

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustee Council Members

**FROM:** Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

**DATE:** December 11, 1997

**RE:** Briefing materials for December 18, 1997 meeting

This memo, draft agenda and enclosures constitute your briefing packet for the December 18 meeting.

1. Meeting Notes. The draft meeting notes for the October 3 and October 28 Trustee Council meetings are enclosed.
2. PAG Meeting Summary. Notes from the Nov 4-5 PAG meeting are provided.
3. Financial Report. Two financial reports are enclosed. The Quarterly Report for the period ending September 30, 1997 is provided showing Work Plan expenditures and obligations by year and restoration category. Also enclosed are the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 1997.
4. Habitat Protection Reports. Enclosed is a recently updated small parcel status report; there have been no major changes under the large parcel program since the last report dated September 29, 1997. Negotiations continue with AJV on acquisition of habitat on northern Afognak Island. Also provided is a map that depicts a land exchange effort by the USFWS on southern Kodiak Island. Additional information will be provided at the meeting.
5. 1998 Restoration Workshop. An agenda for the upcoming 1998 Restoration Workshop to be held January 28-29 at the Captain Cook Hotel is enclosed. Also note that the annual workshop will be preceded by technical review sessions on each of the three major ecosystem investigations (SEA, APEX and NVP).

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6. Bibliography of Trustee Council Sponsored Research. A copy of the most recent version of the bibliography is enclosed with 218 publication citations.

7. Archaeology Planning. Since the last meeting on October 3, substantial efforts have been undertaken to review a draft resolution regarding archaeological repositories in the Chugach and lower Cook Inlet region. A briefing memorandum that describes these efforts, together with draft resolutions and associated materials, are enclosed.

8. FY 98 Work Plan - Deferred Projects. Two spreadsheets concerning the FY 98 Work Plan deferred projects are provided. One spreadsheet is a summary (i.e., "numbers only" version) while the other provides more detailed information including the Chief Scientist and Executive Director recommendations on the projects. An update on the progress toward the timely completion of overdue reports is also provided.

9. Budget Amendment for Project 98126. The State is requesting additional funding within the 98126 budget to accommodate increased participation by ADF&G in negotiations for the AJV parcel and additional funding within the DNR budget for financial support for the exchange of state land on Sitkalidik Island for Old Harbor land on the north shore of Kiliuda Bay, as referenced in the Old Harbor purchase agreement. Additional funding is also requested for Department of Law negotiation support. The Sitkalidik Exchange will involve the exchange of approximately 8,000 acres of state land on Sitkalidik Island for approximately 4,700 acres of Old Harbor Native Corporation Land on the north shore of Kiliuda Bay. Statute and regulation require an extensive public process for land exchanges and that the lands exchanged be of equal value. Typically, exchanges are rather complicated and time consuming and this effort is expected to take two years to complete. The attached budget reflects funding required in both FY 98 and FY 99.

10. Tatitlek Acquisition - Amendment. At the time the Council packet was assembled, we did not have materials to include on this agenda item. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

11. Small Parcels - Action Items. A number of small parcel action items are being proposed. These include requested action to authorize the purchase of a number of parcels (KEN 12/Baycrest, KEN 1051 & 1052/Salamatof, KAP 220/Mouth of the Ayakulik River, and KAP 226/Karluk River Lagoon) as well as the proposal to designate PWS 1056/Blondeau as a Parcel Meriting Special Consideration. Benefit reports, maps and other information regarding these small parcels are enclosed.

12. Restoration Reserve Planning. A draft schedule for restoration reserve planning activities is provided along with the most recent version of the draft options paper which reflects input from the most recent PAG meeting.

13. Other Small Parcel Information - Materials concerning three recent small parcel proposals is provided for your reference: 1. Cape Chiniak - A proposal from the Kodiak

Island Borough regarding these lands is enclosed; 2. Seldovia Native Association - Information from the Seldovia Native Association concerning the possibility of SNA selling a 50 year lease on lands in the vicinity of Peterson Bay in Kachemak Bay is provided; and 3. Bay View Incorporated - A letter and map from Bay View Incorporated is enclosed regarding the possible sale of lands on the lower Alaska Peninsula.

14. News Clips. Enclosed are recent newspaper articles of interest to the Trustee Council.

15. Miscellaneous Correspondence. Enclosed are copies of recent letters and messages from various individuals.

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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## AGENDA

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING  
**DECEMBER 18, 1997 @ 8:30 A.M.**  
645 G STREET, ANCHORAGE

**12/10/97**  
**3:50 pm**

**DRAFT**

### Trustee Council Members:

**BRUCE BOTELHO/CRAIG TILLERY**  
Attorney General/Trustee  
State of Alaska/Representative

**MICHELE BROWN**  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Environmental  
Conservation

**DEBORAH WILLIAMS**  
Trustee Representative for Fish &  
Wildlife & Parks  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**PHIL JANIK**  
Regional Forester - Alaska Region  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

**STEVE PENNOYER**  
Director, Alaska Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service

**FRANK RUE**  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Teleconferenced throughout the Spill Area through the LIO  
Federal Chair

1. Call to Order 8:30 a.m.
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of October 3 and 28, 1997 meeting notes
2. Public Advisory Group Report - Rupert Andrews, Chair  
(Via teleconference)
3. Executive Director's Report - Molly McCammon
  - Administrative Issues
    - Status of EVOS Investments
    - Status of CRIS Fees
  - Habitat Protection
    - Large Parcel Status Report
    - Small Parcel Status Report
  - Research and Monitoring
    - 1998 Workshop
    - Bibliography of Publications

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Alaska Department of Law



4. Public Comment Period 9:30 a.m.

Action Items:

5. Archaeological Restoration\*

6. Executive Session to Discuss Habitat Protection (lunch provided)

7. Deferred Projects\*

8. Budget Amendment on Project 98126\*

9. Tatitlek Package Amendment\*

10. Small Parcels\*

- Blondeau, PWS-1056, PMSC - Appraisal
- Baycrest, KEN-12
- Salamatof, KEN-1051 & 1052
- Karluk River Lagoon, KAP-226
- Mouth of Ayakulik River, KAP-220

10. Restoration Reserve Options Discussion\*

\* indicates tentative action items

**Adjourn -5 p.m.**

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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## TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING ACTIONS

October 3, 1997 @ 10:30 a.m.

By Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

DRAFT

### Trustee Council Members Present:

- Jim Wolfe, USFS
- Deborah Williams, USDOJ
- Steve Pennoyer, NMFS

- Frank Rue, ADF&G
- Ginny Fay, ADEC
- \* ● Craig Tillery, ADOL

\* Chair  
In Anchorage:  
In Juneau:

### ● Alternates:

Jim Wolfe served as an alternate for Phil Janik for the entire meeting.  
Bill Hines served as an alternate for Steven Pennoyer from 2:16 p.m. to adjournment.  
Claudia Slater served as an alternate for Frank Rue from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Ginny Fay served as an alternate for Michele Brown for the entire meeting.  
Craig Tillery served as an alternate for Bruce Botelho for the entire meeting.

### 1. Approval of the Agenda

**APPROVED MOTION:** Approved the Agenda. Motion by Pennoyer, second by Rue.

### 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

**APPROVED MOTION:** Approved August 6, 1997 Trustee Council meeting notes. Motion by Rue, second by Pennoyer.

### 3. Homer Spit Small Parcels

**APPROVED MOTION:** Authorized funding of \$422,100 to purchase a total of approximately 68.7 acres on the Homer Spit (KEN 1060A, B, C, & D). Also authorized \$574,000 for approximately 38 acres at Beluga Slough (KEN 1061). Motion by Rue, second by Fay.

**Public comments received from 10 individuals from Juneau, Valdez, Fairbanks,**

**Chenega, Homer, Anchorage, and Cordova.**

**4. Technical Budget Amendment**

**APPROVED MOTION:** The funding approved for Project 97180, Kenai Habitat Restoration and Recreation Enhancement, is capital and does not lapse September 30, 1997. Motion by Rue, second by Wolfe.

Meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m.

raw

DRAFT

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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## TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING ACTIONS

October 28, 1997 @ 1:30 p.m.

By Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

DRAFT

### Trustee Council Members Present (all telephonically):

- Jim Wolfe, USFS
- Deborah Williams, USDO
- Steve Pennoyer, NMFS

- Frank Rue, ADF&G
- Michele Brown, ADEC
- \*● Craig Tillery, ADOL

#### \* Chair

In Anchorage: Deborah Williams

In Juneau: Michele Brown, Rob Bosworth and Frank Rue

In California: Craig Tillery

In Vancouver: Steve Pennoyer

In West Virginia: Jim Wolfe

#### ● Alternates:

Jim Wolfe served as an alternate for Phil Janik for the entire meeting.

Rob Bosworth served as an alternate for Frank Rue for the first 30 minutes.

Craig Tillery served as an alternate for Bruce Botelho for the entire meeting.

### 1. Reinvestment of Maturing Securities

**APPROVED MOTION:** Reinvest the maturing securities, principal plus interest, into a Zero Coupon U.S. Treasury Security, maturing on or about November 15, 2004. Motion by Williams, second by Pennoyer.

### 2. Executive Session

**APPROVED MOTION:** Adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing habitat acquisition. Motion by Pennoyer, second by Brown.

Off Record at 1:38 p.m.

On Record at 2:43 p.m.

