

## *Sea Gypsy (2017)*

Location: Port de Québec, QC

Case number: 120-793-C1

### **The Incident**

On November 5, 2017, the 20-foot sailboat *Sea Gypsy* partially sank while tied to the dock in the Port of Quebec. Diesel fuel was visible in the water around the partially sunken vessel. The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) estimated a volume of 50 litres of diesel on board.

The owner was contacted by both CCG and the Port of Quebec. In the interim, CCG responded using a Zodiac from the CCGS *Cap Percé* and placed 5-inch absorbent boom around the vessel. The rate of rising and falling tides and the potential impact of any further pollution in the Port remained a concern. The owner told CCG and said he would arrive in Quebec on November 6 or 7, estimating that the vessel contained 25 litres of diesel.

On November 6, 2017, CCG replaced the boom surrounding the vessel and held a planning meeting with the Port. On November 7, CCG checked the site and noted that the boom was lightly saturated with oil. A small amount of pollution was sighted in front of the vessel. On November 8, CCG was unable to contact the owner and the decision was taken to continue with current measures. On November 9, three CCG personnel used a Zodiac and crane to replace 12 sections of boom.

On November 10, 2017, the owner advised the CCG he was still looking for an affordable contractor to refloat his boat. He decided to start the work himself and advised he would be in Quebec from November 13 to 15. CCG requested that the owner submit his plan to refloat his vessel and advised him of his responsibility for any resulting pollution.

On November 12, 2017, the Port of Quebec advised CCG that some oil was escaping from the boomed area during the rising tide cycle. The pollution was described as minimal and unrecoverable. CCG re-assessed the site and replaced absorbent boom. On November 14, the owner advised the Port and CCG that he would not continue to try to refloat his vessel. As a result, the Port of Quebec took charge and CCG maintained a monitoring and advising role.

On November 17, 2017, the vessel sank again after the chains attaching it to the dock parted. CCG recovered the boom and determined that the vessel had come to rest 50 feet from the dock. No additional pollution was sighted. CCG marked the wreck with a buoy and the Port recovered the vessel from the water on December 7.

### **The Claim**

On March 27, 2019, CCG filed a claim with the Administrator on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for costs and expenses incurred in the amount of \$7,278.30, 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 remained under assessment.

**Status**

The file remains open.