

OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 A Case Study

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Today's Journey

- **Incident Background**
 - Vessel(s)

 - Hydrographic Survey
 - **Dive Survey**
- At Sea Response
 - What did not go well
 - **Corrective Action**
- **Investigation Background**
 - **Challenges without a Responsible Party**
 - **Global Support**
- **Salvage Operations**
 - **Naval Architect role**
 - **Local Contractor Support**
 - **De-Inventory / Lightering Operations**
 - **Refloat and Tow**
- **Lessons Learned**

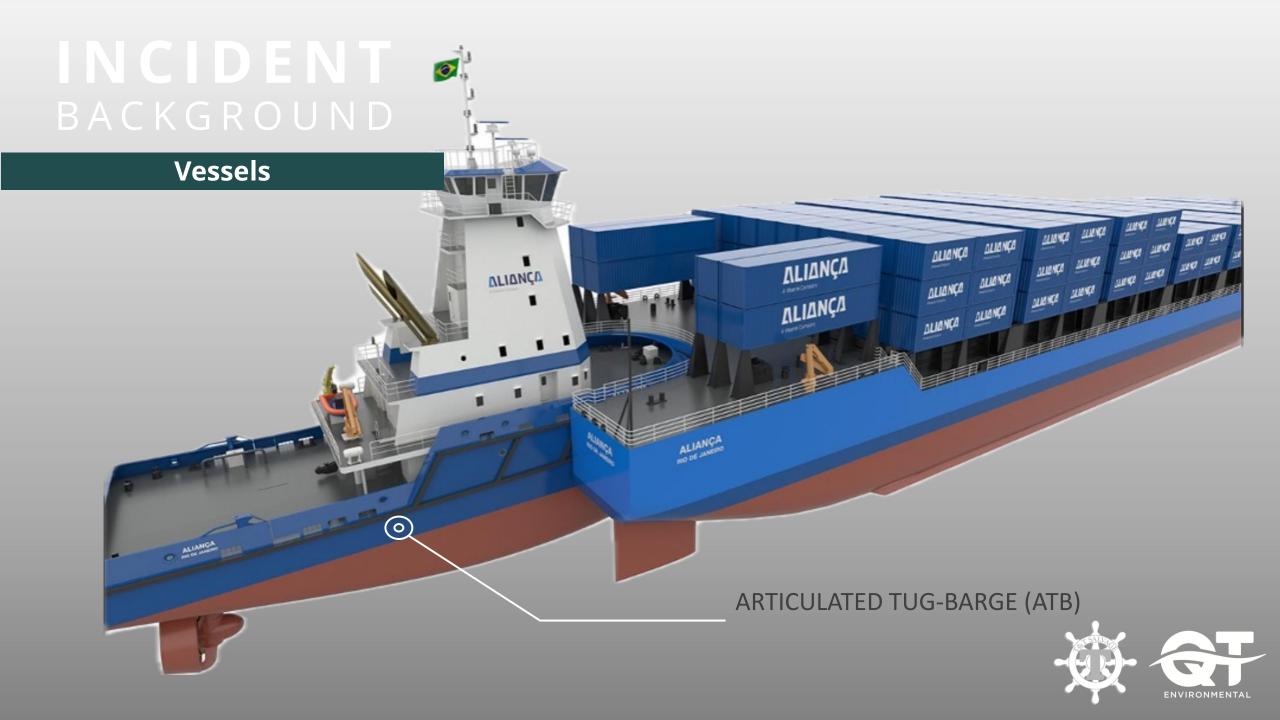


OPERATION GULFSTREAM

INCIDENT BACKGROUND

- VESSEL(S) VOYAGE
- OIL SPILL
- SATELITE IMAGERY
 SURVEY





Vessels



Tug: SOLO CREED

Barge: GULFSTREAM (formerly SEA MARLIN)

Built: 1976 - Kelso Marine - Galveston, Texas

Capacity: ~60,000 bbls (~9,500 MT)

Length Overall: 449' (~136 meters)

Beam: 56' (~17 meters)

Depth: 25' 9" (~8 meters)







Typical lifecycle of service for an ATB = 30 years...

48 - 30 = 20 year

... must be a well-maintained asset???



Voyage

- Tanker barge GULFSTREAM, towed by a tugboat identified as SOLO CREED from Panama to Guyana
- Possibly loading oil cargo from Pozuelos Bay, Venezuela

C A R I B B E A N S E

BONAIRE

VENEZUELA

PANAMA
400 KM

GUYANA

TRINIDAD

& TOBAGO[≥]

BACKGROUND Tug: **SOLO CREED** Voyage Barge: **GULFSTREAM**

February 02, 2024 40KM(21.5 nautical miles) long Slick NEAR Pozeulos Bay, VENEZUELA

