



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 45, 1800 hrs on 06/08/2025

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 DSV *Southern Nova*, a DP2-classed dive support vessel, successfully berthed at Kollam Port at 0930 hrs on 06 August 2025. Following coordination with relevant port and government authorities, including FRRO (Immigration), Customs, and the Port Authority of Kollam, a team of 60 salvage experts completed the required immigration and health formalities. The onboarding process was completed by 1425 hrs.

All bunkering and provisioning requirements have been met, with the vessel now equipped to sustain continuous operations offshore for more than 45 days. Seven trucks carrying oxygen cylinders (for divers) arrived from Cochin and were safely transferred onboard, in addition to essential salvage personnel and equipment arriving via *Offshore Monarch*. *Southern Nova* is now in a state of full operational readiness.

Visual documentation of the vessel's deck layout, onboard systems, and diving and tank-cleaning equipment is to be prepared and submitted. Meanwhile, the shore clean-up and back-end waste management efforts remain ongoing. As of now, a cumulative total of 629 metric tons of plastic nurdles have been transported and stored in the Kollam warehouse. However, document verification for recent transfers is still pending due to the diversion of field teams to support offshore mobilization.

4. Situation Assessment:

With the onboarding phase complete and equipment mobilized, *Southern Nova* is prepared to commence offshore operations at the earliest, weather-permitting. The Salvage Master, in consultation with the vessel's command and meteorological advisors, is expected to make the departure call within the next 24 to 48 hours, based on updated weather models and on-site reconnaissance inputs.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been engaged in aerial surveillance of the wreck site. Video footage from these sorties is crucial in validating sea and wreck conditions prior to the vessel's offshore deployment. DGS has specifically advised the salvors to keep oil spill response equipment on immediate standby for deployment, given the risk of fuel leakage during extraction activities. The DSV is expected to be deployed on 09th August at the wreck site.

Further, the Directorate has reiterated the urgency for expeditious clearance from the Customs Department, particularly for specialized equipment and support materials being shipped into the country for this phase. The salvors have also been advised to formally approach the Indian Coast Guard for the possible deployment of a ICG asset should there arise a requirement of assistance in pollution response. This will ensure rapid response capability in case of any marine pollution incident during underwater tank extraction and transfer.

With all preparatory elements in place and institutional support extended, the salvage operation is expected to transition into active fieldwork imminently. Coordination among all stakeholders will continue to be critical to the success and safety of the ongoing intervention.

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

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