FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -
10:50 p.m., July 10

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Roche Harbor pleasure craft sinks, spilled fuel pumped from containment

SAN JUAN ISLAND – An 85-foot pleasure craft carrying reportedly up to 1,600 gallons of diesel fuel has sunk in Roche Harbor following a fire aboard the vessel Wednesday afternoon. The fire has been put out.

Spilled fuel is being collected from containment with oil absorbent materials, report responders with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). Efforts are being made to pump the remaining fuel from the vessel’s tanks. The responsible party has contracted with Global Diving to salvage the vessel and remove the fuel.

The Roche Harbor Marina deployed an oil spill containment boom in the marina as a precaution when the fire broke out. Islands’ Oil Spill Association (IOSA), a local spill response contractor, also deployed boom in accordance to a predetermined local geographic response plan.

Ecology is coordinating its response with local fire, law enforcement, emergency management agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Cause of the fire is under investigation.