Baydelta Maritime

AWO Summer Safety Forum 2025



Environmental Incident

1 Spill to Water

On June 30, 2024 Delta Cathryn spilled approximately 15 gallons of ULSD into Columbia River, causing a sheen.

- Spill was reported to authorities
- OSRO was mobilized and managed to recover about 2 gallons
- Spilled material quickly evaporated.
- There was no report of any shoreside damage, damage to other vessels or impact to wildlife
- Baydelta received letter of warning from Coast Guard

Root Cause

Fuel tank level gauge issue

 Magnetic level indicator flags lagging behind actual fuel level.

Magnetic
Liquid Level Indicator

Fuel level rise triggers magnetic flags on gauge to turn red

Intermediate Causes

- Only one method used for transfer amount verification.
 - PIC's rely on tank gauge as sole indicator of fuel level.
- High level alarm, on same magnetic system, did not sound.
- PIC did not notify deck officer on watch that he was doing a fuel transfer
- USCG, Safety Advisement not properly communicated to fleet.

Corrective Actions

- Advise fleet regarding lagging fuel gauge reading.
- More explicit fuel transfer procedures
 - Added requirement for additional level monitoring techniques
- Provided Training
 - Lessons learned from this incident
 - Procedure changes
- Added short sightglass and an old school alarm switch on a tank hatch as verification for gauge reliability

