



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **USEC. MARILOU G. ERNI**
Chief of Staff and Supervising Undersecretary for
Strategic Communications
Task Force Commander, Task Force Naujan Oil Spill

FROM : **THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**
EMB – MIMAROPA Region

SUBJECT : **SITUATIONAL REPORT RE OIL SPILL IN NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO**

DATE : 06 March 2023

This is to apprise the Undersecretary on the situation regarding the oil spill due to capsized vessel in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and the actions taken by the DENR – EMB MIMAROPA Region:

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

On 28 February 2023, it was reported by various media outlets that MT Princess Empress, an oil tanker, carrying more or less 800,000 liters of industrial oil, sank off along the coast of Tablas Strait in Balingwan Point, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

Based on the preliminary reports from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) situated in Oriental Mindoro, the vessel came from Bataan and on its way to Iloilo when it encountered engine trouble due to overheating until it drifted towards the coast of Balingawan Point and eventually submerged.

On 01 March 2023, Governor Humerlito Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro has officially reported through his Facebook account that the MT Princess Empress has sunk.

Relative thereto, the Department, through its various social media platforms, posted an official statement announcing the creation of “Task Force Naujan Oil Spill” which will be headed by Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Marilou Erni as Task Force Commander.

The Philippine Coast Guard, particularly its Marine Environmental Protection Command, is designated as the lead agency tasked with response operations in its affected area.

In response to the reports that the capsizing of the vessel resulted to an oil spill from the diesel fuel of the ship, this Office has immediately deployed personnel from the

Provincial Environmental Management Unit – Oriental Mindoro to conduct water sampling in areas which have been identified to have been potentially affected by the oil spill.

On 03 March 2023, Mayor Jennifer Cruz of LGU – Pola, Oriental Mindoro has declared a state of calamity, due to the massive extent of the impact of the oil spill in the Municipality of Pola, Oriental Mindoro.

Later that day, Petron Philippines issued a statement wherein it has clarified that the 800,0000 liters of industrial fuel oil carried by MT Princess Empress was not sourced from the Petron Bataan Refinery nor does the company own the fuel oil cargo carried by the vessel. Petron adds that the company has stopped producing fuel oil since 2016.

Petron also announced that their Waterborne Industry Oil Spill Equipment (WISE) has already been deployed to assist in the containment of the oil spill. The WISE vessel reached the incident site at 3:20 AM of March 1, 2023 and is now in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard.

Furthermore, Petron's Bataan Refinery and Mabini Terminal have also extended assistance by making their oil spill boom teams and equipment available to further aid in the containment and clearing operations.

On the evening of 03 March 2023, RDC REIELD MARINE SERVICES (RDC), the registered owner of MT Princess Empress, issued a statement through various media outlets.

In their statement, RDC announced that they have already deployed technical experts on the ground, air, and sea to conduct an assessment of the affected areas and come up with an effective dispatch strategy for containing and mitigating the oil spill on the shoreline.

Further, RDC also stated that they have been assisting the PCG in procuring oil spill collection equipment, such as disposable PPEs, open-ended drums, gas masks, and diesel allocation, among others.

Lastly, RDC ensured the concerned local government units of their commitment in providing support despite limited resources and that the company will continue to work closely with the authorities and affected communities until the matter is fully resolved.

At 6:48 PM of 03 March 2023, PCG Region 6 posted an update through the official social media platform, regarding the presence of an undetermined quantity of oil slick within the shorelines of Semirara Island and Liwagao Island in Caluya, Antique.

As of 04 March 2023, the PCG, through their official social media accounts, has confirmed that the impact of the oil spill has reached the shorelines of Caluya, Antique.

Specifically, oil slicks were found in the following barangays of Caluya, Antique, to wit:

1. Sitio Sabang, Brgy. Tinogboc (1 kilometer);
2. Liwagao Island, Brgy. Sibolo (2 kilometers);
3. Sitio Tambak, Brgy. Semirara (2 kilometers)

On the same day, Governor Dolor of the Province of Oriental Mindoro has issued a letter addressed to the Embassy of Japan, through Sec. Enrique Manalo of the Department of Foreign Affairs, requesting for assistance and provision of Oil Containment Booms and other equipment that will help contain the oil spill and mitigate the damage to the waterbodies of Oriental Mindoro.

