



AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE
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**AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PROVIDE UNIFIED
RESPONSE IN M/V SELENDANG AYU OIL SPILL IN ALASKA**

Washington, DC - Several Members of the American Salvage Association (ASA) joined together in an attempt to salvage the grounded *M/V SELENDANG AYU*, which lost power off Unalaska Island on December 7.

After the vessel reported it was adrift, efforts to tow the vessel were provided by an ASA member's tug which slowed the drift of the ship from 4kts to 2kts, but the tow wire failed and the ship went aground and broke apart between Skan Bay and Spray Cape at approximately 6 p.m. on December 8. A United States Coast Guard Jay Hawk helicopter crashed while removing the last of the seven crewmembers from the stricken vessel. Six of the seven crewmembers were lost. Within hours of the grounding, ASA member salvage companies began to arrive at the Incident Command System's (ICS) headquarters in Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

Combined aboard the two vessel sections was a full cargo of soybeans, 424,000 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO 380) and 18,000 gallons of marine diesel. Assessing the two sections of the vessel was necessary to develop salvage plans for removal of the fuel and determining the possibility of re-floating the vessel sections. Three seats were made available on a Coast Guard Jay Hawk helicopter to lower a team aboard the wreck to complete a survey. Parties interested in surveying the vessel were numerous and consisted of salvors, surveyors from hull, cargo and P&I interests, owners and government and regulatory agencies. In the end, it was determined that the boarding party would consist of three salvage experts from three ASA member companies representing six ASA member companies vying for the salvage work.

The three man team was chosen after it was determined by the ICS that the combined effort of the three ASA member companies, working as one team, would provide the most comprehensive report possible to be shared with all interested parties.

On December 12, a three-man team, representing six ASA member companies, boarded and surveyed the damaged vessel. A three-man ASA team boarded and surveyed the forward section on December 14.

The information obtained by the survey team was submitted to the Unified Command as one report from the ASA members. This information was used to determine the scope of salvage services to be engaged. Three proposals were submitted by ASA member salvage companies from a combined group of six member companies. On December 15, a contract was awarded to one of the member companies to perform fuel removal from the stern section. This work is underway today.

“Having ASA’s member companies work together in this fashion exemplifies the spirit of the ASA and clearly demonstrates the Association’s commitment to our mission,” said Richard Fairbanks, ASA President, and founding member.

The American Salvage Association is a trade association promoting professionalism and improving marine casualty response in American coastal and inland waters.

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PHOTO ATTACHED