

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council *Restoration Update*

March 1995

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Workshop Participants Present 1994 Findings

More than 130 researchers, resource specialists and members of the public discussed key outcomes from restoration work completed in 1994 at the Trustee Council's annual Restoration Workshop in January. The group also began work on a financially sustainable, long-term approach to restoration compatible with the Council's *Restoration Plan*.

"The basic message is that, six years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, recovery is occurring at different rates for different resources," said Chief Scientist Bob Spies. "This is a complicated process, and many factors influence the rate of recovery. The Trustee Council is doing every-thing practical to accelerate recovery where possible, and to understand what is constraining recovery for some resources."

Workshop presenters participated in numerous sessions and informal meetings in Anchorage during the four-day workshop. Each investigator provided a summary of the work completed last year, and an update on the status of recovery of injured resources and services. A more detailed discussion of the status of recovery is included in the Trustee Council's *1995 Annual Status Report*, which will be available in early April. The *Invitation to*



Restoration workshop attendees listen to Dave Irons of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service summarizing discussions that took place about birds injured by the ExxonValdez oil spill. Photo by L.J. Evans.

Submit Restoration Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 1996 and Draft Restoration Program presents additional information on the status of injured resources and restoration needs, focusing on 1996 and extending to future years. Both of these documents are available at the Council offices or the Oil Spill Public Information Center.

Following are summaries of the major topics and findings discussed at the workshop.

Fish Resources: Stock Separation and Management

The Trustee Council recognizes that development of more efficient or effective management methods may be one of the best strategies to aid recovery of such injured resources as sockeye and pink

salmon. Providing resource managers with better tools makes it possible to guide harvests and avoid further injury to spill-affected populations while allowing harvest to continue on undamaged populations.

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Restoration Workshop

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Pink Salmon

Although record numbers of mixed stocks of pink salmon were harvested in Prince William Sound in 1994, the return from wild stock streams was below average. Management strategies have thus been developed to protect the wild salmon

stocks, which were adversely affected by oiling at stream mouths.

For the last several years, the Trustee Council has funded coded-wire marking of hatchery-raised pink salmon in Prince William Sound. While this method has provided valuable information, its major short-coming is that only a fraction of the

fish can be marked. A new hatchery fish marking method called thermal otolith marking has been under development and will be implemented in 1995.

Raising the water temperature in hatcheries by a few degrees causes rings to form on a small bone in the fish's head — the otolith. These rings can be detected after the salmon grows to adulthood and returns to spawn. By using this technique, hatchery managers can mark *all* the smolts prior to release. When the pink salmon return, the presence of hatchery fish in proportion to wild fish can be determined and fishery openings can be managed to minimize harvest of wild stocks.

Researchers at the workshop described an overlap of at least one year while switching from the already established technique of inserting coded wire tags to complete reliance on thermal otolith marking. This will enable scientists to ensure the new method provides the expected results with sufficient accuracy.

Sockeye Salmon

The Kenai River sockeye population may have been injured because fishing was closed in 1989 for fear of oiling the catch. As a result, too many fish escaped to

spawn. Fishery biologists feared the overabundant fry would starve once they had consumed all the available food, and the losses would show up in subsequent years as fewer sockeye returning to spawn in the Kenai river system. However, 1994 brought three times as many fish as expected, which suggests that major decreases predicted in 1995 and 1996 sockeye returns may not be as large as initially feared. These returns will be closely monitored and factored into future sockeye restoration activities.

To aid selective sockeye harvest in lower Cook Inlet, the Trustee Council has been supporting development since 1992 of a database of genetic information from 30 sub-populations of sockeye salmon from the Kenai/Skilak, western Cook Inlet, Kasilov and Susitna river systems. Using tissue samples from the commercial catch, stock composition estimates can now be provided within 48 hours to enable fishery managers to allocate harvest quotas. Fishery managers have also been using hydroacoustic techniques to count fish as a complement to other methods used.

These techniques have provided the Alaska Department of Fish and Game with additional tools to adjust the mixed-stock fishery in Cook Inlet and protect injured stocks, while also providing a lasting legacy for conservation of Kenai River and other Cook Inlet sockeye salmon in the future.

Trustee-sponsored management projects such as these are developed with defined endpoints and timelines. The objective is to phase out Trustee Council support, and turn the programs and techniques over to the management agencies and constituent groups for continued use.