**No public comments were received during this meeting.**

#### **Federal Trustees**

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### **State Trustees**

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Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Alaska Department of Law

# Meeting Summary

**A. GROUP:** Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)

**B. DATE/TIME:** November 4-5, 1997

**C. LOCATION:** Anchorage, Alaska

## **D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Rupert Andrews, Chair	Sport Hunting and Fishing
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Chris Beck	Public-at-Large
Pam Brodie	Environmental
Sheri Buretta	Public-at-Large
Dave Cobb (via telecon)	Local Government
James King	Public-at-Large
Mary McBurney	Aquaculture
Chuck Meacham	Science/Academic
Chip Dennerlein	Conservation
Brenda Schwantes	Public-at-Large
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation Users
Chuck Totemoff	Native Landowners
Howard Valley	Forest Products
Mark Hodgins ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Alaska State House

## **E. NOT REPRESENTED:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Eleanor Huffines	Commercial Tourism
Nancy Yeaton	Subsistence
Vacant	Public-at-Large
Loren Leman ( <i>ex officio</i> )	Alaska State Senate

## **F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Catherine Berg	Fish and Wildlife Service
Veronica Christman	Trustee Council Staff
Traci Cramer	Trustee Council Staff
Carol Fries	AK Department of Natural Resources
Dave Gibbons	U.S. Forest Service
Chuck Gilbert	National Park Service
Joe Hunt	Trustee Council Staff
Laura Johnson	Chugachmuit
Mark Kuwada	AK Department of Fish and Game

Barat LePorte  
Molly McCammon  
Rita Miraglia  
Doug Mutter  
Theresa Obermeyer  
Karl Pulliam (via telecon)  
Bud Rice  
Sandra Schubert  
Stan Senner  
Hugh Short

Claudia Slater  
Bob Spies (via telecon)  
Joe Sullivan  
Alex Swiderski  
Lisa Thomas  
Al Tyler  
Cherri Womac

Bogle and Gates  
Trustee Council Executive Director  
AK Department of Fish and Game  
Designated Federal Officer, Dept. of Interior  
Public  
Public  
National Park Service  
Trustee Council Staff  
Trustee Council Staff  
Trustee Council Community Involvement  
Coordinator  
AK Department of Fish and Game  
Chief Scientist, Trustee Council  
AK Department of Fish and Game  
AK Department of Law  
U.S. Geological Survey  
University of Alaska  
Trustee Council Staff

#### G. SUMMARY:

The meeting was opened November 4 at 8:30 a.m. by Rupert Andrews. After roll call, the summary of the July 16, 1997 meeting was approved.

Molly McCammon provided the Executive Director's report. She reported on the status of legislation to change management of EVOS accounts, which are held in the U.S. Court System. Some changes not desired by the Trustee Council are being proposed. The Trustee Council will meet December 18 to act on deferred projects for this year's work plan. A harbor seal workshop will be held November 12-13, 1997. Negotiations are underway for large parcel acquisitions with Afognak Joint Venture and with Koniag. An agreement was reached for acquisition of small parcels at Homer.

McCammon gave an overview of the restoration reserve planning process. Ideas for a research fund were put forward as early as September 1989. Arliss Sturgulewski and the PAG have put forward papers on the reserve concept. The Trustee Council has asked for a full public planning process at this time, to assist them in deciding what to do with the reserve, and how to do it. Public comments were solicited in this summer's newsletter (copies were distributed to PAG members).

Stan Senner reviewed the recovery status of injured resources. An official update was done in 1996, and another will be done in 1998. Several species appear to be recovering and will change status. The ecosystem has not recovered, and recovery of several species is yet unknown.

Veronica Christman provided a summary of the public comments on the reserve received to date (a summary was distributed to the PAG). Of 179 responses, 59 addressed all questions and 39 spoke in favor of a permanent research and monitoring program.

The session was opened for public comment. Karl Pulliam (via telecon) supported increased research and monitoring in the Cook Inlet/Kachemak Bay area, a project to compile information for the area, and support for efforts such as Cook Inlet Keeper and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Estuarine Reserve program. Theresa Obermeyer offered comment and distributed a handout.

Bob Spies presented his thoughts on use of the reserve fund (a paper was distributed to the PAG). He and the core scientific peer review team propose a long-term research and monitoring program of the northern Gulf of Alaska, taking an adaptive, interdisciplinary, ecosystem approach. He estimates it will take \$4-5 million annually for an effective program, which should cooperate with other research efforts.

McCammon introduced presentations on remaining habitat protection opportunities (reports were distributed to the PAG). Dave Gibbons went over Forest Service options within Prince William Sound, noting Native shareholder homesites would be the major future opportunities--there are no small parcels. Chuck Gilbert discussed Park Service options, stating that Port Graham is not interested in selling any land, English Bay purchases are completed, and there are no small parcels. The coast along Lake Clark National park is a potential, but is involved in pending CIRI and village land deals. Mark Kuwada spoke about Department of Fish and Game possibilities, mainly small parcels along the Kenai River. Carol Fries discussed Department of Natural Resources interests, mostly Kenai River small parcels. Alex Swiderski mentioned that many small parcels become available over a period of time, ones that aren't available now may be at a later date. McCammon outlined Fish and Wildlife Service possibilities--mainly small parcels on Kodiak Island, Afognak Island parcels, and lands within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Hugh Short discussed community interests (see handout #1). Hearings will be held after January in all rural communities, as well as Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. Local control of research, education and cultural projects are desired by most of the community facilitators, who represent Tribal Councils. Native internships were discussed. Native input into the process is desired.

Dave Cobb suggested that assisting resources over the long-term was important, a small advisory group of stakeholders could manage the funds, and that there were enough land acquisitions.

McCammon stated that the Trustee Council wants to present a range of options for the next round of public comment. There is still a mission tied to the injured resources that keeps the program close to the purposes outlined in the settlement.

Al Tyler outlined the endowed University chairs option. About \$2 million can support one endowed chair (salary and benefits only). The specific kind of chair can be identified, and the method of managing finances can be established. Jim King noted that funding research projects through the University also gives education to others. The Group discussed endowed chairs and where this option should be placed in the presentation of options. Tyler proposed adding the following language to the option: "The incumbent of an endowed chair would occupy the position for a fixed term (e.g., 5 years)."



The possibility of funding a research institute was brought up. Allocation of fixed percentages of the fund was discussed. Increasing the amount going into the fund and allowing funds to be used for agency programs were also discussed. Leveraging funds with other research projects and perhaps establishing an overall research coordination group were ideas presented. Giving money to local foundations was put forth. Chuck Meacham suggesting deleting large parcel acquisition as an option since it would take too much of the fund to accomplish. Brenda Schwantes agreed, but Pam Brodie said that all options should be included for public discussion. Stacy Studebaker said that recreational amenities should be funded. Chip Dennerlein supports leaving large parcel acquisitions in the mix.

The PAG discussed and voted on the options to be included in the draft public discussion paper (distributed to the PAG).

**USE: Item 1 should be called Ecosystem Research and Monitoring and should include the concept of coordination with other efforts, and the concept of terrestrial vs. marine components of the ecosystem should be given further thought. Passed unanimously**

**Item 2 should be called: Large Parcel Habitat Protection. Inclusion in the options paper passed by a vote of 8 to 6, with Beck, Buretta, Cobb, Meacham, Schwantes, and Totemoff opposing.**

**Item 3 should be called Small Parcel Habitat Protection. Passed, with 2 no votes from Totemoff and Buretta.**

**Item 4 should include the language Tyler presented (above), and include a clear definition along with the concepts of research and teaching. Passed with 1 no vote from Brodie, who said it should be in the research category.**

**Item 5 should be called Community-Based Restoration Projects, and should include recreational improvements, subsistence, tourism, marine pollution, and cultural elements. Passed unanimously.**

**An Item 6 was added: Public Education, Outreach, and Stewardship, which should include cooperative stewardship on public and private lands, translating research into forms managers and the public can use, enhanced management of public lands, providing grants to organizations working toward reserve fund goals, distribution of information, and public education, including internships and scholarships. Passed unanimously.**

Schwantes suggested including a category called Other in each section so the public can add ideas. McCammon agreed to do this.

**LOCATION: should focus geographically and not include the Alaska-wide option. Passed with 1 no vote by Mary McBurney.**

**TERM: as is, passed unanimously.**

**GOVERNANCE: Item 2 should be plural (New Boards), the University should be**



included, and existing boards should be considered. Passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Item 3 should be changed to New or Existing Entity including public/private authority, non-profit, private foundation. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC ADVICE: add an item to Public Outreach to use existing groups, since there are many advisory groups in existence, e.g, local fish and game, etc. Passed unanimously.

Dennerlein suggested including estimates of costs for all options. McCammon agreed to do this. Dennerlein also said that he felt Senator Murkowski's actions regarding EVOS funding compromised the whole public process.

McCammon opened the discussion on archaeological restoration projects (distributed to the PAG). The Trustee Council plans to take action on this subject at their December meeting. Chugach Alaska withdrew their proposal for a regional repository, pending clarification of direction from the Trustee Council, although they are still moving forward with a cultural center in Seward together with Chenega Corporation. A draft resolution (distributed to the PAG) supports a single regional repository, 8 community displays, and construction of traveling exhibits. Short discussed his meeting with community representatives, Chugachmuit and Laura Johnson. Johnson said that communities endorse the local displays concept, but suggested more funds go there and reduced funding go to the regional repository, which could be an expansion of one of the local displays. This proposal is to go to the communities for their concurrence by the December meeting. McCammon noted that a key concern is who will support operations and how operating costs will be addressed. The PAG discussed this topic at length, in particular, the need for all parties to come together and use the best each has to offer to resolve this issue.

McBurney moved, second by Meacham, to request that the Trustee Council secure the services of a professional facilitator to help the profit and non-profit interests involved in cultural preservation/repository development to help develop an integrated plan for physical facilities and long-term operations. Passed with 1 no vote from Schwantes.

It was moved by Meacham, second by Totemoff, that the PAG supports the concept of the Trustee Council Resolution Regarding Additional Archaeological Repositories (Draft Revised 9/29/97), with the addition of the following to item #2, the first sentence: total not to exceed \$2.8 million. Also, the dollar amounts identified in items #2A, B, and C should be deleted. Passed unanimously.

McCammon asked if the PAG shared any of the concerns that were raised in Rick Steiner's letter (distributed to the PAG). Tyler noted that Steiner's opinions were his own, and not necessarily those of the University. No one expressed the same concerns. Brodie noted that she had concerns over NRDA reimbursements, but felt it was not worthwhile going back over them. Sheri Buretta raised a question about the EVOS Chief Scientist sitting on the SeaLife Center Board. Molly said that the Trustee Council had discussed that issue. Several said that McCammon should respond to the letter, but felt the letter resulted in unproductive use of resources.

Torie Baker stated that she was frustrated with the discussion of the reserve. She wants the PAG to be more creative on uses for the reserve. She agrees that more public input is desired. Beck agrees with her, and believes some scenarios for how the reserve could work would be useful. McBurney said she would participate in a small group on the reserve. Brodie thought that writing ideas down and distributing them would be useful. Buretta and Valley said it was a good session. Meacham requested the staff distribute an updated meeting schedule. Studebaker said she was eager to hear Trustee Council responses to ideas for the reserve. Schwantes feels that the public should be more involved and be able to look at all options. Totemoff said thanks for supporting the Chenega habitat project. Jim King thanked Dr. Tyler for attending, and feels the University can assist in managing research funds. Cobb agrees with Baker and the need to revisit the reserve question. Andrews agrees with Studebaker's concerns over recreational stewardship projects. He thanked Cherri Womac for her logistical efforts for the fall field trip.

