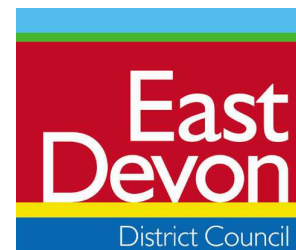




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# News Service

**13 July 2007**

## **Close watch on Napoli as salvagers work on split**

FOLLOWING the re-beaching of the MSC Napoli off Branscombe on Thursday evening, East Devon District Council will be keeping a close watching brief over the weekend as efforts are made to extend the split in the hull so that the ship separates into two sections.

A relatively small amount of residual oil was reported to have leaked from the crippled container ship on Friday and salvage teams were busy cleaning up patches of oil on Branscombe beach and will if necessary spray dispersants on the water.

During Friday, the salvage teams working with the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention and the MCA redoubled their efforts to ensure that the ship breaks up under controlled conditions.

Once the hull is in two sections, experts believe it should prove easier to handle the remainder of the salvage operation.

EDDC officials are working with colleagues in the National Trust – owners of Branscombe beach – and with the Environment Agency to ensure that the impact on wildlife, the environment and the local economy is minimised.

A spokesman for EDDC said: "We share the concern expressed by the National Trust that nothing should be allowed to happen that will harm the environment of this special piece of coastline. That is why we are working closely with other agencies to monitor the situation. We are however confident that the experts have the situation under control".

**Ends**

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