

## CLAIM SUMMARY / DETERMINATION

**Claim Number:** J05003-0031  
**Claimant:** IMC Shipping Co. Pte. Ltd., Ayu Navigation Sdn Bhd  
**Type of Claimant:** Corporate  
**Type of Claim:** Real or Personal Property  
**Claim Manager:** [REDACTED]  
**Amount Requested:** \$2,126.81

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### **Incident:**

The M/V SELENDANG AYU (SELENDANG or vessel) was on a voyage from Seattle to China on December 06, 2004. While operating in adverse weather conditions, the crew shut down the main engine as a result of a casualty to the No. 3 cylinder. While attempting to repair the engine, the vessel drifted and eventually grounded on December 08, 2004 on a rocky shelf on the north shore of Unalaska Island, northeast of Spray Cape. The grounding ruptured the vessel's hull and bottom tanks, causing a discharge of approximately 330,000 gallons of bunkers into the waters off Unalaska Island.

### **The Claimants and The Claim**

#### *Claimants*

Ayu Navigation Sdn Bhd (Ayu), IMC Shipping Co. Pte. Ltd. (IMC), Sveriges Angfartygs Assurans Forening (The Swedish Club), and International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (International Group) (collectively "Claimants") are the responsible parties (RP) under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) and their insurers. Ayu owned the vessel, and IMC operated it. The Swedish Club, International Group, and the International Group's reinsurers were the subrogated underwriters.

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 2708(a)(2), the Claimants presented a claim to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF or the Fund) via the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) on December 07, 2007, asserting entitlement to a statutory limit on its liability for oil removal costs and damages resulting from the incident. On January 27, 2012, the NPFC determined that the Claimants were entitled to their statutory limit of liability, \$23,853,000. The Claimants now seek reimbursement for incurred removal costs and for damages paid to third parties above their statutory limit.

#### **Claim**

By letter dated March 21, 2012, Claimant, through their attorneys, Keesal, Young & Logan (KYL) submitted a document to the Fund entitled Third Party Claim Detail that listed all costs paid to third party claimants plus RP costs paid for certain vendors' services. The Third Party Claim Detail included a claim paid to [REDACTED] which was classified as a "Landowner Claim, Consultants/Vendors." This claim before the Fund seeks reimbursement of \$2,126.81, the amount Claimants paid for legal services paid to [REDACTED]. Claimants provided a single invoice that described the services provided as: "Native Land Selections", "review selection issues", "plot Tanaq land selections on USGS maps" and "review land selection questions". These services amounted to 10 hours for a total of \$2,100.00 in "legal fees".

Additional costs include USGS maps (\$25.00) and postage (\$1.81). The invoice, forwarded to KYL, indicates that the legal services were provided to Keesal Young & Logan in preparation for St. George Tanaq land selection issues.

**Applicable Law**

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 provides that each responsible party for a vessel or facility from which oil is discharged into or upon the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines or exclusive economic zone is liable for removal costs and damages. 33 U.S.C §2702 (a).

A responsible party “may assert a claim for removal costs and damages under section 2713 of this title only if the responsible party demonstrates that” it is entitled to a limitation of liability under §1004 of OPA. 33 U.S.C. §2708(a)

Responsible parties who have demonstrated entitlement to a limit of liability may submit claims to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for removal costs and damages incurred by the responsible party, plus amounts paid by the responsible party for claims asserted under section 1013 of OPA.

The Fund shall be available to the President for the payment of claims for uncompensated removal costs determined by the President to be consistent with the National Contingency Plan or uncompensated damages. 33 U.S.C. § 2712(a)(4). Covered damages under U.S.C. §2702 (b)(2)(A) – (F) are loss of or damage to natural resources, damage to real or personal property, loss of subsistence use, loss of net government revenues, loss of profits or impairment of earning capacity and net costs to provide increased or additional public services.

**Determination**

According to an invoice provided to the NPFC the Law Offices of Thomas Meacham were hired by the Claimants to perform legal services for the St. George Tanaq land selection issues; Claimants now seek reimbursement for a \$2,126.81 payment it allegedly made to Mr. [REDACTED]. Alternatively, Claimants describe this claim in its Third Party Claim Detail as a consultant claim for landowner issues. Neither of these are damages as defined by OPA. Because this claim seeks reimbursement of costs that are not specifically authorized by OPA, they cannot be paid by the Fund. This claim is denied.

**Claim Supervisor:** [REDACTED]

**Date of Supervisor’s review:** 11/15/2013

**Supervisor Action:** Denial Approved.

**Supervisor’s Comments:**