



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Situation Report (SITREP) (9)

SITREP No. 9 Name/contacts of person completing this report: EPA/JMAS/Recoverit Ltd.

Date/time of SITREP: 02/06/26 Date/time of incident: 01/13/26- 2/6/26

Location of incident: **Uman Island, Fefen Island and adjacent waters, Chuuk State**

Taskforce Mission:

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

Incident Reference: Residual impacts associated with the September 2025 oil spill and oil leakage detected on Kiyosumi Maru

Assessor: Chuuk EPA, JMAS & Recoverit Ltd.

Purpose of Assessment: To investigate and assess potential ongoing oil contamination and environmental impacts associated with the September 2025 oil spill, with particular focus on shoreline conditions, nearshore waters, the wreck site, and implications for local food safety. Engagement with local leaders was also undertaken as part of the visit to Uman.

Methodology

Field Screening Techniques

Qualitative hydrocarbon screening was conducted using **Macherey-Nagel hydrocarbon presence sampling swabs**, designed to indicate the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons in water, wet soils, and sediments.

- Detection threshold: approximately **5 mg/L (5 ppm)** in water and wet soils.
- Indicator mechanism: color change from light blue to dark blue.
- Results are indicative only and not quantitative.



Image: Swap sample

Swabs were pre-tested prior to deployment and re-tested during the assessment to confirm reliability and to minimize the risk of false positive or false negative results.

Survey Coverage

- Shoreline inspection from the **Nukanap church southward beyond the breakwater (~700 m)**.
- Targeted testing at locations where residual oil presence was considered most likely.
- Sampling of pore water in crab burrows and freshwater estuarine areas with direct marine access.
- Surface water testing directly over the wreck site.

A total of **20 field tests** were completed during the assessment.

Observations and Findings

Shoreline and Nearshore Areas

- No hydrocarbons were detected in shoreline tests.
- No petroleum odors were detected.
- No visible oil slicks, sheens, or fresh oil residues were observed on seawater surfaces or rock walls.
- Bore water from crab burrows and estuarine freshwater areas showed no indication of hydrocarbon presence.

Dark, tar-like residues were still shown on some rock wall faces and mangrove stems. These materials were not conclusively identified during this assessment and would require more comprehensive sampling and laboratory analysis to confirm origin and composition.

Marine Substrates

Marine sands, sediments, corals, and nearshore muds were not sampled during this assessment. While no visual indicators suggested contamination, the absence of testing represents a remaining uncertainty.

Wreck Site: Rio De Janeiro

- A slight positive hydrocarbon indication was recorded in surface water directly above the wreck after approximately 30 seconds of swab immersion.
- No visible slicks or petroleum odors were detected.

- No positive results were obtained from water samples collected between the wreck and Uman Island.

These findings suggest a **very low-level, ongoing release of oil from the wreck**, with limited spatial dispersion. The total amount collected in January was about 26.2 gallons (Please refer to data sheet as attached).

Wreck site: Kiyosumi Maru, Fefen Island

- We found a pool of oil inside the bulwark and small amount of oil and air bubbles were coming out of the hull
- Thin oil film was detected on the surface of the water

These findings suggest that we need to be on alert, prepare, avoid/prevent major oil leakage as this wreck holds the highest volume of oil.

Environmental Risk Assessment

Based on the field evidence collected, ongoing environmental contamination around Uman Island appears to be **very low or negligible** at the time of assessment. However, the slight positive result at the wreck site indicates a potential ongoing source of hydrocarbons.

Observations on the recent spill on Kiyosumi is also very minimal. However, we will continue to monitor throughout this month.

Given the limited scope of sampling and absence of laboratory confirmation for several environmental media, **ongoing low-level contamination cannot be conclusively ruled out**, particularly in the bay adjacent to residential areas.

Food Safety and Human Exposure Considerations

- Definitive assessment of seafood safety requires **Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH)** analysis of fish and invertebrate tissue.
- Finfish typically process hydrocarbons within weeks following exposure.
- Invertebrates (e.g., sea cucumbers, snails, urchins) process more slowly and may retain contaminants for extended periods.
- Offshore pelagic species (e.g., tuna) are considered very unlikely to be impacted.

