



## **Directorate General of Shipping**

**SITREP – 41, 1800 hrs on 18/07/2025**

### **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 salvage mobilisation operations for MSC ELSA 3 are progressing as per schedule. Equipment loading onto the DP2 Diving Support Vessel (DSV) *Southern Nova* has commenced in Singapore, with hard mobilisation initiated on 17 July. The vessel is slated for departure on 24 July and is expected to reach the wreck site by 1 August 2025. Weather conditions remain favourable for the planned operations. Caretaking activities at the wreck site continue, maintaining vessel monitoring until the full salvage team arrives.

Onshore, the Maritime Emergency Response Centre (MERC) has reported substantial progress in plastic nurdle recovery. As of 18 July, over 540 tonnes of nurdles have been collected from affected beaches. Of this, 258 tonnes have already been transported to the Kollam Port warehouse for temporary storage. Volunteer deployments are now limited to Trivandrum, with 486 active volunteers and an overall personnel strength of 581. Volunteer operations in Kollam, Kanyakumari, and Rameshwaram have been concluded.

In parallel, the Kanyakumari District Administration confirmed that 21 metric tonnes of plastic nurdles have been transferred to the central storage warehouse, pending further instructions from the state government regarding disposal.

#### **4. Situation Assessment:**

The upcoming mobilisation of Southern Nova marks a critical transition into the next operational phase, which focuses on deep-sea fuel extraction from MSC ELSA 3 using saturation diving. The structured mobilisation timeline and favourable weather outlook are expected to support smooth deployment and initiation of activities at the wreck site located beyond the territorial waters of Kerala. The vessel is planned to proceed directly to site without making a port call, for which support and clearance from relevant state authorities is being sought.

As on 18 July 2025							
Sl. No.	Location	Segregated (Kg)	Non-Segregated (Kg)	Segregated and Transported to Warehouse (Kg)	Total (Kg)	No. of Volunteers	No. of MERC personnel
1	Thiruvananthapuram	26,069	1,81,876	1,86,289		486	329
2	Kanyakumari	740	3,075	31,425		0	75
3	Rameshwaram	0	77,183	6,875		0	117
4	Kollam	0	0	33,710		0	60
		26,809	2,62,134	2,58,299	5,47,242	486	581

Figure 1: Nurdles recovery data along with Volunteers deployed as on 18 July 2025

Onshore, the significant volumes of nurdles recovered and transferred for secured storage reflect the successful coordination between MERC, district administrations, and volunteer teams.

Overall, with at-sea and shoreline operations reaching a mature stage, coordinated execution and stakeholder engagement remain vital for closing out response milestones and transitioning into the long-term recovery and disposal phases.

## 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

**Directorate General of Shipping, 9th Floor Beta Building, I-Think Techno  
Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400 042 (India)**

