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Ship Runs Aground in Siberia's Yenisei River, Spilling 30 Tons of Diesel Into Water

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Around 30 metric tons of diesel fuel spilled into the Yenisei River in Siberia after a ship towing two barges ran aground and broke apart in shallow water, Russian authorities said Monday.

Investigators said the ship struck an underwater obstacle, causing the barges to detach and pierce the hull of the vessel, which began leaking fuel around 6 p.m. local time Sunday.

The Yenisei River, which begins in northern Mongolia and empties into the Arctic Ocean, stretches 3,487 kilometers (2,167 miles), making it the fifth longest river system in the world.

Prosecutors said the spill stretched up to 50 kilometers (31 miles) along the shoreline and that they were overseeing containment efforts. The ship's owner was identified as the Tyumen-based Ob-Irtysh River Shipping Company.

The Krasnoyarsk branch of Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said the crew managed to

prevent the barges from drifting further down the river.

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A state of emergency was declared in the Kazachinsky district of the Krasnoyarsk region, where the incident occurred. District head Yury Ozerskikh said the oil slick had reached the shores of two villages but posed no immediate threat to residents.

“The spill poses a serious risk to the regional ecosystem, particularly to aquatic life and shoreline vegetation,” Ozerskikh wrote on Telegram.

Environmental authorities collected water samples both upstream and downstream for testing.

Russia’s Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, launched a criminal investigation into violations of transportation and environmental safety regulations involving hazardous substances.

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