



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES**

Levels 15 & 22-26, Energy Tower, International Waterfront Centre #1 Wrightson Road Port of Spain
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago West Indies
Tel : 868 225- 4EEI (4334), Fax: 868 – 225-5777 Email: info@energy.gov.tt

Media Release



20th August , 2024

**RE-FLOAT OPERATIONS OF THE GULFSTREAM BARGE AT COVE
TOBAGO HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED .**

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries advises that the overturned barge which has been grounded since 7th February, 2024 off the Coast of Cove, Tobago was successfully re-floated as at 11:54P.M. on 19th August 2024.

Following significant groundwork and preparations, the re-float operations commenced yesterday afternoon at 5:50 P.M. and was completed by 11:54 P.M.

The re-float operations were conducted under the supervision of a team from an internationally recognized salvage company, T & T Salvage Inc. The team comprised of a senior salvage master, naval architect and a contingent of skilled salvors with the support of the technical staff at the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

The Gulfstream is currently stationed approximately three (3) nautical miles away from its original resting place and is now afloat holding station in waters sixty (60) metres deep off the coast of Cove, secured and supported by tugs.

The temporary facility at the Cove site has now been decommissioned by the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

Today's activities will now focus on conducting an underwater survey by the dive team utilizing Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI) certified divers. This survey is required for the assessment of the areas of the barge which were previously inaccessible and to remove any hanging debris that would impact towing operations.

After the completion of the dive survey by the dive team, the barge will be cleared for the transit/tow phase of operations. The Gulfstream casualty which remains in an overturned state will be towed by two support tugs provided by the National Energy Corporation, as well as a contingent of other vessels. This journey from Cove, Tobago to Port-of-Spain, Trinidad is estimated to be thirty-three (33) hours long.

As a contingency during its transit to Port-of-Spain, the Gulfstream will be escorted by NOFI Current Busters and QT Environmental pollution response crews, trained in recovering oil from the sea surface.

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries has been leading operations and has undertaken the management of the overall response to date. Regular updates will be provided as the re-float and tow phase progresses by the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

END



Photo of the overturned Gulfstream taken at first light, 6:22 A.M. on 20th August 2024. The overturned Gulfstream barge is no longer grounded on the reef and has been successfully re-floated and towed to approximately three (3) nautical miles in waters sixty (60) metres deep off the coast of Cove, secured and supported by tugs.



Photo of the current state of the Gulfstream barge which has been successfully re-floated on 20th August 2024. The barge is now located approximately three (3) nautical miles in waters sixty (60) metres deep off the coast of Cove, secured and supported by tugs.

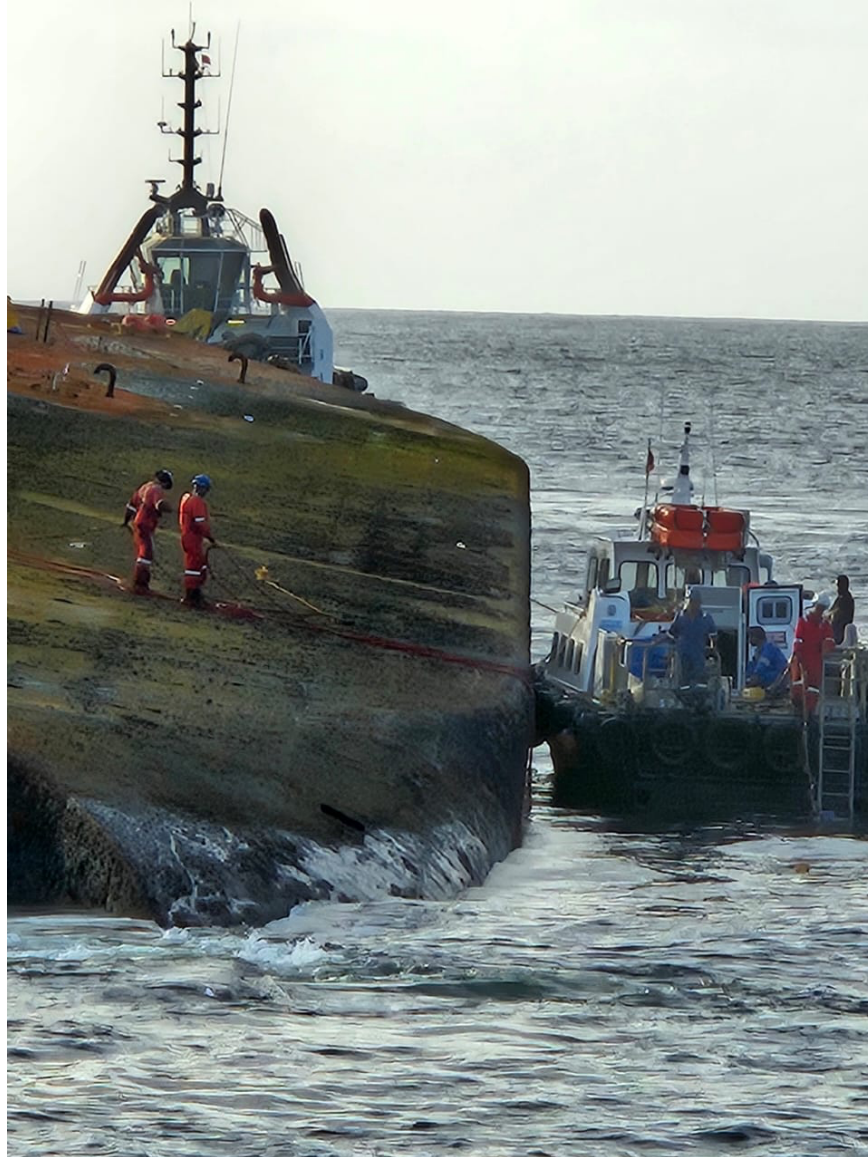


Photo of the Gulfstream barge being secured to tugs by response personnel. The safety of all response personnel during these operations remains paramount as the prevailing conditions of the wet season and hurricane season persist.



Photo of the Gulfstream barge being secured to tugs by response personnel. The safety of all response personnel during these operations remains paramount as the prevailing conditions of the wet season and hurricane season persist.



Photo at the Cove site taken at first light, 6:22 A.M. on 20th August 2024. The overturned Gulfstream barge is no longer grounded on the reef and has been successfully re-floated and towed to approximately three (3) nautical miles in waters sixty (60) metres deep off the coast of Cove, secured and supported by tugs.