

## Grounded fishing boat owned by foreigners leaking oil off Phuket

A fishing boat called the Cheburi, which is not from Thailand, has washed ashore on Tapao Yai Island just off Phuket's Cape Panwa after being abandoned, as its owners were being prosecuted for violating Thailand's Fisheries Act by failing to report its movement.

Officials surrounded the area with floating protection barriers to prevent more fuel oil from leaking from the vessel.



The old and decrepit boat had been anchored off Tapao Yai but was swept ashore by waves on Monday. Fuel remaining aboard started to leak.

The boat is one of six vessels that had been anchored off the island since last year after their owners violated the law by leaving Thai waters and failing to report their return.

The owners were prosecuted and the boats abandoned.

The protection barriers extend 100 metres around the beached boat and officials have added neutralising chemicals to solidify the spilled fuel so that it sinks to the bottom of the sea. - Phuket Gazette