20 August 1997

To: The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council
Restoration Office
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

EXXON Re

Restoration Research

O at 1

From: Judy McDonald, P.O. Box 1197, Seward, Alaska 99664

In response to your request for input regarding the future for the Council and the possible uses of the Restoration Reserve, I would like to submit my thoughts.

- 1. A permanent endowment should be set up with annual dividends to fund restoration projects. There has been no determination of how long the effects of the oil spill will continue to make its self felt in the marine ecosystem. The impact of the spill will not magically disappear in 2000 when the payments from Exxon will end. A major part of the difficulty in assessing the impact of the oil spill was that there was very little information on the animals involved and their place in the Prince William Sound or Gulf of Alaska ecosystems. Even after all the money put toward research, there are still more questions then answers. And only the top predators were studied with any depth. There is still a great deal to learn about the interactions within and between species as well as their physical environment. There is not enough money in the pot to address even the major questions in a 10 or 20 year period.
- 2. Can you tell me how buying up terrestrial habitat can protect it from future oil spills? As far as I can tell, if there were another oil spill tomorrow the beaches would be just as oiled, the birds and other marine animals and plants would be just as affected as they were in 1989. The trees and freshwater habitats were not oiled in 1989. If the Park Service and Forest Service want more land, they should use their own budgets for the purchase price.

These funds should be used for research, and community restoration if there were a more equatable allocation of resources. For instance, these funds cannot restore Cordova to the fishing community it once was, but they may be able to get edible clams in the beaches again for Chenega and English Bay. That is if the otters don't get the clams first.

- 3. The current Trustee Council should be abolished. The decisions are often political trade offs between the federal and state agencies and not always the best use of the funds. An expanded role for the Public Advisory Group could possibly step into the decision making process. There should definitely be a more rigid scientific peer review of the proposals, more along the lines of the Sea Grant Program and the National Science Foundation. The science funded should be based on the merits of the problem to be addressed, not whether it is politically correct.
- 4. The spending should be limited to the spill region. The state does not fund much scientific research, so the Trustees should fill this void. However, there is not enough money to study the entire coastline of the state.

20 August 1997

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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

To: The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council
Restoration Office
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: Judy McDonald, P.O. Box 1197, Seward, Alaska 99664

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Phone: (907) 224-5261 Fax: (907) 224-3392

University of Alaska Fairbanks

School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences P. O. Box 730, Seward, Alaska 99664

August 21, 1998

Trustee Council Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, AK 99508



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

I would like to provide my thoughts about the future of the restoration reserve. The experience gained from the recent and costly clean up of oil at Chenega proves that the 1989 oil spill will be affecting the EVOS marine ecosystem for many years to come. We can't know what problems will arise as the oil trapped in the sediments continually leaches into the ecosystem. Likewise the genetic impacts of the pollution are yet to be totally manifested. Also, the marine organisms that are being affected from past, and possibly future events, are generally species whose life history and environmental requirements are poorly understood. Although there was an extensive scientific program supported by the TRUSTEES only a few high profile species were examined for oil spill impacts. As time passes we may find more organisms, or habitats, that were impacted by the 1989 spill.

I would like to see all of the reserve held in trust for perpetuity, and the income used as a source of funding to examine ecosystem problems relevant to the 1989 spill. The proceeds from investing the reserve should be used to fund research on marine organisms so that we can better understand the impact of oil spills on subarctic systems. I think that the TRUSTEES COUNCIL should consider this latter task their highest priority because most of the EVOS region falls in state of Alaska waters where there is a dearth of funding to support marine scientific research. The EVOS reserve can fill this funding void and provide an important service to our northern Gulf of Alaska communities who depend on marine resources to survive.

There should be equal consideration given to protecting habitats of species proven to be impacted by the spill, but I do not support buying timber land and properties that are not critical to species on the Trustee "not recovering list". Community restoration projects should be considered equally with research and habitat projects as long as they are environmentally benign.

A National Science Foundation like review process should be used to determine the suitability of proposed projects that are requesting funding from the Reserve Funds. This board should consist of qualified persons with no financial or political interests in the funding process. The current trustees structure should be totally dismantled to eliminate politics and it should be replaced with a peer review process. That peer review process must contain some mechanism for citizen input that is more extensive than a 17 member PGA.

Sincerely

Dr A I Paul

To Whom It May Concorn,

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

I wish to offer my suggestions on how the Restoration Reserve Account should be spent. There is no doubt in my mind the best use of these precious funds should be habitat protection. Nuture has the ability to heal itself given time, but this can't take place when the land is being altered through logging or other developement.

It has already been domonstrated that large scale clearcutting will take place on all un protected land, since over 50,000 acres have been logged after the spill. Without all of the wonderful hubitat that has already been purchased with the settlement funds that amount would be much higher.

By using the Rostoration Reserve Account for habitat protection nearly all the pressing habitat acquisition goals that lie within the spill region could be met. There is much critical habitat that will go un protected, such as that on Afognak, Kodiak and Montague Islands, if money isn't allotted to purchase it.

In order to met these goals for habitat protection it only motes since to badget the fund for expenditure over a 10 year period.

Under no civenstance should it go longer than 20 years. By spending it in this manner highly endangered lands wont be logged or dardyed while decisions about their purchase drags on for decades.

As far as how the fund should be governed I cannot totally decide. I have been very pleased by how Trustee Council has operated and know of no major problems with it. However with a smaller amount of money to oversee, it becomes even more important that the funds are spent wisely and as little as possible used for administratible parposes. I would need more in formation on possible options before I could formulate an opinion on how the fund should be governed. I definitely feel the spending should be limited to the spill area as has always been the case.

Thouse you very much for taking the time too consider my comments and allowing me to be part of the reserve planning process.

Sincerely,

Mitchell B. Chis

Mitchell B. Cline P.O. Box 727 Cooper Landing, AK 99572

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Arliss Sturgulewski

3301 C Street, Suite 520 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Phone (907) 561-5286 • FAX (907) 561-7683

ARCENTE

August 29, 1997

SEP 5 1997

DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner Alaska Department of Fish & Game P. O. Box 25526 Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Frank,

I am delighted to see in the August-September 1997 issue of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council publication <u>Restoration Update</u>, that a request is being made for public input to assist the Council in determining the long-term use of the Restoration Reserve. Knowing of your interest in Alaska's marine environment, I am writing to urge you and your colleagues to respond to the invitation for comment.

As the enclosed article from the <u>Restoration Update</u> notes, the final payment to the Restoration Reserve is anticipated to be in 2001. The future of the estimated \$150 million reserve is, in my opinion, one of the major issues before the EVOS Trustee Council.

I have long shared a dream, together with many others, of an endowment to fund a long-term interdisciplinary research and monitoring program to provide the data for long-term management and conservation of the marine environment off the shores of Alaska. I am aware that the current uses of the Exxon Valdez oil spill funds are confined to the area of the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound from Yakatat to the Shumigan Islands. Though not covering the entire coastline of Alaska, what a magnificent beginning to carry and expand on the excellent work that has been done to date by the EVOS Trustee Council.

Although much work remains to be done on the specific details of how an endowment for marine research and monitoring should be established, a broad outline can be set forth. I see great value in a successor non-profit organization to the EVOS Trustee Council which would have representation from pertinent state and federal agencies and major public and native interests. I, personally, suggest a permanent endowment, inflation proofed, with annual dividends to finance an interdisciplinary research and monitoring program on a gulf-wide basis, along with coordination of all research taking place in the area. Ability to receive and expend federal, state and private dollars should be provided for and, indeed, encouraged. A small staff with access to a qualified peer science review team should be established.

Without question there will be many demands made on the future of the Restoration Reserve, particularly for additional land purchases. Of the \$918 million total settlement, funds have been designated as follows: land purchase - 42%, restoration work - 23.2%, science - 19.6%, Restoration Reserve - 11.8%, and public information and administration - 3.4%.

I submit that a long-term integrated and targeted research and monitoring program, using the Restoration Reserve, is the very highest priority to protect and enhance our gulf ecosystem. We will have to use extraordinary skills to manage and conserve the marine environment so that we can continue to maintain a healthy and productive environment for multiple uses and users.

I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to apprise the Restoration Office of the EVOS Trustee Council of your views by their deadline of October 1st. Your input and that of others you may wish to contact will be important in setting a direction for the Restoration Reserve. Naturally I would hope you share my interest in seeing the Restoration Reserve used for a marine research endowment.

Sincerely yours,

Arliss Sturgulewski

enclosure

Hi Frank lusuited you to see the approach I am
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supporting for any the Restoration Reserve.

Some day I'd like to see such an
Approach around all Jour wastling.

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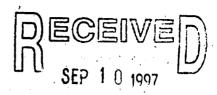
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SEP 5 1997
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
TRUSTEE COUNCIL
Carl Peterson P0, Bax 877572
P.O. Rox 877572
Wiella, at 79687
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September 5, 1997

Molly McCammon, Executive Director EVOS Trustee Council 645 G. Street Anchorage, AK 99510

re: Restoration Reserve



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Molly,

In response to the Trustee Council's recent solicitation for comment on what is called the Restoration Reserve account, I would like to reiterate my earlier comments (Feb. 1996, attached) that if the reserve withdraws money from present availability - as is the clear and unequivocal intent of the account - it is without question illegal, and if it doesn't, it is unnecessary.

The establishment of the account highlights, once again, the extraordinary confused muddle the Trustee Council continues to operate within. That a bank account is deemed more important than actually helping to heal the injured ecosystem - which of course is supposed to be the sole objective of the Trustee Council - speaks to the pathology of the process.

There is no "Restoration Reserve" more effective than an intact, vibrant coastal ecosystem, and withdrawing a significant portion of the Restoration funds from their availability to immediately prevent further environmental degradation is simply outrageous.

The reserve should immediately be abolished, and the money, all of it, should be immediately applied to the acquisition of habitat conservation easements along the coast of the region.

Not one penny of this money should go to "science" projects.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.

14:00

Rick Steiner 9940 Nearpoint Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99507

February 26, 1996

Molly McCammon Executive Director Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G. Street Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Molly,

I would appreciate receiving written confirmation from the Trustee Council that all of the monies the Council has placed to date in what is referred to as the "Restoration Reserve" (\$36 million) and all further deposits into this account are **NOT** intended by the Council to be withdrawn from immediate availability for present Restoration needs.

I would like confirmation that these monies are entirely available to address immediate Restoration priorities as needed, such as the protection of imminently threatened coastal habitat.

If this is not the case, the Restoration Reserve would clearly constitute an illegal encumbrance of funds that are intended by the Consent Decree to be made available as they are collected from Exxon for meeting identified Restoration objectives as they arise.

If, on the other hand, the Council intends these funds to be available as needed - which was the evident intent of the Court in approving the payment plan - then the Restoration Reserve account is unnecessary.

The obvious paradox created by the Restoration Reserve is that if it truly withdraws money from present availability, it is illegal, and if it doesn't, it is unnecessary.

The Consent Decree provides the Trustee agencies opportunity to collect another \$100 million in the year 2002 for damages that could not reasonably have been expected at the time of settlement. If, at the time of settlement, the governments anticipated Restoration needs to extend beyond the structured payment period, then they should clearly have provided for such concern by structuring extended payments accordingly. They did not do so. If, however, the governments didn't anticipate such long-lasting needs then but now can prove them, then this should constitute an irrefutable basis for collecting the \$100 million reopener.

The Court clearly intended the \$100 million reopener to be the contingency for any needs beyond 2002. It is difficult to imagine that the Court, in approving the out-of-court settlement, anticipated the EVOS Trustee Council attempting to perpetuate its own existence to the year 2089 and beyond.

I will anxiously await your clarification of these very serious issues.

Sincerely.

Rick Steiner Box 2424

Cordova, AK 99574

cc Honorable H. Russell Holland, U.S. District Court, Alaska

Arliss Sturgulewski

3301 "C" Street, Suite 520 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 561-5286 (907) 561-7683 (FAX)

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September 10, 1997.

EXXON VALUEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Molly McCammon, Executive Director Exxon Valdez Trustee Council 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Molly:

I am delighted to see in the August-September 1997 issue of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council publication Restoration Update, that you are making a request for public input to assist the Council in determining the long-term use of the Restoration Reserve. As the enclosed article from the Restoration Update notes, the final payment to the Restoration Reserve is anticipated to be in 2001. The future of the estimated \$150 million reserve is, in my opinion, one of the major issues before the EVOS Trustee Council.

I have long shared a dream, together with many others, of an endowment to fund a long-term interdisciplinary research and monitoring program to provide the data for long-term management and conservation of the marine environment off the shores of Alaska. I am aware that the current uses of the Exxon Valdez oil spill funds are confined to the area of the gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound from Yakutat to the Shumigan Islands. Though not covering the entire coastline of Alaska, what a magnificent beginning to carry and expand on the excellent work that has been done to date by the EVOS Trustee Council.

Although much work remains to be done on the specific details of how an endowment for marine research and monitoring should be established, a broad outline can be set forth. I see great value in a successor non-profit organization to the EVOS Trustee Council which would have representation from pertinent state and federal agencies and major public and native interests. I, personally, suggest a permanent endowment, inflation proofed, with annual dividends to finance an interdisciplinary research and monitoring program on a gulf-wide basis, along with coordination of all research taking place in the area. Ability to receive and expend federal, state and private dollars should be provided for and, indeed, encouraged. A small staff with access to a qualified peer science review team should be established.

Without question there will be many demands on the future of the Restoration Reserve, particularly for additional land purchases. Of the \$918 million total settlement, funds have been designated as follows: land purchases - 42%, restoration work - 23.2%, science - 19.6%, Restoration Reserve - 11.8%, and public information and administration - 3.4%.

I submit that a long-term integrated and targeted research and monitoring program, using the Restoration Reserve, is the very highest priority to protect and enhance our gulf ecosystem. We will have to use extraordinary skills to manage and conserve the marine environment so that we can continue to maintain a healthy and productive environment for multiple uses and users.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to give input at an early stage of the planning as to the ultimate use of the Restoration Reserve. I would greatly appreciate being advised of other opportunities to participate or make comment in planning the future of the Restoration Reserve.

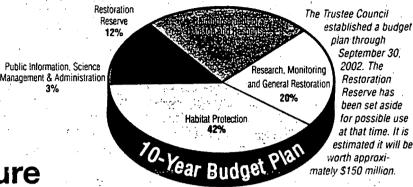
Sincerely,

Culis Stugalershi Arliss Sturgulewski

Enclosure

From: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council - Restoration Update - Vol 4/No. 3 - Aug/Sept 1997

The Restoration Reserve It's time to start planning for the future



Four years ago, the Trustee Council was faced with a his toric choice: Which path should it take to best help the ecosystem recover from the Exxon Valdez oil spill?

After an inclusive public process, the Council adopted a course combining habitat protection, restoration projects, and research and monitoring. But it added a fourth element to provide flexibility for long term planning — the restoration reserve.

The restoration reserve is the Trustee Council's savings count. It was established to give the Council the option of continuing some sort of restoration program after the final payment is received from Exxon in the year 2001.

The long-term budget plan calls for the Trustee Council to set aside \$12 million each year to create a \$108 million reserve. With interest, it's projected that fund will grow to approximately \$150 million by the year 2002.

Again, the Council is facing a historic choice: How should it use the reserve account? During the next year, the Council will be seeking public input on this important issue. The Council will be facing many tough questions.

- Should a permanent endowment be set up with annual dividends used to finance restoration projects? Or should the fund be budgeted for expenditure over a 10- or 20-year period?
- Should funds be used to acquire and protect more habitat? Should it be used for research and monitoring? Should it be used for community-based restoration projects? Or should it be some combination of the three?
- How should the fund be governed? Should a new trustee structure be developed?
 - Should spending be limited to the designated spill region?

e Budget -- Making the Transition

During the next several years, the Council plans to gradually scale down the size of the annual work plan. The current work plan is budgeted at \$16 million. Next year's target is \$14 million and by fiscal year 2002, the

Council plans to provide approximately \$6 million for the work plan budget. At that point, funding for research, monitoring and restoration projects will either end or it will be supported by the restoration reserve. But at what level?

With an inflation-adjusted endowment, the fund could generate approximately \$3 million to \$6 million a year. But if the fund was set up to expire over a 20-year period, \$12 million to \$14 million could be available annually. A 10-year fund could produce \$20 million to \$22 million annually.

The Council -- Considering a New Structure

One of the biggest administrative and legal considerations concerns the structure of the governing body. Should the Trustee Council continue to oversee and allocate the funds? Should the 17-member Public Advisory Group continue to exist? To what extent should scientific peer review be continued?

Answers to those questions will also determine the funding needed for administrative costs. Each of those groups comes with a pricetag for meetings, transportation, per diem, and such. To bring administration costs down, some sort of restructuring will be needed.

Public Discussion -- What Do You Think?

The Trustees have expressed an interest in maintaining a federal/state process as a vital component of any future restoration program. At a forum held in Seward May 29, the Council opened the debate about its own future and the possible uses of the reserve.

"I think the idea of a multi-agency group with a process to involve the public has worked," said Trustee Frank Rue, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "There has been some criticism of it, but I still think you don't get parochial agency views as much as you would if one agency or one entity were managing it. You get much broader perspective."

Assistant Attorney General Craig Tillery, representing Attorney General Bruce Botelho on the Trustee Council, agreed with Rue but added that a new structure might be needed. "I've given this a fair amount of thought over the last couple of years," he said. "My own view is the Council needs to go out of business about the year 2001 and it needs to be replaced, perhaps by something with very many of the same agencies, but with a public component."

During a recent visit to Seward, the Council invited local residents to give their opinions about the restoration reserve. Seward resident Chuck Adams told the Council he thought a permanent endowment would be the best way to help injured species recover. "A lot of these sea creatures, they spend their



My own view is the Council needs to go out of business about the year 2001 and it needs to be replaced, perhaps by something with very many of the same agencies, but with a public component.

Trustee Designate Craig Tillery Assistant Attorney General



entire lives at sea and there's no way to protect them other than through research," he said. "I really think research needs to be the future of this (fund)."

Reserve funds could also be used for habitat protection, either through acquisition of strategically located smaller parcels or by protecting larger tracts of 1,000 acres or more. Though most of the habitat protection goals have been met, it's clear that there is not enough money available to protect all of the parcels currently under consideration, according to Executive Director Molly McCammon.

"The Trustee Council will be facing some very tough choices with the restoration reserve because it's likely some very important parcels — each with its own public support and community support — will not be funded under the current budget," she said.

The Trustee Council plans to seek public comment from throughout the spill region in the same way it did four years ago in establishing the current restoration program. Public meetings will be held in spill area communities during the first half of 1998 and a final decision is expected by the end of the year.

For planning purposes, the decision must be made well in advance of the last payment from Exxon in 2001, McCammon said. Any changes to the structure of the Trustee Council and its funding would likely require changes in law that could take years to complete, she said.

What are your ideas for the future of restoration?

The Trustee Council is seeking your input about the future of the Council and the possible uses of the Restoration Reserve. Your opinions and ideas will be used to assist staff in developing a spectrum of options for consideration by the Trustee Council.

To submit initial ideas and comments to the Council, please consider the following questions:

- Should a permanent endowment be set up with annual dividends used to finance restoration projects? Or should the fund be budgeted for expenditure over a 10- or 20-year period?
- Should funds be used to protect more habitat? Should it be used for research and/or community restoration projects? What other options should be considered?
- How should the fund be governed? Should a new trustee structure be developed? Should the 17-member Public Advisory Group continue to exist? To what extent should scientific peer review be continued?
 - Should spending be limited to the spill region?

The Public Advisory Group will use your comments in considering the issue at its November meeting. The Council is then scheduled in December to decide on the list of options to take to the public for formal comment.

A final list of options will be published by January 1, 1998 and distributed throughout the spill region. The public will have until May to submit comments on the various options. Public

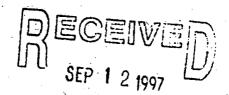


Members of the Public Advisory Group discussed ideas for the Restoration Reserve during their July meeting. From left to right are Nancy Yeaton of Nanwalek, Howard Valley of Kodiak, Chuck Totemoff of Chenega Bay, Stacy Studebaker of Kodiak, Charles Meacham of Juneau and Mary McBurney of Anchorage.

workshops will be held in spill-area communities in February and March to ensure residents are informed about the options and have a chance to state their opinions.

Please submit any written comments by October 1 or let us know if you want to be part of the reserve planning process. Send comments to the Restoration Office at 645 G Street, Anchorage, AK 99508 or fax to 907-276-7178 or sent via e-mail to: kerih@oilspill.state.ak.us.





EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

September 11, 1997

Restoration Office Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Sirs:

We understand that the Trustee Council is seeking public input relating to the use of the ever increasing Restoration Reserve. You should know that the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation and its nearly 100 members support the creation of a permanent endowment dedicated to funding marine biological research and development efforts state-wide. While habitat protection is good, the maintenance and use of Alaska's bountiful marine resources are what were damaged by the spill. Yet purchase of habitat seems to be how the EVOS Trustee Council has spent the majority of funds over the past few years.

We would hope and strongly encourage the Trustee Council and its successor to cease additional purchases of habitat in the spill area and rather, spend the earnings from the endowment for the purpose of better understanding Alaska's unique marine habitat and species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue, critical to the continuing sustenance of Alaska's vibrant seafood industry.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

POPED OF DIRECTORS

Alvin R. Burch Alaska Draggers Association

P.O. Box 991 Kodiak, AK 99615

Work: (907) 486-3910 Home: (907) 486-5238 FAX: (907) 486-6292

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. III

Voting Board

William Clark Wards Cove Packing Co. P.O. Box 5030-C University Station

Work: (206) 323-3200

Seattle, WA 98105

Home:

FAX: (206) 323-9165

Alternate #: Processor Voting

Board Secretary/Treasurer

4934 Lakeshore Dr. Florence, OR 97439 Work: Home: (541) 997-3869

FAX: (541) 997-4061

Alternate #:

Mark Chandler

F/V Topaz

Fisherman, Reg. IV

Voting Board

Gil Gunderson Northern Fury Seafoods P.O. Box 32543 Juneau, AK 99803

Work:

Home: (907) 789-2457

FAX:

Alternate #: Fisherman, Reg.I

Voting Board

Dan James Kodiak Fishmeal Company 911 Gibson Cove Road

Kodiak, AK 99615 Work: (907) 486-3171 Home: (907) 486-3336 FAX: (907) 486-2670

Alternate #: Support Voting

Board

Heather McCarty McCarty Fisheries 1522 Evergreen Avenue Juneau, AK 99801

Work: (907) 586-4260 Home: (907) 586-2627 FAX: (907) 586-4261

Alternate #: Fishermen, Reg. II

Voting Board

Henry Mitchell

900 West Fifth Ave., Suite 400

Anchorage, AK 99501 Work: (907) 279-6099

Home:

FAX: (907) 279-9970

Alternate #:

Board

Steve Patrick

Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc.

P.O. Box 70739 Seattle, WA 98107 Work: (206) 285-6800

Home: (206) 524-7206 FAX: (206) 286-2581-(907) 772-3573

Alternate #: (907) 772-4242

Processor Voting Board

Bert Pfeffer
Pack Systems Inc.
Fishermen's Terminal
3ldg C-10

Seattle, WA 98119 Work: (206) 282-2601 Home: (206) 282-3381 FAX: (206) 282-9605

Alternate #:

Support Supporting

Board

Chris Riley
Trident Seafoods
5303 Shilshole Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98107-4021
Work: (206) 783-3818
Home: (206) 838-3997
FAX: (206) 782-7195

Alternate #: PH: (907)698-2211 .

FAX: (907)698-2235

Processor Voting Board

John Sevier Alaska Pacific Seafoods 627 Shelikof Avenue Kodiak, AK 99615

Work: (907) 486-3234 Home: (907) 486-4886 FAX: (907) 486-5164

Alternate #:
Processor
Voting
Board President

George M. Pigott
Sea Resources Eng., Inc.
4525-105th N.E.
Kirkland, WA 98033
Work: (206) 822-3587
Home: (206) 685-2033
FAX: (206) 822-8342
Alternate #: (206) 543-4281

Support Voting Board

Mike Robinson Tyson Seafood Group P.O. Box 646 Kodiak, AK 99615

Work: (907) 486-3266 Home: (907) 486-7601 FAX: (907) 486-6490

Alternate #: Processor Voting Board

Activ International Robert L. Delin 384 Rue de Vaugirard Paris, France 75015 Work: (1) 4842-2021

Home:

FAX: (1) 4842-2366

Alternate #: Support Supporting

Arctic Alaska Seafoods Greg McIntosh

P.O. Box 6404 Halibut Cove, AK 99603 Work: (907) 296-2244

Home:

FAX: (907) 296-2254

Alternate #: Support Supporting

Baader N. America Corp. Robert Slade 1553 N.W. Ballard Way Seattle, WA 98199 Work: (206) 783-9750

Home:

FAX: (206) 783-9775

Alternate #: Support Supporting

Work: (206) 448-0300

Home:

FAX: (206) 448-0303

Seattle, WA 98121

Alternate #:

Suite 900

Bernt O. Bodal

2025-1st Avenue

Fisherman, Reg. V, At Large

American Seafood Company

Supporting

Arctic King/Pelican Seafoods

Rick Rees

1216 Pine Street

Suite 200

Seattle, WA 98101

Work: (206) 224-7470

Home:

FAX: (206) 224-7490

Alternate #: Processor Supporting

KALSEC, Inc.

Thomas S. Jones

3713 West Main

Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005

Work: (616) 349-9711 Home: (616) 372-8329 FAX: (616) 382-3060

Alternate #:

Support Supporting

Network Seafoods Inc. of Alaska

Archie R. McFarland

P.O. Box 460

Riverton, UT 84065-0460

Work: (801) 254-5009

Home:

FAX: (801) 254-0432

Alternate #:

Support

Supporting

Pack Systems Inc.

Bert Pfeffer

Fishermen's Terminal

Bldg C-10

Seattle, WA 98119

Work: (206) 282-2601

Home: (206) 282-3381

FAX: (206) 282-9605

Alternate #:

Support

Supporting

Board

Royal Seafoods, Inc. Toby Cohen 7.0. Box 19032 Seattle, WA 98109 Work: (206) 285-8900

Home:

FAX: (206) 285-7270

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. IV

Supporting

voting : viemoersmp

Alaska CFAB Bill Hall P.O. Box 9-2070 Anchorage, AK 99509-2070 Work: (907) 276-2007

Home:

FAX: (907) 279-7913

Alternate #:

Support Voting

Alaska Pacific Seafoods John Sevier

627 Shelikof Avenue Kodiak, AK 99615

Work: (907) 486-3234 Home: (907) 486-4886 FAX: (907) 486-5164

Alternate #: Processor Voting

Board President

APICDA John Moller 234 Gold St. Juneau, AK 99801 Work: (907) 586-0161

Home:

FAX: (907) 586-0165

Alternate #:

Support Voting

Alaska Draggers Association Alvin R. Burch

P.O. Box 991 Kodiak, AK 99615

Work: (907) 486-3910 Home: (907) 486-5238 FAX: (907) 486-6292

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. III

Voting Board

American Factory Trawler Assn.

Paul MacGregor 4039-21st Avenue W. Suite 400

Seattle, WA 98199 Work: (206) 285-5139

Home:

FAX: (206) 285-1841

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg IV.

Voting

Barbara Culver & Associates

Barbara Culver 25018 - 104th Ave., Suite C

Kent, WA 98031

Work: (206) 630-7297

Home:

FAX: (206) 630-7389

Alternate #:

Support Voting

Bering Sea Fishermen's Ass'n

Jude Henzler

725 Christensen Drive Anchorage, AK 99501 Work: (907) 279-6519

Home:

FAX: (907) 258-6688

Alternate #:

Support Voting . . Bristol Bay Economic Dev. Corp.

Nels A. Anderson P.O. Box 1464

Dillingham, AK 99576 Work: (907) 842-4370

Home:

FAX: (907) 842-4336

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. IV

Voting

Defiant Fisheries, Inc. Mike Haggren P.O. Box 3151 Kodiak, AK 99615 Work: (907) 486-5477

Home:

FAX: (907) 486-5477

Alternate #: Fishermen, Reg. III Voting

Flohr Metal Fabricators, Inc. Keith Johnson

Box 70469

Seattle, WA 98107

Work: (206) 633-2222 Home: (206) 821-4416 FAX: (206) 547-4767

Alternate #: (206) 947-9300

Support Voting

Kodiak Fish Company Teressa Kandianis P.O. Box 469 Kodiak, AK 99615 Work: (907) 486-6002

Home:

FAX: (907) 486-2617

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. III

Voting

Kodiak Seiners Assn. Kelly Schactler P.O. Box 2399 Kodiak, AK 99615 Work: (907) 486-4686 Home: (907) 486-4686 FAX: (907) 486-7655 Alternate #:

Fisherman, Req. III

Voting

F/V Topaz Mark Chandler 4934 Lakeshore Dr. Florence, OR 97439

Home: (541) 997-3869 Home: (541) 997-3869 FAX: (541) 997-4061

Alternate #: Fisherman, Reg. IV

Voting Board

International Seafoods of Alaska;

Inc.

David L. Rogers P.O. Box 2997 Kodiak, AK 99615

Work: (907) 486-4768

Home:

FAX: (907) 486-8180

Alternate #: Processor Voting

Kodiak Fishmeal Company Dan James 911 Gibson Cove Road Kodiak, AK 99615 Work: (907) 486-3171 Home: (907) 486-3336

FAX: (907) 486-2670 Alternate #:

Support Voting . Board

McCarty Fisheries Heather McCarty 1522 Evergreen Avenue Juneau, AK 99801

Work: (907) 586-4260 Home: (907) 586-2627 FAX: (907) 586-4261

Alternate #:

Fishermen, Reg. II

Voting Board

Muir Milach, Inc.
Dave Fraser
120 Lakeside Avenue
Suite 230
Seattle, WA 98122-6552
Work: (206) 860-1380

Home:

FAX: (206) 860-1418

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. IV

Voting

National Bank of Alaska James O'Connell P.O. Box 100600 Anchorage, AK 99510 Work: (907) 265-2934

Home:

FAX: (907) 265-2887

Alternate #:

Support Voting

Northern Fury Seafoods
Gil Gunderson
P.O. Box 32543
Juneau, AK 99803
Work:
Home: (907) 789-2457

FAX:

Alternate #: Fisherman, Reg.I

Voting Board

Pacific SFD Processors Assn.
Vincent A. Curry
300 Elliott Ave.
Ste. 360
Seattle, WA 98199
Work: (206) 281-1667

Home:

FAX: (206) 283-2387

Alternate #: Processor Voting N. Pacific Processors, Inc. Ken Roemhildt

P.O. Box 1040 Cordova, AK 99574 Work: (907) 424-7111

Home:

FAX: (907) 424-5273

Alternate #:
Processor
Voting

National Fisheries Institute

Lee Weddig

1901 N. Ft. Meyer Dr.

Ste. 700

Arlington, VA 20036 Work: (703) 524-8880

Home:

FAX: (703) 524-4619

Alternate #:

Support Voting

Ocean Beauty Seafoods, Inc.

Steve Patrick P.O. Box 70739 Seattle, WA 98107 Work: (206) 285-6800 Home: (206) 524-7206

FAX: (206) 286-2581-(907) 772-

3573

Alternate #: (907) 772-4242

Processor Voting Board

Prince William Sound Aqu. Corp.

Dede Srb

P.O. Box 1110

Cordova, AK 99574

Work: (907) 424-7511

Home:

FAX: (907)424-7514

Alternate #:

Fisherman, Reg. II

Voting

Sea Resources Eng., Inc. George M. Pigott 4525-105th N.E. Kirkland, WA 98033 Work: (206) 822-3587 Home: (206) 685-2033 FAX: (206) 822-8342

Alternate #: (206) 543-4281

Support Voting Board

Trident Seafoods Chris Riley 5303 Shilshole Ave. NW Seattle, WA 98107-4021 Work: (206) 783-2810 Home: (206) 838-3997 FAX: (206) 782-7195

Alternate #: PH: (907) 698-2211

FAX: (907) 698-2235

Processor Voting Board

UniSea, Inc. Terry Shaff PO Box 97019 Redmond, WA 98073-9719 Work: (206) 881-8181

Home:

FAX: (206) 882-1660

Alternate #: Processor Voting

The Fisheries Network, Inc. 2131 Baker Avenue Everett Everett, wa 2020_ Work: (206) 258-3323 Home: FAX: (206) 258-4224 Alternate #:

Voting

Tyson Seafood Group Mike Robinson P.O. Box 646 Kodiak, AK 99615 Work: (907) 486-3266 Home: (907) 486-7601

FAX: (907) 486-6490 Alternate #:
Processor

Voting Board

Wards Cove Packing Co. William Clark P.O. Box 5030-C University Station Seattle, WA 98105 Work: (206) 323-3200

Home:

FAX: (206) 323-9165

Alternate #: Processor Voting

Board Secretary/Treasurer

Winterholm Press Krvs L. Holmes 446 N. Hoback Helena, MT 59601 -Work: (406) 442-4233 Home: FAX: Alternate #: Support Voting

Associate Membership

Alaska Vocational Tech. Ctr. Dennis Lodge

Box 889

Seward, AK 99664

Work: (907) 224-3322

Home: FAX:

Alternate #:

Associate

Atlas Industries USA, Inc.

Hans Nissen

10920 Ambassador Drive Kansas City, MO 64153

Work: (816) 891-6660

Home:

FAX: (816) 891-6662

Alternate #: Associate

Cordox Div. Liquid Air Corp. Brian D. Benson 6510 Arctic Spur Road Anchorage, AK 99518

Home:

FAX: (907) 563-4468

Work: (907) 562-5509

Alternate #: Associate

Alyeska Ocean, Inc. Jeff Hendricks

. Box 190

Anacortes, WA 98221 Work: (206) 293-4677

Home:

FAX:
Alternate #:

Fisherman (at large)

Associate

Cordova District Fishermen United

Mary L. McBurney P.O. Box 939

Cordova, AK 99574 Work: (907) 424-3447

Home:

FAX: (907) 424-3430

Alternate #: Associate

Danmark Protein A/S Brian Thomsen Nr. Vium DK-6920 Videbaek Denmark,

Work: 45 97 17 82 44

Home:

FAX: 45 97 17 82 06

Alternate #: Associate

Equipment Eng./Alfa-Laval

Rawn Walley

200 South Park Blvd. Greenwood, IN 46143 Work: (317) 889-4600

Home:

FAX: (317) 889-4610

Alternate #: Associate

Friskies R&D Center (Westreco,

Inc.)

Jeffrey D. Anderson 3916 Pettis Road St. Joseph, MO 84503 Work: (816) 232-0300

Home:

FAX: (816) 387-4115

Alternate #: Associate

Gorton Group (General Mills)

Matthew Weber

128 Rogers Street

Gloucester, MA 01930

Work: (508) 283-3000

Home:

FAX: (508) 281-7308

Alternate #:

Associate

Great Northern Sea Products Inc.

Jack McMahon

331 E 87th

Anchorage, AK 99515

Work: (907) 522-4182

Home:

FAX: (907) 522-4183

Alternate #:

Associate

Associate

H.J. Baker & Bro., Inc.

Thomas J. Starkey

595 Summer Street

Stamford, CT 06901

Work: (203) 328-9200

Home:

FAX: (203) 967-8142

Alternate #:

Associate

Health Sea, Inc.

Tom Tipps

2211 Jordan Avenue

Juneau, AK 99801

Work: (907) 586-3333

Home:

FAX: (907) 586-4444

Alternate #:

Associate

LFS Inc.
Terry Crump
851 Coho Way

851 Coho Way

Marshall L. Conrad

Bellingham, WA 98225

Work: (206) 734-3336

Home:

Marshall L. Conrad

P.O. Box 5091

Greensboro, NC 27435

FAX: (206) 734-4058

Alternate #: Associate

Marel Seattle Inc.
Larus Asgeirsson
5801 14th Avenue, N.W.
Seattle, WA 98107
Work: (206) 789-4577
Home:
FAX: (206) 781-8657

Alternate #: Associate

Associate

Libby Hill Seafood Restaurants,

Inc.

Work: (919) 294-0505

Home:

FAX: (919) 292-6005

Alternate #: Associate

Nelbro Packing Company

T.K. Beeston

P.O. Box 82548

Kenmore, WA 98028

Work: (206) 485-7755

Home:

FAX: (206) 485-5172 Alternate #: (206) 487-0425

Associate

Neptune Marine Products Ed Wyman P.O. Box 17417 Seattle, WA 98107 Work: (206) 789-3790

FAX: (206) 789-1795

Alternate #: Associate

PenWest Foods Saul Rogols 11011 E. Peakview Ave Englewood, CO 80111 Work: (303) 649-1900

FAX: (303) 649-1700

Alternate #: Associate

Home:

Saltwater Inc. Nancy Munro 540 L Street Suite 202 Anchorage, AK 99501 Work: (907) 276-3241

Home:

FAX: (907) 258-5999

Alternate #: Associate

Victor Seafoods David Leston 4209 21st Avenue W. Seattle, WA 98199 Work: (206) 285-8300

Home:

FAX: (206) 285-0988

Alternate #: Àssociate

Pacific Fishing Magazine Steve Shapiro 1515 NW 51st Street Seattle, WA 98107 Work: (206) 789-5333

Home:

FAX: (206) 784-5545

Alternate #: Associate

Peter Pan Sfds., Inc. Bill Saletic 1000 Denny Building Seattle, WA 98121-1820 Work: (206) 728-6000 Home:

FAX: (206) 441-9090

Alternate #: Associate

Southwest AK Municipal Conf Mary Stadum 3300 Arctic Blvd. Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 Work: (907) 562-7380 · Home:

FAX: (907) 562-0438

Alternate #: Associate

Welmar Pacific, Inc. Matthy B. Welling 2819 First Ave., Suite 350 Seattle, WA 98121

Work: (206) 443-0123 Home:

FAX: (206) 443-0333

Alternate #: Associate

Wild Alaska Seafood Company Greta L. Goto P.O. Box 205

P.O. Box 205 Dillingham, AK 99576 Work: (907) 842-4480

Home:

FAX: (907) 842-4480

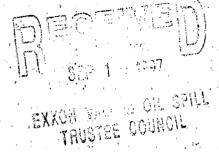
Alternate #: Associate



Juneau Center School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

University of Alaska Fairbanks 11120 Glacier Highway Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 465-6441 Office (907) 465-6447 FAX fysfosj@aurora.alaska.edu

Sept. 12, 1997 -



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Restoration Office 645 G St. Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Council

In response to your request for comments on the future of the Council and the Restoration Reserve (*Restoration Update* for August and September) I urge you to consider and to support establishment of a substantial endowment fund for marine research. There is an important need for support of fundamental research on marine systems of the Gulf of Alaska that would appropriately be met by such a fund; it would be an effective legacy of the Council.

Such fundamental research is not well supported otherwise. Immediately important problems such as finding the abundance and sustainable catch from a fish stock are fundable by the budgets of public agencies responsible for resource stewardship. Less immediate but more fundamental problems such as understanding how physical processes affect ecosystems are not now readily fundable even though these problems already are becoming vitally important as climate change brings about alteration of oceanic systems.

The Gulf of Alaska is larger than the historical spill area. It is however a coherent system, a flowing circle of water (and of fish stocks and many other components), that encompasses the historical spill area. The fund should take the entire system as its purview. The Gulf is one of several such coherent systems in the subarctic North Pacific Ocean; there has not, however, been extensive programmatic support for fundamental research in the Gulf of Alaska.

The fund should be a continuing source of support rather than being spent over a decade or two. It is important for the Council to leave behind it sources of continuing benefit for the communities, state, and nation damaged by the spill. Habitat acquisitions and the protection they offer to natural resources are an example of such a continuing benefit. Endowed support for fundamental research will also continue to benefit Alaska and the nation, not only by informing future choices made by a growing human economy but by sustaining science itself.

W.W. Smoker

Administration of such a fund should involve open access and competition among competent scientists adjudicated by rigorous peer review and it should be independent of other public agencies. Policy-setting governance should be by a public body. The issue of *Update* quotes Assistant Attorney General Tillery to the effect that the Council should be replaced with a body representing "the same agencies, but with a public component." I urge you to depart even further from the historical practice of the Council and to consider governance of the research endowment by a public body whose members are removed from the immediate concerns and problems of public agencies. The mission of members of those agencies is management of the human use of natural resources and they are stressed by immediately demanding issues. The research endowment should, however, take a very long view in formulating its policy in its support of fundamental research; it's resources should not supplant the ordinary expenses of resource management.

I wish you well as you decide how this unique opportunity for Alaska will be taken. I'd be glad to give you whatever support and expertise that's mine to give; please call on me.

Sincerely,

William W. Smoker Professor of Fisheries 6417 USH 11 Canton, N.Y. 13617 Sept. 13, 1997



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Public Advisory Group Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska 99508

This is in reference to suggestions for future restoration plans.

A permanent endowment fund for continued efforts in recovery from the oil spill should be established. The long term adverse impacts of the spill will continue for decades.

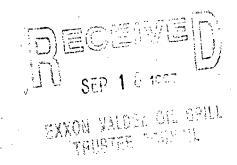
Every effort should be made to acquire land for public ownership as such land can be subject to control by the public while policies with respect to private lands are all too often abused, with little or no regard for future generations of people who will have to depend upon the same natural resources that we require.

Funds allotted for the recovery project should be spent within the impacted area.

Determinations based upon scientific facts should have priority over political considerations.

The majority of expenditures should be targeted toward providing the longest term benefits for fish and wildlife habitat.

Clarence Vetty



Jim H. Branson PO Box 6401 Halibut Cove, AK 99603

Phone (907) 296-2208 FAX (907) 296-2221

Sept. 15, 1997

Restoration Office Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in response to your request in the August/September Restoration Update for input on the future of the Council and the possible uses of the Restoration Reserve.

I have been closely allied with marine research for many years in my roles as the Executive Director of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and as Chair of the Advisory Council for the School of Fisheries and Oceans of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I have some very strong feelings about our need for information about our marine and coastal environments. The lack of it has greatly hampered our efforts to manage resources off Alaska, imperiled some of them because of our lack of knowledge, and made it impossible to assess damage to systems about which we know virtually nothing.

I believe we should establish a permanent endowment to fund a long term interdisciplinary research to long term management of the Marine environment off Alaska. Such research should include all of the Gulf of Alaska since Prince William Sound is an integral part of that system and cannot be understood if we do not understand the whole. A successor trustee group to the EVOS Trustee Council would be desirable with the ability to receive and disperse other moneys as well as the earning from the endowment fund (after inflation proofing). A small staff to work with a qualified peer science review team would be necessary, with funding and coordination of scientific programs as their primary goal.

Some very worthwhile land purchases have been made with EVOS funding, but now we need knowledge far more that we need more land acquisitions.

Sincerely,

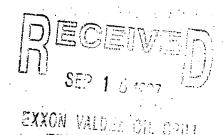
AM H Brauson



Edward E. Crane

2550 Denali Street, Suite 1201 Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2737 (907) 276-2007 Fax (907) 279-7913

September 15, 1997



Restoration Office Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Trustee Council,

This is in response to your request for comment in the August/September Restoration Update.

CFAB's business is focused on the commercial exploitation of Alaska's marine resources. Although that may suggest a narrow perspective, we are quite sensitive to the reality that the ongoing viability of commercial interests is premised on management practices which are consistent with – and tempered by – subsistence, environmental, recreational, and "general public" interests.

The numbers discussed in <u>Restoration Update</u> are impressive, but it is clear there is potential for relatively early exhaustion. Although we do not consider ourselves either sufficiently informed or technically competent to address specific proposals or alternatives, we offer the following generalized thoughts in response to your discussion and invitation.

The long-term and perhaps subtle effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill may not be recognized for many years. Quite possibly the same may be said for other, less dramatic, events and developments such as the ever-increasing number of tourism-related vessels in Southeast waters or intensified recreation pressures in and around Resurrection Bay, as well as the evolvement of seafood harvesting practices generally. There will always be a need for scientific and empirical research into the effects of human activities on Alaska's marine environment and resources. Our view is that the existence and potential of the Restoration Reserve comprise a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime, opportunity to establish the foundation for a permanent endowment directed toward that need.

We also believe there are moral connotations to this issue. It seems presumptuous, to say the least, for any iteration of a "current generation" to claim or exercise the right to exhaust the financial proceeds generated as compensation for an event whose effects, or certain of them, may rationally be projected over the course of many years.

Habitat protection is mentioned as an option. It is difficult to argue against the need for habitat protection on an abstract basis, and we believe that habitat protection projects must forever be eligible for consideration within an established system of priorities. Our observations over time, however, suggest that habitat protection or restoration projects are often rendered ineffective in a relatively short time, inadvertently or otherwise, by subsequent and unforeseen events, developments, or other intrusions. Moreover, such projects tend to be area-specific, a feature which invites politically-inspired decisions.

We do not consider ourselves to be fully informed as to the nature and effectiveness of the current structure and organization for governance of the fund, and are therefore reluctant to imply a perception of a "better way." We do believe that any governing bodies should consist of individuals who have demonstrated some level of relevant competence as well as a commitment to the fund's purpose and scope. A most unfortunate aspect of Alaska's culture today is the habit of "democratically" staffing boards and committees with representatives of specific – and frequently competing – interests; most decisions then become politicized, and the "greater purposes" of the body receive only lip service. Please don't let that happen in this instance!

We believe scientific peer review should indeed be continued. Moreover, we believe the entire process should be based upon, or largely influenced by, the perceptions and other input of multi-disciplined science professionals.

Thank you for this opportunity for expression. We commend the Council and its staff for the commitment to stewardship it has demonstrated over the past four years.

Very truly yours,

Edward E. Crane

President

Restoration Office September 15, 1997 Page 3

P.S. By coincidence, the enclosed article appears in today's Anchorage Daily News. We cannot evaluate the scientific merit of the cited report, but it appears to address a clear example of the need for a broad and perpetual commitment to research.

Inlet report outlining the nlet watershed and issu-

COOK INLET: Environmental watchdog's new report warns of pollution

Continued from Page B-1

lants. The report says risks re posed by a growing huian population, commercial ishing, mining, farming, loging and military bases.

Little is known about the oles all these groups play in ne overall health of the Inlet. havelson said.

"So in an area where so nuch economic, social and ecreational aspects of life inge on the health of these esources, it's pretty amazig that we're not focusing a at more effort towards proecting them," he said.

Agencies that study the Inet, such as the EPA and fed-

So in an area where so much economic, social and recreational aspects of life hinge on the health of these resources, it's pretty amazing that we're not focusing a lot more effort towards protecting

Shavelsor

- Bob Shavelson

eral Minerals Management Service, had just received copies of the report Friday and said they had not digested its findings.

But the watershed approach that the Keener program took drew praise from Phil North, an EPA aquatic ecologist who studies wetlands and water issues.

The Keeper is part of an Inlet watershed discussion that's just beginning, North said. Others interested in that approach include Unocal, the EPA, state Department of Natural Resources, private citizens and The Nature Conservancy.

The Keeper's report concludes that if Alaskans continue to disregard their impact on the Inlet, it will go the way of other famous waterways, such as Chesapeake Bay, "We know, looking at other water bodies, that if you do this long enough, you're going to mess things up," Shavelson said.

He pointed to a recent spike in paralytic shellfish

poisoning in Kachemak Bay as one possible symptom. Oldtimers also have told him the intertidal life isn't as abundant or varied as it once was.

Shavelson acknowledged those are anecdotal examples but said pure science in this region is lacking and waiting for studies might take too long.

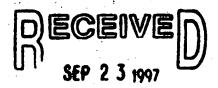
"If we're discharging billions of gallons of toxic pollutants and we know these harm fish and wildlife," he said, "do we need that definitive cause-and-effect link before we take some preventative action?"

Studies this decade of fish and sediments for signs of hydrocarbon and heavy-metal pollution have been inconclusive, the report says, Metals and hydrocarbons were detected but at levels considered normal. Or where spikes in toxic elements were found, they did not correspond to a known manmade source. The report suggests longer-term testing is needed before conclusions can be drawn.



University of Alaska Fairbanks

P.O. Box 757220 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7220



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

16 September 1997

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Trustee Council Members,

A recent letter from Arliss Sturgulewski is alerting marine scientists about the need to make our desires known regarding the future of the Restoration Reserve Fund and its use. Senator Sturgulewski advocates a long-term targeted and integrated research and monitoring program as the highest priority for protecting and enhancing the marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Alaska. I applaud Arliss's effort, particularly her advocacy for research rather than future expenditures for habitat buy out. While I generally support her position, I also feel very strongly that where possible, future funds should be spent to build on information generated by ecosystem-level studies presently being supported by EVOS funding. Matching funding for long-term investigations of fisheries resources including salmon could buy partnerships with NSF and NOAA programs such as GLOBEC to expand the work well beyond the coastal nursery environments into shelf and ocean feeding regimes. Questions about the carrying capacity of the Gulf of Alaska for salmon and other species (birds and mammals) remains a crucial research issue with immense international ramifications today.

Within partnerships of this kind, monitoring finds an important context that may be missing without a connection to identifiable resources or relevant questions. Most feel that ecosystem-level problems facing us today may only be tractable by team science and a highly leveraged collaborative approach. In this regard, \$3-6 million annually from an "endowment" could play a very significant role in understanding and managing coastal, shelf and ocean resources.

I am opposed to the expenditure of any Restoration Reserve Funds for future land acquisition in the coastal zone of the Gulf of Alaska or anywhere else. In my view, future expenditures for land will seriously dilute the ability of the Fund to support significant marine research.

Sincerely:

Robert T. Cooney

University of Alaska Fairbanks



${\sf I}$ ${\sf J}$ niversity of ${\sf A}$ laska ${\sf F}$ airbanks

School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220 • 200 O'Neill Building • 907-474-6824 • 907-474-7386 (FAX) • fysfos@aurora.alaska.edu

DECEIVED SEP 2 3 1997

September 17, 1997

Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, AK 99508 EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

I have been watching the development of the Restoration Reserve with great interest, and understand the dilemma which is now emerging with respect to its future management and use.

There is no question in my mind that the activities carried out under the assessment and restoration programs have been affective and appropriate. With respect to the research portion, in looking at the Restoration plan for the coming year I was impressed with the depth and quality of the proposed work. By the year 2001, we should have a good baseline and will be in an excellent position to undertake the kind of long-term research (and even monitoring) that will allow a predictive knowledge of the marine ecosystem and an assessment of the responses to climatic variability. Alaskan waters have been the least studied nearshore areas in the United States, and even with the concentration of effort in the EVOS area over the past seven years, that remains the case for this large and productive marine area. In order to enhance the Gulf of Alaska system, a long-term integrated research and monitoring system is critical.

I therefore recommend that the reserve be used to set up a permanent endowment dedicated to research, and that the management be by a council similar but not identical to the Trustee Council, with agency representatives, but also academia and constituent membership. Scientific peer review using the National Science Foundation model of identifying and using the best experts for each proposal would be most useful. I expect that spending will need to be limited to the spill region in the broadest sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

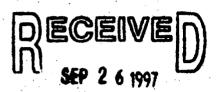
Yours sincerely,

Vera Alexander

Dean



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

TRUSTEE COUNCIL

211 Fourth Street, Suite 112 Juneau, Alaska 99801 907/586-2820 Fax: 907/463-2545

September 19, 1997

Ms. Molly McCammon
Executive Director
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451

Dear Molly,

I am writing to inform you that United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), representing 22 regional fishing organizations is fully supportive of creating a Restoration Reserve dedicated to marine research and monitoring. As to exactly how the Restoration Reserve should be structured or how the monies from the Reserve should be allocated, we can not offer specific comments at this time. However, I anticipate that following our fall Board meeting, October 17 - 20, we will be able to provide input on these matters. In the meantime, please let the record show that UFA encourages the Council to move ahead in establishing a Restoration Reserve dedicated to ecological research and monitoring of the spill affected area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Theo Matthews by co

Sincerely,

Theo Matthews President

c.c Board of Directors Arliss Sturgulewski

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

22 September 1997

Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, Alaska 99508

This letter is to offer a suggestion as to the use of the Restoration Reserve, which holds, or will hold, an estimated \$150 million. I urge the creation of a perpetual educational trust with non-profit IRS status to hold the proceeds and use its earnings for a long-term interdisciplinary research and monitoring program which would provide adequate data for the management and conservation of the marine environment and its sealife offshore of Alaska. The trustees of the trust should be ex-officio representatives from pertinent state and federal agencies, and from major public and Native interests including, in major portion, representatives appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska. UA should be highly involved in the continuing work of the proposed trust.

