



Oil Spill Incident Briefing

Grounding of MT Pelagia – Southeast Culebra Reef | July 12, 2025

Incident Overview

- At 0415 AST, MT Pelagia (Panamanian-flagged tanker) ran aground on reef at 18°17'00.2"N, 65°06'02.6"W
- Rudder failure during night transit led to loss of steering
- Vessel carrying 1.8M gallons of crude oil
- Estimated 200,000 gallons released in first 6 hours





Environmental & Economic Impacts

Culebra (PR):

- Luis Peña Channel Nature Reserve
- Ensenada Honda, Zoni Beach
- Tourism & marine life disruption

St. Thomas (USVI):

- West & South coast: Savannah Island to Fortuna Bay
- Oil reaches Perseverance Bay, Krum Bay, Brewer's Bay
- Marinas & resorts impacted, fishing activities halted