

PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

ERTS# 730781

Date of Incident: 05/10/2024

Potential Liable Party: Mel Kolstad

Product Spilled: Diesel/Marine Gas Oil

Spill Source: 36' Prairie Trawler (fiberglass hull) (Recreational Vessel)

Oil Spill Size Estimate: 0 Gallons

Water Body Affected: Sandy Point Marina

Ecology Region: NWRO

County: Whatcom

Nearest City: Ferndale

Location of Spill: Sandy Point Peninsula

Cause: Unknown

Ecology Responder: Madeline Fritzen

Incident Summary: On May 10, 2024, Ecology received a report of a 36-foot recreational vessel fire and sinking at Sandy Point Peninsula in Ferndale. Ecology and US Coast Guard Responders found the vessel almost completely submerged with red-dye diesel actively bubbling out of the tanks. The Lummi Nation (as well as a private citizen) deployed a drone to observe the extent of the resulting sheen and determined that the it was unrecoverable with no shoreline impacts. A Phillips 66 response team deployed 200 feet of hard boom around the vessel and placed sweep while Ecology Responders placed additional sorbents. The vessel owner reported that an estimated 300 gallons of diesel had been aboard. The vessel owner also worked with his insurance to hire Republic Services for pollution removal and vessel salvage, who in turn contracted Crux Diving to assess and refloat the vessel. Republic Services reported the recovery of about 52 gallons of diesel from the fuel tanks, which the fire had compromised. Not taking into account any fuel that may have burned off during the fire, an estimated 248 gallons were spilled to the environment, with an estimated 30 gallons recovered by sorbents. However, responder observations, in addition to drone imagery, suggest that the unrecoverable, patchy, silver sheen may not reflect a spill of 200 gallons and Ecology continues to investigate. The vessel was successfully raised on May 11 and hauled out at the Santy Point Marina boat launch on May 12.

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