



Case Study

Marine Response

Cowes Yacht



The Project

Adler and Allan's salvage team helped in the recovery of the luxury motor yacht, Kahu, from the seabed at East Cowes Marina on the Medina Estuary, while limiting the spread of pollution by containing and removing leaked oil.

When A&A were called on site on November 2013, the 23 metre MV Kahu had recently sunk following a fire on board earlier that day with an estimated 9,000 litres of marine diesel fuel oil on board.

The Solution

On arrival, diesel sheen was evident throughout the marina and an amount of charred wood and fresh fuel were contained within harbour booms, deployed directly above the casualty by Cowes Harbour Commission. Working with the harbour masters team, we agreed an action plan and rapidly deployed skimmers and secondary booming in time to protect upriver nature conservation sites from the threat of the strong flood tide carrying pollution their way.

Throughout the period when preparations were being made to remove the casualty from the seabed, the Adler and Allan team managed the pollution threat around the clock and provided daily environmental reports to Cowes HM for discussions with the Environment Group and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The MV Kahu was lifted by a floating crane onto a salvage barge after initially being rigged with air lift bags around the sunken hull. A&A deployed further oil booms and skimmer systems to contain any potential major loss of fuel from the Kahu's tanks during the lift. Prior to the final stages of the lift a team boarded the casualty and pumped out the fuel tanks and engine room bilges. Divers also cleared the sea bed where Kahu's hull rested and Adler and Allan created a banded containment area around the casualty on the salvage barge.

The Outcome

Cowes HM said: "I'm pleased to report that salvage of the Kahu and pollution control went well, according to our detailed plans and revised timeline.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the CHC staff and contractors who worked tirelessly to complete this operation in a safe and timely manner."

