++Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116 Tel Nos. 9296626 to 29 ; 9296633 to 35 Website http://www.denr.gov.ph/ Emailweb@denrgov.ph

MEMORANDUM

TO

THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DENR Region IV B

L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila

FROM

THE UNDERSECRETARY

Field Operations Luzon & Visayas and Environment

SUBJECT

INCIDENT REPORT RE: SUNKEN DIVE YACHT M/Y DREAM KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN (RDATS NO. 1-2023-

108931)

DATE

MAY 0 3 2023

With reference to your memorandum dated 02 May 2023 regarding the abovementioned subject, your Office is directed to conduct more in-depth investigation into the said incident and submit regular updates this Office and the parties concerned of the actions taken citing document tracking number OUFOE 2023 -000544 for monitoring and record purposes.

For compliance.

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

c.c.

Office of the Secretary



Republic of the Philippines **Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

Document Action Tracking System Document Routing Slip

Document No:

OUFOE-2023-000544

Print Date:

Wednesday, May 03, 2023

Sender:

LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV

FOR/TO

OUFOE

Address:

DENR-4B

Subject

MEMO DTD 05/02/2023 INCIDENT REPORT RE: SUNKEN DIVE YACHT M/Y DREAM NATURAL WITHINTHE VICINITY OF TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN (RDATS NO. I-2023-108931)

Addressee(s):

FROM

Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment (OUFOE)

CC Addressee(s):

Date/Time Received: 05/03/2023 08:53:00 AM

DATE/TIME

RECEIVED 05/03/2023

08:53:22 AM

	ROUTING AND ACTION INFORMATION	
	DATE/TIME RELEASED	ACCEPTANCE REMARKS/ACTION REQUIRED/TAKEN REMARKS/STATUS
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Cc: 084

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THRU

USEC MARILOU G. ERNI

Chief of Staff and Supervising Undersecretary

for Strategic Communications

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO /

Undersecretary for Field Operations -Luzon, Visayas and Environment

USEC AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA

Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation and Human Resources and Undersecretary Coordinator on PCG, Philippine Navy and Other Enforcement Agencies Related to Oil Spill and

Marine Incidents

USEC CARLOS PRIMO C. DAVID, PH.D.

Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science

ENGR. GILBERT C. GONZALES, CESO III

OIC, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations - Luzon and Visayas

FROM

THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT :

INCIDENT REPORT RE: SUNKEN DIVE YACHT M/Y DREAM KEEPER WITHIN THE VICINITY OF TUBBATAHA REEFS

NATURAL PARK (TRNP) IN PALAWAN (RDATS NO. I-2023-

108931)

DATE

1145 000 2020

Please find the attached emailed Incident Report dated 02 May 2023 of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) Superintendent Angelique Songco with the following information:

- On 30 April 2023 at around 3:20 am, M/Y Discovery Palawan sent a call through a marine band radio informing that M/Y Dream Keeper was in distress at the vicinity of TRNP.
- On 30 April 2023 at around 3:30 am, M/Y Discovery Palawan, which was 4 nautical miles away from M/Y Dream Keeper proceeded to its location.
- On 30 April 2023 at around 4:15 am, M/Y Discovery Palawan arrived at the area and found that M/Y Dream Keeper has already sunk and immediately it started search and rescue operations.

