

Date: Monday, July 30, 1997; 4:30 p.m.

Barge and Truck Sinking in the Delta

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The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and DFG Region 2 staff are responding to a vessel sinking and potential diesel and gasoline spill in Three Mile Slough, at Brannan Island State Recreation Area, in the southern-most part of Sacramento County.

The incident occurred when a truck with a tank-trailer was loaded onto a barge, which began reverse motion before the forward gate ramp was fully closed. The barge took on water, causing it to overturn, at approximately 12:15 p.m., today. Currently, the barge is upside-down, but the tanker rig is upright. Both are underwater. The barge had 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board, and the truck carried approximately 150 gallons of diesel in its saddle tanks. The trailer contained 2,600 gallons of diesel and 1,100 gallons of gasoline. The barge is owned by Mega Sand of Pittsburg, and the truck is owned by B.C. Stocking Distributing of Vacaville.

OSPR Incident Commander Dale Wong reports that no petroleum product has yet escaped into the water. However, the potential exists for as much as 4,850 gallons of petroleum to leak into the slough, which flows into the Sacramento River, south of Rio Vista and Isleton. The truck was stocked with a small amount of sorbent boom, which was immediately placed around the overturned barge, truck, and trailer. Responders have been advised by OSPR to deploy hard containment boom, as well, to keep any leaking petroleum from escaping. The current in Three Mile Slough, which runs from the San Joaquin River to the Sacramento River, may be quite swift. Warden Wong is arranging a recovery and salvage operation to prevent a discharge.

Solano County Sheriff's Officers and State Park staff were among the first responders. In addition, emergency response personnel are on-scene from the U.S. Coast Guard, California Highway Patrol, local police and fire departments, and county HAZMAT teams.