Enhancement and Replacement

Enhancing, supplementing and replacing injured resources are among the options available for restoration. Enhancement and supplementation are general terms for actions that aid the survival of natural populations. Replacement is an appropriate restoration option either when the injured resource is no longer available or seriously reduced, or when harvest of a different resource would

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'The basic message is that six years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, recovery is occurring at different rates for different resources.'

Chief Scientist Bob Spies.

SEA Program Pink Salmon, Herring Studies Providing Results

The Sound Ecosystem Assessment or SEA program was launched by the Trustee Council in the spring of 1994 to conduct research on the ecological factors responsible for fluctuations in herring and pink salmon populations in Prince William Sound.

In 1994 SEA researchers began testing several hypotheses using data collected from oceanographic measurements and biological samples collected in western Prince William Sound. The hypotheses focus on understanding how sea water circulating in the upper layers of the sound, which varies seasonally and annually, influences the abundance, movement, timing and species composition of plankton available to feed fish, birds and mammals in the region.

SEA investigators believe that in years with high rates of sea water flushing through the sound there is a large reduction in the availability of plankton. This results in more juvenile herring, pink salmon and other small fish being eaten by larger fish and birds. Investigators also suspect that a combination of physical factors and predation have an influence on the losses of herring spawn each year. Several species of ducks, shorebirds and gulls are believed to be the major predators.

In 1994 researchers observed a generally counter-clockwise circulation in the upper 150 meters of

the water circulation system through Prince William Sound. Below that depth a weaker clockwise spin was observed. Analysis indicated that water entering through Hinchinbrook Entrance was cooled and diluted as it passed through the sound, and that circulation was weaker in the northern and northwestern regions. The plankton bloom (a period of rapid population increase) was approximately 15 days later than in 1993. Researchers said most of this difference can be accounted for by cooler springtime temperatures in 1994.

Scientists at the Prince William Sound Science Center and the University of Alaska Fairbanks continue to analyze the data collected in 1994 and translate their findings into practical strategies for managing these important fishery resources. SEA scientists will investigate further in 1995 who eats whom in the surface waters of the sound, and how the survival of larval pink salmon and herring is affected by different physical and biological conditions.



Jim Murphy hauls in a CTD (current/temperature/depth) recorder while Dr. Ted Cooney looks on. The SEA program surveys collected nearly 1,000 CTD measurements during the 1994 field season. Photo by Robert Spies.

The *Restoration Update* is published by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approximately six times a year. 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, please contact:

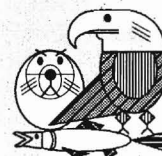
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Chenega resident Pete Selanoff, Jr. picks up oiled mussels for transfer to another part of the beach. Chenega residents worked with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and National Marine Fisheries Service staff to clean up twelve mussel beds in 1994. Photo by L.J. Evans.

Restoration Workshop

Continued from Page 2

allow natural recovery of the injured resource to take place.

Salmon Habitat Improvement During 1994, salmon habitat restoration and enhancement work was undertaken at four locations in Prince William Sound, one in lower Cook Inlet, and one on Afognak Island. The project was the result of a three-year survey of the spill area to identify appropriate, cost-effective instream habitat restoration and enhancement techniques and candidate locations. Workers at the six sites improved fish habitat and rehabilitated streams affected by environmental and human-induced factors, constructed fish passes, and repaired a waterfall bypass originally constructed in 1962.

Coghill Lake Sockeye At Coghill Lake in northwestern Prince William Sound, Trustee Council-funded work has been underway to increase production of an already-present but declining sockeye salmon run as a replacement fishery for sport and

commercial harvests affected by the spill. Fertilizers are being added to the lake to encourage growth of plankton consumed by sockeye smolts. The availability of food in rearing lakes determines the growth and size of smolts that migrate to sea. Smolt size is an important factor contributing to ocean survival and subsequent adult returns. Over time, as the sockeye run increases, the sockeye will fertilize the lake themselves through the decomposition of spawned out carcasses.

The 1995 season will be the third of a five year fertilization plan for Coghill Lake. Sockeye fry were also added to the lake in 1994. Plankton production was significantly increased in 1993, but in 1994 results were less conclusive. Monitoring of results will continue to determine the project's success.

