



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Edgardo 'Egay' Villagrancia Lim Salvame
Congressman
1st District, Palawan

March 10, 2023

The Honorable
MARIA ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

**Subject: Situational Report No. 3: The Impact of 'Mindoro Oil Spill'
 in Northern Palawan**

Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga:

Warm greetings!

I am transmitting herewith Situational Report No. 3 regarding the impact of the 'Mindoro Oil Spill' in Northern Palawan, for your information, reference and appropriate action.

As predicted by the UP MSI, the oil spill has now reached the mainland northern Palawan – starting in Barangay Casian, Taytay, an isolated island barangay 295 kms off Naujan, and whose mainland town is just 56 kms away from the popular tourism town El Nido.

The town of Taytay, apart from being adjacent to popular tourism towns of El Nido, Roxas and San Vicente, is home to Lake Manguao and Malampaya Sound, among others which are important protected areas and marine ecosystems. Malampaya is also the biggest source of seafoods in the country.

With this development – which we hope would be minimal, if not nil – we are respectfully requesting that timely interventions and assistance from the national government would be forthcoming, especially on containing the spread of the spill.

Thank you very much for your prompt action and deep concern to our fellowmen's welfare, Madame Secretary. *Matamang salamat po! Mabuhay po kayo!*

Sincerely yours,



EDGARDO 'EGAY' VILLAGRACIA LIM SALVAME

cc: **USec. MARILOU G. ERNI**, DENR Task Force MT Princess Empress Commander
Dir. LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV, Regional Executive Director, DENR MIMAROPA

Situational Report No. 3 as of March 10, 2023

References: Rep. Edgardo L. Salvame, 1st District of Palawan
Mr James Paul S. Inawasan, chief political affairs officer

HIGHLIGHTS

1. As predicted by the UP Marine Science Institute, the oil spill has reached the **northern mainland Palawan** but in a shorter (faster) period of time. **Barangay Casian, Taytay**, through its Punong Barangay Norbert Lim reported (*Annex "A"*) to this level that oil slick sightings and deposition appeared in its coastlines earlier today, March 10, and the same has been confirmed by the Philippine Coast Guard (*Annex "B"*). The barangay is 295 kms off the waters of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, and has **1,200 households** dependent mainly on fishing and seaweeds farming.
 - a. Being a fishing community isolated from the town proper (around 34 kms from the Poblacion), the barangay fears this incident will have grave impact to the livelihoods of its residents, and will have long-term, irreversible impact to its marine environment.
 - b. Fears that the oil slick is also present in the nearby island barangays of Beton (301 HHs), Debangan (209 HHs), Batas (252 HHs), and Meytegued (261)¹, among others, are also reported to this level but are still subject to verification and assessment by local authorities and the PCG.
 - c. The municipality of Taytay, Palawan is an emerging tourism destination and a largely agricultural town, with an estimated 18,872 HHs (2020) and 83,357 population (2020). It has 31 barangays, at least 10 of which are island barangays. It is adjacent to the popular tourism towns of El Nido, Roxas and San Vicente.
 - d. Based on the direction of the spill, it seems that other northwestern parts of mainland Palawan will suffer from the spill: the municipalities of Roxas, Dumaran and Araceli – all coastal, fishing, farming and tourism areas of the province.
2. No other official reports of oil slick sightings in the other parts of northern Palawan except Agutaya which has already been earlier reported.

¹ Number of households here are taken from PSA, 2015. Updated numbers are still being gathered from the local authorities.

3. Financial assistance to residents of Barangays Algeciras and Concepcion Agutaya started today, as reported by the DSWD MIMAROPA Field Office. Details to follow once official report reaches this level.
4. The Municipality of El Nido, the biggest and top tourism destination in the region, is just 56 kms away from the municipality of Taytay. Its local government is now preparing for the possible oil slick in this major tourism town (*Annex "C"*). No reported oil slick sightings as of writing.