Page 1 of 3

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- 4. On 30 April 2023 at around 4:50 am, the crew of M/Y Discovery Palawan successfully rescued twenty-eight (28) people composed of fifteen (15) crew members, eleven (11) guests and two (2) diversaters. However, the following four (4) passengers were missing:
 - i. Boat Owner Denke "Jackie" Yang (36 years old)
 - ii. Passenger Nino Anthony Labrador (36 years old)
 - iii. Passenger Marianne Paz Labrador (36 years old)
 - iv. Dive Master Timmy Jean Bejoc (32 years old)
- 5. On 30 April 2023 at around 6:46 am, the Philippine Coast Guard, Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) and LGU personnel with other dive boats proceeded in the incident area at the north of the North Atoll to conduct search and rescue operations. Debris were found in the area but the four (4) passengers were still missing.
- 6. On 30 April 2023 at around 2:00 pm, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) arrived at TRNP.
- 7. On 30 April 2023 at around 3:30 pm, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) coordinated the transfer of the survivors from M/Y Discovery Palawan to their vessel and continued search and rescue operations.
- On 01 May 2023 at around 6:00 am, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) continued search and rescue operations at the South Atoll and sailed back to Puerto Princesa at 7:30 am. Survivors were expected to arrive at Puerto Princesa in the afternoon.
- The Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard continuously coordinated and provided updates with their mother units. TMO also coordinated with the management of M/Y Dream Keeper regarding ongoing search and rescue operations.
- 10. On 01 May 2023 at around 8:00 am, US aircraft P8-436 conducted airborne search and rescue operations within TRNP.

PASu Songco informed PENRO Felizardo Cayatoc that the four (4) missing passengers have not yet been found. Dr. Cesar Villanoy provided a model of the possible location of the missing passengers. This model was sent to Western Command and Philippine Navy.

Hereunder are the relevant information about TRNP:

- TRNP is a marine protected area located 150 kilometers southeast of Puerto Princesa City.
- TRNP also protects one of the few remaining colonies of breeding seabirds in the region.

Page 2 of 3

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- TRNP lies at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the geographic centre of world marine biodiversity.
- TRNP has 10,000 hectares of reef ecosystems that are home to:
 - ► 700 species of fish
 - ▶ 360 species of corals (about half of all coral species in the world)
 - ► 11 species of sharks and rays
 - ▶ 13 species of dolphins and whales
 - ► 100 species of birds
 - hawksbill and green sea turtles
- In 1993, TRNP was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.
- On April 06, 2010, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed Republic Act 10067, an Act establishing the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in the province of Palawan as a Protected Area under the NIPAS Act (RA 7586) and the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act (RA 7611).
- Ten (10) stations were regularly monitored from 2012. Two (2) new stations were established for 2021 and 2022.
- In 2022, TMO conducted monitoring of corals within 12 stations.
- All trips bound to TRNP are vessel-based or "liveboard" since there are no accommodation facilities in the area.

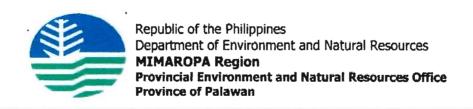
The TRNP has an average depth of 750 meters. Based on the coordinates (Lat 08"512,36 N Long 120"01.58 E) given by the captain of the yacht M/Y Discovery Palawan, the area where the yacht sank is within the TRNP and has an average depth of 1,500 meters according to PASu Songco who is now in the TRNP station. PASu Songco reported that the captain or crew of the M/Y Dream Keeper did not coordinate with the TMO for their entry to the TRNP as they could have been assisted in mooring the yacht and could have avoided mishap due to the local thunderstorm.

The TMO and Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board (TPAMB), wherein PCG and WESCOM are included as members, will conduct an assessment/coral reef monitoring in collaboration with the UP-MSI to ascertain if damage has been done to the coral reef systems.

The report of PENRO Felizardo Cayatoc is also attached with the map showing the location of the sinking incident, for your information and further instructions, if any.

ORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV

RDATS NO. 1-2023-108931 CDD / PAMBC / MTR / 05-02-2023



May 02, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director

DENR MIMAROPA Region 1515 L & S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

FROM: The Provincial Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

SUBJECT: INCIDENT REPORT ON THE SUNKEN M/Y DREAM KEEPER IN

TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK (TRMP), PALAWAN

This pertains to the incident report dated May 1, 2023 of Tubbataha Management Office relative to the sunken M/Y Dreem Keeper within the vicinity of the marine waters of Tubbataha Reef Natural Park (TRNP), Palawan.