Chenega Chinook Release In 1994 the Trustee Council approved a local salmon run to be established at Crab Bay, as proposed by the residents of Chenega, to develop

an alternate food source to replace subsistence resources injured by the oil spill. Last year, 50,000 Chinook smolts were barged by the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation from the Esther Island hatchery to be reared for two weeks in net pens at Crab Bay by Chenega residents. The Aquaculture Corporation has donated egg-take and hatchery rearing for this project.

After only four days at the net-pen stage, 200 fish died from a disease which is not contagious to wild stocks. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game State Pathologist recommended that the fish be released early to avoid congestion and increased disease transmission among the penned smolts. Since the fish were released after only four days, it is uncertain whether they imprinted sufficiently to return to the area. Salmon returns will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of this project. Additional chinook fry will be released in 1995 as part of this ongoing project.

Bird Predator Removal Prior to 1930, foxes were introduced to most of the islands in southwestern Alaska for fur farming. These predators reduced populations of native birds, including black oystercatchers, common murre and pigeon guillemots. Since removal of the artificially-introduced predators would allow remnant populations of birds to increase or recolonize, the Trustee Council approved a project in 1994 to eliminate foxes on two islands near the western edge of the oil spill region.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented in the past that these types of predator removal projects are very effective in increasing bird populations. An increase of seabird populations in the Gulf of Alaska will make it more likely that birds can

repopulate areas that experienced the greatest spill impacts.

Fish and Wildlife Service workers removed 39 foxes from Simeonof and Chernabura Islands. Follow-up surveys in 1995 will assess bird population changes and verify that all foxes have been removed.

Marine Mammals

Harbor Seals Researchers working in Prince William Sound detected no signs of harbor seal recovery in 1994, either from spill-related effects or the area-wide decline which began prior to the spill.

Previous work has suggested that disease is not the cause of the ongoing decline, and reproduction rates appear to be normal. However, as in each of the years since the spill, surveyors in 1994 found approximately 40 percent fewer seals in the oiled areas of the sound than counted during a similar survey conducted the year before the spill.

Current hypotheses suggest that factors contributing to the harbor seal decline could include decreases in food availability, predation by killer whales or harvest by subsistence hunters. Projects are underway for 1995 which will examine the availability and abundance of the forage fish that harbor seals rely upon for food, gauge recovery of killer whales and investigate whale predation upon seals, and work with subsistence hunters who voluntarily want to manage their harvest patterns to aid in the recovery of harbor seals.

Sea Otters

Surveys of sea otters in Prince William Sound conducted in 1992 through 1994 suggest that population numbers remain low and that recovery of sea otters in oiled areas has not yet occurred. Continued monitoring of sea otters will be carried out as part of the Nearshore Ecosystem project (see Nearshore studies below).

Seabirds and Forage Fish

Populations of several fish-eating bird and mammal species have declined in Prince William Sound over the last 20 years, while species which depend on other food sources such as clams have not declined. Some forage fish, such as herring and juvenile salmon, are known to have been injured by the spill. Scientists say that changes in forage fish abundance or distribution may be constraining recovery of resources such as common murre, harbor seals, harlequin ducks, marbled murrelets and salmon. The Trustees funded a forage fish pilot study in 1994 to test techniques and collect data to aid in designing sampling methods for subsequent years.

Seabird surveys were conducted from boats at the same time hydroacoustic equipment on

board assessed the presence of fish schooling underwater. Researchers noted that seabirds were often observed near dense schools of forage fish close to the water's surface, and that forage fish were found distributed in patches around seabird colonies. In future years the project will integrate seabird and forage fish research to determine if enough suitable food is available for these species.

Nearshore Ecosystem

The nearshore ecosystem includes the community of plants and animals that inhabit the relatively shallow water of shoreline areas. Much of the oil spilled by the *Exxon Valdez* ended up in this area, and the nearshore ecosystem suffered further disturbance as a result of cleanup activities.

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Archaeologist Mary Irving begins removal of the top layers at an archaeological site between Seward and Whittier. The site was studied and stabilized as part of a Trustee Council project to restore and protect archaeological sites injured because of the oil spill. Photo by Linda Yarborough, USFS.



Invitation for 1996 Work Projects Combined with Long-Term Plan

Do you have a Restoration Project you think the Trustee Council should consider? If so, the best time for you to make your suggestion is between now and May 1.

On March 24, the Trustee Council published an *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 1996*. The *Invitation* provides the guidelines necessary for private contractors, agencies, universities, communities, and other interest groups to suggest restoration projects for 1996. Proposals are due May 1. The 1996 federal fiscal year begins October 1, 1995, and ends September 30, 1996.