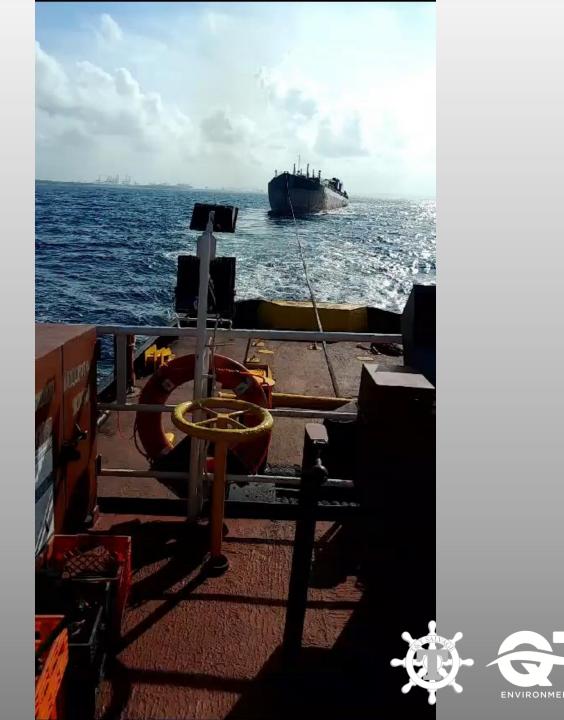




Voyage

DEPARTED FROM
PANAMA, A SIGNING
MEMBER OF THE IOPC

MANIFEST, Etc. MUST HAVE BEEN FILED...



Voyage

Assumption: VESSEL
RESPONSE PLAN SHOULD
BE A GUIDING
DOCUMENT

Assumption:
SEASONED CAPTAIN and
COMPETENT CREW

CAPACITY: 60,000 BBL (2,520,000 US Gallons) (9,500 MT)



Voyage

UNDOCUMENTED 'ROGUE VESSEL'

WHAT IS THE CARGO?

INSURED?

WHO IS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY?



Voyage

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG???

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND...

BUILT IN 1976
MODIFIED COUNTLESS TIMES –
DRAWINGS CONFLICT EACHOTHER











- The barge capsized off the coast of Tobago on 6th February 2024
- Grounded south of the island on 7th February
- Unconfirmed volume of oil spilled
- Remaining cargo, unknown

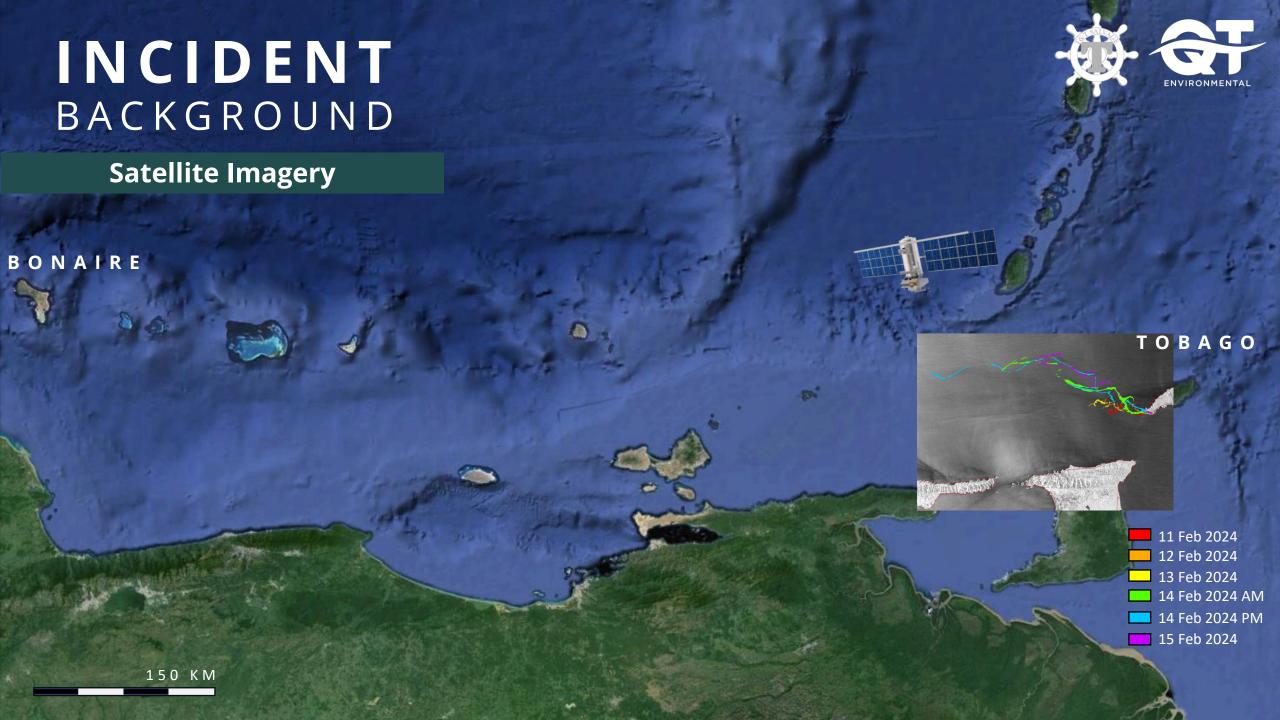
TOBAGO

PORT OF SCARBOROUGH LAMBEAU

AIRPORT LOWLANDS

WRECK





Satellite Imagery







TOBAGO

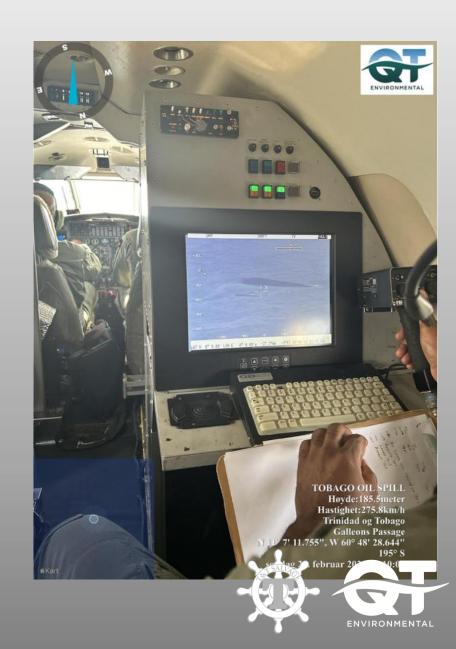
- 11 Feb 2024
- 12 Feb 2024
- 13 Feb 2024
- 14 Feb 2024 AM
- 14 Feb 2024 PM
- 15 Feb 2024





