

San Francisco oil spill crew staying mum

by UPI

SAN FRANCISCO -- Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board said crew members of a ship that rammed a San Francisco Bay bridge and spilled oil aren't talking. "The crew members' attorneys have not granted us access to the crew members," NTSB member Debbie Hershman told reporters in Oakland, Calif. Last Thursday, the 900-foot MV Cosco Busan ran into a piling of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in heavy fog and spilled 53,000-58,000 gallons of oil. Hershman said the ship's voyage data recorder was being analyzed in Washington. That process was delayed slightly by the need for translation, as some of the crew spoke Chinese, CNN reported. As far as the cleanup operation, the San Francisco Chronicle said 53 ships were participating and more than 1,500 people were trying to pick up the clotted oil from beaches and lagoons. Coast Guard officials said about 12,745 gallons of bunker fuel had been retrieved and more than 4,000 gallons had evaporated. The newspaper said more than 1,500 birds, either dead or injured from the oil, had been collected.

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