The meeting adjourned November 5, at 11:05 a.m.

**H. FOLLOW-UP:** As noted above

**I. NEXT MEETINGS:** Not set

**J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present)**

1. Community Interests in the Restoration Reserve-Uses and Structure
2. October 22 letter to Senator Stevens re. EVOS Funds
3. November 4 letter to Senator Stevens re. EVOS Funds

**K. CERTIFICATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PAG Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustee Council

**THROUGH:** Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

**FROM:** Traci Cramer  
Administrative Officer

**DATE:** December 9, 1997

**RE:** Quarterly Report for the period ending September 30, 1997

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The attached reports consolidate the financial information submitted by the agencies for the quarter ending September 30, 1997.

The first report is a summary of activity by restoration category. This report reflects the total adjusted authorization and the total expended/obligated by Work Plan year and restoration category.

The second report displays the financial information by Work Plan. This report is used to determine what portion of the unexpended/unobligated balance or lapse, is available to off-set future court requests. Included are adjustments to reflect unreported interest and other revenue. As of September 30, 1997, it is estimated that \$1,280,842 is available to off-set future court requests.

The third report is a summary of financial information associated with the 1997 Work Plan.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact me at 586-7238.

attachments

cc: Agency Liaisons  
Bob Baldauf

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
Quarterly Financial Report of September 30, 1997  
Category

Category	92' Work Plan			93' Work Plan			94' Work Plan		
	Adjusted uthorization	Expended/ Obligated	Percent Obligated	Adjusted uthorization	Expended/ Obligated	Percent Obligated	Adjusted uthorization	Expended/ Obligated	Percent Obligated
Administration	5,076,100	4,295,933	84.63%	4,136,052	2,653,889	64.16%	4,882,880	4,082,492	83.61%
General Restoration	4,103,070	3,794,442	92.48%	2,713,713	1,841,637	67.86%	5,179,300	3,172,367	61.25%
Habitat Protection	0	0	0.00%	486,200	156,760	32.24%	3,747,292	2,781,913	74.24%
Monitoring							2,883,118	2,573,751	89.27%
Research							8,640,710	8,143,985	94.25%
Monitoring and Research	2,237,788	2,207,007	98.62%	4,617,225	3,993,150	86.48%	417,200	335,717	80.47%
Damage Assessment	7,807,100	5,740,168	73.52%	1,991,807	1,571,049	78.88%			
Total	19,224,058	16,037,550	83.42%	13,944,997	10,216,485	73.26%	25,750,500	21,090,225	81.90%
Category	95' Work Plan			96' Work Plan			97' Work Plan		
	Adjusted uthorization	Expended/ Obligated	Percent Obligated	Adjusted uthorization	Expended/ Obligated	Percent Obligated	Adjusted uthorization	Expended/ Obligated	Percent Obligated
Administration	4,253,526	3,205,025	75.35%	3,418,500	2,999,012	87.73%	2,944,020	2,514,694	85.42%
General Restoration	4,589,180	3,920,015	85.42%	3,554,110	3,224,643	90.73%	3,249,166	2,921,510	89.92%
Habitat Protection	1,716,737	1,550,472	90.32%	3,304,100	1,967,097	59.54%	1,258,334	860,676	68.40%
Monitoring	3,080,926	2,489,635	80.81%	1,571,271	1,511,739	96.21%	1,006,972	942,744	93.62%
Research	11,192,731	10,536,337	94.14%	13,712,919	13,280,664	96.85%	11,368,029	10,626,904	93.48%
Monitoring and Research									
Damage Assessment									
Total	24,833,100	21,701,484	87.39%	25,560,900	22,983,155	89.92%	19,826,521	17,866,528	90.11%
Work Plan Time Periods:									
92' Work Plan - Oil Year 4 or March 1, 1992 through February 28, 1993									
93' Work Plan - Oil Year 5 or March 1, 1993 through September 30, 1993 (Seven Month Transition)									
94' Work Plan - October 1, 1993 through September 30, 1994									
95' Work Plan - October 1, 1994 through September 30, 1995									
96' Work Plan - October 1, 1995 through September 30, 1996									
97' Work Plan - October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997									

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
Quarterly Report as of September 30, 1997  
Summary

AFT

WORK PLAN AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS										
Fiscal Year	Authorized	Adjustments	Adjusted Authorization	EVOS Expenditures	RSA Expenditures	Obligations	Unobligated Balance	EVOS Lapse	Federal Lapse	State Lapse
1992	19,211,000	13,058	19,224,058	13,317,450	2,720,100	0	5,906,608	5,906,608	2,286,572	3,620,036
1993	13,963,000	-18,003	13,944,997	10,210,471		6,014	3,728,512	3,728,512	1,716,453	2,012,059
1994	25,750,500	0	25,750,500	21,013,561		76,664	4,660,275	3,620,475	1,320,184	2,300,291
1995	24,833,100	0	24,833,100	21,618,840		82,644	3,131,616	3,131,616	427,008	2,704,608
1996	25,560,900	0	25,560,900	22,724,434		258,721	2,577,745	2,577,745	1,073,142	1,504,603
1997	19,827,600	-1,079	19,826,521	14,079,861		3,786,667	1,959,993	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129,146,100</b>	<b>-6,024</b>	<b>129,140,076</b>	<b>102,964,617</b>	<b>2,720,100</b>	<b>4,210,710</b>	<b>21,964,749</b>	<b>18,964,956</b>	<b>6,823,359</b>	<b>12,141,597</b>
<b>OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS</b>			<b>212,210,253</b>	<b>190,724,502</b>		<b>19,791,109</b>	<b>1,694,642</b>			
Total Reported Lapse (Through Court Request #29)								17,684,114	5,595,189	12,088,925
Unreported Lapse (1992 through 1996)								1,280,842	1,228,170	52,672
Unreported Interest								0	0	0
Other Revenue (Posters/Symposium Receipts)								0	0	0
<b>Total Available to Off-set Future Court Requests</b>								<b>1,280,842</b>	<b>1,228,170</b>	<b>52,672</b>

Footnote: The Unobligated Balances have been adjusted to reflect the carry forward of projects. This includes \$30,672 in FY 92', \$561,813 in FY 93' and \$1,039,800 in FY 94'.

## Exxon Valdez

Quarterly Report as of September 30, 1997

## 1997 Work Plan Summary

Project Number	Category	Description	97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. D + E	97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. G + H	Col. F - I
			Authorized	Adjustments	Adjusted Authorization	Expenditures	Obligations	Expended/ Obligated	Unobligated Balance
97001	R	Recovery of Harbor Seals From EVOS: Condition and	192,000	0	192,000	133,229	54,914	188,143	3,857
97007A	M	Archaeological Index Site Monitoring	145,000	602	145,602	125,267	16,550	141,817	3,785
97007B-CLO	G	Site Specific Archaeological Restoration	19,900	1,625	21,525	21,525	0	21,525	0
97009D-CLO	R	Survey of Octopuses in Intertidal Habitats	48,000	0	48,000	48,000	0	48,000	0
97012-BAA	M	Comprehensive Killer Whale Investigation in Prince William Sound	157,500	0	157,500	92,356	54,887	147,243	10,257
97025	R	Mechanisms of Impact and Potential Recovery of Nearshore Vertebrate Predators	1,736,300	22,000	1,758,300	1,335,860	391,118	1,726,978	31,322
97026-CLO	M	Report Writing: Microbial Sediments	15,100	0	15,100	15,100	0	15,100	0
97043B-	G	Monitoring of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden Habitat	24,000	24	24,024	24,024	0	24,024	0
97052A	G	Community Involvement	248,400	0	248,400	178,401	63,535	241,936	6,464
97052B	G	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	94,500	0	94,500	48,633	42,426	91,059	3,441
97064	R	Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor	317,800	0	317,800	261,972	4,423	266,395	51,405
97076	R	Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Straying and	618,800	0	618,800	402,702	72,800	475,502	143,298
97090-CLO	G	Mussel Bed Restoration and Monitoring	10,000	0	10,000	7,598	0	7,598	2,402
97100	A	Administration, Public Information and Scientific Management	2,940,600	3,420	2,944,020	2,366,597	148,097	2,514,694	429,326
97126	H	Habitat Protection and Acquisition Support	1,282,600	-24,266	1,258,334	770,151	90,525	860,676	397,658
97127	G	Tatitlek Coho Salmon Release	11,100	0	11,100	1,950	8,579	10,529	571
97131	G	Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration	365,000	0	365,000	163,879	192,483	356,362	8,638
97139A1	G	Salmon Instream Habitat and Stock Restoration - Little Waterfall Barrier Bypass Improvement	26,400	0	26,400	22,639	7	22,646	3,754
97139A2	G	Port Dick Creek Tributary and Development Project	76,500	0	76,500	62,427	9,087	71,514	4,986
97139C1-CLO	G	Montague Riparian Rehabilitation Monitoring	9,300	0	9,300	8,219	150	8,369	931
97142-BAA	R	Status and Ecology of Kittlitz's Murrelets in Prince William Sound	188,500	0	188,500	63,836	107,455	171,291	17,209
97144	M	Common Murre Population Monitoring	73,800	-7,000	66,800	62,453	0	62,453	4,347
97145	M	Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden: Relation Among and Within Populations of Anadromous and Resident Forms	229,700	0	229,700	229,700	0	229,700	0
97149	M	Archaeological Site Stewardship	66,300	-1,818	64,482	37,013	25,779	62,792	1,690
97159-CLO	M	Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound During Winter and Summer: Report and Publication Writing	60,100	2,388	62,488	62,488	0	62,488	0