Initial Survey

- INITIAL LANDSIDE OBSERVATION PERFORMED FEBRUARY 20TH AND FEBRUARY 21ST
- SALVAGE MASTER SURVEY BY SMALL BOAT FEBRUARY 23RD
- FIRST OVERFLIGHT FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FEBRUARY 24TH
- INITIAL HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY
 FEBRUARY 26TH
- TOPSIDE SALVAGE MASTER AND LIDAR SURVEY FEBRUARY 27
- SECOND OVERFLIGHT FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FEBRUARY 29TH
- DIVE SURVEYS
 MARCH 2ND AND MARCH 3RD
- SALVAGE MASTER AND NAVAL ARCHITECT TOPSIDE SURVEY MARCH 5TH



Hydrographic Survey

SEA STATE DID NOT ALLOW CLEAN SCAN

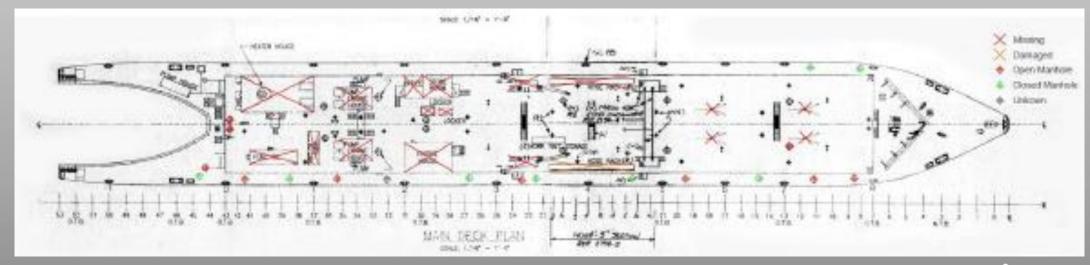
> CONTAINMENT βρίολ Βυσίολ Βίο το ΕΝΤ



OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 SALVAGE OPERATIONS

Dive Survey







OIL SPILL RESPONSE

OPERATIONS

WHAT DID NOT GO WELLCORRECTIVE ACTION





At Sea Response Issues

ENTRAINMENT AT APEX

> ENTRAINMENT AT SWATH





AT SEA RESPONSE ISSUES

WAVE & CURRENT ENERGY
BOOM EFFECTIVENESS

STRANDED DEFLECTION BOOM





CONSIDERATIONS DEVELOPING A PLAN TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY

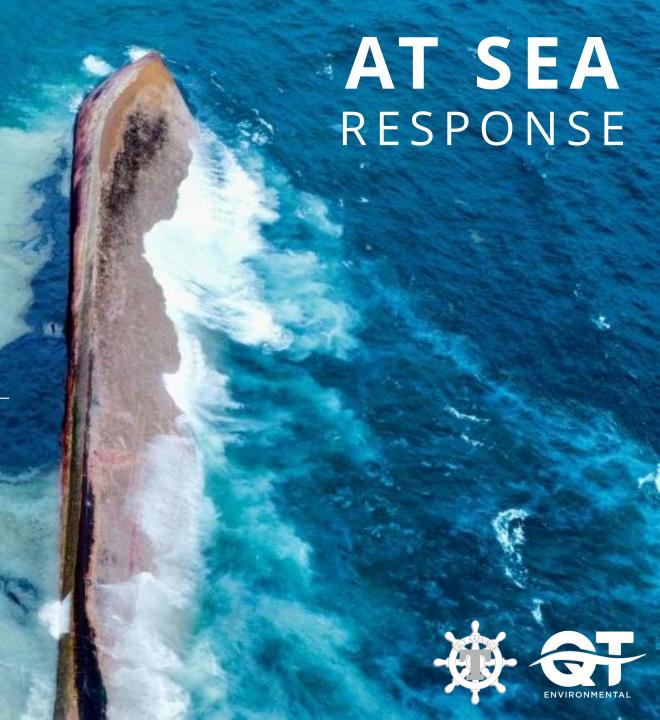
MUST BE EFFECTIVE

MUST BE SAFE AND QUICK TO DEPLOY

EASE OF USE TO TRAIN LOCAL CONTRACTORS

> SMALL PACKAGES TO BE UTILIZED WITH LOCAL VESSELS OF OPPPORTUNITY (VOO'S)

MUST HAVE HIGH OIL
RECOVERY RATES AS
WASTE MANAGEMENT
IS CERTAIN TO BE AN
ISSUE







TOBAGO OIL SPILL
TIER 3 RESPONSE PLAN







NOFI CURRENT BUSTER TECHNOLOGY

TASK FORCE I NEAR SHORE



TASK FORCE II

OFFSHORE/ CARICOM





15 MINUTE DEPLOYMENT



WHY NOT OTHER HIGH SPEED SYSTEMS???

