

CRESCENT CITY TSUNAMI OPERATIONS CENTER NEWS RELEASE

Date: March 23, 2011 Time: 1200

Media Contacts:

Rachel Polish, US Coast Guard, (415) 713-7224

Carol Singleton, California Dept. of Fish and Game, (916) 539-6124

Levi Read, US Coast Guard, (503) 686-8729

Pollution Containment and Removal Continues at Crescent City Harbor

Crescent City Tsunami Response Update #11

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

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

Operational Update:

- Cleanup crews have removed approximately 1,277 gallons of petroleum products from damaged vessels and 1,250 cubic yards of debris from the inner boat basin.
- The Coast Guard reduced the safety zone, opening up the Crescent City Harbor to vessel traffic. Only the inner boat basin remains closed.
- Commercial fishing resumed as crab boats brought in their first catches this week. Those seeking to transfer their fishing vessel permits should contact the Department of Fish and Game's License and Revenue Branch at 916-928-7470.
- A heavy-lift crane barge is in transit from San Francisco to facilitate the mitigation of pollution hazards, so Crescent City can begin restoring its harbor.
- The crane is scheduled to arrive Friday or Saturday as weather permits.
- Today's operations include removing pilings to prepare the inner harbor for the crane barge. Pollution removal and containment efforts continue.
- There are 73 personnel participating in the response effort. This includes two contracted dive teams.
- The Unified Command remains committed to using local resources whenever possible.

Damage:

- 47 vessels afloat but with some level of damage
- 15 sunken vessels
- 1 vessel removed

- Significant damage to moorings and docks

Closures or restrictions:

- 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. Personal flotation devices are required on all docks.
- Harbor is closed to the public at night, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., until further notice.
- Commercial fishermen are advised to not pull crab pots or other traps up through water if a visible sheen is present.
- Safety zone in place for inner boat basin only. The harbor is now open to vessel traffic.

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, and contact information.

Wildlife: There have been no reports of oiled wildlife. Monitoring is ongoing.

Crews deployed: US Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game, Harbor District personnel 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

Media Alert: To gain access to the operations area, please check in at the media trailer. Please bring hardhat, reflective vest, steel-toed shoes and eye protection.

###