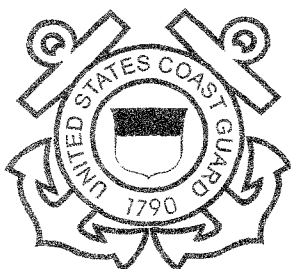


Harbor Safety Committee Report

October–November 2008



USCG Sector Seattle

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PORT SAFETY: Significant Incidents

	LAST PERIOD		THIS PERIOD		NET CHANGE BTWN PERIODS
	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	
Total Port Safety Incidents	29	8	23	7	(7)
Fire/Flooding	0	0	2	1	3
Propulsion casualties	8	4	4	2	(6)
Steering casualties	1	0	3	1	3
Groundings	2	0	1	0	(1)
Sinkings	0	0	0	0	0
Collisions/Allisions	5	0	2	0	(3)
Deaths	2	0	1	0	(1)
Injury Cases	11	4	10	3	(2)
Vessel Traffic Center Actions	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	NET CHANGE
Interventions	3	0	2	3	2
Near Misses	0	0	1	1	2
Anchorage Issues	1	1	1	3	2
Fishing Net Issues	1	3	1	1	(2)
Obstructions/Haz to Nav					
<i>by barge</i>	0	0	0	1	1
<i>by other</i>	0	5	1	0	(4)
Abandoned Vessels	0	1	0	0	(1)
Pollution Incidents	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	NET CHANGE
No. of Incidents	70		91		21
Gallons Spilled	121		75		(46)
Safety and Security	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	NET CHANGE
Safety/Security Zones	3	1	1	1	(2)

Vessel Transit Statistics

Vessel Type	Transits Aug – Sept 2008	Transits Oct – Nov 2008
Other	271	550
Public	223	283
Tanker (Includes ITB)	87	78
Freighter	611	676
Tug/Tow (Includes ATBs)	2815	3219
Ferry/Harbor Excursion	34462	33751
Total	38469	38557

PORT SAFETY INCIDENTS:

05 Oct-16 Nov 08

Location: Seattle

Involved Parties: USCG, Seattle Fire Department, Customs and Boarder Patrol (CPB), Terminal 5

Issue: Foreign container vessel suffered cargo hold fire while transiting from Hong Kong to Seattle.

Actions Taken: Sector Seattle and Seattle FD boarded the vessel in Port Angeles to assess seaworthiness of the vessel and status of the fire and affected cargo hold. A Unified Command was stood up and the decision was made to allow the vessel to berth at T5. Seattle FD pre-staged assets and the containers believed to be the origin of the fire, were safely offloaded. Efforts of all involved prevented the situation from worsening, ensured the vessel was safe to proceed to sea, and minimized the impact on the vessel and facility's ability to conduct trade.

Further Actions/Comments: None.

18-20 Oct 08

Location: Port of Tacoma and Port of Seattle

Involved Parties: CBP, US Dept of Agriculture, US Fish & Wildlife, Seattle Fire (HAZMAT crew), Federal Railroad Administration

Issue: Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO)

Actions Taken: Sector Seattle partnered with CBP, US Department of Agriculture, USF & W, Seattle Fire (HAZMAT crew), & Federal Railroad Admin to conduct a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO). The 2 day operation in the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma conducting inspections on approximately 280 random containers with no major discrepancies noted.

Further Actions/Comments: None.

21 Oct 08

Location: Possession Sound

Involved Parties: Fishing Vessel

Issue: Collision

Actions Taken: Recreational vessel collided with a fishing vessel in Possession Sound. Sector Seattle Investigators responded. No injuries reported and there is no environment threat.

Further Actions/Comments: Investigation Closed.

28 Oct 08

Location: Anacortes

Involved Parties: Passenger Vessel

Issue: Death

Actions Taken: After boarding vessel via vehicle, passenger went up to passenger cabin. Crewmembers noticed he was having difficulty breathing. With the help of other passengers, crewmembers rendered assistance to him. Anacortes Fire Department arrived onboard and transported him to hospital. Passenger was pronounced deceased while en route to Anacortes Hospital.

Further Actions/Comments: Investigation Open.

31 Oct-26 Nov 08

Location: Seattle

Involved Parties: USCG

Issue: Severely substandard foreign cargo vessel entered port with intention of taking barges in tow.

Actions Taken: Sector Seattle boarded the vessel in Port Angeles, discovered multiple, serious deficiencies and detained the vessel. Sector worked closely with the owner, crew and CBP to allow the vessel to be safely towed to a repair facility. Three and a half weeks of shipyard activity and multiple visits brought the vessel into compliance with applicable regulations and safety standards.

Further Actions/Comments: None.

15 Nov 08

Location: Bellingham Bay

Involved Parties: Towing Vessel

Issue: Fire

Actions Taken: Fire in the port engine room when the engine's camshaft counter balance had let go. Subsequently, the housing was destroyed, allowing oil to escape and ignite a small fire between hot case fragments and oiled rag.

Further Actions/Comments: Investigation Open.

18 Nov 08

Location: Bremerton Terminal, Washington State Ferry System

Involved Parties: Washington State Ferry (WSF), Bremerton Police Dept

Issue: Report of Potential Terrorist Threat on WSF

Actions Taken: Sector Seattle responded to a phoned in 911 report of a possible terrorist threat to a WSF operating out of Bremerton. Unified Command set up in Sector Seattle Command Center (JHOC). Worked closely with Washington State Patrol (WSP), Bremerton PD and WSF to provide water/ land based security and quickly removed all passengers and cars from the WSF. WSP conducted canine security sweeps of the WSF and Sector worked with Intel partners to evaluate the risk. Effective communication and quick response ensured an efficient response and enabled the ferry to safely return to operations with minimal delay. WSP and CG assets continued heightened security sweeps and vessel escorts into the evening to ensure safety.

