



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. BOX 1439
WENO, CHUUK STATE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

TEL: (691) 330-4158
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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Situation Report (SITREP 2)

Subject: Oil Spill Recovery and Remediation Operations – MS Chief Mailo and Ballina

Date: April 23, 2026

Reporting Period: Initial Post-Containment Phase

1. Situation Overview

Following earlier reports of environmental risk associated with the vessels *MS Chief Mailo* and *Ballina*, **primary containment measures have been successfully implemented**. Oil containment booms and initial control strategies have effectively limited the spread of pollutants within the affected marine area.

However, **residual oil and associated contaminants remain present** within the containment zones and surrounding waters, necessitating immediate transition to **recovery and remediation operations**.

2. Current Status

- **Containment:**
Successfully established around identified risk vessels, with priority zones stabilized.
 - **Pollutant Condition:**
 - Surface oil sheens and localized thicker accumulations observed within boom perimeters.
 - Potential subsurface contamination cannot yet be ruled out.
 - Sensitive marine habitats in proximity remain at risk pending full cleanup.
 - **Environmental Risk Level:**
Moderate to High (Localized) — dependent on speed and effectiveness of recovery efforts.
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3. Actions Undertaken

- Deployment of **oil booms** to contain/recover floating oil within contained areas.
- Use of **absorbent pads and materials** for smaller accumulations and nearshore zones.
- Initiation of **waste collection and temporary storage protocols** for recovered oil and contaminated debris.
- Continued **monitoring** and **visual surveillance** of containment effectiveness.



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4. Ongoing and Planned Operations

- **Mechanical Recovery Expansion:**
Increase deployment of oil spill pads and possible use of skimmer systems (should situation change) to accelerate oil removal.
- **Shoreline Protection & Cleanup:**
Pre-positioning of cleanup teams to protect and remediate any impacted coastal or mangrove areas.
- **Environmental Assessment:**
Detailed sampling (water samples) to determine extent of contamination
- **Specialized Response:**
Evaluation and extend of damage underwater

5. Interagency Coordination

The EPA continues to coordinate closely with:

- Disaster Coordinating Taskforce
- Transportation
- Transco
- JMAS
- UNOCHA
- DECEM

Unified command structures remain active to ensure efficient decision-making and operational execution.

6. Key Risks and Challenges

- Potential for **secondary release** from compromised vessels.
- Weather and sea conditions impacting recovery efficiency.
- Risk to **marine biodiversity**, including fisheries and coral ecosystems.
- Access to main tanks for recovery

7. Immediate Priorities



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1. Accelerate oil recovery operations within all containment zones.
 2. Prevent shoreline contamination and protect sensitive habitats.
 3. Maintain continuous environmental monitoring and risk assessment.
 4. Ensure safe handling and disposal of all recovered pollutants.
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8. Outlook

If recovery operations proceed effectively and no additional discharge occurs, **environmental impacts can be contained and progressively mitigated**. Continued vigilance is required to prevent escalation and to support ecological recovery.

Prepared by:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Emergency Response Unit

PHOTOS:



Image 1: 4/20/26: Observation of oil sheen moving in south direction



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Image 2: 04/20/26: Oil sheen detected at two-point sources



Image 3: 4/20/26: Placement of oil boom on site



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Image 4: 4/21/26: Deployment of Oil booms



Image 5: 4/21/26: Containment of both vessels



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Image 6: 4/21/26: Containment of Ballina



Image 7: 4/21/26: Containment of MS Chief Mailo