## Exxon Valdez

Quarterly Report as of September 30, 1997

## 1997 Work Plan Summary

Project			97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. D + E	97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. G + H	Col. F - I
					Adjusted			Expended/	Unobligated
Number	Category	Description	Authorized	Adjustments	Authorization	Expenditures	Obligations	Obligated	Balance
97161	R	Differentiation and Interchange of Harlequin Duck Populations Within the North Pacific	98,800	0	98,800	94,335	0	94,335	4,465
97162	R	Investigations of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound	552,000	0	552,000	360,409	177,035	537,444	14,556
97163A	R	APEX: Forage Fish Assessment	406,500	0	406,500	37,319	351,251	388,570	17,930
97163B	R	APEX: Seabird Interactions	118,400	0	118,400	118,342	0	118,342	58
97163C	R	APEX: Fish Diet Overlap	88,300	0	88,300	77,801	1,894	79,695	8,605
97163E	R	APEX: Kittiwakes	170,000	573	170,573	170,573	0	170,573	0
97163F	R	APEX: Guillemots	134,500	208	134,708	134,708	0	134,708	0
97163G	R	APEX: Seabird Energetics	171,000	0	171,000	79,958	79,842	159,800	11,200
97163H	R	APEX: Proximate Composition of Forage Fish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
97163I	R	APEX: Project Management	139,200	0	139,200	0	130,100	130,100	9,100
97163J	R	APEX: Barren Island Murres and Kittiwakes	107,000	4,267	111,267	111,267	0	111,267	0
97163K	R	APEX: Large Fish as Samplers	9,200	81	9,281	9,281	0	9,281	0
97163L	R	APEX: Barren Is. Survey & Historic Review	91,400	0	91,400	76,425	8	76,433	14,967
97163M	R	APEX: Response of Seabirds to Forage Fish Density	243,300	0	243,300	242,918	0	242,918	382
97163N	R	APEX: Black-Legged Kittiwake Controlled Feeding Experiment	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	0	30,000	0
97163O	R	APEX: Statistical Review	21,400	0	21,400	20,000	0	20,000	1,400
97163Q	R	APEX: Modeling	69,800	0	69,800	65,114	0	65,114	4,686
97165	R	Genetic Discrimination of Prince William Sound Herring Populations	41,600	0	41,600	30,910	8	30,918	10,682
97166	R	Herring Natal Habitats	340,300	0	340,300	295,469	28,795	324,264	16,036
97167-BAA	R	Curation of Seabirds Salvaged from EVOS	32,100	0	32,100	30,000	0	30,000	2,100
97169	R	Genetic Study of Murres, Guillemonts Murrelets	59,400	0	59,400	59,400	0	59,400	0
97170	R	Isotope Ratio Studies of Marine Mammals in Prince William Sound	143,300	0	143,300	36,284	100,010	136,294	7,006
97186	G	Coded Wire Tag Recoveries From Pink Salmon in Prince William Sound	273,800	0	273,800	205,732	67	205,799	68,001
97188	G	Otolith Thermal Mass Marking of Hatchery Reared Pink Salmon In Prince William Sound	120,100	0	120,100	106,753	25	106,778	13,322
97190	R	Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome	254,500	0	254,500	145,583	98,090	243,673	10,827
97191A	R	Field Examination of Oil-Related Embryo Mortalities that Persist in Pink Salmon Populations in PWS	208,500	0	208,500	147,076	42	147,118	61,382
97194	M	Pink Salmon Spawning Habitat Recovery	138,300	0	138,300	128,560	0	128,560	9,740
97195	R	Pristane Monitoring in Mussels and Predators of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Herring	115,300	0	115,300	105,625	20	105,645	9,655
97196	R	Genetic Structure of Prince William Sound Pink Salmon	195,500	0	195,500	162,920	41	162,961	32,539
97210	G	Youth Area Watch	150,000	0	150,000	147,707	2,177	149,884	116

Exxon Valdez									
Quarterly Report as of September 30, 1997									
1997 Work Plan Summary									
Project			97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. D + E	97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. G + H	Col. F - I
					Adjusted			Expended/	Unobligated
Number	Category	Description	Authorized	Adjustments	Authorization	Expenditures	Obligations	Obligated	Balance
97214-CLO	G	Documentary on Subsistence Harbor Seal Hunting in Prince William Sound	12,100	0	12,100	6,910	2	6,912	5,188
97220	G	Eastern PWS Wildstock Salmon Habitat Restoration	115,000	-3,258	111,742	40,218	246	40,464	71,278
97223-BAA	R	Publication of Sea Otter Data	43,000	0	43,000	40,200	0	40,200	2,800
97225	G	Port Graham Pink Salmon Subsistence Project	74,400	0	74,400	21,400	49,510	70,910	3,490
97230	G	Valdez Duck Flats Restoration	67,800	0	67,800	0	67,800	67,800	0
97231	R	Marbled Murrelet Productivity	120,000	0	120,000	119,363	0	119,363	637
97244	G	Community-based Harbor Seal Management and Biological Sampling	114,900	0	114,900	107,366	18	107,384	7,516
97247	G	Kametlook River Coho Salmon	31,400	0	31,400	11,661	18,742	30,403	997
97250	G	Project Management	641,600	75	641,675	547,923	8,131	556,054	85,621
97251-CLO	R	Akalura Lake Restoration	43,700	0	43,700	38,659	10	38,669	5,031
97254	G	Delight and Desire Lakes Restoration	123,100	0	123,100	105,634	30	105,664	17,436
97255-CLO	G	Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Restoration	158,300	0	158,300	157,183	34	157,217	1,083
97256B	G	Sockeye Salmon Stocking at Solf Lake	50,000	0	50,000	31,623	0	31,623	18,377
97258A-CLO	R	Sockeye Salmon Overescapement Project	214,000	0	214,000	192,456	55	192,511	21,489
97259-CLO	G	Restoration of Coghill Lake Sockeye Salmon	46,800	0	46,800	46,796	12	46,808	-8
97263	G	Port Graham Salmon Stream Enhancement	58,000	0	58,000	40,884	15,608	56,492	1,508
97272-CLO	G	Chenega Chinook Release Program	45,000	0	45,000	39,750	2,706	42,456	2,544
97286	G	Elders/Youth Conference	15,800	0	15,800	15,800	0	15,800	0
97290	R	Hydrocarbon Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Database Maintenance	76,300	0	76,300	66,318	66	66,384	9,916
97300	R	Synthesis of Scientific Findings from EVOS Restoration Process	64,900	0	64,900	35,334	29,566	64,900	0
97302	M	PWS Cutthroat Trout/Dolly Varden Inventory	12,800	0	12,800	7,863	0	7,863	4,937
97304	G	Kodiak Waste Management Plan	267,500	0	267,500	120,434	147,066	267,500	0
97306	R	Ecology and Demographics of Pacific Sand Lance	32,800	0	32,800	32,800	0	32,800	0
97320E	R	SEA: Salmon and Herring Predation	631,800	0	631,800	545,996	24,602	570,598	61,202
97320G	R	SEA: Phytoplankton and Nutrients	130,000	0	130,000	127,635	2,233	129,868	132
97320H	R	SEA: Zooplankton	136,400	0	136,400	77,864	54,749	132,613	3,787
97320I	R	SEA: Confirming Food Webs of Fishes with Stable Isotope	125,400	0	125,400	82,801	34,399	117,200	8,200
97320J	R	SEA: Information Systems and Model Development	554,500	0	554,500	258,950	272,450	531,400	23,100
97320K	R	SEA: PWSAC Experimental Fry Release	24,800	0	24,800	19,343	4,053	23,396	1,404
97320M	R	SEA: Physical Oceanography	353,400	0	353,400	109,495	224,705	334,200	19,200



Exxon Valdez									
Quarterly Report as of September 30, 1997									
1997 Work Plan Summary									
Project			97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. D + E	97 State + Fed	97 State + Fed	Col. G + H	Col. F - I
					Adjusted			Expended/	Unobligated
Number	Category	Description	Authorized	Adjustments	Authorization	Expenditures	Obligations	Obligated	Balance
97320N	R	SEA: Nekton and Plankton Acoustics	364,400	0	364,400	108,056	236,944	345,000	19,400
97320R	R	SEA: Trophodynamic Modeling and Validation Through	182,100	0	182,100	129,479	5,695	135,174	46,926
97320T	R	SEA: Juvenile Herring	946,700	0	946,700	445,413	279,650	725,063	221,637
97320U	R	SEA: Somatic and Spawning Energetics of Herring, Pollock	154,400	0	154,400	78,619	315	78,934	75,466
97320Z1	R	SEA: Synthesis and Integration	61,300	0	61,300	12,241	45,868	58,109	3,191
97427	M	Harlequin Duck Recovery Monitoring	252,500	0	252,500	211,041	2,247	213,288	39,212
		Unbilled GA (ADF&G Only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		General Administration Task Order (NOAA Only)	0	0	0	269,865	6,935	276,800	-276,800
		Total	19,827,600	-1,079	19,826,521	14,079,861	3,786,667	17,866,528	1,959,993

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustee Council

**THROUGH:** Molly McCann  
Executive Director

**FROM:** Traci Cramer  
Administrative Officer

**DATE:** December 9, 1997

**RE:** Financial Report as of November 30, 1997

Attached is the Statement of Revenue, Disbursements and Fees, and accompanying notes for the *Exxon Valdez* Joint Trust Fund for the period ending November 30, 1997.

The following is a summary of the information incorporated in the notes and contained on the statement.

Liquidity Account Balance	\$54,719,138	
Plus: Current Year Adjustments (Note 5)	44,500,000	
Plus: Other Adjustments (Note 6)	<u>1,910,550</u>	
Uncommitted Fund Balance		\$101,129,688
Plus: Future Exxon Payments (Note 1)	\$210,000,000	
Less: Remaining Reimbursements (Note 3)	10,000,000	
Less: Remaining Commitments (Note 7)	<u>40,305,734</u>	
Total Estimated Funds Available		\$260,823,954
Restoration Reserve		\$52,036,708

If you have any questions regarding the information provided please do not hesitate to give me a call at 586-7238.

## Attachments

cc: Agency Liaisons  
Bob Baldauf

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, DISBURSEMENTS AND FEES  
FOR THE EXXON VALDEZ JOINT TRUST FUND  
As of November 30, 1997

1. Contributions - Pursuant to the agreement Exxon is to pay a total of \$900,000,000.

Received to Date	\$620,000,000
Current Year	\$0
Future Payments	\$210,000,000

2. Interest Income - In accordance with the MOA, the funds are deposited in the United States District Court, Court Registry Investment System (CRIS). All deposits with CRIS are maintained in United States government treasury securities with maturities of 100 days or less. Total earned since the last report is \$262,487.
3. Reimbursement of Past Costs - Under the terms of the agreement, the United States and the State are reimbursed for expenses associated with the spill. The remaining reimbursements represents that amount due the State of Alaska.
4. Fees - CRIS charges a fee of 7.5% for cash management services. Total paid since the last report is \$19,686.55.
5. Current Year Adjustments - Includes the current year payment (less reimbursements), the transfer of \$12,000,000 into the Restoration Reserve and the following land payments.

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Due</u>
Shuyak	\$4,000,000	October 1998
Koniag, Incorporated	\$4,500,000	September 1998

6. Other Adjustments - Under terms of the Agreement, both interest earned on previous disbursements and prior years unobligated funding or lapse are deducted from future court requests. Unreported interest and lapse is summarized below.