Projects received before May 1 will be reviewed by the Trustee Council's scientific advisors, the Public Advisory Group, and trustee agency staff. Those recommended for funding will be published in late June in the Draft 1996 Work Plan. The Trustee Council plans to decide upon the final 1996 Work Plan at the end of August 1995.

If you would like to submit a project for evaluation, please contact the Restoration Office for a copy of the *Invitation*. Use the guidelines in the invitation to submit your project to the Trustee Council before May 1.

If you have questions about how to write a proposal, or how they will be evaluated, come to a meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 1995, at 2:30 PM, at the Restoration Office, 645 G Street in Anchorage. If you are not in Anchorage and would like to participate by teleconference, please call Rebecca Williams at 907/278-8012, toll-free within Alaska at 800-478-7745, or toll-free outside Alaska at 800-283-7745, by April 17. However, please call at any time if you have questions.

A Vision for the Future: *The Draft Restoration Program*

In January, more than 130 scientists, staff, and members of the public came together in Anchorage to review restoration activities over the past year, and develop a vision of the future — a forecast of work plan projects needed in the coming years to accomplish restoration objectives.

This vision is described in the *Draft Restoration Program: 1996 and Beyond* which is published as a part of the *Invitation*. For each injured resource and service, the document describes projects likely to be proposed for restoration including an estimate of the cost, what the project will accomplish, and when it will be finished. Collectively, the information provides a view of priorities for the work program for next year, and beyond.

"This is the first time we have had a long range view of our projected needs," said Executive Director Molly McCammon. "With this information, we can realistically assess restoration needs, and put together a financially sustainable restoration program to make the best use of available funding."

The *Draft Restoration Program* is a starting point for this year's funding decisions by the Trustee Council. It has not yet been adopted by the Trustee Council, and is being distributed to the public for review and comment.

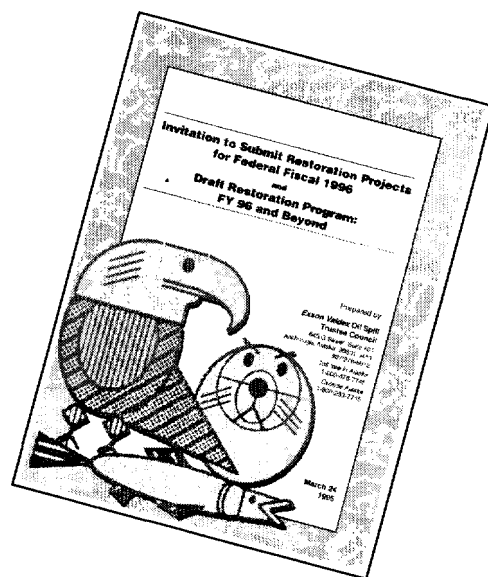
The *Draft Restoration Program: 1996 and Beyond* or a shorter summary of the document is available by calling the Restoration Office. Comments are due by May 1 in order to be incorporated into the final decision process.

Public Meetings Taking Place in April

Trustee Council staff will be conducting meetings in the spill region during April to update the public on the status of restoration, what the Council has learned about recovery in the last year, and what the future holds for restoration activities. The team visiting each community will include the Chief Scientist or an expert working on a project particularly relevant to the area.

Public meetings are being scheduled in the following communities: Cordova, Homer, Valdez, Seldovia, Kodiak, Kenai, Tatitlek, Chenega, Port Graham and Seward. The dates and times of the meetings will be announced in local newspapers and other public media.

Please call the Trustee Council office at 907/278-8012 or the Oil Spill Public Information Center at 907/278-8008, toll free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745 for additional information.



Update: small parcel habitat protection

Trustees seek public comment

The Trustee Council recently gave the green light for further consideration of protecting 22 small parcels important to the restoration of injured resources and services. Evaluations of these parcels were included in the *Comprehensive Habitat Protection Process: Small Parcel Evaluation & Ranking* reviewed at the Council's February 13 meeting.

Sixteen of the parcels were ranked as having "high" or "moderate" value to the restoration of injured resources and services, and an additional five tracts were designated "Parcels that Merit Special Consideration" because they contain unique or other outstanding resource, service or management values.