Furthermore, the Provincial Health Office – Oriental Mindoro directed the local residents to temporarily cease from participating in coastal clean-up operations due to lack of protective gears.

As of 06 March 2023,

II. EFFECTS

As of date, reports of fish kill and seeping of industrial fuel oil has reached the surrounding water bodies of Oriental Mindoro, including mangrove areas and marine protected areas as a result of the oil spill.

III. ACTIONS TAKEN BY DENR

Since 01 March 2023, this Office continues to monitor the all the water bodies and protected areas potentially affected by the oil spill. Our teams from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) – Oriental Mindoro continuously conducts water quality sampling on the areas potentially affected by the oil spill and closely coordinates with various government agencies to assess the extent of the impact of the oil spill and assist in the coastal clean-up operations.

Based on the results of analysis from the samples taken from the following sampling stations from March 1 to 4, 2023, the presence of Oil and Grease in waterbodies of Oriental Mindoro has exceeded the Water Quality Guidelines (WQG) under DENR Administrative Order No. 2016 – 08.

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS – GROUND ZERO

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | Results | Classification | WQG | Remarks |
|---|-------------|---|------------------|---------|----------------|--------|------------|
| Alleged oil Spillage Area in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro | 1 | 13°18.924 N, 121°31.854 E 11 kms from the coast of Brgy Estrella Naujan | March 1, 2023 | 36 mg/L | Class SD | 5 mg/L | EXCEEDANCE |
| Tablas Strait (Oil Spillage Area), Naujan, Oriental Mindoro | 1 | 13.314983, 121.529231 Balingawan Point (Oil Spillage Area) | March 2, 2023 | 8 mg/L | Class SD | 5 mg/L | EXCEEDANCE |

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS – NAUJAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | | | | Classification | WQG |
|---|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | | | 1-Mar | 2-Mar | 3-Mar | 4-Mar | | |
| Tablas Strait (Coastal Waters)Naujan Bay (Oil Spill) | 1 | Estrella | 2 mg/L | 5 mg/L | 3 mg/L | 8 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 2 | Sta. Cruz | 13 mg/L | 5 mg/L | 3 mg/L | 13 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 3 | San Jose (So. Pitogo) | <1 mg/L | 4 mg/L | 49 mg/L | 9 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 4 | San Jose (So. 1) | 11mg/L | 5 mg/L | 8 mg/L | 12 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 5 | Antipolo/ San Jose Proper | 21 mg/L | | | | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 6 | Brgy. Melgar A /Pitogo Beach | 7 mg/L | 8 mg/L | 3 mg/L | 15 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 7 | Melgar B/ Papangkil Beach | 9 mg/L | 5 mg/L | 6 mg/L | 11 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 8 | Buloc-Buloc Fish Sanctuary | <1 mg/L | | | 9 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |
| | 9 | Montemayor Proper | 2 mg/L | | | 5 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |
| | 10 | Masaquing | <1 mg/L | | | 12 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |
| | 11 | Tujod Fish Sanctuary | 15 mg/L | | | 8 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - PINAMALAYAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | Classification | WQG | Remarks |
|---|-------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | March 2 | | | |
| Pinamalayan Bay (Coastal), Oriental Mindoro | 1 | Brgy. Lumang Bayan | <1 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L | PASSED |

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | | | Classification | WQG |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | | | 2-Mar | 3-Mar | 4-Mar | | |
| Pinamalayan Bay (MPA), Oriental Mindoro | 1 | Simborio Fish Sanctuary | 9 mg/L | 4 mg/L | 9 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |
| | 2 | Ginapangan Fish Sanctuary | 47 mg/L | 6 mg/L | 17 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |
| | 3 | Pili Fish Sanctuary | 4 mg/L | 4 mg/L | 6 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |
| | 4 | Ranzo Fish Sanctuary | 3 mg/L | 6 mg/L | 2 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |

**Water Bodies are classified according to its intended beneficial use. Class SA covers Protected Waters or waters designated as national or local marine parks, reserves, sanctuaries, and other areas established by law (Presidential Proclamation 1801 and other existing laws), and/or declared as such by appropriated agency, LGUs, etc., and Fishery Water Class I or water bodies suitable for direct human consumption.*

Class SB covers Fishery Water Class II or waters suitable for commercial propagation of shellfish and intended as spawning areas for milkfish (Chanos chanos) and similar species, tourist zones for ecotourism and recreational activities, and Recreational Water Class I intended for primary contact recreation (bathing, swimming, skin diving, etc.)

