Date: 1030 PDT August 25, 2007
To: NOAA SSC Jordan Stout

FROM: NOAA/NOS Office of Response and Restoration
Emergency Response Division
Seattle, WA 98115

SUBJECT: Offshore mystery sheens, San Diego, CA

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CJ Beegle-Krause
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We have looked at the issue of observed offshore sheens. These notes are based on the following information:

A fourth mystery sheen was visualized twice yesterday:
August 24 at 0630 PDT, 2 nm x 3 nm oriented with the major axis north/south, center at 32 deg 38.5' N, 118 deg 23.5' W.
August 24 at 1005 PDT, 2 nm x 4 nm oriented with the major axis at 070 deg, center at 32 deg 42.13' N, 118 deg 29.36' W.

If any of this initial information is incorrect, please let us know ASAP as it would affect any trajectory implications.

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2) Hindcast Trajectory
USCG has requested an estimate of where this sheen could have come from. The area offshore of San Clemente Island does not have good HF radar coverage, so wind and current histories are from NOAA National Data Buoy Center station 46806. We have added a larger uncertainty factor due to the currents in the hindcast search area calculations, because this buoy is distant from the area where the sheens were spotted,

Based on the sighting yesterday at 1510 hours:

24 hours earlier (August 23 0800 hrs), the sheen could have been in an area centered about 14 nm SSE of San Clement Island at 32 deg 36.6' N, 118 deg 21.08' W. Highest probability search area is 4 nm x 12 nm oriented with the major axis NW to SE; the lower probability search area is 5 nm x 21 nm with the same orientation and center point.

48 hours earlier (August 22 0800 hrs), the sheen could have been in an area centered about 20 nm SSE of San Clement Island at 32 deg 33.11' N, 118 deg 16.58' W. Highest probability search area is 5.5 nm x 14 nm oriented with the major axis NW to SE; the lower probability search area is 15 nm x 30 nm with the same orientation and center point.