



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

Singapore, 17 June 2024 | For Immediate Release

Joint Oil Spill Clean-Up Operations Advance to Next Phase

The next phase of the clean-up operations has commenced with the additional deployment of various booms and oil recovery systems. 1500 metres of booms have been deployed, and an additional 1600 metres will be deployed over the next few days in designated sites to support the containment of accumulated oil to facilitate the clean-up operation off the beaches and shorelines. Additional booms will also be deployed as a preventive measure off Changi East. Seven oil recovery assets have been deployed today to skim and collect the remaining oil spillage off the water surface to minimise further spread of the oil.

Deployment Of Additional Booms

2. The areas with the deployment of the additional booms in progress are as follows. These will be in addition to those already deployed at Keppel Marina, East Coast Park, Labrador Nature Reserve and West Coast Park.

a. Sentosa: The booms at Palawan beach have been installed, with the remaining booms to be fully deployed at Siloso beach and Tanjong beach by 18 June. These booms will be important to facilitate the clean-up operations upstream to prevent more oil from entering the beach lagoons and the accumulated oil from going back to sea and affecting downstream locations. These booms are in addition to those have already been partially deployed at Tanjong beach and those that have been fully deployed on 16 June at Sentosa Cove and One⁹15 Marina Sentosa Cove.

b. Labrador Nature Reserve: Additional booms will be deployed to facilitate cleaning of oil accumulated at the catchment areas. These will be deployed by 18 June. These are in addition to the booms already deployed there to protect Berlayer Creek and the Rocky Shore at Labrador Nature Reserve.

c. Southern Islands: Booms will be deployed at selected location at Cooper Channel, Southern islands, to facilitate clean-up of the accumulated oil there.

3. Oil absorbent booms have been deployed along stretches of the East Coast Park beaches that are significantly impacted, and at the canal openings to trap oil to prevent them from flowing back into the canal. Oil slicks continue to accumulate along East Coast Park. The clean-up operations along the beaches will be an ongoing process.

4. Some of the oil has been seen off Changi today. Oil absorbent booms have been deployed off biodiversity-sensitive areas at Chek Jawa Wetlands at Pulau Ubin, Coney Island Park, and Pasir Ris Park as preventive measures. While West Coast Park is not affected, oil absorbent booms have already been deployed at the park to protect the mangroves at the Marsh Garden. Over the next few days, additional containment and absorbent booms will be deployed to protect the fish farms at the East Johor Straits and also Chek Jawa Wetlands and Changi Creek. A Current Buster system, a specialised oil floating containment and recovery device deployed from vessels will be deployed on 18 June off the Changi Exhibition Centre as a pre-emptive measure. Each system consists of a boom with a skirt that extends below the water surface to corral and collect the oil on the water surface.

5. PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency has updated that operations at Singapore's desalination plants and freshwater reservoirs remain unaffected.

Deployment Of Oil Recovery Vessels and Systems at Sea

6. Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) has deployed two Current Buster systems. One of the Current Buster systems is deployed off Labrador Nature Reserve to collect the weathered oil¹. The other system is deployed off Bedok Jetty. The Current Buster is capable of collecting up to five tonnes of oil in one craft-load before discharging.

7. Two sets of skimmer-systems operated by T&T Salvage and Singapore Salvage Engineers Pte Ltd have also been deployed. The system includes the craft-towed booms to corral the surface oil and a skimmer to skim and "lift" the oil off the water surface into storage tanks. A skimmer system is deployed at Marina South Pier while another is deployed off East Coast Lagoon.

8. The Current Buster systems and skimmer craft are in addition to three vessels-towed collection booms systems deployed by Singapore Salvage Engineers Pte Ltd. More Oil Recovery vessels will be deployed over the next few days.

¹ Weathered oil refers to oil that has undergone changes due to exposure to the environment over time, which affects its appearance and chemical composition.

Air Quality Remains Well Within Safe levels. Public Advised Against Swimming at Changi Beach

9. The National Environment Agency (NEA) has been conducting daily air quality tests at affected areas along Sentosa, East Coast Park, Labrador Nature Reserve since 15 June. This is to ensure the safety of the public and personnel involved in the clean-up operations. The daily test includes measuring levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including Benzene, Toluene, and Xylene (BTX), that are commonly associated with bunkering fuels and other petrochemicals. Thus far, the air quality at the affected areas is well within safe levels. In addition, NEA monitors ambient levels of VOCs at various locations in Singapore and no anomalies have been detected.

10. As a precaution, members of the public are advised against swimming at Changi beach and engaging in other primary contact water activities until further notice. Such an advisory is already in place at Pasir Ris and Sembawang beaches at the start of this year due to elevated bacteria count at these beaches.

Progress of Clean-up Operations at the Beaches and Shorelines

11. Sentosa Beaches: Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) is working closely with oil spill response experts and contractors to assist in the cleaning and restoration of the water quality along the affected Sentosa beaches, as well as to protect the cove waterways. Vacuum pumps have been deployed at Tanjong beach to remove surface oil while trained personnel with Personal Protective Equipment are removing oil spills from the beaches. While the clean-up process is labour-intensive, there is a steady improvement in removal of oil slicks from the beaches.

