

As Oil Slick Thins, Probes Thicken

By Don Branning

The big oil spill in San Francisco Bay thinned out in wide swaths of film yesterday as probes of the accident's cause, and its after-effects, got under way.

The Coast Guard said last night its visual aerial surveys and ultra violet films taken by the Environmental Protection Agency showed streaks, debris lines and white sheens 10 to 12 miles seaward from Pt. Bolinas to Pt. Montara south of San Francisco.

Isolated moderate streaks were also observed west of Pacifica about five miles offshore and near the San Francisco Light Ship. The Coast Guard said traces of oil still appeared in the Bay but

cleanup was continuing at a satisfactory rate.

The California Department of Fish and Game reported 120 contaminated birds were found at Santa Cruz but believed the birds were contaminated elsewhere and flew there because there was no evidence of oil spill near Santa Cruz.

The Fish and Game Department said the number of contaminated birds recovered in the past two days has sharply decreased.

There were calls from many sources for legislation to halt ocean-polluting tanker accidents.

The Coast Guard will attempt for the second time tomorrow to begin its investigation of the collision of two Standard Oil tankers respon-

sible for the big spill on the Bay last week.

3-Man Board

A formal Marine Board of Investigation will convene at 10 a.m. in a courtroom on the 17th floor of the Federal Office Building.

Capt. Joseph E. Gould, chief of the 12th District Merchant Marine Safety Division, will head the three-man board.

A one-man investigation into the cause of the collision between the Arizona Standard and the Oregon Standard last Monday morning was postponed last Wednesday while the Coast Guard considered a request from the Sierra Club and the San Francisco Bay Association to enter into the proceedings.

The Coast Guard finally denied the request, pointing

out that the probe is simply into the cause of the collision, which spilled the major part of 27,000 barrels of bunker oil into the Bay. But the Guard did enlarge the hearing to a 3-man full marine board in consideration of public concern.

Skipper of the Oregon is Capt. Morris E. English, of Alameda, and the skipper of the Arizona is Capt. Harry H. Parnell, also of Alameda.

Significant

The testimony of Capt. English is expected to be particularly significant. He will be asked why his radio did not respond to the Coast Guard or to calls from the Arizona shortly before the crash in the dense fog.

Rep. William S. Mailhard (R-S.F.) said the chairman of the House Merchant Ma-

rine and Fisheries Committee had agreed to send a special subcommittee from Washington to conduct its own probe of the collision.

Among the calls for legislation to reduce oil tanker accidents to minimum was one from Mayor Joseph Alioto.

The Mayor suggested these rules:

- The ship to shore voice radio contact should be maintained with all ships going in and out of San Francisco Bay.
- Voice radio contact should be maintained between the bridges of any ships traveling close in the same area.
- Ships should be assigned to lanes while entering or leaving the harbor.
- The speed of ships should be strictly controlled.

and one agency, perhaps the Coast Guard, should take over close supervision of ship maneuverings.

A two-hour survey by a Coast Guard cutter yesterday afternoon found no gross traces of the oil spill in the Bay — but only a vast, thin film, traces of which were spotted here and there in the Bay.

Weather Help

Standard Oil said the good weather would help the company to move forward more quickly with its cleanup work over the weekend. The oil company has 700 contract workers at the job, and 1500 volunteers.

Men and equipment were put into the Marina-Crissy Field area in San Francisco yesterday to gather seaweed, soaked with oil, that had broken off into oil chunks.

The company had three oil skimmers operating south of the Bay Bridge to Brisbane, where a Federal Environmental Protection Agency survey reported that four large oil streaks had been spotted.

Boom at Bolinas

The company reported that a third protective boom — a 1000-foot dike made of 50 telephone-sized styrofoam poles — was being erected before the Bolinas Lagoon.

Two skimming barges were scooping up a couple of half-mile long stringers of oil off Stinson Beach and Bolinas.

Crews were also cleaning the oil from offshore rocks and bringing it ashore in buckets.

Standard Oil reported that the shore at Tiburon and Sausalito looked clean, and that workers were setting to the job of cleaning oil from offshore rocks with high-pressure hoses.

From the San Francisco Marina to Angel Island, in the main part of the Bay, two oil skimming vessels and four straw pickers were operating. The straw pickers collect oil soaked bundles of straw and other debris.