	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Lapse</u>
United States	\$38,289	\$1,228,170
State of Alaska	\$591,419	\$52,672

7. Remaining Commitments - Includes the following land payments.

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Due</u>
Shuyak	\$12,000,000	October 1998 through 2001
Shuyak	\$11,805,734	October 2002
Koniag, Incorporated	\$16,500,000	September 2002

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE, DISBURSEMENT, AND FEES**  
**EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL JOINT TRUST FUND**  
As of November 30, 1997

	1995	1996	1997	To Date 1998	Cumulative Total
<b>REVENUE:</b>					
Contributions: (Note 1)					
Contributions from Exxon Corporation	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	0	620,000,000
Less: Credit to Exxon Corporation for clean-up costs incurred					(39,913,688)
Total Contributions	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	0	580,086,312
Interest Income: (Note 2)					
Exxon Corporation escrow account					831,233
Joint Trust Fund Account	5,706,667	3,963,073	2,971,070	477,767	18,828,577
Total Interest	5,706,667	3,963,073	2,971,070	477,767	19,659,810
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>75,706,667</b>	<b>73,963,073</b>	<b>72,971,070</b>	<b>477,767</b>	<b>599,746,122</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>					
Reimbursement of Past Costs: (Note 3)					
State of Alaska		3,291,446	5,000,000	0	91,559,288
United States	2,697,000	0	0	0	69,812,045
Total Reimbursements	2,697,000	3,291,446	5,000,000	0	161,371,333
Disbursements from Liquidity Account:					
State of Alaska	41,969,669	43,340,950	17,846,130	0	172,791,328
United States	48,019,928	31,047,824	60,101,802	0	160,604,322
Transfer to the Restoration Reserve		35,996,231	12,449,552		48,445,783
Total Disbursements	89,989,597	110,385,004	90,397,484	0	381,841,433
<b>FEES:</b>					
U.S. Court Fees (Note 4)	586,857	396,307	254,221	35,833	1,814,218
<b>Total Disbursements and Fees</b>	<b>93,273,454</b>	<b>114,072,758</b>	<b>95,651,705</b>	<b>35,833</b>	<b>545,026,984</b>
<b>Increase (decrease) in Liquidity Account</b>	<b>(17,566,788)</b>	<b>(40,109,685)</b>	<b>(22,680,635)</b>	<b>441,934</b>	<b>54,719,138</b>
Liquidity Account Balance, beginning balance	134,634,311	117,067,523	76,957,839	54,277,204	
Liquidity Account Balance, end of period	117,067,523	76,957,839	54,277,204	54,719,138	
Current Year Adjustments: (Note 5)					44,500,000
Other Adjustments: (Note 6)					1,910,550
<b>Uncommitted Liquidity Account Balance</b>					<b>101,129,688</b>
Future Exxon Payments (Note 1)					210,000,000
Remaining Reimbursements (Note 3)					(10,000,000)
Remaining Commitments: (Note 7)					(40,305,734)
<b>Total Estimated Funds Available</b>					<b>260,823,954</b>
<b>Restoration Reserve</b>					<b>52,036,708</b>

# Statement 1

## Statement of Exxon Valdez Settlement Funds As of November 30, 1997

Beginning Balance of Settlement	900,000,000
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### Receipts:

Interest Earned on Exxon Escrow Account	337,111
Net Interest Earned on Joint Trust Fund (Note 1)	17,014,359
Interest Earned on United States and State of Alaska Accounts	5,949,619

Total Interest	<u>23,301,089</u>
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### Disbursements:

Reimbursements to United States and State of Alaska	161,371,333
Exxon clean up cost deduction	39,913,688
Joint Trust Fund deposits	419,546,212

Total Disbursements	<u>620,831,233</u>
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### Funds Available:

Exxon Future Payments	210,000,000
Current Year Payment	70,000,000
Balance in Liquidity Account	54,719,138
Future acquisition payments (Note 2)	(48,805,734)
Alaska Sealife Center	0
Remaining Reimbursements	(15,000,000)
Other (Note 3)	1,910,550

Total Estimated Funds Available	<u>272,823,954</u>
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Restoration Reserve	52,036,708
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Note 1: Gross interest earned less District Court registry fees.

Note 2: Includes both current year and future year payments

Note 3: Adjustment for unreported interest earned and lapse

### Footnote:

Included in the Total Estimated Funds Available is the \$12,000,000 payment to the Restoration Reserve for Fiscal Year 1998.

Statement 2

Cash Flow Statement  
Exxon Valdez Liquidity Account  
As of November 30, 1997

Receipts:

Exxon payments

December 1991	36,837,111	
December 1992	56,586,312	
September 1993	68,382,835	
September 1994	58,728,400	
September 1995	67,303,000	
September 1996	66,708,554	
September 1997	65,000,000	

Total Deposits	419,546,212	419,546,212
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Interest Earned	18,828,577	
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Total Interest	18,828,577	18,828,577
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Total Receipts		438,374,789
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Disbursements:

Court Requests

Fiscal Year 1992	12,879,700
Fiscal Year 1993	27,634,994
Fiscal Year 1994	50,554,653
Fiscal Year 1995	89,989,597
Fiscal Year 1996	74,388,774
Fiscal Year 1997	77,947,932
Fiscal Year 1998	0

Total Requests	333,395,650	333,395,650
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District Court Fees	1,814,218	1,814,218
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Transfer to the Restoration Reserve		48,445,783
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Total Disbursements		383,655,651
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Balance in Joint Trust Fund		54,719,138
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Footnote:

A total of \$48,445,783 has been disbursed from the Liquidity Account to the Restoration Reserve. Of the total, \$48,445,663 was used to purchase laddered securities. The remaining \$120 represents costs paid to the Federal Reserve Bank.

**Schedule of Payments from Exxon**  
**As of November 30, 1997**

Disbursements:	December 91	December 92	September 93	September 94	September 95	September 96	September 97	Total
Reimbursements:								
United States								
FFY92	24,726,280	0	0					24,726,280
FFY93	0	24,500,000	11,617,165					36,117,165
FFY94	0	0	0	6,271,600				6,271,600
FFY95	0	0	0		2,697,000			2,697,000
Total United States	24,726,280	24,500,000	11,617,165	6,271,600	2,697,000	0	0	69,812,045
State of Alaska								
General Fund:								
FFY92	25,313,756	0	0					25,313,756
FFY93	0	16,685,133	0					16,685,133
FFY94	0	0	14,762,703					14,762,703
FFY95	0	0	0	0				0
Mitigation Account:								
FFY92	3,954,086	0	0					3,954,086
FFY93	0	12,314,867	0					12,314,867
FFY94	0	0	5,237,297	5,000,000				10,237,297
FFY95 (Prevention Account)	0	0	0		0			0
FFY96 (Prevention Account)						3,291,446		3,291,446
FFY97 (Prevention Account)							5,000,000	5,000,000
Total State of Alaska	29,267,842	29,000,000	20,000,000	5,000,000	0	3,291,446	5,000,000	91,559,288
Total Reimbursements	53,994,122	53,500,000	31,617,165	11,271,600	2,697,000	3,291,446	5,000,000	161,371,333
Deposits to Joint Trust Fund								
FFY92	36,837,111	0	0					36,837,111
FFY93	0	56,586,312	68,382,835					124,969,147
FFY94	0	0	0					0
FFY95	0	0	0	58,728,400	67,303,000			126,031,400
FFY96						66,708,554		66,708,554
FFY97							65,000,000	65,000,000
Total Deposits to Joint Trust Fund	36,837,111	56,586,312	68,382,835	58,728,400	67,303,000	66,708,554	65,000,000	419,546,212
Exxon clean up cost deduction	0	39,913,688	0	0	0	0	0	39,913,688
Total Payments	90,831,233	150,000,000	100,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	620,831,233
Remaining Exxon payments to be made:								
September 1994	0							
September 1995	0							
September 1996	0							
September 1997	0							
September 1998	70,000,000							
September 1999	70,000,000							
September 2000	70,000,000							
September 2001	70,000,000							
	<u>280,000,000</u>							

The December 1991 payment includes interest accrued on the escrow account. The actual disbursements without interest was \$24.5 million to the United States, \$29 million to the State of Alaska and \$36.5 million to the Joint Trust Fund. The total interest earned on the escrow account was \$831,233 which was disbursed proportionately. This included \$226,280 to the United States, \$267,842 to the State of Alaska and \$337,111 to the Joint Trust Fund.

The September 1994 reimbursement to the United States included an over-payment of \$80,700 to NOAA. This over-payment is a direct result of final costs for damage assessment activities being lower than what was previously estimated. The funds were returned to the Joint Account by reducing the amount transferred to the United States in Court Request number 15.

**Schedule of Disbursements**  
**Exxon Valdez Liquidity Account**  
**As of November 30, 1997**

	United States	State of Alaska	Court Request Total	Court Fees	Disbursements Total
Total Fiscal Year 1992	6,320,500	6,559,200	12,879,700	23,000	12,902,700
Total Fiscal Year 1993	9,105,881	18,529,113	27,634,994	154,000	27,788,994
Total Fiscal Year 1994	6,008,387	44,546,266	50,554,653	364,000	50,918,653
Court Request 8	3,576,179	7,088,077	10,664,256		
Court Request 9		3,111,204	3,111,204		
Court Request 10	322,618	9,234,909	12,461,091		
Court Request 11	1,450,000		1,450,000		
Court Request 12	17,200,000		17,200,000		
Court Request 13	1,480,251	171,763	1,652,014		
Court Request 14	15,250,000		15,250,000		
Court Request 15	5,837,316	9,863,716	15,701,032		
Court Request 16		12,500,000	12,500,000		
Total Fiscal Year 1995	48,019,928	41,969,669	89,989,597	586,857	90,576,454
Court Request 17		3,294,667	3,294,667		
Court Request 18	8,000,000		8,000,000		
Court Request 19	3,222,224	1,968,898	5,191,122		
Restoration Reserve Transfer			35,996,231		
Court Request 20		8,000,000	8,000,000		
Court Request 21	1,007,000	5,520,500	6,527,500		
Court Request 22	18,818,600	24,556,885	43,375,485		
Total Fiscal Year 1996	31,047,824	43,340,950	110,385,004	396,307	110,781,312
Court Request 23	2,613,500	0	2,613,500		
Court Request 24	176,500	3,075,625	3,252,125		
Court Request 25	785,859	442,833	1,228,692		
Court Request 26	24,154,000	530,000	24,684,000		
Court Request 27	324,700	1,470,900	1,795,600		
Restoration Reserve Transfer			12,449,552		
Court Request 28	0	2,627,000	2,627,000		
Court Request 29	5,919,169	5,699,772	11,618,941		
Court Request 30	26,128,074	4,000,000	30,128,074		
Total Fiscal Year 1997	60,101,802	17,846,130	90,397,484	254,221	90,651,705
Court Request 31			0		
Court Request 32			0		
Court Request 33			0		
Court Request 34			0		
Restoration Reserve Transfer					
Total Fiscal Year 1998	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>160,604,322</b>	<b>172,791,328</b>	<b>381,841,433</b>	<b>1,778,385</b>	<b>383,619,818</b>



