



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention Preparedness and Response Program
SITUATION REPORT (SITREP)

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SITREPS ARE DENOTED IN RED

Tug *Powhatan* Sinking

SITREP #: 6 and Final

SPILL #: 17119910901

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 2:30 p.m. June 14, 2017

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Samson Tug & Barge

INCIDENT LOCATION: The Tug *Powhatan* sank at the Samson Tug & Barge (Samson) dock and moved 330 meters to the Northwest in Starrigavan Bay, approximately 7 miles north of Sitka. The tug moved from an initial depth of 15 meters to a depth of approximately 60 meters. The tug was located on the ocean bottom at 57° 07' 52.47" N, 135° 22' 48.58" W.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: April 19, 2017 at approximately 10:15 p.m.

HOW/WHEN SPILL WAS DISCOVERED AND REPORTED: The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Detachment Sitka reported the sinking through the National Response Center on April 19, 2017 at 10:15 p.m.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: Initial estimates provided to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) of 340 gallons of oil on board were in error. The amount of oil released is unknown.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The vessel sank at the dock; the cause for the sinking is currently being investigated.

SOURCE CONTROL: Alaska Commercial Divers (ACD) arrived the morning of April 25, 2017 on their vessel, the *Alaskan Salvor*. Divers from ACD were able to cap the two main fuel tank vents by 2:00 p.m. on April 25. Subsequent dives identified multiple locations where oil could escape the vessel. These locations were secured by capping and/or other means. The source was controlled when the *Powhatan* was removed from the water and placed on the KP-2 deck barge into secondary containment on June 12th.

RESPONSE ACTION: The Pollution Mitigation and Wreck Removal Plan submitted by Samson was reviewed and approved by the Unified Command. Samson contracted with ACD and Pacific Pile & Marine (Pacific Pile) to raise and dispose of the *Powhatan*. The wreck removal barge *Salvation* with a heavy lift crane, the KP-2 deck barge, and three assisting tugs, the *Carolyn H.*, the *Allison H.*, and the *Maia H.*, arrived on scene on June 3rd. SEAPRO deployed the Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) *Neka Bay* to the site on June 4th to provide backup during the wreck removal process. The *Neka Bay* is a Bay Class vessel with on-board skimming capabilities. The ADEC Southeast Region State On-Scene Coordinator was on site to monitor the wreck removal operation.

The wreck removal barge *Salvation* lifted the *Powhatan* to the water surface where it was dewatered using pumps, then lifted onto the KP-2 barge and secured. All wreck removal activities to raise the *Powhatan* occurred within the containment boom. During the wreck raising activities, some oil was released from the



Powhatan. This oil was contained and controlled using containment/deflection boom and sorbent material by SEAPRO personnel. Observations of on-water oil movement and containment efforts were monitored using drone overflight imagery. Observations were also conducted by Unified Command personnel onboard support vessels.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: There was the potential for exposure to marine wildlife, however no sea mammals were observed by response teams or reported. Deflection boom remained in place to protect against oil reaching Starrigavan Beach until all wreck removal operations were completed. ADEC and Polaris Applied Sciences completed a shoreline assessment using the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique on June 13th and no oil was observed in the study area with exception of unrecoverable weathered on-water sheening on the north side of the boat launch rip rap. This residual sheen is expected to rapidly naturally dissipate.

Special Note for Public Awareness:

Though unrelated to the *Powhatan* sinking, paralytic shellfish toxins have been identified at Starrigavan. Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research (SEATOR) has a sampling program in place which pre-dates the spill and recommends against the harvest of all molluscan shellfish at this location due to elevated levels of paralytic shellfish toxins. Updates and contact information are available on the SEATOR website (SEATOR.org).

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: The tug *Powhatan* is secured on the KP-2 deck barge and is expected to begin transit to Seattle for disposal later this week. Demobilization of assets and response resources used in the response is ongoing and expected to be completed by early next week. Final quantification of recovered oil is expected to be provided by Samson when available.

WEATHER: The National Weather Service Forecast for Lisianski Point calls for cloudy weather with rain likely on Wednesday June 14th. The high temperature is expected to be 56°F with northeast winds of 5 to 10 mph. Rain is expected for Wednesday night with east winds of 5 to 10 mph. The low temperature is expected to be 45°F. The forecast for Thursday June 15th calls for cloudy weather with a high near 50°F and scattered showers. North winds of 5 to 10 mph are expected.