I am familiar with the work of Senator Arliss Sturgulewski on this matter, and I endorse her proposals for use of the restoration money.

Kind regards and thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. Henri

JRH/df

University of Alaska Anchorage

September 22, 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street, Suite 401 Anchorage, AK 99501

RE:

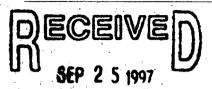
Suggestions for governance

Request for ideas for funding suggestions

RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

7.07 A STREET, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 907 257-2716 FAX 907 276-6847



GOVERNANCE

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

I'd like to offer two thoughts on governance. The first is to develop criteria for the types of projects that should be funded, such as the "investment" quality of a project, which could mean many different things, e.g. Does a project or program hold promise to build civic will or social tolerance?

Secondly, EVOS may want to look at the governance structure of some of the most successful foundations and draw lessons learned from their experience and successes.

FUNDING SUGGESTIONS

I would like to recommend that EVOS consider funding collaborative problem solving and dispute resolution programs that focus on public issues and, more specifically, for natural resource and environmental concerns. There are many organizations that promote and advocate for their "position" on a variety of natural resource and environmental issues, but few serve as a "third-party neutral" or "mediating" institution among a multitude of interests.

When we consider how our formalized public decision-making processes are structured, we see two distinct roles—advocates and decision makers—and this sets up win-lose confrontations. The advocate's job is to present the strongest possible case to the decision makers. The responsibility, and often the blame, for the actual political choice rests with the decision makers. These adversarial structures where "winners take most" cause advocates for all parties to be less willing to work with each other and build an agreement because each is appealing to the decision maker. Each advocacy group spends most of its time refining and distilling its best position in ways that distinguish and separate them from the other side, rather than spending time, energy, and resources to determine where they agree and how they can resolve their differences. Advocates have

Providing Technical Assistance for Preventing and Resolving Disputes Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council September 22, 1997 Page 2

little incentive to create a solution that satisfies all parties and, unlike decision makers, are not required to struggle or try to work together and reach agreement about competing interests. In short, one's *rights* in a democracy have not been balanced by one's *responsibilities*, because our formalized public decision-making process does not provide the structure for us to meaningfully participate on decisions that affect our lives.

Resource Solutions is a new program of the University of Alaska Anchorage, that can provide this structure for parties to not only have, but to take a greater responsibility for making public decisions, for the *public good*, not merely for their own self-interest. Our mission is to help build the willingness and capacity to cooperate, negotiate, and reach implementable decisions in Alaska. We seek to connect citizens with government in a more effective and constructive manner. To my knowledge, this is the only organization with this broad mission in the state. Currently, our source of funds is from private foundations and other grants, most of which comes from the Hewlett Foundation. As the state budget, and proportionately the university's budget is reduced, the likelihood for state general funds being available for this new program is regrettably not high. However, nationally and worldwide, there is a growing recognition that solving problems in a collaborative manner is our only real hope to make and implement complicated public decisions, avoid costly litigation, and reduce the tremendous social stress paramount when dealing with natural resource issues.

Looking across the nation, the most successful collaborative public problem-solving programs are in Oregon, Massachusetts, Florida, and North Dakota. The budgets of these programs average around \$350,000 to \$500,000 per year, primarily based on legislative appropriations. Another program at the University of Virginia receives a small percentage of the state's litigation proceeds, and the University of Arizona has received a substantial endowment as a legacy to Morris Udall.

Success of any project or program requires commitment, persistence, and resources. A reliable, long-term funding source, which EVOS has the ability to provide can ensure that Resource Solutions' efforts are focused on projects that build the civic will and the skill-based capacity to cooperate and reach implementable decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret King Program Manger

Enclosures

VOL. XVII, NO. 8 SEPTEMBER 1997

EVOS Restoration Reserve Funds

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is seeking public input on uses for the Restoration Reserve fund. The reserve fund, which the council guesses will total \$150 million by 2002, could be available for research and monitoring, habitat protection, restoration, or all three.

The council wants ideas and comments on how reserve money should be used, and how to govern the fund. The EVOS public advisory group will consider the comments during sessions to be held in November and December, and they will release a list of options for further public comment in January 1998

This is an important opportunity for the research community. Submit your written comments by October 1, and let the council know if you want to be part of the reserve planning process. Send comments to the EVOS Restoration Office at 645 G St., Anchorage, AK 99508, fax (907) 276-7178, email kerih@oilspill.state.ak.us. —Information from Restoration Update Vol. 4 No. 3, newsletter of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Editorial: Don't Let the Opportunity Slip By

The EVOS Trustee Council had the foresight to set aside a portion of the settlement funds to establish a restoration reserve which will accumulate to a value of about \$150 million. Again, acting with foresight, the EVOS Trustees and staff are contemplating how to most wisely use this fund after 2001 and what administrative structure and processes should be adopted. They are seeking guidance.

I do not believe that all uses of our coastal ocean will (or should) cease, and therefore I believe that the greatest hazard to the future of our coastal and marine resources is our ignorance of the ecosystems and processes. Assuring the long term wise use and enjoyment of these resources is dependent on the

knowledge we are able to gain. The \$150 million restoration reserve could be used to address the needs for knowledge if sufficient interest is expressed. I encourage the community interested in the future of our coastal ocean resources to express their feelings to the EVOS Trustees and to provide guidance for an administrative mechanism that will ensure wise decision-making.

Ron Dearborn, Director Alaska Sea Grant College Program

Sea Grant Funds Research on Invader Species

Sea Grant recently provided a \$172,000 grant to the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council to study invader species in PWS. Researchers from UAF and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center will look for non-native species in water from oil tanker ballast in PWS, study survival of the organisms, and examine effectiveness of at-sea ballast exchange. Also contributing funds for the twoyear research project are RCAC, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oregon State University. Although tankers have been entering PWS for 20 years, this is the first time scientists have studied species that come in with the ballast water. Researchers expect to find varying levels of survival in introduced species of fish, crabs, plankton, and plants. Some invaders likely coexist peacefully with native species, while others could have a serious impact on Alaska waters.

Gore Award

The National Sea Grant College Program, the Association of Food and Drug Officials, and Seafood HACCP Alliance will each receive the Vice President Al Gore Hammer Award on September 22 in



STEVE COWPER & ASSOCIATES

Public Policy Consultants

705 W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 203 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Tel: (907) 277-7566

FAX: (907) 277-4033

Email:stevec@arctic.net

September 22, 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, AK 9958

Dear Sirs:

This letter is a response to your inquiries regarding future uses of the Restoration Reserve, as stated in the August/September issue of "Restoration Update".

My personal view is that a permanent endowment for the support of ongoing scientific research in Prince William Sound and other affected areas should be established, along with a process through which research proposals are reviewed by knowledgeable people including other scientists. The income - "dividends" if that sounds more politically salable to you - would provide a long-term information base about the Sound which will have enormous value to Alaska in the future.

There is at present an intense federal interest in the Bering Sea, which I believe will result in substantial federal and other funds being committed to marine research in that area. It makes sense to complement those activities by extending these efforts to Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. By integrating these two efforts, Alaska would ultimately have access to information which will lead to a better understanding of complex marine systems. Without this knowledge and given the increasing sophistication in fisheries harvest technology, there is a good chance Alaskan offshore waters will be fished out completely in the next 25 years.

2

Regarding other uses for the fund, I am in no position to make any judgments, except to say that based on my limited knowledge further land purchases would seem excessive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Cowper



Juneau Center School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

University of Alaska Fairbanks 11120 Glacier Highway Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 465-6441 Office (907) 465-6447 FAX fysfosj@aurora.alaska.edu

23 Septemer 1997



Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage AK 99508

EXXON VALOEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

This letter is in response to your request for Public Comments on the use of Restoration Reserve.

I have been involved in research of the aquatic resources in Alaska and elsewhere for more than fifty years. During this time I have seen the group of so-called science administrators grow in numbers and strength. These people specify what should be researched within narrow boxes. Success is always measured in immediate payoff. In Alaska today one can only obtain support for applied projects whether this be from Sea Grant, S-K Funds, Alaska Science and Technology Foundation or others.

In the Far East of Russia we see a different picture. A short train ride outside Vladivostok is a Science City consisting of seven large building complexes and about 10 000 people from Academicians to janitors. The Russin Academies of Science are doing remarkably well in spite of many economic problems. The Russians know the value of basic science, which in 80 years lifted them from serfs to a world leader in natural sciences. History shows that any gain in basic science soon can be translated into applications.

My suggestion is to establish an inflation-adjusted endowment for support of basic science in Alaska. The current NSF organization can serve as a model except on a much smaller scale and with only a few disciplines.

I see this as the only way to solve some fundamental problems in Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

Ole A. Mathisen

Professor Emeritus, SFOS

e a. Mathisey

D) ECEIVED SEP 2 9 1997

Exxon Valdez Gil Spill Trustee Council Restoration Office 645 6 Street

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Council:

Anchorage AK 99508

and the second second

Subject: The future of restoration

In response To your request for ideas related to The future of restoration, I am responding as follows, answering questions posed in Restoration, Vol 4, No 3, August-September, 1997:

- 1) A permanent endowment be set up with annual dividends, for indefinite, longterm financing of restoration projects. Rationale: biological and other studies largely require long, sustained or sequential elements to armi at valid conclusions and meaningful, applicable results
- 2) funds be apportioned Mexibly, on an annual or multiyear basis, to allow for unpredictable needs and development 3) I have no precise recommendations on governance of the restoration fund, other than to structure The

Trustee organization for maximum efficiency in socialbiological terms, avoiding distortions from individual

political manipulation and corcuption.

4) Spending should be largely limited To The spill area but with the proviso that worthy projects whose conduct would further spill area knowledge and applications be allowed, given careful review for applicability To problem solving and scientific understanding in the Exxon Valdez spill aceg.

Sincercly, Charles V. Luciei

8626 ST., Springfield OR 97477

9940 Nearpoint Drive Anchorage, AK 99507

29 September 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street, Suite 401 Anchorage, AK 99501-3451

Dear Trustees:

I understand you have set aside over \$110 million in a Restoration Reserve fund and are asking the public to comment on how best to use this money.

I urge you to use the money in ways which will, first and foremost, benefit the places and wildlife that inhabit them. In other words, not that which will benefit people, but that which will benefit the non-human life so devastated by the oil spill.

Spend it on as much habitat acquisition as possible. Protect what's left from further harm. The habitat purchases you have made to date are, for the most part, wonderful. However, I urge you to make more of the purchases conservation easements rather than fee simple. The purpose of habitat acquisition, of any credible restoration, is to prevent further harm, not to provide recreation or development opportunities for humans. I also urge you to spend less time negotiating price--it's clear from what's happened with Eyak Corporation lands that the longer you negotiate the better the chance that you will be "protecting" clearcuts.

Also, look into creative ways of protecting lands. For example, explore other options with Chugach Corporation concerning their lands in the Bering River area. Surely this corporation that has never provided a dividend for its shareholders would be interested in a trade or conservation easement purchase that would actually make money instead of simply cut trees.

If you've bought all the lands that are available in the spill area, investigated all the possibilities to protect remaining wilderness, and you still have money left over in the Restoration Reserve, then I urge you to spend it only on non-intrusive long-term

studies of affected species. After observing and participating in some of the research going on in Prince William Sound, I am convinced that radio-implanting, blood-sampling, lethal or non-lethal taking doesn't give us any information that we can't get through simply observing the animals over a long period of time.

Please don't use this reserve money to fund those scientists whose work only makes the lives of those most affected by the oil-river otters, sea otters, harlequin ducks, the list is so long--harder rather than easier. Please put the welfare of the place and those animals who live there first when considering how to make amends for the oil spill tragedy.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Holleman

Page 2 of 2

September 29, 1997

Molly McCammon, Director EVOS Council Restoration Office 645 G. Street Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Ms. McCammon:

I would urge that the EVOS Council continue with the budget set-aside to create the \$150 million endowment fund by 2002. The endowment fund should be established for marine research. Alaska needs such research to include oceanography, fisheries, intertidal studies and other marine-related disciplines.

The Exxon-Valdez disaster demonstrated to the world the woeful shortcomings in our preparation for a significant oil spill. It exposed the lack of information on Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska currents, and harshly brought to attention the importance of the creatures of the sea to our people.

The endowment will provide the scientific community with the resources to discover what is causing the wide swings in animal populations in Alaskan waters. It will offer educational opportunities to both the scientific community and the educational institutions of Alaska.

It has been laudable to purchase habitat with 42% of the settlement funds, but now we must address the legacy we will leave our children and the world, so much more than a one-time investment. The science endowment will instead allow an on-going investment in our future.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the usage of these funds.

Sincerely,

Willard E. Dunham

P.O. Box 27

Seward, Alaska 99664

(907) 224-5623 or Fax (907) 224-7318



School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

EVOS Trustee Council 645 G Street Anchorage, AK 99508

Re: Restoration Reserve

Dear Trustees:

Alaska Sea Grant College Program

P.O. Box 755040 Fairbanks, AK 99775-5040 Phone (907) 474-7086 • Fax (907) 474-6285 http://info.alaska.edu/UA/UA_Fairbanks/SeaGrant/home.html

30 September 1997

This letter is to urge you to use the restoration reserve to address the greatest hazard to the future of our coastal and marine resources within the spill affected area and beyond; our ignorance of the coastal and marine ecosystems and the processes that drive them. Assuring the long term wise use and enjoyment of these resources is dependent on the knowledge we are able to gain. The \$150 million restoration reserve should be used to address the needs for knowledge in the spill affected area, while recognizing that the spill affected area is not separate from the broader ecosystem of the Gulf of Alaska.

Addressing future knowledge needs is a different task than the EVOS Trustees have been challenged with over recent years, that of assessing damage and recovery within the spill affected area. Therefore I recommend that you modify the governance to better fit the task ahead. The new governance structure should look to the models that have placed U.S. science in a world leadership position. It should recognize that the critical task in advancing knowledge in new areas is in seeking and recognizing the right questions, not merely seeking clever approaches to answers of stock questions. Thus the new governance should provide a more open and aggressive process of consultation with the government and academic science communities, and should establish a more open proposal and scientific review process. Whereas the proposal and review process adopted by the Trustees for a retrospective analysis may have been useful and effective, recognizing that addressing knowledge needs of ocean and coastal systems will progress more effectively with a more science based approach, versus the management based approach now being used.

It is difficult for the political climate to recognize the long-term nature of gaining knowledge of natural systems. I encourage that the fund be used for the long term, not merely the next 20 years.

Director



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE Alaska Fisheries Science Center 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., F/AKC BIN C15700 Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

September 30, 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Restoration Office 645 G Street Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Trustee Council Members:

The current issue of Restoration Update (Vol. 4(3), August-September, 1997) features an article describing creation of the Restoration Reserve which is expected to reach a value of approximately \$150 million by 2002. The article also outlined several alternative approaches to future use and management of Reserve funds, and solicited public comment on these alternatives. I appreciate this opportunity to provide comment in support of using Restoration Reserve assets to establish a permanent endowment to support environmental research and monitoring.

During the eight years since the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the Trustee's science program has generated research findings that have proven invaluable to resource managers and users of coastal marine resources. Initially, research was focused on understanding and quantifying damages. The results of this research represent the most thorough documentation of oil spill impacts ever achieved and led directly to the \$900 million settlement with Exxon of litigation arising from the spill. Since the settlement, the research focus has shifted to restoration and providing information for the long term management of the spill area.

As a researcher, and now as a research administrator, I have often been struck by the vast extent of Alaska's marine environment and the resources that it nurtures. In contrast, relatively little is known about the complex environmental and biological factors that influence the continued health of these resources. The suite of restoration studies made possible over the last few years by Trustee funding have provided a welcome and needed addition to the knowledge base. The Restoration Reserve provides a long term opportunity to further our knowledge about the marine environment.

Specifically, I endorse:

a. The concept of a permanent Restoration Reserve fund, focused on long term research in support of continued wise management and better understanding of Alaska's marine resources, both in the spill area and throughout the State.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council September 30, 1997 Page two

- b. The establishment of a permanent organization to administer the Restoration Reserve endowment. Such an organization should have representation from appropriate state, federal, native and private interests. Functions of the organization would include:
 - 1. Administration of the endowment in a manner that provides for preservation of the initial capital and the generation of income over time.
 - 2. Development of a strategic investment plan that details broad goals, objectives and strategies for how to invest the endowment income. This plan should be developed in an interactive/participatory and public process.
 - 3. Implementation the strategic investment plan over time by developing annual/short term operational investment strategies consistent with the goals of the strategic plan.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

James W. Balsiger

Science & Research Director

Alaska Region



Office of the Executive Director

September 30, 1997

Ms Molly McCammon
Executive Director
Exxon Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Molly,

Please accept the enclosed letter in response to the Trustee Council request for input.

While I am not an imminent scientist, I have been involved in support and management of the efforts of major universities and government agencies in the area of marine research.

My experiences are also of the Gulf of Mexico, the waters of other nations or in international waters. The principles of what I have witnessed are the same, however. Good research, conducted over a long period of time and the results coordinated and made available to decision-makers, are critical to the wise use of natural resources.

My experience also includes working with local and national level programs whereby partnerships over a long period of time were effective in solving marine-related problems on a long-term basis. Again, in these local and National Estuary Programs, the undertaking of research and the coordination, management and dissemination of information was (and continues to be) a critical factor for success of human activity management.

From another quarter, the Ocean Drilling Program, conducted by universities along the Gulf of Mexico coast, is another example of farsighted research and sharing of information that paved the way for use of natural resources without the adverse side effects experienced in the past.

In all of the above instances, either a government agency or industry championed the pursuit of very long-term research and information-sharing. The Trustee Council appears to fit this role of initiator and sponsor. It would be a great legacy for them!

Sincerely,

on B. Hendricks



Office of the Executive Director

September 30, 1997

Ms Molly McCammon
Executive Director
Exxon Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Ms McCammon,

I urge the Trustees of the Council to adopt a course of action that will take the impact of the Restoration Reserve far into the future.

I also recommend that this course of action embrace the areas of endeavor necessary to ensure that the work of the Council continues on into the future. Habitat protection and management, long-term integrated and targeted research, and public education are all necessary to ensure the full range of effect for management of human activity impact on the marine environment.

The establishment of a permanent endowment to carry this work into the future is eminently desirable. Of primary importance is the establishment of a continuing program of data management and dissemination. This program, coupled with an integrated and targeted research program will facilitate the effective management of habitat already purchased and of the significant seaward forces which affect the health of the marine environment.

I would also recommend that a successor organization to the Trustee Council be established. The organization could include many or all of the same member agencies, but should also add a significant public element. It would be important that significant economic and cultural groups whose interests lie in the Gulf environment, feel a partnership in the process of continuing the work.

I believe that the issue of the Restoration Reserve is the opportunity for the Council to make their mark on Alaska and the Gulf of Alaska far into the future. I offer that the establishment of a major long-term program of monitoring, research, information management and information dissemination at many levels, is critical to ensuring that work already performed, results already gained, and habitat already procured, will be protected and more effectively managed far into the future.

It will be the policies of the federal agencies, the statutes and enforcement of state law, the decisions of the captains of industry and the everyday actions and votes of the citizen that will make the difference......they must have the best knowledge available to help them act wisely!

Sincerely,

Join B. Hendricks

P.O. Box 1329 * Seward, Alaska 99664 hone (907) 224-3080 * Fix (907) 224-539



September 30 1997

Ms. Molly McCammon
Executive Director
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill trustee Council
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Ms. McCammon,

I recommend the Trustees of the Council emphasize public education as the vehicle for enhancing and maintaining restoration, habitat protection and research/monitoring projects for generations to come. Through establishment of a well-funded, multilevel public education program, the Council can insure maximum impacts and benefits from its combined projects.

Purchasing habitat can protect small ecosystem parcels from immediate human impacts, but what about those who live upstream? Research and monitoring can help agents of the government manage resources, but what about the daily actions of the common man? A strong public education program can integrate the otherwise disparate facets of the Council's work.

The establishment of a permanent endowment can support and solidify the Council's efforts. Habitat protection, research and long-term monitoring can shape a foundation for the future. Public education can build upon that foundation, constructing a framework that promotes restoration's lasting affects.

Restoration and management are necessary. Research and monitoring will support the Council's goals. But public education can interpret and disseminate the results. Public education can transform restoration, management, research and monitoring into useful information and tools for responsible daily living and decision making.

After thirteen years in the classroom and four years at the Texas State Aquarium (implementing environmental education programs for all ages and walks of life). I firmly believe in education as the singular instrument for effective, enduring change. Through education, the Council can garner support from the voting community while truly changing history for the citizens of Alaska and the global fraternity.

Sincerely.

Leslie Peart

Discovery Education Director

P.O. Box 1329 · Seward, Alaska 99664. Phone (907) 224-3080 · Pax (907) 224-539



Office of the Mayor

Jack Cushing

This packet goes Whe 10/3/97TC binder.

(907) 235-8121

Homer City Hall 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99603 Fax 235-3140

11.08,11

September 12, 1997

Molly McCammon Executive Director Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street, Ste. 401 Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 DECEIVED SEP 1 = 1997

CANON VALUES ON SPILL THUSIES COUNCIL

Dear Ms. McCammon:

I am writing again to call your attention to the City of Homer's efforts to protect 115 acres of undeveloped land on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough and to encourage your support of EVOS Small Parcel Program Funding to make the permanent protection of this land possible.

This week the Homer City Council passed Resolution 97-72 (attached) in support of the Homer community's effort to secure \$1.3 million in EVOS funds to purchase 69 acres of critical intertidal habitat on Mud Bay, nearly 40 acres and the last major undeveloped property on Beluga Slough, and 6 acres of beachfront habitat across from the public fishing hole on the Homer Spit. The City Council's resolution was passed in recognition of the importance that conservation of these two highly visible and widely visited areas have to Homer's quality of life as well as its economic future.

Over the years, the City of Homer has supported the efforts by the State of Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and private organizations to protect the resources of Kachemak Bay, the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. This included the establishment of both the Kachemak Bay and Beluga Slough Critical Habitat Areas, the nomination of Kachemak Bay as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the bay's designation as a site within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's purchase of land within Beluga Slough and its current efforts to establish a visitor's center there. The City has also recently agreed to donate a permanent conservation easement on 26 acres of City-owned land on the Homer Spit, which may be a first for a municipality in Alaska. The City of Homer is very appreciative of the State and Federal governments' ongoing efforts to protect the Spit and Slough, and hopes you will maintain the momentum of your previous efforts by supporting the City's highest conservation priorities in these unique and important areas that soon could be altered by inappropriate development.

The City would also again like to express its willingness to the Trustees Council to become the long-term steward of property purchased with EVOS Small Parcel program which would free both the State and Federal government of long-term management responsibilities.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER

Jack Cushing, Mayor

CITY OF HOMER HOMER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 97-72

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL - HOMER SPIT AND BELUGA SLOUGH LAND CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, the City of Homer supports the nomination of eight (8) properties on the Homer Spit and one (1) property in Beluga Slough to the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council as parcels meriting special consideration for small parcel program funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer supports the acquisition of these properties on a willing seller basis to protect intertidal lands that have been identified as critical habitat to animal species, and the subsistence and recreational activities affected by the oil spill; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer recognizes that the protection of these properties as open space will help maintain the quality of life for residents of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula, and provide educational opportunities for schools and other educational institutions for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer supports the protection of these properties as key to the growth of a nature-based tourism industry that continues to enhance the City's economic base and provides new and diverse job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer recognizes that the protection of these properties will assist the ongoing work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to identify and protect the unique resources of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Homer, Alaska supports the purchase of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough properties identified by the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council as parcels meeting special consideration for permanent conservation purposes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 1997 by the Homer City Council.

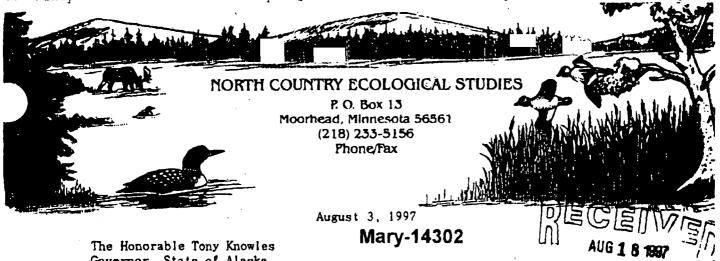
CITY OF HOMER

ATTEST:

JACK CUSHING, MAYOR

Fiscal note: na

To: Nancy Parr From: Nancy McQueen Aug 25 1997 13:15 AST Page 2/



Governor, State of Alaska Post Office Box 11001 Juneau, Alaska 99811

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Dear Tony:

I wanted to drop you a personal note to voice my support for using Exxon Valdez Oil Spill funds for purchasing intertidal lands on the Homer Spit and at Beluga Slough, in Homer. These are the same parcels that the American Bird Conservancy, the Ornithological Council, Dr. George West, and others have written you about. I have conducted shorebird and other waterbird surveys along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough and I can attest to the importance of these habitats for waterbirds.

Mud Bay, at the head of the Spit, receives tremendous use by migrating shorebirds in late April and early May. Mud Bay is especially important for western sandpipers, dunlins, and short-billed dowitchers. The sandpipers and dunlins have a series of traditional resting and feeding areas scattered along their migration route from wintering areas in California to breeding areas in western Alaska. Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet contain the last of these important feeding areas before the long last leg of their migration to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and Mud Bay is clearly one of the two most important feeding sites in this area. Beluga Slough, while receiving less total waterbird use than Mud Bay, supported the highest diversity of waterbirds during my surveys. Other areas along the Homer Spit also receive high shorebird use. The rocky areas on the seaward side of the spit, in particular, can be especially important for a large proportion of the world's population of surfbirds, and also black turnstones.

Shorebirds rely on traditional feeding areas during migration. Not all shorebirds stop at every feeding area available to them; some leap-frog over one feeding area to go to the next feeding area. However, the feeding areas in Lower Cook Inlet are especially important as they are the last major feeding areas before reaching the major breeding area on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. If these feeding areas are lost due to degradation or development, many shorebirds could arrive on the breeding grounds in a weakened condition, because they will not migrate back to feeding areas they passed by.

Environmental Assessments • Endangered Species Act Compliance • Wetlands Mitigation • Avian Research Habitat Enhancement • Fish and Wildlife Inventories • Information and Education • Large Research Library

From: Nancy McQueen

To: Nancy Parr

Sustained shorebird populations are fairly important to local economies in Alaska. Each spring hundreds of bird-watching tourists make a pilgrimage to Cordova to watch the shorebird migration; recently, smaller numbers have started going to Homer to watch shorebirds there as well.

Mud Bay and Beluga Slough are important to other species besides shorebirds. Hundreds of ducks congregate and feed at both sites, and beluga whales, sea otters, and harbor seals can be found in Mud Bay at high tide. Farther out along the spit, hundreds of seaducks, grebes, loons, and terms congregate.

All in all, these are unique sites in Homer that should be protected to the maximum extent possible.

On a personal note, Sue is getting ready to enter her last year in school. She has two rigorous courses left, and then some community experience requirements before graduating. She took two courses this summer to lighten her fall load. Our son, Thomas, is developing just fine. He is healthy and growing like a weed. He already has developed his own sense of humor, is just starting to get his first teeth, loves his vegetables, and knows the pets names. He hardly ever fusses unless there is reason, he loves going out in public, and he always smiles at people.

Michael & Morse

Michael R. North



COOK • INLET • KEEPER

August 29, 1997

Molly McCammon Executive Director EVOS Trustees Council 645 G Street, Suite 401 Anchorage, AK 99501-3451

Re: EVOS Homer Spit & Beluga Slough Acquisitions

Dear Ms. McCammon:

The Cook Inlet Keeper is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Cook Inlet and the life it sustains. I write now to support the efforts of the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, the City of Homer and the Trust for Public Land, to protect undeveloped parcels on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough.

The Homer Spit and Beluga Slough are exceptional resource areas which support myriad bird, plant and invertebrate life, and which provide residents and tourists with outstanding recreational opportunities. Recent commercial and residential development activities, however, have encroached on these special areas, and are now jeopardizing the wildlife and recreational values which are so important to this community.

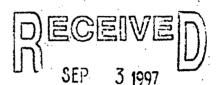
The time to act is now because the pressures on these special areas are immediate and significant. Much of the area under consideration is intertidal habitat which was impacted by the EVOS, and the Trustees Council would be well-served to acquire more of these low-lying coastal habitats under its small parcel program. If protected, these important parcels would not only sustain the rich fish, bird and wildlife resources in the areas, but would also serve a large variety of tourists, businesses, residents and school children. Accordingly, on behalf of the members, staff and Board of Directors of Cook Inlet Keeper, I strongly urge the Trustees Council to support the acquisition of these parcels through its Small Parcel Program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Robert W. Shavelson

Executive Director

Vervaruly you



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL



KACHEMAK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY

P. O. Box 846 • Homer, Alaska 99603

August 29, 1997

Molly McCammon Executive Director Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street, Suite 401 Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 DECEIVED N SEP 2 1797

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Ms. McCammon:

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society strongly urges the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to acquire the critical shorebird habitat lands on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough. Since the oil spill in 1989, Homer has been experiencing much development that is shrinking available habitat on the Spit and in the central Homer area. With the purchase of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife lands near Beluga Slough and the impending designation of Kachemak Bay as a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), interest in protecting more of these special, sensitive lands has increased, particularly as more people understand how valuable remaining habitat within the city limits is to growing eco-tourism.

Already the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT), the City of Homer, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and other local groups have spent considerable efforts in trying to protect these lands. The City just placed some of its Spit tidelands in a conservation easement with KHLT to protect them in perpetuity. More protected tidelands are needed on the already overdeveloped Spit and in Beluga Slough to provide habitat for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl and to really achieve our goals in the International Shorebird Reserve Network. As more people come to Homer to see our now abundant migratory bird populations, it is vital that we preserve some of the dwindling habitat. With the impending designation of Kachemak Bay as a NERR through the efforts of local citizens and ADF&G, these lands in the heart of Homer will provide areas for teaching thousands of school children, residents, and visitors about the abundance and diversity of our marine estuary system.

Certainly the acquisition of these "properties meriting special consideration" by the Trustee Council will be a significant step toward protecting some very accessible, rich intertidal lands and low-lying coastal habitat.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust, Co-Chair

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

Preserving, for public benefit, land with significant natural, recreational or cultural values by working with willing landowners

PO Box 2400 Homer, Alaska 99603 (907) 235-5263 DECEIVED SEP 3 1097

September 2, 1997

EXXON VALUES OIL SPILE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Ms. Molly McCammon
Executive Director
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, AK 99501-3451

Dear Molly,

We deeply appreciate all the time and effort you and the Trustee Council have spent carefully evaluating the various lands proposed for protection in Homer. I am writing you today to again voice KHLT's support for the acquisition of the proposed Homer Spit and Beluga Slough properties being considered under the Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust is the oldest land trust in Alaska and is charged with a mission to protect, for public efit, land on the Kenai Peninsula with significant natural, recreational and/or cultural values by working with willing .owners. Based upon our clear mission, it is most appropriate that we work in partnership with the Exxon Valdez Oil spill Trustee Council, the Trust for Public Land and the City of Homer to ensure that significant wildlife habitat on the Homer Spit and in nearby Beluga Slough are protected forever. These ecologically critical lands are hosts to thousands of migratory shorebirds, invertibrates and plant communities and have been identified, through our extensive conservation mapping project, as some of the most significant areas of conservation priority on the Kenai Peninsula.

It is important to note that the lands proposed for conservation are adjacent to other protected lands. The City of Homer is preserving 26 acres of Spit property through a conservation easement with KHLT and intends to place the remaining adjacent property in a newly created conservation zone. They are also working to increase the tidal flushing of some key Spit habitat land. KHLT and the Trust for Public Land are working together to permanently protect Beluga Slough property adjacent to land owned and protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The preservation of the lands proposed for acquisition will allow Homer to permanently retain whole areas of habitat and scenery critical to the "face of Homer," our local economic vitality and our quality of life.

Thank you again for your consideration of the acquisition of Spit and Beluga Slough properties. If you have any further questions or concerns we may address, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Barbara Seaman Executive Director

We the undersigned support purchase of key parcels of private property from willing sellers on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in order to preserve important wildlife habitat for spill-injured species that is used and viewed by thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors each year.

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We the undersigned support purchase of key parcels of private property from willing sellers on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in order to preserve important wildlife habitat for spill-injured species that is used and viewed by thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors each year.

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Please return petitions to	Kachemak Heritage Lan	d Trust, PO Box 24	00, Homer, Alaska 99603

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Homer Spit / Beluga Slough Protection Project We the undersigned support purchase of key parcels of private property from willing sellers on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in order to preserve important wildlife habitat for spill-injured species that is used and viewed by thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors each year.

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Please return petitions to	Kachemak Heritage Land		

We the undersigned support purchase of key parcels of private property from willing sellers on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in order to preserve important wildlife habitat for spill-injured species that is used and viewed by thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors each year.

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Please return petitions to	Kachemak Heritage Land	Trust, PO Box 2400, F	łomer, Alaska 99603

Homer Spit / Beluga Slough Protection Project

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Homer Spit / Beluga Slough Protection Project

We the undersigned support purchase of key parcels of private property from willing sellers on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in order to preserve important wildlife habitat for spill-injured species that is used and viewed by thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors each year.

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Please return petitions to Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, PO Box 2400, Homer, Alaska 99603



Office of the Mayor

Jack Cushing

(907) 235-8121

Homer City Hall 491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99603 Fax. 235-3140

Ms. Molly McCammon
Executive Director
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
645 G Street, Suite 401
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451

Dear Ms. McCammon:

The City of Homer is pleased to participate in supporting the nominations of the following properties on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough for consideration of funding under the Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) currently has options to purchase these properties, which total more than 188 acres. TPL is still in negotiations with the property owners of several other high priority properties, and hopes to submit additional nomination forms in the coming weeks.

The City of Homer has a long history of being interested in acquiring private property on the Homer Spit to put into a protected status, and leave undisturbed for future generations. Some of the efforts undertaken by the City, and some of the unique characteristics of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough are described below.

- The 1990 Homer Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map designated everything north of the Fishin' Hole Lagoon and Beluga Slough as public/governmental.
- In 1990 the City traded a publicly owned lot on the Small Boat Harbor side of the Homer Spit for a lot on the west side of the Spit to protect the undisturbed view and allow public access to the beach.
- The City is concurrently, along with this application, preparing a proposal to the EVOS Trustees for a project at Mariner Park which would reintroduce flushing of the park area, to protect and enhance habitat resources.
- The natural resources of the Homer Spit is enjoyed by over 100,000 visitors each year.
- The Annual Shorebird Festival, which takes place almost entirely on the Homer Spit, is visited by over 2,000 birding enthusiasts.
- In 1996 the Legislature approved the creation of the Beluga Slough Critical Habitat Area surrounding the Homer Airport. The Critical Habitat Area was overwhelmingly endorsed by referendum by the citizens.

- The City of Homer approved in 1996 a conservation easement with the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust for twenty-six acres on the Homer Spit.
- The Spit is host to a traditional silver salmon subsistence fisheries and supports sport claming.
- The City recently created a new Conservation Zoning District, on which the permitted uses are fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement and marine-life and wildlife sanctuary or preserve

In closing, the City of Homer is very excited about this proposal to the EVOS Trustees, and are confident that acquiring these parcels for habitat protection and recreational uses meets the mandate set forth from the Exxon Valdez settlement. The City would consider taking over stewardship of these parcels if the EVOS Trustees find that would be the most effective method of protecting the valuable resources found on the parcels.

CITY OF HOMER

Sincerely,

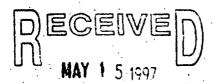
Jack Cushing

Mayor



May 12, 1997

Molly McCammon Executive Director EVOS Trustee Council 645 G Street, Suite 401 Anchorage, AK 99501-3451



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Ms. McCammon,

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation organization with over 200,000 members and supporters, I am writing to urge your support in protecting important shorebird habitat in the area of Homer, Alaska. I urge your positive action on using funds available from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trust to support the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust's protection of key habitat.

I understand that the EVOS Trustee Council is seriously considering applying funds to acquire, through the small parcel program, key tracts of shorebird habitat at the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. For several reasons, we endorse using available funds for these acquisitions. First, intertidal resources, including this particular area, were damaged by the oil spill in 1989, and restoration of intertidal resources is a stated priority of the Trust. Therefore, protection of these key tracts through acquisition is a particularly appropriate use of those funds.

Second, these tidelands attract tourists and recreationists who enjoy the opportunity to view the huge numbers of shorebirds that rely on this habitat. This tourism, which has minimal impact on the birds, provides economic benefits to the area. Because another priority for the Trust is promotion of tourism that decreased because of the spill, this is a second powerful reason to acquire the parcels by using these funds.

Finally, this area is essential habitat for migrating birds, especially shorebirds. This site is a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site (hosting over 100,000 shorebirds each spring), a designated State Critical Habitat, and the location for the popular Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

Protecting these parcels will bring permanent protection to essential habitat for shorebirds and fulfill the designated priorities of the EVOS Trust. We hope that you will encourage a positive Council vote on May 29.

Sincerely,

Laura Hood Policy Analyst

cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

National Headquarters 1101 Fourteenth Street, NW Suite 1400 Washington, DC 20005-5605 Telephone 202-682-9400 Fax 202-682-1331 Tara Walker 6918 Gemini Anchorage, Alaska 99504

I am writing to express my support for the purchase of Homer land in Beluga Slough and along the spit, through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's small parcel program. I am an Audubon member, and a high school teacher, and I am very aware of the tremendous importance this area has for migrating shorebirds. I have attended the Shorebird Festival with groups of children for three years. Each year we see more and more development along that world class view road, more filling of tidelands, and less natural habitats. I know we are not alone in regretting the wood pile from the log transfer site that now dominates the landscape at the end of the Spit. So, I am happy to hear that some key parcels are available for purchase for protection. These tidelands provide incredible recreational opportunities to hike, watch birds, kayak, dig clams and pick mussels. All of these activities were curtailed by the impact of the spill. I feel this opportunity to restore these resources through habitat acquisition, along with the areas already designated by the city and the State's Katchemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Program, is important. Here is our chance to preserve one of Alaska's crown jewels. Thousands of visitors and Alaskan residents enjoy this area, and the Shorebird Festival is so special, also beginning to draw national attention. Please support the protection of our Spit and Beluga Slough, for the future of tourism, for long time Alaskans like myself, and for the kids I work with. Thank you very much.

Tara Walker

Fan Work

RECEIVED

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DEPT. OF FISH & GAME COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE DECEIVED MAY 2 1997

April 1997

onorable Tony Knowles, Governor P.O.Box 11001 Juneau, Alaska 99811

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Governor Knowles:

I have been following the efforts to protect the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough with very great interest and I write to urge you to exert your influence to see that some of the financial resources available to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council through its small parcel program are put toward this project.

The oil spill did significant damage to the intertidal resources of this area, impacting the intertidal habitat and the plants and animals which depend upon that habitat. The tidelands along the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough are not only critically important to the ecology of the area, but are privately owned and still obtainable and undeveloped.

If the "bottom-line" must always be the generation of dollars for local economies, I would only point out the obvious: if the resource is protected, then birdwatchers from all over the world, clam diggers and other local recreationists will continue to pour money into the local economy indefinitely. The relatively few people to be employed by commercial development cannot compare with the value of the natural habitat already bringing growing numbers of visitors and dollars to area bysinesses. irds are a "renewable resource", for so long as their habitats remain ntact. Bird-watching is the fastest growing recreation in the country. Birdwatchers tend to be upper-income people who will travel anywhere in the world to find concentrations of the birds they seek to admire. Homer is more accessible than many other parts of your beautiful big state. To throw away the opportunity to protect this resource is so short-sighted. The Oil Spill Trustee Council needs to hear this from Alaskans.

The Nuttall Ornithological Club is the oldest organization of its kind in North America. More than a century ago its members were the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, the AOU. This latter is the largest and most prestigious organization of professional ornithologists in North America. I am only one of hundreds of Nuttall and AOU members who have visited the Kenai Peninsula and specifically the Homer Spit to see the concentrations of migrating shorebirds for which the area is famous, but I know I speak for them all.

Very truly yours,

Kathton's ardum

Mrs. Kathleen Anderson 22 Winter St. Middleboro, MA 02346

Kathleen S. Anderson
Nuttall Representative to the American Bird Conservancy

cc: Mr. Rue, AK Dept. of Fish and Game
 Ms. Williams, EVOS Trustee
 EXXON Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

PAUL J. BAICICH = P.O. BOX 404 = OXON HILL, MD 20750 = 301/839-9736

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor P.O. Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99881

14 Apr 97

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Governor Knowles,

In a few weeks over 100,000 shorebirds will begin using parts of Kachemak Bay, by Homer, for a stopover migration site. This location was recognized as a site of "international importance" as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

I also understand that in a few weeks the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council will be in a position to consider once again some tracts for acquisition through the "small parcel program" and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

While the Trustees have committed about \$380 million to land acquisition and have made some significant purchases, some people take the view that the remaining funds are best spent to protect the integrity of remote areas that are still wilderness. This is certainly not the case for the Homer Spit, since much of the spit has been developed. However, developed or not, the area is still of tremendous importance to migratory birds and to the people who enjoy watching them.

Let's face it, this is the place the birds themselves have chosen as an important stopover site.

The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the oil spill. Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of high-quality recreation opportunities -- including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic resource -- was a service that was injured by the spill.

So far, I understand that there has been little chance to acquire tidelands that are important to fish and wildlife resources. The Homer Spit does have privately owned tidelands, and they are fast being developed (e.g., filled for log transfer sites). The City of Homer owns some of the tidelands on the spit, and they are committing their remaining holdings to conservation. Thus, the Homer Spit represents a real opportunity to contribute to conservation initiative supported by local government. Indeed, this may be the only EVOC acquisition that would actually bring tidelands into public ownership.

While the costs of these lands may seem somewhat high (approximately \$2 million for about 110 acres), the value for conservation is great. I hope you can bring the powers of your office to resolve this in favor of spending appropriate moneys from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill fund for this purpose.

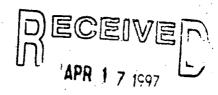
Paul J. Baicich

Sincerely

cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

PAUL J. BAICICH = P.O. BOX 404 = OXON HILL, MD 20750 = 301/839-9736

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner AK Department of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802



Dear Mr. Rue,

14 APT 9 EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

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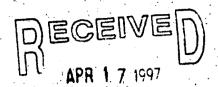
Paul J. Baicich

cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

PAUL J. BAICICH P.O. BOX 404 = OXON HILL, MD 20750 = 301/839-9736

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U.S. Dept. of the Interior 1689 C. Street Suite #100 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams,



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TRUSTEE COUNCIL

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Sincerely:

Paul J. Baicich

cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council



American Bird Conservancy

CONSERVING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT TH

April 10, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams **EVOS Trustee** U.S. Dept. of Interior 1689 C Street, Suite #100 Anchorage, AK 99501

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

RE:SUPPORT FOR EVOS ACQUISITION OF HOMER SPIT

Dear Ms. Williams:

I write on behalf of the American Bird Conservancy to request your support for the acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough. ABC is a national conservation organization with a 62 member organization Policy Council. Members include the National Audubon Society, American Birding Association, The Peregrine Fund, American Ornithologists Union, Cornell Ornithological Lab, the Colorado Bird Observatory, and the Pacific Seabird Group. The Homer Spit proposal is before the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council under their small parcel program. These intertidal lands provide essential bird habitat, especially for shorebirds. Many members of our organizations have been to the Homer Spit to bird. And, the area is so significant for birds that there is a Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. Our members are dedicated to the conservation of avian species and many are world-class birdwatchers who travel to and lead birding trips to Alaska.

In addition to the many thousands of birdwatchers journeying to this area each year, the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough provide other significant recreational opportunities as well. Many people enjoy pursuits such as clam digging, hiking, and fishing. This is a great opportunity to restore intertidal resources through acquisition of these areas and to continue to provide and enhance recreational opportunities.

