

Seas Keeping Tug From Ship Spilling Oil on Bahamas Isle

NASSAU, the Bahamas, March 9 (AP)—Oil washed onto the pink beaches of Eleuthera Island today from the hold of the tanker General Colocotronis, grounded on a reef near Point James.

A tug stood by half a mile from the 555-foot vessel, waiting for seas as high as 20 feet to subside. But the Coast Guard in Miami said that there seemed little hope of saving the vessel. Even if tugs could pull her off the rocks, the Coast Guard said, the tanker was likely to sink in deeper water.

One crewman was lost and presumed drowned after a rescue boat capsized in an oil slick yesterday. He was identified as Stratos Mastrotainis, a Greek national.

Detergents to emulsify the oil were being flown from Florida and New York in an effort to keep the slick from spreading to all the seaward beaches that stretch across 100 miles of one of the most scenic islands of the Bahamas chain. Eleuthera Island is about 200 miles east of Miami.

The General Colocotronis washed onto the rocks Thursday night with a dead engine when a fuel line broke and the engine room flooded, according to reports from the scene. She was carrying 18,475 tons of Venezuelan oil—about six million gallons—from Aruba to West Palm Beach. The ship was under charter to a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

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