

Feelin' Free (2017)

Location: Port Neville, BC

Case number: 120-717-C1

The Incident

On January 30, 2017, the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) was notified that a vessel with people aboard was on fire in Kelsey Bay, near Sayward, BC. The report indicated that approximately 4,000 litres of diesel were aboard. The ship was identified by CCG as the *Feelin' Free* (vessel), a 14-metre reinforced moulded plastic fishing vessel.

CCG Campbell River Lifeboat Station dispatched a Search and Rescue (SAR) response team. The CCG record states that attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful at this stage. Due to the remote location of the developing incident and the pollution threat posed by the vessel, CCG entered into an emergency contract with the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC). WCMRC deployed personnel and equipment to Sayward but was unable to get near the Vessel due to extreme heat from the fire.

On January 31, 2017, CCG mobilized an Emergency Response (ER) Strike Team out of Victoria. The vessel continued to burn. WCMRC remained on site and the CCG team arrived later in the day. A non-recoverable sheen was observed around the vessel, which remained inaccessible due to "unsafe conditions".

The shipowner was successfully contacted by CCG. He designated his insurer as his representative. CCG contacted the insurer, which agreed that an ER response was necessary and undertook to salvage the vessel once safe to do so. It appears that a formal Notice was issued to both owner and insurer on this day informing them of their liability and requesting information on their intentions. The CCG team departed the scene for Victoria before the end of the day.

On February 1, 2017, the vessel was partially sunken but still smoldering. WCMRC began cleaning small pockets of recoverable sheen. Residents of the area apparently reported the smell of diesel and a sheen along local beaches. On February 2, 2017, WCMRC demobilized after cleaning as much oil pollution as deemed possible. CCG issued a Section 180 Direction Order formal Directive to the shipowner and insurer, ordering them to have the vessel towed and removed from the marine environment. On February 2, 2017, the owner towed the vessel and removed it from the marine environment.

The Claim

On January 24, 2019, the CCG filed a claim with the Administrator for costs and expenses incurred in the amount of \$37,731.13, pursuant to section 103 of the *Marine Liability Act*.

The Administrator determined that the claim was admissible under Part 7 of the Act.

Assessment and Offer

As of March 31, 2019, the claim is still under assessment.

Status

The file remains open.