

## PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

**ERTS#** 711210

**Date of Incident:** 12/07/2021

**Potential Liable Party:** Hoffman-Pacific LLC, A Joint Venture

**Product Spilled:** Bunker Oil/Hfo

**Spill Source:** Ferry Terminal project (Construction Site)

**Oil Spill Size Estimate:** 50 Gallons

**Water Body Affected:** Puget Sound - Elliott Bay

**Ecology Region:** NWRO

**County:** King

**Nearest City:** Seattle

**Location of Spill:** Colman Dock

**Cause:** Other - External Conditions, Unknown

**Ecology Responder:** David R Cline

## PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

### **Incident Summary:**

On December 7, 2021, during in-water work to remove petroleum-contaminated sediments at the tidally-influenced Washington State Ferry (WSF) Seattle Terminal (Colman Dock), a pocket of buried oil spilled into Puget Sound. WSF contracted Hoffman-Pacific, LLC. (Hoffman) for the project. During this work, an excavator bucket unearthed a buried and previously undetected pocket of heavy fuel oil. The oil flowed into the water at the site which was surrounded by a metal sheet-pile wall. This wall surrounding the excavation area was put in place to help prevent Elliot Bay from infiltrating the excavated area. Most of the sediment removal operation occurred during low tide events when the soil was driest and most exposed. Despite the wall keeping most of the seawater out of the excavation, subsurface water infiltrated the pit from the upland area. Sediment boom surrounded the sheet-pile wall to prevent contaminated sediments from migrating offsite and was in place before the spill occurred. Both the sheet-pile wall and sediment boom helped to restrict the migration of oil outside of the excavation area, but oil sheen was seen outside the waters contained by the sheet-pile wall. Visual estimates put the volume of oil released from a pocket in the soil to the water within the sheet-pile enclosed site at 50 gallons, with an undetermined quantity escaping the sheet pile containment as sheen.

Hoffman hired US Ecology to remove spilled oil and debris from the water, remaining on site during the remainder of the excavation. Hoffman also placed additional containment boom around the site. Additional sampling to ten feet below ground surface did not reveal any further pockets of oil outside of the already known contaminants. Hoffman continued excavation to the originally planned depth with a backfill of clean soil followed by the original plan of capping the site with a clay mat covered with quarry rock.