

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

**SITUATION REPORT**

**INCIDENT NAME:** MV Blue Star Grounding

**SITREP #:** 1

**SPILL NUMBER:** 04119928301

**LEDGER CODE:** 14150860

**TIME/DATE OF SPILL:** The vessel grounded at approximately 4:00 PM, October 7, 2004. ADEC was notified of the grounding by the USCG via the AST spill report dispatch at 11:20 AM, October 9, 2004.

**TIME/DATE OF SITUATION REPORT:** 4:30 PM, October 10, 2004.

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

**TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED:** The owner estimates that 1000 gallons of diesel fuel was onboard the vessel and believes that all the fuel was released. There were also two 55-gallon drums of gasoline and ten 1-gallon containers of lube oil on board the vessel which the owner moved to the beach, and 6 gallons of lube oil in the two engines.

**LOCATION:** The NE side of Sugarloaf Island at the entrance to Dixon Harbor on the outer coast between Cape Spencer and Icy Point. The site is within the boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.

**CAUSE OF SPILL:** The owner noticed the vessel was taking on water and intentionally put the vessel aground in a small, protected cove to keep the vessel from sinking.

**POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP):** Mr. Wayde Sharpe, King Cove, Alaska.

**RESPONSE ACTION:** Mr. Sharpe and a deckhand abandoned the vessel after the grounding. They were able to remove two drums of gasoline and ten gallons of lube oil from the vessel to the beach but did not plug the fuel tank vents at the stern of the vessel. They remained at the site until the vessel's EPRB was activated and the USCG dispatched a rescue helicopter from Air Station Sitka on Saturday morning, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The helicopter located the two men and flew them to Sitka. There were no reported injuries to the two men.

ADEC and the USCG have established a Unified Command to respond to this incident in close coordination with the National Park Service (NPS).

The USCG made an overflight of the site between 3:30 PM and 4:00 PM on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The overflight showed the vessel to be grounded in a small cove on the NE side of Sugarloaf Island. There were rainbow sheens radiating out from the vessel which extended along the shore of the island and offshore approximately 1 mile into Dixon Harbor and out into the Gulf of Alaska. The NPS made an overflight this morning near the high tide and found that while the stern of the vessel was submerged, there was only a very light sheen in the tiny cove and no sheens at all outside of the cove. This observation indicates that there is no longer an active release of oil from the vessel.

**SOURCE CONTROL:** There was no source control action taken. The vessel was put on the beach but the vents were not plugged.

**RESOURCES AFFECTED:** No wildlife have been observed in the area of the spill and none are believed impacted at this time. The site is on the outer coast and is open to the Gulf of Alaska. The shoreline is characterized as exposed rocky shores, cliffs, and wave cut platforms.

**FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** ADEC, USCG, and NPS have agreed that whatever oil may remain on the vessel poses no immediate threat to the environment. The agencies will monitor the vessel while allowing the owner to formulate plans to either remove any remaining oil from the vessel or remove the vessel from the water. An overflight will be made on October 11<sup>th</sup> to monitor the status of the vessel and of any further pollution.

**WEATHER:** A small craft advisory has been issued for the area today with SE winds forecasted 15 knots becoming E to 30 knots tonight and seas building to 11 feet. Tomorrow's forecast is mostly cloudy with NW winds at 30 knots and seas at 11 feet.

**UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:**

Incident Commander: Mr. Wayde Sharpe  
 F.O.S.C.: Cdr. John Sifling  
 S.O.S.C.: Bob Mattson

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:** Les Leatherberry, ADEC at 465-5346. Photographs and other spill information will be made available for viewing at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/index.htm>

**AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST**

Agency	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
ADF&G	Mark Fink	Email	Sent via SITREP list	267-2338	267-2464
ADNR	Doug Sanvik	Email	Sent via SITREP list	465-3400	465-3513
USCG (MSO Juneau)	CDR John Sifling	Email	<a href="mailto:jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil">jsifling@cgalaska.uscg.mil</a>	463-2453	463-2445
USCG (MSO Juneau)	Lt. Gary Koehler	Email	<a href="mailto:gkoehler@cgalaska.uscg.mil">gkoehler@cgalaska.uscg.mil</a>	463-2470	463-2445
EPA	Matt Carr	Email	Sent via SITREP list	271-3616	271-3424
NMFS	Jon Kurland	Email	<a href="mailto:Jon.kurland@noaa.gov">Jon.kurland@noaa.gov</a>	586-7638	586-7358
Other	Name	Sent Via	Additional Info	Telephone	Fax
Senate/ Dist. C	Georgianna Lincoln	Fax	Session: Interim:	465-3732 888-461-3732	465-2652 465-2652
House/ Dist. 5	Albert Kookesh	Fax	Session: Interim:	465-3473 788-3501	465-2827 788-3176
City & Borough of Yakutat Mayor	Victoria Demmert	Email	Email: C/O <a href="mailto:bmanager@ptialaska.net">bmanager@ptialaska.net</a>	784-3323	784-3281
Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	Bert Adams Sr.	Fax		784-3238	784-3595
SEAPRO	Dave Owings	Email	Sent via SITREP list	225-7002	247-1117



MV Blue Star with rainbow sheens moving offshore. Saturday, October 9, 2004. USCG Photo.



MV Blue Star with no sheening from the vessel. Sunday, October 10, 2004. National Park Service Photo.