SLOWER RATE OF ENCOUNTER, LESS EFFECTIVE

NOT TIMELY TO DEPLOY

COMPLICATED TO DEPLOY

LARGEPACKAGES,
REQUIRE OFFSHORE
CRANE, LIMITS
VESSELS OF
OPPPORTUNITY
(VOO'S)

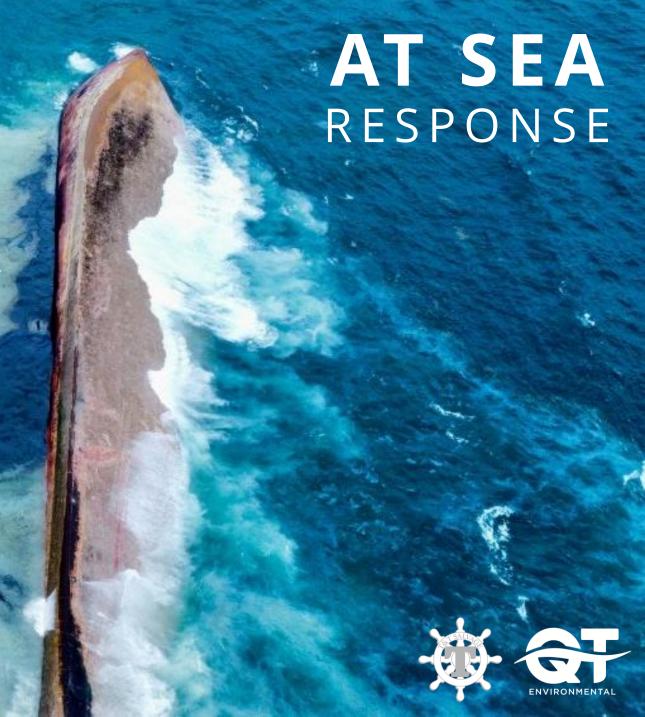
NO ONBOARD STORAGE

- REQUIRES

CONTINUOUS,

PUMPING/SKIMMING
LEADS TO MORE WATER

THAN OIL RECOVERY





OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 OIL SPILL

Nearshore Two Vessel Configuration



OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 OIL SPILL

Nearshore Two Vessel Configuration



OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 OIL SPILL

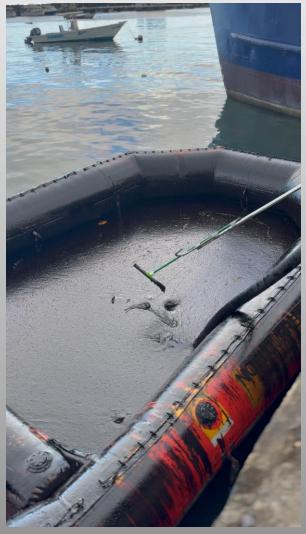
Offshore
Single Vessel Configuration
Utilizing NOFI INAK Paravane



OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 OIL SPILL

NOFI Current Buster Seperator









INVESTIGATIVE BACKGROUND OPERATIONS

- CHALLENGES WITHOUT A RESPONSIBLE PARTY

 APPROACH
 GLOBAL SUPPORT



INVESTIGATION an Oil Doast BACKGROUND

Logan Williams is a

Third Party Support???

shed light on how a stranded barge at the nd leaking oil off the Tobago coast.

Investigative Technology Team. He also has a background in cartography, data visualisation and optics.



Thomas Bordeaux

Thomas Bordeaux is a graduate student at Georgia Tech's School of Architecture with interests in the intersection of open source research and 3D modeling.



Ethan Doyle

Ethan is a marine engineer from Canada who has spent time in the marine and offshore environment as well as dry docks.



Lotte van de Waal

Bellingcat tracked the vessel, and the tugboat Trinidad and Tobago authorities identified as its seafaring engine, along an ill-fated, five-week journey using satellite imagery and Automatic Identification System location (AIS) data. Included on the trip was a visit to Pozuelo's Bay, Venezuela while the vessel had gone dark by turning off its AIS transmissions, as first reported by <u>Tanker Trackers</u>, an independent service which tracks oil shipments around the world.

Pozuelo's Bay is the site of a major port for the state-owned Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and is also used by PDVSA for <u>ship-to-ship oil transfers</u>. Imagery discovered by Bellingcat shows that the barge began leaking oil as early as February 3, immediately after leaving Pozuelo's Bay, and that it appears to have capsized by the morning of February 6.

Tobago authorities have <u>called</u> on those responsible for the barge to come forward and face accountability. As of late last week, the oil slick resulting from the spill extended some 90 miles into the Caribbean.

Bellingcat previously <u>identified</u> the barge, which ran aground off the island's coast earlier this month, as the Gulfstream, formerly affiliated with a tugboat called the Marlin. One crucial newly discovered piece of information, gleaned from Google Street View, is that the Gulfstream was quietly rechristened sometime before 2018. Its new name: the Sea Marlin.

Tracking the Barge's Journey to Tobago

According to Trinidad and Tobago authorities, the Gulfstream was <u>towed</u> by a tugboat named the Solo Creed, on a journey that was bound for Guyana from Panama before it became stranded off the coast of the Caribbean nation. Using AIS data and satellite imagery, Bellingcat was able to follow the Solo Creed and Gulfstream on almost every day of their doomed voyage.

