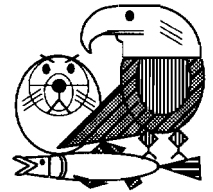


Restoration Update

December 1994

Volume 1 Number 6



Trustees approve 1995 Work Plan

Habitat protection actions taken, new director appointed and other restoration programs move forward

The Trustee Council approved a \$24 million Work Plan for 1995 to fund restoration projects, research and monitoring efforts, and science management and took important actions for habitat protection at recent meetings in Anchorage and Juneau.

The Trustees also accepted the resignation of Executive Director Jim Ayers at the December 2 meeting in Juneau. Ayers was selected by Governor Tony Knowles to serve as his Chief of Staff. The Trustee Council unanimously approved appointment of Molly McCammon as the new Executive Director. McCammon was formerly Director of Operations for the Trustee Council.

"The Trustees have set the course for restoration actions with approval of the final Restoration Plan," McCammon said.

"After working closely with Jim Ayers and the staff over the last year, I look forward to following through with the comprehensive, balanced approach to restoration adopted by the Trustees."

The Trustee Council took the following additional actions:

- Set aside an additional \$12 million in a Restoration Reserve for future restoration needs,

indicating their goal of establishing a Reserve of more than \$100 million by 2002. This brings the current total in this account to \$24 million.

- Adopted a final Restoration Plan, incorporating a comprehensive, balanced approach to restoration. Approval of the plan followed a two-year process which included compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and extensive public involvement.

- Authorized funding for infrastructure improvements at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks' Institute of Marine Science in Seward. The Trustee Council's \$25 million funding will assist in development of a world-class marine research center to enhance the Trustee Council's capability for conducting studies to promote the restoration of marine mammals, seabirds and the marine ecosystem injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

- Approved habitat protection packages negotiated with Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. and Old Harbor Native Corporation to protect some 200,000 acres of habitat on Kodiak Island within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge critical to fish and wildlife species injured by the spill. The

protection packages involve combinations of fee simple purchase of lands, land exchanges, and additional protection measures negotiated with the Native corporations.

- Made offers for additional habitat protection packages to Koniag, Inc., Kodiak Island Borough and Afognak Joint Ventures for parcels in the Kodiak region, and Chenega Corp., Tatitlek Corp. and Eyak Corp. in Prince William Sound. Acceptance of all the offers would result in protection of more than 345,880 acres of critical habitat throughout the spill region. Copies of the resolutions and details on these offers are available by contacting the Oil Spill Public Information Center.

- Approved a resolution expressing strong support for habitat protection actions for private land inholdings in Kenai Fjords National Park owned by the English Bay and Port Graham corporations.

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Overview of 1995

The Trustee Council's 1995 Work Plan includes projects to address restoration concerns through research, monitoring, general restoration actions, habitat protection and acquisition.

The 83 projects included in the 1995 Work Plan are organized into several packages with related objectives for greater effectiveness and more efficient management. A significant part of the work plan funding is directed at fisheries in the spill area, including pink salmon, herring and sockeye salmon restoration. Other projects deal with subsistence, marine mammals and birds, archaeology, oil toxicity and reduction of marine pollution.

A comprehensive scientific review of all projects and an update on findings from 1994 is planned to take place in January during a week-long workshop. Participants will include project principal investigators, peer reviewers, the Council's Chief Scientist, representatives of the public and Trustee Council staff.

A revised 1995 Work Plan Summary document is in preparation and will be available in December. In the meantime, a report listing projects approved for funding — *1995 Work Plan – Authorized Project Funding* — is available at the Oil Spill Public Information Center by calling 278-8008, toll-free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745, toll-free from outside Alaska at 1-800-283-7745.

Fisheries Projects

Over half the funding for 1995 projects addresses concerns about pink salmon, herring, sockeye salmon, and other fish and shellfish that still show signs of injury. Specific restoration actions will be undertaken in some cases, such as collecting data to help fisheries managers target fisheries efficiently while protecting injured stocks. Other projects involve monitoring recovery of fishery populations, such as herring in Prince William Sound. A significant portion of 1995 funding is directed toward research. A major project in the research effort is the Prince William Sound System Investigation, an integrated, multi-year set of studies to analyze natural and spill-related factors affecting pink salmon and herring populations.