I. IMPACT

A	EVIDENCE OF OIL SPILL	A. EVIDENCE OF OIL SPILL	B. IMPACT TO HEALTH	C. IMPACT TO LIVELIHOODS				D. IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT
				Fishing	Seaweeds Farming	Tourism	Others	
1	Municipality of Agutaya	Photos from the ground showing the spread of the oil spill in below barangays	No reports so far	No official reports so far	Photos of seaweeds coated with thick, dark oil sent to this Office	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	Yes; forecast from UP MSI
2	Municipality of Cuyo	No reported evidence of oil spill so far**	No reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	Yes; forecast from UP MSI
3	Municipality of Magsaysay	No reported evidence of oil spill so far**	No reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	Yes; forecast from UP MSI
4	Municipality of Coron	No reported evidence of oil spill so far**	No reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	Yes; forecast from UP MSI
5	Municipality of Culion	No reported evidence of oil spill so far**	No reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	Yes; forecast from UP MSI
6	Municipality of Taytay (mainland)	Photos and videos from the ground showing the spread of the oil in Brgy Casian	No reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far

A	EVIDENCE OF OIL SPILL	A. EVIDENCE OF OIL SPILL	B. IMPACT TO HEALTH	C. IMPACT TO LIVELIHOODS				D. IMPACT TO THE ENVIRONMENT
				Fishing	Seaweeds Farming	Tourism	Others	
7	All other municipalities in the north	No reported evidence of oil spill so far**	No reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far	No official reports so far

C.1. Details of Impact to Livelihoods

Municipality of Agutaya	Estimated No. of HHs Affected
Brgy. Algeciras	1153
Brgy. Concepcion	914
Municipality of Taytay	
Brgy. Casian	1,200

Barangay Casian heavily relies on fishing and seaweeds farming as their main source of livelihoods. A pearl farm is also present in the barangay.

D.1. Details of the Impact to the Environment

	PALAWAN	CORAL (ha.)	MANGROVE (ha.)	SEAGRASS (ha)
1	Coron	1,102.97	2,264.01	1,849.41
2	Culion	630.08	2,505.21	1,461.34
3	Agutaya	2,557.81	-	73.52
4	Magsaysay	4,899.07	148.97	514.67
5	Cuyo	3,661.68	120.50	156.71
	TOTAL	12,851.61	5,038.69	4,055.65

Source: UP Marine Science Institute, Bulletin No. 03.


Impact to the marine ecosystems of the northern mainland Palawan are yet to be ascertained.

No official bulletin yet from concerned agencies.

II	RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE UNITS/AGENCIES
1	Activation of incident command systems in the LGUs.	MLGUs, BLGUs
2	Validation of reported oil spill in the areas.	LGUs, PCG, local CENROs
3	Containment of the spread using all means available.	PCG, DENR , LGUs
4	Constant monitoring of the coastal areas.	PCG, MLGUs, Barangays
5	Expert advice from the DENR and DOH on how to handle the impact to the environment and health of the affected population.	DENR , DOH
6	Provision of family food packs and other forms of assistance to affected families.	DSWD, DENR , DOLE, LGUs, Office of the Congressman, PCG (for hauling)
7	Regular coastal clean-up through volunteers, and cash-for-work for affected seaweeds farmers and fishermen.	DSWD, DENR , DOLE, LGUs, Office of the Congressman
8	Provision of PPEs to volunteers involved in the clean-up.	DOH, DENR , LGUs
9	Timely and accurate public information to affected communities.	LGUs, DENR

II	RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE UNITS/AGENCIES
10	Plan and implement alternative livelihoods to affected households while the oil spill remains a threat to sources of food and livelihoods.	LGUs, DOLE, DTI, DSWD, DOT, Office of the Congressman
11	Study legal action against the management of MT Princess Empress.	DENR, Task Force
12	Study and prepare rehabilitation plan on the affected marine ecosystem	DENR, PCSD, DOT, LGUs

Annex “A”. Photos of oil spill in Barangay Casian, Taytay, Palawan.

 **Radyo Bandera Philippines** Just now · 🌐

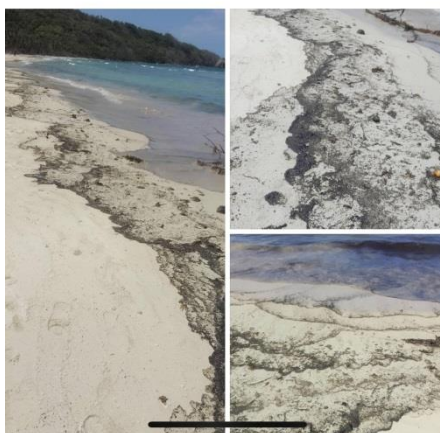
OIL SPILL SA BRGY. CASIAN, TAYTAY, PALAWAN
Tumambad sa mga residente ng Purok 1, Brgy. Casian, Taytay, Palawan ang umano'y oil spill.

