

## Deep River derelict barge spill Joint Information Center Established

*Joint Information Center*



# News Release 1

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### **Deep River derelict barge spill unified command established** ***Barge removal operations to begin on Washington River this week***

A Unified Command consisting of Federal and State responders has been established to respond to a spill from an abandoned barge on the Deep River in Rosburg, Washington.

A concerned citizen alerted Washington Department of Ecology personnel to stranded black oil in the vegetation on the shore next to the derelict barge on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

Responders immediately surrounded the barge with hard boom to contain any spilled oil, and crews used plastic sheeting to stop water from entering the hull. Weathered sheen and patches of oil are still being observed within the boomed area and are being collected with absorbent material. The barge is approximately 15 feet by 40 feet and was reportedly holding nearly 1,600 gallons of a mixture of diesel and lube oil. To date, over 1,500 gallons of oily water waste has been removed from the barge, with an estimated 1,155 gallons of oily sludge remaining.

Pollution responders from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Columbia River, in Warrenton, Oregon and Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) have formed a Unified Command and in coordination with the USCG Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will continue to clean-up of the area and remove the barge from the water this month.

To prepare for the barge removal, WDFW will close the Oneida Water Access Area, including the boat launch and parking lot, starting Wednesday, December 8, 2021. The area will be closed for up to three weeks during removal operations.

Additionally, Unified Command members are coordinating with the WDNR Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) for assistance with final disposal of the barge. Plans are also being established to clean-up impacted debris and vegetation along the shoreline, as well as assess any potential impacts to the sediment from sinking or submerged oil.

A virtual Joint Information Center has been established to disseminate response information.

A website with incident response information can be found at the following [Incident Webpage](#), [@USCGPacificNW](#), and [@ecysw](#) on Twitter. Ecology and the USCG will post periodic tweets to their Twitter accounts to keep the public informed.

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