**Exxon Valdez Liquidity Account**  
**Interest Earned/District Court Registry Fees**  
**As of November 30, 1997**

	FFY 1992	FFY 1993	FFY 1994	FFY 1995	FFY 1996	FFY 1997	FFY 1998	Total
Earnings Deposits	17,683	31,124	33,476	55,809				138,092
Earnings Allocated:								
1991	28,704							28,704
1992	526,613	553,697						1,080,309
1993		639,180	1,461,736					2,100,915
1994			1,876,788	1,402,938				3,279,726
1995				3,661,063	1,202,209			4,863,272
1996					2,364,556	810,894		3,175,451
1997						1,905,955	441,934	2,347,889
1998								
Total	555,317	1,192,876	3,338,524	5,064,001	3,566,766	2,716,849	441,934	16,876,267
Total Earnings	573,000	1,224,000	3,372,000	5,119,809	3,566,766	2,716,849	441,934	17,014,359
Registry Fees:								
1991	3,189							3,189
1992	19,811	100,223						120,034
1993		53,777	179,658					233,435
1994			184,342	180,072				364,414
1995				406,785	133,579			540,364
1996					262,729	90,099		352,828
1997						164,121	35,833	199,954
1998								
Total	23,000	154,000	364,000	586,857	396,307	254,221	35,833	1,814,218
Gross Earnings	596,000	1,378,000	3,736,000	5,706,667	3,963,073	2,971,070	477,767	18,828,577

**Schedule of Interest Earned on United States and State of Alaska Accounts  
As of November 30, 1997**

	State of Alaska	United States	
	EVOSS Account	NRDA& R	Total
June 1992	22,675		22,675
January 1994	22,398		22,398
February 1994	19,086	117,178	136,264
March 1994	20,754		20,754
April 1994	18,714		18,714
May 1994	15,878		15,878
June 1994	17,707	24,823	42,530
July 1994	52,823		52,823
August 1994	48,450		48,450
September 1994	40,408	43,567	83,975
October 1994	44,291		44,291
November 1994	63,286		63,286
December 1994	67,496	3,849	71,346
January 1995	89,341		89,341
February 1995	100,714		100,714
March 1995	104,570	17,033	121,603
April 1995	95,432		95,432
May 1995	92,595		92,595
June 1995	80,613	50,042	130,655
July 1995	76,424		76,424
August 1995	68,771		68,771
September 1995	59,945	44,826	104,771
October 1995	133,486		133,486
November 1995	154,119		154,119
December 1995	143,917	39,567	183,484
January 1996	134,300		134,300
February 1996	122,348		122,348
March 1996	132,469	64,381	196,850
April 1996	126,550		126,550
May 1996	136,732		136,732
June 1996	145,501	73,267	218,768
July 1996	128,195		128,195
August 1996	106,079		106,079
September 1996	110,890	29,042	139,933
October 1996	181,598		181,598
November 1996	162,806		162,806
December 1996	153,991	71,093	225,084
January 1997	147,934		147,934
February 1997	125,137		125,137
March 1997	131,457	24,374	155,831
April 1997	122,111		122,111
May 1997	114,954		114,954
June 1997	99,811	368,523	468,334
July 1997	221,906		221,906
August 1997	36,898		36,898
September 1997	159,695	38,289	197,984
October 1997	119,195		119,195
November 1997	49,120		49,120
Total	4,939,765	1,009,854	5,949,619

NOTE: The \$117,178 NRDA&R interest figure is cumulative.

Interest was earned for the period July 1992 through December 1993, but the specific amounts have been hidden to allow the spreadsheet to print on one page.

Schedule of Interest Adjustments to the Court Requests													
As of November 30, 1997													
	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Total	Unallocated
United States													
FFY92													2 Baldauf 12/6/96
FFY93			39,871						3,648			43,519	
FFY94			51,231						22,427			73,658	
FFY95	34,621		37,618			3,849					63,226	139,314	
FFY96				48,676				37,100		26,600	109,666	222,042	
FFY97			29,041								463,989	493,030	
FFY98													
Total United States												971,565	38,289
State of Alaska													
FFY92												0	
FFY93			80,775						35,012			115,787	
FFY94			64,944						239,090			304,034	
FFY95	52,823	117,838	44,291			320,837					449,634	985,423	
FFY96				262,202				300		289,400	934,433	1,486,335	
FFY97				398,567		275,700					782,501	1,456,768	
FFY98													
Total State of Alaska												4,348,347	591,418
Total Adjustment												5,319,912	629,708
Footnote: The unallocated interest is tied to the INT Acct. sheet.													

**Schedule of Lapse Adjustments to the Court Requests  
As of November 30, 1997**

	December 1993	June 1994	August 1995	August 1996	August 1997	Total
<b>Disbursements:</b>						
<b>Court Requests</b>						
United States						
FFY92						0
FFY93						0
FFY94		3,106,555				3,106,555
FFY95						0
FFY96			220,858			220,858
FFY97				1,165,334	1,102,442	2,267,776
FFY98						
<b>Total United States</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,106,555</b>	<b>220,858</b>	<b>1,165,334</b>	<b>1,102,442</b>	<b>5,595,189</b>
State of Alaska						
FFY92						0
FFY93						0
FFY94	3,661,600					3,661,600
FFY95						0
FFY96			2,376,950			2,376,950
FFY97				2,500,448	3,549,927	6,050,375
FFY98						
<b>Total State of Alaska</b>	<b>3,661,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,376,950</b>	<b>2,500,448</b>	<b>3,549,927</b>	<b>12,088,925</b>
<b>Total Adjustment</b>	<b>3,661,600</b>	<b>3,106,555</b>	<b>2,597,808</b>	<b>3,665,782</b>	<b>4,652,369</b>	<b>17,684,114</b>

# Schedule of Work Plan Authorizations and Other Authorizations

## Work Plan Authorizations United States:

	FFY 92	FFY 93	FFY 94	FFY 95	FFY 96	FFY 97	FFY 98	Total
June 15, 1992	6,320,500	0	0					
January 25, 1993	0	3,113,900	0					
January 25, 1993	0	6,035,500	0					
November 10, 1993	0	0	0					
November 30, 1993	0	0	2,567,300					
June 1994			4,536,800					
June 1994			84,500					
July 1994			1,500,000					
Carry Forward Authorization				463,500				
August 1994				2,110,800				
November 1994				2,514,200				
December 1994				749,600				
March 1995				1,484,100				
August 1995				(36,700)	6,238,800			
December 1995					3,270,900			
January 1996					150,000			
April 1996					478,000			
May 1996				21,900	15,200			
June 1996					23,000			
August 1996						7,923,700		
December 1996						310,900		
February 1997						0		
May 1997						0		
August 1997						85,000	7,263,600	
Total	6,320,500	9,149,400	8,688,600	7,307,400	10,175,900	8,319,600	7,263,600	57,225,000

# Schedule of Work Plan Authorizations and Other Authorizations

## Work Plan Authorizations State of Alaska

	FFY 92	FFY 93	FFY 94	FFY 95	FFY 96	FFY 97	FFY 98	Total
June 15, 1992	6,559,200	0	0					
January 25, 1993	0	3,574,000	0					
January 25, 1993	0	7,570,900	0					
November 30, 1993	0	0	4,454,400					
June 1994			12,391,700					
June 1994			215,800					
July 1994			0					
Carry Forward Authorization				576,300				
August 1994				7,140,900				
November 1994				9,098,700				
December 1994				180,500				
March 1995				492,600				
August 1995				36,700	12,653,600			
December 1995					2,231,100			
April 1996					500,000			
May 1996					300			
June 1996								
August 1996						11,606,300		
December 1996						310,400		
February 1997						275,700		
May 1997						0		
August 1997						(85,000)	9,393,200	
Total	6,559,200	11,144,900	17,061,900	17,525,700	15,385,000	12,107,400	9,393,200	89,177,300

# Schedule of Work Plan Authorizations and Other Authorizations

	FFY 92	FFY 93	FFY 94	FFY 95	FFY 96	FFY 97	FFY 98	Total
<b>Other Authorizations</b>								
United States:								
Orca Narrows (6/94, Eyak)			2,000,000	1,650,000				3,650,000
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (3/95, 9/95 AKI)				21,000,000	7,500,000	7,500,000		36,000,000
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (3/95, 9/95 Old Harbor)				11,250,000				11,250,000
Koniag					12,500,000	4,500,000		17,000,000
Small Parcels					379,000	3,740,200		4,119,200
Chenega Land Acquisition						24,000,000		24,000,000
Chenega-Area Oiling Reduction					3,600	157,400	182,000	343,000
English Bay						14,128,074		14,128,074
Total			2,000,000	33,900,000	20,382,600	54,025,674	182,000	110,490,274
State of Alaska:								
Kachemak Bay State Park (1/95)		7,500,000						7,500,000
Alutiiq Repository (11/93)		1,500,000						
Seal Bay (11/93, 11/94, 11/95, 11/96)			29,950,000	3,229,042	3,294,667	3,075,625		39,549,334
Shuyak (3/96, 10/96 - 10/02)					8,000,000	2,194,266	4,000,000	14,194,266
Small Parcels					5,020,500	3,738,000		8,758,500
Alaska SeaLife Center				12,500,000	12,456,000	724,000		25,680,000
Chenega-Area Oiling Reduction					0	1,732,000		1,732,000
Alaska SeaLife Center Fish Pass						545,600		545,600
Sound Waste Management Plan						1,167,900		1,167,900
Total		9,000,000	29,950,000	15,729,042	28,771,167	13,177,391	4,000,000	99,127,600
Total Other Authorizations	0	9,000,000	31,950,000	49,629,042	49,153,767	67,203,065	4,182,000	209,617,874
Total Work Plan Authorizations	12,879,700	20,294,300	25,750,500	24,833,100	25,560,900	20,427,000	16,656,800	146,402,300
Restoration Reserve					36,000,000	12,450,000		48,450,000
Total Authorized	12,879,700	29,294,300	57,700,500	74,462,142	110,714,667	100,080,065	20,838,800	404,470,174

## Footnotes:

Work Plan Authorization and Land/Capital Acquisitions only. Will not balance to the Schedule of Disbursements from the Joint Trust Fund or the court requests due to the reauthorization of projects (carry-forward) and deductions for interest and lapse.

