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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Tugboat Fuel Spill in Napa River

The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) is responding to a spill of diesel fuel and lube oil in the Napa River, about three miles north of Highway 37. The river flows into San Pablo Bay.

A tugboat sank around 11:30 p.m. Monday with approximately 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 40 gallons of lube oil aboard. The exact amount that spilled into the Napa River will not be known until the vessel is salvaged.

The tug's two crewmen were rescued when they were spotted by a Navy Special Boat Unit during a training exercise at about 2:00 a.m. An attempt is being made to raise the tug with a crane barge. The tug is operated by Harbor Sand and Gravel, Division of Bell Marine Company, Inc. of Redwood City and Sacramento. The Coast Guard placed two booms around the tug. However, traces of oil have been observed downstream.

OSPR biologist Jim Hardwick says he "saw hundreds of birds out there" but couldn't tell if any were oiled. OSPR staff will go back to the spill area in three small vessels early Wednesday morning to look for oiled wildlife and habitat damage.

According to Coast Guard Lieutenant Dave Pugh, about thirty gallons of lube oil have been recovered from the spill. The Coast Guard and OSPR are investigating the cause of the sinking.

