

PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

ERTS# 730638

Date of Incident: 05/03/2024

Potential Liable Party: Steven Zidell

Product Spilled: Diesel/Marine Gas Oil, Sheen

Spill Source: Chief Joseph (Fishing Vessel)

Oil Spill Size Estimate: 10 Gallons

Water Body Affected: Haro Strait

Ecology Region: NWRO

County: San Juan

Nearest City: Roche Harbor

Location of Spill: Roche Harbor

Cause: Human Error

Ecology Responder: Madeline Fritzen

Incident Summary: On the morning of May 3, 2024, the 48-ft F/V Chief Joseph was transiting Haro Strait en route to Port Angeles when it ran aground just offshore of Henry Island. The only occupants were the owner/captain and his dog, who escaped the sinking vessel aboard a life raft and were rescued by the US Coast Guard. Ecology Responders participated in multiple fixed-wing overflights of the area and documented patches of unrecoverable silver sheen 50 yards from the shoreline and near the sinking site. The captain estimated that between 250 to 275 gallons of diesel were in the 800-gal fuel tanks. Ecology's investigation into the vessel's fuel consumption confirmed that there was likely between 146 to 275 gallons at the time of sinking. The USCG contracted Global Diving and Salvage to remove any remaining oil in the fuel tanks and recover the vessel. Global Diving reported the collection of 1,400 gallons of oil-water mix, which consisted of mostly diesel. However, the quantity of diesel was not well documented and an estimate of fuel released to the environment was based on the size of the observed sheen over multiple days. This estimate was calculated to be approximately 5.7 gallons, not taking evaporation into account. After considering evaporation, Ecology estimates that the spill was likely in the range of 10 gallons of diesel oil and/or lube oil. The Chief Joseph was lifted from the water by a crane barge on May 10 and turned over to DNR for disposal.