



November 28, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** : The Regional Executive Director  
DENR- MIMAROPA Region  
1515 L&S Building  
Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

**THRU** : The Provincial Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer  
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

**FROM** : The Community Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer

**SUBJECT** : **UPDATES ON THE HALF-SUBMERGED VIETNAMESE VESSEL  
(VIET HAI STAR) IN BALABAC, PALAWAN**

This pertains to the half-submerged Vietnamese-flagged vessel (Viet Hai Star) in the vicinity waters off Balabac, Palawan that ran aground at approximately 810 yards off Balabac Port on November 21, 2023 while on their way to Cagayan De Oro City from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, loaded with 4,000 tons of rice and carrying 29,000 liters of automotive diesel oil (ADO).

Please be informed that as of November 24, 2023, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel laid out additional oil spill boom around the vessel and continued the application of dispersants and absorbents on oil trapped within the boom. Simultaneously, some PCG personnel proceeded to the shoreline and conducted assessment of the affected areas. As a result, there were oil spill deposits observed along the shoreline of Sitio Timbud, Barangay Poblacion 4, Balabac.

Thereafter, immediate coastal clean-up, oil scooping and application of dispersants were conducted at Sitio Timbud, Barangay Poblacion 4, Balabac. Said activity was participated by PCG personnel, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (MDRRMO) personnel, Palawan Rescue Team and four (4) crews of Viet Hai Star. A total of 250 kilograms of solid waste and seven (7) drums of oily water mixture were collected.

Further, the salvage team composed of FM Ocean White and Starlite Marine Insurance Company boarded the subject Vietnamese vessel to conduct visual inspection and patching of air vents. However, due to poor visibility underwater, the salvage team was not able to conduct underwater inspection.

Attached herewith are the photos of the subject vessel showing the vicinity waters, the laid out oil spill booms, the coastal clean-up and oil scooping activities.

This Office will continue to monitor the situation in Balabac in coordination with PCG and our DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point – Balabac Sub-Office.

For your information, record, and further instruction.