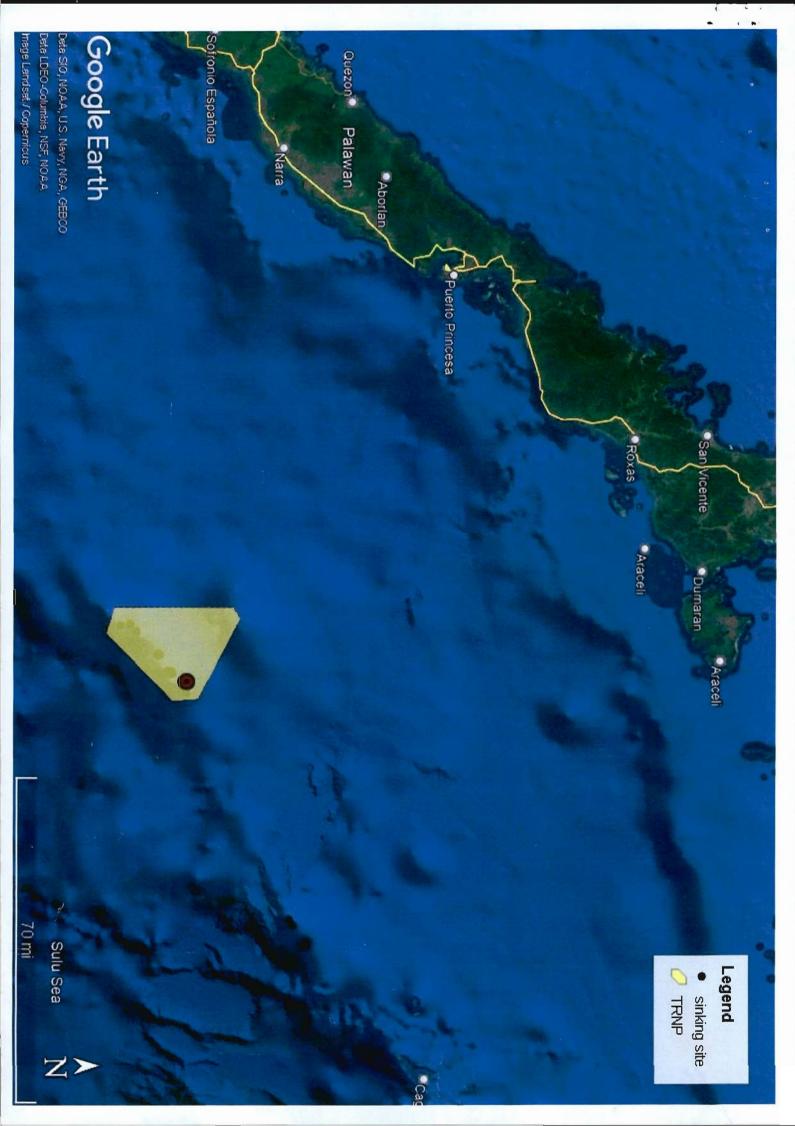
Please be informed that on April 30, 2023, the team of Tubbataha Marine Park Rangers composed of PCG, TMO, and LGU personnel conducted Search and Rescue (SAR) operations relative to the report of M/Y Discovery Palawan informing the TRMP station that M/Y Dream Keeper was in trouble at the vicinity of the waters of the protected area. Accordingly, M/Y Discovery Palawan, which was 4nm away from the area found the passengers all wearing life vests and one rubber boat of the sunken dive yacht with some survivors. The 28 individuals out of the 32 individual on board successfully rescued in the incident area, such as: (15) fifteen crew members, eleven (11) guests, and two (2) dive masters. The four (4) passengers are still missing, namely: (1) Boat Owner Denke 'Jackie' Yang, (2) Passenger Nino Anthony Labrador, (3) Passenger Marianne Paz Labrador, and (4) Dive Master Timmy Jean Bejoc. The other dive boats, namely: Almaroon Intrepid, Solitude-I, Palau Sports, M/Y Monsy, Stella Mariz, Philippine Siren, Resolute, Atlantis Azores, Zamerdius, and Navorca assisted in search and rescue operations. The 28 survivors were transferred to BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) from Discovery Palawan and sailed back with the survivors to Puerto Princesa City.

