

Norob (2016)

Location: Degnan Bay, BC
Case number: 120-754-C1

The Incident

On June 21, 2016, the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) was notified that a 16-metre wooden fishing vessel (later identified as the *Norob*) was sinking in Degnan Bay, Gabriola Island, east of Nanaimo. CCG dispatched a lifeboat from Ganges Lifeboat Station to the site, which reported to Ganges Base that the vessel was in imminent danger of sinking. Pumps were immediately deployed and CCG was successful in keeping the vessel afloat.

CCG Environmental Response (ER) mobilized to Degnan Bay to conduct a thorough assessment of the situation. The *Norob* was in a state of severe neglect, with obvious signs of structural damage, and it was taking on water as a result of its damaged hull.

Given that the *Norob* was in danger of sinking and releasing pollutants, CCG ER made the decision to remove it from the water. Eagle Eye Marine was contracted to tow the vessel to the nearby Saltair Marine facility in Ladysmith. While awaiting the arrival of Eagle Eye, CCG personnel pumped out 400 litres of oily pollutants from the fuel tanks and engine compartment of the vessel.

Eagle Eye arrived on scene in the early afternoon of June 22, 2016 and soon had the vessel under tow. That evening, the vessel was delivered to the Saltair dock.

The vessel was removed from the water by Saltair on June 25, 2016 and stored in their yard until June 29, 2016. The deconstruction of the *Norob* was completed by July 21, 2016.

The Claim

On May 1, 2018, the Administrator received a claim in the amount of \$12,930.15 from CCG, on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO/CCG), in respect of the incident pursuant to the *Marine Liability Act*. The Administrator determined that the claim was admissible under Part 7 of the Act.

Assessment and Offer

The Administrator carried out investigation and assessment of the claim. On May 9, 2018, the Administrator made an offer for the established amount of \$12,930.15, plus interest, as full and final settlement to DFO/CCG. The offer was accepted on May 22 and, on May 25, a payment in the amount of \$13,662.43, including interest, was made to DFO/CCG.

Recovery Action

In May 2018, the Administrator subpoenaed the Chief Registrar of the Canadian Register of Vessels in order to obtain the official registration transcripts for the *Norob*.

On October 26, 2018, in-house counsel to the Administrator sent a demand letter to the last registered owners of the vessel. They responded, claiming that they had sold the vessel prior to the incident. An alleged informal bill of sale was produced.

On January 31, 2019, counsel to the Administrator sent a demand letter to the last known address of the alleged purchaser of the *Norob*, but the letter could not be delivered. Another demand letter was emailed to the alleged purchaser on March 19, 2019 but no response has been received to date.

Status

The file remains open.