The City of Homer is attempting to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation and is supportive of this request. The areas before the Trustee Council are in private hands and are held by willing sellers. Only 110 acres at a cost of no more than \$2 million are involved. We would urge your support for their acquisition by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

George Fenwick

President

American Bird Conservancy



AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

CONSERVING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGH

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APR 1 6 1997

April 10, 1997

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Sincerely,

George Fenwick

President

American Bird Conservancy



AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

CONSERVING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS

April 10, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

RE:SUPPORT FOR EVOS ACQUISITION OF HOMER SPIT

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Sincerely,

Gerald Winegrad

American Bird Conservancy

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APR 1 ≥ 1997

DEPT. OF FISH & GAME COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

George Fenwick, 07:38 AM 4/11/97, EVOS Acquisition of tidelands

Date: Fri, 11 Apr 1997 07:38:13:-0400:(EDT)

X-Sender: gfenwick@mailhost.mnsinc.com

To: Deborah L Williams@ios.doi.gov

From: gfenwick@abcbirds.org (George Fenwick)

Subject: EVOS Acquisition of tidelands at Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

April 10, 1997

>

>Ms. Deborah Williams

>EVOS Trustée

>U.S. Dept. of Interior

>1689 C Street, Suite #100

>Anchorage, AK 99501

RE:SUPPORT FOR EVOS ACQUISITION OF HOMER SPIT/BELUGA

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Council are in private hands and are held by willing sellers. Only 110
acres
at a cost of no more than $2 million are involved. We would urge your
support for their acquisition by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee
Council.
> Sincerely,
> Ceorge Fenwick
> President
> American Bird Conservanc
```