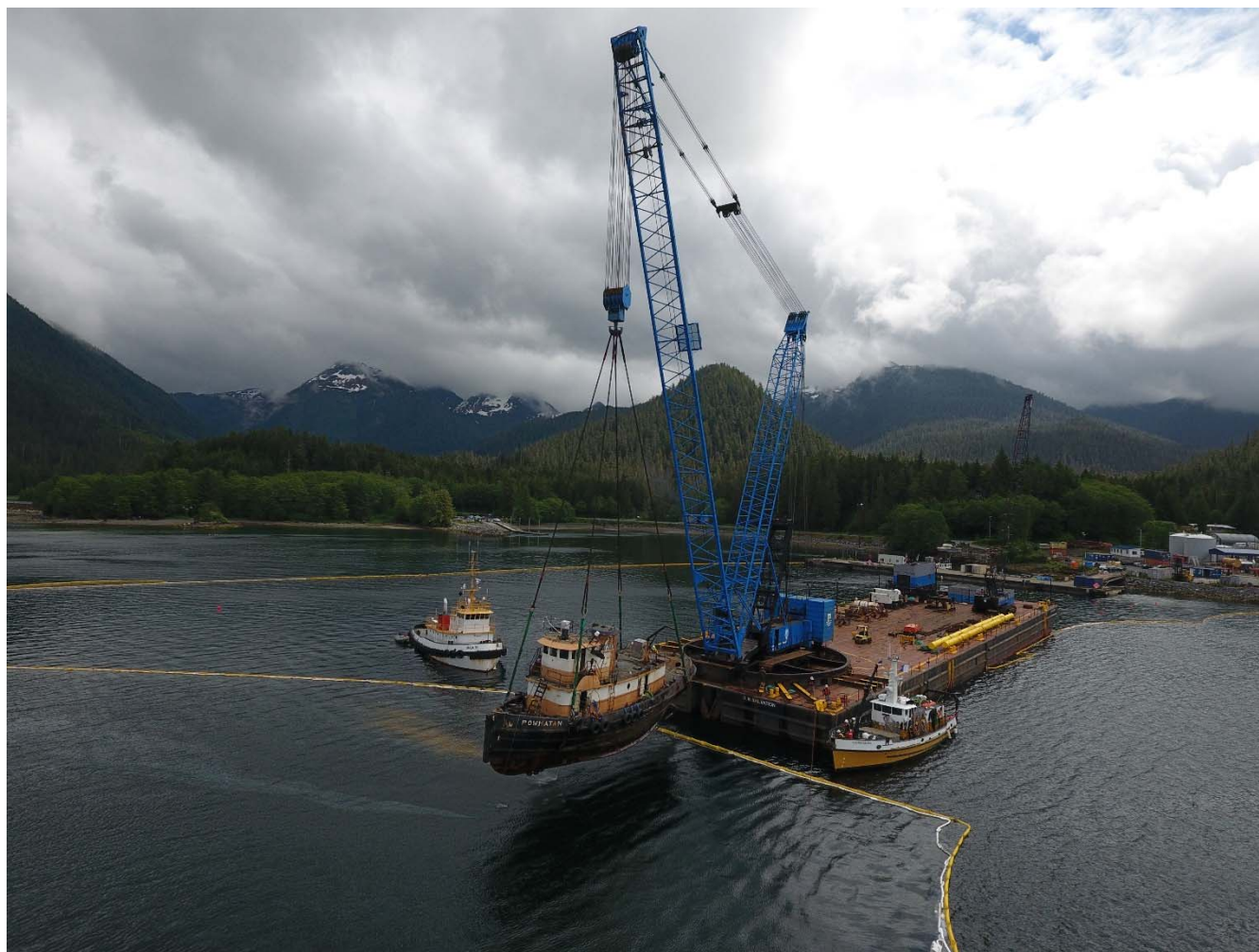
UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: George Baggen, Samson Tug & Barge
SOSC: Bob Mattson, ADEC
DSOSC: David Pikul, ADEC
FOSC: Captain Shannan Greene
FOSCR: PO Ken Farah

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: This is the final report.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: David Pikul, Southeast Region Unit Supervisor,
ADEC (907)465-5234

http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/response/sum_fy17/170419101/170419101_index.htm



The crane on board the barge *Salvation* lifting the tug *Powhatan*, with the *Alaskan Salvor* and the *Maia H.* standing by. Photo credit: Samson Tug & Barge, June 12, 2017.



The *Powhatan* secured onboard the KP-2 deck barge. Photo credit: Samson Tug & Barge, June 12, 2017.

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: Please refer to the first SITREP, distributed April 21, 2017 for the agency/stakeholder notification list. The first SITREP can be found by following the link in the **Additional Information** box above.