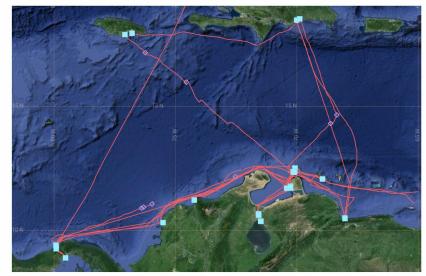
In early 2023, satellite imagery showed the Gulfstream docked in the city of Colón, Panama, near the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal. In June 2023, imagery from Planet Labs shows that the Gulfstream was moved from a pier known as Muelle 3 to an informal harbour just to the south, where it was laid up along a beach until the Solo Creed joined it and began the trip to Tobago. (For ease of understanding, we are referring to the Gulfstream by its longtime former name, as opposed to the Sea Marlin.)



Screen capture of a video posted by Sea Energy Group, showing the Gulfstream after it was rechristened the Sea Marlin.

Bellingcat geolocated this video to the PDVSA Puerto Miranda Terminal in Maracaibo, Venezuela. While the video was posted on October 19, 2018, satellite imagery shows that it was filmed earlier, possibly around 2016 to 2017, when the vessel was frequently docked at this pier.

During its time owned by Sea Energy Group, the Tug Marlin consistently transmitted AIS location information, showing it frequently visited PDVSA ports in Maracaibo and Amuay.



AIS data transmitted by the Tug Marlin during its previous ownership, plotted on a satellite view. Data and map from Global Fishing Watch.

INVESTIGATIVE BACKGROUND

Call in the expert support





Salvage Engineering Response Team





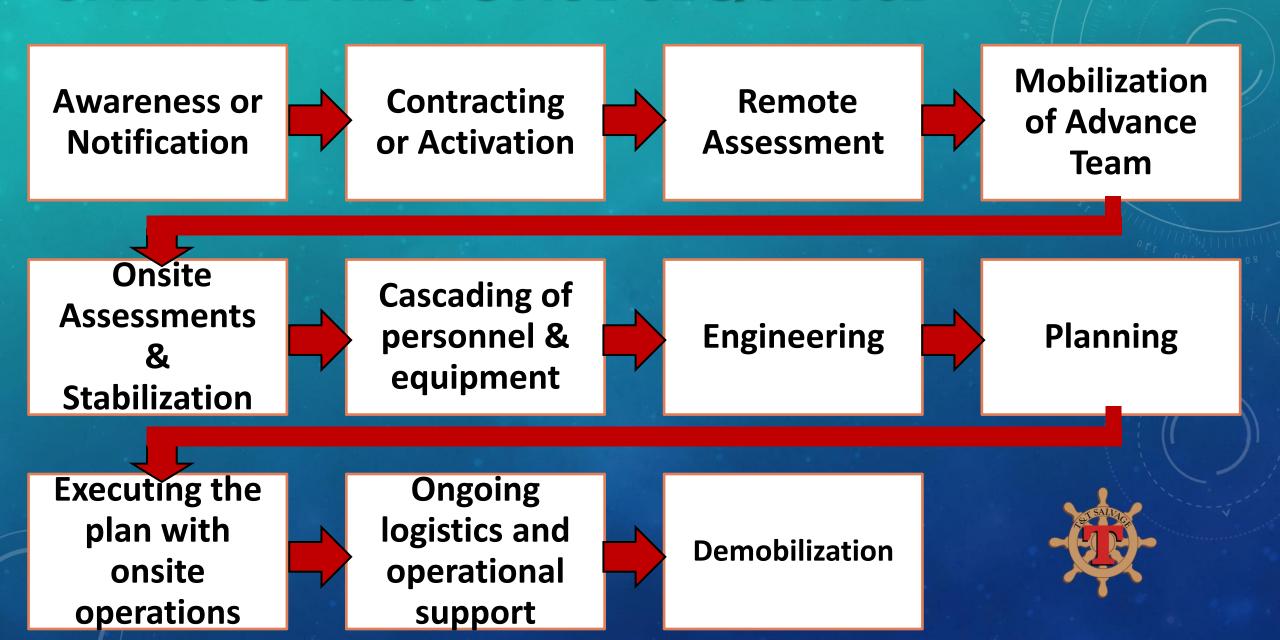


SALVAGE RESPONSE

OPERATIONS

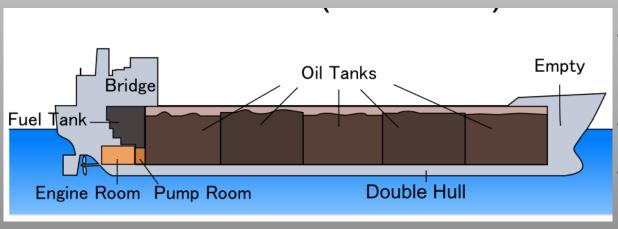
• NAVAL ARCHITECT ROLE
• LOCAL CONTRACTOR SUPPORT
DE-INVENTORY / LIGHTERING OPERATIONS
• REFLOAT AND TOW