```
Date: Fri, 11 Apr 1997 07:39:58 -0400 (EDT)
X-Sender: gfenwick@mailhost.mnsinc.com
To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us
From: qfenwick@abcbirds.org (George Fenwick)
Subject: EVOS Acquisition of tidelands at Homer Spit and Beluga Slough
Cc: ospic@alaska.net
April 10, 1997
>Governor Tony Knowles
>PO Box 11001
>Juneau, AK
              99811
                     RE:SUPPORT FOR EVOS ACQUISITION OF HOMER
SPIT/BELUGA
SLOUGH
>Dear Governor Knowles:
>I write on behalf of the American Bird Conservancy to request your
for the acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in
Beluga Slough. ABC is a national conservation organization with a 62
organization Policy Council. Members include the National Audubon
Society.
American Birding Association, The Peregrine Fund, American
Ornithologists
Union, Cornell Ornithological Lab, the Colorado Bird Observatory, and
the
Pacific Seabird Group. The Homer Spit proposal is before the Exxon
Valdez
Oil Spill Trustee Council under their small parcel program.
intertidal lands provide essential bird habitat, especially for
shorebirds.
Many members of our organizations have been to the Homer Spit to bird.
the area is so significant for birds that there is a Kachemak Bay
Shorebird
Festival. Our members are dedicated to the conservation of avian
species and
many are world-class birdwatchers who travel to and lead birding trips
Alaska.
>In addition to the many thousands of birdwatchers journeying to this
each year, the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough provide other significant
recreational opportunities as well. Many people enjoy pursuits such
as clam
digging, hiking, and fishing. This is a great opportunity to restore
```

George Fenwick, 07:39 AM 4/11/97 , EVOS Acquisition of tidelands

intertidal resources through acquisition of these areas and to continue to provide and enhance recreational opportunities.

>The City of Homer is attempting to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation and is supportive of this request. The areas before the Trustee

Council are in private hands and are held by willing sellers. Only 110 acres

at a cost of no more than \$2 million are involved. We would urge your support for their acquisition by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

>Sincerely, >

>George Fenwick >President

>American Bird Conservancy

Gerald Winegrad, 10:55 AM 4/10/97, EVOS Acquisition of tidelands

Date: Thu, 10 Apr 1997 10:55:59 -0400 (EDT)

X-Sender: gww@mailhost.mnsinc.com
To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

From: gww@abcbirds.org (Gerald Winegrad)

Subject: EVOS Acquisition of tidelands at Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

April 10, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

RE:SUPPORT FOR EVOS ACQUISITION OF HOMER

SPIT/BELUGA

SLOUGH

Dear Commissioner Rue:

I write on behalf of the American Bird Conservancy to request your support

for the acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in the

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Gerald Winegrad, 10:55 AM 4/10/97, EVOS Acquisition of tidelands

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Sincerely,

Gerald Winegrad American Bird Conservancy

Carothers, Gar C./A, 11:09 AM 4/9/97 -, Homer Spit

X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:

<c=US%a= %p=CH2MHILL%l=CH2MHILL/GATE/002151E9@SMTPGATE.ch2m.com>

From: "Carothers, Gar C./ANC" < gcarothe@CH2M.com>

To: "'Governor'" <office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us>

Cc: "'Oil Spill Trustee's' " <ospic@alaska.net>

Subject: Homer Spit

Date: Wed, 9 Apr 1997 11:09:54 -0600

Dear Governor Knowles

My first visit to Homer was in 1967 as a small boy traveling with my family. I recall dropping crab pots off of the pier at the end of the spit, near Lands End. Over the years the spit as slowly been industrialized, now when I go to Homer I see the sawdust pile on the spit and wonder what went wrong. The spit is the soul of Homer. The beaches and tidal sloughs of this unique coastal environment should be maintained for generations to come.

Gar Carothers garjulie@alaska.net

Attachment Converted: C:\INET-AK\EUDORA\HomerSpi

Carothers, Gar C./A, 11:09 AM 4/9/97 -, Homer Spit

X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:

<c=US%a= %p=CH2MHILL%1=CH2MHILL/GATE/002151E9@SMTPGATE.ch2m.com>

From: "Carothers, Gar C./ANC" <gcarothe@CH2M.com>

To: "'Governor'" <office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us>

Cc: "'Oil Spill Trustee's' " <ospic@alaska.net>

Subject: Homer Spit

Date: Wed, 9 Apr 1997 11:09:54 -0600

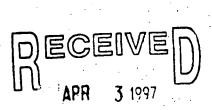
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Gar Carothers garjulie@alaska.net

Attachment Converted: C:\INET-AK\EUDORA\HomerSpi

JISS HE BICSHI HOYKE



Dear Gov. Knowles:

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

I have been going to Homer to watch shorebirds since the 70's, including 2 trips to the Homer Shorebird Festival in the spring. Shorebirds need these tidelands along the Spit, and people need to enjoy them.

The privately owned lands along the Spit and in Beluga Slough should be acquired through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 's small parcel program. This is an ideal chance to protect some of the intertidal areas so impacted by the spill:

Alan Seegert POB 203 Denali Park, AK 99755

Regards,

Dear Mr. Rue:

I have been going to Homer to watch shorebirds since the 70's, including 2 trips to the Homer Shorebird Festival in the spring. Shorebirds <u>need</u> these tidelands along the Spit, and people need to enjoy them.

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Alan Seegert POB 203 Denali Park, AK 99755

Regards.

,

Eric Knudtson, 05:09 PM 3/31/97 , protection of the Homer Spit,

Date: Mon, 31 Mar 1997 17:09:19 -0900

From: Eric Knudtson <inepk@UAA.ALASKA.EDU>

Subject: protection of the Homer Spit, Beluga Slough, and Overlook

Park (fwd)

To: ospic@alaska.net

Dear Trustee Council:

I am writing to encourage you to support the protection of several

important sites in the Homer area. The Trust for Public Land currently

has the opportunity to nominate several small parcels on the Homer Spit and on Beluga Slough for the small parcel program. These sites are a

few of our last chances to protect very accessible and highly visible intertidal areas in the area injured by the oil spill. Protection of these sites is important to our community, the intertidal resources (including our internationally recognized shorebird critical habitat), and

recreational visitors. What a fine statment the protection of these areas

would make to our summer tourists and recreational visitors! Our city is

taking steps to protect city-owned wetlands which combined with contributions from EVOS could make the wetland resources in Homer much safer for all of us to appreciate. Thank you for your time, Eric Knudtson

My. Rui, Meany realings that with and of an resource - was about domaged by the Encor card The 138 Trustee homeil are doney what that are currently produced outed, & you was . The Horas Spot and Belling Strugt areas are important to 9 un Stades warth, with in our publica eyes and make eyes again in the It the saw a count sound, in will have continued aceas in which to sond water, climing and to just enjoy watere I was a way some the Home Spot and Billiage Surger. Transmitter, Hagers JULIA SHICAS FAMILIES Mandroving All Miss

This card was created exclusively for use by ASPCA members and supporters – people who care about animals.



Mr. Frank Rue

Commissioner,

All Dept of Fish 1 Course

LASS W. 8th Street

Tureau Air 97802

3046

EUOS Trustee Council!

CC: Toy Knowles Frank Rue Debreh williams

Please realize that vital areas of or resource vien state were damage the Exxon valdey Oil Spills The City if Homes and The Trustee Council are doing what they can to salvage any remaining pieces that are currently privately owned, but this is no cary hasing with our your holp. The Homer Spit and } Beluga Slough areas are important to over states hearing isothin our pulsaries eiges and In the eyes of our annual visitors. If these oneas arent saved we will have toot lost wonderful oneas in which to bind wasen, dam ligard to just onjuy nature. please help save the Homer Spit and Beluge Spit. Thank you

Heather Hapmon 5029 Chess Dr Anchorage AK 99508-5632

(90)) 733-1493

This card was created exclusively for use by ASPCA members and supporters – people who care about animals.



EUOS Trustee Council 645 "6" Steet #400 And. Are 9950]

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(APR 1 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

The house him and garage.

Denning there
1255 to 3257.

Junaan H. 11162.

Juliu Lyfe PUBOR 83715 TEKS AK 92708

Du limmesei en.

Home Spet / Being Slough, given the stiring corperation of the strong corperation of City of Homes. Trust for Public land and Kachemak Heiston and Trust

the site is the list of projects under counseductions.

This is a name chance to help notices with tidal areas viorence of a habitant assumption to an operationity as well to invest in boundary.

Duple the will support this project in

Survey.

John

و مر المرافرة المرافرة

John D. Lyle Box 83715 Fairbanks, AK 99708 U.S.A.

RECEIVED

462 - 2 1997

SANAS CHESTALLES

P.O. Box 1479. Homer, Ak. 99603 March 27, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U.S. Department of Interior 1689 & Street Suite#100 Anchorage, Att- 89501

d) ECEINEIU MAR 3 1 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Ms. Williams,

I fully support both the acquistion of the undeveloped tracks of private tidelonds located along the Home Spit and Beluga Slough and the Overload Ford property through the Expon Valdey Oil Spill Trustee Council's small parcel program.

The ticlelands provide uch habitat for a I arety of marine organisms which are utilized by shorebuils, waterfoul, certain weldlife and

The recreational value of these tidelonds Continues Les humons. to grow in importance for the people of Homer and for the visitors to our orla, providing a high education and just place relating.

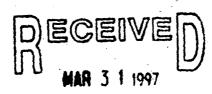
The acquistion of Blaze lands, along with proper management will assist in stiling the balonce between she natural environment and a sustainable

elonomy in our orea. the outslanding view promoted at the overlook Park property along with its potential for quality education opportunity will provide on excellent service to both people and the overall environment Service to both people and the overall environment fieldest of farmed fields of the people of the people

lopy TO Exxon valder Oil Spill Trustae in i

P.O. Box 1479 Homer, Ah. 98603 March 26, 1997

Honorable Tony knowles Governor P.O. Box 11001 Juneau, Ab. 99811



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Decer Covernor to nowles,

I fully support the acquistion of the undereloped tracks of private tudelonds located undereloped tracks of private tudelonds located along the Home Spit and Beluga Slongh along the Exxon Valdey Out Spill Trustee through the Exxon Valdey Out Spill Trustee Councils small panel program.

These tedelemels provide uch habitat for a vanety of marine organisms which on utilized by sharebucks, waterfood, Certain witchife and us humans.

The recreational values of these lands also continue to grow in importance for the ventors to the people of Some and for the ventors to our area, providing a high quality our area, providing a high quality service to folks for clamaing, biril service to folks for clamaing, biril viewing, education and furt plain relating.

I spent the first nuneteen years of my life on the Touchside of Chicago before heading west to become involved en a life of natural vesourse monagement.

While in Checago, I witnessed the final destruction of what was at one time, one of the rechest waterfoul habitate is the world Today this once with areas it part of

with less gill by inclusting and more sensitivity la the environment tha Orea Could how unawed a high quality habitant for waterfood white at the same time a thriving industrial

although, much smaller er scope, we have such an apportunity in the Somer area as well as throughout Alassa to Protect our wich natural environment while providing for a sustainable elonomy I also support the acquisition of the Overlook Besides the outstanding view offered at the Site, the educational patential at the site

is excellent beep up the excellent work you are doing as Covernor - a most difficult Hoste Freden Samuel

Fred M. Harnisch

Homer, At. 99603 March 24, 1997

Mr. Fronts Rue Commissioner At. Dept of Fish & Game 1255 W. Bth Street Juneau, At. 98802

PECEIVED MAR 3 1 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Deor Mr Rue

I fully support the acquistion of the endeveloped tracks of private tedelonds located along the Home Spit and Beluga Slough through the Exxon taldey Oil Spill Trustee Councils amult panel program.

Anexe tedelonds provide rich habitat for a variety of marine organisms which are utilized by sharebirds, waterfoul, certain wildlife and us humans.

Continues to grow in importance for the people of Some and for the ventors to our orea; providing a high quality service to folks for classing, built viewing, education and just plain relaping.

By the proper monagement of these tide/onde, we can asseit in studeing that changing balance between the protestion of the habital environment and sustainable leanon of the overload for suspect the acquistion of the overload Park property through the small parcels program, for the existing memory and patental for education at the site are outstained.

Fred M. Harnisch

Trusted

Trusted

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Homer, At. 98603 March 24, 1997

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Fred M. Harnisch

opy To Exxon valdez Oil spill Council

Vic Fischer, 04:26 PM 3/27/97 , Homer Spit

Date: Thu, 27 Mar 1997 16:26:42 -0900 From: afvf@UAA.ALASKA.EDU (Vic Fischer)

Subject: Homer Spit

X-Sender: afvf@cwolf.alaska.edu

To: office of the-governor@gov.state.ak.us,

frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

Dear Governor, Dear Commissioner:

Please add me as another Alaskan who supports taking every possible measure

to preserve and protect the Homer Spit and its approaches. I am one of

these who have used and uses the area for recreation and access to other

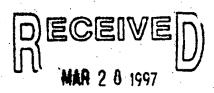
natural areas around Kachemak Bay.

Please do all yo can to facilitate the preservation and restoration of the habitate of and around Homer Spit.

Best personal regards, Vic Fischer

Prof. Victor Fischer, University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska 99508 USA Tel. 907-786-7718 Fax 907-786-7739 Res 907-276-7626 afvf@uaa.alaska.edu

Patricia Cue 3982 Mullikin St. Homer, AK 99603



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

March 26, 1997

Dear Mr. Rue:

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner

1255 W. 8th Street

Juneau, AK 99802

AK Dept. Of Fish and Game

I am a 6 year resident of Homer and am asking for your support to protect the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough from continued encroachment by industry. I am referring to the log and chip piles that cover a large portion of the Spit area.

Please support efforts to protect tidelands for migrating birds and other wildlife. In addition to protecting the tidelands for waterfowl, I ask that you keep in mind that tourism is an important revenue producer here in Homer. The next time you visit our wonderful community, take some time to view the horrible display of logs and chips on the Spit. It is a disgrace to this community and to the state of Alaska that such a pristine environment be cluttered with logs and chips.

Again, support efforts to dedicate tidelands to conservation and help us to restore this area so that it will continue offering respite for tourists and migrating birds alike.

Thank you.

Patricia Cue

Patricia Cue 3982 Mullikin St. Homer, AK 99603



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

U.S. Department of the Interior

March 26, 1997

Dear Ms. Williams:

Ms. Deborah Williams

1689 C Street, Ste. #100

Anchorage, AK 99501

EVOS Trustee

I am a 6 year resident of Homer and am asking for your support to protect the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough from continued encroachment by industry. I am referring to the log and chip piles that cover a large portion of the Spit area.

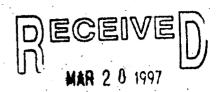
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Patricia Cue

Patricia Cue 3982 Mullikin St. Homer, AK 99603



Honorable Tony Knowles Governor PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

March 26, 1997

Dear Governor Knowles:

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Thank you.

Patricia Cue

P.O. Box 2994 Homer AK 99603 March 26, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Department of the Interior
1689 C. St. Suite #100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has a perfect opportunity to acquire some key shorebird habitat on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough to mitigate for damages to intertidal areas in Homer during the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The parcels under consideration on the Homer Spit are extremely important given the fast pace of development occurring on the Spit and also because remaining open space in the intertidal area is essential for maintaining this region as part of the International Shorebird Reserve Network. The lands in Beluga Slough are important wetlands near the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed visitor center and wildlife viewing area.

All these small parcels are key recreational areas that would help protect and expand areas currently in our local planning process for habitat protection or wildlife viewing. They are important for subsistence use such as clam digging as well as for birdwatching and beach walking. We urge you to make these lands a high priority for acquisition. These are much used areas visited by thousands of visitors especially during our annual shorebird festival in May. It would be particularly poignant if acquisition of these lands could be announced at this year's shorebird festival following last year's dedication of Kachemak Bay as an International Shorebird Reserve. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

Edgar Bailey

Edgar P. Bailey

cc Governor Tony Knowles
Commissioner Frank Rue
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

Nina Faust

AWA (Scott Thomas), 07:15 AM 3/26/97, Protect Intertidal areas on Ho

Date: Wed, 26 Mar 1997 07:15:33 -0900 (AKST)

X-Sender: coopland@alaska.net

To: ospic@alaska.net

From: "AWA (Scott Thomas)" <coopland@Alaska.NET> Subject: Protect Intertidal areas on Homer Spit

Cc: frank@fishgame.state.ak.us, office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

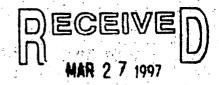
To the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee council,

I urge the council to purchase lands along the Homer spit and Beluga Slough. These areas were injured by the oil spill and they should be protected from the enchroaching development. These intertidal areas support many types of recreation and provide critical habitat for birds. I am particularly concerned about the loss of bird habitat, since I value the opportunity to travel to Homer and watch for the migrating birds. The intertidal areas allow Homer to hold a shorebird festival every spring which brings in birdwatchers as well as money into Homer's economy.

The loss of more intertidal land along the Homer spit will further reduce the qualities that many visitors and tourist seek out.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomas 16201 Nickleen St. Anchorage, AK 99516 (907) 348-0527



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

March 23, 1997 2428 Tulik Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Hon. Tony Knowles Governor P. O. Box 11001 Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Homer Slough Purchase

Dear Governor:

Please consider my support for purchase of bird habitat at Homer spit through the EVOS Trustee Council's small parcel program.

I have first-hand understanding of the public value of the intertidal resources represented by the tidelands of Beluga Slough and Homer Spit. I have lead many birding trips for non-profit groups and visitors in Southcentral Alaska, and have assisted with bird education trips in the Homer Spit area. For example, I have helped the Alaska Center for the Environment's Trailside Discovery Camp bring children to the area's rich intertidal "outdoor laboratory." In April 1989 as EVOS oil approached Kachemak Bay, local tourism and conservation leaders asked me to collect baseline data on intertidal organisms. Subsequently, I lead and supported other scientific efforts in the spill-affected area from Prince William Sound to Kodiak for several years. I know that purchases of privately-owned tidelands from willing sellers in the Homer area are one of the few chances to protect similar resources within the spill-affected area.

Thank you for your support for maintaining the environmental quality of Kachemak Bay.

Sincerely,

Mike Bronson, Ph.D.

cc: Frank Rue

Deborah Williams

EVOS Trustee Council

George Cutting, 08:53 PM 3/21/97, Homer

Date: Fri, 21 Mar 97 20:53:56 UT

From: "George Cutting" <puffinbase@msn.com>
To: office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us

Cc: ospic@alaska.net .

Subject: Homer

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor P.O. Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811 March 21, 1997

Dear Governor Knowles,

We support the protection of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough critical habitat

areas. These areas are unusual in that they are so readily accessible to the

large number of Homer visitors. As beach walkers and bird watchers, we appreciate the importance of the Spit and the Slough to migratory bird populations.

Please use your best efforts to preserve these areas for public use.

Yours Truly,

George and Lucy

33 Yellowcote Road Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Cutting

ZŒ.

From: ChrsCaster@aol.com

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 1997 22:32:45 -0500 (EST)

To: deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov

cc: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Purchase of Shoreline Habitat in Homer, Alaska

Ms. Williams,

I am writing to ask that you please support the acquisition of private

lands on the Homer Spit using Exxon Valdez Oil Spill funds. It has

documented that over 100,000 shorebirds make use of this area during their

spring migration each year. Although it may seem that there would be many

other suitable areas, for whatever reason the birds prefer this one. Unfortunately most of our wildlife is not as adaptable to our changing world

as we are. When critical high use areas such as this one are lost it

have a huge impact. Areas like the Homer shoreline need to be given priority

because they are important.

Here in the Iowa City area we have a contingent of birders that make

regular trips to Alaska for the purpose of birding. Some go every year.

Some stay for as long as six weeks. Homer is one of their destinations.

One of these days I myself will be able to go and I hope that the trip will

still be worth the expense.

Unfortunately Alaska as a state does not have the very best reputation

where the environment is concerned. They have on occasion 'sold their soul'

to big business. I would personally like to see Alaska change its image. It

is a wonderful treasure and it needs to be protected. I hope that the people

of Alaska will feel that way too.

It is essentially too late for my home state of Iowa. Through intensive

agriculture, Iowa ranks last in percentage of native habitat remaining.

There are very few areas where you can view birds in any numbers. Many of

the birds that used to breed here were extirpated decades ago. It is not too

ChrsCaster@aol.com, 10:32 PM 3/18/97 , Purchase of Shoreline Habitat

late for Alaska. It is still young enough and wild enough to be saved if

today we are willing to do the little things. This would be a good opportunity for Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Christopher Caster Coralville, IA ChrsCaster@aol.com

ChrsCaster@aol.com, 10:12 PM 3/18/97 , Purchase of Homer Spit Habitat

From: ChrsCaster@aol.com

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 1997 22:12:13 -0500 (EST)

To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

cc: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Purchase of Homer Spit Habitat

Mr. Rue,

I am writing to ask that you support the acquisition of private lands

for sale on the Homer Spit using Exxon Valdez Oil Spill funds. It has been

documented that well over 100,000 shorebirds make use of this area during

their spring migration. Although it may seem that there are other suitable

habitats for the birds, for whatever reason they have a preference for this

one. Unfortunately most of our wildlife are not as adaptable to our changing

world as we are. When critical high use areas like this one are lost it can

have a huge impact. Areas like the Homer shoreline need to be given priority

because they are important.

Here in the Iowa City area we have a contingent of birders that make

regular trips to locations in Alaska for the purpose of birding. Some of

these individuals go every year. Some stay for as long as six weeks. One of

these days I myself will be able to go and I hope that the trip will still be

worth the expense.

Unfortunately Alaska as a state does not have the best environmental

reputation. It has on occasion 'sold its soul' to big business interests. I

would personally like to see Alaska change its image. It is a wonderful

treasure and it needs to be protected. I hope that the people of Alaska will

feel that way too.

It is essentially too late for my home state of Iowa. We rank dead last

in the percentage of native habitat remaining. As a result there are only a

few places you can go to view birds in any numbers and many birds that used

to breed here were extirpated decades ago. Alaska is still young

ChrsCaster@aol.com, 10:12 PM 3/18/97 , Purchase of Homer Spit Habitat

enough and wild enough to be saved, provide that the little things are taken care of to that end.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Christopher Caster Coralville, IA ChrsCaster@aol.com



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION, INC.

GREGORY S. BUTCHER **Executive Director** PO Box 6599 . Colorado Springs, CO 80934 719/578-9703 • FAX 719/578-1480

PRESIDENT Daniel T. Williams, Jr. VICE-PRESIDENT George G. Daniels TREASURER Gerald I. Ziarno SECRETARY Sharon Bartels DIRECTORS Peter Dunne Daphne Gemmill

Frank Gill-

Kenn Kaufman

Stanley R. Lincoln Maisel avbank 🗀 e R. Petersen ert L. Pvle

Arnold Small William R. Stott, Jr. Claudia P. Wilds

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Gregory S. Butcher Commissioner Frank Rue Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

17 March 1997

Dear Commissioner,

The American Birding Association is an organization of over 19,000 recreational birders and bird conservationists. This means that we are interested in the enjoyment and preservation of wild birds.

It has come to our attention that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through its "small parcel program" and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The American Birding Association believes that the preservation of these intertidal lands around Kachemak Bay constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources (the tidal habitat and associated flora and fauna, such as clams and mussels) were badly damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of valuable and high-quality recreation opportunities including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation — an economic resource — was a service that was injured by the spill. The location in question is renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an uncommon avitourism attraction. In fact, the location was recognized as stopover site of 'international importance' (part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. This means that the site hosts over 100,000 shorebirds during each spring migration. The festival itself attracts thousands of people (including many of our members) each year.,

The ABA would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue. We hope you can bring the powers of your office to resolve this in favor of spending appropriate moneys from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill fund for this purpose.

Sincerely.

Gregory S. Butcher **Executive Director**

Cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 645 G Street Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501



AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION, INC.

GREGORY S. BUTCHER

Executive Director

PO Box 6599 • Colorado Springs, CO 80934
719/578-9703 • FAX 719/578-1480

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Jaybank
R. Petersen
Robert L. Pyle
Arnold Small
William R. Stott, Jr.
Claudia P. Wilds

Kenn Kaufman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gregory S. Butcher

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U.S. Dept. of the Interior 1689 C. Street Suite #100 Anchorage, AK 99501

17 March, 1997

Dear Ms Williams,

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Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of valuable and high-quality recreation opportunities including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation — an economic resource — was a service that was injured by the spill. The location in question is renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an uncommon avitourism attraction. In fact, the location was recognized as stopover site of 'international importance' (part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network) at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. This means that the site hosts over 100,000 shorebirds during each spring migration. The festival itself attracts thousands of people (including many of our members) each year.

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Sincerely.

Gregory S. Butcher Executive Director

Cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 645 G Street Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501



AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION, INC.

GREGORY S. BUTCHER

Executive Director
PO Box 6599 • Colorado Springs, CO 80934
719/578-9703 • FAX 719/578-1480

PRESIDENT
Daniel T. Williams, Jr.
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' Maisel
Aaybank
, ite R. Petersen
sert L. Pyle

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Gregory S. Butcher

William R. Stott, Jr.

Claudia P. Wilds

Amold Small

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99881

17 March 1997

Dear Mr Knowles,

The American Birding Association is an organization of over 19,000 recreational birders and bird conservationists. This means that we are interested in the enjoyment and preservation of wild birds.

It has come to our attention that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through its "small parcel program" and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The American Birding Association believes that the preservation of these intertidal lands around Kachemak Bay constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources (the tidal habitat and associated flora and fauna, such as clams and mussels) were badly damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

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Sincerely,

Gregory S. Butcher Executive Director

Cc: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 645 G Street Suite 400, Anchorage, AK 99501

Austin, texar 17 march 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles Hovernor of Alaska P.O Box 11001 Juneau, Alaska, 99811

Dear Sir of Homer, the Trust For Public Lands (TPL) and the Kachemak Heritage Land trust are working to obtain protection for small parcele of private land around the Nomer Spirt and Belugaslough. I hope you will give your support to this effort. Future generations should enjoy the beauty and the richness of the area. I have visited Homer and consider it to be worthy of protection and natural enhancement. The shorebirds, the food resources which can still be harvested and the beach walking are unique to this smallarea. Nature lovers hope to contime to observe the beauty of this area.

Lencerely yours, A orothy Kabisch 2200 W. North Loop Blod. - apt #125 Austin Ix. 78756-2304

austin Texas 17 march 1997 Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner alaska Nept. of Fishand Game 1255 W. 8 Street Juneau, aK-99802 stear Sir. I write to you in support of efforts of the City of Homer, the Trust for Public Lands, and the Hachemak Bay Heritage Land Trust, The Homer area is beautiful and attractive, as well as appealing to developers of n my visits during recent years I notice establishments crowding in on the Spit, spoiling the joys of beachwalking, and encroaching on habitat for shorehind your support for establishing protected areas around the Spit and Belega slough will benefit future generations who can inherit continuing food resources, growth of habitat for shorebirds, and the natural feauty of that area. Sincerelyyours, Horothy Kabisch 2200 W. north Loop Blod. apt#125 austin, D. 18756-2304

17 march 1997 Ms. Deborah Hilliams E VOS Pristee U.S. Department of Interior 1989 C'Street, Suite #100 anchorage, AK-99501 Dear Mr. Itilliams, I am supporting the efforts of the City of Homer, the Trust for Public Lands, and Kachemak Bay Heritage Land trust. The Homerarea is beautiful and attractive, as well as appealing developers. In my visits during recent years & notice establishments crowding in on the Spit, spoiling the joys of beach walking, and encroaching on habitat for shorebirds. Your support for establishing protected areas around the Spit and Beluga Slough will benefit future generations who inherit continuing food resources, growth of habitat for shorebirds, and the natural beauty of that area. Sincerely yours, Dorothy Kabisch 2200 W. north Loop Blud aph #125 Austin, Lx. 78756-2304

Agenmill@aol.com, 09:50 AM 3/17/97 , No Subject

From: Agemmill@aol.com

Date: Mon, 17 Mar 1997 09:50:14 -0500 (EST)

To: ospic@alaska.net Subject: No Subject

Following is the email letter I just sent to Gov. Knowles. Hope it helps.

Honorable Tony Knowles

Governor

P.O. Box 11001

Juneau, AK 99881

Dear Governor Knowles:

I am one of the bird watchers who spent \$6 billion in the US last year on my hobby/obsession.

Please take positive action to ensure that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee

Council acquires tracts in sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough.

These intertidal lands are excellent candidates for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the Valdez oil spill in 1989.

As well, these tidelands provide a series of high-quality recreation opportunities -- including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic resource -- was a service

that was injured by the spill. The Beluga Slough/Homer Spit location is

renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an avitourism

attraction uncommon elsewhere. In fact, the location was recognized as

stopover site of 'international importance at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

Thank you for taking action to ensure that Alaska remains a highly desirable

destination for bird watchers and the billions of dollars we spend on avitourism.

Arlene Gemmill

Agemmill@aol.com, 09:50 AM 3/17/97 , No Subject

861 Clayton Street San Francisco, CA 94117 agemmill@aol.com

Curtis Smith, 10:03 PM 3/14/97 , Protection of Tidelands in Hom

Date: Fri, 14 Mar 1997 22:03:52 -0800

From: Curtis Smith <ascas1@UAA.ALASKA.EDU> Subject: Protection of Tidelands in Homer To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us,

frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us,

deborah 1 williams@ios.doi.gov

Cc: ospic@alaska.net, Curtis Smith <ascasl@UAA.ALASKA.EDU>

Reply-to: ascas1@UAA.ALASKA.EDU

March 14, 1997

My wife and I fully support the acquisition of tideland tracts in the Homer area through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's small parcel program. We regularly visit Homer, and thoroughly enjoy a variety

of recreational activities, including the annual Shorebird Festival

walks throughout Homer's intertidal regions. Each time upon arrival, whether it be on our own or with friends and family from Outside, we can

not help but marvel at the uniqueness of the Homer area. To insure this

pleasure not only for future visitors, but for my wife and myself, please give serious consideration to our request. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely, Curtis and Stacy Smith

141 N. Lane St. Anchorage, AK 99508 (907)279-2355

John Wenger, 03:34 PM 3/14/97 , Homer spit

Date: Fri, 14 Mar 1997 15:34:30 -0800 From: John Wenger <gowild@Alaska.NET> Organization: Dell Computer Corporation

To: ospic@alaska.net Subject: Homer spit

Dear Sir/Madame,

I have just been informed that the Homer Spit land is in jeopardy as

staging area for shorebirds. As a former Homer resident, I know the area well with its value as shorebird habitat. Also, as a former ADF&G wildlife biologist and now teaching natural history classes

for UAA, I feel strongly that certain sections should be permanently protected. Also, I take my bird class to Homer in May specifically to see the shorebirds and to show the value of these lands to the needs of

the various shorebird species. Please consider these lands for acquisition. Their protection is needed. John Wenger

The ithological Council



PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS

American Ornithologists' Union

Association of Field Ornithologists

Waterbird Society

per Ornithological Society

Pacific Seabird Group

Raptor Research Foundation

Wilson Ornithological Society

Governor Tony Knowles PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 998 1

Dear Governor Knowles:



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

The Ornithological Council represents the 5,000 ornithologists and students of bird life in North America, organized into seven scientific professional societies. We ask you to support the before the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to purchase critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough.

These intertidal lands provide essential bird habitat, especially for migrating shorebirds. They are world known for the concentrations of migrating birds. Migrating birds by the tens if not hundreds of thousands use the tidelands as a critical feeding ground to put on fat essential for their long migratory journeys. The resources that they provide can not be replaced as it is impossible to create new habitats with these resources. Because the 1989 oil spill significantly damaged intertidal systems in Alaska, it is appropriate to use the Exxon funds for the acquisition of these tidelands in the context of mitigation.

The Homer Spit and Beluga Slough provide significant scientific resources for the study of bird migration and the physiological and behavioral processes involved in the migratory activity.

They also provide significant recreational opportunities as well. A few years ago, the American Ornithologists' Union held its annual meeting in Fairbanks. Many of our members extended their stay in Alaska to pursue birdwatching and other ecotourism activities. I personally have visited the Kenai peninsula to observe your birds and other wildlife.

Birdwatching provides major tourism revenue to Alaska. Thousands of birdwatchers journey to the Homer area each year and there is a Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. There are also opportunities for other recreational pursuits such as clam digging, hiking, and fishing.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has an important opportunity to restore intertidal resources through its small parcel program by funding acquisition of these areas.

L. J. E. Blockstein, Ph.D. nairman of the Board 25 K St., NW, Suite 212 Washington, DC 20006-1401 (202) 628-1731 Fax (202) 628-4311 Email OC@CNIE.org http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET

E.A. Schreiber, Ph.D.
Executive Director
4109 Komes Court
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 768-6726
Fax (703) 768-9010
Email SchreiberE@aol.com
http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET

The thological Council



PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS

American Ornithologists' Union

Association of Field Ornithologists

Naterbird Society

Cooper Ornithological Society

Pacific Seabird Group

Raptor Research Foundation

Wilson Ornithological Society

March 13, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th St. Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Commisioner Rue:

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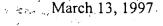
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The ithological Council





PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS

American Ornithologists' Union

Association of Field Ornithologists

Vaterbird Society

er Ornithological Society

Pacific Seabird Group

Raptor Research Foundation

Wilson Ornithological Society

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U.S. Dept. of Interior 1689 C St., Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99802

Dear Ms. Williams:

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The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has an important opportunity to restore intertidal resources through its small parcel program by funding acquisition of these areas.

 E.A. Schreiber, Ph.D. Executive Director 4109 Komes Court Alexandria, VA 22306 (703) 768-6726 Fax (703) 768-9010 Email Schreiber@aol.com http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET

The Ornithological Council



PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT BIRDS

American Ornithologists' Union .

Association of Field Ornithologists

Colonial Waterbird Society

inithological Society

Pacific Seabird Group

Raptor Research Foundation

Wilson Ornithological Society

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th St. Juneau, AK 99802

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March 13, 1997

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COALE COFFICE E.A. Schreiber, Ph.D.
Executive Director
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(703) 768-6726
Fax (703) 768-9010
Email SchreiberE@aol.com
http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET

The purchase of the private areas being considered by the Trustee Council would greatly complement the efforts of the City of Homer to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation. We would urge your support for the acquisition of Homer Spit and Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

David E. Blockstein, Ph.D.

Chairman

RECEIVED

MAR 1 7 1997

DEPT. OF FISH & GAME COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Rues

3-13-97

the City of Homer is taking steps to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation, but the adjacent undeveloped land is in jeopardy without the action of the trustee council, EVOS.

Please use your power to protect it preserve the Homer Spit and Belugar Stough. It's an irra of unequaled beauty & enjoyment.

ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE time. Sarah B.

Bx 2326 SEWARO, AK 99664

PHOTO BY: G. RANDALL

Luke Cole, 05:31 PM 3/13/97 , Acquire lands at Homer Spit

Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 17:31:46 -0800 (PST)

X-Sender: crpe@pop.igc.org

To: The Honorable Tony Knowles

<office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us>,

Frank Rue <frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us>,

Deborah Williams <deborah | williams@ios.doi.gov>,

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council <ospic@alaska.net>

From: Luke Cole <crpe@igc.apc.org>

Subject: Acquire lands at Homer Spit.

Sender: crpe@igc.org

Dear friends:

I am a birder who has visited Alaska to see your wonderful birds -- and

spend my birding tourist dollars, as do many thousands of people each year.

One of the prime birding areas that many people come to is the Homer Spit.

I have been alerted that key parcels of private land in the Homer Spit and

Beluga Slough region are available from willing sellers. I urge you to

support the acquisition of these lands through the small-parcel program of

the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Since intertidal resources were

badly damaged by the oil spill, the preservation of these lands is a highly

appropriate use of funds. Moreover, recreation -- including having birders

like me visit --

is a key Alaskan economic resource that was damaged by the spill.

Alaskans would benefit from this acquisition. The importance of birdwatchers to the state's economy cannot be underestimated. Birdwatching

is the most popular pastime in the United States. There are currently

million birdwatchers in America, and the number is growing rapidly.

people tend to be highly educated and have disposable income available for

travel to birding destinations.

I hope that you move quickly to make these acquisitions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luke Cole, 05:31 PM 3/13/97 , Acquire lands at Homer Spit

Luke Cole San Francisco, CA crpe@igc.apc.org

Janice Schofield, 10:51 AM 3/13/97 , land acquisition

Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 10:51:52 +0000

From: Janice Schofield <herbscho@Alaska.NET>

Organization: Gardensong Herbs

To: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: land acquisition

Dear Trustees,

Following is a copy of the letter I have sent to Honorable Tony Knowles,

Mr. Frank Rue, and Ms. Deborah Williams regarding acquisition of lands on Homer Spit/Beluga Slough. I commend you for the acquisitions the Council has made to date and heartily encourage this addition.

As you are well aware, intertidal resources were severely injured by the

Exxon Valdex oil spill. Amongst the lands affected, were lands on Homer

Spit and Beluga Slough. The opportunity is now at hand to "restore" these intertidal resources via habitat acquisition. The City of Homer,

in concert with the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, are working to protect

key parcels of private land in these areas. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is also nominating tracts for acquisition through the Exxon Valdex

Trustee Council small parcel program.

As the Nature Conservancy has long been aware, conservation is most effective when the "big picture" is addressed. Please encourage the Trustees to fund the TPL nominated tracts so that these tidelands can be

effectively preserved. These lands provide high-quality recreation, including clam digging, birdwatching, and recreation (all "services" injured by the spill). Homer Spit has approximately 200,000 visitors annually; visitors and residents would benefit greatly from this acquisition.

Janice Schofield herbscho@alaska.net

George Matz, 09:50 AM 3/13/97 , [Fwd: Homer Spit Tidelands]

Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 09:50:25 -0900 From: George Matz <geomatz@Alaska.NET>

Organization: Eco Analysis

To: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: [Fwd: Homer Spit Tidelands]

Content-Disposition: inline

X-Mozilla-Status: 0001

Message-ID: <33284B08.1BD0@alaska.net> Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 09:44:24 -0900 From: George Matz <geomatz@alaska.net>

Organization: Eco Analysis

X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.01KIT (Win95; U)

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: deborah_1_williams@ios.doi.gov CC: rebeccaw@oilspill.gov.state.ak.us

Subject: Homer Spit Tidelands

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Anchorage Audubon Society

P.O. Box 101161 Anchorage, AK. 99510

March 13, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Department of Interior
1689 C St.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Anchorage Audubon Society requests your support of the proposal by the Trust for

Public Land, the City of Homer, and the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to the Exxon Valdez

Oil Spill Trustee Council to purchase some relatively small but very important parcels

of privately owned land in Beluga Slough and on the Homer Spit, an area impacted by the

oil spill. The tidelands in this area are rich with clams, mussels, and other

intertidal organisms and, for this reason, provide a critical staging area for migrating

shorebirds. In fact this area has been designated both a Western Hemisphere Shorebird

George Matz, 09:50 AM 3/13/97 , [Fwd: Homer Spit Tidelands]

Reserve Network site as well as a State Critical Habitat Area. It attracts over 100,000 shorebirds during spring migration and is the reason for the very popular Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, a major tourism event for the area. These tidelands have both significant ecological and economic values and would greatly complement other publicly owned lands in the adjacent area. Purchase of these lands would make a significant

contribution to the mission of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

George Matz President

cc Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust Council

George Matz, 09:49 AM 3/13/97 , [Fwd: Homer Spit Tidelands]

Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 09:49:45 -0900 From: George Matz <geomatz@Alaska.NET>

Organization: Eco Analysis

To: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: [Fwd: Homer Spit Tidelands]

Content-Disposition: inline

X-Mozilla-Status: 0001

Message-ID: <332849A1.73A0@alaska.net>
Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 09:38:25 -0900
From: George Matz <geomatz@alaska.net>

Organization: Eco Analysis

X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.01KIT (Win95; U)

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

CC: rebeccaw@oilspill.gov.state.ak.us

Subject: Homer Spit Tidelands

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Anchorage Audubon Society

P.O. Box 101161 Anchorage, AK. 99510

March 13, 1997

Frank Rue, Commissioner Alaska Department of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Commissioner Rue:

The Anchorage Audubon Society requests your support of the proposal by the Trust for

Public Land, the City of Homer, and the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to the Exxon Valdez

Oil Spill Trustee Council to purchase some relatively small but very important parcels

of privately owned land in Beluga Slough and on the Homer Spit, an area impacted by the

oil spill. The tidelands in this area are rich with clams, mussels, and other

intertidal organisms and, for this reason, provide a critical staging area for migrating

shorebirds. In fact this area has been designated both a Western Hemisphere Shorebird

Reserve Network site as well as a State Critical Habitat Area. It

George Matz, 09:49 AM 3/13/97 , [Fwd: Homer Spit Tidelands]

attracts over 100,000 shorebirds during spring migration and is the reason for the very popular Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, a major tourism event for the area. These tidelands have both significant ecological and economic values and would greatly complement other publicly owned lands in the adjacent area. Purchase of these lands would make a significant contribution to the mission of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

George Matz President

cc Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust Council

X-Sender: box570@mail.crosslink.net Date: Thu, 13 Mar 1997 11:00:55

To: office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us From: Ornithological Council <oc@cnie.org>

Subject: Acquisition of tidelands at Homer Spit and Beluga Slough Cc: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us, deborah_1_williams@ios.doi.gov,

ospic@alaska.net

Governor Tony Knowles
PO Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99811

March 13, 1997

Dear Governor Knowles:

The Ornithological Council represents the 5,000 ornithologists and students

of bird life in North America, organized into seven scientific professional

societies. We ask you to support the before the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

Trustee Council to purchase critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in

the Beluga Slough.

These intertidal lands provide essential bird habitat, especially for migrating shorebirds. They are world known for the concentrations of migrating birds. Migrating birds by the tens if not hundreds of thousands

use the tidelands as a critical feeding ground to put on fat essential for

their long migratory journeys. The resources that they provide can not be

replaced as it is impossible to create new habitats with these resources.

Because the 1989 oil spill significantly damaged intertidal systems in Alaska, it is appropriate to use the Exxon funds for the acquisition of

these tidelands in the context of mitigation.

The Homer Spit and Beluga Slough provide significant scientific resources

for the study of bird migration and the physiological and behavioral processes involved in the migratory activity.

They also provide significant recreational opportunities as well. A few

years ago, the American Ornithologists' Union held its annual meeting

Ornithological Coun, 11:00 AM 3/13/97, Acquisition of tidelands at Ho

in

Fairbanks. Many of our members extended their stay in Alaska to pursue

birdwatching and other ecotourism activities. I personally have visited

the Kenai peninsula to observe your birds and other wildlife.

Birdwatching provides major tourism revenue to Alaska. Thousands of birdwatchers journey to the Homer area each year and there is a Kachemak

Bay Shorebird Festival. There are also opportunities for other recreational pursuits such as clam digging, hiking, and fishing.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has an important opportunity to

restore intertidal resources through its small parcel program by funding

acquisition of these areas.

The purchase of the private areas being considered by the Trustee Council

would greatly complement the efforts of the City of Homer to dedicate some

of its tidelands to conservation. We would urge your support for the acquisition of Homer Spit and Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

David E. Blockstein, Ph.D.

Senior Scientist

David E. Blockstein, Ph.D.

Chair

The Ornithological Council

1725 K St. NW #212

Washington, DC 20006-1401

202-530-5810; fax 202-628-4311

New phone number as of Nov. 13: 202-530-5810

OC@CNIE.org

http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET

"Providing Scientific Information about Birds"



March 12, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner AK Department of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. Rue.

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, I am writing to urge your support in protecting very important shorebird habitat in the area of Homer, Alaska. We urge your positive action on using funds available from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust to support the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust's protection of key habitat. Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation organization with nearly 200,000 members and supporters, is active in bird conservation programs around the nation.

We understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is seriously considering applying funds to acquire, through the 'small parcel program', key tracts of shorebird habitat at the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. For several reasons, we endorse using available funds for these acquisitions. First, these particular intertidal areas were badly damaged by the oil spill in 1989, therefore, protection of these key tracts through acquisition is a particularly appropriate use of those funds.

Second, these tidelands attract tourists and recreationists who enjoy the opportunity to view the huge numbers of shorebirds that rely on this habitat. This tourism, which has minimal impact on the birds, provides economic benefits to the area. Income from tourism decreased in the area as a result of the oil spill, making this assistance to that sector of the region's economy particularly justified.

Finally, the importance of this area for the shorebirds themselves must not be overlooked. This area is a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site (hosting over 100,000 shorebirds each spring), a designated State Critical Habitat, and the location for the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

Defenders of Wildlife would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

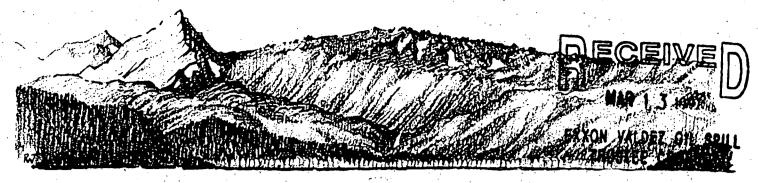
Laura Hood

Policy Analyst

National Headquarters 1101 Fourteenth Street, NW

Washington: DC 20005-5605 Telephone 202-682-9400 Fax 202-682-1331

Suite 1400



Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS 1689 C St. #100 Anchorage, 99501

3/12/97

Dear Ms. Williams,

We are asking you to support the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer, and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust in their efforts to secure some of the last privately owned parcels of land on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. These parcels are valuable intertidal lands and tidelands that provide valuable food sources for bird populations, thereby allowing high-quality recreation for Alaskans and tourists. This land can be important habitat acquisition with the conservation efforst of the City of Homer. This Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay has seen too much developmental pressure in the last several years.

We hope the Trustee Council will give these parcels serious consideration. We are counting on your support. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Michael and Diane McBride

France McBuide

Copy for distubution to the Council-



Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge

Commissioner F. Rue ADFG 1255 W. 8th St. Juneau, AK. 99802

3/12/97

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Michael and Diane McBride

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Massachusetts Audubon Society

Center for Biological Conservation 208 South Great Road Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773 (617) 259-9500

March 12, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor P.O. Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

pirzośloka pakewa, em bodów

Dear Governor Knowles,

It has recently come to my attention that a wonderful opportunity currently exists for you to support an important conservation initiative that is presently pending in the Homer area of south-coastal Alaska. I am specifically referring to Homer Spit and the efforts that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust are making to acquire public land areas in Beluga Slough and along Homer Spit.

From a personal perspective, both as a bird tour leader and ornithologist who has brought Massachusetts Audubon Society natural history tour groups to Alaska for the past five years, as well as from the point of view of a member of the Board of Directors of the American Birding Association, there seems to exist a wonderful opportunity to preserve in perpetuity some areas of outstanding importance to both recreational use and to migratory birds, especially shorebirds.

The area intertidal areas in the vicinity of Beluga Slough and Homer took a real hit from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the area continues to be beleaguered by pressure from various industrial developers whose interests could permanently jeopardize the recovery of the fragile and biologically valuable intertidal areas in the Homer Spit area.

Homer Spit and its extensive intertidal areas, are critically valuable resources, not just as part of Alaska's great wildlife treasure, but also to the people who come, as I do, from great distances to observe and appreciate the beauty and the spectacle that is southern Alaska in late spring. The very existence of the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is ample testament to the importance the Homer area represents to the local economy and ecotourism industry! Remember, economic assets can be measured in various ways.

Keeping these thoughts in mind, even though they seem to "come from afar", I strongly urge you to support the TPL's efforts to nominate for land acquisition intertidal areas in the Homer Spit area through the use of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's small parcel program. With the same enlightened spirit that has directed certain previous appropriations toward acquiring valuable intertidal lands despoiled by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, I would hope that the Trustee Council would support the current effort to preserve as much of the Homer Spit as funding opportunities allow.

Thank you for seriously considering this matter and its importance to not just the residents of the Homer area, but also to the many visitors who annually come to your great state to appreciate it in all of it glory.

Sincerely,

Wayne R. Petersen

Field Ornithologist

Wayne K. Fellisen

The Gommonwealth of Massachusett.
DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

WOLF TRAP HILL

R. F. D. N. 22 Winter Stree
Middleborough, Massachusetts, 0:

KATHLEEN S. ANDERSON

MÉMBER VICE-Chair
HONGAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 West 8th Street Juneau, AK 99811

22 WINTER ST. RFD #2 MIDDLEBORD, MA 02346

TELEPHONE (617) 947-0218 (HI

Dear Commissioner Rue:

Both my father and his eldest brother traveled to Alaska in the last decade of the 1800s, attracted by your beautiful wilderness and the diversity and abundance of wildlife. My father was unable to stay but my uncle remained in the Ketchikan area until he was an old man.

I, too, have visited Alaska, timing my travels to coincide with the concentrations and migrations of wildlife, particularly birds. One of my favorite memories is of time spent on the Kenai Peninsula, searching for shorebirds on the Homer Spit and taking boats from there to find seabirds we never see here on the East coast. The area is well-known to increasing numbers of ardent birdwatchers who travel world-wide seeking bird concentrations such as are found in Homer.

Need I point out that birds have become BIG BUSINESS? Birders generate billions of dollars of economic activity wherever birds are found in predictable numbers. And they are a renewable resource as long as their needed habitats are preserved. Increased bird populations ensure a variety of recreational opportunities and economic benefits to nearby communities, as long as the birds continue to come at traditional times.

I understand that the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer and the Lachemak Heritage Land Trust are working to obtain some key pieces of private land from willing sellers in the Beluga Slough and along the Spit. Funds obtained through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council have been used already for several valuable land acquisitions in other places, but the opportunity to protect the Beluga Slough and the Homer Spit has arisen only recently and must be acted upon quickly.

Intertidal resources suffered badly as a result of the oil spill. This opportunity to preserve tidelands along the spit and slough must not be allowed to slip away for this habitat and the flora and fauna it supports will, if preserved, support high-quality recreation indefinitely for as long as local communities can provide accommodations for the thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors who will seek such beauty. Renewable resources provide for much more stable economies than do the traditional boom-and-bust cycles that accompany resource extraction.

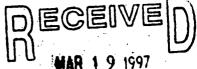
On behalf of all who love Alaska, both residents and non-residents, please do what you can to encourage and accomplish this opportunity to restore intertidal resources through habitat acquisition and thus make something of permanent benefit result from the tragedy of the infamous Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen S. Anderson

THE GRAD

EUR OFFICE



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor P.O. Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

Wolf Trap Hill Farm

WOLF TRAP HILL FARM 22 WINTER STREET MIDDLEBOROUGH, MA 02346

12 March 1997

Dear Governor Knowles:

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Very truly yours,

Kathleen S. Anderson

To: office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak:us (The Honorable Tony Knowles)

Cc: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us (Frank Rue),

deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov (Deborah Williams),

ospic@alaska.net (Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust Council)

Subject: RE: EVOS Funds for Intertidal Lands

X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 0-1,5-6,11-12,20-21,24,29-30,33-34,36-45

From: heronwing@juno.com (Cathi Pelletier)

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 17:34:20 EST

Dear Sir:

I am an avid birder. I frequently travel to see birds. I plan to visit

the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and the Seattle/Tacoma area of Washington this year. Within the next 2 years, I plan to make a trip to

Alaska.

To me, one of highlights of a visit to Alaska would be the excellent shorebird habitat in the Homer area. This is a critical staging area for migrating shorebirds, hosting over 100,000 shorebirds each spring. The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival celebrates this remarkable natural event.

I have been alerted that key parcels of private land in the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough region are available from willing sellers. I urge you

to support the acquisition of these lands through the small-parcel program of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Since intertidal

resources were badly damaged by the oil spill, the preservation of these

lands is a highly appropriate use of funds. Moreover, recreation -- including tourism -- is a key Alaskan economic resource that was damaged

by the spill.

Alaskans would benefit from this acquisition. The importance of birders

to the state's economy should not be underestimated. Birdwatching is the

most popular pastime in the United States.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 76 million Americans watched, photographed and fed birds and other wildlife in 1991. This generated nearly \$40 billion in economic activity, supported 766,000 jobs, and resulted in \$3 billion in state and federal tax revenues: \$7.5

billion was travel-related expenditures.

Cathi Pelletier, 05:34 PM 3/12/97 , RE: EVOS Funds for Intertidal

The number of birders is growing rapidly. Birders tend to be well-educated and have disposable income available for travel to birding destinations.

I strongly encourage you to make this worthwhile investment in Alaska's economic future.

Sincerely,

Cathi Pelletier Heronwing@juno.com Waterbury, CT

Member, The American Birding Association

Member, The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

Member, The Nature Conservancy

KerrieK@aol.com, 01:03 PM 3/12/97 , Intertidal Wetlands

From: KerrieK@aol.com

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 13:03:18 -0500 (EST)

To: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Intertidal Wetlands

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street Suite 400 Anchorage, AK 99501

Council Trustees:

The following letter has been sent to:

Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor
P.O. Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99881
office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

Mr. Frank Rue
Commissioner
AK Department of Fish and Game
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99802
frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1689 C. Street Suite #100
Anchorage, AK 99501
deborah l_williams@ios.doi.gov

Homer Spit and Beluga Slough would be excellent considerations for Exxon

Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council land acquisition through the 'small parcel

program'. Oil spill funds are intended for "preservation of intertidal

lands"; since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the oil spill,

these lands are well suited for inclusion.

These parcels also yield high-quality recreation opportunities: beach

activities, wildlife viewing and bird-watching. This site is well know as a

staging area for migratory shorebirds, and the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is an internationally renowned ecotourism destination. This sort of

recreation, an economic resource, was a service impacted by the spill.

KerrieK@aol.com, 01:03 PM 3/12/97, Intertidal Wetlands

Northern Virginia Bird Club is the Washington DC area chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. We sponsor 150 local field trips each year for our 700 plus members. Many of us travel widely to see birds. Alaska, despite the distance, is a prime destination. Our group would very much like to see this accomplished.

Sincerely,

Kerrie L. Kirkpatrick, President, Northern Virginia Bird Club AVCON Wildlife Information 3413 Surrey Lane, Falls Church, VA, 22042 703-560-4950 FAX:560-5532 KerrieK@aol.com

John Riley, 01:26 AM 3/12/97 , Homer Spit

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 01:26:51 -0500

From: John Riley <JRILEY@compuserve.com>

Subject: Homer Spit

To: Tony Knowles <office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us>

Cc: EVOS Trustee Council <ospic@alaska.net>

I am writing in support of preserving the intertidal resources of the Homer

Spit by inclusion in the EVOS small parcel program. This is an invaluable

highly visible Alaskan resource which is rapidly vanishing with development

of the spit. My family and I visit the area every year and my daughter has

gained knowledge and an appreciation of marine life in this natural outdoor

classroom. I urge the EVOS to protect this land for all Alaskans.

John Riley

X-Sender: rcreshkoff@pop.mindspring.com Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 06:45:14 -0500

To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

From: Rebekah Creshkoff < rcreshkoff@mindspring.com >

Subject: EVOS Funds for Intertidal Lands in the Homer Spit/Beluga

Slough Region

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor
P.O. Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99881

Dear Governor Knowles:

I co-chair the Conservation Committee of the Linnaean Society of New York,

the oldest organization dedicated to the study of natural history in the

U.S. We have an active membership of more than 500 people, virtually all of

whom are avid birdwatchers. Many frequently travel to see birds. They are

"avitourists." Indeed, our field trip committee is rapidly expanding its

list out-of-state destinations, and a trip to Alaska is definitely under

consideration.

To an avitourist, one of highlights of a visit to Alaska is the prime shorebird habitat in the Homer vicinity. This is an important staging area

for migrating shorebirds, hosting in excess of 100,000 shorebirds each spring. Indeed, the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival capitalizes on this

remarkable natural event.

I have been alerted that key parcels of private land in the Homer Spit and

Beluga Slough region are available from willing sellers. I urge you

support the acquisition of these lands through the small-parcel program of

the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Since intertidal resources were

badly damaged by the oil spill, the preservation of these lands is a highly

appropriate use of funds. Moreover, recreation -- including avitourism --

is a key Alaskan economic resource that was damaged by the spill.

Alaskans would benefit from this acquisition. The importance of birdwatchers to the state's economy cannot be overestimated. Birdwatching is the most popular pastime in the United States. There are currently 65

million birdwatchers in America, and the number is growing rapidly. These

people tend to be highly educated and have disposable income available for

travel to birding destinations.

I strongly encourage you to make this worthwhile investment in Alaska's economic future.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Creshkoff
The Linnaean Society of New York
15 West 77th Street
New York, NY 10024

Rebekah Creshkoff, 06:45 AM 3/12/97, EVOS Funds for Intertidal Land

X-Sender: rcreshkoff@pop.mindspring.com Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 06:45:17 -0500

To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

From: Rebekah Creshkoff < rcreshkoff@mindspring.com > ...

Subject: EVOS Funds for Intertidal Lands in the Homer Spit/Beluga

Slough Region

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner AK Department of Fish & Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Commissioner Rue:

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Rebekah Creshkoff, 06:45 AM 3/12/97, EVOS Funds for Intertidal Land

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Sincerely, Rebekah Creshkoff The Linnaean Society of New York 15 West 77th Street New York, NY 10024

X-Sender: rcreshkoff@pop.mindspring.com Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 06:45:22 -0500 To: deborah 1 williams@ios.doi.gov

From: Rebekah Creshkoff <rcreshkoff@mindspring.com>

Subject: EVOS Funds for Intertidal Lands in the Homer Spit/Beluga

Slough Region

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

Ms. Deborah Williams
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1689 C. Street, Ste. 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams:

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Sincerely,
Rebekah Creshkoff
The Linnaean Society of New York
15 West 77th Street
New York, NY 10024

Marty Michener, 07:31 AM 3/12/97, Land Purchases for Shorebird P

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 07:31:50 -0800 From: Marty Michener <marty@mich.mv.com>

Reply-To: marty@mich.mv.com

Organization: MIST Software Associates

To: Frank Rue <frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us>

CC: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council <ospic@alaska.net>

Subject: Land Purchases for Shorebird Protection

Dear Mr. Rue:

March 12, 1997

Although I have never been to Alaska, my son-in-law has bicycled from Massachusetts to your fair state. I am a PhD in ornithology from Harvard and am currently preparing a computer-based field guide to all 2000 birds on the AOU checklist - ranging from Panama to Alaska. My family just returned Sunday from a very successful two-week bird watching trip to Belize, costing us nearly \$4000.

Shoreline habitat is of critical importance to hundreds of these species. After breeding in the tundra of North America, many rely on the tiny coastline sand and marsh habitats for their annual migration. Many bird watchers become tourists to see these remarkable events, probably providing a large revenue for coastal cities and towns, yet hidden from conventional economic surveys.

I urge you to make use of the Exxon-Valdez funds to purchase local lands abutting the coast to keep these migrations intact - that of the birds using them for millenia and those of the birding tourists yet to come.

Sincerely,

Marty Michener, Ph.D. 42.73N, 71.53W marty@mich.mv.com MIST Software Associates 75 Hannah Drive, Hollis, NH 03049 (603)-598-1605 (FAX 889-8388)

Marty Michener, 07:34 AM 3/12/97, Land Purchase in Alaska for Sh

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 07:34:10 -0800 From: Marty Michener <marty@mich.mv.com>

Reply-To: marty@mich.mv.com

Organization: MIST Software Associates

To: Deborah Williams <deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov>

CC: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council <ospic@alaska.net>

Subject: Land Purchase in Alaska for Shorebirds

Dear Ms. Williams:

March 12, 1997

Although I have never been to Alaska, my son-in-law has bicycled from Massachusetts to your fair state. I am a PhD in ornithology from Harvard and am currently preparing a computer-based field guide to all 2000 birds on the AOU checklist - ranging from Panama to Alaska. My family just returned Sunday from a very successful two-week bird watching trip to Belize, costing us nearly \$4000.

Shoreline habitat is of critical importance to hundreds of these species. After breeding in the tundra of North America, many rely on the tiny coastline sand and marsh habitats for their annual migration. Many bird watchers become tourists to see these remarkable events, probably providing a large revenue for coastal cities and towns, yet hidden from conventional economic surveys.

I urge you to make use of the Exxon-Valdez funds to purchase local lands abutting the coast to keep these migrations intact - that of the birds using them for millenia and those of the birding tourists yet to come.

Sincerely,

Marty Michener, Ph.D. 42.73N, 71.53W marty@mich.mv.com MIST Software Associates 75 Hannah Drive, Hollis, NH 03049 (603)-598-1605 (FAX 889-8388)

From: Martin Reid <martin@clockbird.com>
To: "'deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov'"

<deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov>,

"'frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us'" <frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us>,
"'office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us'"

<office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us>

Cc: "'ospic@alaska.net'" <ospic@alaska.net>

Subject: EVOS Funds for Intertidal Lands in the Homer Spit/Beluga

Slough Region

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 08:13:29 -0000 Return-Receipt-To: <martin@clockbird.com>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I operate a Texas-based travel agency dedicated to birdwatching travel- I am

also a keen birder. Within the United States Alaska is one of the top

destinations for birdwatchers, and within Alaska the Homer Spit area is a

vital "must see" element of almost every planned itinerary - largely due to

the fantastic array of migratory shorebirds found on the intertidal flats.

I have been informed that key parcels of private land in the Homer Spit and

Beluga Slough region are available from willing sellers. I urge you to

support the acquisition of these lands through the small-parcel program of

the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Since intertidal resources were

badly damaged by the oil spill, the preservation of these lands is a highly

appropriate use of funds. Moreover, recreation -- including
avitourism --

is a key Alaskan economic resource that was damaged by the spill.

Alaskans would benefit from this acquisition. The importance of birdwatchers to the state's economy cannot be underestimated. Birdwatching

is the most popular pastime in the United States. There are currently

million birdwatchers in America, and the number is growing rapidly - if fact birdwatching

is THE FASTED GROWING HOBBY IN THE UNTIED STATES. These people tend to be highly educated, environmentally aware, and have disposable income available for

travel to birding destinations.

Alaska faces a unique challenge in balancing the economic necessities with a careful stewardship of the fabulous natural resources within its borders. I strongly encourage you to make this worthwhile investment in Alaska's environmental and economic future.

Respectfully,
Martin Reid
Birding Consultant,
Clockwork Travel,
5210 Pershing Ave,
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Richard Wood, 07:40 AM 3/12/97 , No Subject

X-Sender: pawood@mail.azstarnet.com Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 07:40:26 -0700

To: office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us From: Richard Wood <pawood@azstarnet.com>