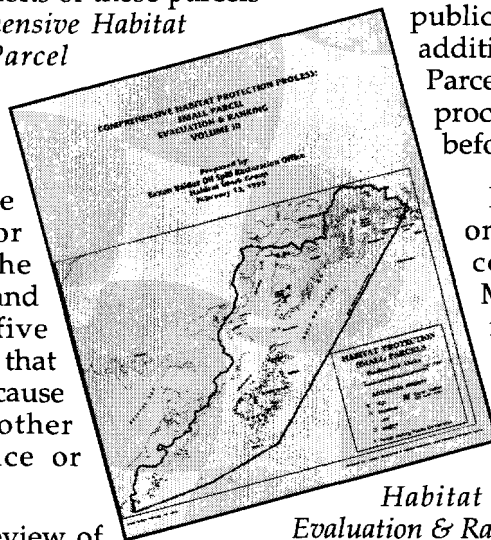
The evaluation included a review of small parcel nominations of less than 1,000 acres received during a public solicitation period in the summer of 1994. At the February 13 meeting, the Trustees authorized Executive Director Molly McCammon to oversee preliminary negotiations for acquisition and protection of the 22 parcels as part of the Council's overall program to protect habitat

important to the recovery of resources or services injured by the oil spill.

In addition, the Trustees gave agencies and the public until March 31, 1995 to nominate additional small parcels for consideration. Parcels nominated in this supplementary process must receive agency sponsorship before they are evaluated.

Public comment is now being sought on these parcels. Based on public comment and further analysis, McCammon will present an initial recommendation to the Trustees by June 15, 1995 regarding those small parcels that should be protected using joint settlement funds.

Copies of the *Comprehensive Habitat Protection Process: Small Parcel Evaluation & Ranking Vol. III*, which summarizes the small parcel evaluation process and provides information on the parcels under consideration, or the parcel nomination packet are available by contacting the Trustee Council office or the Oil Spill Public Information Center. All written comments should be sent to EVOS Trustee Council, 645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501.



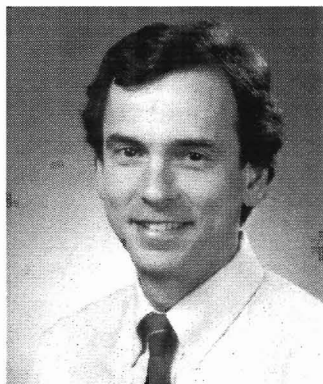
Small Parcels Under Consideration

Parcel #	Parcel Name	Acres
PWS 5	Valdez Duck Flats	30
KEN 10	Kobylarz Subdivision	20
KEN 12	Baycrest	90
PWS 17	Ellamar Subdivision	172
KEN 19	Coal Creek Moorage	53
KAP 22	The Triplets	70
KEN 29	Tulin Parcel	220
KEN 34	Cone Parcel	100
PWS 52	Valdez, Hayward	10
KEN 54	Salamatof Parcel	1,260
KEN 55	Overlook Park	97
KAP 105	Three Saints Bay	48
KAP 130	Uyak Bay	318
KAP 142	Three Saints Bay	40
KAP 145	Termination Point	1,028
KEN 148	River Ranch	146
KEN 149	Perl Island	157
KAP 150	Karluk	5
KAP 220	Ayakulik River Mouth	56
KAP 226	Karluk River Lagoon	22
KEN 1001	Deep Creek Parcel	91
KEN 1004	Stephanka Tract	803

Burden and Rue Join Trustee Council

Recent appointments made by Governor Tony Knowles have resulted in changes in two Trustee Council members — the representatives for the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Environmental Conservation.

As the new Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, Frank Rue is already familiar with the issues regarding restoration. He was appointed director of the Habitat Division in the Department of Fish and Game in 1988, and played an active role in response to the *Exxon Valdez* spill in 1989. Under his direction Habitat staff collected critical information about the effects of the oil on resources in the spill's path and monitored cleanup operations.

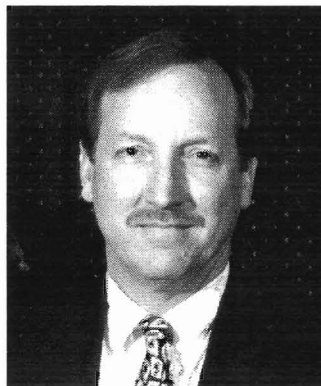


Frank Rue

The Oil Spill Impact Assessment and Restoration office was combined with the Habitat Division in 1993, making Rue also the director of Fish and Game's restoration activities.

