

PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

ERTS# 720054

Date of Incident: 01/08/2023

Potential Liable Party: Mark Waters

Product Spilled: Gasoline

Spill Source: Recreational Vessel

Oil Spill Size Estimate: 1 Gallon

Water Body Affected: Willapa Bay

Ecology Region: SWRO

County: Pacific

Nearest City: Tokeland

Location of Spill: Willapa Bay

Cause: Human Error

Ecology Responder: Anthony Foote

Incident Summary: On January 8th, 2023, a 20-foot aluminum vessel capsized and sank in Willapa Bay after its propeller became entangled in a crab pot line. The crab pot was stuck firmly on the floor and pulled the vessel as it maneuvered, causing it to capsize. Ecology responders met with the vessel owner on January 9th and observed the bow of the vessel bobbing where it originally sank. Recovery of the vessel was planned for January 11th, however, at some point after Ecology's visit, the vessel drifted and completely sank at an unknown location. Responders returned on January 11th to observe as the contracted salvage company, Associated Underwater Services, attempted to locate the vessel for recovery with no success. Due to its current unknown location, the vessel is now considered unrecoverable. The vessel owner stated that the 35-gallon tank was between 1/2 to 3/4 full. Although no sheen was observed at the time of the sinking or at any time thereafter, Ecology assumes an estimated 17 to 26 gallons of gasoline spilled from the vessel to Willapa Bay.