Other Marine Species

Another group of projects deals with restoration, monitoring and research involving other injured resources that are not recovering. These studies target marine mammals, seabird and forage fish

interactions, nearshore ecosystem studies, intertidal and subtidal community structure and ongoing problem with seabirds.

Subsistence

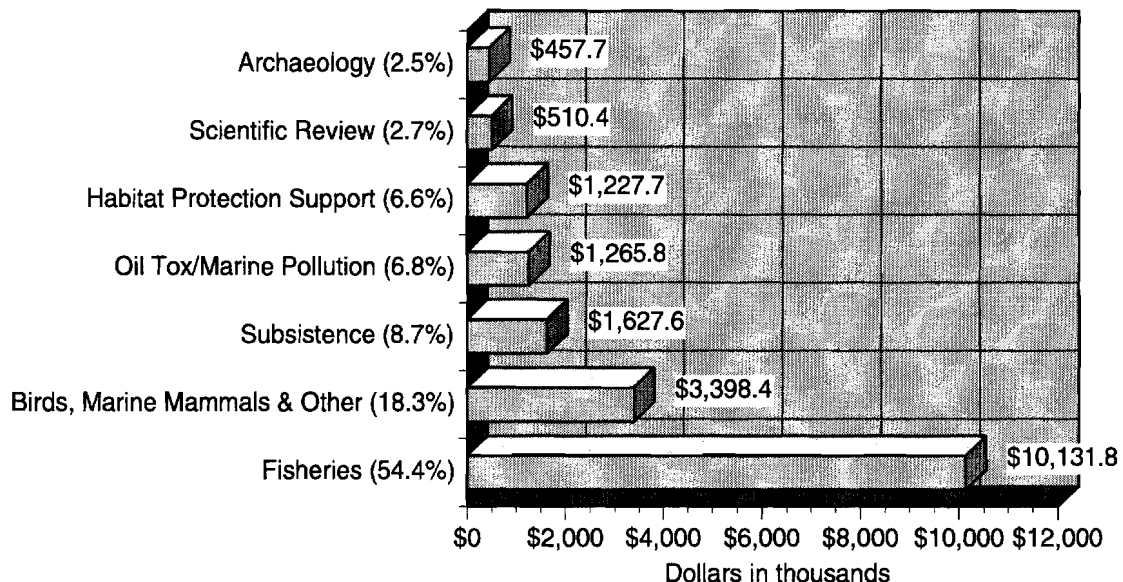
When dealing with fisheries problems and restoration of related resources the Trustees are also addressing issues of concern to subsistence users in the spill region. In addition, a number of 1995 projects will tackle other subsistence problems resulting from the spill through programs to facilitate sharing of traditional knowledge of subsistence practices between elders and youth, make use of traditional subsistence knowledge in data gathering, and identify and survey customary subsistence harvest areas for evidence of continuing oiling problems.

Archaeology

Problems with injured archaeological resources spill are addressed in projects to monitor injured archaeological sites for evidence of looting, and to complete site restoration work begun in 1994.

Work Plan Projects

How are funds allocated for 1995 projects?



Note: Allocation figures reflect FY 95 Work Plan authorizations through December 2, 1994. Individual project funding authorizations are conditioned upon the Executive Director's final approval following scientific and budget review of the detailed project descriptions and budgets and upon compliance with NEPA requirements. Funding totals do not include \$24.9 million in funds authorized for development and construction of research infrastructure improvements at the Institute of Marine Science in Seward, or for the specific protection or acquisition of habitat.

Oil Toxicity & Reducing Marine Pollution

These projects include mussel bed cleanup and restoration in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska, hydrocarbon data analysis, and preparation of a comprehensive plan to properly dispose of oily waste in spill region communities, thus reducing a source of continuing stress from oil pollution in the marine environment.

Habitat Protection and Acquisition Support

The Trustees approved funding to support habitat protection and acquisition activities such as data collection, appraisals, title searches, etc. The amounts considered as part of the 1995 Work Plan do not include funding for specific acquisitions or protection actions.

Other Programs

The work plan includes funding to support both the annual work plan and the Trustees' overall restoration program. Overall program support includes administration of the Trustees' restoration objectives, management and review of the science program, and varied public information and involvement efforts.