Be informed further that PASu Angelique Songco together with researchers and volunteers was on board the WWF Research vessel Navorea at the South Atoll on 30th day of April 2023 for the conduct of annual fish and benthos survey when they received a call from station that M/Y Dream Keeper had sunk. Dr. Cesar Villanoy, member of the Fellowship of the Reefs sent to them the possible location of the missing persons and lent them a star link used for their communication with Wescom and Philippine Navy.

Furthermore, other information gathered revealed that the boat sank at approximately 1,500 meters. It is observed that with that depth, most likely, very little corals are present because corals are seen on shallow areas where sunlight can penetrate and they need sunlight. However, deep diving can confirm the information. It has 15,000 liters of diesel and two pails of lube. Some of the diesel leaked yesterday but in a very small amount. Updates on the matter will be submitted as soon as possible.

For information, and further instruction.

FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC



INCIDENT REPORT

M/Y DREAM KEEPER

On or about 3:20 a.m. on 30 APR 23, PO2 Pamilaran PN received a call from M/Y Discovery Palawan through marine band radio informing the station that M/Y Dream Keeper was in distress at the vicinity of the waters off Tubbataha or at coordinates Lat 08" 512.36 N Long 120" 01.58 E. Accordingly, M/Y Discovery Palawan, which was 4nm away from M/Y Dream Keeper, proceeded to the location of M/Y Dream Keeper at 3:30 a.m. M/Y Discovery Palawan was in the area at 4:15, (08'52.731" N, 120'014.451" E) found out that M/Y Dream Keeper had already sunk, and immediately started search and rescue operations. They found the passengers all wearing life vests and one rubber boat of the M/Y Dream Keeper with some of the survivors. They allegedly successfully rescued (15) fifteen crew members, eleven (11) guests, and two (2) divemasters, namely:

- 1. Boat Captain Eron James R De Villa, 39 years old
- 2. Chief Mate Officer Rhennor A Santos, 48 years old
- 3. 2ND Chief Mate Officer Ernie R Rovira, 37 years old
- 4. Chief Engineer Abel A Dela Torre, 43 years old
- 5. 2ND Chief Engineer Fabian C Guiritan, 56 years old
- 6. Able Seaman James Ray Besana, 39 years old
- 7. Able Seaman Bong Bong R Catillo, 43 years old
- 8. Able Seaman Erecmel E Magbanua, 30 years old
- 9. Oiler Regie B Antonio, 35 years old
- 10. Coms. Man Ponciano M Atienza, 55 years old
- 11. Chef Jimmy F Ballesteros, 27 years old
- 12. Assistant Cook Warren T Fabito, 39 years old
- 13. Steward Ma Cecilla F Lugatiman, 30 years old
- 14. Steward Mary Ann S Muaña, 33 years old
- 15. Steward James Labasano, 23 years old
- 16. Passengers Ying Zhu, 24 years old
- 17. Xianhe Lin, 40 years old
- 18. Bo Gao, 33 years old
- 19. Keissha April Cunanan, 28 years old
- 20. Syvert Llyod Tan, 34 years old
- 21. Patrick Rene Varon, 50 years old
- 22. Philip Johnn Talo, 34 years old
- 23. Ivonne Herrero, 41 years old
- 24. Danilo Jamiito Jr., 34 years old
- 25. Judelyn Picardal, 50 years old
- 26. Ricky Juezan, 30 years old
- 27. Divemaster Chrisper Maranan, 30 years old
- 28. Divemaster Zhaoxi Li, 40 years old

By 4:50 a.m., all 28 people were rescued but the search for four (4) other passengers continued.