I have visited the great state of Alaska many times on business and for

pleasure. The issue of Homer Spit etc. came to our attention and we ask the

state of Alaska carefully consider the purchase of available land on the

spit for the future generations to observe the migration pheonoma both on

the land and in the water. Alaska represents natural beauty not available

in the lower 48.

To an avitourist, one of highlights of a visit to Alaska is the prime shorebird habitat in the Homer vicinity. This is an important staging area

for migrating shorebirds, hosting in excess of 100,000 shorebirds each spring. Indeed, the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival capitalizes on this

remarkable natural event.

I have been alerted that key parcels of private land in the Homer Spit

Beluga Slough region are available from willing sellers. I urge you to

support the acquisition of these lands through the small-parcel program of

the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Since intertidal resources were

badly damaged by the oil spill, the preservation of these lands is a highly

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people tend to be highly educated and have disposable income available for

Richard Wood, 07:40 AM 3/12/97 , No Subject

travel to birding destinations.

I strongly encourage you to make this worthwhile investment in Alaska's economic future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Dick Wood
Tucson, AZ
pawood@azstarnet.com
En la tierra del sol y el cactus saguaro

Thede Tobish, 08:45 PM 3/11/97, Homer Purchase

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 20:45:08 +0000 From: Thede Tobish <tgt@Alaska.NET>
To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us

CC: ospic@alaska.net Subject: Homer Purchase

Frank-Recently found out that the Trustees were considering a recommendation for acquisition of intertidal areas near Homer. I would

like to weigh in my opinion that this would represent a wise use of Oil

Spill restoration funds since this is a high profile, active human use recreation area. It would serve as a prime example site for the restoration council. These intertidal areas are used by locals all year, by visitors mostly in the summer and most importantly, by scores of visiting birdwatchers who visit the Homer area each year as part of the organized commercial bird tour business. I estimate that each year

at least 30 organized commercial (and some "local club" groups) visit Alaska and easily comprise several hundred individuals. What better way

to educate these visitors, who would already be sensitive to the spill and impacts they might have read about, with a restoration site in the midst of areas these groups regularly visit. There are few if any such

heavily used birding sites in the spill affected area that offer the potential of these Homer flats. Please support the acquisition of these

acres not simply for the restoration/protection of prime waterbird habitat, but for the educational value they offer a growing group of users.

Thanks for your consideration, Frank.

Thede Tobish Anchorage From: Ctschaefer@aol.com

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 16:57:34 -0500 (EST)

To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us, ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

Dear Mr. Rue:

I understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position

to consider some tracts for acquisition through the "small parcel program"

and that these tracts might include intertidal lands bordering Homer Spit and

Beluga Slough. To acquire and preserve these particular lands would be an

appropriate expenditure of funds, since intertidal resources were badly

damaged by the oil spill. Moreover, these tidelands provide a variety of

high-quality recreation opportunities including bird-watching, wildlife

viewing, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic resource

-- is a service that was injured by the spill. The area is internationally

renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds and therefore constitutes

a tourism attraction uncommon elsewhere. I urge you to support the use of

small parcel program funds to preserve the intertidal lands bordering. Homer

Spit and Beluga Slough.

Sincerely,

C. Thomas Schaefer

Ctschaefer@aol.com, 04:54 PM 3/11/97 , Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

From: Ctschaefer@aol.com

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 16:54:23 -0500 (EST)

To: deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov, ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

Dear Ms. Williams:

I understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position

to consider some tracts for acquisition through the "small parcel program"

and that these tracts might include intertidal lands bordering Homer Spit and

Beluga Slough. To acquire and preserve these particular lands would be an

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viewing, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic resource

-- is a service that was injured by the spill. The area is internationally

renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds and therefore constitutes

a tourism attraction uncommon elsewhere. I urge you to support the

small parcel program funds to preserve the intertidal lands bordering

Spit and Beluga Slough.

Sincerely,

C. Thomas Schaefer

From: Ctschaefer@aol.com

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 16:56:18 -0500 (EST)

To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us, ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

Dear Governor Knowles:

I understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position

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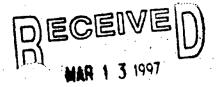
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small parcel program funds to preserve the intertidal lands bordering Homer

Spit and Beluga Slough.

Sincerely,

C. Thomas Schaefer



EXXON VALUEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

909 Mission Rd. Kodiak, AK 99615

10 March, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U.S. Department of the Interior 1689 C St, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams,

I first spent time on the Homer Spit in 1970. My trips back to Homer in recent years have been infrequent, so every time I go back I am amazed at the phenomenal rate of development of the Spit. I urge the EVOS Trustees to spend money acquiring tidelands for bird habitat, open space, etc. in Beluga Slough and on the Homer Spit before it is too late!!! From the looks of it you don't have too much time left!

I live in Kodiak and am very supportive of the acquisitions you have made in my area and those you may make in the future (Termination Point, Long Island). I guess I am willing to have you jack up the priority of the Beluga Slough and Homer Spit tidelands on the acquisition list, even at the expense of parcels closer to where I live!!!

Cheers,

Richard MacIntosh

cc: Honorable Tony Knowles
Mr. Frank Rue
members EVOS Trustee Council

Richard Made Ad

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION & MARINE BIOLOGY PHONE: (805) 893-3511 FAX: (805) 893-4724

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9610

March 10, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner AK Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. Rue:

This letter supports the efforts of the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land, to protect parcels of private land in Beluga Slough and along Homer Spit.

In 1993 I visited Homer and was impressed with the opportunities for tourists to enjoy many educational and research activities. I took the field trip to Peterson Bay for viewing tide-pools, walked the Homestead Trail just opened by Kachemak Heritage and Land Trust and was invited to view sea birds and mammals from a private boat.

My association with Alaska spans more than 40 years. I've witnessed the transition of Alaska from territory to State, from emphasis on exploitation activities to a fast-growing awareness of the opportunities for tourism. Homer Spit and environs is an area of priceless value for serious ornithological research as well as recreational tourism.

I urge you to support the protection of Homer tidelands from pressure of commercial development. To preserve, for public benefit, lands of natural, recreational and cultural values will benefit the public for generations. As Will Rogers once said: "Invest in the land. They're not making land anymore."

Sincerely,

Barbara B. DeWolfe

Professor of Zoology, Emeritus

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. SANTA BARBARA

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SANTA BARBARA . SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY. EVOLUTION & MARINE BIOLOGY PHONE: (805) 893-3511 FAX: (805) 893-4724

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9610

March 10, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U. S. Department of Interior 1689 C Street, Suite #100 Anchorage, AK 99501 DECEIVED

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

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Barbara B. DeWolfe Professor of Zoology, Emeritus

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BERKELEY . DAVIS . IRVINE . LOS ANGELES . RIVERSIDE . SAN DIEGO . SAN FRANCISCO



INTA BARBARA . SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY. EVOLUTION & MARINE BIOLOGY PHONE: (805) 893-3511 FAX: (805) 893-4724

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9610

March 10, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor P. O. Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Knowles:

This letter supports the efforts of the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land, to protect parcels of private land in Beluga Slough and along Homer Spit.

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Sincerely,

Barbara B. DeWolfe Professor of Zoology, Emeritus



March 10, 1997

Molly McCammon, Executive Director Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G. Street, Suite 402 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. McCammon,

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) wishes to express its strong support for the acquisition of land submitted in three packages of proposals from the Trust for Public Land. These packages include lands which are both highly valuable as habitat for species injured by the oil spill, and as popular recreation areas. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly explain the nusual and precedent-setting nature of this project, since it might bear merit where further nportant decisions will be made.

Over the past few years, KHLT has created a comprehensive conservation stategy based on intensive mapping of natural, recreational and cultural values and the threats impacting them. The maps revealed that the highest priority in the southern Kenai Peninsula was the intertidal lands of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. KHLT has not had the resources to protect these lands simply by purchase, and when an opportunity arose to involve the national Trust for Public Land (TPL) in the preservation of these important places, we gladly took advantage of it. TPL is currently assisting in a collaborative effort with the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to achieve cooperative protection of resources very dear to both resident's and visitors's hearts and to this community's long-term economic well-being.

Because of strong and consistant interest over the years from the local community in preserving the Homer Spit, the City of Homer has made a serious commitment to conservation by working with KHLT to finalize a very restrictive and perpetual conservation easement on 26 acres of shorebird habitat. In the process of working through the details of this project, KHLT encouraged the City in adopting a new conservation zone classification which we hope will grow to include most of the remaining municipal lands on the Spit.

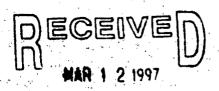
We appreciate the Trustee Council's consideration of this important habitat and recreation preservation project. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to help make such a positive impact on the future of this spectacular place.

Sincerely,

Barbara Seaman Executive Director

Raman

PO Box 1281 Homer, Alaska 99603 March 10, 1997



Exxon Valdez OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL 645 G Street, Suite 400 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Sirs:

I am writing, somewhat belatedly, in support of the privately owned tidelands on the Homer Spit being acquired for public lands with access to these productive tidelands and intertidal ecosystems.

During the public discussions last week when you folks made us all very happy by agreeing to purchase our wonderful "Overlook Park" acreage, you asked Pam Brodie if we had any ideas on what moneys might be used to purchase the parcels out on the Homer Spit and in our Slough area. One suggestion has occurred to me this past week in answer to this question. It was indicated during that same public discussion that the property which lies just to the East of the Overlook Park parcel was still in the negotiating stages. This surprised me a bit as the owner had turned down an extremely generous offer from EVOS some months back. This man had to be legally restrained by the City of Homer because he put in a very poor roadway on this property without obtaining any of the necessary permits. While there are a few small portions of this parcel which would compliment the Overlook Park property (Most notably the mouth of the creek draining the Park), much of the rest is perhaps more suitable to careful and legal development as homesites.

I would suggest that the excessively large sums needed to obtain this property might better be used to acquire the Spit and Slough properties.

In notifying him (I believe the owner's name is Bullock or Bullard) next time, you might suggest to him that if he is willing, the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust is ready to work with him at any time to put easements of his choosing on any of the steep and otherwise inaccessible portions of this property. He might then realize some income tax advantages. One of KHLT's Goals is to acquire any lands which are contiguous to lands already preserved, such as the Overlook Park Property.

As you probably know, the City of Homer is already working on an easement on 26 acres of Spit Property which lies next to the large parcels that EVOS and TPL are working on at present. Setting these parcels aside for Public Recreation is extremely important and this may be the last opportunity to do so.

Thank You

Richard W. Tyler.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



March 14, 1997

Richard W. Tyler P.O. Box 1281 Homer Alaska 99603

Dear Mr. Tyler:

Thank you for your recent letter of comment in regard to the Trustee Council small parcel program.

As you are perhaps aware, the Trustee Council took action at its last meeting to make a formal offer to purchase the KEN 55/Overlook Park parcel. It is our hope that this fair market value offer will be accepted and that this parcel can be acquired and protected. Your comments and suggestion regarding the nearby KEN 12/Baycrest parcel have been forwarded to the state's lead negotiator who is working on this parcel nomination.

Your comments concerning the recent Homer Spit and Beluga Slough nominations by the Trust for Public Lands are also appreciated and a copy of your letter will be provided to each of the Trustee Council members.

Sincerely,

Wolly Mc Cam Molly McCammon Executive Director

PO Box 1281 Homer, Alaska 99603 March 10, 1997

Exxon Valdez OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL 645 G Street, Suite 400 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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Eden Willer

Thank You

Richard W. Tyler

MR. FRANK RUE: I am sending you a copy of my letter to EVOS in support of the small parcel acquisitions on the Homer Spit. While a late development, it is never-the-less a very timely acquisition. Thanks.

Philippa Shepherd, 02:15 PM 3/10/97 , Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee

From: Philippa Shepherd <pshepher@sfu.ca>

Subject: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

To: deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov

Date: Mon, 10 Mar 1997 14:15:30 -0800 (PST)

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

University

Sciences

Simon Fraser

Dept. of Biological

Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

March 10, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1689 C. Street, Suite # 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams,

I understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through the 'small parcel program' and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer

Spit and Beluga Slough. The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the oil spill. Moreover, these tidelands

provide a series of high-quality recreation opportunities -- including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic resource -- was a service that was injured by

the spill. The location is renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an avitourism attraction uncommon elsewhere. In fact, the location was recognized as stopover site of 'international importance' at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. I myself visited the Seward Peninsula (among a number of other sites) as an avitourist in 1993, and would enjoy the opportunity of traveling back to

attend the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival in the future. In order to guarantee the preservation of this incomparable area for future generations of wildlife, ecotourists and others, I would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Philippa Shepherd

PhD student

P.S. I have sent copies of this letter to Governor Tony Knowles and Commissioner Frank Rue.

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner AK Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

COMME COFFICE

Dear Mr. Rue:

My business is leading tours of avid birdwatchers to prime wildlife habitats throughout the United States for recreational birdwatching. We normally spend about a week in an area, utilizing restaurants, hotels, and shops, as well as birding.

It has come to my attention that key parcels of undeveloped tidelands can restore some of the resources in this area that were lost or badly injured during the Exxon oil spill - but only if they are protected. I would like to voice my support of the acquisition of habitat by the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust.

Homer Spit is a critical staging area for migrating shorebirds that are difficult to see in such numbers elsewhere. We are giving consideration to a tour to Homer so that our clients can enjoy the opportunity to see this spectacle. If continued encroachment of intensive commercial devleopment is not halted and these tidelands protected, the value of this area will be lost and the vital link it provides our wildlife destroyed. We cannot allow that to happen.

Please support the protection of the tidelands. The oil spill damaged large areas; can't we save what's left?

Thank you for your help - for making it possible for me to bring a group to Homer in the future. Protecting these tidelands will lead to long-term economic gain for the Homer area.

Sincerely,

Sherry C. Nelson

SHERRY C. NELSON
MASTER TEACHER

THE MAGIC BRUSH, INC.

P.O.Box 530 Creek Road Portal, AZ 85632 Fax & Phone 520/558-2285

Perons of Sherry C Velan

North to Alaska

Tour: July 2-13, 1997 **Seminar** July 13-18, 1997



Join Sherry and Deb for this long-awaited trip to Southeast Alaska. You may tour or paint or both... and whatever you choose will be filled with the birds and animals of this, our last wilderness. We've been there and we'll share the best of Alaska with you.

Here's the highlights.... for a complete itinerary, please call Sherry right away...(520) 558-2285

- * Kechikan shopping at Creek Row, birding at historical Totem Bight... under the watchful eye of Bald Eagles; land on a glacial lake in a pontoon plane at Misty Fjords.
- * At Wrangell, we'll go to Chief Shakes Island.. and travel by jet boat to observe Grizzlies and Eagles from a platform in Anan Creek Bear Preserve.
- * Sitka offers incredible Russian history and the Alaska Raptor Center... and an all-day spectacular by boat to St. Lazaria Island, home of Puffins & Auklets.. we'll toss fish to the Eagles, hear the rush of wing feathers as they dive right in front of our cameras...
- * Mendenhall Glacier & Tracy Arm Fjord beckon us to the community & capital city of Juneau.
- * We'll board our ferry in Juneau for a day at Point Adolphus to watch the largest concentration of whales in a state known for them... we'll travel to the West Arm of Glacier Bay... we'll see the incredible calving glaciers, the seals on ice floes.. the Kittiwakes and Orcas... the wildlife that only Alaska can offer...Lifebirds for your list found nowhere else!!!

The tour package includes:

- *All airline flights and other travel from time of departure from Seattle on July 3 until our return on the 13th.
- *All lodging beginning the night of July 2, and some meals
- *All the fabulous activities listed in the itinerary and then some!

Total cost of tour, per person, based on double occupancy: \$2875.00

Deposits: \$300.00 required to hold your space and are due immediately. Deposits are non-refundable. Please act promply so we can confirm our space usage.

The Painting Seminar: Wildlife of the Last Frontier

Sherry C. Nelson, MDA will teach the follow-up seminar beginning July 14 in Seattle. We'll paint at the Clarion Inn at the Sea/Tac Airport... for four days. Plan to fly in on the 13th & depart on the 18th. You need not tour to enjoy the excitement of painting with Sherry.

Paintings will feature some of the wonderful wildlife we'll see: Eagles, bears, and birds will all promise painting at its best. New pieces - designed for your pleasure. for this seminar.

The Seminar fees include:

*4 days of classes, lodging, instructional materials, photographs and paint, along with some supplies. It does not include meals.

Total cost of the seminar: \$475.00. Deposit of \$50.00 required to hold your space. And deposits are nonrefundable.

Come paint with Sherry - plan on it! We'll welcome you, even if you are unable to go on the tour... Send deposits to: The Magic Brush, Inc., PO Box 530, Portal, AZ 85632. Call and we'll mail or fax you a complete innerary and more information about the tour and seminar.

March 9, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

MAR 1 4 1997
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

TRUSTEE COUNCIL.

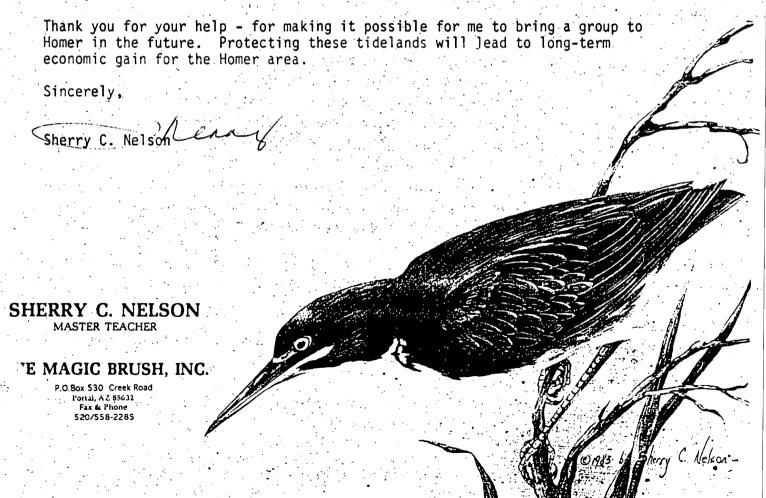
Dear Mr. Knowles:

My business is leading tours of avid birdwatchers to prime wildlife habitats throughout the United States for recreational birdwatching. We normally spend about a week in an area, utilizing restaurants, hotels, and shops, as well as birding.

It has come to my attention that key parcels of undeveloped tidelands can restore some of the resources in this area that were lost or badly injured during the Exxon oil spill - but only if they are protected. I would like to voice my support of the acquisition of habitat by the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust.

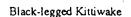
Homer Spit is a critical staging area for migrating shorebirds that are difficult to see in such numbers elsewhere. We are giving consideration to a tour to Homer so that our clients can enjoy the opportunity to see this spectacle. If continued encroachment of intensive commercial devleopment is not halted and these tidelands protected, the value of this area will be lost and the vital link it provides our wildlife destroyed. We cannot allow that to happen.

Please support the protection of the tidelands. The oil spill damaged large areas; can't we save what's left?

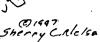


North to Alaska

Tour: July 2-13, 1997 **Seminar** July 13-18, 1997



Join Sherry and Deb for this long-awaited trip to Southeast Alaska. You may tour or paint or both... and whatever you choose will be filled with the birds and animals of this, our last wilderness. We've been there and we'll share the best of Alaska with you.



Here's the highlights.... for a complete itinerary, please call Sherry right away...(520) 558-2285

- * Kechikan shopping at Creek Row, birding at historical Totem Bight... under the watchful eye of Bald Eagles; land on a glacial lake in a pontoon plane at Misty Fjords.
- * At Wrangell, we'll go to Chief Shakes Island.. and travel by jet boat to observe Grizzlies and Eagles from a platform in Anan Creek Bear Preserve.
- * Sitka offers incredible Russian history and the Alaska Raptor Center... and an all-day spectacular by boat to St. Lazaria Island, home of **Puffins & Auklets**.. we'll toss fish to the Eagles, hear the rush of wing feathers as they dive right in front of our cameras...
- * Mendenhall Glacier & Tracy Arm Fjord beckon us to the community & capital city of Juneau.
- * We'll board our ferry in Juneau for a day at Point Adolphus to watch the largest concentration of whales in a state known for them... we'll travel to the West Arm of Glacier Bay... we'll see the incredible calving glaciers, the seals on ice floes.. the Kittiwakes and Orcas... the wildlife that only Alaska can offer...Lifebirds for your list found nowhere else!!!

The tour package includes:

- *All airline flights and other travel from time of departure from Seattle on July 3 until our return on the 13th.
- *All lodging beginning the night of July 2, and some meals
- *All the fabulous activities listed in the itinerary and then some!

Total cost of tour, per person, based on double occupancy: \$2875.00

Deposits: \$300.00 required to hold your space and are due immediately. Deposits are non-refundable. Please act promply so we can confirm our space usage.

The Painting Seminar: Wildlife of the Last Frontier

Sherry C. Nelson, MDA will teach the follow-up seminar beginning July 14 in Seattle. We'll paint at the Clarion Inn at the Sea/Tac Airport... for four days. Plan to fly in on the 13th & depart on the 18th. You need not tour to enjoy the excitement of painting with Sherry.

Paintings will feature some of the wonderful wildlife we'll see: Eagles, bears, and birds will all promise painting at its best. New pieces - designed for your pleasure. for this seminar.

The Seminar fees include:

*4 days of classes, lodging, instructional materials, photographs and paint, along with some supplies. It does not include meals.

Total cost of the seminar: \$475.00. Deposit of \$50.00 required to hold your space. And deposits are nonrefundable.

Come paint with Sherry - plan on it! We'll welcome you, even if you are unable to go on the tour... Send deposits to: The Magic Brush, Inc., PO Box 530, Portal, AZ 85632. Call and we'll mail or fax you a complete itinerary and more information about the tour and seminar.



National Audubon Society

ALASKA – HAWAII REGIONAL OFFICE 308 G STREET, SUITE 217 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 • (907) 276-7034 • FAX (907) 276-5069

March 7, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor P.O. Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99881

Dear Governor Knowles:

We understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through the 'small parcel program' and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the oil spill.

Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of high-quality recreation opportunities — including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation — an economic resource — was a service that was injured by the spill. The location is renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an avitourism attraction uncommon elsewhere. In fact, the location was recognized as stopover site of 'international importance' at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

National Audubon Society would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue.

John W. Schoen

Sincere

Executive Director



National Audubon Society

ALASKA - HAWAII REGIONAL OFFICE 308 G STREET, SUITE 217 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 • (907) 276-7034 • FAX (907) 276-5069

March 7, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner AK Department of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Frank:

We understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through the 'small parcel program' and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the oil spill.

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National Audubon Society would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue.

Sincerely,

/John W. Schoen Executive Director



National Audubon Society

ALASKA – HAWAII REGIONAL OFFICE 308 G STREET, SUITE 217 • ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 • (907) 276-7034 • FAX (907) 276-5069

March 7, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U.S. Dept. of the Interior 1689 C. Street Suite #100 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams:

We understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through the 'small parcel program' and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly damaged by the oil spill.

Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of high-quality recreation opportunities — including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation — an economic resource — was a service that was injured by the spill. The location is renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an avitourism attraction uncommon elsewhere. In fact, the location was recognized as stopover site of 'international importance' at last year's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival.

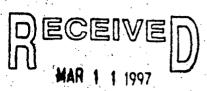
National Audubon Society would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue.

Jan W

Sincere.

John W. Schoen
Executive Director

WORTHINGTON
716 North Almond Drive
Simpsonville, S.C., 29681
March 7, 1997.



Honorable Tony Knowles; Governor, P.O. Box 11001, Juneau, AK, 99811.

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Subject: Acquisition of Katchemak Bay Intertidal Lands.

Dear Governor,

As a frequent visitor (25 weeks in the last 4 years) to Alaska I would like to add my voice to that of many other recreational visitors to your state, and strongly urge the use of the EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEES FUNDS to acquire and protect the rich resources represented by the undeveloped tidelands in the Homer Spit and Katchemak Bay area.

Besides being arguably one of the most naturally beautiful areas in Alaska, the intertidal resources of the immediate Homer Spit area are unique enough to have been designated a "Global Site" for the protection of Migratory Species, and it is indeed this renown that has drawn my family twice to Homer, together with many thousands of other out of state visitors, giving a great boost to the entire Kenai economy.

Since I hope to return to the area sometime in the not too distant future, I can only pray that by wise actions taken now by the State and Trustees, I will still be able to see and enjoy all the natural beauty of such a unique area.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and support.

Sincerely.

Peter L. Worthinston.

WORTHINGTON 716 North Almond Drive Simpsonville, S.C., 29681 March 7, 1997



Ms. Deborah Williams, EVOS Trustee, U>S> Department of the Interior, 1689 C Street, Suite # 100, Anchorage, AK, 99501. EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Subject: Acquisition of Katchernak Bay Intertidal Lands.

Dear Ms. Williams,

As a frequent visitor (25 weeks in the last 4 years) to Alaska I would like to add my voice to that of many other recreational visitors to your state, and strongly urge the use of the EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEES FUNDS to acquire and protect the rich resources represented by the undeveloped tidelands in the Homer Spit and Katchemak Bay area.

Besides being arguably one of the most naturally beautiful areas in Alaska, the intertidal resources of the immediate Homer Spit area are unique enough to have been designated a "Global Site" for the protection of Migratory Species, and it is indeed this renown that has drawn my family twice to Homer, together with many thousands of other out of state visitors, giving a great boost to the entire Kenai economy.

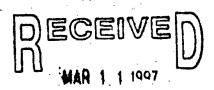
Since I hope to return to the area sometime in the not too distant future, I can only pray that by wise actions taken now by the State and Trustees, I will still be able to see and enjoy all the natural beauty of such a unique area.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and support.

Sincerely.

Peter L. Worthington.,

WORTHINGTON 716 North Almond Drive Simpsonville, S.C., 29681 March 7, 1997.



Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner, AK Dept. of Fish & Game, Juneau, AK, 99802. EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Subject: Acquisition of Katchemak Bay Intertidal Lands.

Dear Mr. Rue,

As a frequent visitor (25 weeks in the last 4 years) to Alaska I would like to add my voice to that of many other recreational visitors to your state, and strongly urge the use of the EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEES FUNDS to acquire and protect the rich resources represented by the undeveloped tidelands in the Homer Spit and Katchemak Bay area.

Besides being arguably one of the most naturally beautiful areas in Alaska, the intertidal resources of the immediate Homer Spit area are unique enough to have been designated a "Global Site" for the protection of Migratory Species, and it is indeed this renown that has drawn my family twice to Homer, together with many thousands of other out of state visitors, giving a great boost to the entire Kenai economy.

Since I hope to return to the area sometime in the not too distant future, I can only pray that by wise actions taken now by the State and Trustees, I will still be able to see and enjoy all the natural beauty of such a unique area.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and support.

Sincerely.

Feter L. Worthington,

211 S. Bailey Palmer, AK 99645 March 7, 1997

Dept Fishing Carried

STA STA

Juneau, AK 99822

Please Save Homer Spit for Shorebird Habitat

As a 44 year resident of Alaska, one of my family's favorite spaces is Homer. Our children loved to spot birds and waterfoul, the quiet, Blean atmosphere of the spit.

I dislike all the tourist shops, many of which do not sell Alaskan items. A person scarcely can find the beach to walk on:

My last trips, as a Kayaker, to Homer Spit, apalled me especially seeing the sawdust pile. Alaska must preserve the intertidal resources. Don't allow the quality to further deteriorate Help Homer restore the intertidal zone.

Helen Woodings



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 7, 1997

DECEIVED

Mr. Dale Bondurant HC 1, Box 1197 Soldotna, Alaska 99669

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Bondurant:

Thank you for your letter of February 28, 1997, supporting acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several residents of Homer and the surrounding area. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

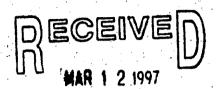
cc: Governor Tony Knowles, State of Alaska
Commissioner Frank Rue, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Molly McCammon, Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

, , , 1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 7, 1997



Ms. Mary Barrett Box 124 Sutton, Alaska 99674

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Ms. Barrett:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 1997, supporting acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several residents from Homer and throughout Alaska. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

cc: Molly McCammon

Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 7, 1997



Miss Lucile Kramer 14640 Loc Lomond Lane Anchorage, Alaska 99516

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Miss Kramer:

Thank you for your letter of March 4, 1997, supporting acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several residents of Homer and the surrounding area. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

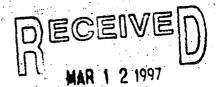
cc: Molly McCammon, Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 7, 1997



Mr. Randall Z. Davis P.O. Box 772 Soldotna, Alaska 99669

EXXON VALUEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter of February 28, 1997, supporting acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several residents of Homer and the surrounding area. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

cc: Molly McCammon

Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 7, 1997



Mr. Gerald R. Brookman 715 Muir Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Brookman:

Thank you for your letter of March 2, 1997, supporting acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several residents of Homer and the surrounding area. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

cc: Molly McCammon

Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council

BB Hahn, 02:55 PM 3/7/97 E, Intertidal lands-small parcel

To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

Cc: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us, ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Intertidal lands-small parcel program

X-Juno-Line-Breaks: 0-7,9,11-12,14-20,22-24,26-27,33-42

From: chickaddd@juno.com (BB Hahn)
Date: Fri, 07 Mar 1997 14:55:57 EST

To: Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor, State of Alaska

cc: Mr. Frank Rue, Comm. USF&W

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

Gentlemen:

I understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through the 'small parcel

program' and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit

and

Beluga Slough. The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an

appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly

damaged by the oil spill.

Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of high-quality recreation opportunities -- including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic

resource -- was a service that was injured by the spill. The location

renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an avitourism

attraction uncommon elsewhere. In fact, the location was recognized

stopover site of 'international importance' at last year's Kachemak Bay

Shorebird Festival. I and my birding friends here in the Black Forest area would certainly appreciate positive action on this issue.

As I'm sure you are aware, birders such as myself spend billions of "eco-dollars" each year, visiting natural areas such as the above. I and

my friends intend to visit your beautiful state in the future, and only

hope the above tracts will be preserved in their natural state, providing

an opportunity for us to enjoy the beauty, avifauna, and other wildlife

BB Hahn, 02:55 PM 3/7/97 E, Intertidal lands-small parcel

and flora.

Sincerely,

Mrs. BB Hahn 2915 Hodgen Road Black Forest, CO 80921 chickaddd@juno.com 3/7/97

KCCBIRDER@aol.com, 10:17 PM 3/7/97 -, Preservation of Intertidal Lan

From: KCCBIRDER@aol.com

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 1997 22:17:58 -0500 (EST)
To: office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us,

frank@fishgame.state.ak.us,

deborah I williams@ios.doi.gov

cc: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Preservation of Intertidal Lands

March 7, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles

Mr. Frank Rue

Ms. Deborah Williams

It has come to my attention that the Exxon Oil Spill Trustee Council is able

to consider some tracts of intertidal lands in the Homer, AK area for acquisition through the "small parcel program".

I have been an avid birder for many years and have traveled to Alaska twice

for the purpose of observing birds and other wildlife. While I enjoyed my

Alaska experiences immensely, I was aware of the damage done to prime shorebird habitat as a result of the Exxon spill.

Although I live far away, I and many others consider Alaska to be a unique

wildlife viewing location and look forward to future opportunities to come

back and spend more time pursuing this hobby. Since Kachemak Bay is well

known as a shorebird staging area and since the proposed acquisitions will

help preserve and enhance this phenomenon, I would urge you to give positive

consideration to the acquisition and preservation of intertidal lands in the

Homer area.

Respectfully,

Kermit C. Cummings
Pineville, Louisiana
kccbirder@aol.com

HAZELBLUHM@aol.com, 07:06 PM 3/7/97 -, Shorebird habitat preservation

From: HAZELBLUHM@aol.com

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 1997 19:06:21 -0500 (EST) To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

cc: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Shorebird habitat preservation -Exxon oil spill restoration

fund

"I understand that the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is in a position to consider some tracts for acquisition through the 'small parcel

program' and that these tracts might include sections of the Homer Spit and

Beluga Slough.

The preservation of these intertidal lands constitutes an appropriate candidate for acquisition, since intertidal resources were badly

damaged by the oil spill. Moreover, these tidelands provide a series of

high-quality recreation opportunities -- including wildlife viewing, bird-watching, and beach walking. This sort of recreation -- an economic

resource -- was a 'service that was injured by the spill.

The location is renowned as a staging area for migratory shorebirds, producing an avitourism attraction uncommon elsewhere. In fact, the location

was recognized as

stopover site of 'international importance' at last year's Kachemak Bay

Shorebird Festival. Our organization would certainly appreciate positive

action on this issue."

Key parcels of private land are available from willing sellers.

The money is available from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Fund. Please use some of it for this purpose.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter which concerns me as a visitor to Alaska.

Hazel Bluhm
Rt 4 Box 767
Jefferson, Tx 75657
email-hazelbluhm@aol.com

Michael Gochfeld, 03:03 PM 3/7/97 -, (Fwd) Shorebird habitat preser

From: "Michael Gochfeld" <gochfeld@eohsi.rutgers.edu>

Date: Fri, 7 Mar 1997 15:03:40 -0400

To: frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us,

office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us, deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov

Subject: (Fwd) Shorebird habitat preservation

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

Last September I had the opportunity to participate in an EVOS sponsored

workshop on waterbirds and seabirds which, among many other issues, gave

serious attention to the priorities for habitat acquisition using EVOS funds, in areas which were not primarily damaged by the oil. I understand that that acquisition of areas along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough, one of the hemisphere's most important migrant shorebird

habitats, is currently under consideration.

I want to register my strong support for acquisition of this important habitat.

The opportunity to preserve such important intertidal lands will only partially offset the damage to intertidal habitats.

Having spent some time at Homer I am familiar with some of the habitat in question and know that it is a prime area for bird watching, an important ecotourism function and fulfills an important recreational function.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Gochfeld, MD, PhD
Professor of Occupational Health and Environmental Toxicology
Environmental and occupational Health Sciences Institute
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1179
Phone 908-445-2917 FAX 908-445-0130

mike frank, 05:19 PM 3/6/97 -, No Subject

Date: Thu, 6 Mar 1997 17:19:49 -0800 (PST)

X-Originating-IP: [199.165.116.250]

From: " mike frank" <nordicfrank@hotmail.com>

To: ospic@alaska.net

We endorse purchase of Homer Spit and Beluga Slough tidelands using EVOS Trust

Funds. Increasing developmental pressures on the Spit and Slough endanger

wildlife and high quality recreation which form the basis for Homer's economy.

We have noticed a decline in birdlife particular since the oil spill, and

therefore believe that habitat acquisition is critical.

Mike and Diane Frank, 2224 Turnagain Pkwy., Anchorage 99517

Get Your *Web-Based* Free Email at http://www.hotmail.com

Gerald Winegrad, 03:33 PM 3/6/97 -, Acquisition of tidelands at Ho

Date: Thu, 6 Mar 1997 15:33:38 -0500 (EST)

X-Sender: gww@mailhost.mnsinc.com

To: ospic@alaska.net

From: gww@abcbirds.org (Gerald Winegrad)

Subject: Acquisition of tidelands at Homer Spit and Beluga Slough

Please distribute the following message to the Council:

March 6, 1997.

Governor Tony Knowles PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Knowles:

On behalf of the American bird Conservancy, we write to request your support

for the acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in the

Beluga Slough. This proposal is before the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee

Council under their small parcel program. These intertidal lands provide

essential bird habitat, especially for shorebirds. The oil spill in 1989

resulted in significant damage to intertidal systems in Alaska and the acquisition of these tidelands would be a great use of the Exxon funds.

The Homer Spit and Beluga Slough provide significant recreational opportunities as well. Thousands of birdwatchers journey to this area each

year and there is a Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. There are also opportunities for other recreational pursuits such as clam digging, hiking,

and fishing. This is a great opportunity to restore intertidal resources

through acquisition of these areas.

ABC is a national conservation organization with a 62 member organization

Policy Council. Members include the Environmental Defense Fund, National

Audubon Society, American Birding Association, The Peregrine Fund, American

Ornithologists Union, Cornell Ornithological Lab, and the Colorado Bird

Observatory, and the Pacific Seabird Group. Our members are dedicated to

Gerald Winegrad, 03:33 PM 3/6/97 -, Acquisition of tidelands at Ho

the conservation of avian species and many are world-class birdwatchers who travel to and lead birding trips to Alaska.

We understand that the City of Homer is attempting to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation, but the areas before the Trustee Council are in private hands. We would urge your support for their acquisition by

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council:

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Winegrad
Director of Government Relations

Deborah L Williams, 03:30 PM 3/6/97 E, Re: spit acquisition

Date: Thu, 06 Mar 97 15:30:28 EST

From: "Deborah L Williams" < Deborah L Williams@ios.doi.gov>

Encoding: 53 Text
To: brann@alaska.net
Cc: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Re: spit acquisition

Dear Ms. Brann:

Thank you for your letter supporting acquisition of critical tidelands

along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. As Secretary of the Interior

Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the

Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For

your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust

for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence

from several residents of Homer. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

EVOS

Deborah L. Williams Special Assistant to the Secretary for Alaska

Reply Separator

Subject: spit acquisition

Author: brann@Alaska.NET at ~internet

Date: 3/3/97 8:40 AM

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Department of Interior
1689 C Street, Suite #100
Anchorage, AK 99501
deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov

March 1, 1997

Dear Ms. Deborah Williams,

I am writing you to request that you support acquisition of intertidal

land along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough into the State□lSs Kachemak

Bay Critical Habitat Area. The land along the Spit and in Beluga Slough

is very important recreational land. The pleasure the public receives from walking, viewing shorebirds, playing and relaxing along the beach is in jeprody. Little by little this land is being developed for commercial uses. The spit is critical for tourism in the Homer area. The habitat is critical for the shorebirds and their northernly migration every spring.

Sincerely,
Molly Brann
P.O. Box 1901, Homer, AK 99603
907-235-6018 * brann@alaska.net



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 6, 1997

DECEIVED

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dorle Scholz, Coordinator Shorebird Festival Committee P.O. Box 541 Homer, Alaska 99603

Dear Dorle Scholz

Thank you for your letter dated February 28, 1997, regarding Homer's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival and the special features of Homer Spit. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several other residents of Homer. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

cc: Molly McCammon

Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council





AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

CONSERVING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS

March 6, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue, Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Commissioner Rue:

On behalf of the American bird Conservancy, we write to request your support for the acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough. This proposal is before the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council under their small parcel program. These intertidal lands provide essential bird habitat, especially for shorebirds. The oil spill in 1989 resulted in significant damage to intertidal systems in Alaska and the acquisition of these tidelands would be a great use of the Exxon funds.

The Homer Spit and Beluga Slough provide significant recreational opportunities as well. Thousands of birdwatchers journey to this area each year and there is a Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival. There are also opportunities for other recreational pursuits such as claim digging, hiking, and fishing. This is a great opportunity to restore intertidal resources through acquisition of these areas.

ABC is a national conservation organization with a 62 member organization Policy Council. Members include the Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, American Birding Association, The Peregrine Fund, American Ornithologists Union, Cornell Ornithological Lab, and the Colorado Bird Observatory, and the Pacific Seabird Group. Our members are dedicated to the conservation of avian species and many are world-class birdwatchers who travel to and lead birding trips to Alaska.

We understand that the City of Homer is attempting to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation, but the areas before the Trustee Council are in private hands. We would urge your support for their acquisition by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Winegrad

Director of Government Relations

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TAR 1-5 1997

idel & GAME REE'S OFFICE



AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

Conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas

March 6, 1997

Honorable Tony Knowles Governor PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811



EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Governor Knowles:

On behalf of the American bird Conservancy, we write to request your support for the acquisition of critical tidelands along the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough. This proposal is before the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council under their small parcel program. These intertidal lands provide essential bird habitat, especially for shorebirds. The oil spill in 1989 resulted in significant damage to intertidal systems in Alaska and the acquisition of these tidelands would be a great use of the Exxon funds.

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We understand that the City of Homer is attempting to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation, but the areas before the Trustee Council are in private hands. We would urge your support for their acquisition by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Gerald W. Winegrad

Director of Government Relations

& W. Wine

Deer Mr. Rue

I am an aid birder and attend the Homer Shorebird festival every year I am concerned about protecting the Homer Spot habitat and the encroachment of intense commercial development that is runing the area.

I strongly support the againstion of provide and through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Councilis small parcel program, to dedicate to conservation

If the habital is not preserved. Homer will lose the dollars that birders spend to view the unique habital of Homer Spot

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter Sincerely,

Mosy Borrett Baruth
Box124
Sutton Ak 9967 DENT OFF GAME
Sutton Ak 9967

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March 5, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner Alaska Dept of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK. 99802

Dear Commissioner Roe:

I would like to stress that intertidal resources (intertidal habitat and the associated flora and fauna, such as clams and mussels) were badly injured by the oil spill. Privately owned tidelands along the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough are one of the few chances to protect these resources in the spill area. These same tidelands provide high-quality recreation (i.e., clam digging, birdwatching, beach walking), and recreation was a service injured by the spill.

The City of Homer is taking steps to dedicate some of the tidelands to conservation, but the remaining undeveloped land is in jeopardy without action by the Trustee Council. The change to restore intertidal resources through habitat acquisition, coupled with the areas the City will dedicate to conservation and the State's Kachemak Bay Crucial Habitat Area, make this a once-in-a-lifetime chance to preserve key wildlife habitats that are used and viewed by thousands and thousands of Alaskan residents and visitors each year.

Also, please prioritize the Overlook Park property. I understand that a new appraisal is being reviewed and this is a good chance for the acquisition and preservation of this wonderful place for the us of both Alaskans and visitors.

Thank you for your time and interest in these matters.

Sincerely,

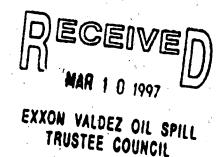
Sherry L. Wilken

FILM & GAME

10534 Spindrift Loop Anchorage, AK 99515

March 5, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams EVOS Trustee U. S. Department of Interior 1689 C Street, Suite #100 Anchorage, AK 99501



Dear Ms. Williams:

I would like to stress that intertidal resources (intertidal habitat and the associated flora and fauna, such as clams and mussels) were badly injured by the oil spill. Privately owned tidelands along the Homer Spit and in Behiga Slough are one of the few chances to protect these resources in the spill area. These same tidelands provide high-quality recreation (i.e., clam digging, birdwatching, beach walking), and recreation was a service injured by the spill.

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Also, please prioritize the Overlook Park property. I understand that a new appraisal is being reviewed and this is a good chance for the acquisition and preservation of this wonderful place for the us of both Alaskans and visitors.

Thank you for your time and interest in these matters.

Sincerely,

Sherry L. Wilken

This letter was also sent to Commissioner Rue Cowerson Knowles

Anne Marie Holen, 09:03 AM 3/5/97 -, Homer tidelands

Date: Wed, 5 Mar 1997 09:03:07 -0900 (AKST)

To: ospic@alaska.net

From: amholen@Alaska.NET (Anne Marie Holen)

Subject: Homer tidelands

(copy of letter sent to Gov. Knowles, Frank Rue, and Deborah Williams):

I am writing to urge you to support the acquisition of shorebird habitat at

the base of the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough tidelands. I understand

that there is an opportunity for acquisition through the Exxon Valdez Oil

Spill small parcel program. These lands would be perfect for that program.

I was living in Homer at the time of the 1989 oil spill. I remember driving

out to Lands End at the end of the spit after a particularly stressful day

working at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, fielding frantic calls

about the spill. At Lands End I ordered a drink to help myself unwind, then

looked out the window and saw a seagull attemping to fly. I soon realized

it had oil on it and could not fly. I burst into tears.

I worked on the original Pratt Museum oil spill exhibit that summer. Several years later I saw the exhibit at one of the Smithsonian galleries

in Washington, DC. It immediately brought tears to my eyes as I relived the anguish of that period in Homer.

This is a rare opportunity to protect habitat in an area affected by the

spill. Please do what you can to encourage acquisition of the Homer tidelands. This action would not only protect the shorebirds, it would ensure that generations of Alaskans can continue to enjoy the magic of this

stunning and unique environment.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Holen 11241 Latta Circle Anchorage, AK 99516 907-346-2789

Charles I. Maas, 08:16 PM 3/5/97 -, Homer Spit Tidelands

X-Sender: cmaas@arctic.net

Date: Wed, 05 Mar 1997 20:16:09 -0900

To: office_of_the_governor@gov.state.ak.us From: cmaas@arctic.net (Charles I. Maas)

Subject: Homer Spit Tidelands

Cc: ospic@Alaska.NET

Dear Governor Knowles,

I wish to add my support for the protection of intertidal resources in and

near the Homer Spit, particularly adjacent undeveloped land parcels. Kachemak Bay is too valuable to let die the slow death of overdevelopment.

I spend time on the Homer Spit at least twice each summer and believe we

should make every effort to protect the local wildlife habitat. Respectfully yours,

Charles Maas

CHRISTINE W. MAACK, 07:19 PM 3/5/97 -, Copy of message

Date: Wed, 5 Mar 1997 19:19:35 -0500

From: "CHRISTINE W. MAACK" < CMaack@compuserve.com>

Subject: Copy of message

To: Trustee Council <ospic@alaska.net>

----- Forwarded Message -----

---- The following addresses had delivery problems ---rebeccaw@oilspill.gov.state.ak.us (unrecoverable error)

---- Original message follows -----

Received: by dub-img-4.compuserve.com (8.6.10/5.950515)

id DAA21480; Wed, 5 Mar 1997 03:11:00 -0500

Date: Wed, 5 Mar 1997 03:10:51 -0500

From: "CHRISTINE W. MAACK" < CMaack@compuserve.com>

Subject: Copy of: Homer Spit

To: EVOS Trustee Council <rebeccaw@oilspill.gov.state.ak.us>

Message-ID: <199703050310 MC2-121A-9A90@compuserve.com>

----- Forwarded Message -----

I sent this message also to Commissioner Frank Rue and to Deborah Williams,

EVOS Trustee.

From: CHRISTINE W. MAACK, 73201,3124

TO: Governor Knowles,

INTERNET: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

DATE: 3/3/97 10:25 PM

RE: Copy of: Homer Spit

Governor,

Please give serious consideration to the purchase by EVOS of some private

tracts along the Homer Spit and on Beluga Slough, which are currently being

negotiated by the Trust for Public Land, the City of Homer and the Kachemak

Heritage Land trust. This possibility has taken shape rather suddenly and

may not survive long delays.

Being a birder and a supporter of habitat conservation, I can testify to

the use of these areas by migrating birds - notably the shorebirds that are

now the objects of an annual festival which has extended the Homer

CHRISTINE W. MAACK, 07:19 PM 3/5/97 -, Copy of message

tourist

season almost a month. The rapid development of log storage facilities,

snagging ponds and various commercial uses has squeezed the birds down to

these few parcels, this in addition to the intertidal life having been damaged by the oil spill.

Giving our wildlife a better chance is always meaningful, and in this case,

we will be doing eco-tourists and the town of Homer a favor also.

Christine Maack 3522 Alexander Ave. Anchorage, AK 99508 907-278-4265 To: ospic@alaska.net

From: amholen@alaska.net (Anne Marie Holen) Subject: Homer tidelands

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Survey at

(copy of letter sent to Gov. Knowles, Frank Rue, and Deborah Williams):

I am writing to urge you to support the acquisition of shorebird habitat at the base of the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough tidelands. I understand that there is an opportunity for acquisition through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill small parcel program. These lands would be perfect for that program.

I was living in Homer at the time of the 1989 oil spill. I remember driving out to Lands End at the end of the spit after a particularly stressful day working at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, fielding frantic calls about the spill. At Lands End Tgordered a drink to help myself unwind, then looked out the window and saw a seagull attemping to fly. I soon realized it had oil on it and could not fly. I burst into tears.

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This is a rare opportunity to protect habitat in an area affected by the spill. Please do what you can to encourage acquisition of the Homer tidelands. This action would not only protect the shorebirds, it would ensure that generations of Alaskans can continue to enjoy the magic of this stunning and unique environment.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Holen 11241 Latta Circle Anchorage, AK 99516 907-346-2789

To: EVOS Trustee Conneil 276-7178 Deborah Williams 271-4102

Beverly Hayes

Oil Spill Public Information Center From: Beverly Haves To: Homer spit and Beluga Slough Conservatio Subject: Tuesday, March 04, 1997 12:35PM Date: Original Subject: Homer spit and Beluga Slough Conservation > From: Emilie Cover < emmy@xyz.net> >To: "'Deborah Williams'" <deborah_1_williams@ios.doi.gov>, "'Commissioner Frank Rue'" < frankr@fishgame.state.ak.us > , "'Governor Knowles'" <office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us>, "'EVOS Trustee'" < ospic@alaska.net > ,
"'EVOS Trustee'" < ospic@alaska.net > > Subject: Homer spit and Beluga Slough Conservation >Date: Tue, 4 Mar 1997 11:39:08 -0900 >To whom it may concern: > I would like to show my support for the acquisition of privately owned tracts on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill-Trustee Council's small parcel program. As a recreational birder and a supporter of the sustainable tourism industry, I believe it is essential to protect the remaining tidelands in these areas. > The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival has grown over the past years drawing many tourist to Homer before the traditional summer season. This helps buisnesses extend the short tourism season. I believe the industry already in place on the spit has adversely affected the scenic beauty of the Homer. It has also destroyed essential habitat for shorebirds, clams, mussels, and intertidal organisms. Mud Bay is an important staging area for migration shorebirds and was dedicated last year as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The City of Homer is taking steps to dedicate some of its tidelands to conservation also. These intertidal resources were badly injured by the oil spill. This is a once in a lifetime chance to preserve key wildlife habitats that are used and viewed by thousands and thousands of Alaskans residents and visitors each year. >

Sincerely,

Emilie Otis PO Box 1402 Homer, Alaska 99603 emmv@xvz.net

air Kir. Rice,

I am conting to risk that the IVES Trustee Council periodice vortione parcels of private land in Bologe Slower and along in Shit in Homes These week, which provide much needed habitat for claims, mussile and a variety of birds, are in perpendicular de volopment.
Hequisition of these perceds will present out development and keep those much recorded parcels nothing.

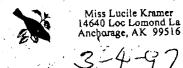
I hope you will give serrous consideration to perchasing these parcels in Homer Thank you for you time and effort.

Since me by. BULLE Bodh (no-Ison 19632 D: your Circle Engle River AK 99577

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MAR : 0 1997

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SINCERELY, Quale Espermer

EVOS TRUSTBE COUNTL 6456 STREET#400 ANCHORAGEAIZ 99501

GENTLEMEN:
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BEAUTIFUL STATE OF ALASKA,
BEAUTIFUL STATE OF ALASKA,
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THE POUNTY OF THE TISELANDS
OF HOMEDSPIT AND POECUGA

SLOVGH-YOUR ACQUISITION OF THESE TISEZANDS WOULD PRESERVE THEM FOR ENHOYMENT AND USE OF AND BY BOTH OUR RESIDENTS AND VIS ITOIZS TO OUR STATE—

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MAR 7 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL



Miss Lucile Kramer 14640 Loc Lomond La Anchorage, AK 99516

3-4-97

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HANKYOO - SINCERELY. Kuil E Damer

Eric Knudtson, 02:56 PM 3/3/97 -, protection of the Homer Spit,

Date: Mon, 03 Mar 1997, 14:56:59 -0900

From: Eric Knudtson <inepk@UAA.ALASKA.EDU>

Subject: protection of the Homer Spit, Beluga Slough, and Overlook

Park (fwd)

To: ospic@alaska.net

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to encourage you to support the protection of several

important sites in the Homer area. The Trust for Public Land currently

has the opportunity to nominate several small parcels on the the Homer Spit and on Beluga Slough for the small parcel program. These sites are a

few of our last chances to protect very accessible and highly visible intertidal areas in the area injured by the oil spill. Protection of these sites is important to our community, the intertidal resources (including our internationally recognized shorebird critical habitat), and

recreational visitors. What a fine statment the protection of these areas

would make to our summer tourists and recreational visitors! Our city is

taking steps to protect city-owned wetlands which combined with contributions from EVOS could make the wetland resources in Homer much safer for all of the appreciate. Thank you for your time, Eric Knudtson

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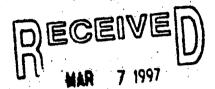


United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

March 3, 1997



Mr. Willy Dunne Naturalist Guide P.O. Box 15043 Fritz Creek, Alaska 99603

EXXON VALUEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Dunne:

Thank you for your letter dated February 24, 1997, regarding Homer's Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival and the special features of Homer Spit. As Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these undeveloped intertidal lands and other Homer properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

The Homer Spit is truly a beautiful and unique area of the State. For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter, as well as received correspondence from several other residents of Homer. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

For Alaska

cc: Molly McCammon

Executive Director, EVOS Trustee Council

2869

March 3, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Re: The Homer Spit

Dear Commissioner Rue.

We stand on the brink of an opportunity. It is not one we should allow to go by. I speak specifically of the intertidal areas of the Homer Spit, areas that were affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill, areas that are of prime importance to migrating shorebirds and to thousands of visitors each year, and community residents.

The Homer Spit of 20 years ago has been greatly changed. We are seeing yearly growth of industry, the filling of tidelands to satisfy this industry. But what about the shorebirds that depend on these tidelands in their yearly migrations? What about those of us who treasure the Spit for recreation, for claming (which we lost because of the oil spill, and which has not recovered) and for the tourists who also treasure the spit for birdwatching and recreating?

The chance to save intertidal resources through habitat acquisition, coupled with the lands the City is dedicating to conservation and the State's Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area make this a golden opportunity to preserve key wildlife habitats.

I urge you support the acquisition of these tracts as nominated to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Council small parcel program. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Once these lands are developed, they are lost. Let us please save these.

Thank you.

Very sincerely,

Mildred "Milli" Martin

FO Box 2652

Homer, Alaska 99603 phone/FAX 235-6652

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526 JUNEAU. ALASKA 99802-5526 PHONE: (907) 465-4100 FACSIMILE: (907) 465-2332

March 19, 1997

Mildred "Milli" Martin P.O. Box 2652 Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for your recent letter in regard to protection of intertidal areas on the Homer Spit. Please know that I appreciate the importance of the habitat values in the Homer area as recognized by the recent designation as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

It is my understanding that the City of Homer is jointly working with the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust and the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) to identify and nominate a number of small parcels for consideration through the Trustee Council's small parcel program. At the most recent Trustee Council meeting, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources indicated that it would sponsor the (TPL) nominations for the purpose of evaluation to see how protection of these parcels would help restore the injured biological resources and human services damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Thank you again for your comments. I have asked the Trustee Council staff to keep me informed of these nominations, and I look forward to learning more about them as they move through the evaluation process.

Sincerely,

Frank Rue

Commissioner

cc: Molly McCammon

March 3, 1997

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Department of Interior
1689 C Street, Suite # 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: The Homer Spit

Dear Ms. Williams.

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The chance to save intertidal resources through habitat acquisition, coupled with the lands the City is dedicating to conservation and the State's Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area make this a golden opportunity to preserve key wildlife habitats.

I urge you support the acquisition of these tracts as nominated to the EVOS Council small parcel program. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Once these lands are developed, they are lost. Let us please save these. Let something good come of the oil spill.

I also urge support of acquisition of Homer's Overlook Park property, also under the small parcel program. This is another little gem that is so deserving of protection. The Council has already set aside wonderful lands. It now has the opportunity to preserve a few more. Again, I encourage support of both the Spit lands and the Overlook Park.

Thank you.

Very sincerely,

Mildred "Milli" Martin PO Box 2652

Homer, Alaska 99603 phone/FAX 235-6652

715 Muir Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 March 2, 1997

To: EVOS Trustee Council

I am sending a copy of a letter I am sending to Governor Knowles, Commissioner of Fish & Game Rue, and Federal EVOS Trustee Deborah Williams. I would appreciate it if you would reproduce this letter to all of the EVOS Trustee Council members. :Thank you.

Gerald R. Brokman

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Brookman

715 Muir Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 March 2, 1997

Dear Governor Knowles:

I am writing to urge that you give a high priority to the acquisition for public use of lands on the Homer Spit, and Beluga Slough, available for sale using EVOS trustee council funds. This would allow the protection of very important intertidal resources, replacing those damaged by the 1989 EVOS and not yet fully recovered. The opportunity to make this acquisition, together with the Trust for Public Land, City of Homer, and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, is one that should not be missed, as once it is gone I believe that it will not again be available. Please instruct the state's representaive on the EVOS Trustee Council to vote funds for this acquisition, and take whatever actions may be necessary, to make it happen.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Brookman

Gerald R. Broken

715 Muir Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 March 2, 1997

Dear Commissioner Rue:

I am concerned about the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough intertidal lands, and adjacent onshore lands, having high wildlife habitat value, in private ownership. I would like to see as many as possible of these areas purchased with EVOS Trustee Council funds as is possible. If you agree, which I hope you will, I hope that you will give this project your full support, placing as high a priority on it as possible.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Brookman

Gerald R. Brokman

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Nancy Lord P. O. Box 558 Homer, Alaska 99603 (907) 235-8252 phone (907) 235-8253 fax IFNJL@uaa.alaska.edu

March 2, 1997

EVOS Trustee Council 645 G St., Suite 400 Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: HOMER AREA TIDELANDS (SMALL PARCEL PROGRAM)

Dear Trustee Council Members:

It has come to my attention that there's a pending opportunity for key parcels of private land in the Homer area (specifically along Beluga Slough and the Spit) to be acquired through the Trustee Council's small parcel program. I believe this is an excellent chance to preserve and protect intertidal areas that are incredibly productive as habitat and are also very heavily used by bird watchers, clam diggers, beach walkers, and others who either live in the Homer area or visit because of the wildlife, scenic, and recreational values we have here.

I would very much appreciate your attention to these small parcel nominations.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lord

brann@Alaska.NET, 10:20 AM 3/1/97 -, Spit Acquisition

Date: Sat, 01 Mar 1997 10:20:32 -0500

From: brann@Alaska.NET

To: office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

CC: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: Spit Acquisition

Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor
PO Box 11001
Juneau, Ak 99811
office of the governor@gov.state.ak.us

March 1, 1997

Dear Governor Knowles,

I am writing you to request that you support acquisition of intertidal

land along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough into the State's Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. The land along the Spit and in Beluga Slough

is very important recreational land. The pleasure the public receives from walking, viewing shorebirds, playing and relaxing along the beach is in jeprody. Little by little this land is being developed for commercial uses. The spit is critical for tourism in the Homer area. The habitat is critical for the shorebirds and their northernly migration every spring.

Sincerely,
Molly Brann
P.O. Box 1901, Homer, AK 99603
907-235-6018 * brann@alaska.net

brann@Alaska.NET, 10:30 AM 3/1/97 -, spit acquisition

Date: Sat, 01 Mar 1997 10:30:51 -0500

From: brann@Alaska.NET

To: deborah 1 williams@ios.doi.gov

CC: ospic@alaska.net

Subject: spit acquisition

Ms. Deborah Williams
EVOS Trustee
U.S. Department of Interior
1689 C Street, Suite #100
Anchorage, AK 99501
deborah l williams@ios.doi.gov

March 1, 1997.

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Molly Brann
P.O. Box 1901, Homer, AK 99603
907-235-6018 * brann@alaska.net

spwhite@kpbsd.k12.a, 09:20 AM 2/28/97 , Homer Habitat

From: spwhite@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

To: deborah 1 williams@ios.doi.gov

Cc: ospic@alaska.net

Reply-To: spwhite@kpbsd.k12.ak.us Date: Fri, 28 Feb 1997 09:20:18 -0900

Subject: Homer Habitat

opportunity. Thank you.

Organization: Kenai School District

X-Gateway: FirstClass Gateway for SMTP/NNTP (MacPPC) version 1.01

As a person involved in the recreational study of birds, I am very much interested in protecting the resources of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. Efforts should be taken to provide the services damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and restore the intertidal resources which are so critical to a healthy habitat. Please work to help preserve this unique and wonderful recreational

Stan White P.O. Box 3034 Homer, AK 99603 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District 148 N. Binkley Soldotna, Alaska 99669 Honorable Tony Knowled ECEIVE PO Box 11001 Juneau, AK 99811

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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

The Homer Spit and the contiguous tidelands including the Beluga Slough, are valuable protective components of the Kachemak Bay. The Bay is recognized as one of the richest marine ecosystem in the world. Some may view these tide lands' resources at the lower end of the the marine life cycle, but they are an important necessary link in the chain. Tidelands are the more vulnerable resource in the ecosystem's habitat and was the most damaged by the oil spill. Along with that

damage and the present pressure of fast pased development of the surrounding property, there is an immediate need for increased habitat protection and the resources'conservation. It is fortunate that there is a window of

opportunity to provide for the vidb. 1. ty of the birds, plants and marine life resources. Homer is prepared to dadicate some public property to conservation and some private property owners are willing sellersofther lands for additions to the Kachemak Bay

Critical Habitat Area.

Your assistance is requested in
encouraging the Exxon Valdez oil Spill Trustee
Council to fund the purchase of these
private properties
Resent and future Alaskins will be
privileged to the continuing enjoyment
of the birds, clams, fish, recreation and
beauty of this area.
Thank you for any consideration

Sincerely Dale Bondmant HC 1 Box 1197 Soldotna AK 99669

Copies to:

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Mr Frank Ruo, Commissioner Alaska Dept of Fish & Game Ms Deborch Williams EVOS Trustee US Dept of Interior

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Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival

P. O. Box 541 Homer, Alaska 99603 (907) 235-7740

DECEIVED MAR 6 1997

February 28, 1997

Exxon Valdez Trustee Council 645 G Street, Suite 400 Anchorage, AK 99501 (907)276-7178 FAX

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Trustee Council Members,

The Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival is a unique partnership among local businesses, non-profit groups and government agencies. Since 1993 the festival has centered around the staging of hundreds of thousands of migrating shorebirds in Kachemak Bay and specifically in the intertidal areas of the Homer Spit. By educating the public about these specialized habitats and encouraging them to observe the gatherings of shorebirds here, the festival has not only increased public awareness of the phenomenon, but has also helped businesses in the area increase revenues at a time of year when tourism has traditionally been slow. The success of the festival depends on maintaining suitable open space and habitat for the returning shorebirds.

