

PREASSESSMENT SCREENING OIL SPILL REPORT FORM

ERTS# 729220

Date of Incident: 03/02/2024

Potential Liable Party: Efrain Garcia-Rangel

Product Spilled: Diesel Low Sulphur (Ulsd)

Spill Source: P/C MERJAN (Recreational Vessel)

Oil Spill Size Estimate: 48 Gallons

Water Body Affected: Puget Sound

Ecology Region: SWRO

County: Jefferson

Nearest City: Nordland

Location of Spill: Marrowstone Island

Cause: Electrical Failure

Ecology Responder: Josh Weide

Incident Summary: On March 2, 2024, the 32-foot wooden-hulled P/C MERJAN was in transit in Puget Sound when it lost power and drifted onto the rocky shore of Liplip Point on Marrowstone Island. The USCG rescued the vessel operator and deckhand and the vessel remained afloat. However, at some point during the night, the rocky shore and tidal action caused a breach in the hull and the MERJAN began taking on water. During high tide on the morning of March 3, the local Fire Department observed the vessel partially submerged and sitting on its starboard side with waves washing over the gunwale as well as a sheen in the water around the vessel. The USCG contracted Global Diving and Salvage to assess the vessel and remove any potential sources of pollution. While multiple household hazards were removed, one of the two 45-gal diesel tanks was determined to be empty and the other contained only water with a residual amount of diesel. The MERJAN was in the process of transferring ownership with the sale finalized on March 1. The previous owner reported that the tanks contained an estimated 65 gallons of diesel before it left port. Ecology's investigation revealed that an estimated 17 gallons would have been used in transit, resulting in around 48 gallons that would have spilled to the environment. To remove the MERJAN from the shore, Global Diving was required to cut it into smaller pieces to be airlifted out.