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SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - POLA, ORIENTAL MINDORO

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | | | Classification | WQG |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | | | 2-Mar | 3-Mar | 4-Mar | | |
| Pola Shoreline | 1 | Calima Proper | 3 mg/L | 8 mg/L | 5 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 2 | Polacay Beach | 1 mg/L | 4 mg/L | 5 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 3 | Central Tagumpay | 10 mg/L | 7 mg/L | 15 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 4 | Misong | 20 mg/L | 5 mg/L | 3 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | | Classification | WQG |
|--|-------------|------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | | | 3-Mar | 4-Mar | | |
| Tablas Strait (Pola Bay), Pola, Oriental Mindoro | | Kwebang Tagumpay | 10 mg/L | | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | | Tuguihan | 6 mg/L | 25 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | | Pula River Estuary | 4 mg/L | 4 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | | Pula River Mangrove | | 14 mg/L | Class SA | 1 mg/L |

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - BONGABONG, ORIENTAL MINDORO

| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | | Classification | WQG |
|--|-------------|------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | | | 3-Mar | 4-Mar | | |
| Bongabong Bay, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro | 1 | Aplaya | 5 mg/L | 10 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 2 | Poblacion | 4 mg/L | 6 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 3 | Anilao | 6 mg/L | 11 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 4 | Masaguisi | 3 mg/L | 16 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |

SAMPLING STATIONS AND RESULTS OF ANALYSIS - ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO

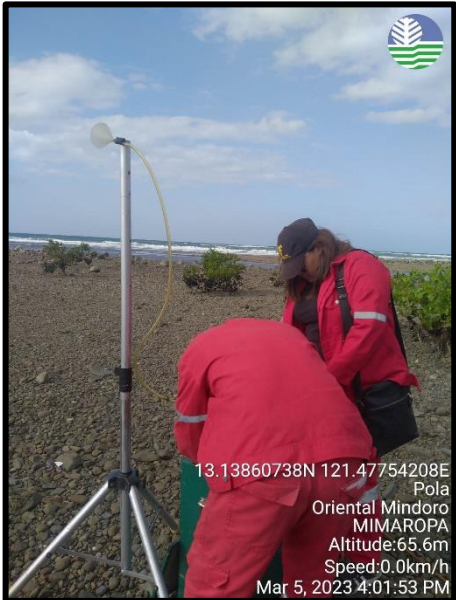
| Source | Station No. | Station Identification | Date of Sampling | | Classification | WQG |
|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|--------|
| | | | 3-Mar | 4-Mar | | |
| Roxas Bay, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro | 1 | Dalahican | 4 mg/L | 6 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 2 | Dangay | 4 mg/L | 5 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 3 | Paclasan | 4 mg/L | 4 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |
| | 4 | San Isidro | 3 mg/L | 15 mg/L | Class SB | 2 mg/L |

On 05 March 2023, personnel from Optimal Laboratories have assisted our personnel from the Provincial Environmental Management Unit (PEMU) – Oriental Mindoro in conducting ambient air sampling at Brgy. Misong, Brgy. Calima, Polacay Beach and Casiligan River in Pola, Oriental Mindoro.