Much of the remaining natural habitat on the Homer Spit has been drastically altered or reduced in the past few years as industrial uses there accelerate. Areas where people used to hike, ride horseback, beachcomb and watch shorebirds have been dredged and filled and no-trespassing signs have sprouted. Much of the remaining intertidal areas and low lying vegetated habitats are privately owned and could potentially be filled or altered to the point of destroying the habitat values forever. Many of the private landowners have indicated a willingness to sell their property at fair market value.

We encourage the Trustees Council to consider the purchase of intertidal lands identified by the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough in order to protect and enhance the intertidal resources that were harmed by the oil spill. In addition to helping to restore injured species, the acquisition of these properties would open up lands currently closed to public use and provide new recreational opportunities for birdwatchers and other public uses.

Sincerely,

Dorle Scholz, Coordinator, for the Shorebird Festival Committee

cc: Governor Tony Knowles

Commissioner Frank Rue, AK Department of Fish and Game

Deborah Williams, US Department of Interior.

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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

TRUSTEE COUNCIL

February 28, 1997

Mr. Frank Rue Commissioner Ak. Dept. of Fish and Game 1255 W. 8th Street Juneau, AK 99802

Randall Z. Davis P.O. Box 772 Soldotna, AK 99669

Commissioner Rue:

As an avid outdoorsman, birdwatcher, and professional biologist, I am urging you to use your influence to stop the degradation of wildlife habitat by industrial activities on the Homer spit. Each time I visit Homer, I am appalled at the takeover of the spit by logging interest and consequent habitat destruction. Wetlands important to migrating and nesting shorebirds are being lost at an alarming rate.

Placing property into ownership by the state may be the only way to provide the type of responsible stewardship required for these lands. The area was injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and that being the case, properties there are candidate for acquisition with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) funds. Few opportunities exist to protect these lands and the wildlife and human activities associated with them other than purchasing them. So I encourage you to do all that is possible to support the protection of these irreplaceable resources.

Sincerely,

Randall Z. Davis

Dr. George C. West P. O. Box 841 Homer, AK 99603

February 26, 1997

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 645 G Street, Suite 401 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451

Re: Small Parcel Purchase in Homer

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EXXOR VALUES OIL SPILE
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Trustee Council Members,

This letter urges your support for the acquisition of several small parcels of wetlands on the Homer Spit and in Beluga Slough in Homer that have been nominated by the Trust for Public Lands with full support of the City of Homer and the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust.

As a resident of Homer since 1984 (and Alaska since 1963) and as a biologist, I recognize the great importance that these lands have for both the future of wildlife and the future of recreational tourism in Homer. The parcels are all in intertidal areas now in private hands, heavily used by migratory birds, and sometimes used for local recreation. Intertidal beaches, mud flats, and rocky shores were hardest hit by the 1989 oil spill and these parcels represent some of the few opportunities for the Council to protect sensitive intertidal habitats.

The parcels proposed are adjacent to other lands now being set aside for wildlife and recreational use. The City of Homer and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are both active in planning and initiating educational and recreational programs for the use of their lands, the proposed parcels would increase this opportunity and serve to protect larger contiguous blocks of intertidal habitat, which is critical if migratory birds, including some of the injured resources, make continued use of these lands. Nearby development has seriously threatened the intertidal areas along the Homer Spit. A large block of Spit land was recently dredged and filled for a barge basin and log transfer site. This area was prime upland shorebird habitat until it was destroyed. Action to protect the remaining lands along the Spit must be swift to prevent the loss of intertidal habitat there.

You are aware that the parcels under consideration are within an area recognized for their importance for wildlife as they are within the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Management Area and Kachemak Bay International Site of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival depends on the migration of some 30 species of shorebirds that utilize the intertidal areas in these parcels each spring. If these and adjacent lands are lost to development, the great educational opportunity created by the Festival will also be lost. The future of our wildlife - and the future of recreational opportunities for our citizens - depends on the protection of habitat in areas such as Homer.

Once again, I urge you to acquire these parcels for the protection and enhancement of injured wildlife and recreational resources.

Sincerely,

George C. West



United States Department of the Interior

Marila or to when we were

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1689 C Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5151

February 20, 1997

Ms. Victoria A. Schirado, Director Pratt Museum 3779 Bartlett Street Homer, Alaska 99603 DECENVED N FEB 2 6 697

EXXON VALDEZ-OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL

Dear Ms. Schirado:

Thank you for your letter, dated February 11, 1997, regarding Homer's efforts to protect land on the Homer Spit and the Beluga Slough as permanent conservation areas for the protection of wildlife and public enjoyment.

As Secretary Bruce Babbitt's designee on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, I look forward to reviewing these properties as part of the EVOS restoration process and under the process and procedures established by the EVOS Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

For your information, I have previously met with Chris Rogers from Trust for Public Lands on this matter. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Williams

Special Assistant to the Secretary

for Alaska

Molly McCammon, Executive Director EVOS Trustee Council

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526 JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526 PHONE: (907) 465-4100 FACSIMILE: (907) 465-2332

February 12, 1997

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FEB 1 8 1997

The Honorable Jack Cushing Mayor, City of Homer Homer City Hall 491 East Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99811

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Dear Mayor Cushing:

Thank you for your recent letter in regard to efforts to protect lands on the Homer Spit and in the Beluga Slough

The City of Homer's commitment to safeguarding the habitat values on lands owned by the city provides a good example of responsible stewardship for these valuable habitat areas. It is my understanding that the City of Homer, the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, and the Trust for Public Lands have been making some progress in the effort to identify parcels and secure options for acquisition and that some parcel nominations will be submitted for consideration through the Excon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's small parcel program.

Thank you for your update on this effort. I look forward to learning more as the parcel nominations are brought forward and evaluated through the Trustee Council's small parcel program.

Sincerely,

Frank Rue
Commissioner

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FEB | 3 1997

Homer Society of Natural History, Inc.

3779 Bartlett Street, Homer, Alaska 990

February 11, 1997

Deborah Williams Special Assistant to the Secretary for AK Office of the Secretary Department of Interior 1689 C Street, #100 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Williams.

The Pratt Museum in Homer is dedicated to the process of education by exploring the natural environment and human experience relative to the Kachemak Bay region of Alaska and its place in the world. Our mission is very closely aligned with that of the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT). As Director of the Pratt Museum I would like to encourage your support of the efforts of KHLT and the City of Homer to protect undeveloped property on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough.

Permanent protection of these sensitive habitat properties are an important concern of the Pratt Museum in that we are charged with the interpretation of our natural environment. Adverse development of these properties would impact not only our abilities to teach our audiences the value of these habitats but also put these areas at risk as mainstays of our local growing tourism industry.

It is my hope that you will support the KHLT and the City of Homer in preserving these two dynamic properties for the long-term economic benefit of the entire community.

Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely.

Victoria A. Schirado

Director

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Wow Nathana

(907) 235-8635 Fax: 235-2764 E-Mail: pratt@alaska.net

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Alaska Coastal Currents Newspaper Columns

We have been distributing the newspaper column for three months. It has been picked up by spill area newspapers above and beyond our expectations. Together with the radio series, Alaska Coastal Currents is having a strong public information impact in the spill area. The newspaper column has appeared in the following newspapers:

The Peninsula Clarion	runs weekly
The Valdez Vanguard	runs regularly
The Cordova Times	runs regularly
The Chugiak-Eagle River Star	runs regularly
The Homer News	runs occassionally
The Kodiak Mirror	runs occassionally
Seward Phoenix Log	does not run column

Alaska Coastal Currents Radio

We recently finished production on the 75th episode of Alaska Coastal Currents for radio. Our push this summer to get the radio series aired in more places has paid off. During the last three months, the series has been picked up by public radio in Fairbanks and Juneau and by commercial stations in Anchorage, Kenai and Homer. The following is a list showing where, when and how often the series is aired.

Anchorage	KSKA	Fridays, 10:04 /1:04 a. and 7:24 p.	plays w/Talk of the Nation-Science Friday and after Alaska Fisheries Report
·	KENI	Daily 10p.m 5 a.m. every hr	•
Cordova	KLAM	????	
Dillingham	KDLG	Fridays, 5:30 p.m.	plays after their news hour; repeaters in Sand Point, King Cove, Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, Unalakleet
Fairbanks	KUAC	Fridays, 6:44 p. (as of Oct. 3)	repeaters in Denali Park, Nenana, Healy, Delta, Central, Circle, Valdez, Talkeetna, McGrath, Galena, Glenallen.
Homer	KBBI	Saturdays, 6:05 p.m.	plays after NPR's Living on Earth
Juneau	ктоо	Fridays, 6:44 p.,	plays after Alaska Fisheries Report
Kenai	KKIS	Sundays, 9:30 a.m.	plays after "In Touch"
	KKĻD	Sundays, 6 - 6:30 a.m.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	KWHQ	Sundays, 8 - 8:30 a.m.	
	KDLL	Fridays, 7:25 p.m. Saturdays, 6:05 p.m.	
Kodiak	KMXT	Sundays 12:15 p.m.	
Valdez	ксни	Thursday, 5:46 p.,	plays after Alaska Fisheries Report

-KODIAK DAILY MIRROR, Friday, September 19, 1997



Looking for Octopus' garden in the sound

The octopus is a cryptic underwater beast. In the northern Gulf of Alaska the Giant Pacific octopus, octopus dolfleini, lives from the shore down to about 500 meters or 1700 feet, which makes it both difficult to locate and difficult to study.

Following reports that the giant Pacific octopus was increasingly scarce after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Dr. David Scheel, of the Prince William Sound Science Center. set out to discover more about this mysterious creature.

"I began to get concerned," said Scheel, "that with the small populations out there that it would be difficult to find octopus and so I decided the best people who would know where to find them would be people out there looking for them for food, the subsistence users."

The giant Pacific octopus matures at 15 to 40 pounds. Males usually mature at a smaller size than females. After mating, the female octopus lays eggs in the den and tends them for up to a turned out to be one tenth those year until they hatch. During this time she does not feed, and after the eggs hatch, she dies. Males die within a few weeks of mating.

When the eggs hatch, the tiny octopus spend 4-6 weeks feeding and drifting at the surface with the plankton. They settle to the bottom while still just a fraction of an ounce in weight. Without mating the octopus can live up to five years, reach 120 pounds, and develop an arm span of 20 feet.

To address the villages' concern researchers first needed to learn some basics about octopus in this area - their food, predators, and preferred habitat. For protection the octopus lives in a den - a cavity in or beneath a rock-often marked by shellfish remains at the open-

The scientific literature mentioned they were found under rocks and boulders, but did not mention vegetation. Mr. Jerry Totemoff, of Tatitlek, said they're usually found near beds of eelgrass.

By the end of the study it was apparent that octopus habitat in Prince William Sound included plants. Most of the octopus they found (all juveniles) lived in the intertidal zone down to 16 feet deep. They preferred areas with dense kelp and a sand, mud, or gravel bot-

Researchers found no evidence that there was more food in the kelp or shallow areas.

Scheel says the intertidal zone may be a refuge for young octopus. "Kelp may provide cover to octopuses. Predators like the big fishes do not spend time in very shallow areas. Even sea otters feed most of the time from 8 to 34 meters deep."

Octopus densities in the study seen in British Columbia, which has the only counts available for comparison. There have also been reports of difficulty obtaining octopus on the eastern Pacific coast, and declines in the Japanese octopus fishery in the early 1990s. School says none of these observations alone signifies much, but cumulatively raise the question of whether the octopus has been declining throughout its range during the 1990s.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The series is sponsored by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region.

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By Jody Seitz

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Alaska coastal currents

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Assembly OKs emergency sale of beetle-killed trees

by Chris Russ Staff Writer

Tracts of Kenai Peninsula Borough beetle-invested timber can be harvested by emergency order after the Borough Assembly approved an ordinance Tuesday night.

The ordinance allows for the over-thecounter sale of timber when no qualifying proposals have been received for the emergency harvest of borough timber infested by the spruce bark beetle. It was approved by a 7-1 vote, with assemblyman Ron Drathman of Homer casting the dissenting vote.

Assemblyman Jack Brown introduced the ordinance in August after the borough failed to receive any bids on three tracts of land it hoped to have harvested this summer.

The ordinance gives the borough flexibility when selling tracts of timber and allows the borough to change any particular sale if no bids are received to make the tracts more attractive to buyers. Prices could be lowered or unprofitable portions of the tracts could be eliminated from a given sale to entice harvesters.

"I think it was a mistake," Drathman said "It doesn't make any sense." His concern is that this will decrease the value of borough land timber.

The public hearing prior to the assembly's vote on the ordinance drew little response, Drathman said.

The assembly did not finish its business before its midnight deadline and continued the meeting yesterday. Assemblyman Drew Scalzi could not be reached for comment.

In other action, the assembly approved funds for the proposed North Pacific Volcano Learning Center, funds to pave the area around the Homer Seafarer's Memorial, showed support for the Spit land purchase with Exxon Valdez oil spill settle-

ment monies and approved a land purchase in Voznesenka.

The assembly unanimously approved an ordinance which appropriates \$10,000 to the North Pacific Volcano Learning Center. The center is projected to be built by 2000 at a location seven miles north of Anchor Point.

A resolution was passed to appropriate \$2,850 to partially fund paving the area around the Homer Seafarer's Memorial. The resolution was introduced by Drathman, who said the amount covers one-quarter of the project cost. The city of Homer is expected to pick up an additional quarter of the cost and the North Pacific Fisheries Association of Homer will pay the remainder of project cost.

The assembly reversed a borough Planning Commission decision to allow a utility easement at the end of East End Road. The project would have realigned 100 feet of the road but would have taken away the area where some Voznesenka residents park their vehicles before waking down the switchback to the village.

Voznesenka School is on its way to getting some relief from overcrowding as the assembly approved by a 6-2 vote the purchase of a two-acre parcel of land which will accommodate a borough-owned portable classroom for the school.

A resolution supporting the efforts of the City of Homer for the acquisition of lands on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee funds was approved unanimously by the assembly.

An ordinance of a municipal capital matching grant from the state of Alaska passed unanimously, appropriating \$719,000 for borough road projects.

After reaching its midnight deadline, the assembly reconvened at 9 a.m. yesterday. It held a special session and continued the meeting at 1 p.m. yesterday afternoon.

Dock proposed at SeaLife

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG

By Eric Fry

Thursday, September 18, 1997

LOG Staff

Kenai Fjords Tours plans to ask the city for permission to build a floating dock at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Tom Tougas, president of the tour boat company, said it would serve three types of customers: cruise ship passengers who are booked to go to the SeaLife Center after touring Kenai Fjords National Park or Fox Island; tourists staying in RVs or hotels downtown who'd like to be dropped off downtown; and people on his tours who decide at the last minute to visit the SeaLife Center.

Tougas said the cruise ship lines asked for the option. About 12 percent of Kenai Fjords Tours' customers are from cruise ships, or about 12,000 passengers a season.

Those cruisers arriving in Seward by ship would go out on a Kenai Fjords Tours boat in the morning, be dropped off at the SeaLife Center about 2 p.m., and be picked up by buses about 5 p.m. to go to Anchorage or to lodges in

Kenai or Girdwood.

Cruise ship passengers departing from Seward would visit the SeaLife Center first and be picked up there for lunch at Fox Island and an afternoon wildlife tour. "The dock simply reduces a lot of the busing between downtown and the harbor," Tougas said.

"We're excited about it because of the opportunity to bring more people to the center," said Darryl Schaefermeyer, project administrator for the SeaLife Center.

Tougas is planning a floating dock about 30 feet by 100 feet that would lie north-south in front of the wave barrier just east of the old ferry dock. An 80- to 100-foot ramp from it would bring passengers to a walkway at the SeaLife Center's grounds.

People would wait in line and buy tickets at a covered area on the uplands. The dock would be handicapped-accessible.

The dock would have two faces, one for Kenai Fjords Tours boats and the other for public access. The company would build, own and maintain the dock. Tougas estimated construction costs at roughly at \$500,000. It would be removed in the winter.

The city harbormaster would manage the public access berth and charge its usual moorage fees of 50 cents a foot a day for stays of under 12 hours, or \$1 a foot a day for more than 12 hours. The city also would charge a fee of \$3 a passenger for boats at the public access berth.

Tougas is proposing that the fees be split three ways between the city, the company, and the SeaLife Center. Kenai Fjords Tours, because it would own the dock, wouldn't pay the city any fees.

The company would need a lease from the city for the tidelands and the uplands.

Harbormaster Foster Singleton said the city supports the project. The administration will recommend against going out with a request for proposals, he said. That differs from the city's usual policy when someone offers to use city land.

"If somebody else comes in, there's enough room to accommodate another proposer," Singleton said. "It's not cutting anybody else out who wants to do that. We just want to get this on line when the SeaLife Center opens."

Tougas said he wanted the city to request proposals a year ago, so there wouldn't be any question about it. But the problem now is timing. The RFP process for boardwalk sites at the small-boat harbor took 18 months. He wants to be ready to go in May 1998.

The city would have to approve the dock design and get an Army Corps of Engineers permit to put a structure in the tidelands. Singleton said he didn't recommend putting the dock in front of the sea wall because waves bounce off it.

Schaefermeyer said the project wouldn't interfere with the SeaLife Center's fish pass, to which salmon will return.

Some people might raise the issue of sport fishing. During public hearings about the fish pass, the SeaLife Center said everything east of the old ferry dock would be open for fishing.

Tougas said he didn't think the dock would have a big impact it. "We'll take up a relatively smarea."

Another issue might be a conflict of interest. Tougas is a board member of the SeaLife Center.

He said anyone with issues should call him.

Bixby wants support for shoreline park

Bill Bixby, as chairperson of the Alaska State Parks Advisory Board for the Valdez area, asked the council to support purchase of shoreline property, currently owned by Wayne Blondeau, by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council. Bixby has been organizing a letter drive at the local schools, and other concerned individuals to convince the trustees to purchase the land.

Of the 19 species affected by the oil spill, Bixby said the trustees reported only two living on the property, but Blondeau claims as many as 18 of the species can be found there

To "sweeten the pot," he asked the council to offer the trustees additional land, donated by the city, adjacent to the Blondeau property. All the land would connect to the new Alaska State Parks trail to Gold Creek, which is accessed at the end of West Egan Drive.

Harris asked the proposition be reviewed by the city's planning and zoning commission, and with that endorsement, he would call for a resolution to promote the purchase of the property by the trustees. Mayor Dave Cobb said he hoped to get the resolution and letters to the trustees by their next meeting set for Dec. 15. In other council news:

• Mayor Cobb proclaimed October Arts and Humanities Month. Kristi Sorenson, vice president of the Valdez Arts Council, and Joe Leahy, director of the Valdez Museum, said they would work together to promote arts and humanities awareness during that month.

Science libraries join forces

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A group of Alaska science libraries plans to open as a new public library here next month to save money by consolidation.

Alaska Resources Library and Information Services will house the collections from seven state and federal agencies, according to Cathy Vitale, one of the librarians. All told, there will be 150,000 books and 700 journals, plus access to CD-ROM and computer data bases.

The library will merge the collections of the Alaska Department of Fish and the Game; Environmental Information and Data Center of the University of Alaska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Oil Spill Public Information Center.

Peninsula gains 2 boat launches

Governor says state plans under way for Funny River facility

By JON LITTLE

Daily News Peninsula Bureau

KENAI — With the state's shiny new Pillars and Cooper Landing boat launches barely complete, Gov. Tony Knowles on Monday announced the state already has plans for another one.

The state has closed a \$1.65 million deal on a 146-acre former homestead and cattle ranch in the community of Funny River, Knowles told 35 officials, politicians and fishermen attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the 15-acre Pillars site.

Not only will the state restore shoreline damaged by horses, cattle and bank anglers, it will convert the flat, cleared hayfields into an environmentally sound sportfishing spot on the south side of the Kenai River, Knowles said.

The move fits with the administration's tricky goal of protecting the river from damage caused by fishermen while offering those same anglers a wider selection of places where they can launch boats or cast a line, Knowles said.

He called it "the right kind of access."

"We have to make sure we preserve these factories that produce the fish," Knowles said.

The state calls its new property River Ranch and it borders some pretty good fishing holes, said Chris Degernes, parks superintendent for the Kenai Peninsula. Just what sort of facility will go there still is in the brainstorming stage, she said.

The purchase relieves pressure on the state, which had considered developing its only other property on that side of the river, a smaller and more delicate site, Degernes said.

River Ranch joins a growing list of properties purchased through Exxon Valdez criminal and civil settlement funds. Close to 1,600 acres along the river have been snapped up, some to remain wild habitat zones, while others, like River Ranch, are destined for boardwalks and boat ramps.

Knowles was on the Peninsula for three ribbon-cutting ceremonies Monday, starting at the Pillars, before heading to Homer's recently completed road improvements at Baycrest Hill and the Cooper Landing boat launch.

The Pillars and Cooper Landing launches, both completed this summer, don't offer bank fishing but do provide restrooms, which have been a priority for boaters and residents tired of their property's getting soiled.

Standing before the gleaming aluminum pontoons and wooden viewing decks in the

freshly paved Pillars parking lot, Knowles praised the bipartisanship and community support that led to its creation.

He and Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre and Kenai Mayor John Williams also thanked Kenai homesteader Leo Oberts for selling the Pillars to the state in 1992 for \$350,000.

The project to refurbish the boat launch was paid for

with \$1.7 million in federal funds raised through a tax on sportfishing licences.

The Cooper Landing boat launch, next to the Sterling Highway bridge at the end of Kenai Lake, is on four acres the state purchased from John and Dottie Ingram in 1994, combined with a small, adjacent state parcel. It was funded with more than \$1 million provided jointly by the federal fund and state Department of Transportation.

Yenai study Bunts the grizzly facts

Biologists track bears in effort to preserve habitat near river

By JON LITTLE
Daily News Peninsula Bureau

EAR HIDDEN
LAKE — A
chocolate-brown
grizzly lay on the tussocks at
Chuck Schwartz's feet, her
vacant, tan eyes open and
twitching from drugs. She
groaned like a tired dog.

Schwartz, a state wildlife biologist, made a few quick guesses: She was 7 or 8 years old; her two cubs, bleating in the woods nearby, probably were her first; she was fat from feeding on Kenni River red salmon.

're seeing an absolute prime specimen," he said.

Then he began a quick examination that would let biologists know for sure her age, weight, percentage of body fat, what she'd been eating and how often she'd given birth.

What they find out might affect much more than bear biology. It could sway development in the middle section of the Kenai River.

Working like an Indy 500 pit crew, the three moved fast before the drugs wore off. They rolled the bear's 540-pound body, tagged her ears, tattooed her inner lips, pulled fur out by the roots, yanked a molar, winched her off the ground to take her weight and stuck her with needles to draw blood. Finally, she was fitted with a thick collar bearing a radio transmitter.

tay she's known as No. 66 th Kenai brown bear to wear a radio collar in

a three-year study to learn more about the Peninsula's small and isolated grizzly population.

Biologists will follow her movements, see whether her cubs survive and check on her health.

For two summers, biologists have charted the movements of brown bears using radio collars and some collars equipped with Global Positioning System transmitters. The study already is producing some interesting results. One of them is growing evidence that the middle Kenai River is the Peninsula's bread backet for bears and other predators.

Thousands of Kenai River red salmon spawn there, their dead and dying bodies offering up a huge amount of energy tapped from the sea. Data collected from collared bears show an annual summer pilgrimage by sows with cubs to feed at the river's gravel spawning beds. With them come wolves, coyotes, lynx, river otters, mink, black bears and bald eagles.

"This is one of the richest pieces of wildlife habitat we have on the Kenai Peninsula," Schwartz said.

Biologists want to keep it that way and have asked Sen. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof, to introduce a bill declaring the outlet of Skilak Lake and surrounding state lands a critical habitat

The critical habitat area designation is reserved for select places known to nurture wildlife. Such areas include Fritz Creek, a mooserich area near Homer, and Redoubt Bay critical habitat area across Cook Inlet, which protects nesting waterfowl.

A declaration would affect only state lands, which amount to a few riverfront properties in the 50-squaremile area biologists have targeted. The rest of the land around Skilak Lake is owned by the federal government, Native corporations and private landowners.

The Department of Fish and Game's goal is to keep a status quo around the wildlands between Sterling and Skilak Lake. "Right now, it's a healthy system," Schwartz said. "And if we can keep it the way it is, it can remain healthy."

Most of the land is within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service historically goes along with state-designated habitat areas, said Mark Chase, the refuge's deputy manager.

"I don't know of a single instance when we've disagreed with it," Chase said.

The agency agrees with Schwartz in this case, too. The area is a key wildlife migratory route and a major food source, he said.

But that still leaves two unknowns: Native corporations, which own some pretty big chunks of land, and private landowners. Schwartz hopes money from the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement funds could be tapped for a buyback of Native lands.

Most of the private homes within the proposed habitat area are in the Kenai Keys, a neighborhood outside Sterling that draws insatiable anglers in much the same way as the river's fish attract bears. Nothing in the critical habitat designation would affect those homeowners, Schwartz said.

Schwartz sees the designation as a solution whereby virtually everyone wins. A rich source of food would continue to foster sows with cubs, draw bears away from campgrounds and the nearest residential subdivisions, such

as homes in the Kenai Keys. On top of that, it would protect an obviously vital spawning area for salmon prized by sport and commercial fishermen

GPS tracking has shown the bears sleep miles away from the river during the day when the fishing boats are out. The bruins move in at night to feed. Schwartz sees that relationship continuing but says a critical habitat designation might result in reduced bank fishing for silver salmon in fall, when the bears are most active.

The refuge also might re-

strict camping in fall, he said. But legislation that would

set the ball in motion has barely been drafted. It must face a Legislature that's not inclined to lock up land, and it is a measure sought on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game, not the public.

Torgerson, who sponsored the successful Fritz Creek moose habitat designation, said he doesn't mind sponsoring this bill but is uncomfortable with the fact that it has no human constituency. At least not yet. The idea is so new that it hasn't generated much response from the people who live in the area.

But that could change as soon as this week. Schwartz and Torgerson's chief of staff, Mary Jackson, plan to attend a special meeting about the proposal at 7 p.m. Monday at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture — Association building in Kenai. It will be hosted by the Kenai Watershed Forum, a nonprofit group that promotes the health of the river.

"If the thing makes sense (to the public), I'm going to buck the tides of my political colleagues to see this thing through," Torgerson said.

Fears linger about eating seafood

Are clams, fish, ducks and other animals taken from the area of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill safe to eat?

That depends upon whom you ask.

A column in the Clarion (July 27, 1997) titled "Subsistence Hotline Calms Concerns about Food Resources" really got me going.

First, the headline was flat wrong. It's not a "subsistence" hotline, it's a "resource abnormalities" hotline. All right, I'll concede that the headline writer was just trying to clarify gobbledygook. But saying that a 1-800 number "calms concerns" was way too long a stretch.

At least 20 communities, mainly Native villages, were directly impacted by the Exxon Valdez oil spill; that is, their food was oiled. Or they think it was oiled. The people in the small village of Chenega Bay, on Prince William Sound, saw their beaches buried under a blanket of stinking crude, some of which remains to this day. No amount of scientific study, no amount of data, and no amount of hotlines will calm these people's concerns about what oil did to the plants and animals they eat. Or used to eat. And I can't say I blame them.

Now, even the hotline is going. Charles Utermohle, at the Division of Subsistence in Anchorage, sent me a fax on Sept. 5 that said: "The abnormalities project has been terminated and the



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PALMER
AN OUTDOOR
VIEW

hotline is scheduled to be disconnected. There were very few responses and nothing unusual found."

Larry Evanoff lives in Chenega Bay, which has a population ranging from 30 to 90, depending on who many are away at jobs and school. He and most of the other villagers gather their food from the sea and the land, as always. But since the oil spill, nothing is the same.

"Some folks have been eating clams, but they're not touching any mussels,"

Evanoff said. "Mussels seem to hold toxins a lot longer than clams. They don't clean themselves out as quick. At least that's what we've been told. As far as the little butter clams go, we've had some folks digging those up. But only where there's no sign of oil on the beach."

A Division of Subsistence newsletter sent out in August, 1995, said, ". . . fish, birds, marine mammals and land mammals are all able to rid themselves of limited amounts of contamination in their bile. While this process may cause added stress and poten-

from Prince William Sound

tial harm to the organism, it prevents the hydrocarbons from building up and contaminating the meat. However, shellfish are different, because they do not have the ability to get rid of the hydrocarbons quickly. They accumulate those toxins and retain them for a long period of time."

The length of a "long period of time" is anyone's guess, but many beaches still have oil. People from Chenega Bay have helped on several beach clean-ups since the spill, including one in June and July of this year.

"Believe it or not, we got quite a bit of oil off the beach," he said. "It goes down as far as the real fine stuff, where the sandy gravel starts. That's where it normally stops, right in there. It congeals in with the sand. A lot of it is asphalty, pretty hard on top. As soon as the sun hits it, it will sheen and run, just like it was put there yesterday."

Evanoff thought most of the oil would have been gone from the beach he worked on this summer.

"Amongst all those boulders, where we were working, that stuff was still pooled, which was really surprising to me. It had a little thin crust over the top of it. As soon as you broke that crust, there it was, still pooled."

Evanoff has been told that there won't be any more beach clean-ups, but he's going to ask for another one, anyway. It needs to be done, he said.

I asked him if some people would always be afraid to eat food from the oiled area.

"That's true," he said. "I can still see it today. We've got some folks who just refuse now to take anything, any kind of subsistence. Some of them are younger folks. They're saying, 'Gee, I don't want to have problems years and years down the road. I'm young and have lots of years ahead of me. I don't want to jeopardize that by eating something that looks clean, but is probably contaminated."

Mountains of money have been thrown at testing animals for hydrocarbons and communicating the results, but all the effort seems for naught. Don't people trust the scientists' word on what's safe to eat?

"No. No. To tell you the truth, I don't particularly trust the scientists, myself. They're saying that it's clean out here, for one. They say this oil is non-toxic, that it's just there. A deer or bear goes walking through that and gets oil all over himself, I can't tell it from a distance, when I shoot him. I get him and I look at him and he's all contaminated. He's got oil all over him. And I say, well, gee, I'm not gonna eat this. That's just a waste of meat, and I don't do that."

It'll take time, maybe a lifetime, to calm these kinds of concerns.

Les Palmer is a freelance writer who lives in Sterling.

University fisheries scientists gather in Kodiak Friday

By SUE JEFFREY

Mirror Writer

Now is your chance to ask the professors about those puzzling incidents or changes you have observed while at sea.

The entire University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences faculty, Dr. Vera Alexander, Dean of SFOS and David Policansky SFOS Advisory Council chair, will be in Kodiak this weekend attending the school's annual meeting. Friday evening the Kodiak community and Alaska's fisheries scientists and oceanographers will have an opportunity to get to know each other at a reception at the Fish Tech Center on Near Island.

"This is the first time for many of the faculty to see Kodiak and meet the community," said Dr. Scott Smiley, director

of the university's Fishery Industrial Technology Center. "It's a golden opportunity for the community to talk with the scientists who study Alaska's marine ecosystems and fisheries and for the faculty to hear from island residents who are intimate with Kodiak's marine environment and its diverse fisheries."

The 30-some faculty members represent a wide range of expertise, including: Salmon management and population dynamics; marine environmental pollution; biology and behavior of diving marine mammals; marine mammals and fisheries ecology and management; commercial fish harvesting and processing in Russia, Japan and Alaska; coastal tourism, including commercial and recreational fisheries development; marine education and safety;

seafood product development and processing; commercial fisheries economics and management; Native Alaskan health, diabetes and aging; Native subsistence use; climate change and ecosystem dynamics; K-12 marine education and outdoor safety; computer modeling of ocean currents; PSP toxins; modeling and forecasting fish population levels; aquaculture and hatchery technology; oil spill effects, prevention and response; seaweed biology and marine plants.

The group will spend the weekend discussing the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences' strategic plan and how to implement its goals and map its future direction future in light of current budget constraints. The two-day agenda also includes plans to discuss the crisis in the salmon fishery and the Exxon Valdez Trust Fund.

Alaska's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences spans across the state with facilities in Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward and Kodiak. The entire faculty comes together annually to share information, chart the school's future course and gain first-hand knowledge about each facility. Last year, the school met at the University's Auke Bay facility in Juneau. Next year's meeting will be in Seward.

"While in Kodiak, faculty members will tour the Fish Tech Center and the construction of the Near Island Research Facility," Smiley said.

The 45,000 square-foot building will incorporate running seawater labs and will house the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Parks Service, ADF&G labs and the University.

Doors will open October of 1998.

New York Gity will receive some Exxon Valdez funds

THE ARBOCIÁTED PRESS

NEW YORK - New York City is getting \$150,000 from a fund set up after the Exxon Valdez spill settlement to head off pollution in its own waters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says.

The money comes from a \$4.5 million environmental fund set up by the EPA after lexxon Corp. paid a \$900 million settlement to the U.S. and Ataska governments for environmental damage resulting from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound.

The fund likely was set up with money paid out to state and federal agencies to reimburse them for expenditures they made during the spill cleanup, said Molly McCammon with the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in Anchorage.

"What happened is a lot of federal agencies spent a lot of money responding to the spill," McCammon said. "Under terms of the settlement, they were reimbursed."

State and federal agencies received \$173.2 million in reimbursements for litigation, cleanup and other costs they incurred in the aftermath of the 11-milliongallon spill, she said.

EPA regional administrator

Jeanne Fox was to present a check to city Parks Commissioner Henry Stern at Central Park on

Wednesday. The two also were toplant a symbolic Great Bulrushplant at the park's Harlem Meer.

Exxon oil spill trustees consider Kodiak purchase

KODIAK (AP) — Trustees overseeing Alaska's Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement may purchase more than 1,000 acres at Kodiak's Termination Point.

The tract, owned by the Kodiak Native group Leisnoi Inc., features a popular trail system.

Preservation of Termination Point has become a priority for the trustees, said the council's executive director Molly McCammon.

The trustees land purchases are aimed at acquiring recreation and wildlife lands to offset parcels marred by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989.

McCammon said a purchase agreement could be in hand within a month. The trustees also were considering smaller purchases at Long Island and Cape Chiniak.

Trustees manage a \$900 million settlement paid by Exxon following the Prince William Sound oil spill in 1989.

McCammon said the council remained interested in other Kodiak tracts, including a site at the Karluk and Sturgeon rivers owned by Koniag Inc., another Kodiakbased Native group.

ALASKA JOURNAL OF COMMERCE SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

• The Alaska Science & Technology Foundation will invest up to \$1.5 million for development of an intelligent electronic device by Distributed Solutions Inc. of Anchorage that, installed in power plants, could significantly lower the cost of electric power in Alaska communities. The device uses digital technology to remotely control and monitor the operation of diesel generating units. DSI is a subsidiary of Alaska Power Sys-

• Alaska has won \$2.86 million in the first round of welfareto-work grant funding from the U.S. Department of Labor. The money is to help create job opportunities for the hardest-toemploy welfare recipients. Nationwide, \$1.1 billion was awarded.

tems.

TOURISM

• Princess Cruises carried 61,000, or 9
percent more, Alaska cruise-tour passengers
this summer and a record 124,000
Gulf of Alaska passengers, or 16
percent more traffic than a year
ago. Princess is owned by Peninsular and Oriental Steam
Navigation Co. Rick James,
Princess' senior vice presi-

dent of sales and corporate relations said 1997 has been the best year ever for the company in Alaska.
"Bookings for next year's Alaska

season are going extremely well ... and there's every indication that next summer will be just as successful," James said.

• MACtel Inc. has donated \$150,000 to the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward, according to fund-raisers for the building project. About \$50,000 of the donation will be granted in the form of communications services and joint marketing support.

Termination Point deal could be soon

By JEFF RICHARDSON Mirror Writer

The purchase of more than 1,000 acres of land at Termination Point could be completed within the next few weeks, according to the executive director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Preservation of Termination Point has become a priority for EVOS trustees. Molly McCammon said at a meeting Wednesday at the borough assembly chambers.

Once an appraisal has been completed — a process that should be finalized in the near future — she said the council will begin negotiations with Leisnoi Inc. to purchase the popular trail system.

"If everything works like clockwork, you could conceivably have an agreement on Termination Point in two to four weeks," she said.

The Termination Point deal has become such a focus for the group, in fact, that McCammon said other possible purchases at Long Island and Cape Chiniak have been put on hold.

She said those "small parcel" purchases will be looked at once a Termination Point sale has been fully explored.

"They haven't said yes, they haven't said no," McCammon said, "They've just said, 'Right now we don't want to decide on that.""

Despite the interest in Termination Point — and possible purchases at Long Island and Cape Chiniak — McCammon said EVOS trustees are starting to run out of money. Although the Exxon settlement

earmarked \$900 million for land acquisition, habitat protection and research, she said the money is starting to dwindle.

A number of large purchases — including \$36 million for Shuyak Island — have taken big bites out of the EVOS council's spending money.

McCammon said two highdollar parcels remain in the Kodiak area. Purchase of land at the Karluk and Sturgeon rivers, which are owned by Koniag Inc., is currently under negotiation.

A large piece of land on north Afognak Island has also been under negotiation all summer, but McCammon said expensive timber in the area has complicated the deal.

One advantage Kodiak has, McCammon said, is a vocal, well-organized population. She said Kodiak residents have been the strongest advocates in the state for habitat protection and land acquisition.

Members of the EVOS public advisory group heard from several Chiniak residents Wednesday who said Cape Chiniak should be strongly considered for preservation.

Judy Lucas said the accessible Chiniak wilderness would be a wonderful spot for a horough park. And Woody Koning said both Leisnoi and Kodiak residents are excited about sparing the land from more logging.

"It's a real shame to see the forest destroyed and the habitat destroyed for an income stream, when the owner is looking for another alternative," Koning said. 山鄉縣 "徐祥,几百世代

FOCUS

SeaLife Center nearly complete

By Rose Ragsdale

Alaska Journal of Commerce

onstruction of the Alaska Sealife Center is galloping toward completion in November, fully three months ahead of schedule.

"The weather has been very cooperative," said Roe Sturgulewski, the project's construction superintendent. "We're about 80 percent done, and we have about \$5 million left in work."

Sturgulewski, who works for project manager Lief Selkregg & Associates, said the total struction contract for the center started at .5 million but grew to \$29 million with the addition of more tanks and a fish pass that was not in the original design. Strand-Hunt is the general contractor for the project.

In a mid-August interview, Sturgulewski said the 115,000-square-foot structure was substantially finished up to and including the majority of the rock work in two or three of the center's half dozen or so largest marine life tanks.

These animal habitats are being built by specialty contractor Jolly Miller of Seattle.

"We still have finish work, decorative elements and painting to do," he said.

Aspects of the project that were still under way included case work being done by ISEC, another Pacific Northwest contractor; and mechanical work by Superior Plumbing in the basement life-support system.

The electrical system, installed by Chilkat Electric, was nearly complete, Sturgulewski said.

Landscaping work, including putting in topsoil and trees and most of the paving, is done. and-Hunt still must complete some cone work, build a deck and do a small amount of framing.

"Most of the site work is done, but there's a lot of coordination of the subs at this point," Sturgulewski said. "We're projecting substantial completion by Nov. 6, and turning over the building to the owners after that."

A particularly interesting aspect of the project has been dealing with all the agencies and funding sources involved, he said. Those groups include the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the University of Alaska, the City of Seward and the Alaska Sealife Center's board of directors. "It's been rather complex from that perspective," he said.

Still, the Sealife Center "should be a good addition to the state," Sturgulewski said. "It's exciting to watch it and the development of the programs."

Built right at the water's edge of Resurrection Bay, the center's actual construction has been rather smooth sailing.

Some test results during the design phase had indicated that there might be a problem with water in the construction of the building's foundation because of the location, Sturgulewski said.

"During the highest of tides, seawater would approach the basement level of the center," he said.

Though it proved to be no problem, architects Livingston & Slone Inc. included a provision for runoff in flood conditions in the center's design anyway, he said.

"The biggest problem we had from being in this marine environment was the wind," Sturgulewski said. "It posed some issues for us when the tower crane was up, but it turned out to not be a big problem."

One important aspect of the center's communications infrastructure was the addition of flexibility so modifications can be made in the future to add more telecommunications capability, he said.

John Hendricks, director of the Sealife Center, said he asked for several changes, including the telecommunications flexibility and changes in the use of administrative space to maximize the square footage used for center programs.

"We've been able to be creative with the design to save money and maximize the revenue-producing areas," Hendricks said.

One change, for example, was to consolidate the planned three personnel lounges that separated maintenance staff, researchers and administrators into one room where everybody can drink coffee and interact together. The larger lounge also doubles as key meeting space for the center, Hendricks said.

"John clearly made some major changes to the contract with the intent to maximize revenue," Sturgulewski said. "He definitely looks at the center from the perspective of the bottom line, and that's a good perspective for this facility.

Opinion

and coming over from Kenai to attend.

It was an evening of mystery and sharing of history of Fox Island and Seward in the early 20th century. Thanks to everyone who attended and bought tickets. Thank you for supporting United Way.

Melissa Stone Seward Life Action Council

Qutekcak thanks city

Thank you City Council members for assisting Qutekcak Native Tribe with the new shellfish hatchery through your willingness to have the city act as a pass-through contractor.

In 1992 when we procured money from the Legislature for the construction of a shellfish hatchery (for oil spill restoration work and statewide shellfish industry growth), a clear understanding existed with legislators and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that Qutekcak would be given the opportunity to operate the facility. We also helped Fish and Game gain funding for their desired Mariculture Technical Center and the two facilities were combined into one appropriation bill. The hatchery and MTC

Letters

were finally completed two months ago, though some minor structural work yet remains.

In the intervening years state administration and Fish and Game personnel changed yet we finished negotiating a thorough operating contract with Fish and Game, which recognized us as the sublease operators from the beginning and we submitted a detailed business plan as a 12th hour requirement by Fish and Game.

We were anticipating soon signing the contract when the original pass-through contracting entity, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District Inc., recently under new leadership, chose not to participate any longer.

Misinformation from Fish and Game to Kenai EDD spurred their withdrawal. Fish and Game apparently misinformed them that — 1) "EDD's participation is no longer critical to the success of the project..."; 2) that EDD must comply with increased insurance levels, even though Chugach Regional Resources Commission had previously agreed to indemnify EDD; and

3) that EDD must serve "as the responsible contractor with full liability, with no funding to EDD at all," although the state, CRRC and EDD had earlier agreed that the EDD's status as a pass-through agency was protected in the master agreement and should the state exercise its right to terminate the contract, the hatchery would be mothballed and all liability would terminate.

We have wondered if Fish and Game was negotiating in good faith with us after we learned that their recently replaced mariculture coordinator was soliciting a hatchery operator at a large out-of-state mariculture corporation. These events and other unexpectedly changing and confusing requirements by Fish and Game lead us to believe that they would prefer someone other than Outekcak to operate the hatchery and would prefer to abrogate our original operator agreement. Once again, we thank the City Council for their valuable assistance and role in letting us get the long-awaited hatchery going.

 Qutekcak has excellent financial resources for long-term operation of the hatchery with total budget excess contingency funds of 25 percent or more, even assuming no sales income which is false, for the first three years of operation, which can he carried over to successive years. We also have CRRC's financial support and ongoing efforts to secure additional development funding for years four and five and beyond, if necessary. We are in an excellent position with support from Alaska's strong congressional delegation to soon gain substantially more Bureau of Indian Affairs funding from a variety of their programs. A number of likely funding sources are discussed in our business plan. We should also mention that this April we succeeded in convincing the Legislature (with an itemized list and quotes despite Fish and Game's perplexing opposition) to appropriate another \$250,000 to finish equipping the facility with important mechanical components and tankage for which insufficient funds remained at Fish and Game.

We are well prepared to operate the hatchery and the city does not need to run the facility or know how to run the facility. Should future hatchery operations terminate for whatever reasons the contract spells,

out a notification and motioning procedure which will terminate the operating contracts for both Qutekcak and the city.

Kenneth Blatchford. Qutekcak Tribal Chairman Jon Agosti, Qutekcak Hatchery Manager Seward

Recovery of nearshore ecosystem measured

Editor's note: It has been eight years since the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 millions gations of Alaska crude oil. Time has since told quite a lot about the spill's long-term effects. To help tell the story, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is providing this column focusing on the ongoing recovery within the spill region. The idea of this column is to explain, over time, the many aspects of recovery and restoration and what it means to the people who live, work and play in the oil spill region.

By JODY SEITZ

It's clear that some animals living along the shores of western Prince William Sound have not recovered from the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Eight years later researchers are still searching for an explanation. Is their food contaminated? Are they coming into contact with oil? Or, has their food supply changed, so that they no longer get the amount or kind of food which allows them to thrive?

Over 500 species of plants and animals live in the nearshore area, between the low and high tides. It's difficult to know how much damage the spill caused, as there was little biological data about most of them before the oil spill. To understand the present health

of the ecosystem, researchers are monitoring and comparing the recovery of four top-of-the-food chain predators injured by the spill.



Pleateration and recovery following the Econ Valdezoil spill

Scientists are

hoping to uncover any remaining problems in the nearshore system by comparing two shellfish eaters, harlequin ducks and sea otters, with two fish eaters, pigeon guillemots and river otters.

It's something like a nearshore check-up, according to Leslie Holland-Bartels, of the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. "For each of those animals we look at a variety of population and individual health characteristics," she said. "We look at blood, weight, family structure, to give us a combination of tools, just as a doctor would, if he were evaluating your health."

To find out if animals are still coming into contact with oil, swabs are taken from their fur or feathers. The swabs are put through a test which can pick up oil residue invisible to the naked eye.

Blood and tissue samples tell scientists whether an animal's food supply is contaminated. For example, if the fish eaters are healthy, but the shellfish eaters have low birth rates and poor survival, perhaps what they're eating is contaminated.

"Then we would hypothesize that there is oil exposure occurring," said Holland-Bartels, "but it may be occurring through the food chain, through the sediments, to the mussels, the clams, the urchins, through that part of the food chain until it is picked up by the shellfish eaters."

In 1996 underwater divers began to assess nearshore food supplies for all four species.

Test results have found an enzyme known as cytochrome p450 in the tissues of river otters. P450 is an enzyme that develops in response to certain chemicals, including hydrocarbons, but scientists caution that it's too early to draw any conclusions. The tests of sea otter liver and kidney function show there are still differences in oiled and unoiled areas, but the differences are far less than several years ago.

The project began in 1995 and is expected to continue through 1999.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Habitat protection solves Native corporation land use dilemma

Often the best way to help injured species recover is to leave them alone. Species such as marbled murrelets, bald eagles, harlequin ducks, salmon, and river otters, all benefit from undisturbed forests and mountain streams.

The fish, seabirds and mammals living near shorelines damaged by the Exxon Valdez oil spill may one day help repopulate the area devastated by oil. To aid this natural process, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council created a program to protect habitat in the spill region.

On Kodiak Island, the Trustee Council has purchased in fee simple or in conservation easements a total of 267,000 acres of land, reconstituting much of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The program not only helps restore injured species, but it also offers an economic alternative for the landowners.

It provides a way for local Native corporations to receive benefits from the land without damaging the resources needed for subsistence. Ahkiok-Kaguyak, Inc., was one of the corporations on Kodiak Island which chose this route. The corporation sold a mix of surface title and conservation easements on 118,000 acres for \$46 million, and in the process solved a major dilemma.

Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the corporations were given a land base and cash. These were their assets. The corporate model compelled the boards of directors to go out and make money for the members, the shareholders. But land inside a national refuge or park has special restrictions which do not allow the corporations to develop the land as any ordinary landowner could.

In the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, development is restricted if it interferes with brown bear habitat, said Ralph Eluska, president of the Ahkiok-Kaguyak Corporation.

Charged with creating economic opportunity for their

Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



people, and hamstrung with restrictions on the land, the corporate leadership looked for other options. When the opportunity arose to sell their land, the corporation viewed it as a chance to solve their dilemma.

"People in Alaska in the villages preferred to live the subsistence lifestyle," said Eluska. "By allowing us to exchange our land for money, we can retain that lifestyle and still achieve our economic opportunity promised under ANCSA," said Eluska.

Kodiak communities, like most rural Alaskan villages, have many needs. Electricity, heat, water, housing, education, and equipment all cost money. Business opportunities are limited.

The money from the Ahkiok-Kaguyuk sale has been put into a permanent fund, to pay share-holders dividends from the interest the fund earns. Eluska cautions shareholders to use only the interest from the fund. "If we

dig into the principal," said Eluska, "we can all consider that we have failed, because when we dig into the into the principal we're beginning to lose the corpus of the account for the generations to come."

Ahkiok residents aren't just waiting for the dividends. They're gearing up for eco-tourism—getting their six pack licenses, developing hiking opportunities and water routes for kayaking, and transporting hunters, fishermen, and tourists. The corporation already has three cabins for rent during spring, summer, and winter deer hunting. Some day, Eluska predicts, there will be accomodations for tourists right in Ahkiok.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The series is sponsored by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region.

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

Protecting habit provides economic opportunity

Editor's note: It has been eight years since the Exxon receive bene-Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 millions gallons of Alaska crude oil. Time has since told quite a lot about the spill's long-term effects. To help tell the story, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is providing this column focusing on the ongoing recovery within the spill region. The idea of this column is to explain, over time, the many aspects of recovery and restoration and what it means to the people who live, work and play in the oil spill region.

By JODY SEITZ

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he Star Princess looked immense at the Seward dock Monday, towering over the waterfront much like the glaciers overlook Resurrection Bay. A few of its 1,580 passengers boarded green Trails North buses, and briefly warmed the gift shops on Fourth Avenue.

But the vast majority bypassed the stores and stepped straight

hto buses for Anchorage.

The small fraction of passengers that do stroll the gift shops spend a tremendous amount in Seward, though. The tourism industry eyes the ones that get away the way U.S. manufacturers eye China.

"They're our largest potential for growth," said Donna Harris, marketing director for the Alaska SeaLife Center, now under construction.

Some say the center could be key to bringing more cruise passengers downtown. Given the logistical problems cruise lines face, grabbing a bigger share may be challenging. But if they can do it, their ship will — literally and figureatively — have come in.

Turn-around port

Industry officials say more than 200,000 cruise passengers a year pass through Seward. Princess Cruises and Holland America Line-Westours are the biggest of eight lines sailing the Gulf of Alaska this year. But for most ships, Seward is a turn-around port. In 12 or 15 hours, the cruise line must bus 1,200 to 2,000 north-bound passengers to Anchorage, and a similar number from Anchorage to Seward for the cruise to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cruise lines have have their hands full just moving passengers, let alone planning time in a turnaround port. The result, some Seward businesses say, is that 90 percent of cruise passengers never set foot in town.

Kenai Fjords Tours president Tom Tougas, who worked 14 years or Holland America-Westours, said cruise companies must crupulously distribute passengers across the state for an even flow through buses, trains, hotel rooms and airlines.

"It's very complex," agreed Ann Bollesen, public relations man-

ager for Holland America Line-Westours.

That's why Holland owns Westmark Hotels in Alaska, she said.

Even so, it works with other hotels. It books charters with some airlines, she said, and must work around the schedules of others. Holland must also plan cruises around the availability of buses.

Dan Michels, general manager of the Kenai Princess Lodge in Cooper Landing, said about 40 percent of Princess passengers go straight to Anchorage to catch a plane. Others take Princess land excursions to Denali, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, a new six-day Kodiak bear tour and others.

Even so, about 30 percent of Princess passengers spend half a day in Seward, said Tom Dow, Princess vice president for public relations. That's because the cruise line staggers bus traffic to avoid clogging the highway.

Because passengers have so little time in Seward, shore excursions are limited, said kirby Day, director of Southeast operations and shore excursions for Princess. Princess offers a Resurrection Bay wildlife tour through Kenai Fjords Tours, and a downtown and cabin tour through Trails North. One ship, the Star Princess, offers dog sled ride the Editable Trail Sled Dog Race musher Mitch Seavey.

Capturing a fraction

With the turn-around scramble, Tougas said, cruise passengers comprise less than 11 percent of Kenai Fjords Tours customers. His primary market is Anchorage. That matches reports from gift shops and galleries.

Linda Warabel, owner of Whale Bay Trading Co. on Fourth Avenue, sees a brief surge Saturdays and Mondays, when Princess passengers visit town. But the impact is minimal, she said. Most of her customers are highway visitors from Anchorage.

"We've always felt the rubber-tire traffic was the most important," said Dot Bardarson, owner of Bardarson Studio by

the harbor.

But Bardarson said she's busier when the ships are in town and sets store hours to match cruise landings. Cruise passengers don't seem to buy high-end art, she said. That's available on the ships. In Seward, she said, they more often buy contemporary Alaska prints.

Linda Lorz, owner of the House of Diamond Willow gift shop by the harbor, said cruise passengers typically buy gifts costing \$20 or less. Most don't realize there's more to Seward than the shops by the harbor, she said.

Michels said about 3,500 will stop this year at the Kenai Princess Lodge — a frac-

tion of the estimated 122,000 Princess will bring through Seward. About 70 percent of lodge visitors will take Kenai Fjords tours, Kenai River float trips and fishing charters, flight-seeing excursions and more, he said. For those, Princess will pay businesses from Seward to Sterling about \$400,000 this year. The lodge itself employs 85 people, he said.

Don Holland, manager of the Breeze Inn Motel, said passengers coming to catch a cruise comprise a small but growing fraction of his customers — less than 5 percent. He's bought a 21-passenger shuttle bus and recently added 20 rooms geared to cruise passengers. But in general, he said, cruise lines put passengers in their own hotels. A limited number of people travel independently before or after a cruise.

STORIES BY DOUG LOSHBAUGH

SPECIAL SECTION: CRUISES
PENINSULA CLARION AUGUST 31, 1997

SeaLife smiles

Even if cruise companies wanted to lodge passengers in Seward, there are just 481 rooms in the greater Seward area, including the bed-and-breakfasts, said Kerry Martin, the city's community development director. Tougas said there aren't enough rooms in Southcentral Alaska.

Hotel rooms alone may not be enough. Holland's Bollesen said the key to capturing more cruise business is a desire to build attractions and promote awareness.

"Attractions of any some provide an incentive for people to want to stay and sightsee," she said.

The SeaLife Center is a big deal, she said. With Exit Glacier and Kenai Fjords, Seward will have three big draws.

This year, Holland America offers passengers a half-day extension touring Resurrection Bay with Kenai Fjords Tours. Next year, she said, the extension will include a Kenai Fjords trip, a tour of the SeaLife Center, a night at the Alyeska Prince Hotel in Girdwood, and a day in Anchorage.

About 5 percent of Holland passengers will take Kenai Fjords tours this year, she said. She expects that to double next year, because tours of Kenai Fjords and the SeaLife Center are built-in features of eight cruise packages.

"We've created a full-page ad for our brochure, which will increase awareness," she said.

Tougas said he's impressed with the marketing done by the SeaLife Center. It's done its work with cruise lines, he said. It's worked with the press. For the grand opening, Tougas said he expects travel writers from across the United States.

Cruise lines offer advertising space in books they hand out or sell to passengers, he said.

"We say, 'Yes, we'll buy an ad — if you include a section on Seward," he said.

In the past, that's something the cruise lines haven't been willing to do.

"Now, with the SeaLife Center being a nonprofit, they're willing to do that," he said. "I think next year, in 1998, you'll see a lot of excitement."

Gulf expansion to Homer, Kodiak

Princess, which mentions the SeaLife Center in a current ad with Reader's Digest, is boosting Gulf of Alaska sailings. This year's Princess schedule includes 35 circuits from Vancouver to Seward, Dow said, Next year, Princess plans 36 turnarounds in Seward, and five in Anchorage.

The Anchorage trips, with the 640-passenger Island Princess, include north and southbound stops in Seward, Kodiak and Homer. Because those are ports of call, not turnarounds, passengers will have time for shopping and excursions.

That's a big change for Homer.

"We've never had a steady flow," said

Derotha Ferraro, executive director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce.

Homer always relied on Cunard Lines Ltd., she said. But Cunard's calls ended after its ship Sagafjord burned two years ago. Last year, a Crystal Cruise Lines ship made seven stops in Homer, she said. But this year, there's been nothing.

"The Island Princess is very exciting to us," she said.

Dow said the Island Princess formerly ran a 10-day from San Francisco to Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., then up the Inside Passage. The new route is still 10 days, but starts from Vancouver, and adds the Seward, Kodiak and Homer calls.

"We've developed a reputation for innova-

tion," he said. "We were the first to focus on cruises across the Gulf of Alaska — we broke out of the Inside Passage mold. We were the first to offer dome cars on the railroad. We like to try new things that have appeal."

The new route is a variation on the theme, he said.

"We think the response will be good," he said.

Day said he's talking to chambers of commerce and tour operators in Homer and Kodiak to line up shore excursions for Island Princess passengers. He plans to visit in September. He said he's still deciding on next year's Seward excursions, but the SeaLife Center will almost certainly be an option on all

Princess ships.

Holland America is expanding its
Gulf sailings from 54 this year to 58
next year, Bollesen said, but has no
plans to sail Kodiak-HomerAnchorage route. Seward remains

the turnaround.

In deciding where to call, she said, Holland relies heavily on customer surveys, and looks at the number of attractions and tour opportunities.

"Another reason is awareness.
Lots of passengers are aware of
Anchorage, Juneau and Denali.
Lots of places have nice qualities,
for example, Homer. But customers

are just not aware," she said.

That's why it's so important for towns and attractions to promote themselves, if indeed they want the attention. Some towns don't welcome the flood of cruise passengers.

"There's also the perception, from a business standpoint, that some of these places are meant to be quieter," Bollesen said.

Once the customers have spoken, Holland checks feasibility, she said.

"We also need to account for infrastructure," she said. "It's not just docking. It's also refueling, garbage, and how much a port is

will top 500,000.

Limits to growth

Tougas said Seward's share of the cruise ship market is growing. Maybe 10 percent of cruise passengers visit the downtown now, he said, but it used to be just I percent. Next year, with the opening of the SeaLife Center, it may be 20 percent. He expects continued growth in the number of hotel rooms.

"I think the industry can continue to grow at a 6 to 8 percent rate." Tougas said. "If we have 500 rooms now, somebody has to add 40 rooms would sink, he said. The operator would discount rates to stay full, and undercut the market. He expects some "overspeculation" on the SeaLife Center.

160 mg/

Tougas, who also operates Hertz Rent-A-Car in Seward, said the number of cruise passengers that rent his cars has grown from perhaps one-half of 1 percent of the total to 2 percent, more than doubling that portion of his business. He recently increased his fleet from 10 cars to 22. The town couldn't keep up if cruise traffic grew to fast, he said.

Sonar counts help biologists keep better tabs on Cook Inlet salmon

By Jody Seitz

Up until a few years ago, fisheries managers for Cook Inlet relied on the commercial catches of the drift gillnet fleet to judge the size of the annual salmon runs.

This worked well, as long as the fleet was busy fishing. But when the fleet was in the harbor, fisheries managers would lose all track of the number of salmon in the inlet.

It was a common problem. "When we got into low run strengths, when we weren't exactly sure how many fish were coming back, we'd close the drift fleet and then our computer models became ineffective," said Ken Tarbox, fisheries biologist with

the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Soldotna.

Cook Inlet is 1,000 square miles of silty, glacial water and boasts the second largest tides in the world. This makes fish counting by aerial survey out of the question.

The best solution — remote sensing equipment and sonar sophisticated enough to handle the job — would be very expensive.

Fisheries managers turned to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for help. To assist in recovery of the sockeye salmon injured by the 1989 oil spill, the Trustee Council provided funds for sonar equipment that will allow managers to better estimate returns to Cook Inlet.

The experimental use of sonar in the inlet's turbid waters proved at least as accurate as the traditional system using catches from the commercial drift fishery.

Sockeye returns to Cook Inlet over the last couple of years have been good, allowing managers to compare the sonar counts with the test fish counts taken during commercial periods.

"While the sonar was only counting 50 percent of what was there, it was telling us what the drift gillnet fleet would have caught, which is the variable that we needed to put into the computer model," said Tarbox.

The sonar, however, had its own problems. In an effort to pick up trace waters from their home streams, salmon like to gather in the rips where currents come together.

The turbulent rips also hold air bubbles.

To sonar, which counts fish by bouncing sound waves off the air in a fish's air bladder, the air bubbles look similar to salmon.

Managers have six years of data now and have learned to

count the fish all around the rips. Tarbox credits the sonar for providing a major improvement in management's approach to the inlet salmon fisheries.

Managers want to know early in the season how many fish are

coming back so they can determine their harvestable surplus. Before getting the sonar, they had no way to determine the number of returning salmon when runs were either late or low.

"Now we can close the drift

fleet, send our test fish vessel out with the sonar, and within 24 to 36 hours make an estimate of what the drift fleet would have caught had they fished," Tarbox said. "We can keep our models operating and therefore verify

whether we're dealing with an extremely low run or a late run that appears to be weak."

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Subsistence hunters assist in research on harbor seals

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By JODY SEITZ

In Southcentral Alaska, worries about the harbor seal decline preceded the Exxon Valdez oil spill. No one knows why, but their numbers have dropped dramatically in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska over the last 20 years.

After the spill, hunters noticed unusual looking tissue in harbor seals harvested for subsistence. Subsistence users were looking for answers to their concerns, and scientists were looking for a better way to collect samples for research.

As seals became more scarce and concerns mounted, an effort emerged to create a commission to collect data for scientific research and to get some answers.

The Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission was incorporated in 1995, and it's been busy ever since. sion is statewide organization with members from all over Alaska.

Meetings bring together hunters and



scientists to discuss the status of harbor seals. According to Director Monica Reidel, of Cordova, the commission lets Alaska Natives get involved in both research and management.

"It allows us to be part of collecting the data that eventually goes to the managers who make decisions," said Reidel, "Native people need to have a lot of input in those decisions because they directly affect us."