Included as part of the public information program is support for the Oil Spill Public Information Center, a library resource used by the public and the Trustees. Planning is also underway for an interactive, multi-media computer program and geographical data base to allow members of the public, scientists and managers easy access to the extensive information developed through restoration programs.

Subsistence projects funded from both civil and criminal funds

Communities in the spill area will receive additional help in the coming year to restore subsistence resources and services injured by the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill with funding from both civil and state criminal settlement funds.

Following a subsistence restoration planning effort undertaken by the Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and funded by the Trustee Council, the Trustees approved \$1.63 million in subsistence projects to be funded from the civil settlement funds in 1995. These projects include programs to directly restore or replace subsistence resources, consult with subsistence users in order to incorporate traditional knowledge of the region in restoration planning, and survey remaining surface and subsurface oil in the spill region to monitor effects on subsistence resources and determine if additional cleanup is necessary.

Subsistence harvests in all the Alaska Native villages of Prince William Sound, lower Cook Inlet and Kodiak dropped notably in the year following the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Subsistence harvest in Chenega Bay and Tatitlek fell by more than 60 percent, and the range of subsistence resources used dropped by half. Key subsistence resources such as Pacific herring, harbor seals and pink salmon are not yet recovered from spill-

related injuries.

The projects will approved by the full Trustee Council aid the communities in replacing and restoring traditional subsistence resources and in continuing traditional subsistence skills and practices. They will also serve to reduce harvest pressure on injured resources in subsistence areas affected by the spill.

In addition to these projects, seven grant proposals submitted to the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs for funding from the *Exxon Valdez* state criminal settlement received a go-ahead from the state Trustee Council members on November 4. The projects funded by the grants will tackle a variety of subsistence-related concerns expressed by the residents of Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Nanwalek and Port Graham.

"These projects are well-conceived and extremely important to restoration of normal subsistence practices in the small communities hardest hit by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill," said Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Trustee John Sandor at the November 4 meeting in Anchorage.

"I am personally very glad to see action taking place on these projects, as well as the subsistence projects funded by the full Trustee Council through the civil settlement funds," Sandor said.

The DCRA grant program was established with \$5 million set aside by the Alaska Legislature from the \$50 million in fines imposed on Exxon as part of the October 1991 court settlement of criminal charges and civil claims between the state and federal governments and Exxon Corporation. The legislation authorizing the grant program directed the Commissioner of DCRA to consult with the three state Trustees before awarding the grants.

Additional proposals are expected to come in the future from Kodiak-area villages.

Restoration Update

The Restoration Update is published approximately six times a year by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council. Its purpose is to update interested members of the public about actions, policies and plans of the Trustee Council to restore resources and services injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

For more information, mailing address correction or to request future articles on specific subjects, contact:

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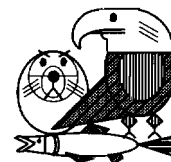
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PAG Members Complete First Two Year Term

After serving for two years, the Trustee Council's first Public Advisory Group stepped down in October.

The 17 PAG members, 12 alternates and two ex-officio members from the Alaska Legislature were appointed by the Trustees in September, 1992. Setting up a public advisory group was mandated as part of the 1991 civil settlement between Exxon Corporation and the state and federal governments.

In the group's charter, PAG members were charged with advising the Trustee Council "on all decisions relating to...planning, evaluation and conduct of injury assessment [and] restoration activities." PAG meetings have taken place approximately every two months since the first meeting on October 29, 1992.

With the charter renewed, new



PAG members, left to right: Rupert Andrews, Pamela Brodie, John French, Kimberly Benton, James King, James Diehl, Mary McBurney, Lew Williams, Donna Fischer (Co-Chair), Molly McCammon (Director of Operations), Bob Spies (Chief Scientist), and Doug Mutter (Designated Federal Officer).

nominations were solicited this fall for members to serve on the next two-year term. The Trustees are expected to make new appointments soon.