Station 1 of Ambient Air Sampling – Brgy. Misong, Pola, Oriental Mindoro



Station 2 of Ambient Air Sampling – Brgy. Calima, Pola, Oriental Mindoro



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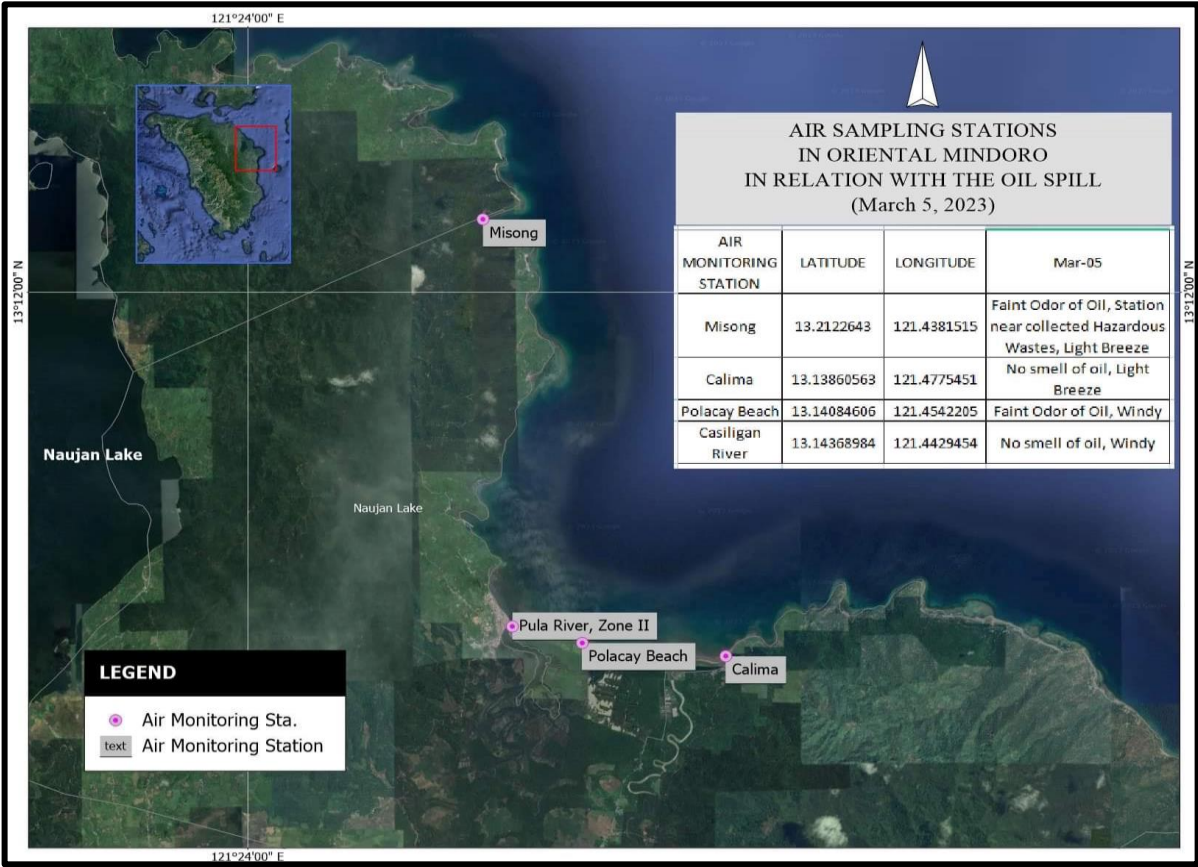
Station 3 of Ambient Air Sampling – Polacay Beach, Pola, Oriental Mindoro



Station 4 of Ambient Air Sampling – Casiligan River, Pola, Oriental Mindoro

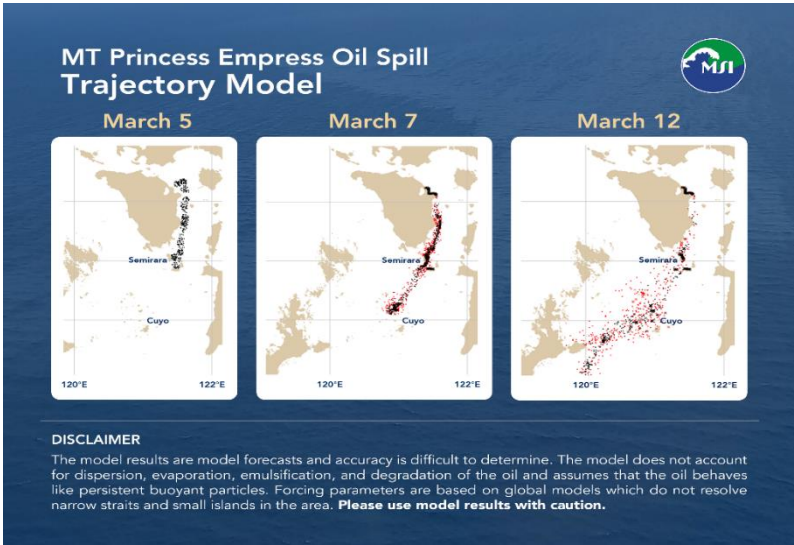


AMBIENT AIR SAMPLING STATIONS – ORIENTAL MINDORO (MARCH 5, 2023)