Gene Burden came to the post of Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation after serving ten years in several posts at Tesoro Alaska Petroleum Company. He is familiar with the risks associated with oil spills, the importance of prevention and being prepared to respond if one should occur, and the issues involved in restoration. While he was working for Tesoro, the company responded to a 750,000

gallon underground oil spill at the Nikiski refinery on the Kenai Peninsula.



Gene Burden

Governor Knowles praised both officials in their roles on the Trustee Council.

"Using the settlement funds wisely to assist restoration and recovery will benefit all Alaskans," Knowles said. "I'm confident that Gene and Frank, along with Bruce Botelho, will contribute to the Trustee Council's effectiveness in achieving its mission of restoring the injured resources in the spill region."

Since Governor Knowles retained Bruce Botelho as Attorney General, he will continue as the third State of Alaska Trustee Council member.

New Public Advisory Group to Meet

A new slate of members in the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group has been selected and will hold its first meeting in Anchorage on March 23 and 24.

Representatives on the Public Advisory Group volunteer their time to advise the Trustees on issues of concern to the interest groups and communities they represent. They meet approximately four times a year and provide an additional avenue for public involvement in the restoration process.

The public advisory group members selected for the 1994 - 1996 term are listed to the right.

Public Advisory Group - 1995 - 1997 Term

Member	Principal Interest
Rupert Andrews	Sport Hunting & Fishing
Chris Beck	Public at Large
Karl Becker	Aquaculture
Kim Benton	Forest Products
Pamela Brodie	Environmental
Dave Cobb	Local Government
Chip Dennerlien	Conservation
James Diehl	Recreational Users
John French	Science/Academic
James King	Public at Large
Nancy Lethcoe	Commercial Tourism
Vern McCorkle	Public at Large
Brenda Schwantes	Subsistence
Thea Thomas	Commercial Fishing
Charles Totemoff	Native Landowners
Martha Vlasoff	Public at Large
Gordon Zerbetz	Public at Large

Ex-Officio Members

Alaska State Senator Georgianna Lincoln
Alaska State Representative Alan Austerman

Restoration Workshop

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Oiling Conditions

Residual subsurface oil lingers in patches on beaches within the spill region. At some locations the oil continues to cause contamination problems, especially in mussel beds. In 1994, assessment teams removed 38 tons of oiled sediment from beneath 12 oiled mussel beds in Prince William Sound, resulting in a 95 percent reduction of oil at those sites.

A 1995 project will conduct a final survey of oiled shorelines of concern to community residents in the Kodiak region.

Intertidal plants and invertebrates

The key to recovery in the upper intertidal zone appears to be re-establishment of the brown seaweed *Fucus*. A canopy of large leaves of adult plant needs to become re-established to provide shelter for young plants, snails, limpets and other invertebrates.

Fucus is a slow-growing plant which spreads outward from adult plants, regaining ground in crevices which retain moisture. Studies to determine the best restoration strategy for these intertidal communities will continue in 1995.

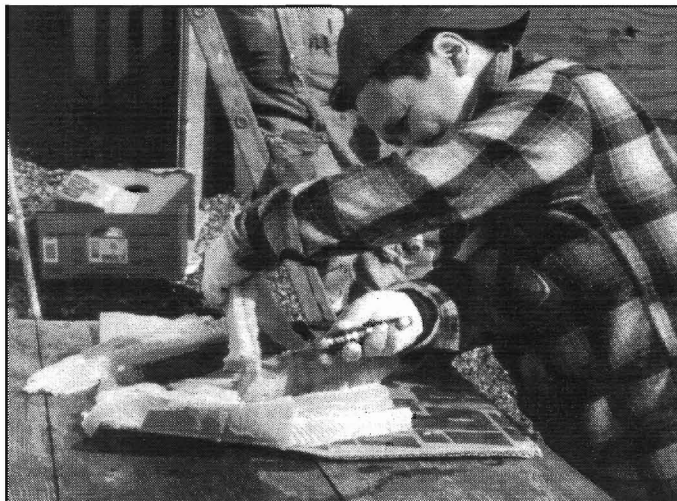
Harlequin ducks

Harlequin ducks still do not appear to be reproducing in significant numbers in the heavily oiled western half of Prince William Sound. Several years of studies have not yet allowed scientists to rule out oil exposure as an underlying cause of this decline, rather than some natural geographic differences between the western and eastern sides of the sound.