For and in the absence of CENRO



**FRANKLIN M. AQUINO**  
Development Management Officer IV  
In-Charge, Office of the CENRO



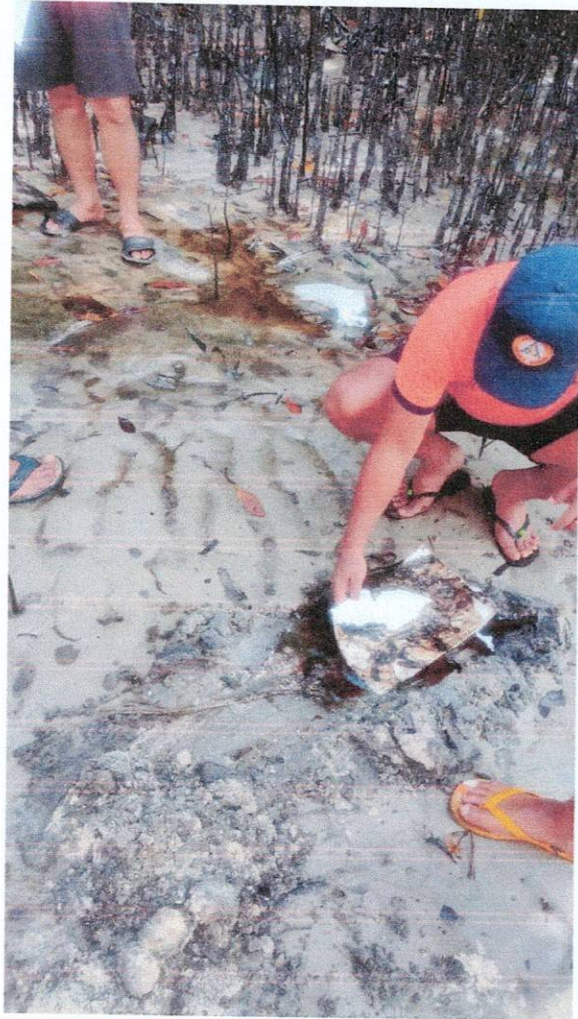








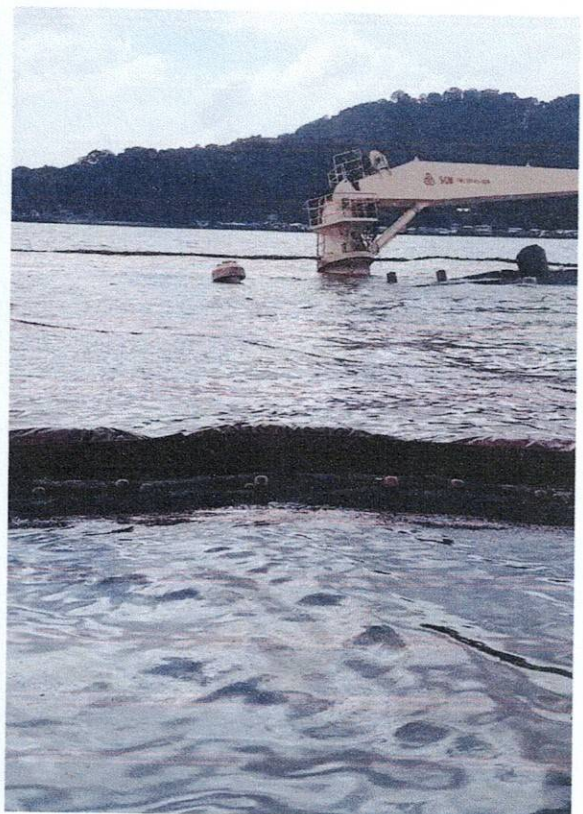
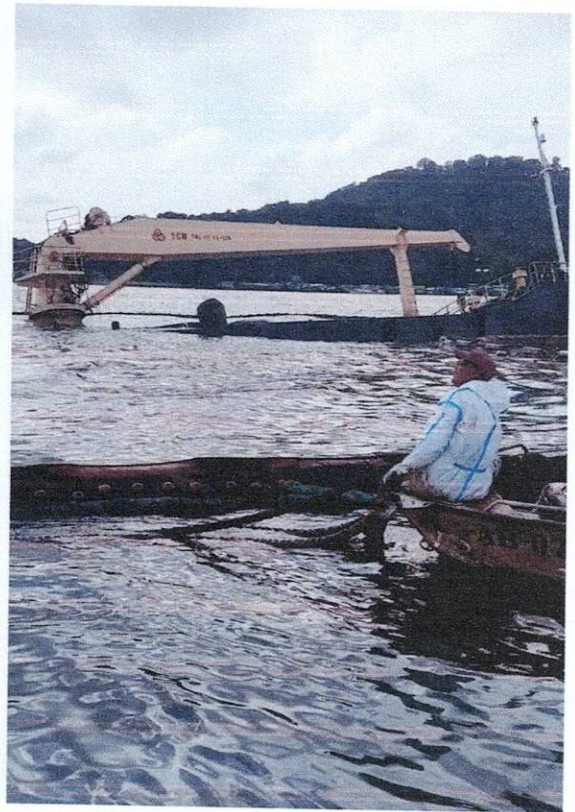




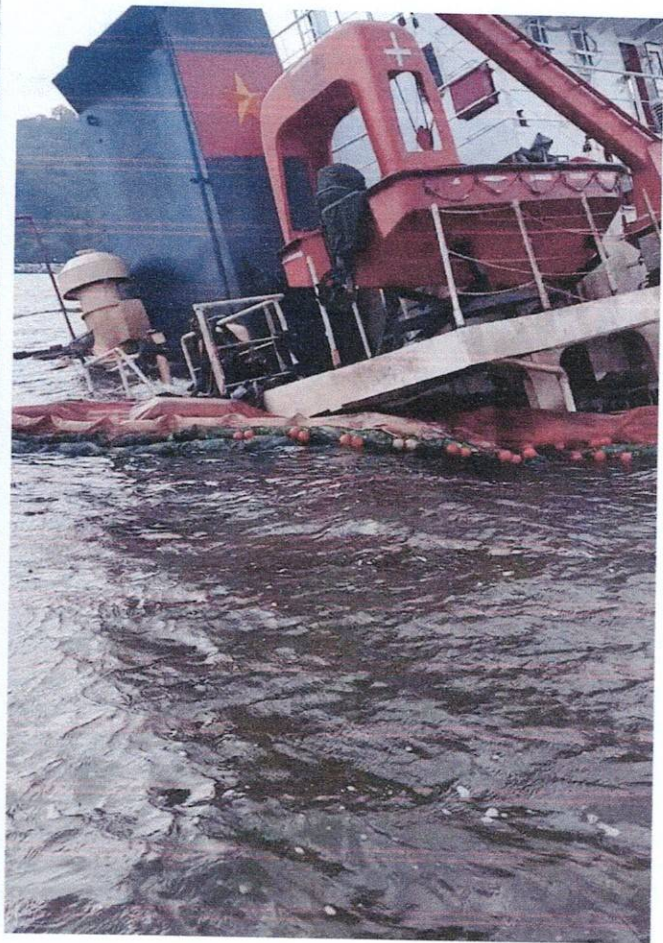
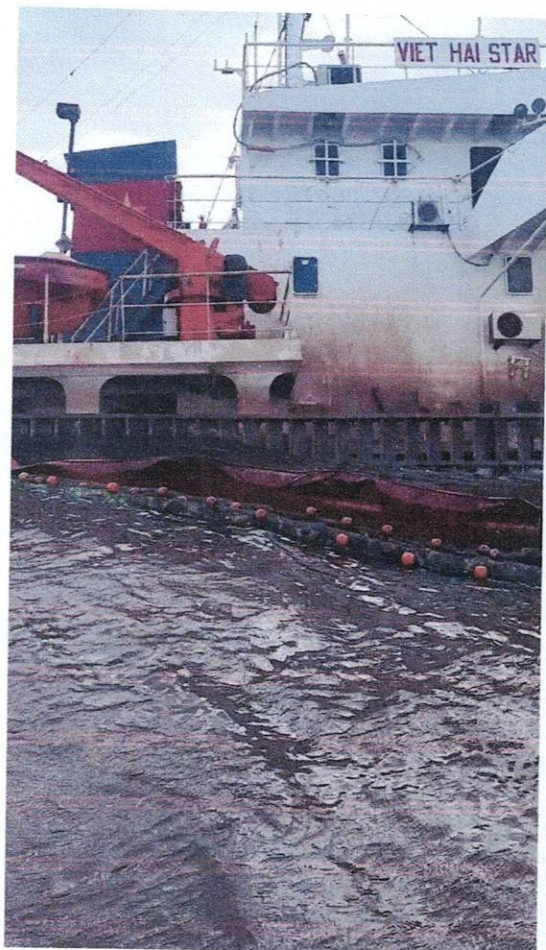












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