



# Spill Update

## Songa Hua Elliott Bay Spill

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 1, 2007**

Contact:

Lt. Cmdr. Rick Rodriguez, U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs: 206-217-6002

Larry Altose, Department of Ecology public information, 425-649-7009

### Spill Status Report as of Noon

**Date of spill:** February 28, 2007

**Location:** Approximately one-half mile south of Pier 91 in Elliott Bay, Seattle, Wash.

**Type of oil:** Intermediate Fuel Oil (powers large marine engines)

**Amount of oil: All figures are preliminary estimates:** 168 gallons total released onto the ship's deck, at least 42 of which spilled into the water.

**Responsible Party:** Bulk carrier Songa Hua

**Cause or source of the spill:** Cause under investigation. Fuel spilled from Songa Hua's starboard tank vent during refueling from a fuel barge. The barge crew immediately stopped the fuel transfer and later deployed 2,000 feet of containment boom.

#### Vessels involved:

- Songa Hua, a Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier anchored off Terminal 86, awaiting a load of grain. Home port: Majuro, Marshall Islands.
- Tug Alyssa and a fuel barge, both from Olympic Tug and Barge, delivering fuel to the Songa Hua.

### Spill Response Status

**Status of oil slick:** An aerial inspection of the spill site and surrounding area on the morning of March 1 showed no oil remaining on the water from the Songa Hua spill. At time of the spill most of the oil was carried by wind into the Smith Cove area, between the Elliott Bay Marina bulkhead and Pier 91. Skimmers collected oil in this area until no more could be recovered from the surface on Feb. 28.

**Boom deployed:** 7,000 feet, to contain residual oil pier pilings and breakwater rocks.

**Response vessels deployed:** Six, including one skimmer on standby and various work boats.

**Response personnel:** 32 in the field, 10 at command post.

**Affected facilities cleanup:**

- Eastern reach of Elliott Bay Marina bulkhead: Crews are tending pom-pom boom, which catches oil released from the rip-rap (boulders) by rising tides. Crews also may wipe down the rip-rap.
- Pier 91 pilings: Workers are wiping down the pilings with oil-absorbent pads.
- Songa Hua hull: Workers are wiping down the area where the oil overflowed and ran down the side of the hull. Completion is expected today.

**Oiled birds and animals:** None reported

**Other resources:** A nearby tribal fish-rearing net pen was inspected and found to have no oil contamination.

**Injuries:** None reported

**Organizations involved:** U.S. Coast Guard, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington State Maritime Cooperative, Port of Seattle, King County Sheriff's Office, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Ship owner's representative.

###