

Marine Corps Base Hawaii - Environmental Report
27 November 2023
Response to P-8 Mishap

As of 27 November 2023, the fuel that was removed from the P-8 on 26 November was transported to Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam for final testing and disposition. Laboratory results from testing of the removed fuel indicate no water contamination. This reinforces observations to date that no fuel has entered the environment. There is likely a small volume of fuel left aboard the aircraft, but the largest potential contaminant has been removed from the site. There has been, and remains, no indication of any contaminant leaving the plane and into the environment. The coordinated effort by the Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, state partners, and stakeholders made this unprecedented defueling possible.

Pre-existing boom that was located at a stormwater outfall was damaged by the P-8 during its entry into the bay. This boom is placed at MCBH stormwater outfalls to act as a standing and permanent first line of defense against any spills. This boom entangled the aircraft when it overshot the runway. The boom was removed on Saturday and will be replaced with new boom after the P-8 salvage operation.

Environmental Protective Measures largely remain the same: Sorbent sweep was replaced with fresh product. Three (3) layers of booming were inspected and made fast as necessary with additional anchorage to mitigate anticipated weather-related shifts. The sorbent ropes were removed from the water but remain in standby onshore.

The following partners are involved in daily coordination and planning events:

- Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) – State On-Scene Coordinator
- Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) – Surveying via jet ski
- Coast Guard Sector Honolulu
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
- Hawaii Marine Animal Response (HMAR)

MCBH anticipates receiving pre-crash coral survey data of the area on 28 November. This data comes from a survey of the corals in the area was recently conducted as part of a pre-planned environmental assessment. This will be used as comparison data to assess any impacts to the coral because of this mishap.

Planning efforts for the salvage phase of the operation are ongoing. Environmental compliance and protection measures will be tailored to the course of actions proposed. Considerations to minimize environmental impacts during the salvage will be provided to the commander. A phased approach is needed, with the initial recovery and movement of the aircraft ashore, an initial set down, and then transportation to a destination for salvage/repair operations.