- 1. Boat Owner Denke 'Jackie' Yang, 36 years old
- 2. Passenger Nino Anthony Labrador, 36 years old
- 3. Passenger Marianne Paz Labrador, 36 years old
- 4. Dive Master Timmy Jean Bejoc, 32 years old

At 6:46 a.m., the team of Tubbataha marine park rangers composed of PCG, TMO, and LGU personnel proceeded to the incident area north of the North Atoll onboard the patrol boat to conduct search and rescue operations (SAR). Aside from Discovery Palawan, where the survivors were boarded, the other dive boats in the area assisted in SARS operations. These are namely: Almaroon Intrepid, Solitude-I, Palau Sports, M/Y Monsy, Stella Mariz, Philippine Siren, Resolute, Atlantis Azores, Zamerdius, and Navorca.

Debris was found in the general area of the incident, e.g., freezer, pieces of furniture, life raft, fins, etc., but the four missing individuals were not found.

At 2:00 p.m., 30 April 2023, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) arrived at Tubbataha at coordinates 08' 51.35"N 120' 01.59"E. By 3:30 p.m., MRRV-9702 coordinated the transfer of the 28 survivors from Discovery Palawan to their vessel. With the survivors on board, MRRV-9702 continued to conduct SAR operations. At 6:00 a.m., 1 May 2023, MRRV-9702 conducted SAR at South Atoll and sailed back to Puerto Princesa with the survivors at 7:30 a.m. and is expected to arrive Puerto Princesa at 5 p.m. today.

PN and PCG marine park rangers continuously sent dispatches to their mother units providing updates and seeking instructions. TMO coordinated with the boat manager of M/Y Dream Keeper regarding further SAR operations. A request was sent to the Western Command for airborne SAR operations. At around 6:00 p.m., a US-P8 aircraft conducted airborne SAR for more than 3 hours.

A US aircraft, P8-436, was sighted at around 8:00 a.m., 1 May 2023 conducting SAR around Tubbataha.



FOR

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THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

EMB MIMAROPA

THRU

THE CHIEF PEMU-PALAWAN

FROM

THE DEPUTY PEMO

1st District, Palawan

SUBJECT.

UPDATES ON THE SINKING INCIDENT INVOLVING MY DREAM KEEPER IN TUBBATAHA REEF, MUNICIPALITY

OF CAGAYANCILLO, PALAWAN

DATE

02 May 2023

This pertains to the sinking incident in Tubbataha, Palawan last 30 April 2023, which 28 survivors were secured and 4 persons are missing. And a possible oil spill is monitor by the Philippine Coast Guard due to its recorded service fuel from its point of origin which when they departed in Cebu, their recorded automotive fuel are 12,000 Liters and 10 liters of hydraulic oil and kindly imagine their travel time from Cebu and fuel consumption for their generator set, so this 12,000 Liters will expected to be less during their stay in Tubbataha.

As 02 May 2023, the EMB Deputy PEMO for 1st District Palawan; Engr. Rogel and EMS Roxas; Ms. Grizzele Bea Sabado proceeded to the office of Marine Environmental Protection Office (MEP-Force) to have an updates pertaining to the sinking incident.

CG Monariza Villancillo; MEP Force commander is present in the office and we had discuss with her and ask her about the updates to the sinking incident in Tubbataha, Palawan involving M/Y Dream Keeper.

According to Commander Villancillo, as of date, PCG is still conducting SAR (Search and Rescue) Operations to the 4 missing persons because until now, they are still missing. In regards to the possible oil spill, she said that they are directly coordinating to the rangers of Tubbataha and based on info, they can only observed spots of oil sheen, but due to waves it was then disappear immediately.

Please be informed also that the 28 Survivors were safely arrived in Puerto Princesa City yesterday (01 May 2023 around 2:00 pm).

In this regard, as per PCG MEP Force commander, their headquarters are strictly monitor the situation, and their goal now is to search and rescue the four (4) missing persons of M/Y Dream keeper and Western Command is helping also in SAR operations.