| AIR SAMPLING STATIONS | COORDINATES | | OBSERVATIONS |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| 1. Misong | 13.2122643 | 121.4381515 | Faint odor of oil, station collected near hazardous wastes,light breeze |
| 2. Calima | 13.13860563 | 121.4775451 | No smell of oil, light breeze |
| 3. Polacay Beach | 13.14084606 | 121.4542205 | Faint smell of oil, windy |
| 4. Casiligan River | 13.14368984 | 121.4429454 | No smell of oil, windy |

At 6:42 PM, the University of the Philippines – Marine Science Institute (UP – MSI) has issued Bulletin No. 4.

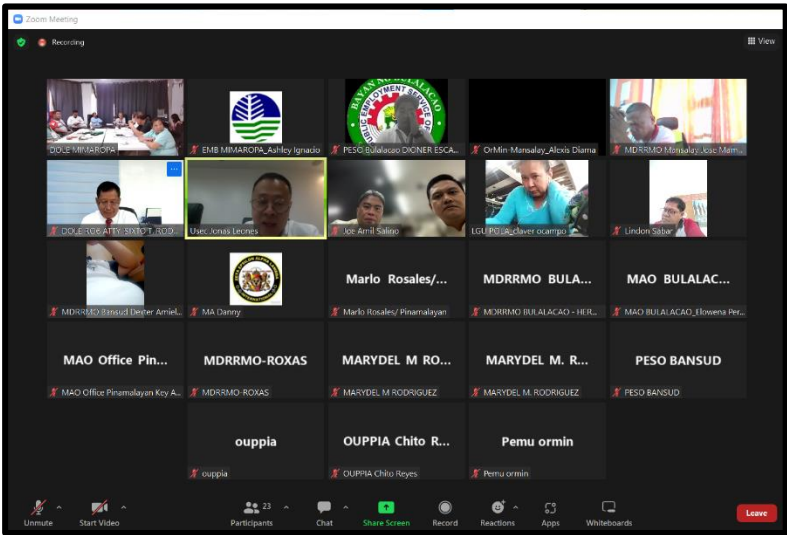


Based on their forecast, it is projected that the oil spill will reach Cuyo Islands and get closer to northern Palawan in about a week’s time. The projected trajectory of the oil slick is shown in the images for March 7 and March 12, and initialized with spill locations in the image for March 5.

The projected spill will continue due southwest to Cuyo Group of Islands (as seen in the image for March 7) and will get closer to northern Palawan mainland in about a week's time (as seen in the image for March 12).

As of 12:04 PM of March 6, 2023, our team from EMS – Coron was able to conduct water quality sampling in certain locations within Coron, Palawan. As of this time, the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Agutaya, Palawan (MDRRMO) has confirmed that presence of oil slicks has been sighted at Brgy. Concepcion and Algeciras. However, both our sampling team and MDRRMO cannot proceed as of this time due to the gale warning issued by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Furthermore, an ongoing meeting is being held participated by the undersigned, together with Usec. Jonas Leones and personnel from the Department of Labor and Employent (DOLE) – MIMAROPA for the profiling of possible volunteers for cash to work program for fisherfolks affected by the oil spill.



We will be providing additional updates as soon as verified information becomes available.

IV. WAYS AHEAD

This Office will also be conducting water quality sampling in certain locations in Agutaya, Palawan to validate whether any of the islands have been affected by the oil spill. Furthermore, this Office will also be having a coordination meeting with other EMB Regions and Philippine Coast Guard for the possibility of filing of appropriate cases against the vessel owner.

Lastly, considering that since there are no visible sightings or signs of oil spill within the island of Romblon, based on the latest information received from Romblon PCG, this Office has resolved to temporarily halt collection of water samples for the meantime.

This Office shall continue to monitor the situation and apprise the Director on all the latest situation development.

For the Undersecretary's information, reference, and further instructions, if any.


JOE AMIL M. SALINO

Copy furnished:

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*Regional Executive Director
DENR – MIMAROPA Region*



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