SALVAGE RESPONSE SEQUENCE



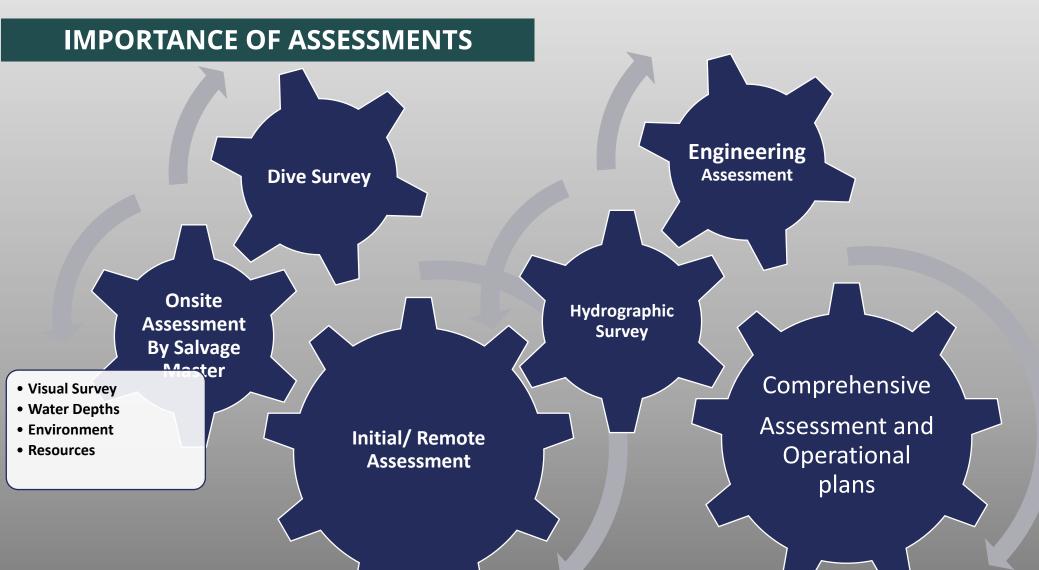
WHAT IS MARINE SALVAGE

"Salvage services means any act or activity undertaken to assist a vessel or property in danger in whatever waters the act or activity takes place." International Salvage Convention 1989



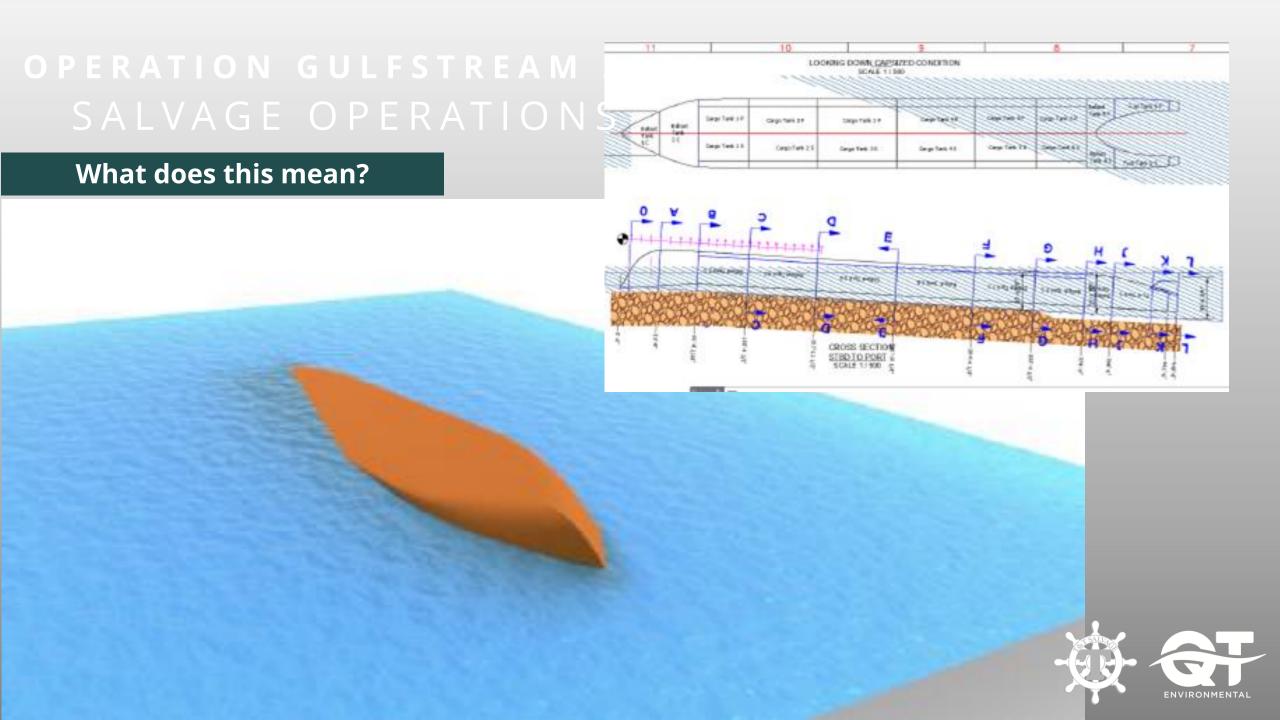
- Salvage is Environmental Protection
- Keep the Oil in the Ship
- Remove it before it Leaks





Where is the Topside?

