CONTACT: DATE: March 12, 2011 TIME: 1415

Alexia Retallack, (916) 952-3317 Petty Officer Erik Swanson, (510) 289-5794

TSUNAMI SURGE RESTRICTING CRESCENT CITY HARBOR RESPONSE

Crescent City, CA – Tsunami surges continue to hold up response operations at Crescent City Harbor as crews stand ready to work in Crescent City Harbor. US Coast Guard (USCG) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) stand ready to start salvage and booming operations, but surges present a serious threat to responder safety.

USCG and DFG, working closely with the Harbor Master, continue assessment operations of the damage to the docks and vessels in the harbor to refine response plans. Tsunami surges create dangerous currents and flows within the harbor.

Damaged and sunken vessels complicate operations and combined with the surges could prove lethal.

"We want to start clean up and restoration of the Harbor as soon as possible," said Richard Young, Crescent City Harbor District manager. "This harbor is vital resource to this community. We need to move quickly, but safely."

For safety and security the Harbor Master has closed the harbor to all personnel from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. No access will be permitted.

The tsunami event resulted from an 8.9 magnitude earthquake that occurred in Japan on March 11. California has experienced numerous surge events since and remains under a tsunami advisory.

Follow the event on Twitter at DFG_OSPR or https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov/

###