

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 #: 5

SPILL NUMBER: 06259920501

LEDGER CODE: 14203960

TIME/DATE OF INCIDENT: The M/V *Cougar Ace* has 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 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 7, 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 has stopped from the vessel's bow thruster area. 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 7, 2006 is 53°39 N, 167°30 W. The vessel is under tow by the tug *Sea Victory* and the present location is approximately 13 miles northeast of Umnak Island.

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 the afternoon of August 5, 2006 the *Cougar Ace*, being towed by the tug *Sea Victory* safely completed their passage through Samalga Pass.

On August 6, 2006 the *Sea Victory* continued to tow the *Cougar Ace* in a northeast direction to 13 nautical miles northeast of Umnak Island. The towing operation continues to be accompanied by the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Morgenthau*, CGC *Sycamore*, M/V *Makushin Bay*, M/V *Redeemer*, tug *Gladiator*, tug *Emma Foss*, and the salvage teams.

During the morning hours of August 7, salvage crews boarded the *Cougar Ace* to start the transfer of water from car deck number 9 over the side and into ballast tank number 5 starboard.

Incident Management Team (IMT) is assembled at the Incident Command Post (ICP) in Anchorage. The IMT consists of the PRP Mitsui OSK Lines, Titan Salvage Representative, O'Brien's Group, Nippon Salvage, ADEC, ADNR, ADFG, USCG, DOI, NOAA and the USFWS.

PRP has been in communications with Alaska Chadux, PENCO, National Response Center, the Marine Spill Response Corporation, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Lynden Transport and CISPRI to confirm availability to provide near-shore, on-shore, and dispersant response services, if needed.

SOURCE CONTROL: None at this time.

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

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to stay in semi-protected waters to maintain the salvage operations. Continue to support the salvage team by providing salvage equipment in preparation of dewatering car deck number 9 and add ballast to ballast tank number 5. Develop a plan to move the Unified Command to Unalaska. Develop a demobilization plan for resources not needed. Continue to complete operational period objectives per the Incident Action Plan.

WEATHER: Today south wind 15 knots, seas 6 ft. patchy fog. Tonight south wind 25 knots, seas 8 ft. rain; Tuesday, southwest wind 25 knots, seas 7 ft, rain showers; Wednesday southwest wind 25 knots, seas 8 ft.; Thursday and Friday west wind 25 knots, seas 9 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: John Brown (907) 269-7688 and cell: (907) 748-1639
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, ADNR, 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