12. Labrador Nature Reserve: Oil slick had adhered to the rock bunds along the Promenade area, with oil sheen observed in the surrounding waters. Oil slick is also observed along the Rocky Shore, while light oil sheen is observed at Berlayer Creek. The National Parks Board (NParks) has deployed oil absorbent booms to protect Berlayer Creek and the Rocky Shore at Labrador Nature Reserve and will continue to monitor the situation.

13. Cleaning efforts at both East Coast Park and Labrador Nature Reserve will continue to be carried out by NEA cleaners. As at 17 June 2024 at 6:00pm, there are no signs of oil slick within Sisters' Islands Marine Park, with oil sheen observed in the surrounding waters.

14. To facilitate clean-up efforts, the following beaches will be closed until further notice.

- a. Beaches at East Coast Park (from Area B to H)
- b. Labrador Nature Reserve (Jetty and Rocky Shore)

c. Sentosa beaches remain open for public, but sea activities and swimming are not allowed at Tanjong, Palawan and Siloso Beach

d. Beaches at St John's, Lazarus, and Kusu Islands

The public is advised to keep away from these areas to facilitate the clean-up operations.

15. All other areas at both East Coast Park and Labrador Nature Reserve including F&B remain open.

Volunteers

16. NParks has received overwhelming response from members of the public to help out and will activate volunteers if more help is needed. For their safety, volunteers will not be deployed for shoreline clean-up. While oil spillage impact at West Coast Park has not been observed, volunteers were deployed to monitor the situation at the park for early alert. Volunteers and the Friends of East Coast Park community have also been activated today to patrol the beach areas at East Coast Park and advise members of the public to stay away from the beachfront. These volunteers at both parks will further assist with information sharing and reporting on affected wildlife and areas. Additionally, volunteers of the Public Hygiene Council were at East Coast Park this afternoon to help with litter-picking within the park area.

17. About 160 volunteers, including those who registered to help with the oil spill management efforts, volunteers of the Public Hygiene Council, and the Friends of Marine Park, were deployed thus far. While NParks will not be able to activate everyone who has signed up, due to the overwhelming response and the nature of the clean-up operations, NParks and agencies thank members of the public and nature groups for their prompt responses in caring for the parks and nature areas.

Regional Cooperation

18. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore has informed the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia are part of the Revolving Fund Committee, where the three member states can request and provide support for oil spills and clean-up operations.

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About Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

MPA was established on 2 February 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a premier global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA is the driving force behind Singapore's port and maritime development, taking on the roles of port authority, maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion,

national maritime representative and a champion of digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts at regional and international fora such as at the International Maritime Organization. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in our waters, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand the cluster of maritime ancillary services, and develops maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation policies and plans, R&D and manpower development. MPA is responsible for the overall development and growth of the maritime domain and Port of Singapore. In 2023, Singapore's annual vessel arrival tonnage crossed 3 billion Gross Tonnage and remains the world's busiest transshipment hub, with a total container throughput of 39.0 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

For more information, please visit <https://www.mpa.gov.sg>

About National Environment Agency

The National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and sustainable environment for Singapore. Its key roles are to improve and sustain a clean environment, promote sustainability and resource efficiency, maintain high public health standards, provide timely and reliable meteorological information, and encourage a vibrant hawker culture. NEA works closely with its partners and the community to develop and spearhead environmental and public health initiatives and programmes. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to build a liveable and sustainable Singapore for present and future generations.

For more information, visit www.nea.gov.sg

About National Parks Board (NParks)

The National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for enhancing and managing the urban ecosystems of our City in Nature. We are the lead agency for greenery, biodiversity conservation, and wildlife and animal health, welfare and management. We are also working closely with the community to enhance the quality of our living environment.

NParks manages some 400 parks, 3,347 hectares of nature reserves, the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Pulau Ubin and the Sisters' Islands Marine Park. Adding to this is the extensive network of Nature Ways, and the over 380 km Park Connector Network that links major parks, nature areas and residential estates island-wide. Every year, we run about 3,000 educational and outreach programmes across our various green spaces.

NParks has developed an urban biodiversity conservation model, which aims to conserve representative ecosystems in land-scarce Singapore. NParks also monitors

and coordinates measures to enhance the presence of biodiversity in our urban landscape.

NParks is working closely with partners in the landscape, horticulture, veterinary and animal sectors to increase productivity, and provide training for all levels of the workforce. Enhancing competencies of the industry will support Singapore's vision of being a City in Nature.

For more information, visit www.nparks.gov.sg and www.facebook.com/nparksbuzz

About PUB, Singapore's National Water Agency

PUB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment (MSE). It is the national water agency, which manages Singapore's water supply, water catchment, and used water in an integrated way. From April 2020, PUB also took on the responsibility of protecting Singapore's coastline from sea-level rise as the national coastal protection agency.