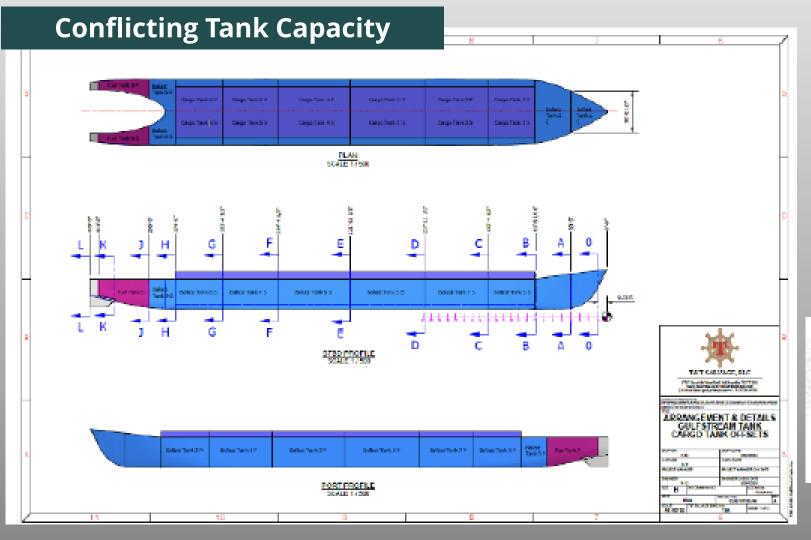












	identification of Ship's Tanks	Capacity
ш) Corne Fresh	4248.54 8215
15) Caryo Tanh	4354.22 8615
	Marca Tonk	6062.38 EEK
35	J. Cargo Tenk	L037.19 EUS
) Cargo Tank	1939-18 Bals
32	1 Comp TANK	1935-15 PD/1
	P) Caro Tank	6814.40 Bols
12	El Caro Tank	L84.23 BOB
	e) Cago Taul	413 CIA 20
نكارا	i) Cerso Tank	3294.05 84
131) Corre Truk	LYY3Y9Y BUD
	S) Caryo Tank	WIZN Bob

MISC. T	ANKS	CAP	YTIPA	
TANK	FRAME NO.	CAPACITY (GALLONS)	(CG (FLET)	/ LCG (FEET)
HOT OIL EXP TANK	37	3,366	42 50	260 27
HYD OIL STORAGE TANK	28	1,200	36 90	201.30
DIESEL OIL DAY TANK	38-41	4,922	38 50	281 00
DIESEL OIL STORAGE TK (P)	46-53	64,549	16.33	343 29
DIESEL OIL STORAGE TK (P)	46-53	64,549	6 33	343 29



SALVAGE OPERATIONS

TEST PUMP AND SOUNDING OF TANKS



T&T Salvage, LLC

Do	c.	No).:	SF	-2	0342	
	-	-		211.1	100	400	7

Cargo tanks 6 Port and 6 Starboard were found accessible with their manhole covers missing during the dive survey. It is unknown how much hydrocarbon remains in these tanks at the present time. It is also unknown what was in these tanks both cargo type and quantity prior to the capsizing of the barge.

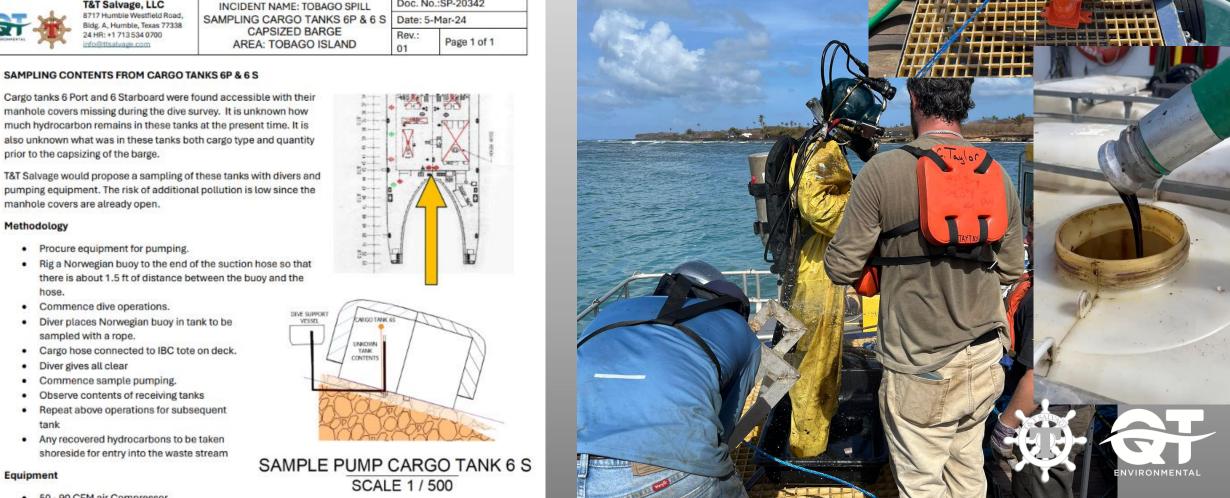
T&T Salvage would propose a sampling of these tanks with divers and pumping equipment. The risk of additional pollution is low since the manhole covers are already open.

