



## **Directorate General of Shipping**

**SITREP – 34, 1800 hrs on 30/06/2025**

### **Sinking of MSC ELSA 3 (IMO no. 9123221, Flag Liberia) South West of Kochi**

The contents of this SITREP are based on both written and verbal inputs received from the stakeholders

#### **1. Incident Overview:**

Refer to SITREP – 6

#### **2. Response Actions Initiated:**

Refer to SITREP – 6

#### **3. Present Status:**

The transition of salvage operations from T&T Salvage to SMIT Salvage has been formally completed as of 28th June 2025 at 1000 hours. The Canara Megh is presently deployed on-site for caretaking duties, conducting 24-hour monitoring operations with reports being relayed every six hours. VHF safety broadcasts are being transmitted hourly to warn passing traffic to maintain a one nautical mile exclusion zone around the wreck location. Weather conditions at the site are reported as long swells of approximately three metres with moderate wind speeds of 12–15 knots. No visible oil sheen or floating debris has been reported in the latest assessments.

On the shoreline, coordinated clean-up operations continue. The recovered plastic nurdles from impacted beaches in Trivandrum and Kollam districts are being systematically transported to Kollam Port. As of 30th June 2025, a total of approximately 106.823 metric tons of nurdles have been moved to the designated MERC warehouse at Kollam Port. Volunteer mobilisation remains strong, with 456 volunteers engaged in Trivandrum and additional teams supporting operations in Kollam, Rameshwaram, and Kanyakumari.

Container recovery operations are nearing completion, with three sunken containers remaining to be salvaged. These operations are expected to conclude within the week. Pollution Control Board (PCB) officials have conducted preliminary water sampling,

with reports awaited. Planning is underway to establish a weekly water quality monitoring protocol both along the shoreline and at the wreck site.

#### 4. Situation Assessment:

The handover of salvage responsibilities to SMIT Salvage marks a critical milestone in stabilising the response effort. With the Southern Nova Dive Support Vessel prepared and audited in Singapore, mobilisation for fuel extraction and further technical operations is progressing. Engagement with MSC, MERC, and Brand Marine Consultants ensures alignment on the next operational phase.

The estimated nurdle cargo based on manifests indicates 72 containers with a total net weight of 1,559 metric tons. However, only eight containers with plastic nurdles are confirmed to have been released from the deck, with ongoing shoreline arrivals observed, particularly along Kerala and Tamil Nadu coasts. Recovered nurdles are being secured in bonded storage at Kollam Port, with disposal protocols being finalised in consultation with Customs and relevant agencies. Material collected in Tamil Nadu remains stored at designated sites pending State Government disposal instructions.

Pellet containers on MSC ELSA III			
Location	Number of containers	Total number of packages (pellet bags)	Total net cargo weight (kg)
Above deck	48	47,780.00	1,041,138.00
Below deck	24	23,760.00	518,076.00
Total	72	71,540.00	1,559,214.00
Known pellet containers released from wreck.			
Kerala shoreline	8	7,920.00	172,762.00

Environmental surveillance remains robust. No significant oil sheen or floating containers have been detected by aerial sorties or on-site monitoring in recent days. Continued vigilance around the site is essential, including routine water sampling, particularly in ecologically sensitive regions like the Gulf of Mannar.

Overall, response efforts are stabilised, though the focus must remain on finalising container recovery, enhancing environmental monitoring, accelerating nurdle disposal, and preparing for the next operational phase under SMIT Salvage's direction.

**5. Environmental Risks:**

Refer to SITREP – 6, 1800 hrs on 28/05/2024

**6. Coordination Measures**

Refer to SITREP – 6 for the overall coordination measures being undertaken