Sa mga larawang ibinahagi ni Sheryl Patalita, makikita ang nagkalat na langis sa dalampasigan.

Sa ngayon ay patuloy pang nakikipag-ugnayan ang Newsteam sa lokal na pamahalaan at sa Philippine coast guard ukol dito.

Nabatid na sa naging prediksiyon ng mga eksperto ay posibleng umabot sa karagtang sakop ng Palawan ang oil spill mula sa lumubog na oil tanker sa Oriental Mindoro.

Photo Courtesy: Sheryl Patalita



News of oil spill reaching mainland northern Palawan as reported by a local media organization.



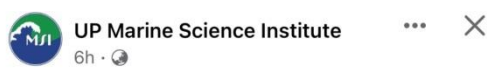
Photos of oil spill in Brgy. Casian, Taytay as forwarded by Punong Barangay Norbert Lim to this level.



Lumps of bunker oil which reached the tourist-y barangay Casian. *Photos from PB Lim.*



Residents of the island-barangay join hands in cleaning up the oil slick which reached its coastal areas. *(Contributed photos from PB Lim)*



MSI Bulletin
[Updates on the MT Princess Empress Oil Spill]

Bulletin #06 (March 10, 2023): Oil slick sightings and deposition reported in Taytay, Palawan

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has reported oil slick sightings and onshore deposition on the coast of Barangay Casian, Taytay, Palawan. Northwestern Palawan is advised to prepare and report any sighting of oil slick to authorities and <https://bit.ly/MTPE-Report>, await government advice regarding coastal cleanup, and adhere to public guidance to prevent its harmful effects.




Bulletin from the UP MSI reflecting the news of oil slick sightings in Brgy. Casian, Taytay, Palawan and showing the trajectory of the spill in the enclosed map.

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| Trunkline No.: 8931-5007, loc. 7908 | Email: congegay.1dpalawan@gmail.com

Annex “B”. Official release from the Philippine Coast Guard about the oil spill in the said barangay.

Posts
About
Photos


Philippine Coast Guard ✓ is in Taytay.
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UPDATE: Umabot na sa baybay-dagat ng Barangay Casian, Taytay, Palawan ang EPEKTO NG OIL SPILL dahil sa paglubog ng MT PRINCESS EMPRESS sa Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Ngayong hapon, ika-10 ng Marso 2023, pinuntahan ng mga [Philippine Coast Guard](#) (PCG) personnel ang naturang barangay matapos matanggap ang impormasyon mula kay Barangay Captain Norbert Lim at sa Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) ng Taytay.

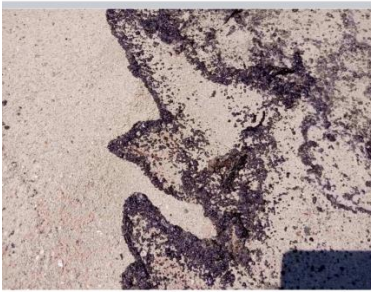
Humigit-kumulang 159 nautical miles o 295 kilometro ang layo ng Barangay Casian, Taytay, Palawan sa katubigan ng Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Nang makumpirma ito, agad na sinimulan ng PCG ang assessment at paglilinis para maitaguyod ang kaligtasan ng mga residente.

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LTE 47%

Philippine Coast Guard's Post




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Message Philippine Coast Guard

Annex “C”. Preparations of the Municipality of El Nido.


Municipal Government of El Nido
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PANAWAGAN: MAGTULUNGAN TAYO KAUGNAY SA POSIBLING EPEKTO NG OIL SPILL SA BAYAN

PAGHAHANDA NG BAYAN NG EL NIDO SA POSIBLING EPEKTO NG OIL SPILL SANHI NG LUMUBOG NA TANKER SA KARAGATAN NG MINDORO, MAGBIGAY NG MGA HINDI NA GINAGAMIT NA MGA DAMIT, 1.5 LITERS NA PLASTIC BOTE AT PINAGGUPITAN NG BUHOK SA MGA BARBER SHOPS.

MAARI ITONG DALHIN SA TANGGAPAN NG EL NIDO COAST GUARD STATION O PUPWEDE RIN SA MUNISIPYO NG BAYAN (PAKI-IWAN LANG SA MUNICIPAL GUARD). MATAMANG SALAMAT SA LAHAT.