

ANNOUNCING Oceans & Watersheds Symposium: Sustainability in the Context of Change

A statewide symposium on the state of Alaska's marine environment will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in downtown Anchorage, June 18-19, 2002. Speakers, panels, and discussions will focus on:

- ✦ The ocean's carrying capacity
- ✦ Status and trends of Alaska's fish, birds, and mammals
- ✦ Impacts of contamination on fish and wildlife and their use as traditional foods
- ✦ Research technology
- ✦ Ecosystem-based management and ocean policies and governance

The symposium is jointly sponsored by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, North Pacific Research Board, State of Alaska, US Department of Interior, University of Alaska, EPA, Alaska Board of Fisheries, NOAA, the Alaska Coastal Policy Council, and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Registration is free, but limited to the first 325 people who register. A registration form, the symposium agenda, and a flyer suitable for posting are available at <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/events.html>. Or you can call the Restoration Office at 278-8012 or 1-800-478-7745 – we are handling registration for the conference.

CHECK OUT our new web site! www.oilspill.state.ak.us

We recently redesigned the Trustee Council's web site to make it easier to use. In addition, we have added a lot of information, including pdf files of all of the final reports prepared on completed restoration projects, and maps and descriptions of habitat parcels purchased by the Council. A new GEM section includes the timeline for implementation of GEM, the GEM Program Document currently under review by the NRC, and a Bibliography of GEM-Related Publications with over 1,800 cites. Links to over 100 related web pages have been added, and photos available for downloading have been posted.

The "publications" page contains many Trustee Council documents -- the 2002 Final Work Plan lists projects currently underway with Council support; the Settlement Documents comprise the legal documents entered into between the governments and Exxon at the time of the settlement; the Report Writing Procedures are used by EVOS researchers to prepare their required project reports; and the TC Bibliography of Published Literature provides cites for the roughly 500 published manuscripts that have resulted from Council-funded projects.

We would be interested in any feedback you might have on our new web site.

PUBLIC HEARING on Status of Injury to Resources & Services Injured by the Oil Spill

On Friday, June 14, 2002 at 10:15 am, the Trustee Council will hold a public hearing on an update to the Council's Status of Injury report proposed by Chief Scientist Dr. Bob Spies. To participate by teleconference, you must call the Anchorage Restoration Office at 278-8012 or 1-800-478-7745 and have your name added to the "meet me teleconference" list. Or you can attend the hearing in person at the Anchorage Restoration Office, 441 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 500. The Council is tentatively scheduled to take action on the proposed update at its meeting on July 9, 2002.

The proposed update is available on our web site at <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/pdf/draftinjuredresources02.pdf> or by calling the Anchorage Restoration Office.

In 1994, the Trustee Council adopted an official list of Resources and Services Injured by the Spill as part of its *Restoration Plan*. Over the years, the list has been used to highlight injuries caused by the spill and has helped the Trustees and the public track the status of important fish, wildlife, and services (that is, the human uses of the resources) as they recover—or fail to recover—from the effects of the spill. The *Restoration Plan* states that the list will be updated periodically to reflect results from scientific studies and other information. The list was updated in 1996 and 1999. This 2002 update is the third periodic update of the list.

The assignment of resources to categories—Not Recovering from the Effects of EVOS, Recovering from the Effects of EVOS, Recovered from the Effects of EVOS, and Recovery Unknown—is based on judgments of the Trustee Council's scientific advisors after weighing the available evidence. Factors that make these judgments difficult include uncertainties in population estimates (due to the natural variability in animal distributions and the challenges of getting accurate counts, especially of highly mobile species), a lack of prespill data (patchy data on the status of many resources in 1989 made it difficult to accurately assess initial injury, inevitably leading to uncertainties in estimating recovery), and the interaction of spill effects and natural changes in the dynamic ecosystem in which the spill occurred (such as the 1998 El Niño event).

Your comments on the proposed update of the Status of Injury report are welcome, either at the June 14 hearing or in writing (e-mail to restoration@oilspill.state.ak.us or mail to 441 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 500, Anchorage, AK 99501). All comments need to be received by Monday, July 8, 2002.

STAFFING CHANGES & NEW SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our transition to GEM includes some new faces on the Trustee Council staff. Katharine Miller recently came on board as our Science Coordinator. Katharine has a masters degree in marine resource management from the University of Washington, and over 10 years of experience in developing environmental and natural resource management programs and conducting biological studies for state and federal agencies. At the same time, we hired Bob Walker as our Data Systems Manager. Bob has over 19 years of analyst/programmer and biometrician experience with ADF&G, where at various times he headed up the information management programs of the Divisions of Subsistence, Wildlife Conservation, and Sport Fish.

In addition, Dr. Phil Mundy, who had been serving as Science Coordinator, has moved into a new Science Director position. Dr. Bob Spies, who has been the Trustee Council's Chief Scientist since the time of the oil spill, will continue as an advisor to the Executive Director as chairman of a Lingering Oil Subcommittee, but—beginning in August 2002—many of his duties will be brought in-house and handled by Dr. Mundy.

In April, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) was formed to provide the Trustee Council's Executive Director programmatic advice and guidance on GEM, including which research proposals are best suited to GEM's mission and goals. The members, which were appointed by the Council, are Stephen Braund, an Anchorage-based consultant with expertise in cultural anthropology and rural Alaskan socioeconomic and sociocultural systems; Charles Miller, Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University; Brenda Norcross, Professor at the Institute of Marine Science at UAF; Ron O'Dor, Professor of Biology at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia; William Seitz, Director of the Alaska Science Center for USGS, Department of the Interior; and Warren Wooster, who holds an emeritus professor position at University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs. As the Council's Science Director, Phil Mundy is serving as co-chair of the STAC. All of the STAC members have impressive records of involvement with marine-related issues and substantial publications in their fields of expertise. Their resumes are on file at the Anchorage Restoration Office.

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT 2003 ANNUAL WORKSHOP

January 13-17, 2003 the Trustee Council's annual workshop will take the form of a Symposium on Marine Sciences in the Northeast Pacific: Science for Resource Dependent Communities. This meeting—jointly sponsored by the Council's GEM program, Northeast Pacific-Gulf of Alaska GLOBEC, and NMFS Steller Sea Lion Coordinated Investigations—is being planned to inform scientists and the public about recent advances in understanding the marine science that bears on marine resource dependent communities in Alaska and adjacent waters. Watch our web site for further developments: www.oilspill.state.ak.us



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