

On-water clean-up in Plumper Bay is complete

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ESQUIMALT, B.C. – Cleanup crews are marking the completion of the marine portion of the diesel spill cleanup in the area. Approximately 27,000 litres of product was estimated to have been recovered from the area using booms, sorbents and skimmers. The recovered oily waste is being sent to an approved facility for disposal.

“We are very pleased to report the completion of on-water cleanup, and are thankful to the Esquimalt and Songhees nation for their incredible support throughout the response operation,” says Kim Stanley, Manager, Health, Safety and Environment at Vancouver Pile Driving. “Their work was instrumental in ensuring a quick resolution of the marine portion of the response, and we’re looking forward to completing the shoreline cleanup operation in the coming weeks.”

Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) is heading up the marine response and cleanup. QM International Environmental and Industrial Services is managing shoreline cleanup. Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) teams remain on-site to assist with surveys. They will continue to survey oiled shoreline areas and assess impacts in order to recommend ongoing cleanup tactics.

Shoreline cleanup began late Tuesday and includes flushing of the beach in select areas where high concentrations of fuel were found. The diesel-tainted water flushed into the bay is collected by booms set up to capture the run-off. Wildlife inhabiting the flushed areas will be monitored to ensure they don’t come into contact with oily water. The impact on wildlife has been minimal so far, with area wildlife demonstrating normal behaviours. Wildlife will continue to be monitored throughout the shoreline clean-up.

Initial sampling and impact assessments of oiled shoreline are ongoing and will be used to develop a long-term monitoring plan for the area. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans advisory against fishing and crabbing remains in effect.

The spill was first reported on Sunday by members of the local community, and was initially boomed and contained by a harbour master with the Department of National Defence.

“We recently learned that residents of View Royal were the first to alert the authorities,” says Mr. Stanley. “We want to thank them for their ongoing support of cleanup efforts and for their cooperation as we worked to contain and cleanup the spill.”



Representatives from the B.C. Ministry of Environment remain on-hand to monitor the situation alongside Environmental Response Officers from the Canadian Coast Guard. Members of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nation are also on hand monitoring the cleanup.

“Health and safety remains the primary concerns for both first responders and the public,” says Mr. Stanley. “The public should continue to avoid contact with water and shoreline areas in and around Plumper Bay while a proper health assessment is being conducted.”

“We also advise the public to avoid contact with oiled wildlife, as professional responders are handling the cleanup,” he continues. “If you see any wildlife in distress, please immediately contact our 24-hour call-in line at 1-877-323-3985.”

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