# ecylogo-horiz-color.pngMeeting Minutes

**Resource Damage Assessment Committee (RDA)  
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, June 14, 2023  
**Zoom and Ecology HQ Room R0A-05**

Call to Order: 9:05 AM

Introduction and Agenda Review

Approval of Minutes: 9:14

* Motion to approve meeting minutes for the May 10, 2023, RDA Committee Meeting passed.

Adjournment: 9:47 AM

## Attendees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Entity | Representative |
| RDA Committee, Chair Washington State Department of Ecology | Geoff Baran |
| RDA Committee, Executive Director Washington State Department of Ecology | Josh Weide |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | Rob Whitlam |
| RDA Committee  Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | Don Noviello |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Natural Resources | Shayne Cothern |
| RDA Committee Washington State Department of Health | Mark Toy |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service | Michael Carlson |
| Yakima Nation Fisheries | Natalie Swan |
| Suquamish Tribe Office of Emergency Management | Eric Quitslund |
| NOAA Office of Response and Restoration | Marla Steinhoff |
| Washington Department of Ecology | Krystal Rodriguez |
| Ecology Spill Response – State On-Scene Coordinator | Laura Montelione |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | Travis Washburn |

## Minutes

### New Business

#### Preassessment Screenings:

##### ERTS #721193 P/C *South Sound* Fire and Diesel Spill

* Incident Summary:  
  On May 13, 2023, the 35-foot P/C SOUTH SOUND departed from the Duwamish Yacht Club with approximately 300 gallons of red-dye diesel on board. The vessel traveled to the Shoreline area before turning around and heading back to the yacht club. With a burn rate of 6 gallons per hour, an estimated 25 gallons of diesel was used in transit. On the Duwamish River, around 300 yards from the club, the vessel's electrical panel caught fire. Unable to extinguish the fire, all five occupants were forced to abandon ship, which grounded on a tidally influenced area of the Duwamish shoreline. Ecology responders arrived at 5:35 p.m. and observed the burned and damaged vessel completely out of the water on its starboard side. While it appeared that a large amount of diesel burned up during the fire, diesel was seen leaking from a fuel tank at the stern and pooling in the vessel. As the starboard side was damaged, diesel was seen spilling onto the sandy/muddy shore. TowBoat US arrived shortly after Ecology and assisted in deploying sorbent soft boom and pads and in plugging the hole in the starboard side. Global Diving was subcontracted by TowBoat US and arrived around 8:00 p.m. Global Diving pumped 75 gallons of diesel out of the vessel and deployed additional soft boom and sweep around the vessel while a salvage plan was developed. TowBoat US continued to monitor the vessel and replace boom and pads as needed until May 22, when the vessel was removed from the water. Ecology continues to investigate how much of the diesel was recovered by sorbents and how much may have burned off, resulting in an early estimated amount spilled to water at 50-150 gallons.
* Laura added that there had been reports of sheen at the time the vessel was on fire, but that there is no photographic evidence to determine how much. She also added that while the vessel grounded and was assessed at low tide, it was completely submerged during the incoming ten-foot high tide. At that point, the fuel had been removed by Global Diving, but residual oils continued to cause some minor sheen.
* Shayne asked if the vessel has been removed. Laura noted that the vessel was successfully removed a few days later (on May 22).
* Preassessment Screening:
  + Are the damages quantifiable at a reasonable cost? 5 no.
  + Is restoration or enhancement technically feasible? 5 no.
  + Compensation schedule authorized to calculate damages.

### Other Business

#### Open Case Updates:

* ERTS #720988 Tug *Tulalip* Sinking and Spill
  + Investigation under review, may be under 25-gallon spill threshold.

### Announcements

* 2023 Coastal Protection Fund Grant evaluations completed.
  + Evaluators meeting this afternoon, resulting awards will be shared in July.
* Ecology IT continues to develop automated damages calculation.
  + Currently focusing on freshwater vulnerability data.
  + Geoff and Josh will continue working with fellow committee member agencies to compile data.
  + Drafted automated model will be shared with the committee once completed.
* Next meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 9:00am via Zoom and in person at Ecology HQ in room R0A-32.
* Don Noviello shared updates to the 2012 F/V *Deep Sea* NRDA Claim (with some background):
  + Fishing vessel at Penn Cove caught fire and sank, releasing over 7,000 gal of fuel.
  + Impacts to recreational shellfish beds.
  + Due to fishery closure, WDFW was heavily involved.
  + Owner was unable to pay any compensation schedule damage claim.
  + WDFW study performed from claim submitted to National Pollution Funds Center.
  + Collected records on shellfish harvest hours and trips resulting in a $97,722 claim.
  + WDFW provided with a $100,000 grant.
  + Added extra shellfish planting to Penn Cove beaches.
  + Plantings in 2019 and 2020 impacted by invasive green crabs.
  + Final two years of planting in Wolfe State Park.
  + Planted 2,000 bags of oyster seed, 250 oysters per bag – 1.5 mil harvestable oysters.
  + Final report submitted to NPFC on May 30.
  + Received official “case closed” letter on June 6.
  + Don will send the report out to interested parties.
* Mark Toy announced that he will be retiring on August 31 – Thanks for everything Mark!
  + Replacement pending…