Interim Consumption Guidance:

- Local reef fish may be consumed with precautions, including filleting only and rejecting any specimens with petroleum odor.
- Consumption of invertebrates should be avoided for a minimum of **three months after the last significant oiling event**, unless laboratory testing confirms safety.

Due to the reliance of local people on daily consumption of locally harvested seafood, potential exposure risks are higher than for populations elsewhere. A precautionary approach is therefore warranted.

Limitations

- Qualitative field screening only; no quantitative laboratory analysis undertaken at the time of assessment.
 - Limited spatial and media coverage (no sediment, coral, or biota sampling).
 - Cause and triggering mechanism of the original spill remain unknown, increasing uncertainty regarding potential recurrence.
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Conclusions and Recommendations

- While contamination levels appear minimal, uncertainty remains due to limited sampling scope.
- As the mechanism of the original spill is unknown and could recur, a **precautionary approach** is still strongly recommended.
- Expanded environmental sampling and seafood testing should be undertaken before declaring the area fully free of oil-related risk
- Continue to ban diving on Rio De Janeiro
- Request to ban diving on Kiyosumi Maru as well as we continue to monitor the recent oil leakage.
- Preparation for escalation, as these small leaks can lead to major spills
- As such, we highly recommend that this situation be declared an Active Environmental Emergency

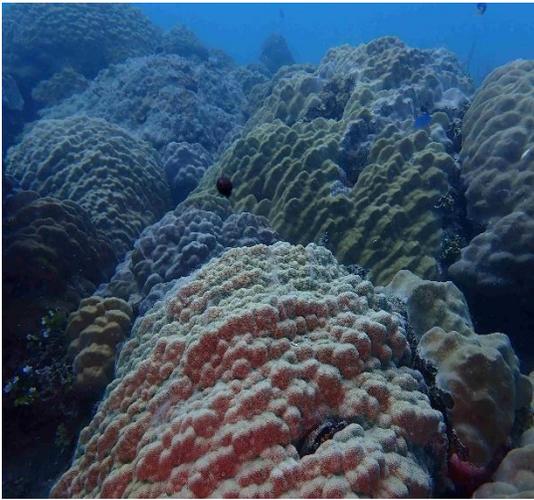
I. Assessment Photos- Kiyosumi Maru & Uman Island



(1. Small oil bubbles coming out of hull, Kiyosumi Maru)



(2. Oil pool found in bulwark)



(3. Oil bubbles seen near coral reef)



(4. Light Oil sheen detected on surface)



(5. Samples taken on shoreline)



(6. Water samples obtained, Nesarau- Naka)

II. Rio De Janeiro Maru Oil Recovery Data

Rio Maru recovery record					
date	Amount collected (liters)	Gallons	date	Amount collected (liters)	Gallons
2025-09-17	0		2026-01-06	18	4.7
2025-09-19	0		2026-01-12	18	4.7
2025-09-24	13	3.4	2026-01-19	42	11
2025-09-26	9	2.3	2026-01-27	22	5.8
2025-09-29	14	3.6	2026-1-		
2025-10-01	7	1.8	2026-1-		
2025-10-03	9	2.3	2026-1-		
2025-10-06	4	1	2026-1-		
2025-10-08	1.5	0.39	2026-1-		
2025-10-10	5	1.3	2026-1-		
2025-10-13	16	4.2	2026-1-		
2025-10-15	6	1.5	2026-1-		
2025-10-17	11	2.9	2026-1-		
2025-10-20	4.5	1.1	2026-1-		
2025-10-24	16	4.2	2026-1-		
2025-10-31	18	4.7	2026-1-		
2025-11-07	23	6	2026-1-		
2025-11-10	31	8.1	2026-1-		
2025-11-14	15	3.9	2026-1-		
2025-11-25	22	5.8	2026-1-		
2025-12-03	10	2.6	2026-1-		
2025-12-05	15	3.9	2026-1-		
2025-12-12	18	4.7	2026-1-		
2025-12-15	20	5.2	2026-1-		
2025-12-19	20	5.2	2026-1-		
2025-12-22	20	5.2	2026-1-		
2025-12-24	17	4.4	2026-1-		
TOTAL			TOTAL	445	117.55