Kulluk*.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED: No spill has occurred directly from the CDU *Kulluk*. Four lifeboats and one rescue boat were swept from the CDU *Kulluk*, either while it was towed or when it grounded on Sitkalidak Island. The spill of fuel from the tanks on board the life rafts was confirmed on January 11, 2013 when teams checked the lifeboat tanks and determined the fuel had been released.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The CDU *Kulluk* is currently carrying 143,000 gallons of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel, one thousand gallons of jet fuel, and 12,000 gallons of other petroleum products. On the night of the grounding approximately 316 gallons of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel was released from the tanks on board the life rafts.

Cause of Spill: The CDU *Kulluk* went aground on December 31 when the towlines between the vessel and the tug *Alert* and tug *Aiviq* parted. The CDU *Kulluk* was refloated on January 6.

Source Control: Shell Exploration, working together with the Old Harbor Native Corporation, is developing and implementing plans to access the grounded lifeboats for their removal.

Response Action: The CDU *Kulluk* remains safely anchored in Kiliuda Bay at its assessment position. In addition to being anchored, the CDU *Kulluk* is also tethered to the M/V *Lauren Foss* and the M/V *Ocean Wave*. The vessel has been inspected by Det Norske Veritas and the Coast Guard for damage. It has been determined by these inspections that in its current condition the *Kulluk* does not pose a threat to the environment and can be safely relocated to Dutch Harbor, Alaska.



RESOURCES AFFECTED: The shorelines of Kiliuda bay are primarily comprised of mixed sand and gravel beaches. several salmon-bearing streams are located within Kiliuda bay. Based on discussions with stakeholders, Kiliuda bay appeared to be considered a less sensitive area than the other sites considered for places of refuge. No land based activities on the shoreline or uplands at Kiliuda bay are anticipated at this time. Waterfowl and sea ducks concentrate in sheltered waters and heads of bays and inlets. Shorebirds and other bird species may be present. Steller's eiders are potentially present in the nearshore waters. The Steller's eider is an endangered species act (esa)-listed species. Kiliuda bay is within designated critical habitat for the esa-listed Steller sea lion and the southwest sea otter population, both of which may be present in the area. Harbor seals are present in Kiliuda bay. Fin and humpback whales may be present in the bay.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The Unified Command of this incident has stood down. ADEC, Coast Guard and other agencies will monitor the progress of the Kulluk and assist Shell Exploration as needed. The *Kulluk* has been inspected and secured for towing to Dutch Harbor. This tow is expected to commence when weather conditions allow for safe passage. Plans are being finalized for the removal of any remaining fuel, batteries, and any other potential materials associated with the lifeboats, for cutting up and removing the lifeboats, and for removing other debris associated with the CDU *Kulluk* grounding. The debris removal plan, including the lifeboats dislodged from the CDU *Kulluk*, will be implemented at the beaches around the grounding site in the coming weeks.

WEATHER: Today: snow ending during the morning. Decreasing clouds in the afternoon. Temperatures steady in the mid to upper 20s. Northwest wind 15 to 30 mph. Local gusts to 45 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: Sean Churchfield, Shell
SOSC: Steven Russell, ADEC
FOSC: Paul Mehler, USCG
LOSC: Duane Dvorak, Kodiak Island Borough

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: None. This is the final situation report.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Russell, SOSC, ADEC (907) 262-3401, or visit the following websites:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/aiviq> or <https://www.piersystem.com/go/site/5507/>

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST:

Please refer to Sitrep 6 for the updated agency/stakeholder notification list. The link to that list can be found in the **Additional Information** box above.