For Regional Director's Information, record and further instruction/s.

ENGR. MARK ANGELO ROGEL,MPA

Deputy PEMO, 1st District Palawan





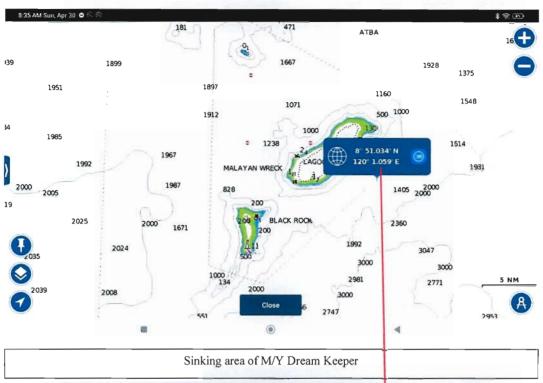
INSPECTION PHOTOS

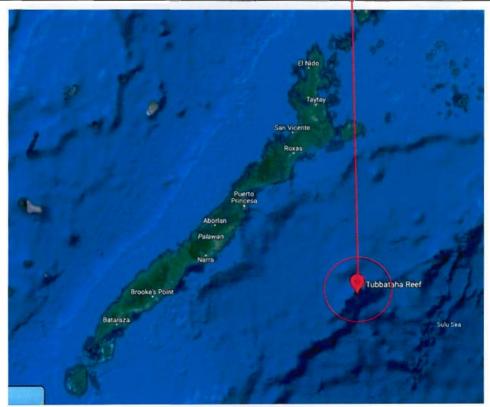


Coordination and Updates discussion with CG Monarizza Villancillo; MEP-Force Palawan Commander











SOCOTEC ISO 9001



FOR : THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

EMB MIMAROPA

THRU: THE CHIEF PEMU-PALAWAN

FROM: THE DEPUTY PEMO

1st District, Palawan

SUBJECT. : REPORT ON THE SINKING INCIDENT INVOLVING M/Y

DREAM KEEPER IN TUBBATAHA, PALAWAN.

DATE : 01 May 2023

This pertains to the instruction from the Regional Director dated 01 May 2023;10:30 am to immediately coordinate to the office of the Philippine Coast Guard regarding the received information through social media and main stream media about the sank dive yacht (M/Y Dream Keeper) in Tubbataha, Palawan which also reported by the Philippine Coast Guard yesterday 30 May 2023.

On 01 May 2023 around 1:00 pm after the call to MEP Force-Palawan commander; CG Monarizza Villancillo, the deputy chief, PEMO for 1st District Palawan; Engr. Mark Angelo Rogel and Project Monitoring Officer; Mr. Peter Abobot immediately proceeded to the office of the Philippine Coast Guard, Marine Environmental Protection Office (MEP-Force) Palawan located at Brgy. Bagong Silang, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan as DENR's counterpart in the protection of Marine Environment to coordinate, gather information and to determine the status of the reported sunk M/Y Dream Keeper in Tubbataha, Palawan.

CG PO1 Raphie G. Tañales; the chief Petty Officer on Watch and officer on duty confirmed the sinking incident in Tubbataha, Palawan last 30 April 2023 (Sunday) and she gave their full sinking incident report pertains to M/Y Dream Keeper with the following summary to wit:

Vessel Information:

Name: M/Y Dream Keeper

Address and Point of Origin: Brgy. Punta, San Remegio, Cebu

Official Number: PH07-001129
Type of Ship: Mega Yacht
Length: 34.98 m
Breadth: 6.20 m
Year of Building: 2022

Place of Building: Brgy. Punta, San Remegio, Cebu

Owner: Jackie Corp.