An integrated package of nearshore research projects has been developed and reviewed, and will be available for Trustee Council action at its meeting scheduled for March 31. Nearshore resources to be studied

Wallace
Moonin of
Port
Graham
cuts a
salmon to
dry as part
of his
traditional
subsistence
practices.

Photo by Ron
Stanek, ADF&G.



include sea otters, river otters, harlequin ducks, pigeon guillemots, black oystercatchers, mussels, clams, and other intertidal and subtidal organisms. More extensive discussion of 1994 findings on some of these resources is included in the 1995 *Annual Status Report*.

Subsistence Resources

Residents of some communities in the spill region continue to have concerns about the safety of their subsistence food resources. A 1994 project analyzed samples of subsistence resources from harvest areas used by communities in Prince William Sound, the Gulf of Alaska and Kodiak, and reported the test findings back to the communities. Tests conducted on shellfish, finfish and harbor seals all found hydrocarbon levels so low as to be within the margin of error for the tests.

In many cases the injured resources aided by other restoration projects are the same species, such as pink salmon, traditionally used as subsistence resources. The Trustee Council is supporting projects in 1995 to implement additional community outreach and involvement in the restoration program, enhance and replace subsistence resources, and survey oiled shorelines of concern to communities in the Kodiak

region and near Chenega Bay.

Cultural Resources

During 1994, archaeologists monitored sites on the Kodiak and Katmai coasts, the outer Kenai coast, Kachemak Bay, and Prince William Sound. These archaeological sites were injured as a result of the spill, either directly, by oiling, or from cleanup activities or increased vandalism. Surveyors in 1994 did not find any new evidence of vandalism, but natural erosion continues to be a problem at some sites.

At two sites in Prince William Sound, archaeological excavations recovered data about early residents of the area. Evidence of house posts and the remains of tools were discovered at one site between Seward and Whittier, and layers of volcanic ash from eruptions 300 and 2,000 years ago were found. Information recovered from these sites will provide significant insights into the early residents of the sound.

Additional Information

For more information, contact the Oil Spill Public Information Center at 645 G Street, Anchorage, AK 99501, or call 907/278-8008, toll-free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745, outside Alaska at 1-800-283-7745, or call the Trustee Council offices at 907/278-8012.

Trustee Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Trustee Council is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 31, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, at 645 G Street in Anchorage.

The agenda will include review of the Nearshore Ecosystem and Forage Fish integrated restoration projects. The meeting will be available by teleconference at Legislative Information Offices in the spill area.

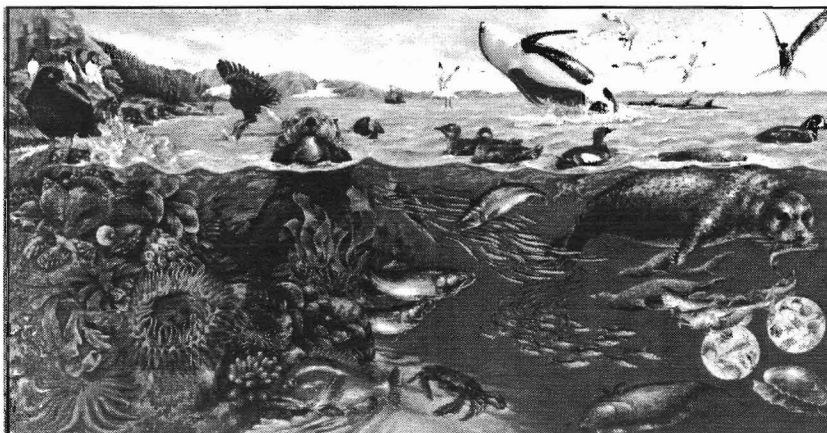
For more information or to obtain a copy of the agenda, contact the Oil Spill Public Information Center at 907/278-8008, toll-free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745.

New Documents, Marine Ecosystem Poster Available

The 1995 *Annual Status Report* will be available in early April. The report summarizes the main elements of the Trustee Council's program in 1994, including the outcome of restoration activities and findings from research and monitoring projects.

The *Invitation to Submit 1996 Projects and Draft Restoration Program* includes an invitation to submit projects for the 1996 work plan and also presents a draft restoration program for public comment (see page 6).

As part of meeting its public information and education goals, the Trustee Council this winter produced a



full-color poster showing the various components of Alaska marine ecosystems involved in the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Posters are available for \$10 each.

To obtain any of these documents, 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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