

## CRESCENT CITY TSUNAMI OPERATIONS CENTER NEWS RELEASE

Date: March 26, 2011 Time: 1200

### **Media Contacts:**

Rachel Polish, U.S. Coast Guard, (415) 713-7224

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

Kevin Metcalf, U.S. Coast Guard, (281) 851-4546

### **Crane barge positioned in Crescent City Inner Boat Basin, operations begin to remove sunken vessels and manage pollution threats**

Crescent City Tsunami Response Update #14

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

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

### **Operational Update:**

- The crane barge is now positioned in the inner boat basin and is beginning operations to mitigate environmental impacts by removing sunken and damaged vessels.
- The Unified Command's primary goal is to complete pollution mitigation operations as quickly and safely as possible so Crescent City can begin restoring its harbor.
- In addition to hoisting the vessels to remove the pollution, the crane will also extract several existing dock pilings to help expedite operations.
- The current federal project ceiling from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund is \$2.75 million for pollution mitigation at the Crescent City Harbor. The project budget can be adjusted as needed.
- The Unified Command is working with more than a dozen local businesses, including restaurants and hotels, and remains committed to using local resources whenever possible.
- Cleanup crews have removed approximately 1,307 gallons of petroleum products from damaged vessels and 1,250 cubic yards of debris from the inner boat basin. A total of 1,000 feet of containment boom has been deployed.
- There are 57 personnel participating in the response effort. This includes USCG, DFG and contractors.
- 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.

### **Closures or restrictions:**

- During crane operations, access will be limited to portions of “A” dock as a safety precaution.
- 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 vessel access. 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.
- 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:** U.S. Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), Harbor District personnel and oil spill response organizations.

**Information numbers:**

Crescent City Harbormaster’s Office: 707-464-6174 ext. 22

Report oil to 1-800-852-7550

Report Injured Wildlife to 1-877-823-6926

DFG’s License and Revenue Branch: 916-928-7470.

**Media Alert:** Media interested in viewing operations should coordinate access with the Joint Information Center at (281) 851-4546. Safety procedures will be strictly enforced, so media personnel are encouraged to bring U.S. Coast Guard-certified lifejackets and hard hats, which are required to enter the operational area. The Crescent City Tsunami Responders have limited safety gear to offer interested attendees.

###