

## PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

**ERTS#** 731892

**Date of Incident:** 06/30/2024

**Potential Liable Party:** Bay Delta Maritime

**Product Spilled:** Diesel Low Sulphur

**Spill Source:** DELTA CATHRYN (Tug)

**Oil Spill Size Estimate:** 43 Gallons

**Water Body Affected:** Columbia River

**Ecology Region:** SWRO

**County:** Cowlitz

**Nearest City:** Unknown

**Location of Spill:** Near Columbia City, OR

**Cause:** Judgment, Mechanical Failure

**Ecology Responder:** Josh Coulter

**Incident Summary:** On 6/30/24 Ecology received a report of a diesel spill to the Columbia River from the tug Delta Cathryn. The previous day, the Delta Cathryn received 30,000 gallons of fuel in anticipation of towing a new barge from Portland to California. While underway, at river mile 82.5, the Delta Cathryn Chief Engineer (CE) was transferring fuel to the day tank from fuel storage tank. According to the CE, he noticed the level indicator on the settling tank was not changing as expected as the diesel level in the tank rose, so the fuel pump was shut off. After some time, the CE resumed the transfer to determine if the level indicator would work, but once again, it did not and he halted the transfer. After another indeterminate period of time, the CE attempted the transfer once more, assuming that the high-level alarm would sound. Instead, a crew member gave the "all stop" signal and notified the CE of the spill to the deck. The day tank had overflowed containment and diesel had flowed across the deck and into the Columbia River creating a 300 foot by 50 foot sheen. Based on the transfer rate and size of the containment before the fuel spilled to the deck, Ecology estimates that approximately 43 gallons of diesel entered the Columbia River. The Delta Cathryn contracted US Ecology/Republic Services to provide cleanup of the river and the Delta Cathryn docked in Rainier for cleanup of the vessel.