Further Actions/Comments: None.

VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTER:

25 Oct 08

Location: Strait of Georgia

Involved Parties: Tug with Loaded Oil Barge

Issue: Potential Grounding Averted

Actions Taken: Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Intervention prevented a potential grounding of Tug southbound from Cherry Point for Tacoma with one loaded oil barge passing east of "CA" buoy on an approved deviation. The Tug was late making their turn to port to join the southbound lane and the North Sector operator made multiple calls on 05A, 13 and 16. The Tug finally responded and altered course to port to join the southbound lane 15-20 minutes before it would have run aground on shoal water north of Clark Island.

Further Actions/Comments: Sector Seattle and Tug Company investigated, actions pending.

30 Oct 08

Location: Strait of Juan de Fuca

Involved Parties: Fishing Vessel

Issue: Potential Grounding Averted

Actions Taken: VTS Intervention prevented a potential grounding of a U.S. Flag fishing vessel inbound for Port Angeles from Dutch Harbor, AK heading towards Tatoosh Island. The Straits sector operator noticed the inbound fishing vessel in the Tofino MCTS Area of Operations at the time of incident. The Straits Sector Operator called the Marine Communications Traffic Services Canada (MCTS) Officer in Tofino and expressed concern with the vessel's track and Tofino advised the vessel they were standing into danger. Vessel altered course to port and passed 0.25nm north of Tatoosh Island and south of Duntz Rock.

Further Actions/Comments: Tofino MCTS is conducting an Incident Review Board as required by the Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service (CVTS) Procedures Manual.

15 Nov 08

Location: San Juan Islands

Involved Parties: Tug with Loaded Rock Barge

Issue: Potential Grounding Averted

Actions Taken: VTS Intervention prevented a potential grounding of a Tug with a loaded rock barge transiting through the San Juan Islands near Vendovi Island. The North Sector Operator calculated that due to set and drift the tugs course over ground vector showed a dangerously close point of approach to Vendovi Island within 0.3 NM. The Tug was contacted and asked about the on-scene weather and ebb. The Captain stated that he was fighting the tides. The Sector Operator notified the Tug that VTS radar showed his present course taking him dangerously close to the island. The Tug altered course and opened the closest point of approach with Vendovi Island

Further Actions/Comments: None

POLLUTION:

12 October 08

Location: Port of Everett, WA

Involved Parties: towing Vessel

Issue: 35 gallons diesel spill

Actions Taken: Sector Seattle received report of a discharge of an unknown amount of diesel fuel from a towing vessel in the Port of Everett. Pollution Investigators were dispatched and confirmed that the sheen was coming from a towing vessel in the vicinity. The source was secured by the responsible party.

Further Actions/Comments: Notice of Violation was issued for \$500.

05-13 November 08

Location: Tacoma, WA

Involved Parties: Unknown

Issue: Sheening and the odor of diesel fuel in the Hylebos Waterway in Tacoma were found in vicinity of an abandoned tow vessel. Upon investigation, it was found that the towing vessel contained excessive bilge waste. An estimated 3,000 gallons of water/fuel mixture was removed from the bilge.

Action Taken: Federal Funds Utilized. Contacted owner of vessel to recoup funds for clean up.

Further Action/Comments: Continue monitoring the Hylebos Waterway to ensure appropriate source was identified.

21-22 November 08

Location: Tacoma, WA

Involved Parties: Unknown

Issue: Sheening discovered in Hylebos Waterway in Tacoma from an unknown source after the abandoned tow vessel cleanup. Pollution Investigation determined that a hydrocarbon, which was later found to be diesel fuel, was escaping from a partially submerged steel hull approx 150' in length. Hired contractors to investigate, float the hull, and remove an estimated 400 gallons of diesel from an interior fuel tank.

Action Taken: Federal Funds Utilized. Coordinated response with Department of Ecology (DOE) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Action/Comments: Determine responsible party to recoup funds for clean up; continue monitoring the Hylebos Waterway

POLLUTION RESPONSE:**TOTAL**

Total oil pollution reports from 01 October 2008 through 30 November 2008 in **Sector Seattle**
AOR: 91

• Penalty Action:	
Civil Penalty Action (Marine Violation)	0
Civil Penalty Action, Ticket Issued (Notice of Violation)	4
Letter of Warning	4
No Penalty Action (e.g. public vsl, no RP found, etc.)	35
Case in Progress, Enforcement Pending	0
• Source Identification; Discharges of Oil from:	
Deep Draft Vessels/ Ferries	1
Facilities (includes all non-vessel & unregulated land sources)	2
Military/Public Vessels	1
Commercial Fishing Vessels	7
Other Commercial Vessels	0
Non-Commercial Vessels (e.g. pleasure craft)	4
Unknown Source (Mystery Sheen and Mystery Drum)	27
Tanker/Barge	3
• Cause of Discharge (Initial Report)	
Human Error	8
Equipment Failure	5
Sinking/Fire	4
Weather	0
Auto Accident	0
Container Leak	0
Mystery Sheen/Drum	33
Collision/Grounding	0
• Federally Funded Cleanup Cases (OSLTF/CERCLA):	2
• Hazardous Material Releases:	0
• Cases requiring Pollution Reports (POLREPS):	2
• Spill Volume:	75
Number of Pollution Reports	91
Number of Actual Verified Spills	41
Spills < 1 gallon	19
Spills 2 < 10 gallons	6
Spills 11 < 50 gallons	0
Spills 50 < 100 gallons	1
Spills > 100 gallons	0

