



Liaison Update #31, American Challenger Response

UPDATE: 12/03/2021

OES #21-1217

The Unified Command (UC) including the Office of Spill Prevention and Response, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Marin County, and the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary continues to engage in the ongoing response to the 90-foot vessel that has been grounded within the rocky shoreline north of Dillon Beach in Marin County since March 5.

Since the last update, operations have run into many days that were delayed due to the weather and sea state conditions. Contractors were eventually able to board the vessel with the intent to remove any hazardous materials and replace saturated sorbent boom. There were areas that were not accessible to the contractors. During this boarding, debris from the vessel was noticed along the seashore. The UC will make plans to address this debris.

Since this boarding has taken place, it was determined that the sea state has moved the vessel, listing it to a degree angle that is now considered unsafe to board. Any remaining hazards will be addressed once the destruction plan is approved. Due to current conditions, continued operations may have to wait until the spring when conditions become more favorable. The response will continue to monitor the vessel with electronic surveillance as well as periodic in person visits. At this time, the Destruction plan being routed to the USCG commandant, is not yet approved.

The next Liaison Update will be sent when operations resume or if there are new developments to report. If you have any questions, please direct them to the email address below.

Thank you,

Liaison Officer
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
OSPRLiaison@wildlife.ca.gov