

# CRESCENT CITY TSUNAMI OPERATIONS CENTER NEWS RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2011 TIME: 1130

**Media Contacts:** Paul Roszkowski, US Coast Guard, (252) 267-4732  
Dana Michaels, California Dept. of Fish and Game, (916) 539-7060

## Crescent City Tsunami Response News Release #08

**Location:** Crescent City Inner Basin Harbor, Crescent City, California

**Cause:** Tsunami following 9.0 earthquake in Japan (March 11)

### **Operational Update:**

- Responders have removed 480 cubic yards of debris from the inner boat basin.
- Sunday's salvage operations include continued work on sunken vessels, removal of damaged docks and the repositioning of vessels in the inner boat basin.
- The Unified Command has moved its operations center to the parking lot at A Dock.
- There are 88 responders working to remove environmental and navigational hazards from the Crescent City Harbor.
- One of many goals is to move vessels to E Dock, so the owners can access them more easily.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Global Diving and Salvage continue to assess the harbor using sonar technology. This technology allows responders to find navigational hazards, debris and shallow water, so the Unified Command can take appropriate actions to clean-up the harbor and make it safe for mariners to transit.
- Approximately 1,500-feet of hard and absorbent boom has been deployed to contain sources of sheen in the inner harbor and to mitigate harmful effects on the environment. Sorbent pads are used to remove small, isolated sheens.
- Underwater assessments continue to confirm the location of sunken vessels. Two contracted dive teams are assisting in the response efforts.

### **MEDIA ALERT:**

To gain access to the operations area, please check in at the Media trailer. Please come equipped with hardhat, reflective vest, steel-toed shoes and eye protection. Media tours of operations will be available from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

### **Damage:**

- 47 vessels afloat but with some level of damage
- 15 sunken vessels
- 1 vessel removed
- 1 vessel grounded at mouth of Elk River
- Large debris including rocks, logs, and vessel debris is scattered about inner harbor and shore
- Navigable waters status unknown; boaters should use extreme caution transiting the area
- Significant damage to moorings and docks

**Closures or restrictions:**

- Harbor access is restricted for public safety, but boat owners have some access to their vessels and property. Personal flotation devices (PFDs) are required on all docks.
- Harbor is closed to the public at night, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. until further notice.
- To prevent crabs and other seafood from being contaminated and unmarketable, commercial fishermen are advised of the following protocol:
  - Do not run circulation pumps on approach to or within entire Crescent City Harbor area.
  - Do not pull crab pots or other traps up through water if a visible sheen is present.
- Safety zone in place for Crescent Harbor; no vessel movement without consent of USCG.
- Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., C, D, E, and F docks are open to owners of vessels within the boomed off area. Vessel owners should contact Coast Guard Auxiliary members at the Harbor Office to schedule a visit. For emergencies only, owners wishing to access their vessels outside of that time frame may contact the Coast Guard. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Harbor operations:**

Crescent City Harbor asks affected boat owners to contact the harbor at 707-464-6174 ext. 22 to provide the following information:

- Boat name
- Official number/vin
- Fuel capacity
- Actual fuel onboard
- All contact information

**Wildlife:** No observed wildlife impacts at this time. Assessment will continue

**Crews deployed:** US Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Harbor District Personnel, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and oil spill response organizations.

**Information numbers:**

- Crescent City Harbor boat owners contact 707-464-6174 ext. 22
- Report oil 1-800-852-7550
- Report Injured Wildlife 1-877-823-6926

Follow the event on Twitter at DFG\_OSPR or <https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov/>

###