

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change

Press Communiqué

The Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change wishes to inform the public that following the sinking of the Tug, Sir Gaetan Duval, at a depth of some 40 m, the monitoring of environmental impacts on site is ongoing in collaboration with various stakeholders and International Experts.

As at date, no impact on shoreline, lagoon and the mangrove areas in the region of Poudre d'Or and Ile d'Ambre has been reported.

As a precautionary measure, some 450 m of sorbent booms have already been deployed at the water exchange points of the Barachois, in mangrove areas and around the sunken tug. Additional response equipment have been mobilised on site.

Report from diving surveys undertaken on 04 September 2020 by the NCG and divers from the Indian Naval Ship Nireekshak, Dive Solutions and Polyeco SA have revealed that there is no leakage of diesel from the sunken tug.

Following the daily aerial surveillance being carried out by the NCG and Police Helicopter this morning, water around the sunken tug is clear. Water in the lagoon and in the forereef area from Poudre d'Or to Cap Malheureux is also clear. No sheen has been observed emanating from the sunken tug.

According to the Mauritius Ports Authority, Polyeco SA and Dive Solutions have submitted a summary report of the pumping plan for diesel from the sunken tug. This report includes inter-alia, the deployment of additional equipment needed for the conduct of the operation as well as supplementary precautionary measures for the protection of the environment.

According to the Mauritius Ports Authority, the diesel pumping operations will start as soon as the sea conditions permit.

05 September 2020