One of the commission's current projects is to work with the University of Alaska Sea Grant program and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to sample the subsistence harvest of harbor seals statewide. This allows scientists to compare seals from the gulf region, where their numbers are low, with harbor seals from other areas.

The project is also integrated with an educational program in the Chugach School District — the Youth

Area Watch. Through this program, high school students work with scientists conducting field research.

In the seal biosampling project, a veterinarian or biologist teaches hunters and young people the proper methods for taking pieces of skin, blubber and other tissues and organs for research. The project provides all the necessary chemicals, tools and forms for preserving samples.

Laboratory analysis of the samples can provide vital information about diet, disease, reproduction and the possibility of oil contamination.

The system seems to be working particularly well. Students are good at doing the paperwork while their elders are expert hunters.

For some students the project is invaluable experience that may hold promise for careers in scientific pursuits. For others, the biosampling brings them closer to their elders while sharing an essential piece of their culture and history.

The samples are currently sent to scientists statewide and nationally. Kate Wynne, biosampling instructor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Sea Grant program, said, "the program is up and running. The hunters are enthusiastic, and the scientists are ecstatic with the samples they're getting."

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Point of View Old data help explain today's ecosystem changes

by Jody Seitz

Alaska Coastal Currents

Everyone, consumers and fishermen alike, knows the major species in the Gulf of Alaska have changed from shrimp and crab to pollock, cod and flatfish.

In 1995, fisheries managers reviewed 40 years of trawl data from the Gulf of Alaska to get a long-term perspective on the changes, and what they found appears to have been a major ecosystem shift.

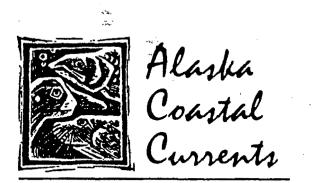
There has been a dramatic and abrupt change in the numbers and types of species and their relative abundance. The data show it only took about two years, from 1978 to 1980, for all the major species of shrimp to decline and be replaced as the most abundant species by cod, pollock and flatfish.

Shrimp trawl surveys began in 1953 as a way to monitor the effects of a growing commercial shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. The trawl survey, conducted first by the National Marine Fisheries Service and later by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, cast a fine mesh net into gulf waters and caught nearly everything in its path. During the early years, only the main commercial species were counted. But since 1970, all the species caught in the survey have been sorted and counted.

Capelin, an important staple in the diets of many fish, marine mammals and seabirds, were caught in the trawl, along with fishes such as cod, pollock, prickleback, Pacific sandfish and eulachon. Capelin was so abundant

during the early years of the shrimp fishery the fishermen used to call it "fish contamination."

The late 1970s shift affected more than the commercially popular crab and shrimp species. Capelin, eulachon, Pacific sandfish and prickleback are not commercially harvested in the Gulf of Alaska, but they also declined.



Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oll spill

This indicates that the cause of the shift is most likely not commercial fishing, according to Paul Anderson, of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Kodiak. "Whatever caused the change in composition probably acted in a similar way on sandfish and capelin," said Anderson.

The shift in dominant species also brought with it a 50 percent decline in biomass. Species such as cod, pollock and other gadids grow much larger as they mature than do crustaceans such as shrimp and crab. They feed on plankton as well as smaller fishes. This means there is less food available for other species that must feed on smaller fishes.

There are some indications that a change in ocean temperatures could have something to do with these major changes. While there was a two degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature in the Gulf of Alaska during the late 1970s, halfway around world in the North Atlantic ocean temperatures decreased by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit and fishermen switched from cod to shrimp gear.

The trawl survey data is remarkable because it has been conducted every year in the same way for over 40 years. "We would have missed the abrupt decline if we hadn't been doing the same surveys in the same way all these years," said Anderson.

The historic dataset could be a crucial tool as scientists begin focusing on changes in seabird and marine mammal diets — a theme common to theories on their declines in the North Pacific.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The series is sponsored by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region and is seen occasionally in this space. ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS August 26, 1997 Page B10

Settlement funds wasted

I recently wrote to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council opposing some proposed expenditures from the fund. One project I opposed was feeding river otters oil to study their blood chemistry. I figured that could have been done and probably was done during and after the spill. The chief scientist states, "The reviewers doubt the project will yield significant insights into river otters in a wild situation".

Another study I objected to was the continuation of the 27-year temperature and salinity data collection station near Seward. They admit, "The parameters of an overall longterm monitoring program have yet to be described and the site has no associated biological measurements." They also admit a similar proposal is already being funded by the

GLOBEC program.

These are just two examples (both were approved) of the many years of "study" that has been and will continue to be funded out of the Exxon Valdez settlement unless the public strongly objects. Much of this research already has produced conclusions: Oil spills harm the environment and wildlife for many years. Most of us could have told them that for free! Decades of repetitive "study" will not save or restore organisms or wildlife. Studies will not help them when another oil spill coats their bodies and kills them. Studies will not prevent another spill.

I believe we've studied the effects of the spill to death. The only benefit seems to be for the scientists, biologists and researchers to keep collecting "public money" salaries.

The remaining money should be used for wildlife protection and habitat enhancement.

— Carol Jensen Anchorage

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Spill-study facts confused

Carol Jensen (letters, Aug. 26) opposes spending Exxon Valdez oil-spill restoration funds on research but presents inaccurate information about two projects recently ap-

proved by the Trustee Council.

Ms. Jensen refers to a study that will help determine whether river ofters are still exposed to oil contamination in Prince William Sound, and she quotes the Trustees chief scientist about doubts that the project "will yield significant insights into river ofters in a wild situation." This quote refers to a portion of the study that was not approved for funding! In fact, the chief scientist believes that the funded portion of the river ofter project is appropriate and important for what will be learned about possible ongoing exposure of wild river ofters to oil.

She also lifts out of context comments from the chief scientist about the importance of a 27-year database on marine temperatures and salinity near Seward. The project being funded by the Trustees complements, but does not duplicate, related work funded by the prestigious National Science Foundation as part of their GLOBEC program. In combination, the two projects will contribute to long-term monitoring of the health of the marine ecosystem and help researchers distinguish lingering effects of oil from natural variability in the environment.

The restoration studies conducted after the Exxon Valdez oil-spill settlement are indeed helping to restore fish and wildlife injured by the oil spill through improved management of human uses, helping to prepare for future oil spills and enhancing long-term management and conservation of the northern Gulf of Alaska marine ecosystem for the benefit of the public. Decisions about allocations of restoration funds are made through an open, public process. We appreciate and invite the participation of Ms. Jensen and others who care about protection of fish and wildlife and their habitats in the oil-spill area.

Stanley E. Senner, science coordinator
 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

SPECIAL REPORT

Summer's end lends urgency to building

By Susan K. Chojnacki
For the Journal of Commerce

onstruction projects are scattered across the Kenai Peninsula this summer, and as the short fall season approaches, many contractors and companies are hurrying to complete their work before the first snowfall.

Construction projects like the \$5.8 million rebuild of the first 2.8 miles of the Kenai Spur Highway in Soldotna are well under way and ahead of schedule.

The project's primary contractor, Alaska Roadbuilders, expects two-way traffic to remain open and preserve access to businesses along the highway.

In July, crews began the groundwork by removing sidewalks and old pavement from the fivelane section of the Y at Soldotna to the Eagle Trailer Court, which is already half-paved, moving

from there to Eddy Hill Drive. This section, along with the next, will be widened to five lanes. A new section, east of Soldotna, will be built, closing the loop and rejoining the existing spur highway.

The entire project could be finished by mid-August 1998 instead of the projected two-year Construction period slated.

Other Peninsula construction projects include the Economic Development District's Business Innovation Center, where work will continue through the fall and early winter. The center is scheduled to open its doors by year's end.

The EDD facility will provide a new home for the small business incubator, which will have six 565-square-foot lease spaces and one 220-square-foot space available. Each space will have a separate entrance consisting of an overhead door and main doors to an interior hallway and to the outside, separate restrooms, a common area for office equipment, and access to lunch and conference rooms. The facility also has a large 7,000-square-foot warehouse area, that will be divided into three large spaces at a later date.

"We are currently building the facilities, and have had several people in the area express interest in the incubator program," said EDD economist Aleja DeVito.

The new Business Innovative Center will provide tenants with financial business counciling, training in specific business skills, and shared office equipment and services. Emerging businesses will be able to utilize the BIC's facility in their first years of operation.

Another project expected to begin this fall or winter is the expansion and full-service

upgrade of the Land's End Resort. The popular Homer establishment's management said it will put more emphasis on the resort part of its name, providing year-round amenities.

Two years ago, Land's End added the largest private meeting facilities on the Kenai Peninsula—two meetings rooms can serve at least 200 comfortably, said Jeff Murphy, Land's End's director of hotel management.

The existing 61-rooms, dining room and kitchen have undergone a complete overhaul.

The resort is planning to build an estimated \$4 million, 42-room unit, adjacent to the existing structure including a spa, hopefully by this winter, and future plans call for construction of an additional 48-room, or larger, unit in two or three years.

"We're seeing a growing demand in the offseason, and that was driving the hotel expansion," Murphy said.

"Adjacent to the hotel is the RV park. While it's a wonderful location for an RV park, it isn't the highest and best use. Along with expanding the hotel, we also want to add a Planned Unit Development (PUD) on to rounded portion of the spit's end, beginning this winter" Murphy said.

Murphy said Land's End will build 33 new private homes, with sale prices ranging from \$200,000 to \$250,000, on the three-acre site. The houses will be situated in rows, with boardwalks connecting them to the beach and built at staggered heights, allowing scenic views.

"The resort plan provides a cleaner, focused use of the property for the entire community, We're hoping to attract more afluent tourists or companies and organizations to purchase the homes, and offer rental management to owners during unoccupied periods for around \$300 per night," Murphy said.

Land's End has applied for a bank-stabilization permit, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which requires storm-search and damage protection and a zoning variance. Both would allow the PUD to be constructed. The development is expected to take five to seven years to complete.

The new Shellfish Mariculture Center recently built by the Qutekcak Native Village Corp. and funded the Alaska Department of Fish and Game next door to the site of the Alaska Sealife Center is scheduled to open for business this fall.

The facility initially will sell seedbed clams, oysters and scallops to local shellfish farmers and eventually offer visitor displays of its hatcheries as an added attraction in Seward's downtown area.

Likewise, Chugach Alaska Corp., the Native regional corporation for Seward is vying for the site on the other side of the Sealife Center to build a Native cultural center.

"We're hoping those three facilities will generate significant visitors to downtown," said Seward City Manager Ron Garzini.

Garzini said Seward officials also have agreed to join the National Parks Service and the U.S. Forest Service in building an office-conference center in Seward.

City officials hired GDM Architects of Anchorage and Fairbanks to design a feasible structure, and they entered into a second agreement to split the projected \$10 million cost of the facility.

Garzini said Seward's City Council has developed a plan to raise the city's \$2.5 million share of the estimated cost and the participating federal agencies already have advanced

\$600,000 for the project.

"We expect the center will be a year 2000 facility," he added.

Big plans are in the works for the old sawmill in Seward. The new owner, Afognak Logging, is planning to convert the sawmill site and fully equipped dock into a multipurpose dock for cargo and passenger vessels. The sawmill's existing 130,000-square-foot-warehouse could be used for storage and freight.

"Also a couple years down the road, we're planning to put in a boat harbor," said company spokesman Steve Shafer. "Other buildings on-site could lend themselves to use by boat-repair shops and other businesses who have started to show a lot of interest."

Shafer said the dock is large enough to accommodate Alaska Glacier Cruise boats and also could accommodate freight off-loading.

"There's a lot of potential for the port at Seward to handle freight with its warmer, ice-free beach," he said. "Anchorage is iced in nearly six months out of the year, Seward may be a better alternative and could potentially reduce the number of companies going out of state."

The sawmill sale was approved by city council, but according to Shafer, opposition has stalled the project. Unsuccessful bidders hoping to purchase the site have begun litigation and are being counter-sued by Afognak. The new project will operate under the name, Alaska Global Freight & Terminal Co.

New treatment options for the Kenai Peninsula also are in the works. Despite being turned down for a state grant to open an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment center, Akeela Kenai plans to open one anyway.

There's a shortage of treatment options available in the area with the closing of the only residential treatment center. Pacific Rim Counseling Inc. and over-burdened Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse say they have more clients than they can handle.

Akeela believes there is enough business and that they can be supported with fees and provide alternative service in the community.

Akeela Kenai, off Trading Bay Road, will provide a treatment program initially for adults and will start with a single counselor.

Akeela has offered to open a residential treatment program, with a borough subsidy of \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year.

Providence Alaska Medical Center also has proposed reopening the Family Treatment Center at no cost to the borough or with a subsidy of \$50,000 a year. Both proposals are on hold until the borough

decides what will be done with the hospital

The Volcano Learning Center, a new of cational and visitor attraction planned for the Kenai Peninsula, is in the beginning stages of construction design for the 20,000-square-foot building that will house an auditorium, gift shop and food concession.

"The volcano observation command center will provide real-time monitoring equipment and staff. It's primary function will be to educate students and visitors about volcano behavior, natural forces, and volcanic and sysemic activity," said Emmitt Trimble, NPVLC director's board member, representing the Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce.

"We're in the fund-raising mode for additional design and land purchase. Our next fund-raising event is a barbecue at Senator John Torgerson's and is scheduled for Sept. 13. Interested tourism players would be well-served to attend," he added.

Morris News Service contributed to this report.

With much to gain — and lose — Seward counts on success of new SeaLife Center

By Rose Ragsdale Alaska Journal of Commerce

EWARD — The \$56.1 million Alaska SeaLife Center nearing completion here is a daring gamble that its gutsy organizers hope will pay off with 300,000 visitors annually and enough revenue to support a \$4.3 million yearly operating budget.

But to accomplish that goal, this giant aquarium of the North must become much, much more. For local business owners, the SeaLife Center must deliver droves of tourists trooping through downtown from cruise ships and road traffic, spending their cash in Seward

shops and restaurants.

"In the past, people have not come downtown," said City Manager Ron Garzini. "We think the SeaLife Center, along with the Shellfish Mariculture Center adjacent to it and the Native Cultural Center planned for the other side of it, will generate significant visitors, and they will be parking and walking around downown. And we think it will bring more yearround activity. One of the problems Seward has had is it's too quiet in the winter."

Though the center is still nine months away from projected startup, it is drawing scores of visitors with hard-hat tours of the three-floor structure — now nearly 85 percent built along with droves of curiosity seekers who simply drive by.

The Seward economy also stands to gain 42 year-round, high-paying jobs from the SeaLife Center with a \$2.2 million annual payroll, much of which will be spent locally.

Cold-water researchers, meanwhile, are banking on the SeaLife Center being a scientinc sanctuary from inadequate laboratories and the arcane partisan politics of academia.

"One of the important things we want to establish here is neutral ground," said John Hendricks, the center's executive director. "We also want to offer best practices to the scientists."

Roe Sturgulewski, construction superintendent for the center, said a lot of agency eview occurs in scientific research that is not coordinated. "To the extent that this facility enables researchers to talk to each other, that will be good for Alaska," he predicted.

Hendricks, formerly the head of the Texas State Aquarium and a U.S. Marines Infantry Officer for 25 years "on the sea and under the sea" and a Desert Storm/Persian Gulf War veteran, said the center aims to sell its merits to research agencies that provide funding for marine study and to the scientists who actually do the work.

"We're actually starting the research program a year earlier than it was originally envisioned," he said.

Part of the center's early success in attract-

ing researchers may have something to do with Hendricks' willingness to do his homework to promote the facility.

For example, the executive director pulled out a foot-high stack of scientific papers on Steller sea lions when he was asked about the possibility of researchers coming to the center to study ways to save the endangered species.

The Exxon Valdez Trustee Council has agreed to fund five research projects at the SeaLife center, with the first one beginning in March, Hendricks said.

The national Sea Grant program had committed to one project and funding for other projects from the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Science Foundation is in the works, he added.

For the animals to be housed at the facility, the center must be a clean, safe environment. Designers incorporated an intricate and expensive life support system in the basement with three different ways to clean the 4,000 gallons per minute of seawater and 500 gal-. lons of fresh water that can be pumped into \ the facility at peak capacity, using huge filters. Research labs also are on the leading edge with sterile conditions seen only in hospitals and top-notch research facilities.

For the public, the SeaLife Center must be worth the time and trouble to visit. The original concept of allowing visitors to look in on working researchers had to be abandoned as impractical with a projected 2,500 people a day pouring into the 115,000-square-foot center. Still, the public will get a show — one that in many ways will be better, Hendricks hopes.

In addition to traditional live and touch displays, aquariums and interpretative alcoves, program ideas already on the drawing board include viewing trained animals going about regular routines with researchers, video cameras eavesdropping on nature inside wildlife burrows and nests, taped presentations by researchers explaining their work, along with elements of street theater and storytelling designed to entertain and enhance the visitor experience.

Hendricks said he is working with Alaska video production companies to develop the program content, which will be organized at three levels:.

- Self-guided tours of the visitor spaces mainly on the second floor and the first-floor underwater gallery and gift shop;
- Guided tours; which will add a trip to research spaces on the first floor; and
- · Programs that will focus on discovery experiences that cater to both children and adults.

Hendricks said the center is depending on . telecommunications technology to provide the critical components that will push the project over the top as both a superb research facility and visitor attraction.

Ironically, Seward is telecommunicationspoor, and Hendricks has focused a great deal of effort in the 10 months since he joined the project developing partnerships with other local institutions, such as the Alaska Court System and the state prison, and with AT&T Alascom and MACtel to upgrade local capacity.

"The SeaLife Center has a need for telecommunications that hasn't arrived in Seward yet," Hendricks said. "It's only going to work if we can develop partnerships with others

who have similar needs to use sophisticated telecommunications equipment."

The center director aims to share such facilities with local magistrates, judges and state officials who need videoconferencing and other telecommunications services.

Not only will the center offer a CD-ROM library for its scientists and staff, it will provide Internet access to virtually every library in the world, Hendricks said.

The center also is working with the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation to link with other museum and research centers.

And this is where the SeaLife Center's final human constituency comes in. For teachers and schools worldwide, the center plans to offer educational programs at every grade level, from kindergarten to post-doctoral study.

Already, the SeaLife Center homepage can be found on the Internet at www.alaska.net.com/sealife. Structured on pyramid, the center's Internet access will lave top levels available to the public and pottom ones that are secure for researcher communications only.

"If we can get some partners, we can jump into the 21st century real quick," Hendricks promised. While 85 percent of the center's \$4.3

million yearly operating budget will come from visitor revenues and the remaining 15 percent from research funding, Hendrickshopes to gradually build the research component until it accounts for 35 percent of the annual budget.

The city of Seward is gambling on the center's success, having committed to run the facility for at least two years if it isn't financially viable and anteing up the nearly \$18 million in revenue bonds to complete the facility's financing.

"The city of Seward, to give comfort, had to back-stop the project," Garzini said. "We're responsible for the state's investment, but my hope is that the city will stay far away from it and allow them to operate the center aggressively and profitably."



The sea lies habitat is among aftractions taking shape at the Alaska Seatife Center i Seward. The \$56.1 million center is scheduled to open this spring.

State buys 17 acres on Kenai River

By JON LITTLE Daily News Peninsula Bureau

chased 17 more acres of Kenai River land to protect critical fish and game habitat from encroaching development.

The Department of Fish and Game recently closed the deal on property near Beaver Creek in Kenai. It is a parcel in the river's tidally influenced grassy wetlands, about 10 miles upstream from Cook Inlet.

It paid \$49.400 to landowner Brian Lowe for the property, a month after closing a \$448.600 deal for 23 acres called Tall Timbers near the Big Eddy fishing hole in Soldotna.

The acquisitions were funded by a \$1.2 million pool of money siphoned specifically for Kenai River land pur-

chases from the \$50 million Exxon Valdez criminal settlement, said Mark SOLDOTNA — The state has pur- Kuwada state fisheries habitat biologist.

Both lawmakers and biologists thought it was wise use of the money to protect the river and repair damage to its banks that can be traced back to the 1989 oil spill. Kuwada said.

Even though the 11 million gallons of North Slope crude that spilled from a tanker in Prince William Sound barely reached lower Cook Inlet, it sent a shudder through the Inlet's ecosystem. Kuwada said.

The prospect of oiled fishing nets triggered a complete shutdown of the Inlet's drift gillnetters. Red salmon moved up the Kenai River en masse, intensifying interest in the sport fishery. he said. Now the state wants to buffer

the river from too much development where the fish spawn and spend their early years. Kuwada said.

Fish and Game will manage the two recently bought parcels to protect riverbank habitat. Kuwada said.

It plans two more purchases in the near future, he said. One is a 27-acre parcel just upstream from the Lowe property near Beaver Creek, and the other is an 8-acre parcel in Soldotna, where Soldotna Creek empties into the river.

Fish and Game's Kenai River land fund pales in comparison with the \$900 million Exxon Valdez civil settlement. That fund is managed by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, which has purchased more than 1.600 acres near the Kenai River. The council has more land deals in the works.

Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



Students find relevant science in spill studies

Just mention the Youth Area Watch to Chugach School District Superintendent Roger Sampson and watch him light up.

The project, now in its second year, puts 25 students from schools in Prince William Sound out in the field working side by side with scientists on oil spill restoration research. According to Sampson the learning program turned out to be more successful than they imagined.

"We originally thought it was going to be great, to get kids in the field with scientists," Sampson said. "We thought it would be a healthy way to promote scientific concepts and science skills. But it's grown to be so much grander and bigger than that."

The project engages students in sampling mussels, taking scientific samples of harbor seals harvested for subsistence, collecting herring, and taking oceanographic measurements. Students are selected for the program based on their academic performance and their interest in field science and subsistence.

Students from Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, Chenega Bay, and Seward, as well as one student in home school on Hinchinbrook Island, are all part of the project. The students learn scientific methods for collecting data, analyzing the information, and writing reports.

The program not only teaches the students, but the teachers as well. "Instructors are very conscious of how they can connect this lesson in a way that means something to the kids, something that's relevant in their world," Sampson said. "We can still teach those scientific skills, those math skills, those career skills, but we want to do it with something that's stimulating and motivating and real to them."

For some students such projects as the scientific sampling of seals have brought them closer to their elders. "It's opened up that line of communication," said Sampson. "For those students the emphasis might be on sea mammals and culture and history and their own family, and how it relates to community."

According to Sampson, students are talking about careers now. By having contact with scientists, they have a chance to talk with someone besides a teacher about the skills they're learning, see different skills in use, and get exposure to different careers.

Mel Henning, school district coordinator for Youth Area Watch, hopes the students will increasingly be viewed as a resource to scientists hoping to extend their data gathering potential:

Finally, Sampson's excitement about the Youth Area Watch stems from another important side benefit. School districts often talk about getting parents and communities involved in their children's education. "This has been the avenue to do that in many of these communities," said Sampson.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The series is sponsored by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region.

Construction surge takes hold on Peninsula

By JON LITTLE

Daily News Peninsula Bureau

The hulking Alaska SeaLife Center rising along Seward's scenic waterfront may one day make its mark on marine science. But for now, the still unfinished research laboratory is driving a construction boom the likes of which the town hasn't seen in years.

Hotel expansions, new gas stations, fast-food restaurants, even a new Lutheran church all are in various stages of construction this summer as the city born amid last century's gold rush now sets its sights on modern-day gold: tourists.

At the core of the new rush is the SeaLife Center, monolithic proof that Seward's long wish for a strong tourism economy no longer is pie-in-the-sky, said Seward City Manager Ron Garzini. Scheduled to open in 1998, the center already is a magnet drawing a growing number of cruise lines. And businesses are busy expanding to meet next summer's anticipated rush.

It's hard to escape the lumber, plastic tarps and sound of hammering in the city of 5,000 people squeezed atop Resurrection River's rocky flood plain, he said. "It's reminding me a little bit of pipeline

days in Fairbanks, in excitement and exuberance."

"Picture a town the size of Seward with a \$51 million SeaLife Center and a \$7.5 million hospital," Garzini said.

Some of Seward's projects include:

- A combined Tesoro gas station and Burger King.
 - Resurrection Lutheran Church.
- An estimated 20 to 30 new houses (some outside the city limits).
- Providence Seward Center hospital.
 - The SeaLife Center.
- A couple of hotel and motel expansions.

For the city's fiscal year ending June 30, Seward issued 65 building permits for \$10 million in projects, excluding the SeaLife Center, most of which was permitted the previous year.

The place now is ripe for a new hotel, Garzini said. But while some companies have poked around, he said, the city isn't at a point where it could announce anything.

Seward may be hopping, but it's hardly the only hard-hat zone on the Kenai Peninsula. Elsewhere, the summer construction season has been fairly robust, with scores of new homes going up in the Kenai-

Soldotna area, new subdivisions in Ninilchik and strong interest in high-end houses in Homer.

The city of Kenai has issued 28 housing permits so far, already beating the number issued in all of last year, said Bob Springer, the city's building official.

He said the numbers came as somewhat of a surprise because he had predicted a mediocre construction trend based on flat growth the previous two years.

Why the increase? Springer guessed interest rates were so low it just made projects more affordable.

On the commercial side, Kenai has issued just eight permits, compared with 24 last year. But those numbers are a little misleading, Springer said. Those eight new buildings are worth some \$2 million, as much the previous year's 24.

Burger King, Blockbuster Video and office expansion in the Salamatof Building are some high-profile examples. The city also is building a new animal control shelter. And the borough's Economic Development District Inc. is doing its part to develop the economy, with a \$500,000 building addition.

Homer planners see a similar trend. The total number of building

permits was down from 46 last year to 34 this year, yet the value of the construction doubled from \$3 million to \$6.1 million.

Many of Homer's new houses are in the high range, around \$300,000, said Eileen Bechtol, city planner.

Springer and other observers guessed that most of the residential housing construction was taking place outside of the Peninsula's cities. About all anyone can do is guess because the borough does not issue construction permits.

"The city limits are small and a lot of that new construction is going on outside," said Darby Hobson, Peninsula mortgage manager for National Bank of Alaska. "You go down any of these side streets and you see all kinds of construction."

One company alone probably can prove Springer and Hobson right. Hall Quality Builders, based in Kenai, is erecting an estimated 60 new single-family homes on subdivisions it created just outside the city limits, said Clint Hall, the company's owner.

"We're selling gobs of homes to families with two incomes right now," Hall said.

The company built and sold 60 houses last year, too. Rural loans dipping to below 5 percent are lur-

ing young families out of apartments and into the kind of starter homes Hall specializes in.

At least in the Kenai-Soldotna area, he said, the home-buyers represent workers in the growing retail trade, not the large, single-income oil-industry paychecks that drove the market until the mid-1980s.

But Hall admitted his company is only part of the construction picture outside cities. Much of it appears to be fueled by individual owners, some of them paying hard cash for expensive houses.

That suggests a large number of retirees and people building second homes on the Peninsula, Hobson said.

Homer Electric Association, which keeps track of the new lines it installs, has been busy between Ninilchik and Homer, where installation is up 7 percent over last year, said Sandra Ghormley, HEA spokeswoman.

Part of that increase includes eight requests from developers researching the costs of installing electricity in new subdivisions.

"There's definitely something out there happening," Ghormley said. "People are moving to the rural parts of America. I think our communities are very attractive."

From Seward to Homer, Kenai Peninsula in building boom

KENAI (AP) — In Seward, it's the Alaska SeaLife Center, rising along the city's waterfront. In Homer it's high-end homes, and in Kenai, Soldotna and Ninilchik it's more modest housing.

But everywhere this summer on the Kenai Peninsula one thing is clear: There's a building boom happening.

Seward may be the prime beneficiary, with the SeaLife Center anchoring hotel expansions, new gas stations and fast-food restaurants as businesses hope to cash in on the tourists the center is expected to draw.

It's hard to escape the lumber, plastic tarps and sound of hammering in the city of 5,000 people squeezed atop Resurrection River's rocky flood plain. "It's reminding me a little bit of pipeline days in Fairbanks, in excitement and exuberance," said City Manager Ron Garzini.

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trend. The total number of building permits was down from 46 last year to 34 this year, yet the value of the construction doubled from \$3 million to \$6.1 million. Many of Homer's new houses are in the high range, around \$300,000, said Eileen Bechtol, the city planner.

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At least in the Kenai-Soldotna area, he said, the home-buyers represent workers in the growing retail trade, not the large, single-income oil-industry paychecks that drove the market until a decade ago.

Business *Notes*

ANCHORAGE

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approved its work plan for fiscal year 1998 which will provide \$13.1 million for research, monitoring and general restoration projects for the Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound regions. The work plan calls for \$683,000 for herring research in Prince William Sound and \$2.3 million for the Sound Ecosystem Assessment project that will look at the influences affecting pink salmon and herring. The Chugach School District will receive \$150,000 to maintain a student program that focuses on restoration research projects. Kenai Peninsula projects will receive \$491,000 for Kenai River habitat improvements and evaluations. The council also approved an additional \$12 million to go into a restoration reserve account and \$2.8 million for administration, science management and public information.

Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



4 - KODIAK DAILY MIRROR, Tuesday, August 12, 1997

Old data help explain ecosystem changes

Everyone, consumers and fishermen alike, knows the major species in the Gulf of Alaska have changed from shrimp and crab to pollock, cod, and flatfish.

In 1995, fisheries managers reviewed 40 years of trawl data from the Gulf of Alaska to get a long-term perspective on the changes, and what they found appears to have been a major ecosystem shift.

There has been a dramatic and abrupt change in the numbers and types of species and their relative abundance. The data show it only took about two years, from 1978 to 1980, for all the major species of shrimp to decline and be replaced as the most abundant species by cod, pollock and flat-fish.

Shrimp trawl surveys began in 1953 as a way to monitor the effects of a growing commercial shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. The trawl survey, conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, cast a fine mesh net into the gulf waters and caught nearly everything in its path. During the early years, only the main commercial species were counted. But since 1970, all the species caught in the survey have been sorted and counted.

Capelin, an important staple in the diets of many fish, marine mammals and seabirds, were caught in the trawl, along with fishes such as cod, pollock, prickleback, pacific sandfish, and culachon. Capelin was so abundant during the carly years of the shrimp fishery the fishermen used to call it "fish contamination."

The late 1970s shift affected more than the commercially popular crab and shrimp species. Capelin, eulachon, pacific sandfish and prickleback are not commercially harvested in the Gulf of Alaska, but they also de-

clined

This indicates the cause of the shift is most likely not commercial fishing, according to Paul Anderson, of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Kodiak. "Whatever caused the change in composition probably acted in a similar way on sandfish and capelin," said Anderson.

The shift in dominant species also brought with it a 50 percent decline in biomass. Species such as cod, pollock, and other gadids grow much larger as they mature than do crustaceans such as shrimp and crab. They feed on plankton as well as smaller fishes. This means there is less food available for other species that must feed on smaller fishes.

There are some indications the a change in ocean temperate could have something to do withese major changes. While there was a two degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature in the Gulf of Alaska during the late 1970s, half way around world, in the North Atlantic, ocean temperatures decreased by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit and fishermen switched from cod to shrimp gear.

The trawl survey data are remarkable because they've been conducted every year in the same way for over forty years. "We would have missed the abrupt decline if we hadn't been doing the same surveys in the same way all these years," said Anderson.

The historic dataset could be a crucial tool as scientists begin focusing on changes in seabird and marine mammal diets - a theme common to theories on their declines in the North Pacific.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The ries is sponsored by the Ex Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Count to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region.

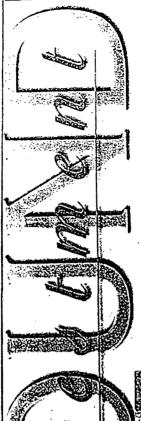
Wealaskans

THE ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS MAGAZINE

Affairs & Co

Saving the Sound

Oil-spill money buys 60,000 acres
along the most-damaged shore
What did we get?





a stream courses over moss-coated boulders the size of small children. Sunlight illuminates the white gauze of water, sifting through a dense forest of tall spruce and hemlock trees draped in long strands of old man's beard. Beyond, in the still waters of the lagoon, like a field of sunflowers, dozens of orange lion's-mane jellyfish float near the surface.

All is quiet here in mid-June. In the long lagoon, and beyond in the bay, the only sound is the highpitched cry of a bald eagle or the breath of wings as six Canada geese fly by, low across the water.



The southern flank of Chenega Island Juts In front of the Pielades Islands, also known as the Seven Sisters, which are among the lands included in the 59,520 acres purchased by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council from Chenega Corp.

Oil-spill settlement buys shoreline crucial to the recovery

of damaged wildlife populations

In a few weeks, boats of fishermen will arrive. Here, in the streams of Eshamy, more than half of Prince William Sound's red salmon are born. Sockeyes, pinks, silvers, cutthroat trout — all thrive here, drawing commercial,

sport and subsistence fishermen.

In 1989, however, Eshamy looked more like a floating city out of the movie "Waterworld" than a place where salmon swim. In that summer following the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the tranquil bay had become a staging area for a massive cleanup effort. Floating barracks for thousands of cleanup workers dominated the lagoon. Hundreds of boats zipped in and out. Miles of boom to catch oil sectioned off this wide bay into a series of holding areas — people were allowed farther back into Eshamy Lagoon only if they had no oil on their boats. This summer, all that floated in the wide

mouth of the bay was a sea otter, a mother with a furry pup on her belly. At the turn of the century, when sea otters were hunted almost to extinction, a remnant population here, in southwestern Prince William Sound, became the nucleus for recolonization. Sea otters fanned out from here to reappear in all of Prince William Sound, the Copper River Delta and the Kenai Peninsula.

Now, however, sea otters here are few and far between. After the Exxon Valdez ran aground in March 1989, spewing more than 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, the sea otter became the wide-eyed poster child for thousands of animals killed by

crude.

Eight years later, sea otters have yet to show any recovery in western Prince William Sound. Only the bald eagle population has officially recovered from the spill. The rest are either listed as "recovering" (including pink salmon, red salmon and common murres), "not recovering" (herring, sea otters, harbor seals) or "recovery unknown" (clams, river otters, common loons).

This summer, though, Eshamy Bay and other areas important for these animals gained a new degree of protection. The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council voted to spend \$34 million to purchase 59,520 acres in southwestern Prince William Sound from Chenega Corp., drawing upon the \$900 million oil spill settlement fund.

About a fourth of the land (16,268 acres) will become a state marine park, and about a third (20,968 acres) will be added to Chugach

National Forest. The trustees purchased "conservation easements" on the remaining 22,284 acres. Under the easements, the land will continue to be owned by Chenega, a village corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, but will be jointly managed with the U.S. Forest

The Chenega land purchases and conservation easements effectively prohibit large-scale human activity, especially logging. Close observers have called it the single most important step thus far toward restoring the area hardest hit by the

oil spill.

"This is the first major habitat protection in Prince William Sound," says Molly McCammon, executive director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. "And it is on the western side that was most heavily oiled. There is no doubt that it has the most long-term impacts as well. It was ground zero of the spill."

This area also encompasses lands that were at risk of being logged, but had yet to be clearcut. It protects areas that are regarded as particularly important for salmon, sea otters, killer whales and many seabirds — as well, as among those most beloved by human visitors who spend time in the Sound.

"The Chenega lands are symbolically important," says David Grimes, a Cordova resident who has fished the waters of the Sound for two decades. "The main wild salmon runs come in through the southwest capes, and the oil flowed out the same way."

Five major bays indent the purchased land. From north to south, they are Eshamy, Granite, Paddy, Ewan and Jackpot. Also included are Chenega Island, Whale Bay, Fleming Island, the Pleiades Islands and the southern tip of

Knight Island.

The land includes some of the most varied topography in the Sound, ranging from rolling tundra to old-growth Sitka spruce and hemlock forest, steep granite cliffs, icefields and tidewater glaciers: Lakes, streams and waterfalls abound. Eshamy Bay and Jackpot Bay together contain 22 salmon streams, and are considered the most valuable salmon-producing areas in western Prince William Sound.

The purchase extends along 224 miles of coastline, including critical habitat for all the animals affected by the oil spill. They find shelter and food in the convoluted shoreline of bays and lagoons and in the deep recesses of the rain forest.

dened

mid-June, workers prepare to start a **Exxon Valdez** on Latouche and viscous crude

rince William Sound receives more than 100 inches of rain and snow a year, and it marks the northernmost reach of the

North American rain forest. However, the tree line is much lower and growth much slower than in Southeast Alaska, because of colder temperatures and less sunlight, and forests around the Sound are slower to recover from logging.

Ironically, no large-scale clear-cutting occurred in the Sound until after the spill.

Now, more than 50,000 acres have been logged, primarily on Native corporation lands: Chugach Corp. holdings on Montague Island and Eyak and Tatitlek corporation lands in eastern Prince William Sound. The Chenega habitat acquisition is the only one in the Sound to be completed before clear-cutting took place.

"The initial reason to sell was to protect the natural resources, which is essentially our trees," says Chuck Totemoff, president of Chenega Corp. It wasn't an easy decision for the 87 shareholders of Chenega. To some, selling their land was like selling their future. But they didn't want to log the land and damage the wildlife habitat, either. In the end, 82 percent voted for the sale.

"Sooner or later, we would be in a position where we would have to log our timber,"
Totemoff explained. In 1981, Chenega Corp. joined the Koncor timber company in a logging agreement, then bought back the timber rights from Koncor in 1988. But those rights were only temporary and were set to run out in 40 years. And then, Totemoff says, "the residual rights would return to Koncor, and we could have done nothing about it. So it would be logged either by Chenega Corp. out of economic need, or in 40-some years by Koncor, in the course of business as usual."

During the last few years, Chenega Corp. had two proposals from Koncor to begin actively logging the very lands that were purchased.

"We turned them down because we were negotiating with the Trustee Council," Totemoff says.

ate one evening this summer, Roger Stowell walked up from Paddy Bay to the south end of Eshamy Lake, which stretches more than five miles north to the stream that pours into Eshamy Lagoon. Stowell has served as caretaker for Chenega Corp. and has operated a fishing lodge out of Paddy Bay for 18 years. The lake was so calm and clear that a pyramid-shaped rock was perfectly reflected. The only movement was a water bug, the only sound the descending trill of a bald eagle.

He's never caught a fish at this end of the lake, Stowell says. He's had luck only at the north end near a log jam — where he once felt as if something were watching him, and when he looked down, he saw two river otters gazing at him from under the logs.

Gail Blundell, a biologist with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, spends her summers in the Sound studying river otters. She says river otters need a forest habitat undiminished by clear-cuts or large-scale logging.

"The regular logging practice of buffers



along the stream and shoreline is missing the boat as far as protecting river otters goes," she says. "They do need areas in away from shore. I've seen them up on a

ridge above Paddy Bay.
Protection from logging is the best thing we can do for river otters."

Even marine animals, such as the mother sea otter with her pup in Eshamy Bay, benefit from forest protection, according to biologists. During fall and winter, sea otters need areas that are slightly inland, like the mouths of streams and lagoons, says Chuck Monnett, who, with Lisa Rotterman, has studied sea otters in the Sound for more than a decade.

Bay are studying how the oil spill has affected these seabirds. Now, they say, the biggest threat to the pigeon guillemots and other area seabirds - might be the new road the state plans to build to Whittier. If the number of visitors to Prince William Sound grows from the present 100,000 a year to the projected 1.4 million a year within 20 years, then protecting the wilderness nature of southwestern Sound will become extremely difficult.

"It's one of the last remaining wild places," says Eleanor Huffines of the National Outdoor Leadership School. NOLS has been running courses in southwestern Prince William Sound since 1971, preferring it in part because it's the "most remote of anywhere in the Sound."

"You don't have to rush across Dangerous Passage because a tour boat is coming," she says. "It's much more magical because it's less impacted."

"The Sound has gotten so popular," says Lois Salmonson, who operates Prince William Sound Kayak Center with her husband, Perry, and has kayaked in the Sound for 18 years. "We see a lot of people come in on the train, a lot of kayakers going out, and I wonder, do they know how to treat the Sound?"

cross Dangerous Passage from Jackpot, at the southern end of Chenega Island, stands the remains of old Chenega village. The historical site was not sold. Along with the conservation easement on the southern quarter of Chenega Island, it remains off limits to the public. Here, on a sunlit hill overlooking Whale Bay, is all that was left after tsunamis caused by the 1964 earthquake destroyed the village, killing 23 people.

"It's still in the minds of the Chenega people," Totemoff says.

Every year Chenegans hold a memorial service at the old village. And every year, they find more of this place vandalized. People have spray-painted buildings, shot bullet holes through windows and walls, and even chipped away at the cement base of a bronze plaque that lists the names of the dead.

Survivors of the earthquake later re-established Chenega Bay village on Evans Island, south of Knight Island. Today, they're still cleaning oil off beaches near their home. This summer, a crew used a new technology to dis-

lodge petroleum from beneath rocks at nearby Sleepy Bay. One Chenega Bay resident raised a rock and there beneath it was rainbow puddle of oil, still seeping out in its Jacob's coat of colors. In 1989, oil stood a foot deep on some of the beaches in this area including Chenega Island and the outer beaches of Dangerous Passage. The vast bulk of the 11 million gallons of oil spilled was absorbed by Green Island, Montague Island and Knight Island.

Leaving Chenega Island and heading past the small group of islands called the Pleiades toward the southern tip of Knight Island, we see the tall, black dorsal fin of an orca break the surface. A pod quickly surrounded us, moving closer, then farther away.

Southwestern Prince William Sound is frequented by more whales than any other part of the Sound. It's the year-round home to many pods of killer whales, or orcas, among them the AB pod, a particularly friendly group that lost 13 of its 36 family members and produced no young in the two years following the oil spill. We probably were being visited by one of these resident pods.

Stowell radioed Craig Matkin of the North Gulf Oceanic Society. Matkin studies the killer whales of Prince William Sound, and was out the day before looking for them.

"They're all around our boat," Stowell told him. "Maybe 10 or 12 of them." One orca surfaced nearby, and we could hear it expel a stream of air.

"Thanks," Matkin responded. "We're on our

way over there now."

Later, Matkin explains that resident killer whales feed primarily on silver salmon. "There aren't that many silver runs in the Sound, so Jackpot and Eshamy runs are important. When you protect salmon, you protect the food of killer whales."

Matkin has spent time studying orcas and commercial fishing in the Sound since 1975, when he worked in Eshamy Bay for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. That first summer, he was kayaking in Eshamy when he saw several orcas moving toward him at high speed.

"The inflow of salt water creates large concentrations of mussels. which are excellent prey for sea otters," he says. These inland feeding areas are especially important for justweaned pups and females during a critical time of year. With the

sedimentation and increased freshwater temperature from logging, he says, "habitats are

literally destroyed."

Protecting the land may be the best way to help all of the wildlife and the place recover: from the oil spill. In fact, a main justification for the out-of-court settlement in 1991, instead of years of litigation, was to protect undamaged but threatened coastal habitat in the spill region. When the Trustee Council was determining how to use the \$900 million naturalresource settlement money, McCammon says, "habitat acquisition was by far the No. 1 restoration activity recommended by the public." The spill region's commercial fishermen. the recreationists, the Native community and people throughout the nation agreed.

"If restoration is healing an injured patient, then we look at the first two lines of the Hippocratic oath," Grimes says. "First, do no more harm, and second, trust in nature's own

healing abilities.

t the mouth of Paddy Bay, heading out into Dangerous Passage, Stowell points out a bald eagle nest on a small island. "This is the 13th year they've used that nest," he says. The tiny head of a chick peers out from over the huge, mossy nest in the top of a big, old spruce. It looks like too much nest for the chick, but in two months, the baby eagle will outgrow the nest.

In every bay, at every turn, bald eagles abound here. They fly high overhead, call among the trees, perch at headlands. Other animals aren't seen here nearly as often since the oil spill — including the marbled murrelet.

Already listed as threatened along most of the West Coast, marbled murrelets suffered significant losses to oil. Since most of the world's marbled murrelet population breeds in coastal Alaska, protecting its habitat here is important to its recovery. These small, mottied-brown seabirds, rounded with short wings, usually are seen along convoluted shorelines, where they flip under the water when people approach.

'They prefer large, old-growth forests, par-

ticularly near protected waters," says Kathy Kuletz, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "They nest in oldgrowth trees with horizontal pads of moss. It takes a couple hundred years to develop that cover on trees.

"Habitat acquisition is a direct way of helping them," Kuletz says. "And since they aren't colonial, they need large contiguous stands of forests. You can't just buy an island and say you're protecting them.'

n Ewan Bay, between Paddy and Jackpot bays, a visitor is greeted by a reversing waterfall. As the tide goes out. water flows from Ewan Lagoon into Ewan Bay, at times falling as much as 10 feet. Water continues to seep out of the lagoon

below the brink of the waterfall, so when the tide changes and begins refilling the bay, the waterfall reverses. Water is pushed back into the lagoon through an entrance just wide enough to allow a kayak or small skiff to glide in, then later pour back out with the outgoing

This small, oval lagoon is a haven for wildlife. At low tide in fall and winter, Monnett says, the lagoon at Ewan Bay is full of sea otters - just-weaned young and females. He's seen tracks of river otters and other mammals as well.

"Ewan (Bay) just pulls them in," he says. "It has huge mats of mussels, more than a foot thick. The water is shallow, so it's good for the just-weaned pups. They just crunch down on the mussels like popcorn.'

Female otters, too, like to rest and feed in the calm lagoon, and haul out on the rocks by the waterfall. It's an oasis from wild winter storms.

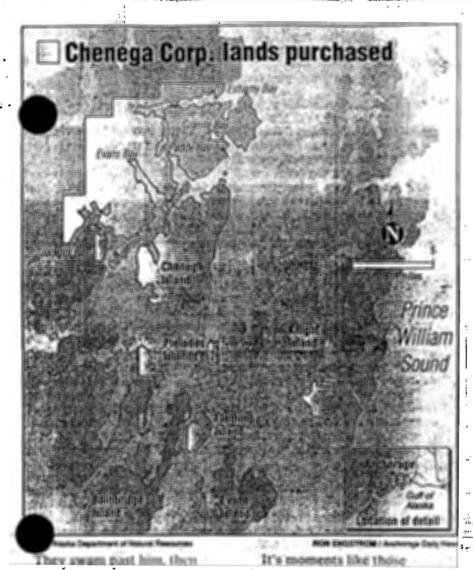
t the head of Jackpot Bay, the only human signs in mid-June are those in a research camp: barrels covered with blue tarp, a couple of wall tents, a line out to a small inflatable. In a few weeks, the salmon will return, and with them people. Stowell will be busy then, taking sportfishermen to

"Most of the people that come out here are basically fish killers," he says. "Before they come, they want to know how many fish they can eatch, how many they can keep, what size they are. Then they get here and look around and say, wow!'

Stowell laughs. He says the visitors he brings always are surprised by the beauty. "Suddenly, fishing becomes secondary. After all, they can buy fish."

Jackpot Bay includes five distinctive arms, one a series of holes like a string of beads. The longest, widest arm on the south side is dominated by a waterfall that thunders down steps of granite. Set in the middle of the bay is Jackpot Island, home to the largest colony of pigeon guillemots in southwestern Prince William Sound.

Researchers staying at the camp in Jackpot



water, sleeping.'

"It's one of my favorite places," she says. Federal biologist Kathy Kuletz studies marbled murrelets by finding their nests at dawn. During watches, she sits high up in trees, waiting for the birds to return from the sea.

"Although seldom seen," she writes, "these dawn flights can be spectacular as marbled murrelets chase each other and dive into the forest canopy with speed and agility ... using river corridors and ridge tops as flyways." Flying murrelets, she says, have been clocked

at 100 mph.

At the northern end of Chenega Island is a small stream. Even on a bright, sunny day, just a few yards into the cover of trees, the vegetation is so dense that only slight shafts of sunlight sift through, bouncing off rocks. glinting off leaves. Up in the arms of tall spruce and hemlock are thick, wide platforms of moss, just the kind marbled murrelets might use for nests. One trunk measures more than two arm-spans in circumference. so it could be 500 years old. The stream makes a passageway through the forest not just on ground level, but above as well, so that this might be a flyway. This might be where, at dawn, marbled murrelets fly 100 mph. whizzing to their nests and then out to fish again, weaving forest and sea. 🔔

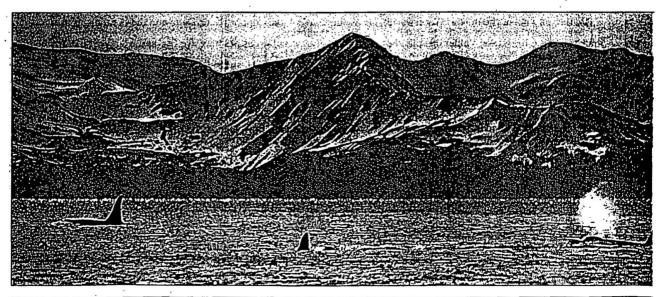
■ Marybeth Holleman teaches writing at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Jim Lavrakas is a Daily News photographer.

came back. An entire pod crowded around him. Then they all got still and quiet, Matkin says. Whales floated around him, resting, and he was right in their midst — for hours, resting with a pod of orcas.

"I fell in love with it back then," he says, "and I've been going there ever since." that bring other people to Prince William Sound.

"We've seen humpback whales from the beach," Lois Salmonson says.
"We'd be near the shore cooking dinner, and all of a sudden we'd hear this hum right next to shore. It would be a humpback, rising up out of the

A pod of orcas hunts near the Pleiades Islands with the peaks of Montague Island to the east as a backdrop.



NAME	ACREAGE	PRICE .	STATUS	DESCRIPTION
KACHEMAK BAY	23,800	\$22 million	completed August 1993 FT	These moldings of Kachemak Bay State Park on the Kenai Peninsula include a highly productive estually several miles of fish etreams and habitat for bald eagles, marbled murreless fiver ofters and markequin ducks
SEAL BAY/AFOGNAK	41,549	\$39.5 million	completed November 1993	Mature spruce forest, fish streams, habitat for bald eagles and marbled murrelets nesting in these lands, designated as Afognak Island State Park in 1994.
AKHIOK-KAGUYAK	76,211, plus 2,463 in easements	\$46 million	completed May 1995	These lands are within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
OLD HARBOR	28,609, plus 3,000 in easements	\$14.5 million	completed 1995	These lands also are within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Old Harbor Corp. donated the conservation easement lands and agreed to preserve 65,000 acres of land on nearby Sitkalidak Island as a private wildlife refuge.
KONIAG	59,689, plus 57,082 in easements	\$28.5 million	completed November 1995	These inholdings in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge are prime habitat for bear, salmon baid eagles and other species. The nordevelopment easement expires in 2001:
SHUY AK ISLAND	26 ,66 5	\$42 million	completed December 1995	Purchased from Kodiak Island Borough, these lands are at the northern tip of the Kodiak archipelago.
CHENEGA	43,252, plus 16,268 in!easements	\$34 million	As Completed Tune (1897).	Sturfivestern Prince William Sound See endry)
ENGLISH BAY	32,470	\$153 million	agreement signed	These lands are within the Kenal Fjords National Park and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.
TATITLEK	31,490, plus 37,398 in easements	\$35 million	offer accepted late :1996	In northwestern Prince William Sound near Veldez, these lands include Bligh Island and I Wo Moon Bay, both highly ranked by the Trustee Council Some purchased lands have been clear cut in the past eight years:
EYAK/ORCA NARROWS	2.052 timber easements	\$3.65 million	completed January 1995	In southeastern Prince William Sound near Cordova, the Orca Narrows subparcel contains fish streams, bald eagle nests and habitat for marbled murrelets.
EYAK	55,357, plus 6,667 in conservation easements, 13,401 in timber easements	\$45 million	offer accepted July 1997	Offer subject to stareholder vote includes southeastern Sound lands around Cordova that are considered arrong the most valuable for recovery of fish, seabirds and marine marine parchased lands have been clear-cut in the past few years.
AFOGMAK JOINT VENTURE	46.300	\$70 million	negotiations continuing	On northern Afognak Island, some of these seven parcels are adjacent or near the Seal Bay area.
Y AG	57,082	\$16.5 million	negotiations continuing	These include lands along the Karluk and Sturgeon Rivers on Kodiak Islands

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OIL SPILL HABITAT PROTECTION

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has declared "habitat protection" the primary means for restoring the ecological health of Prince William Sound and outlying spill areas.

Five years ago, the council began evaluating large parcels of land in the spill zone. As of June, the trustees had spent \$185.4 million of the \$900 million settlement to protect 420,640 acres of land.

Most of the land parcels were Native corporation inholdings in national forests; parks and wildlife refuges. Some lands were purchased "fee simple," in which the title of the land will go to the appropriate state or federal agency that will manage the lands.

In other cases, easements were purchased, in which the seller (usually a Native village corporation) retains title and some rights to the land, selling only conservation or timber easements. In the majority of these easement lands, public access also is allowed.

SPOILED BY THE SPILL

RECOVERED

Bald eagles

•

Harbor seals
Cormorants (3 species)
Harlequin ducks
Killer whales (AB pod)
Marbled murrelets
Sea otters (western
Sound)
Pacific herring

Pigeon guillemots

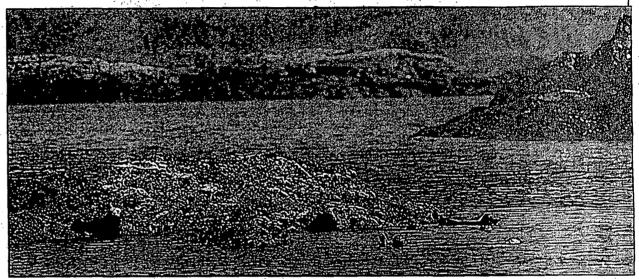
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RECOVERING

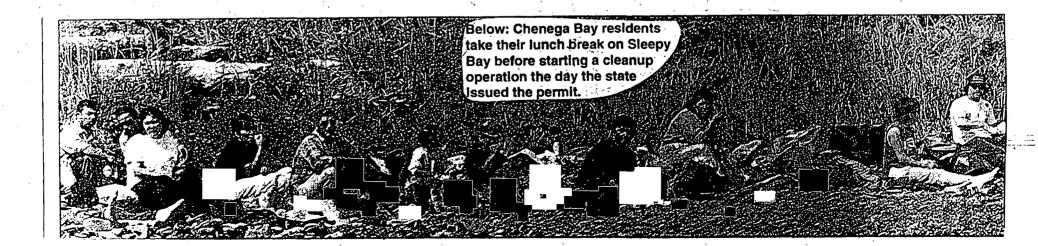
Pink salmon Red salmon Common murres Mussels

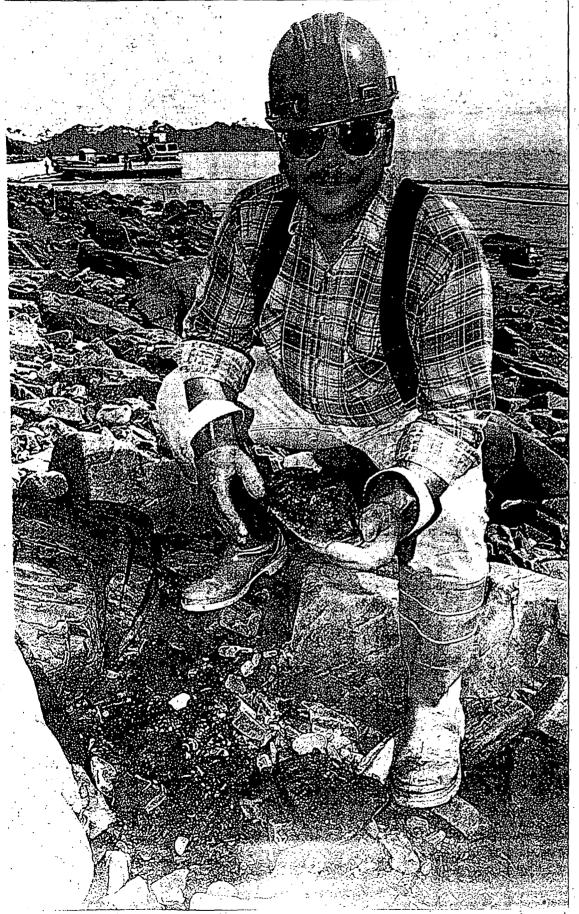
RECOVERY UNKNOWN Common loons

Cutthroat trout
Clams
Dolly Varden
Kittilitz's murrelets
River otters
Rockfish
Black oystercatchers



Harbor seals bask in the shallows near a protected reef on Chenega Island.





Chenega Bay resident Larry Evanoff uncovers viscous crude from the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill still lurking beneath the cobblestone armor of the beach at Sleepy Bay.

Youth Area Watch a bright light to Chugach School District

Editor's note: It has been eight years since the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 millions gallons of Alaska crude oil. Time has since told quite a lot about the spill's long-term effects. To help tell the story, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is providing this column focusing on the ongoing recovery within the spill region. The idea of this column is to explain, over time, the many aspects of recovery and restoration and what it means to the people who live, work and play in the oil spill region.

By JODY SEITZ

Just mention the Youth Area Watch to Chugach School District Superintendent Roger Sampson and watch him light up.

The project, now in its second year, puts 25 students from schools in Prince William Sound out in the field working side by side with scientists on oil spill restoration research. According to Sampson, the learning program turned out to be more successful than they imagined.

"We originally thought it was going to be great, to get kids in the field with scientists," Sampson said.



Restoration and recovery following the Econ Valdezoil spill

"We thought

it would be a healthy way to promote scientific concepts and science skills. But it's grown to be so much grander and bigger than that."

The project engages students in sampling mussels, taking scientific samples of harbor seals harvested for subsistence, collecting herring and taking oceanographic measurements. Students are selected for the program based on their academic performance and their interest in field science and subsistence.

Students from Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez, Chenega Bay and Seward, as well as one student in home school on Hinchinbrook Island are all part of the project. The students learn scientific methods for collecting data, analyzing the information and writing reports.

The program not only teaches the students, but the teachers as well. "Instructors are very conscious of how they can connect this lesson in a way that means, something to the kids, something that's relevant in their world," Sampson said. "We can still teach those scientific skills, those math skills, those career skills, but we want to do it with something that's stimulating and motivating and real to them."

For some students such projects as the scientific sampling of seals have brought them closer to their elders "It's opened up that line of communication." said Sampson.

The Youth Area Watch has another important side benefit. School districts often talk about getting parents and communities involved in their children's education. "This has been the avenue to do that in many of these communities," said Sampson.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Point of ViewSonar counts Cook Inlet salmon when drift fleet idled

By Jody Seitz

Alaska Coastal Currents

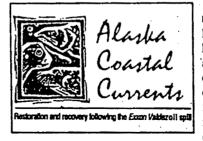
Up until a few years ago, fisheries managers for Cook Inlet relied on the commercial catches of the drift gillnet fleet to judge the size of the annual salmon runs. This worked well, as long as the fleet was busy fishing. But when the fleet was in the harbor, fisheries managers would lose all track of the number of salmon in the inlet.

It was a common problem. "When we got into low run strengths, when we weren't exactly sure how many fish were coming back, we'd close the drift fleet and then our computer models became ineffective," said Ken Tarbox, fisheries biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Soldotna.

Cook Inlet is 1,000 square miles of silty, glacial water and boasts the second largest tides in the world. This makes fish counting by aerial survey out of the question.

The best solution — remote sensing equipment and sonar sophisticated enough to handle the job — would be very expensive.

Fisheries managers turned to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for help. To assist in recovery of the sockeye salmon injured by the 1989 oil spill, the Trustee Council provided funds for sonar equipment that will allow managers to better estimate returns to Cook Inlet. The experimental use of sonar in the inlet's turbid waters proved at least as accurate as the traditional system using catches from the commercial drift fishery.



Sockeye returns to Cook Inlet over the last couple of years have been good, allowing managers to compare the sonar counts with the test fish counts taken during commercial periods. "While the sonar

was only counting 50 percent of what was there, it was telling us what the drift gillnet fleet would have caught, which is the variable that we needed to put into the computer model," said Tarbox.

The sonar, however, had its own problems. In an effort to pick up trace waters from their home streams, salmon like to gather in the rips where currents come together. The turbulent rips also hold air bubbles. To sonar, which counts fish by bouncing soundwaves off the air in a fish's air bladder, the air bubbles look similar to salmon.

Managers have six years of data now, and have learned to count the fish all around the rips. Tarbox credits the sonar for providing a major improvement in management's approach to the inlet salmon fisheries. Managers want to know early in the season how many fish are coming back so they can determine their harvestable surplus. Before getting the sonar, they had no way to determine the number of returning salmon when runs were either late or low.

"Now we can close the drift fleet, send our test fish vessel out with the sonar, and within 24 to 36 hours make an estimate of what the drift fleet would have caught had they fished," Tarbox said. "We can keep our models operating and therefore verify whether we're dealing with an extremely low run or a late run that appears to be weak."

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The series is sponsored by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region.

Editor's note: Alaska Coastal Currents is an occasional feature of the Homer News.

Trustee Council plans work in sound

Vanguard staff

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approved its work plan for fiscal year 1998, beginning October 1.

The council voted Aug. 6 to set aside \$13.1 million for research, monitoring and restoration projects for the Prince William Sound, Kodiak Island, and Kenai Peninsula areas. The majority of research projects funded by the council will take place in the Sound, many through the Prince William Sound Science Center in Cordova.

The FY98 Work Plan is the document that sets the Trustee Council budget and identifies restoration projects, scientific studies and administrative duties for the fiscal year.

The work plan includes \$683,000 for herring research in Prince William Sound and \$2.3 million for the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) project. The SEA project seeks to understand the dynamics influencing pink salmon and herring productivity in the Sound.

The work plan also provides fund-

ing for the release of coho salmon in Boulder Bay to create a subsistence fishery, production of a documentary about the subsistence use of herring in Tatitlek, and \$150,000 to the Chugach School District to maintain a program which gets students involved in restoration science.

As part of the work plan, sockeye salmon will be stocked in Solf Lake on Knight Island. The Council previously funded a feasibility study which concluded that Solf Lake could support a salmon population. The work plan calls for stocking the lake with 100,000 fry in 1998.

A five-year project developing a new way to identify hatchery-raised salmon will receive another \$141,100 this year. The new method creates identifiable marks on the earbone of salmon, allowing fisheries managers to better understand which stocks are returning and adjust commercial harvests accordingly.

The council signed off on an additional \$12 million for a restoration reserve account, plus \$2.8 million for administration, science management and public information.

Mariner Park study not yet funded

City officials will have to wait until December to know if their plans for an environmental assessment of vacant land in Mariner Park near the base of the Homer Spit will be funded.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approved a \$13 million list of projects that, for now, does not include the Mariner Park assessment. The city asked the council for \$100,000 to study the tidal flow, plants and bird species of the arid, 109-acre parcel.

The land lost its biological diversity when the Spit Road cut off tidal flow years ago. In the past, the city has dug a trench to supply it with water. The trench keeps filling in, however, and the city wants a more permanent solution. The city hopes the study will provide the answer.

The council's executive director approved the study. It will get another look in December when the council approves another \$1 million in projects to fill out its \$14 million budget.

HOMER NEWS 8/15/97

VALDEZ VANGUARD 8/13/97

There's lots to do if you don't want to fish

LOG Staff

OK, you're done fishing for the day, or you can't stand fishing but you've been dragged to Seward by a fishing fiend in human form. Now what?

• Drive to Exit Glacier and take a hike on the outwash plain in front of it, or an all-day 3 1/2-mile rugged hike to the edge of the 700-square-mile Harding Icefield. The road to Exit Glacier, which is very scenic, is just north of town, next to Seward Building Supply.

· Take a hard hat tour of the Alaska SeaLife Center, now under construction. You'll see behind-thescenes areas dedicated to animal care, and the building's unusual infrastructure, that won't be open to visitors later on. You can see the artificial environments for marine mammals and seabirds under construction. Tours start from the blue and white tent at the southern end of the Seward Highway, which is called Third Avenue in town. Tours are at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and hourly from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. weekends. The SeaLife Center asks for a \$5 donation.

 Visit the Seward Marine Education Building, also near the foot of Fourth Avenue. It's run by the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Marine Science. The exhibits are especially suited for children. They can see small aquariums with sea cucumbers, hermit crabs, and decorator crabs (they cover themselves with seaweed), anemones, starfish and sea urchins. There are game boards in which kids can test their ability to identify the different types of whales and fish. There's big whale skull. And a gift and bookshop with some interesting stuff for kids. It's closed Monday and open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. the other days.

• View the movie about the 1964 earthquake, shown at the community library at 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Cost is \$3. The library is at the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Adams Street:

• Visit the Seward Museum, at the corner of Third Avenue and Jefferson Street. Operated by the Resurrection Bay Historical Society, it attracts about 11,000 visitors a year to its displays on everything from the 1964 earthquake, to an Iditarod trail display (it started in Seward), to the famous artist Rockwell Kent, who spent a Christmas on nearby Fox Island in 1918-1919.

Visit the Seward Museum, at the corner of Third Avenue and Jefferson Street. Operated by the Resurrection Bay Historical Society, it attracts about 11,000 visitors a year to its displays on everything from the 1964 earthquake, to an Iditarod trail display (it started in Seward), to the famous artist Rockwell Kent, who spent a Christmas on nearby Fox Island in 1918-1919.

Some visitors may have a personal interest in displays about Seward's role in World War II, when it was the site of the Army's Fort Raymond and a number of coastal batteries.

The museum has a small gift shop with some unusual items. It's is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$2 adults, 50 cents age 5-18. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m. the museum offers slide shows about Seward's history and the Iditarod trail. Admission is \$2.

• Go bowling. Dreamland Bowl, at the foot of Fifth Avenue, is open Tuesday through Friday 1-8 p.m.

• Watch a movie. Liberty Theater, on Adams Street between Third and Fourth avenues, advertises on Page 2 of the Seward Phoenix LOG. It usually shows a couple different movies each day. Recorded info is available at 224-5418.

• Visit an art gallery. Bardarson Studio is in the small-boat harbor. Resurrection Bay Galerie is at the corner of Madison Street and Fourth Avenue. Resurrection Art Coffee House Gallery is at the corner of Third Avenue and Church Street. Starbird Studio is on Fourth Avenue south of Adams Street. Fire & Ice is nearby on Fourth Avenue. Fjordland Studio is on Washington Street at the foot of Fifth Avenue.

 Visit Kenai Fjords National Park visitor center in the small-boat harbor. Its bookstore, run by the Alaska Natural History Association, has some unusual educational gifts and books for adults and especially kids.

• See the national park itself on one of the many tour boats that leave from the small-boat harbor several times a day. You'll find their offices in the harbor.

• Or try a sea kayak trip. One company's office is in the small-boat harbor at Kenai Fjords Tours, the other is at the northeast boat launch in the Fjords Trading Post building.