With good weekend weath-

er, thousands of volunteers were again out on the beaches — from Bolinas, in Marin County, to Moss Beach on the San Mateo coast — to continue their work of restoring the beaches and sponging off oily birds at cleaning stations.

The Marin Ecology Center set up a dispatching station in the parking lot of an empty Mill Valley supermarket. By noon yesterday it had sent more than 500 volunteers to work at the Marin beaches.

San Mateo

A big turnout of people along the San Mateo beaches was expected for the weekend — some of them collecting oil soaked straw, some cleaning birds and others just out to have a look.

William Hinchcliff, who is disaster chairman for the San Mateo County Civil Defense organization, said that new straw has been laid out from Pacifica to Montara, north of Half Moon Bay.

He said yesterday the tag ends of two fingers of oil were in the water about two miles off the town of Moss Beach, but there were no large masses of oil.

The Audubon Society estimated yesterday that more than 2500 wild birds had been brought to cleaning stations. Some believe well over 90 percent of the birds will perish during several months of captivity.

Company Pledge

Standard Oil of California President H. J. Heynes pledged that the company would make its "best effort" to import birds to replace wild fowl killed by oil.

No one knows what the long-range effects of the spill will be on marine organisms further down in the ocean life cycle. Joel Gustafson, a biologist hired by Standard Oil to make a long range study, declared:

"It is as if you close your eyes and fired a pistol at someone. When you open your eyes, maybe you have hit him in the fignarinal, or maybe you have hit him in a vital spot."

Criteria

The long-lasting effects depend on where the oil settled on the bottom, how

Oil Volunteer Falls Down Cliff

Mark Patterson, 15, of Pacifica, suffered possible multiple fractures late yesterday when he slipped halfway down a cliff at Pedro Point while looking for oil-soaked birds along San Mateo County beaches.

A Standard Oil chartered helicopter carried him to Mary's Help Hospital in Daly City where he was undergoing X-rays and treatment late yesterday.

much of it, and how long it stays there.

He said that such volatile agents as benzine and xylene in the oil could have a lethal effect on marine organisms on which higher creatures feed. On the other hand, said Gustafson, bacteria in the sea water are capable of removing these agents in a few days.

State Inquiry

Chairman Edwin L. Zberg of the State Assembly natural resources and conservation committee said that it would conduct a hearing on the oil spill.

Zberg (D-Sacramento) said the hearing would ensure that "the authority of the responsible state agencies is sufficient to protect Bay resources from any permanent damage resulting from the oil spill."

Demonstrators at Chevron Plant

Two oil-stained, dead grebes were tied to the front doors of the Chevron Research Corporation in Richmond yesterday afternoon by demonstrators who conducted a peaceful protest against Standard Oil.

The group, of about 500, strewn flowers on the lawn in front of the lab, a Standard Oil subsidiary located outside the wire fence of the parent organization.

More Deaths Feared

Oily Birds Hold Own at Zoo Haven

By Jim Sehermerhorn

Oily birds were still being brought into treatment stations in San Francisco yesterday from many miles away, but along The City's waterfront there was little dramatic evidence of the massive oil spill in the Bay.

At the San Francisco Zoo, 85 percent of the 1200 birds brought in were still alive, and the healthiest were released into an outdoor pen with a shallow moat.

But a volunteer, one of many who have spent most of their time caring for injured birds this past week, said sadly, "We know a lot more are going to die."

Then the docents and zoo employees pitched in to begin bathing another 100 birds just trucked in from Bolinas.

Standard Men

blanket outside the treatment room.

"He worked all night," one of the volunteers said.

Vitamins

There were six grebes and a small black duck, all looking alert, being fed vitamins once every hour.

Helpers came from as far as Palo Alto.

Welch said the Army was also helpful: It provided a helicopter to drop bales of hay in the water.

"I was speeding in here with an oily bird and an MP escorted me all the way," Welch said. "It's really beautiful the way people react."

The San Francisco Zoo is where many of the injured birds who survive the first stages of treatment will make their home for a while — as long as six months, or



BRINGING ANOTHER LOAD OF OIL-SOAKED HAY ASHORE
Volunteers using special hoist rigged for bay debris at S.F. Yacht Harbor
—Examiner Photo

The birds now being brought in show evidence of having had better care when first picked up, but many still need washing, a zoo

He was brought in by Stan-

Police headquarters at the Hall of Justice announced to radio cars in that area at 1:40 p.m.: "There are great numbers