This schedule does tie to the quarterly reports with the exception of 93' and 92'. In FY93 the Work Plan represented the transition to the Federal Fiscal Year from the Oil Year or a seven month period. This schedule presents authorization on the Federal Fiscal Year and as such FFY92 and FFY93 does not balance.

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## Habitat Protection Program: Small Parcels Status Report

December 10, 1997

The Trustee Council commits funds to buy land in order to protect habitat for resources and services injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Since 1993, the Council has spent about \$200 million to protect about 425,000 acres of habitat. Most of the habitat that has been acquired is in large tracts that help protect ecosystems, but some is in smaller tracts with unique habitat or strategic value. This report describes the status of small parcels nominated for acquisition through the Small Parcel Habitat Protection Program.

In response to public solicitations, 327 small parcels have been nominated. Council staff evaluate, score, and rank the parcels, taking into account the resource value of the parcel, adverse impacts from human activity, and potential benefits to management of public lands. The nomination period is open-ended. The Restoration Office continues to receive and evaluate nominations.

**Acquisitions and Offers (Table 1).** The Council has authorized offers to purchase 44 parcels and contribute \$4 million for a package of lands owned by the Kenai Natives Association and up to \$1 million for 45 key waterfront parcels forfeited to Kodiak Island Borough for tax delinquency. Thirty-two small parcels have been acquired (\$12.8 million for 3,560 acres). Purchase agreements have been signed for one additional small parcel and the Kenai Natives Association package (\$4.3 million for 3,413 acres). Landowners are considering offers on ten additional small parcels. Appraisals of the Kodiak Island Borough Tax Parcels are being reviewed. The Ninilchik Native Association has rejected an offer for the Deep Creek Parcel (KEN 1001).

**Parcels Under Consideration (Table 2).** The Council is considering acquisition of the 13 parcels listed in Table 2, but has not yet authorized offers to purchase these parcels. The Council has expressed interest in three additional parcels, but the owners are unwilling to sell their parcels at appraised fair market value.

**Nominations (Table 3).** This table lists 31 parcels nominated since July 1995, when a report was published on the evaluation of small parcels nominated as of that date. The Council has taken no action with respect to the more recent nominations. Three parcels nominated for the Small Parcel Program have been purchased with criminal settlement funds.

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#### Federal Trustees

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### State Trustees

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Alaska Department of Law



Table 1. Status of Small Parcel Acquisitions and Offers (Dec. 10, 1997)

Parcel ID	Description	Acres	Value	Status
<b>Acquisitions Complete</b>		<b>3,560.2</b>	<b>\$12,842,700</b>	
PWS 11	Horseshoe Bay	315.0	\$475,000	
PWS 17, 17A-D	Ellamar Subdivision	33.4	\$655,500	
PWS 52	Hayward Parcel	9.5	\$150,000	
KEN 10	Kobylarz Subdivision	20.0	\$320,000	
KEN 19	Coal Creek Moorage	53.0	\$260,000	
KEN 29	Tulin Parcel	220.0	\$1,200,000	
KEN 34	Cone Parcel	100.0	\$600,000	
KEN 54	Salamatof Parcel	1,377.0	\$2,540,000	
KEN 55	Overlook Park	97.0	\$244,000	
KEN 148	River Ranch	146.0	\$1,650,000	
KEN 1005	Ninilchik	16.0	\$50,000	
KEN 1006	Girves Parcel	110.0	\$1,835,000	
KEN 1014	Grouse Lake	64.0	\$211,000	
KEN 1015	Lowell Point	19.4	\$531,000	
KEN 1038	Roberts Parcel	3.3	\$698,000	
KEN 1049	Mansholt Parcel (Kenai River)	1.6	\$55,000	
KAP 91	Adonga Parcel (Sitkalidak Strait)	137.0	\$137,000	
KAP 98	Pestrikoff Parcel (Sitkalidak Strait)	80.0	\$128,000	
KAP 99	Shugak Parcel (Kiliuda Bay)	160.0	\$155,200	
KAP 101	Haakanson Parcel (Sitkalidak Strait)	80.0	\$52,000	
KAP 103	Kahutak Parcel (Sitkalidak Strait)	40.0	\$66,000	
KAP 105/142	Three Saints Bay	88.0	\$168,000	
KAP 114	Johnson Parcel (Uyak Bay)	55.0	\$154,000	
KAP 115	Johnson Parcel (Uyak Bay)	65.0	\$110,500	
KAP 131	Matfay Parcel (Kiliuda Bay)	40.0	\$68,000	
KAP 132	Peterson Parcel (Sitkalidak Strait)	160.0	\$256,000	
KAP 135	Capjohn Parcel (Kiliuda Bay)	70.0	\$73,500	
<b>Purchase Agreement Signed</b>		<b>3,413.0</b>	<b>\$4,281,300</b>	
<i>Kenai Natives Assoc. Package (Stephanka/Moose R.)</i>		3,253.0	\$4,000,000	On hold pending resolution of a shareholder lawsuit.
KAP 1055	Abston Parcel (Uyak Bay)	160.0	\$281,300	
<b>Offers Under Review</b>		<b>380.5</b>	<b>\$3,269,100</b>	
KEN 12	Baycrest	90.0	\$450,000	Reappraised at \$495,000.
KEN 1009	Cooper Parcel	30.0	\$48,000	
KEN 1034	Patson Parcel	76.3	\$375,000	Discussions continue.
KEN 1060A-D	Green Timbers (Homer Spit)	68.7	\$422,100	Contingent on conserv.easements.
KEN 1061	Beluga Slough (Homer Spit)	38.0	\$615,000	Contingent on conserv.easements.
KAP 220	Mouth of Ayakulik River	56.0	\$213,000	Reappraised-\$80,000 for 5.4 ac.
KAP 226	Karluk River Lagoon	21.5	\$146,000	Reappraised-\$240,000 for 16.3 ac.
<i>Kodiak Island Borough Tax Parcels</i>			\$1,000,000	Appraisals being reviewed.

**TOTAL: 7,353.7 \$20,393,100**

(a) The Ninilchik Native Association has rejected an offer to purchase Deep Creek (KEN 1001).

Table 2. Parcels Under Consideration (Dec. 10, 1997)

Parcel ID	Description	Acres	Comments
PWS 05	Valdez Duck Flats (USS 349 & 448)	42.0	Appraisal submitted to landowner.
PWS 06	Valdez Duck Flats (USS 447)	24.7	Appraisal submitted to landowner.
PWS 1010	Jack Bay	942.0	Appraisal on hold pending changes in title to be conveyed.
KEN 1039	Oberts Parcel (Big Eddy)	31.7	Appraisal approved.
KEN 1040	Oberts Parcel (Honeymoon Cove)	4.2	Appraisal approved.
KEN 1041	Oberts Parcel (Peterkin Hmstd.)	30.0	Appraisal approved.
KEN 1051/52	Salamatof Native Assn. (Kenai NWR)	26.8	Purchase agreement signed contingent on Council approval.
KEN 1062A-C	Homer Spit Fishing Hole	3.0	
KEN 1070	Trust for Public Land (Homer Spit)	2.6	
KAP 145	Termination Point	1,028.0	Appraisal submitted to landowner.

**TOTAL: 2,135.0**

(a) The owners of The Triplets (KAP-22), Cusack Parcel (KAP 118) and Karluk (KAP 150) are unwilling to sell their parcels.

**Table 3. Small Parcel Nominations (July 1995 to December 1997\*)**

Parcel ID	Description	Acres	Sponsor	Rank
<b>Prince William Sound (PWS)</b>		<b>123.5</b>		
PWS 1045	Dennis Parcel (Valdez Duck Flats)	4.3	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
PWS 1056	Blondeau Parcel (Valdez)	100.0	ADNR	Low
PWS 1068	Lowe Parcel (Latouche Island)	2.7	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
PWS 1072	Willis Parcel (S. of Cordova)	15.0	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
PWS 1077	Stalling Parcel (Fish Bay)	1.5	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
<b>Kenai Peninsula (KEN)</b>		<b>894.0</b>		
KEN 1030	Anchor River	127.8	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
KEN 1032	Matson Parcel (Ninilchik River)	7.4	ADFG	Low
KEN 1035	Mullen Parcel (Kenai River)	8.5	ADNR/ADFG	Low
KEN 1036	Weilbacher Parcel (Kenai River)	28.7	ADNR/ADFG	Low
KEN 1037	Coyle Parcel (Kenai City Boat Dock)	26.0	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
KEN 1042	College Estates (Kenai River)	56.0	ADNR/ADFG	Low
KEN 1043	College Estates (Kenai River)	77.9	ADNR/ADFG	Low
KEN 1044	Breeden Parcel (Kenai River Flats)	25.0	ADNR/ADFG	Low
KEN 1046	Pollard Parcel (Kasilof River)	155.0	ADFG	Low
KEN 1047	Calvin Parcel (Kasilof River)	76.8	ADFG	Below threshold criteria.
KEN 1057	Lowe Parcel (Kenai River)	22.0	ADNR	Low
KEN 1063	Eaton Parcel (Ninilchik Boat Harbor)	11.0	No sponsor	Low
KEN 1064	Lindle Parcel (Lower Kasilof River)	10.0	ADFG	Low
KEN 1066	Moore Parcel (Killey River)	30.0	ADFG	Low
KEN 1067	Fiore Parcel (Kenai River)	7.2	ADFG/ADNR	Low
KEN 1069	Wards Cove Parcel (Chisik Is.)	29.7	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
KEN 1070	Homer Spit, W. side	2.6	ADNR	Low
KEN 1071	Ellis Parcel (Kenai River/Cook Inlet)	43.0	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
KEN 1073	Cufley Parcel (near Baycrest, Homer)	9.3	No sponsor	Below threshold criteria.
KEN 1074	Gatz Parcel (Anchor River)	80.0	ADFG	Low
KEN 1075	Meridian Park Parcel (Bear Creek)	3.9		
KEN 1076	Heus Parcel (Kenai River)	16.2		
KEN 1078	Simonds Parcel (Sterling Hwy.)	40.0		
<b>Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula (KAP)</b>		<b>1,621.0</b>		
KAP 1050	Christiansen Parcel (Sitkalidak Str.)	159.0	USFWS	Low
KAP 1058	Leisnoi Parcel (Long Island)	1,462.0	ADNR	Moderate

**TOTAL: 2,638.5**

(a) These parcels have been nominated since publication of *Comprehensive Habitat Protection Process: Small Parcel Evaluation & Ranking, Volume III*, Supplement July 15, 1995.