Methodology

- Procure equipment for pumping.
- . Rig a Norwegian buoy to the end of the suction hose so that there is about 1.5 ft of distance between the buoy and the hose.
- Diver places Norwegian buoy in tank to be

- Repeat above operations for subsequent
- Any recovered hydrocarbons to be taken

Equipment



	Assignments:
Coordinated eff	ort with salvage team to receive product from
Prope	er handling of hydrocarbon onshore
	Tank and facility maintenance

INCIDENT NAME: OPERATION GULFSTREAM 20

VESSEL FORMER NAME: GULFSTREAM

AREA: TOBAGO ISLAND

Submitted at the request of:

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES

SHORESIDE HYDROCARBON HANDLING PLA

File	Shoreside Hydrocarbon Handling Plan	Status	Release				
Prepared by	T&T Salvage / QT Environmental	Date	3/18/2024				
Job Ref		Distribution					
PM Signature		Client/ Rep Signature					
	Confidentiality / Control						

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Section	CTR	Rev	ev Code Type		Purpose	Appendices	
Rev.	Date	Description			Draft	Check	Approval
1		Initial Issue			JC	MC	KT/MP
			_				



OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 SHORESIDE HYDROCARBON HANDLING PLAN



FLEET:







Tank Access with Local Support











Tank Access with Local Support









1. WATERJET ACCESS BASED UPON GENERAL AR

PULL TENVIRONMENTAL

2. SEAL ACCESS FROM FROM ENVIRONMENT TO AVOID FURTHER LAND

OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024

SALVAGE OPERATIONS

Seal all openings from the environment









Oil pumped from the wreck: 31,863.13 bbl. or 5,066 m3





INCIDENT NAME: OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024

Humble, Texas 77338

HYDROCARBON REMOVAL PHASE TANK BY TANK SUMMARY

VESSEL FORMER NAME: GULFSTREAM

AREA: TOBAGO ISLAND

Submitted at the request of:

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO











REFLOAT





NEWS

Gunmen storm shipwreck, shoot Coast Guard officer

JOEY BARTLETT SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2024



The Gulfstream's arrival at Sea Lots, Port of Spain on August 22. - Photo courtesy the Ministry of Energy

A MEMBER of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) was shot and is now hospitalised after gunmen stormed the Gulfstream shipwreck in Sea Lots on the night of August 23.

The barge, which sank off Cove, Tobago, on February 7, was refloated on August 20 and arrived at Sea Lots, Port of Spain, on August 22.

A Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) release said the assailants attempted an unauthorised boarding at the wreck site, leading to a shootout with Coast Guard officers This confrontation resulted in a non-life-threatening injury to the officer.

The August 24 release said the wreck site "continues to be protected by the TT Coast Guard and the TTPS, with the safety of all response personnel remaining paramount during the final stages of operation."

It concluded by saying the Ministry of Energy is working closely with the TTPS, TT Coast Guard and TT Army to ensure the safety and security of the site.

On February 7, the barge was found overturned and leaking an oil-like substance approximately 200 metres off the coast of Cove. The substance was later identified as ION







OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 LESSONS LEARNED

ON WATER OIL SPILL RESPONSE

- DUE TO LIMITED RESPONSE HISTORY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, THE NOSCP HAS NOT BEEN TESTED TO ITS FULL CAPACITY, AND FOUND THEY WERE NOT READY FOR A TIER 2 OR TIER 3 RESPONSE
- PLANS MUST BE REVIEWED ON A REGULAR BASIS
- PLANS MUST BE TESTED/EXERCISED ON A REGULAR BASIS
- RESPONSE TEAMS MUST HAVE GLOBAL STANDARDS
- OIL SPILL REMOVAL/RESPONSE ORGANIZATIONS MUST REMOVE THEIR OWN HAT AND PUT ON THE
 HAT OF THE RESPONSE AND DO WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE RESPONSE, NOT THEMSELVES
- GOVERNMENT CAN AND WILL MOVE QUICKLY ROLES IN UNIFIED COMMAND MUST BE DEFINED.



OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 LESSONS LEARNED

SALVAGE RESPONSE

- PROPER INTEGRATION OF SALVAGE INTO THE RESPONSE
- INCORPORATE ALL STAKEHOLDERS INTO DECISION MAKING AND PLAN APPROVAL
 - JUST BECAUSE IT IS AVAILABLE, DOES NOT MEAN IT MEETS INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND/OR BEST PRACTICE
 - DIVING, VESSELS, ETC.
- RISK ASSESSMENT(S) MUST BE PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED AND REPUTABLE ORGANIZATIONS TIME IS VERY IMPORTANT BUT SAFETY OF ALL PERSONNEL, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT ARE MORE IMPORTANT!



QUESTIONS THANK YOU





Josh Clifford

Vice President Operations

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OPERATION GULFSTREAM 2024 Conversation Starter Questions

Questions

- HOW PREPARED ARE YOU ARE FOR A TIER I, TIER II, AND TIER III RESPONSE ?
- HOW PREPARED ARE YOU TO SUPPORT OTHERS WITH MUTUAL AID SUPPORT?
- WHAT IS CRITICAL IN THE EARLY ONSET OF A RESPONSE (ACTIVATION/NOTIFICATION)?
- ARE 'SECONDARY PLANS' BEING THOUGHT ABOUT DURING THE INITIAL PHASE(S) OF A RESPONSE (DEMOBILIZATION PLANS, WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS, ETC.)
- HOW ARE OPERATIONAL DECISIONS MADE? ARE THE RIGHT DECISION MAKERS/STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED?

