EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

# RESTORATION UPDATE

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Oct 2001 -
June 2002
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October 2001

## WE'VE MOVED

The Trustee Council has moved its offices. Our new physical location and mailing address are below. Our phone numbers, fax number, and e-mail addresses have not changed.

*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501-2340

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2002 Annual Workshop will be held January 22-25 at the Egan Convention Center in downtown Anchorage, with hotel rooms at the Anchorage Hilton. Although we are in the very early stages of preparing an agenda, the agenda will likely be more varied than in past years, covering a different topic each day. We expect that most participants will choose to attend only select days rather than all four days. The tentative agenda so far is as follows. A more detailed and less tentative agenda will be available on the Trustee Council's web site shortly (www.oilspill.state.ak.us).

- Tuesday, January 22
  Workshop on Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) with Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund
- Wednesday, January 23
  Finish Tuesday agenda
  Lingering oil / status of recovery
  Evening reception
- Thursday, January 24
  Nearshore workshop / citizen monitoring
- Friday, January 25 (a.m. only)
  Kenai River Nutrient Study Group

## GEM PROGRAM DOCUMENT UNDER REVIEW

The latest draft of the GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring and Research) Program Document was sent to the National Research Council (NRC) for review on August 31, 2001. The Trustee Council has contracted with the NRC as a means of obtaining advice from independent scientists and nationally-recognized experts on the development of the GEM program. NRC comments are expected by March 1, 2002. The document will then be revised before being considered for final approval by the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the final GEM Program Document is likely to occur in late spring/early summer 2002.

GEM is a long-term monitoring and research program for the northern Gulf of Alaska. The Trustee Council has endowed this program as a final legacy of its mission to restore the fish and wildlife resources injured by the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. The August 31, 2001 NRC review draft of the GEM Program Document is available on the Trustee Council's web site: www.oilspill.state.ak.us. Volume I is the Strategic Plan for Monitoring and Research. Volume II is The Historical Legacy: Building Blocks for the Future.

# STATUS OF FY 02 & FY 03 WORK PLANS

On August 6, 2001 the Trustee Council approved a total of $3.1 million for 43 projects in the FY 02 Work Plan. Action on 18 additional projects was deferred; those projects will be considered in December. Planning for the FY 03 Invitation to Submit Project Proposals is just now beginning. More information on the process for FY 03 -- which is expected to wind down many of the lingering oil studies and related restoration work, and to initiate GEM activities -- will be made available shortly.

# REVISED HABITAT ACQUISITION PROGRAM IN PLACE

The Trustee Council (through the Department of Interior, a Trustee agency) has entered into a $1 million pilot grant agreement with The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund to implement the Council's habitat acquisition program during FY 02. We believe the grant approach has several advantages over our earlier, in-house system. These two non-profits are able to respond more quickly than government to opportunities for acquisition of priority lands, to leverage resources by attracting matching funds, and to broaden the protection impact of dollars spent by achieving below-appraised-value purchases through the use of tax incentives and estate planning strategies. If these advantages prove true, the grant may be continued into the future with additional funds.

If you have ideas for parcels that should be protected, please contact Brad Meiklejohn at The Conservation Fund (in Anchorage, 694-9060) or Randy Hagenstein at The Nature Conservancy (in Homer, 235-9731).


*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council

**James Balsiger**
Director, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

**Dave Gibbons**
Supervisor, Chugach National Forest
U.S. Forest Service

**Michele Brown**
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

**Drue Pearce**
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
Department of Interior

**Frank Rue**
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**Craig Tillery**
Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law

**OPEN HOUSE TO FOLLOW DECEMBER 11 TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Trustee Council meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2001 at our Anchorage office. The primary agenda item will be consideration of FY 02 restoration projects that were deferred at the last meeting. A presentation on the Cook Inlet Information Management and Monitoring System (CIIMMS) is also scheduled. The meeting will be followed by an open house from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to show our new offices. The public is welcome.


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