



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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## Situation Report (SITREP) (8)

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SITREP No.   8   Name/contacts of person completing this report:   EPA/JMAS  

Date/time of SITREP:   12/22/2025   Date/time of incident:   11/27/25- 12/20/2025  

Location of incident: **7°18'08.68"N 151°53'36.61"E (WWII Vessel/Rio De Janeiro Maru)**

### **Taskforce Mission:**

To identify and coordinate response actions, response priorities, and cooperative oil spill response arrangements.

**Incident:** A significant marine oil spill from Rio De Janeiro leaked into/onto Uman Island and potentially on nearby islands.

**Situation to Date: 12/22/2025**

### **Current Situation**

- Oil contamination continues to be observed along several shoreline areas, including docks, seawalls, and mangroves.
- Strong fumes remain noticeable, especially during high tides, which push trapped oil from seawalls & rocks toward the shore and sandy beaches.
- Significant amounts of oil remain inside vessel and other sunken vessels (e.g. Kiyosumi Maru)

### **Actions to Date: November 27 – December 20, 2025**

- Follow-up assessment, monitoring and environmental observations
- Weekly monitoring and collection of Oil
- Food Relief delivery
- Public Awareness and Shoreline clean-up activities

### **Observations/Investigation results:**

#### **1. Assessment – Monitoring & Environmental Observations**

The monitoring and assessment team consisting of representatives from various offices and NGOs: FSM National Government (DECEN), Chuuk EPA, Catholic Relief Services

(CRS), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Department of Marine Resources continued site inspections across affected coastal areas (Naka & Hinote) while JMAS continues its weekly monitoring and oil collection.

Key observations include:

- **Persistent slight dark oil spots** remain visible on **docks, shoreline structures, and seawalls**, indicating trapped and residual contamination.
- **Strong fume/odor** continues to affect shoreline areas, suggesting ongoing volatilization of oil residues.
- **King tide/high tide events** pushed oil that was trapped between **rocky seawalls** into nearby **taro patches in Naka Village**, raising concerns about soil and crop contamination.
- Remnants of **dark-colored oily residue** were documented along sandy beaches in **Naka and Sapota villages**, showing evidence of tidal redistribution of pollutants.
- On 12/03/25: It was also witnessed that residents of Sannuk and Sopotiw were caught fishing and swimming.

## **2. On-site Recovery:**

- On 12/15/25: **7 gallons of oil** was recovered on site by JMAS.
- The total volume of oil remaining inside the wreck is unknown but is estimated to potentially reach millions of gallons
- Current recovery operations are temporary damage-control measures, not a long-term solution
- A fundamental solution would require:
  - Large-scale internal oil extraction from the wrecks
  - Specialized international salvage companies
  - Long-term planning and implementation (multi-year)
  - Substantial financial resources

**3. Public awareness activities** were conducted with village chiefs and community members. Topics included:

### **1. Shoreline Clean-up**

- Strengthening **shoreline clean-up** and **waste collection** and delivery efforts- ongoing
- Distribution of trash bags and hand gloves for most affected areas

### **2. Awareness Campaign:**

### **Health & Safety Guidance**

- Reinforcing **precautionary measures** for communities affected by the oil spill

- Clarifying **marine and coastal restriction zones** to minimize exposure to potential hazards
- Self-Protection from Fumes & shoreline

### **Community Roles in the Response**

- Report new oil sightings, strong fumes, or any changes along the shoreline.
- Cooperate with assessment and clean-up teams.
- Participate in on-going shoreline clean-ups

### **Key Reminders: Safety is top priority.**

- Stay away from contaminated sites including shipwreck until it is officially declared safe.
- Follow instructions and updates issued by EPA, and community leaders.
- Report any unusual conditions immediately.

### **4. Food Relief Distribution**

- Despite the weather condition the team was able to distribute the food relief assistance to 520 Households from the 27<sup>th</sup> of November till the 4<sup>th</sup> of December.
- 5-gals Drinking Water will be scheduled upon released of Purchase Order from the FSM National Government/Finance.

### **5. Other Activities:**

- Secured grant assistance from Grassroots Japan
- Meeting/assistance sought through Ambassador of India
- Senate hearing on H.B No. 18-19- Appropriation of emergency funds
- Special site visit and direct observation conducted by FSM Congress. It is hopeful that it helped to better understand:
  - The complexity of the issue
  - Why it cannot be resolved quickly or inexpensively

### **Recommendations:**

- Given the continuing risk of oil leakage, the necessity of extending the State of Emergency is highly recommended
- Maintaining an emergency status may also be essential to enable continued international assistance and cooperation (i.e. UNDP and other organizations)
- Continued monitoring is required, especially during high-tide cycles. Public awareness and precautionary measures remain essential to safeguard community health, marine resources, and nearshore food sources.
- Further coordination and request for full environmental and/or scientific assessment is highly recommended to address lingering contamination.

- Weekly monitoring and collection of Oil on Rio De Janeiro.
- Request continued prohibition of diving and recreational activities around sites and;
- Long-term planning and implementation