

Criminal probe in San Francisco oil spill

by UPI

SAN FRANCISCO -- The U.S. attorney in San Francisco has opened a criminal investigation into a shipping accident last week that dumped 58,000 gallons of oil into the bay. The National Transportation Safety Board is reviewing the MV Cosco Busan's voyage data recorder for the hours leading up to last Wednesday's collision with a bridge in dense fog, CNN reported. About 58,000 gallons of heavy bunker fuel gushed into the bay, of which about 12,000 gallons has been recovered. The ship was bound for South Korea with a U.S. pilot aboard when it struck the span, opening a 212-foot-long, 12-foot-wide gash in the ship's side. Adm. Thad Allen, the commandant of the Coast Guard, said Sunday night that the captain and crew weren't being detained but there was a criminal investigation to determine if federal maritime laws may have been violated. The ship is undergoing repairs in Oakland as environmental teams work at scouring the water and beaches of oil and collect birds that died from oil contamination.

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