• While your spouse suffers in the

wind-swept, rainy bay, treat yourself to warm, fresh-baked goods at The Ranting Raven Bakery and gift shop on Fourth Avenue downtown, or at The Miller's Daughter bakery in the A-frame in the small-boat harbor.

• Visit a bookstore. Reader's Delight, with a large selection of Alaskana, and harmonicas, is on Fourth Avenue downtown. Northland Books & Charts, at the corner of Third Avenue and Washington Street, has hardcover fiction, nautical and outdoors books, and some maritime supplies.

• Stick your overly energetic little kids in playgrounds. There's one on Ballaine Boulevard just south of the baseball field, and another on Third Avenue south of Adams Street.

SEWARD PHONEX LOG 8/14/97

What others say



Research still needed

From the Anchorage Daily News

Eight years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill blackened the state's shores, a host of biological mysteries remain unsolved.

Did the spill contribute to the population crash that closed Prince William Sound's Pacific herring fisheries from 1993 to 1996? Is there any way to modulate the wild swings in pink salmon runs that followed the Exxon disaster? Is there any hope of reversing the almost catastrophic decline of the area's harbor seals, which were in trouble even before the Exxon Valdez's oil hit the water? Why have species of birds like pigeon guillemots and marbled murrelets failed to bounce back?

Researchers have been diligently trying to answer those questions, using part of the \$900 million Exxon agreed to pay the state and federal government in damages for the nation's worst maritime oil disaster.

Exxon's yearly payments will stop in 2001, but the quest to understand the spill and cure the harm it caused are unlikely to be finished by them. That's why the state and federal trustees who oversee the restoration work have been setting aside some of the yearly damage payments for future use.

One idea now making the rounds is to use that reserve to create a foundation that would continue restoration work after 2001. Given the unanswered questions about the spill's long-term impacts, having a way to continue studies and restoration work is a good idea. The alternative is to burn up all the money on shorter-term studies or even more purchases of land threatened by logging and other development.

The trustees' long-term plan strikes a good balance. Immediate cleanup and damage repair have cost \$213 million. Another \$386 million, 42 percent of the total, will be spent to protect habitat by acquiring land and development rights. Research and long-term restoration work are slated to get \$180 million.

Under that plan, the reserve funds would total roughly \$108 million. Managed carefully, that money would produce several million dollars a year indefinitely. The research work would be especially helpful, as even in the best of times the state is loathe to spend money on studies that help manage our natural resources.

No amount of money can undo what happened after the Exxon Valdez ran aground. But the Exxon settlement can enable Alaskans to better understand the ecosystem that was damaged and to take better care of it far into the future.

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Trustee council funds Prince William Sound projects

The EVOS Trustee Council of a docu-FY98 Work Plan includes \$683,000 for herring research in Prince William Sound and \$2.3 million for the Sound Ecosystem Assessment project. The purpose of the SEA project is to understand the dynamics that influence pink salmon and dred thouherring productivity in the sound, according to an Aug. 6 press release. Many of the projects will be coordinated by the Prince William Sound Science Center.

The work plan also provides funding for the release of coho salmon in Boulder Bay to create a subsistence fishery and production mentary about the subsistence use of herring in Tatitlek.

One hunsand sockeye salmon fry will be stocked in Solf Lake on Knight Island in 1998 as a



start to a five-year project developing a new way to identify hatchery raised salmon. The work plan pro- ery this fall, according to the vides \$141,100 for this project. The new method creates identifiable marks on the earbone of salmon, allowing fisheries managers to better understand which stocks are returning and adjust commercial harvests accordingly. Pinks with earbone markings will return to the sound in 1997 and 1998.

Bristol Bay could see big crab fishery

State and federal managers met in Kodiak last Friday to determine what the harvest guidelines will be in Bristol Bay's red king crab fishKodiak-based Alaska Fish Factor. Brad Stevens, a crab biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, called the season a "crab tidal wave just waiting to crash down."

Stevens said researchers first saw signs of the huge year class about four years ago, and it's been building ever since.

This summer's survey revealed that the crab are now about four to five inches in size, meaning they'll be legal to harvest in two to three vears. Most of the females have become mature for the first time this year, and are producing egg clutches, he said.

On the down side, Stevens said there's not much following behind this pack of crab: "There's nothing smaller than about three inches, so after this big wave breaks, we'll be in the pits again."

The Bristol Bay red king crab season is scheduled to open Nov. 1. Last year's harvest guideline was five million pounds, although the catch came in at about 8.4 million pounds.

The average price was \$4/lb, making the fishery worth \$33.5 million at the docks.

THE SEWARD PHOENIX LOG



Seward, Alaska

Volume 31 Number 49

Thursday, August 14, 1997

City looks to run hatchery

By Eric Fry

LOG Staff

The city will try to negotiate a contract with the state Department of Fish and Game to run the new shellfish hatchery here.

The city intends to subcontract all of the responsibilities to Qutekcak Native Tribe of Seward, but it's still an open question whether the city would have financial risks.

"We'll take whatever Fish and Game requires of us and match it up with Qutekcak to make sure our risks are ninimal," said City Manager Ron Garzini.

The City Council voted 6-0 Monday to ask the administration to work on the contracts.

Councilman Edgar Blatchford, who is Qutekcak's administrator, wasn't allowed to discuss the issue or vote because he has a conflict of interest, Mayor Louis Bencardino ruled.

The administration would bring the agreements back

to the council for approval. And the council would have to find that the city's interest is served by negotiating directly with Qutekcak, rather than requesting proposals for an operator.

The city's action apparently will delay any state effort to request proposals to operate the state-owned \$2 million hatchery, the first of its kind in Alaska. It was completed in spring and has been sitting unused since then.

Qutekcak and Chugach Regional Resources Commission, a Native nonprofit corporation, have been negotiating unsuccessfully with the state for about a year and a half.

When the Native groups lost the support of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District Inc., which would have served as the prime contractor, the state was ready to halt negotiations and request proposals this month.

The state's mariculture program manager, Bob Piorkowski, told the council Monday after the vote that Fish and Game wanted a yes or no answer right away about whether the city would serve as prime contractor.

If the council eventually turns down the contracts, the state's request for proposals wouldn't come out until December, he said. "We're running out of money to maintain the facility."

Money is the issue for everyone. Qutekcak and Chugach estimated that the hatchery would cost \$280,000 a year to operate in its first two years, and \$357,000 a year for the three following years, assuming growing staff, utility and supply expenses.

The hatchery is supposed to be a viable commercial operation, raising and selling baby shellfish, called spat, to shellfish farmers in Alaska.

The Native groups would have an advantage, they believe, because they have several multi-year grants from government agencies to work on shellfish projects. Qutekcak runs the only shellfish hatchery in Alaska, a small pilot program in a building on the Institute of Marine Science.

But Fish and Game doubted that all of the grants were firmly committed for each year. And Commissioner Frank Rue told the Native groups in June that their development plans were overly optimistic while their estimates of expenses were low-balled.

Qutekcak responded that the state had misunderstood the grants and miscalculated the facility's likely expenses. Qutekcak has submitted a detailed business plan.

According to a draft contract, the prime contractor would be responsible for all the costs of operating and maintaining the 9,370-square-foot hatchery; routine and long-term maintenance and repairs for the entire project, which includes a 1,550-square-foot research center; and reimbursing Fish and Game for property insurance.

The state would allow a subcontractor, but the prime contractor would be responsible for compliance with the contract.

That was what scared off the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District Inc., a government-funded nonprofit corporation. The EDD would have had full liability with no funding, said its president, Jeff Murphy, in a May 22 letter to Piorkowski.

Councilwoman Margar Anderson said she wanted an agreement in which the city was heleharmless by Qutekcak.

Councilman Jerry King wanted to know if that was attainable. Qutekcak has offered to bond itself.

But city attorney Brad Meyen

said the bottom line is that promises are only as good as the financial backing of Qutekcak and its bond.

Councilman Dave Crane said the city owes it to Qutekcak to try to negotiate a deal. Qutekcak and Chugach first proposed the hatchery and lobbied for it.

Bencardino said, "I think these people deserve it, and I think we can put something together to protect us."

Councilman Stu Clark said he was speaking as a member of the board of directors of the taxpayers' corporation of Seward.

"I'm confident Qutekcak Native Tribe can operate it successfully, but I see no reason for the city to become involved just because it has been involved in the quasi-management of other facilities," he said.

Clark said he preferred that the city help evaluate responses to a state request for proposals.

The administration also supported that option. The city doesn't know how to run a hatchery and would have difficulty understanding Qutekcak's business and development plans, Garzini said in a memo.

Qutekcak doesn't have much documentation of its performance at its current facility, and some of the grants may not be stable, he said. The Alaska shellfish industry is eager to see someone open the hatchery. There are 55 active farms selling about \$350,000 worth of product a year, according to the state.

The problem is that Pacific oysters, by far the predominant product, don't reproduce naturally in Alaska's cold waters.

Farmers must import spat from Outside hatcheries, but it isn't always available or of the best quality, said Ray RaLonde, a shellfish expert at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. "A farmer that does not have control over his seed is in serious trouble," he told the council.

And the state prohibits all other shellfish imports, so species such as clams or mussels also have to be produced here.

In an interview, RaLonde said he didn't take a position on who should run the hatchery. But he said Qutekcak is the only Alaska entity with experience.

Qutekcak is doing high-risk research with species that haven't been cultivated before, he said, such as Littleneck clams and rock scallops.

It's a very complex process that requires trial and error, not book work, and they're starting to show results, he said. "I think they've done reasonably well."

Old data helps explain today's ecosystem changes

Editor's note: It has been eight years since the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 millions gallons of Alaska crude oil. Time has since told quite a lot about the spill's long-term effects. To help tell the story, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is providing this column focusing on the ongoing recovery within the spill region. The idea of this column is to explain, over time, the many aspects of recovery and restoration and what it means to the people who live, work and play in the oil spill region.

By JODY SEITZ

Everyone, consumers and fishers alike, knows the major species in the Gulf of Alaska have changed from shrimp and crab to pollock, cod and flatfish.

In 1995, fisheries managers reviewed 40 years of trawl data from the Gulf of Alaska to get a long-term perspective on the changes, and what they found appears to have been a major ecosystem shift.

There has been a dramatic and abrupt change in the numbers and types of species and their relative abundance. The data show it only took about two years, from 1978 to 1980, for all the major species of shrimp to decline and be replaced as the most abundant species by cod, pollack and flatfish.

Shrimp trawl surveys began in 1953 as a way to monitor the effects of a growing commercial shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Alaska. The trawl survey, con-

ducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, cast a fine mesh net



Restoration and recovery following the Econ Valdez oil spill

into the gulf waters and caught nearly everything in its path. During the early years, only the main commercial species caught in the survey have been sorted and counted.

Capelin, an important staple in the diets of many fish, marine mammals and seabirds, were caught in the trawl, along with fish such as cod, pollock, prickleback, pacific sandfish and eulachon. Capelin was so abundant during the early years of the shrimp fishery the fishermen used to call it "fish contamination."

The late 1970s shift affected more than the commercially popular crab and shrimp species. Capelin, eulachon, pacific sandfish and prickleback are not commercially harvested in the Gulf of Alaska, but they also declined.

This indicates that the cause of the shift is most likely not commercial fishing, according to Paul Anderson of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Kodiak. "Whatever caused the change in composition probably acted in a similar way on sandfish and capelin," said Anderson.

The shift in dominant species also brought with it a 50 percent decline in biomass. Species such as cod, pollock and other gadids grow much larger as they mature than do crustaceans such as shrimp and crab. They feed on plankton as well as smaller fish. This means there is less food available for other species that must feed on smaller fish.

There are some indications that a change in ocean temperatures could have something to do with these major changes. While there was a two degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature in the Gulf of Alaska during the late 1970s, half way around world, in the North Atlantic, ocean temperatures decreased by about two degrees Fahrenheit and fishers, switched from cod to shrimp gear.

The trawl survey data is remarkable because it has been conducted every year in the same way for over 40 years. "We would have missed the abrupt decline if we hadn't been doing the same surveys in the same way all these years," said Anderson.

The historic dataset could be a crucial tool as scientist begin focusing on changes in seabird and marine mammal diets — a theme common to theories on their declines in the North Pacific.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Exxon council names 1998 projects

Kenai River habitat improvements, sockeye salmon enhancement at Delight and Desire lakes and research at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward are among \$13.1 million in 1998 projects funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

The plan approved Wednesday includes;

\$491,000 for Kenai River habitat improvements;

- \$11,000 to complete evaluation of sockeye enhancement potential at Delight and Desire lakes on the south coast of Kenai Peninsula;
- \$73,500 to enhance the pink salmon return to Port Graham:
- \$85,800 to evaluate efforts to increase spawning habitat in Port Dick Creek.

The SeaLife Center will pro-

vide facilities, equipment and support for five research projects studying pink salmon, rockfish, pigeon guillemots, harbor seals and river otters.

A decision to fund a feasibility study to restore tidelands at Mariner Park in Homer was

deferred until December.

The council approved an additional \$12 million to go into a restoration reserve account and \$2.8 million for administration, science management and public information.

The council, funded by the \$900 million civil settlement with Exxon, was created to help restore natural resources injured by the oil spill through habitat protection and scientific studies.

Shuyak Island: Haven in the wild

Whether you are a sea otter, harbor seal, kayaker, or fisherman, the calm inside waters of Big Bay in Shuyak Island State Park are a wonderful place to play.

I recently had the fortunate opportunity to spend four days kayaking and hiking at this remote wilderness island, an experience I will not soon forget. With its emerald green waters and mirror-like reflections of jagged rocky shores, Shuyak Island is not only a kayaker's paradise, but a haven in the wild for recreationalists of all kinds.

Excellent fishing, deer hunting, recreational boating, hiking and wildlife viewing offer a bounty of adventure for those willing to travel to this northernmost island in the Kodiak archipelago. Accessible only by boat or float plane, Shuyak Island is deserving of it's nickname, "The Distant Jewel."

Inside the bays, and along the windswept, rocky coast, visitors may discover endless opportunities to observe sea life in their natural habitat. Sea otters roll about playfully in kelp beds. Humpback whales spout in the distance, showing their flukes as they dive in a feeding frenzy. Harbor seals poke their heads up occasionally to survey the area with a curious glance. Salmon break through the surface of the water with a leap into the air and more than 121 species of land and sea birds fly about in all directions.

Generations of undisturbed life can be seen in abundance in the old growth forests on Shuyak Island, where a short hike is like turning the pages of natural history back in time.

Hidden from view, brown bears and Sitka black-tailed deer make their home in the mature rainforest of the island's interior, where six inches of moss cover the forest floor in a plush carpet of electric green. Bright orange shelf fungus stands out like a beacon in the heavily shaded forest. Fresh water lily ponds lie nestled around almost every bend in the trail and weatherworn trees glisten with a silver hue in the random rays of sunlight.

Shuyak Island was hard hit by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989. Since then, time, Mother Nature's ability to heal and countless efforts by clean-up crews have restored the coastline to its pristine natural beauty. Piles of whitewashed driftwood line the rocky beaches, and little evidence remains of the disaster that occurred almost a decade

Relatively undiscovered, the remote wilderness of Shuyak Island has many gifts to offer. Thanks to local state legislators and the Kodiak Island Borough, whose recent efforts helped acquire the majority of the 46,000 acre island as state park land, this "Distant Jewel" will be preserved for future generations of both wildlife and people to enjoy.

If you would like information about visiting Shuyak Island or renting one of the four public use cabins available in the park, contact the Alaska State Parks office at 486-6339.

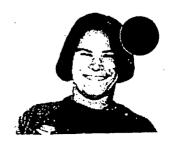
The Naturalist

By Wanagi

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR AUGUST 8, 1997

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ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS AUGUST 8

Spill council approves plan

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has approved its work plan for fiscal 1998. The council voted Wednesday to set aside \$13.1 million for research, monitoring and restoration projects for the Kodiak Island, Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound areas. The council signed off on an additional \$12 million for a restoration reserve account, plus \$2.8 million for administration, science management and public information.

Daily News wire services

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR

AUGUST 4, 1997

Porpoise dies at Seward

SEWARD (AP) — A week-old male porpoise has died at the Alaska SeaLife Center where it was sent after it was orphaned and washed ashore at Juneau.

Treatment was begun at the center even though a rehabilitation unit is months away from completion.

Authorities said the porpoise, the first marine mammal received at the center for treatment, died Friday after spending four days at the Seward center.

The calf had been fed a high-fat, high-protein diet and was receiving round-the-clock attention. The center said staff had climbed into the calf's pool, to keep it company.

Experts said the animal's chances for survival were slim.

SeaLife Center needs more volunteers

By Roger Kane

LOG Staff

The Alaska SeaLife Center's volunteer coordinator, Joan Brindle, started as a volunteer, but was put on the payroll in June.

She said she "stepped in for Jim Pfeiffenberger because he needed to go into the educational department and start writing curriculum."

Her main responsibilities are to make sure the information tent is staffed and volunteers are where they need to be.

"But there's only so far you can stretch the few volunteers we have. And they're good volunteers. They've even brought things in. Lamps, a chest of drawers, gasoline for the generator. They even cut windows for the tent," she said.

Without volunteers, the hardhat tours and the volunteer-staffed tent have to be shut down periodically.

"We need volunteers. We have about 10 key people, but it's not enough. The volunteers we have want to take vacations, and a lot of them are going back to school soon. A lot of them are school-teachers." she said.

Now that she's back in the job market, Brindle said the SeaLife Center is looking like a very attractive place to work.

"I'd really like to work there and I'll apply for a an educator's position, but every day we have people bringing in job applications. There are people that are camped out, just waiting for a chance to get hired. They'd clean cages if they could," she said.

She also cooks at Resurrection Bay Seafoods. "Whenever they need help. The crew is nice to me. They're always giving me compliments because I'm the superintendent's wife. I don't know what they'd say to me if I wasn't married to him," she said.

Joan and Dave Brindle were married three years ago in Seattle and they have a two-year-old son, Bailey.

She had taken some time off work while their son "was little,"



Joan Brindle

but now that he's old enough to be in day-care, it's time to get back to working.

"My mom decided it was time for me to go back to work," she said, smiling.

"And right now, all I'm doing is working. I do just an eighthour-a-day job, but the hours are from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.," so that takes care of most of the day.

But when she's not working, "I go fishing all the time. I take my son fishing off the docks in the small-boat harbor for the little teeny fish. And we go on a lot of little hikes. We went berry-picking the other day and must have eaten a couple hundred blueberries." She said that was great, eating all those fresh berries in the woods.

"Then we got home and I found little maggots in all the berries," she said.

Brindle is originally from Seattle and has been living in Seward for two years. She began coming to Seward eight years ago, for fish-processing work while she was working in college. She has a bachelor of science degree in biology and a master's degree in teaching from Seattle University.

"And I've taken about every kind of art class there is. I work in clay and with watercolors. I've sculpted a lot of animals. Sea lions, seals and puffins mostly. But I don't sell them. I really wouldn't want to be rejected and I don't like to sell things like that—that I've made. I'd really rather give them away. People always take them, but I don't know if they'd buy them," she said.

She's taught fourth grade through 12th grade, middle school, high school and college courses. She's also taught art classes, but said, "I'd rather teach science. That's my love."

Among the more memorable experiences she's had teaching, Brindle recalled a very trusting middle-school science class and a Mr. Wizard -styled "combustion experiment gone awry."

She said she was demonstrating the necessity of oxygen to fire, with an experiment involving flour and a jar with a short rubber hose connected to it.

She'd conducted the experiment a number of times, in the same spot, without incident and expected no surprises.

But when she began to blow into the tube, residue under the jar and in the tube ignited along with the rest of the flour and sent the lid of the jar, and a giant flame, toward the ceiling.

No one was hurt in the minor explosion, but the fire singed some of her students' hair as well as her own. But rather than recoiling in fear, the class was rather amused.

"Wow. Do that again," they chimed.

"It's wonderful to have that trust," she said.

She's also taught gifted and learning-disabled children.

Some of the learning-disabled students in her class, she found out later, were labeled as such because behavior problems interfered with their ability to learn. And they taught her another lesson about trust.

"They stole half my equipment," she said.

As near as she can figure, the students disassembled some laboratory equipment and smuggled it out of the school, piece by piece.

Orphaned porpoise dies despite help

By Eric Fry

LOG Staff

A Dall's porpoise found orphaned in Juneau early last week died at the Institute of Marine Science in Seward Friday, despite around-the-clock efforts to care for him.

The male porpoise, about 10 days old and weighing 30-plus pounds, died of pneumonia, said Vic Aderholt, marine mammal curator at the Alaska SeaLife Center, which cared for the animal.

It's not certain, until further studies are done, whether pneumonia was secondary to some other condition such as a viral infection, he said. The SeaLife Center's veterinarian, Dr. Pamela Tuomi, performed the post mortem in Anchorage.

SeaLife Center staff kept the porpoise, about three feet long, in a small round tank with water that partly covered his body, letting him move around and be buoyant, yet making it easy for him to breathe. Porpoises are members of the whale family.

Using a tube, they fed him Zoologic, a non-dairy animal formula used in aquariums for newborns, customized with herring pureed into a very fine texture. "Herring is a good high-fat fish and is part of the Dall porpoise diet," Aderholt said.

But caretakers knew that it was unlikely the little guy would live very long. "It's very rare that these animals make it, from this age group especially," Aderholt said.

The porpoise was first seen Sunday, July 27 near the cruise ship dock in Juneau, said Steve Zimmerman of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

People in a sailboat caught the porpoise Monday morning and used a Zodiac to bring him to shore. "When I got there it was sitting on a wet blanket," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman took the porpoise to Southeast Alaska Veterinary Clinic, where Dr. Melissa Edwards checked its health. "He was doing



Eric Fry/LOG photo

The young Dall's porpolse swims in a tank at the institute of Marine Science.

OK at the time that he was presented here. And he was stable overnight," she said.

Edwards kept him in her bathtub and tube-fed him throughout the night with a glucose solution to keep up the blood sugar.

The Fisheries Service decided to send the porpoise to Marian Beck in Halibut Cove, a woman licensed to rehabilitate harbor seals.

The agency's Auke Bay Laboratory, which studies fish, didn't have an available tank or the expertise to take care of the porpoise, Zimmerman said.

The porpoise, resting on foam rubber and wrapped in moist towels in a big kennel, went as baggage on an Alaska Airlines flight to Anchorage Tuesday morning. Exposed skin was covered with zinc oxide to keep it from drying out.

The porpoise was being trucked to Homer Tuesday evening by the Fisheries Service, accompanied by Edwards, when Aderholt met them at the intersection of the Seward and Sterling highways.

Aderholt assessed the porpoise's condition. The porpoise

hadn't fed from his mother for days. Aderholt decided it desperately needed nourishment and to be in water. The trip to Seward would be several hours shorter than to Halibut Cove, so the porpoise came here.

SeaLife Center staff stayed with the porpoise around the clock, feeding him every hour, until he died at about 8:45 a.m. Friday.

If the porpoise had lived, it would have been a difficult and long-term project for some institution to reintroduce him to the wild. Porpoises aren't weaned from their mothers for two years, Aderholt said.

And they're very dependent on their mothers and family groups to teach them how to feed and socialize. "Essentially, how to survive is totally a learned process with these animals," he said.

Dall's porpoises can be seen in Resurrection Bay. Big adults can reach six feet in length and weigh up to 300 pounds. Newborns are a third of adult length when they're born. They lie folded almost into a U-shape in the womb, Aderholt said.

Dead sebirds baffle experts

Anchorage Daily News

Thursday, August 7, 1997会

Warmer Bering, Gulf of Alaska water is one suspect in mysterious die-off

By STEVE RINEHART

Daily News reporter

Murres and puffins, kittiwakes and bald eagles are washing up dead on beaches along parts of the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Just how many is not known, biologist Vivian Mendenhall said, and the cause is a mystery, although biologists are wondering if the deaths are related to unusually warm temperatures in the northern ocean this sum-

Reports from fishermen and mariners suggest the number of dead birds is significant. "People are reporting they have seen 'a lot' of birds," she said.

The agency is trying to get a reli-sking people to report dead bird [6]

Seabird die-offs are not uncommon and don't usually threaten overall bird populations, Mendenhall said. This is the first widespread occurrence since one near Seward in 1993.

The murres and puffins have been reported between Gambell and Savoonga and parts of St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, the agency

said. Dead kittiwakes and eagles have been reported along the Alaska Peninsula from Chignik to False Pass.

It is unclear how eagles, with different habits

than seabirds, fit into the pattern, she said. Fish and Wildlife is collecting carcasses suitable for scientific analysis. But there may not be a simple answer, even after the birds have been inspected.

Something different or some different combination of things may be causing each die-off, Mendenhall said. Lack of food due to ocean conditions is one possibility. Some natural or man-made toxin may be poisoning the birds. Disease may be at work. Oil spills, which can kill hundreds or thousands of birds, are not suspected this time, she said. One suspect getting scientists' attention is

the water temperature.

Since 1989 the central Bering Sea has averaged about 39 to 45 degrees this time of year, according to Russell Page, an ice and sea-surface temperature analyst with the National Weather Service. In recent days it has been about 48 degrees.

Near shore the water is usually warmer, and more so this year, Page said. This week, coastal waters in Bristol Bay measured nearly 61 degrees, more than 10 degrees above

Page said the water in the central Gulf of Alaska registered nearly 63 degrees recently, as warm as the Pacific Ocean usually is south of Vancouver Island in summer.

Page draws his information from ships and satellites. The temperature records are spotty, depending on vessel traffic and cloud cov-

Water temperature directly affects marine plant and animal life, said Bruce Wing, a biologist and oceanographer with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Juneau.

When it warms up, he said, "primary production goes down and reduces food for sub-

sequent steps up the food chain."

Wing said it's too soon to know whether temperature or food supply is causing the current die-off. But here's an example of how it could: When the water warms, the small fish that seabirds eat swim deeper, where some birds can't reach them.

The cause of the die-off may be indirect and

may prove difficult to pin down, Wing said.

The seabirds are part of an enormously rich North Pacific ecosystem, which supports a number of commercial fisheries and feeds many coastal people. Even if seabird die-offs have happened with some regularity, it is important to find out why, according to Francine Bennis of the Alaska Marine Conservation

The council is an organization of coastal residents, fishermen and others whose lives and livelihoods are tied to the ocean, she said. The die-off may be a signal that something has gone awry. Or it may simply prove to be a chance to learn about another piece of a complex biological system, Bennis said.

"The bottom line, to me, is that it is all con-

nected," she said.

Plankton provide foundation for ecosystem research

Editor's note: It has been eight years since the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 millions gallons of Alaska crude oil. Time has since told quite a lot about the spill's long-term effects. To help tell the story, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is providing this column focusing on the ongoing recovery within the spill region. The idea of this column is to explain, over time, the many aspects of recovery and restoration and what it means to the people who live, work and play in the oil spill region.

By JODY SEITZ

Each spring trillions of tiny plants and animals turn sunlight into energy for the entire food web.

Thanks to the hatcheries established in Prince William Sound during the 1970s, scientists have a strong depth of knowledge when it comes to the role plankton play in the health of the ecosystem. Today, the microscopic plants and animals are the basis of ecosystem-based research to assess the sound's recovery from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Wild pink salmon runs were so poor in 1972 and 1974 that no commercial fisheries were held those years. Hatcheries were built to help stabilize the salmon returns to the sound and a plankton watch program soon developed.

The program has become the cornerstone of the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) project, which scientists say links all the major studies of species injured by the oil spill.

The SEA project marks a significant shift in scientific research. Rather than respond to the injury caused by the 1989 oil spill by pro-



Restoration and recovery following the Econ Valdezoll spill

ducing more salmon, residents of the sound and scientists chose to study the natural forces that control the size of pink salmon and herring returns to the sound.

Dr. Ted Cooney, now the lead scientist for the SEA program, was a new fisheries oceanographer at the University of Alaska Sea Grant program in 1970 when hatchery pioneer Armin Koernig came to visit. The newly formed Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation was planning to release millions of pink salmon fry into the sound and Koernig wanted to learn anything he could about the sound's ability to support the fry. Out of that visit, a plankton watch program arose at AFK hatchery and later-spread to other hatcheries.

Oceanographers found that the abundance of spring plankton in the sound appeared to be related to the strength of winds along shore. At first they thought that when winds along the coast were strong, the sound acted like a river and flushed a lot of the resident plankton out. When the winds were calm, it

was theorized, the sound was like a lake and retained the bloom longer. Now it appears the inflow of water from the gulf also brings plankton into the sound.

The size of the plankton bloom was considered important because scientists thought if food was abundant, young fish could feed intensively, grow faster, and have a better chance of escaping predators.

But scientists also noticed that plankton could be more than just food for young fish. It also could serve to protect the salmon fry by distracting their predators. Hatchery workers saw it before. Just as they released the salmon fry from their pens, a mass of young pollock would suddenly appear and have a feeding frenzy. In 1994, SEA researchers found that pollock weren't eating just fry, they were also gorging on zooplankton right around the hatchery.

SEA program researchers noticed that walleye pollock, large fish that have a mouth gape of three or four inchers, were scooping up copepods, high-fat zooplankton about the size of a grain of rice. By eating them instead of young fish, the pollock actually get more energy per bite and fry have a better chance of survival.

Researchers are continuing to study the plankton bloom, ocean currents and other forces which affect the annual returns of pink salmon and herring to Prince William Sound. The SEA project is expected to continue through 1998.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Subsistence hotline calms concerns about food resources

Editor's note: It has been eight years since the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 millions gallons of Alaska crude oll. Time has since told quite a lot about the spill's long-term effects. To help tell the story, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is providing this column focusing on the ongoing recovery within the spill region. The idea of this column is to explain, over time, the many aspects of recovery and restoration and what it means to the people who live, work and play in the oil spill region.

By JODY SEITZ

Immediately after the 1989 oil spill, an interagency group known as the Oil Spill Health Task Force, was formed to test subsistence foods for hydrocarbons. For the next seven years, the group tested everything from rockfish to mussels, clams, seals and ducks in the spill area for hydrocarbons. By 1991, most resources were pronounced safe to eat, except

shellfish from heavily oiled beaches.

Among the subsistence users, fear of contamination still lingers



in traditional harvest areas where oil remained on the beaches. Distrust grew as hunters reported more abnormalities in animals they wanted to take for subsistence. They reported corroded livers in seals, white spots on seal livers, tumor-like fatty deposits on rockfish, abnormal behavior in birds and a series of other irregularities.

There was no way for people to find out what, if anything, was the matter with the animals they saw or if the animal was unsafe to eat.

"They were worried about the abnormalities that they were seeing," said Rita Miraglia, oil spill coordinator for the subsistence division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. "They were worried about whether the oil was affecting animals in some way that you couldn't seen in those hydrocarbon tests."

There was no established way for people living in the bush to send in properly preserved samples for a pathologist in Anchorage to examine. In 1994, the department set up a formal sampling program to examine subsistence resources for disease and hazards to human health.

"The idea was to give people an opportunity to have the abnormalities looked at by a pathologist," said Miraglia.

The department established the abnormalities sampling project in 19 spill-affected communities. Sixty-one volunteers have been trained to prepare samples of animals to send to Anchorage for examination. There is a training video and sampling kit in each community. The volunteers have the proper chemicals and tools to correctly preserve a sample so that it can be tested in a meaningful way.

Eight samples have been sent to the department. So far none have been found with a condition that made them unsafe for human consumption. Those who would like to find out about the program or send samples are urged to call the abnormalities hotline at 1-800-267-2552

According to Miraglia, the department hopes to keep the program running as long as concerns exist.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Orphaned porpoise dies at SeaLife Center

Chances for survival were slim, say experts

SEWARD (AP) — A week-old calf's pool, to keep it company. male porpoise has died at the Alaska SeaLife Center where it was chances for survival were slim. sent after it was orphaned and washed ashore at Juneau.

Treatment was begun at the center even though a rehabilitation unit is months away from completion.

Authorities said the porpoise, the first marine mammal received at the center for treatment, died Friday after spending four days at the Seward center.

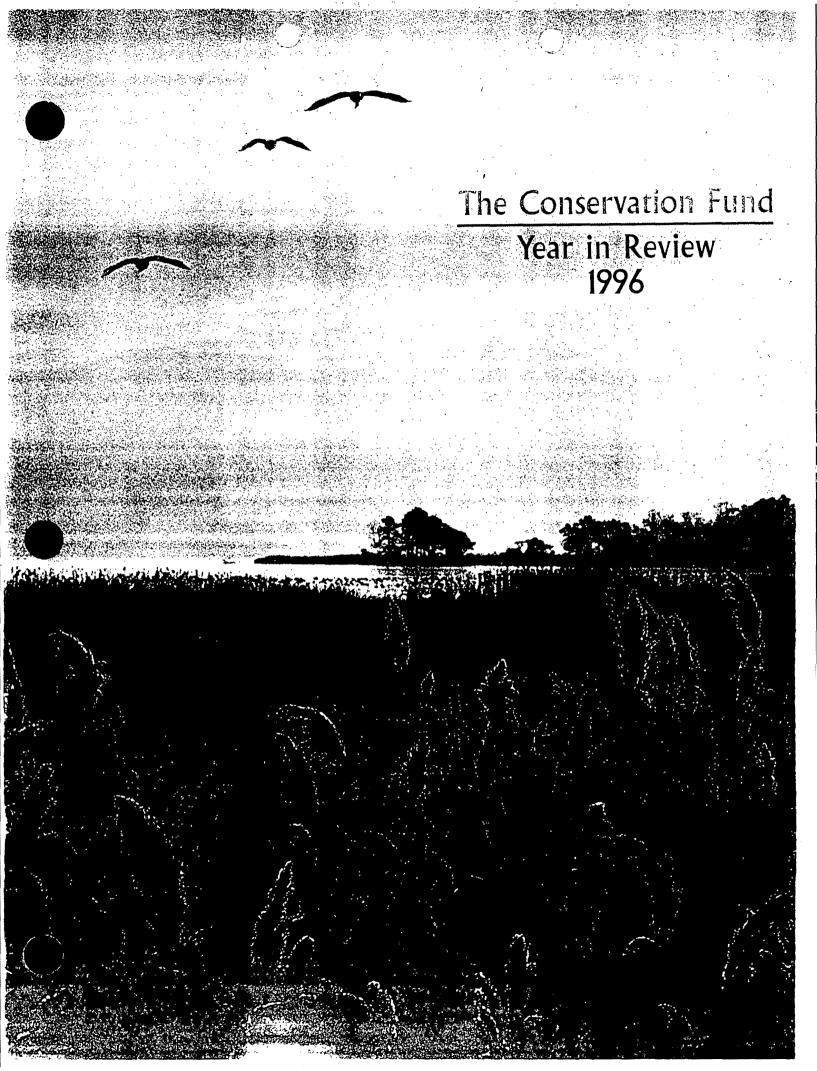
The calf had been fed a high-fat, high-protein diet and was receiving round-the-clock attention. The center said staff had climbed into the

Experts said the animal's

PENINSULA CLARION JULY 31, 1997

Sealife center builds staff

The Alaska Scalife Center in Seward has hired Victor Aderholt as aquatics director and Les Thomas as assistant aquatics director. Aderholt was previously supervisor of animal care with Sea World in Orlando, Fla. Thomas was director of husbandry at Underwater World in Minneapolis.



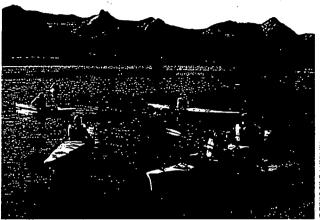
Making the Refuge Whole

The Fund weaves together key habitat areas to protect big bears and salmon.

■ KODIAK ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

laska's Kodiak Island National Wildlife Refuge earns superlatives for its giant brown bears, but small inholdings jeopardize its integrity. A joint U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Conservation Fund effort set the stage for a historic purchase of inholdings in 1995. With its partners, the Fund has protected 6,300 acres of inholdings -more than half of the initially identified threatened small parcels that are essential to the refuge's rhythms of life.

In a remarkable show of support for Kodiak, the Orvis Company and 500 of its customers pledged \$100,000 as a challenge, helping the Fund secure private and federal grants of more than \$50,000 for land protection on Kodiak. The 1996 contributions of many partners to the Kodiak campaign demonstrates broad support for a common goal. In addition to Orvis and its customers. The Conservation Fund's Kodiak partners include the Native community, the Ana heuser-Busch Companies, the Camp Fire Conservation Fund, the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust. the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Weeden Foundation.



Visitors boost the economy of Native communities.

Illustrating another facet of its Kodiak activities, the Fund continued working with the Native community of Old Harbor to protect ancestral lands while helping to create a sustainable economy. With support from the ARCO Foundation, the Fund bought six sea kayaks and donated them to Old Harbor. The reintroduction of sea kayaks to this traditional maritime culture is aiding the growth of heritage tourism.

GIFTLANDS

"Donating problem properties to The Conservation Fund wasn't our only option...just the smartest one."

> William D. Ruckelshaus, Chairman, Browning-Ferris Industries Inc.

CORPORATE STRATEGY IMPROVES BOTTOM LINE

Innovative approaches convert surplus property into cash.

ill Ruckelshaus was not thinking of charity when he called The Conservation Fund. The chairman of Browning-Ferris Industries Inc. (BFI) was thinking bottom line and looking for innovative approaches to converting surplus real estate into cash for his company's core business.

Ruckelshaus enlisted the Fund as BFI's co-strategist. Over the past decade; the Fund has helped corporations such as AT&T, International Paper, Lukens, Inc., Pfizer Inc., and The Stanley Works dispose of more than \$100 million in real estate assets—from raw land, timber, coal, and agri-



William D. Ruckelshaus

cultural properties to industrial, commercial, and residential buildings.

In a form of conservation alchemy, the Fund transforms. receipts from its Property Disposition Service into protected natural landscapes and historic landmarks across America. That's the type of conversion

that appeals to a businessman

and conservationist like Bill Ruckelshaus, who serves with 26 other business leaders on the Fund's Corporate Council.

The Conservation Fund provides a confidential assessment of disposition strategies for surplus real estate.

ORVIS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

In 1996 The Conservation Fund and the Orvis Company teamed up to raise more than \$150,000 to protect the unique wild resources of Kodiak Island, Alaska. We thank the Orvis Company and its customers for their generous support.

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RIESY OF THE ORVIS COMPANY

Jill J. Langsam

Germanie Laughlin

Bird expert wants to do it all

By Roger Kane

LOG Staff

Believe it or not, it snows every day in Florida.

At least in the penguin encounter at Sea World, said Tiffani Thompson, a new aviculturist at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

"I'm really excited about what's going on. I quit my job at Sea World of Florida in the end of May and arrived here May 28. We're not getting any birds until mid-September and this is the longest time in the last 12 years that I've been without animals in my life. And it's driving me crazy," she said.

Accurate record-keeping is vital to any organization and "I understand the need for records, but I feel a lot more motivated when I have to go clean an exhibit, than I do when I have to write a letter," Thompson said.

"Right now we've been doing permits and getting together the supplies we need for the birds. We're working closely with the rock artists to make the exhibit the best that it can be. And we're trying to set up communications with other Alaskan groups or visit with those that work with animals.

"We want to make sure we can all help each other work with each other to share our information and knowledge, since we're all working for the benefit of the animals. The well-being of the animals always comes first." she said.

"This is to learn about what's in our backyard. So little is known that this place will set protocols for animal rehabilitation used all over the world.

"There are already some great rehabilitation centers in this area, but they may be overburdened and we'll be able to divide up that overload," Thompson said.

She said the bird exhibit "is going to have the deepest pool of any exhibit in North America. It's designed to look like what you'd expect to see in Resurrection Bay. There will be 48 nesting burrows for the birds. It's just going to be awesome."

Nothing has been carved in stone at this point, but Thompson is anticipating tufted puffins, pigeon guillemots and maybe common murres.

"Hopefully down the line, we'll have harlequins, eiders and maybe other alcidines," all of which are diving birds.

"And if we get other nonreleasable birds we'll try to include them in our collection," she said.

"We will have some live fish in the exhibit that they will be able to hunt and we're looking at a local distributor for frozen fish, clams and krill: They'll probably get two or three feedings a day when the days are short, and probably four when the days are long. And when we feed them, we'll be doing question-and-answer sessions with the guests, to try and answer as many questions as we

can," she said.

Thompson has been working with animals for 12 years. "I began working with primates and tigers. I'm not sure how I got to work with birds, but I'm happy about it."

She said while in college she was always taking animals home with her and at one time had three baby tigers living with her, as well as a spider monkey and a black and white rough lemur.

"My career began at Florida's Cypress Gardens, right out of high school. For me I was working a 40-hours-a-week job and decided to stay with that. I was lucky to figure out what I wanted early." She said she has taken college courses in psychology, math and English, but has no college degree.



Tiffani Thompson

"Work in this field has taken me to Japan, Venezuela and here. And I do feel lucky to be where I'm at. Compared to Florida, this is another country. Florida is so flat," she said.

"In Japan I worked the bird show for the World's Fair. I was working with macaws. They did math problems, played hide-and-seek and rode bicycles. It was wonderful. I lived there (Osaka) eight months and would go back in a heartbeat. I went to Kobe, Nara and Mount Mino," she said.

It was on Mount Mino that she was introduced to the Japanese macaque. A primate. She said the climate there is temperate and the primates live in the mountains.

They are bold critters and "if you have food in your purse, they'll steal it. They'll jump in your car window" and she said they often work in pairs, with one of them creating a diversion so the other can make off with food.

"It's kind of embarrassing to be outsmarted by a monkey, but that's OK," she said.

Her trip to Venezuela was as a consultant to zoos, and she said the consultants were trying to heighten awareness of better ways to care for caged animals, better diets, and enrichment of the animals' lives.

"Down there working in a zoo is the lowest job on the totem pole. And if an animal is worth more money than it is in the zoo, the animals are sold on the black market.

"I' was very beneficial to see some of the keepers who cared, learning from us, but it was also depressing to know that the three weeks I spent there wasn't gonna change 200 or 300 years of thinking. It was also hard dealing with the devastation of the rain forests. There are only pockets of the rain forests left. And you see large groups of primates trying to survive in fragmented forests, competing with macaws for berries or fruits." She said because of the competition and loss of habitat, the primates will be forced to live in groups, resulting in isolated gene pools and inbreeding, and eventually the species will get weaker and weaker.

Thompson has also worked with puffins on the East Coast, where they were hunted to extinction in Maine.

She said young puffins were brought in from Canada and Greenland and imprinted on Maine's Seal Island.

She said the puffins are reestablishing themselves there and as a member of the Project Puffin team she did the "most roughingit I've ever done."

She said she spent three weeks on Seal Island, sleeping in a tent, using an outhouse, a solar shower and eating Maine lobster fresh from the sea.

"It was so good, sometimes we had three or four a night," courtesy of nearby fishermen, she said.

While in Alaska, Thompson said, "I want to do everything Alaskan. I want to see Denali, the Aleutians, Kodiak, and I'm sure when winter comes I'll want to go to Hawaii. I want to see an orca, caribou, bear and a walrus.

"I think I'll be here at least five years. But I want to see as much of the world as I can. There are so many beautiful places. I don't want to end up saying 'I wish I had,' I wanna be able to say, 'I'm glad I did it. I'm glad I did it.'"



Eric Fry/LOG photo

Not yet strong enough to make the flight to the sea, this six-week-old marbled murrelet was brought to the institute of Marine Science after it was found along the edge of the Seward Highway at Mile 12, July 20. The bird was most likely making its first flight from the nest to the coast. It was kept overnight and released on the east side of Fox Island, where about 20 marbled murrelets were spotted. SeaLife Center aviculturist, Tiffani Thompson, said although the ASLC is not ready to accept birds needing rehabilitation, they took the murrelet because it is a priority species.

commentary



First, Do No More Harm

Restoration of the Sound begins with habitat conservation

by David Grimes

How are we Alaskans doing in our efforts to learn the lessons of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and assist in the prevention and restoration of wounded ecosystems? The EVOS Trustee Council, the official government-designated healers for the wounded patient that is the oil spill region, have managed over the years to give away one half of our billion-dollar fund earmarked for restoration to pay for so-called science. This science, if it's any good, will only tell us two things we already know: prevent oil spills and protect habitat.

\$500 million for scientists suggests that they, not the Prince William Sound ecosystem, were the injured party. Like paparazzi descending on Princess Diana, we continue to photograph and harass the real patient, learning the 20 different ways oil kills a seal's brain and spending a fortune in restoration funds to make artificial aquarium rocks in Seward look just like the real ones outside in Resurrection Bay. This sort of research in lieu of action is unconscionable. To call it restoration is criminal.

Direct recovery of the ecosystem from oil spill injuries will mostly be the healing work of Time and Mother Nature. So as human healers, we would do well to follow the first two lines of the Hippocratic Oath: first, do no (more) harm, and second, trust in Nature's own innate healing abilities. Our task is to practice the gospel of preventive medicine,

by preventing oil spills and protecting

ecosystems from further harm. There is much to do.



After public outcry, the Trustee Council has in the last few years finally engaged in genuine restoration, through the purchase of habitat protections in the oil spill region from the landowners, mostly Native corporations. Clearcut logging became epidemic in the region after the oil spill and it is no joke that while we sat around studying the patient, her legs were being chopped off. The region's forests are home to salmon and many other creatures threatened by oil spills. Whatever one thinks of the merits of logging in Alaska's coastal forests, where trees are at the northern

Clearcut logging became epidemic in the region after the oil spill and it is no joke that while we sat around studying the patient, her legs were being chopped off.

end of their range, this is forest mining. These clearcuts will not recover to be harvestable forests again for many lifetimes.

state, Prince William Sound, perhaps the finest marine ecosystem in North America, is already highly developed and productive, an extraordinary offering of forest, fish, wildlife and beauty. Its bounty, placed in jeopardy by oil spill or clearcut, is not to be squandered for the sake of a few quarterly reports but to be enjoyed by many generations in perpetuity.

By purchasing timber rights and other conservation easements, we prevent further harm. And for perhaps the first time since the enactment of ANCSA, Native corporations are able to be a part of the cash economy by protecting, rather than exploiting, the life and spirit of land and water. This is a boon to Alaska's indigenous peoples who, unlike any other American citizens, are forced to have their tribal lands and heritage regarded as corporate assets. The negative aspect of these

restoration efforts is that the Trustees have refused to do conservation deals unless they were able to buy considerable amounts of the Native land outright. This was a hard pill to swallow for those Native landowners who genuinely wished to be a part of restoration; but not at the expense of selling away ancestral lands.

Are there any other threats to the Pri William Sound region today? On either side of the patient we have the equivalent of two more oil spills about to happen. On the west we plan to spend \$60 million enlarging the Whittier tunnel so that a million more people a year can trash that side of the Sound. Numerous species injured by the oil spill are not recovering. They will not be aided by tearing a big hole in the west side of the hospital's mosquito net. However, the state's Whittier Access Project EIS, a document several inches thick, devotes all of four

sentences to the oil r-: Which it then claims happened over in e eastern Sound." Somebody should teach those folks how to read a map. As for those actually charged with protecting the patient, most of the Trustee Council's governing agencies have signed off on the Whittier Project, completely ignoring the cumulative harm, as if it were happening somewhere in eastern New Jersey.

On the other side, east of PWS, is the Copper River Delta ecosystem, every bit as remarkable and threatened as the Sound. The salmon runs of the Copper River are worldrenowned, and the Delta, considered the most important habitat in the Western Hemisphere for shorebirds, serves as a key staging area for over 16 million shorebirds and a significant portion of other Pacific coast flyway waterfowl populations. The Delta region hosts nearly the entire population of Dusky Canada Geese and the largest concentration in North America of both nesting trumpeter swans and beaver, as well as almost the entire spectrum of large Alaskan terrestrial and marine mammals.

Side by side, the Delta and the Sound are historical twins. Cordova, at the junction of the two ecosystems, was the Valdez of the 1920s and '30s, serving as the terminus of an enormously lucrative railroad pipeline down the Copper River from what was at the time the world's richest copper mine at Kennecott. Copper transmits the electricity generated by oil and coal, which ironically brings us to the Bering River coal fields of the eastern Delta, and the question of whether the Delta must now extend its historical parallels with Prince William Sound to include an environmental disaster similar to the oil spill and the Whittier invasion.

The Bering River coal fields have been on the national stage lonce before. In 1907 Président Teddy Roosevelt, squaring off against the J.P. Morgan and Guggenheim syndicate building the railroad to the copper mine, removed the half-billion ton coal field (and others in Alaska) from public entry to prevent corporate monopoly. The same year, with his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot, Roosevelt created the Chugach National Forest to more permanently protect the forest

These extraordinary and visionary conservation measures were of national significance. Pinchot, father of the Forest Service, was fired in 1910 by President William Howard Taft after Pinchot blew the whistle on the syndicate's attempt to reclaim the Bering coal fields in a back-door deal with Taft's secretary of the interior, Richard Ballinger. The ensuing scandal rocked the nation and convinced Roosevelt, in defense of Alaska conservation, to come out of retirement and run against Taft in the next presidential election. The Republican Party was splintered, Roosevelt formed the Bull Moose Party, and Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected. But the Copper River Delta remained protected, until now.

The coal fields below he forests above are currently being set for invasion by Chugach Alaska Čorp., a regional Native corporation that has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in its short career and is just emerging from its second bankruptcy. While Chugach has historically failed to provide dividends for its Native shareholders, it nevertheless has provided lucrative short-term employment for a few folks, primarily management and subcontractors, through destructive and unsustainable resource extraction. (Chugach shareholders received no dividends from recent clear cutting at Patton Bay on the outer coast of PWS, but the timber subcontractor is flying a new Lear jet.)

In concert with the Whittier invasion, Chugach plans to construct a 25-mile road off the Copper River Highway east of Cordova, crossing a hundred salmon streams to access its lands for clear cutting and strip mining. The corporation and its shareholders will post losses once again, but not before despoiling one of the world's great sanctuaries for fish and wildlife, in a region still recovering from the oil spill. Ironically, the great majority of Chugach shareholders can't even claim ancestry to the coal field country. Of those who can, the Eyak people are adamantly opposed to the desecration of their ancestral lands. 79-year old Marie Smith Jones, Chief of the Eyak Nation and last Native speaker of the Eyak language, laments the possibility that future generations' children will not be able to enjoy the beauty of the land and wildlife she knew as a child. Keep the patient healthy, she advises.

Without having to sell away land, Chugach Alaska Corp. can certainly find lucrative ways to create shareholder dividends through conservation of resources. The Trustee Council has over \$100 million in a restoration reserve. Conservation easements can also be traded for federal surplus properties. And Sen. Frank Murkowski has recently championed the idea of reviving the Land and Water Conservation Fund, created in 1964 as part of the deal to open the Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas drilling. The idea for the fund is simple — a small tax on the extraction of public natural resources supports the protection of other and wildlife resources of the Delta and the lands and resources — and the federal sound wildlife resources of the Delta and the lands and resources — and the federal sound wildlife resources and the federal sound wildlife resources of the Delta and the lands and resources — and the federal sound wildlife resources of the Delta and the lands and resources — and the federal sound wildlife resources of the Delta and the lands and resources — and the federal sound wildlife resources and the federal sound wildlife resources and the lands and resources — and the federal sound wildlife resources are sound with the federal sound wildlife resources and the federal sound wildlife resources and the federal sound wildlife resources are sound with the federal sound wildlife resources and the federal sound wildlife resources are so that the federal sound wildlife resources are sound wildlife resources. aside up to \$900 million a year in royalties from offshore leases to fund such protection. For many years Congress has shorted the fund to hold down the deficit, and Sen. Murkowski now plans to set the fund back on its original

Chugach and the senator need to get together. They can prove to the world that the most important legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill is first, do no more harm.

David Grimes is a musician, wilderness guide and 20-year resident of the Prince William Sound region. He lives in Cordova. This essay first appeared in the autumn issue of "Alaska's Wild Voices," the publication of the environmental : group Common Roots.

ANGHORAGE DAIL! NEWS

Theory runs hot and cold

Water temperature cycles linked to salmon numbers

By JIM CLARKE
The Associated Press

If a new meteorological theory about decade-to-decade temperature swings in the Pacific Ocean is right, salmon fishery managers in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest might face identity crises en masse.

The theory, in short, goes like this: It's the temperature of seawater at various depths, more than local management, that has been the deciding factor in salmon abundance and shortage across the Pacific.

"Fisheries management actions and harvest practices are not the only drivers of salmon production," University of Washington researcher Nathan Mantua said last week. Mantua and his colleagues have been working on the theory for several years.

"It may be that it's easy to manage fisheries when the ocean factors are going your way and it's hard when the ocean's against you," Mantua said. "Maybe you don't want to pat yourself on the back too hard when things are good and you don't want to take all the blame when things are bad."

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His paper, "A Pacific Inter-Decadal Climate Oscillation With Impacts on Salmon Production," isn't going to reach any best-seller lists, but it has been the subject of some head scratching in salmon management circles.

It's particularly timely for two reasons: the mysteriously poor red run in Bristol Bay this summer, and the concern about how the El Nino weather phenomenon

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might affect salmon.

Just 12 million of a forecast 25 million reds returned to the bay, and scientists still aren't sure what happened to them. Theories abound, everything from interception by foreign fleets to a die-off because of unusually warm Bristol Bay water, but there isn't enough evidence for experts to pick the most likely reason.

El Nino, the warming of mid-Pacific water off the coasts of Peru and Chile, usually occurs several times a decade and has been blamed for violent weather all across the world. This winter's El Nino is expected to produce a warmer, possibly wetter winter in Alaska.

Mantua's theory is more subtle than El Nino and unrelated. He and his colleagues think a warming and cooling of the Pacific at a depth of several dozen feet, which occurs every decade or two, can affect salmon production dramatically in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

The effects are opposite for the two regions: When Alaska salmon booms, as it has been for much of the past two decades, the Pacific Northwest suffers. Then a "regime shift" occurs, and Alaska production drops while British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Northern California salmon become more abundant.

That's what was going on in the 1950s and '60s, he said, when Alaska suffered, but southern areas had record catches.

The reason for the swing has to do with the availability of the foods salmon eat while maturing in the ocean.

Here's how David Musgrave, a fisheries professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, explains it:

Phytoplankton and zooplankton are the bugs of the ocean, with the former living off nothing but sunlight and then getting eaten by the latter. Salmon, in turn, eat the zooplankton.

In the North Pacific, where Alaska-bound salmon live, there always are enough nutrients around, but they tend to mix at colder, deeper depths. Warm the water and that "mixing layer" rises toward the surface, giving the salmon more food and as a result more salmon.

It's the opposite off the West Coast. There, warmer temperatures tend to inhibit the availability of food for the salmon at the proper depths, Musgrave said.

He's impressed with Mantua's research, especially the correlation between changes in water temperatures of just a few degrees and wide swings in salmon abundance.

"Things don't come out this nicely, usually. That's why I'm so impressed with it," Musgrave said.

Mantua's conclusions have Doug Eggers a little put out. As chief fisheries scientist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Eggers puts great stock in the ability of fisheries managers to promote healthy returns and close off fishing when those returns appear threatened.

A combination of factors have affected salmon production over the last century, not just the weather, he said. Dams and other development in the Pacific Northwest have nearly destroyed runs. Alaska's salmon industry and stocks suffered from overfishing in the 1920s, for instance, but have rebounded recently because the state's oil wealth has helped pay for better data collection.

So is the weak Bristol Bay run and spotty returns elsewhere this summer a harbinger of a general downturn in Alaska's salmon industry?

One year of bad returns isn't enough for Mantua or anyone else to say for certain. But Eggers doesn't dismiss the possibility.

"We could be entering a new downturn in productivity, and we need to know that," he said Friday. "That's when you risk overfishing."

Borough will manage Chiniak lands if Exxon council buys it

By SUE JEFFREY

Mirror Writer

Prime Leisnoi property at Chiniak may be spared from future development now that the Kodiak Island Borough promises to manage it.

In a letter to the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council, Borough Mayor Jerome Selby formally asked the trustee council to acquire "high value habitat lands on the Chiniak Peninsula." In turn, the borough would become the "responsible managing party," he said.

"The state does not want to oversee another state park, the federal government isn't interested in the property and the borough needs to manage the Chiniak beaches anyway," Selby pointed out at a recent borough work session.

"We need to provide port-a-potties and dumpsters, especially during the summer months, because the beaches are a mess."

Besides being popular recreation areas. Chiniak beaches and tidelands are important habitat for many species affected by the oil spill.

Much of the uplands are highly valued, as well, because Chiniak's Spruce forests are prime nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet, a sea bird substantially injured by the oil spill, says Bud Cassidy, borough land manager.

"Marbled murrelets are not nest builders but they come ashore and lay their eggs in 'egg cups' on top of old mossy limbed branches in old-growth Spruce forests," he explained. "For a long time, people did not realize Chiniak was prime marbled murrelet habitat because they come ashore at night."

Leisnoi owns most of the uplands at Chiniak and is currently logging the area. The Native corporation supports the land sale, offering to sell-18,000 acres to the trustee council.

Judy Lucas, a Chiniak resident also championing the purchase under the banner. Friends of Cape Chiniak Park," says Cape Chiniak is a treasure worth preserving. The area contains a sea lion haulout, archaeological sites, stocked lakes, salmon streams and some of the best whale watching areas on the island, she points out.

"The purchase would give us a chance to save the area from logging...," Lucas says, and because it is on the road system, it is very valuable to all of Kodiak...Friends of Cape Chiniak Park are are thankful for the borough stepping in and being a willing sponsor."

It is not likely the trustee council would buy all of the critical habitat on the Chiniak Peninsula because the council is running out of money, Selby says. Therefore, the borough will work with Leisnoi, private landowners and the Chiniak community to prioritize parcels in the area.

At the other end of the Kodiak road system, Leisnoi and the trustee council are in final negotiations for the purchase of about 1,000 acres of rainforest at Termination Point. Leisnoi and a group of local residents are also petitioning the council to buy Long Island.

The trustee council has already purchased about 300,000 acres of land in the Kodiak Archipelago, including 26,000 acres on Shuyak Island, which the state designated as an Alaska state park last year.

The council also bought about 200,000 acres of Native lands deemed critical habitat areas and signed them over to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

"The federal government pays the borough 'payments in lieu of taxes' on this land," Mike Hawkes, a KNWR spokesperson said, "because it is public land which was private property removed from the local tax roll."

He figures the borough will get a \$300,000 check this year from the federal government on the acquired Native lands.

Project measuring recovery of near shore ecosystem

By Jody Seitz

It's clear that some animals living along the shores of western Prince William Sound have not recovered from the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Eight years later researchers are still searching for an explanation. Is their food contaminated? Are they coming into contact with oil? Or has their food supply changed, so that they no longer get the amount or kind of food which allows them to thrive?

More than 500 species of plants and animals live in the nearshore area between the low and high tides. It's difficult to know how much damage the spill caused, as there was little biological data about most of them before the oil spill.

To understand the present health of the ecosystem, researchers are monitoring and comparing the recovery of four top-of-the-food chain predators, injured by the spill.

Scientists are hoping to uncover any remaining problems in the nearshore system by comparing two shellfish eaters, harlequin ducks and sea otters, with two fish eaters, pigeon guillemots and river otters.

It's something like a nearshore check-up, according to Leslie Holland-Bartels of the Biological Resource Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. "For each of those animals we look at a variety of population and individual health characteristics," she said. "We look at blood, weight, family structure, to give us a combination of tools, just as a doctor would, if he were evaluating your health,"

To find out if animals are still coming into contact

Coastal Currents

with oil, swabs are taken from their fur or feathers. The swabs are put through a test which can pick up oil residue invisible to the naked eye.

. Blood and tissue samples tell scientists whether an animal's food supply is contaminated. For example, if the fish eaters are healthy, but the shellfish eaters have low birth rates and poor survival, perhaps what they're eating is contaminated.

"Then we would hypothesize that there is oil exposure occurring," said Holland-Bartels, "but it may be occurring through the food chain, through the sediments, to the mussels, the clams, the urchins, through that part of the food chain until it is picked up by the shellfish eaters."

In 1996 underwater divers began to assess nearshore food supplies for all four species.

Test results have found an enzyme known as cytochrome p450 in the tissues of river otters. P450 is an enzyme that develops in response to certain chemicals, including hydrocarbons, but scientists caution that it's too early to draw any conclusions. The tests of sea otter liver and kidney function show there are still differences in oiled and unoiled areas, but the differences are far less than several years ago.

The project began in 1995 and is expected to continue through 1999.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.

Octopus' garden in Prince William Sound

By JODY SEITZ

Alaska Coastal Currents

The octopus is a cryptic underwater beast. In the northern Gulf of Alaska the Giant Pacific octopus, octopus dolfleini, lives from the shore down to about 500 meters or 1700 feet, which makes it both difficult to locate and difficult to study.

Following reports that the giant Pacific octopus was increasingly scarce after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Dr. David Scheel, of the Prince William Sound Science Center, set out to discover more about this mysterious creature.

"I began to get concerned," said Scheel, "that with the small populations out there that it would be difficult to find octopus and so I decided the best people who would know where to find them would be people out there looking for them for food, the subsistence users."

The giant Pacific octopus matures at 15 to 40 pounds. Males usually mature at a smaller size than females. After mating, the female octopus lays eggs in the den and tends them for up to a year until they hatch. During this time she does not feed, and after the eggs hatch, she dies. Males die within a few weeks of mating.

When the eggs hatch, the tiny octopus spend 4-6 weeks feeding



Plastonation and recovery following the Econ Valdezoil split

and drifting at the surface with the plankton. They settle to the bottom while still just a fraction of an ounce in weight. Without mating the octopus can live up to five years, reach 120 pounds, and develop an arm span of 20 feet.

To address the villages' concern researchers first needed to learn some basics about octopus in this area their food, predators, and preferred habitat. For protection the octopus lives in a den - a cavity in or beneath a rock-often marked by shellfish remains at the opening.

The scientific literature mentioned they were found under rocks and boulders, but did not mention vegetation. Mr. Jerry Totemoff, of Tatitlek, said they're usually found near beds of eelgrass.

By the end of the study it was apparent that octopus habitat in Prince William Sound included plants. Most of the octopus they found (all juveniles) lived in the intertidal zone down to 16 feet deep. They preferred areas with dense kelp and a sand, mud, or gravel bottom.

Researchers found no evidence that there was more food in the kelp or shallow areas.

Scheel says the intertidal zone may be a refuge for young octopus. "Kelp may provide cover to octopuses. Predators like the big fishes do not spend time in very shallow areas. Even sea otters feed most of the time from 8 to 34 meters deep."

Octopus densities in the study turned out to be one tenth those seen in British Columbia, which has the only counts available for comparison. There have also been reports of difficulty obtaining octopus on the eastern Pacific coast, and declines in the Japanese octopus fishery in the early 1990s. Scheel says none of these observations alone signifies much, but cumulatively raise the question of whether the octopus has been declining throughout its range during the 1990s.

Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program. The series is sponsored by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to provide information about restoration activities within the spill region.

Exxon Valdez money heads east

EPA says New York City will get \$150,000 to help head off pollution in wetlands

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City is getting \$150,000 from a fund set up after the Exxon Valdez spill settlement to head off pollution in its own waters, the federal Environmental Protection Agency says.

The money comes from a \$4.5 million environmental fund set up by the EPA after Exxon Corp. paid a \$900 million settlement to the U.S. and Alaska governments for environmental damage resulting from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound.

The fund likely was set up with money from the settlement fund that was paid out to state and federal agencies to reimburse them for expenditures they made during spill cleanup, said Molly McCammon with the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council in Anchorage.

"What happened is a lot of federal agencies spent a lot of money. responding to the spill,". McCammon said. "Under terms of the settlement, they were reimbursed." State and federal agencies received \$173.2 million in reimbursements for litigation, cleanup and other costs they incurred in the aftermath of the 11-million-gallon spill, she said.

Jeanne Fox was to present a check to city Parks Commissioner Henry Stern at Central Park on Wednesday. The two also were to plant at the park's Harlem Meer, the EPA and Parks & Recreation department said.

The grant will help support an effort to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff from city wetlands. The bulrush is among plant species used tat.

New York Parks spokesman Edward Skyler said the \$150,000

'EPA' regional administrator grant to New York was the largest meted out to any local or state recipient by the EPA from the Exxon Valdez fund. The money will go to the department's Natural Resource plant a symbolic Great Bulrush, Group, responsible for managing and restoring natural resources in the department's 27,000-acre domain.

Exxon spent more than \$3 billion to clean up after the Exxon Valdez spill, and an Anchorage jury in 1994 ordered the company to pay \$5.3 to curtail erosion of salt-marsh habi- billion in actual and punitive damages to fishermen, Natives and others harmed by the pollution, Exxon has appealed that verdict.

Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



Measuring recovery of nearshore ecosystem

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