

California Department of Fish and Game  
Office of Spill Prevention and Response



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security  
**United States  
Coast Guard**



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# Press Release

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## **COAST GUARD AND CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME PREPARING TO REMOVE FUEL FROM GROUNDED FISHING VESSEL**

FORT BRAGG, Calif. – The U.S. Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) are currently conducting pollution response operations as a result of the fishing vessel MISS KELLEY's grounding. Following the Coast Guard's rescue of two fishermen when the vessel struck rocks near the entrance to Noyo River yesterday, the focus quickly shifted to pollution response.

At the time of the grounding, the MISS KELLEY was suspected to have nearly 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel and other oils onboard, but an overflight yesterday revealed fuel releasing into the water.

Late last night, the Coast Guard, OSPR, and the vessel owner formed a Unified Command and developed a response plan that involved assessing and removing any remaining fuel aboard the vessel. The owner hired Parker Diving, a San Francisco-based pollution response company, to conduct the fuel removal operations.

Since the vessel is awash in the surf at high tide, responders waited until today's 4:00 pm low tide to access it. Once on scene, they determined that the vessel still has 500 gallons of diesel fuel and 250 gallons of lubricating oils onboard. In addition, responders observed a breach in the vessel's hull, which allowed fuel to escape into the environment.

The Unified Command is currently working on details of the fuel removal plan with operations scheduled to commence at tomorrow's low tide. Due to the vessel's remote location at the bottom of a steep cliff, all response equipment for the operation will be airlifted in and out via helicopter. The U.S. Coast Guard and OSPR will continue to monitor this incident to ensure the safety of responders involved and to protect the environment.

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