PUB has ensured a diversified and sustainable supply of water for Singapore with the *Four National Taps* (local catchment water, imported water, NEWater, desalinated water). PUB leads and coordinates whole-of-government efforts to protect Singapore from the threat of rising seas and the holistic management of inland and coastal flood risks.

PUB calls on everyone to play a part in conserving water, in keeping our waterways clean, and in caring for Singapore's precious water resources. If we all do our little bit, there will be enough water for all our needs – for commerce and industry, for living, for life.

Find out more about us:

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www.twitter.com/PUBsingapore and <https://www.tiktok.com/@pub.singapore>

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Visit our website at www.pub.gov.sg

About Sentosa Development Corporation

Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) was established on 1 September 1972 as a Statutory Board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Its charter since inception has been to oversee the development, management, marketing, and promotion of the island of Sentosa as a resort destination for locals and tourists.

SDC wholly owns its subsidiaries Sentosa Cove Resort Management Pte Ltd and Sentosa Golf Club Pte Ltd. SDC also owns the Singapore Cable Car Sky Network, managed by Mount Faber Leisure Group Pte Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary which operates as an autonomous commercial arm.

As a testament to its commitment to sustainability, SDC has been conferred the Global Sustainable Tourism Council – For Destinations (GSTC-D) certificate, making Sentosa the first island destination in Asia to receive this accolade.

About the Singapore Food Agency

The mission of the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) is to ensure and secure a supply of safe food. To safeguard Singapore's food security, SFA adopts a multi-pronged approach which includes diversifying food import sources and increasing local food production. To ensure that food in Singapore is safe for consumption, SFA has in place an integrated farm-to-fork food safety system which adopts a risk-based approach guided by science and aligned with international standards. As food safety and security is a joint responsibility, SFA provides an enabling environment that supports all stakeholders to play their part.

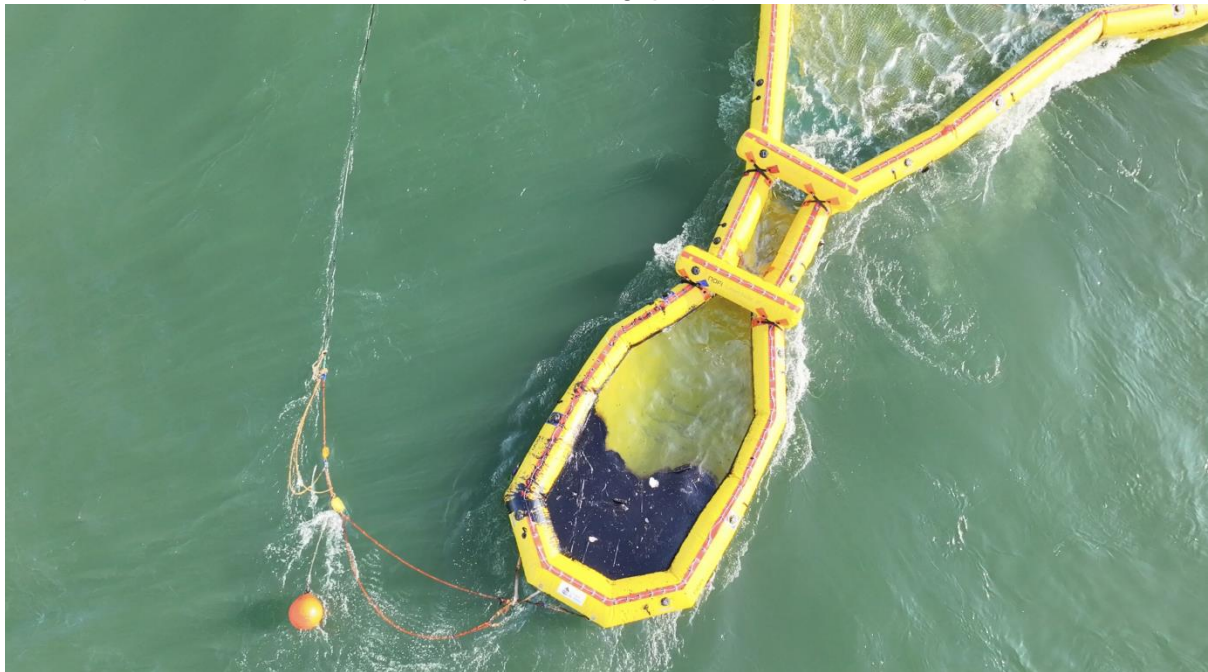
For more information on SFA, visit www.sfa.gov.sg

Annex

Drone image of vessels towing the Current Buster System to capture oil spill off Labrador Nature Reserve on 17 June (Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)



Drone image of oil captured by the Current Buster System off Labrador Nature Reserve on 17 June (Credit: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore)



For images of clean-up operations at Sentosa beaches, please refer to the following link and credit them to Sentosa Development Corporation:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/6rbf8jqmlwucukxi9swk/AGwVZjGx8M1A5O60vu3gvHI?rlkey=2u6asf66d0u58m6q877p8lw7r&dl=0>