Each PAG member was presented a certificate of appreciation signed by all six

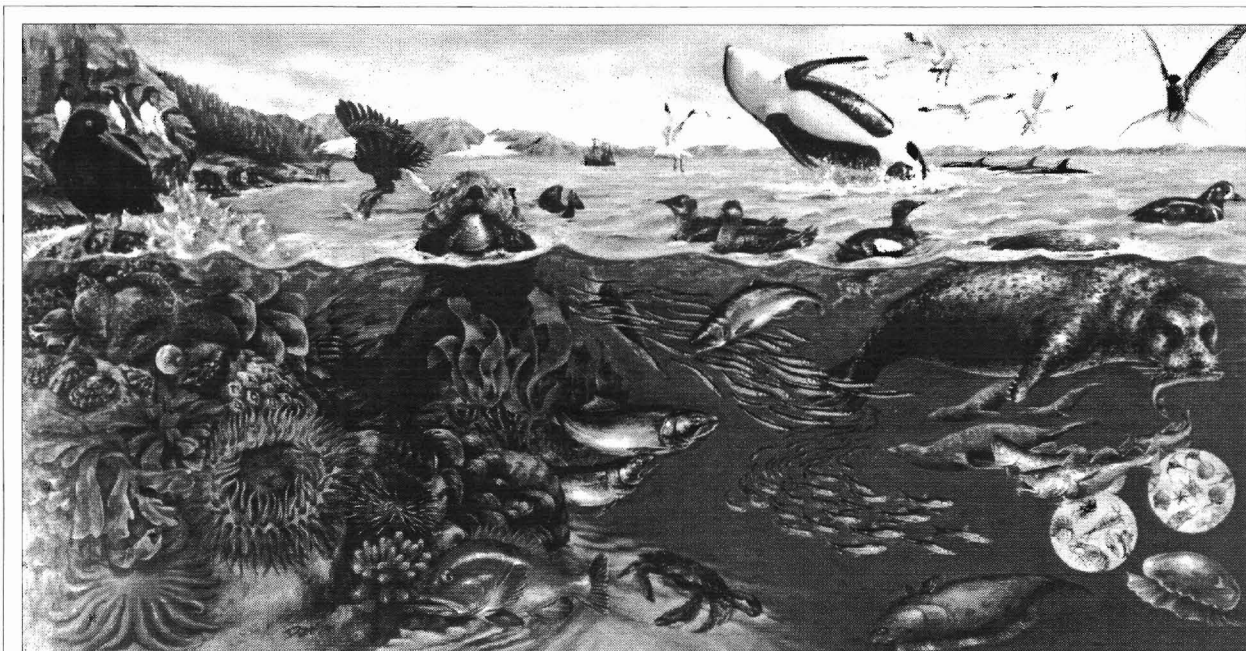
Trustees, stating that "The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council extends our deep appreciation for your contribution to restoration of the resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill as a member of the Public Advisory Group, October 1992 — October 1994."

Public Advisory Group Members ~ October 1992 - November 1994

Rupert E. Andrews
Dave Beck, Alternate
Kimberley Benton, Alternate
Pamela Brodie
James L. Cloud
Sarah Cronk, Alternate
James Diehl
Bill Elander, Alternate
Richard I. Eliason
Gail Evanoff, Alternate
Donna Fischer

John French
Sharon Gagnon, Alternate
Paul Gavora
James G. King
Richard A. Knecht
George Matz, Alternate
Vern C. McCorkle
Donald McCumby, Alternate
Gerald McCune
Mary McBurney, Alternate
John C. McMullen

Brenda Norcross, Alternate
E. Bradford Phillips
Dolly Reft, Alternate
John L. Sturgeon
Charles Totemoff
Dan Warren, Alternate
Llewellyn "Lew" W. Williams, Jr.
Cliff Davidson, Alaska State House of Representatives
Drue Pearce, Alaska State Senate



Alaska Marine Ecosystems Poster Available

As part of achieving the Trustee Council's public information and education goals, Anchorage artist Debra Dubac was commissioned this summer to produce a full-color poster showing the various components of Alaska marine ecosystems involved in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

The 34"x27" poster depicts elements of the pelagic or deep water, intertidal and upland components of a marine area typical to the oil spill region. Explanatory

text beneath the painting explains that the ecosystem components are connected to one another, and that all were injured to some extent by the spill.

The posters, produced and printed in Alaska on heavy recycled paper with vegetable-based inks, are available for \$10 each. Contact the Oil Spill Public Information Center at 645 G Street, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451, or by calling 907/278-8008, toll-free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745, outside Alaska at 1-800-283-7745.

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