- On 30 April 2023; 7:45 am, the duty petty officer on watch received information that M/Y Dream Keeper was in distress in the vicinity waters of North Islet of Tubbataha with geocoordinates of 08.51.45N, 120.01.59 E. Accordingly the crew of M/Y Discovery Palawan had already responded to the said incident and allegedly successfully rescued twenty eight (28) personnel and was still looking for the four (4) missing personnel together with Tubbataha Rangers and other divers in the area.
- At about 6:46 am, the team of Tubbataha Rangers composed of PCG, Philippine Navy, Tubbataha Management Office and Local Government of Cagayancillo personnel departed Tubbataha Ranger Station enroute to North of Tubbataha via Tubbataha Patrol Boat to conduct Search and Rescue Operations.





- The MEP Force-Palawan contacted Tubbataha Management Office to verify if there's a report of oil spill, but unfortunately they were waiting for the Tubbataha rangers report if there were sightings of oil spill in the area.
- Around 3:00 pm on same day, MEP-Force Palawan contacted their counterpart at Central Visayas where the point of origin of M/Y Dream Keeper to determine the yacht information, and upon their inquiry to vessel's operations Manager, Mr. Nelson Mejia said that upon yacht departure in Cebu last 28 April 2023, the vessel is loaded with around twelve thousand (12,000) Liters of Automotive Diesel Oil (ADO) and Ten (10) Liters of hydraulic oil.
- At about 3:04 pm; 30 April 2023, MRRV 9702 arrived at vicinity waters of Tubbataha North Islet to secure the 28 survivors which are on board to M/Y Discovery Palawan (respond vessel)and around 3:25 pm, they are successfully transferred to MRRV 9702 and currently enroute to Puerto Princesa Palawan PCG District Office.
- On about 5:00 pm; 30 April 2023, MEP Force had received photos showing oil sheen taken 10:06 am about the oil spill sightings at the sinking site, however upon coordination to the MRRV 9702 about 4:00 pm on same day which are in the area for rescue operations, they confirmed that the oil spill or oil sheen was not already observed in the area.

(Oil Sheen- means a thin film with shiny rainbow color that appears at the surface of the water due to oil spilled)



Photos from PCG

- At around 6:30 pm; 30 April 2023, MRRV-9702 officers conducted an interview to the Mr. Ernie Rovire; 2nd Officer of distress vessel, according to him, they put the engine on standby in preparation for the approaching squall and then after five (5) mins they were hit by the strong wind (Subasco) and lost control, so that the captain had sought assistance to M/Y Discovery Palawan to transfer their guest to the said vessel.
- On 01 May 2023 (Monday) at around 6:04 am, CGD Pal Action Center forwarded a screenshot of a chart (map) showing the coordinates and indicating the last position of ill-fated M/Y Dream Keeper with the following information; Lat: 8°51.034' N, Long: 120°1.059' E with an estimated depth of 1,405 meters.
- The PCG continue to conduct search and rescue operations on 01 May 2023 to the four (4) missing passengers of the ill-fated M/Y Dream Keeper, and 01 May 2023 around 2:00 pm; the PCG are expected the arrival of the 28 Survivors in PCG District Office in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.
- At around 12:18 pm; 01 May 2023, the PCG MEP Force is continuously coordinating to the PCG assigned in Tubbataha and they still confirmed that no sightings of any oil spill at the sinking site likewise it fair weather has been observed in the area.
- The PCG-MEP Force is continuously monitor the status in the area.





In regards to the above summary, our counterpart in Environment PCG-MEP Force Palawan is continuously monitor the area for a possible oil spill or sheen.

Please be ensure that the EMB in Palawan will also continuously coordinate to PCG regarding the updates and will also give its technical assistance to the PCG if needed, but for now it's under the control of the Philippine Coast Guard and local authorities in the area.

Please be informed that the travel time from Puerto Princesa City to Tubbataha is around 8-12 hrs with an average speed of 86 Nautical miles and its estimated distance is around 170 kilometers.

For Regional Director's Information, record and further instruction/s.

PETER ABOBOT

Project Monitoring Officer

ENGR. MARK/ANGELO ROGEL,MPA Deputy PEMO, 1st District Palawan