(b) The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has acquired the 27-acre Grubba Parcel (KEN 1059) with Exxon Valdez oil spill state criminal settlement funds dedicated to the protection of Kenai River habitat.

(c) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has acquired the 160-acre Christiansen Parcel (KAP 1054) and the 63-acre Arneson Parcel (KAP 1065) with Exxon Valdez oil spill federal criminal settlement funds.



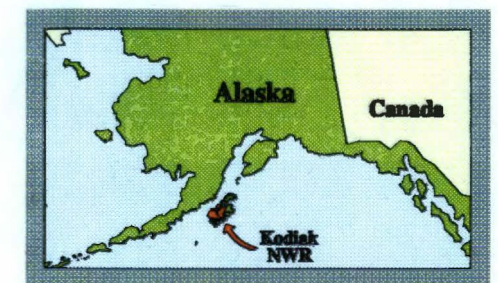
# Land Exchange Within Kodiak NWR



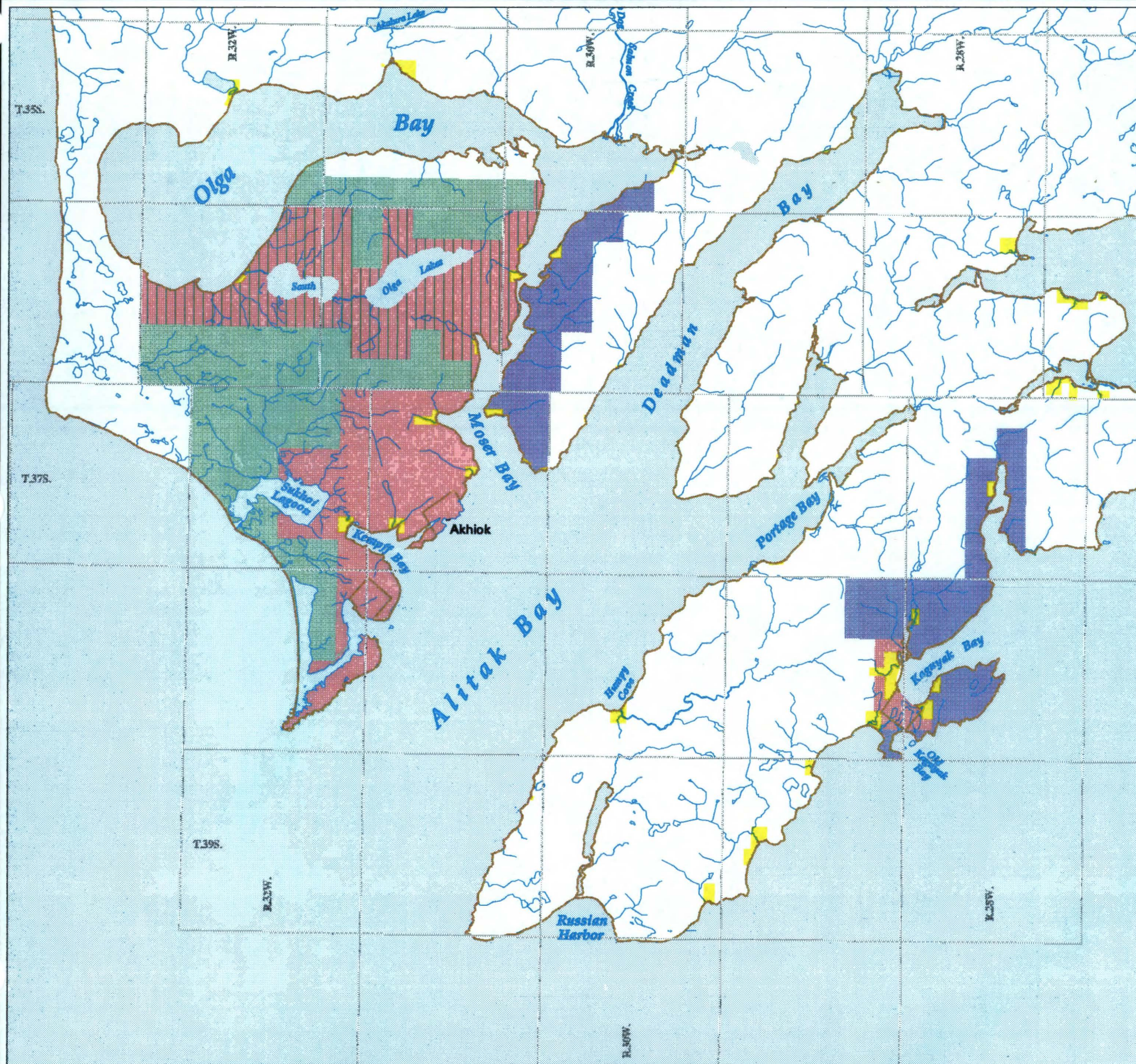
## Legend

- Proposed AKI Exchange Lands
- AKI Cons. Esmt.
- Retained by AKI
- Proposed Federal Exchange Lands With AKI Donated Conservation Easement
- Small Parcels
- Kodiak NWR Boundary
- FWS Refuge Lands

- Land status represents USFWS interpretation of BLM records.
- Projected in UTM zone 5.



December 02, 1997





[December 9, 1997 version]

**1998 Restoration Workshop  
January 29-30, 1998**

DRAFT

*Theme: Long-term Monitoring and Research*

**Day 1- Thursday, January 29**

- 8:00 am      **Registration** (30 min)
- 8:30          **Introduction and Annual Report on EVOS Program, Announcements**  
*Molly McCammon, Executive Director* (30 min)
- 9:00          **Trustee Perspective**  
*State or Federal Trustee* (15 min)
- 9:15          **Injury & Recovery Update**  
*Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist, and Stan Senner, Science Coordinator* (15 min)
- 9:30          **Nearshore Vertebrate Predator Project (NVP, 97025)**  
*Dr. Leslie Holland-Bartels, USGS-Biological Resources Division* (30 min)
- 10:00        **Break**
- 10:30        **Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA, 97325)**  
*Dr. Ted Cooney, University of Alaska Fairbanks* (30 min)
- 11:00        **Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment (APEX, 97163)**  
*Dr. David Duffy, University of Alaska Anchorage* (30 min)
- 11:30        **Chenega Shoreline Cleanup, 97291, Dianne Munson (?) and Chris Brodersen**  
(30 min)
- 12 Noon      **Buffet Lunch** (in hotel) (75 min)
- 1:15 pm      \_\_\_\_\_ (20 min)  
**Effects of oil on pink salmon straying and survival, 97076/191B, Alex**  
*Wertheimer and Ron Heintz* (30 min)  
**Coded wire tag recoveries and otolith thermal mass marking, 97186/188,**  
*Tim Joyce* (30 min)  
**Genetic discrimination of PWS herring populations, 97165, Dr. Jim Seeb and**  
*Dr. Lisa Seeb* (20 min)

- 3:00      **Break**
- 3:30      **Harbor seal condition and health status**, 97001, *Dr. Mike Castellini* (20 min)  
**Community-based harbor seal management and biosampling**, 97244, *Monica Riedel and Dr. Vicki Vanek* (20 min)  
**Harlequin duck recovery monitoring**, 97427, *Dan Rosenberg* (20 min)  
**Common murre population monitoring**, 97144, *David Roseneau* (20 min)  
**Marine bird boat surveys in PWS**, 97159, *Dr. David Irons* (20 min)
- 5:15      **Adjourn Plenary Session**
- 5:45-7:30      **Reception and Poster Session**

DRAFT

**Day 2 - Friday, January 30**

- 8:15 am      **Anadromous and resident forms of cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden in PWS**, 97145, *Dr. Gordon Reeves* (20 min)  
**Traditional ecological knowledge**, 97052B, *Patty Brown Schwalenberg and Dr. Henry Huntington* (25 min)
- 9:00      **The Global Oceans Ecosystem Dynamics Program and the Northeast Pacific Project**, *Dr. Tom Powell and Dr. Hal Batchelder, University of California, Berkeley and U.S. GLOBEC Scientific Steering Committee Coordinating Office* (30 min)
- 9:30      **Break**
- 10:00      **Ecological monitoring - purpose and payoff**  
*Dr. Donald Boesch, University of Maryland Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies* (60 min)
- 11:00      **Conceptual plan for long-term research and monitoring in the northern Gulf of Alaska**, *Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist, and Andy Gunther, Asst. Chief Scientist* (40 min)
- 11:40      **Pristane monitoring in mussels**, 97195, *Jeff Short* (20 min)
- 12 Noon      **Buffet Lunch (in hotel)** (75 min)
- 1:15 pm      **Feedback on long-term monitoring and research**  
*Breakout sessions (5-? groups) to discuss conceptual plan* (75 min)
- 2:30      **Break**

3:00      **Reports from Breakout Groups (30 min)**

3:30      **Reactions from Peer Reviewers and Special Guests (60 min)**

4:30      **Open Microphone (30 min)**

5:00      **Closing Remarks**  
            *Molly McCammon, Executive Director (15 min)*

5:15      **Adjourn**

DRAFT



# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

**From:** Stan Senner *Stan Senner*  
Science Coordinator

**Subject:** Bibliography of Trustee Council-sponsored research publications

**Date:** December 9, 1997

Attached is the latest version of the bibliography of peer-reviewed technical papers that use data from projects sponsored by the Trustee Council. There are 218 publications cited here.

By subject, these include:

Mammal	33%
Fish	25
Birds	15
Invert/intertidal	11
Fate of oil	10
Subs/archaeological	3
Other	2
Oceanography	1

By type of publication, these include:

Symposium proc.	54%
Open journals	40
Graduate theses	5
Other	1

Please let me or Carrie Holba know if you have questions.

SS/kh

encl: (1)

cc: Trustee Council

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# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustee Council  
**FROM:** Molly McCammon  
Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Archaeological Repositories  
**DATE:** December 11, 1997

On October 3, you introduced a draft resolution pertaining to archaeological repositories in the Chugach and lower Cook Inlet areas (**Attachment A**). The resolution is a tentative action item on the agenda for your December 18 meeting. The purpose of this memorandum is to brief you on the results of the review process to date.

On October 20, Community Involvement Facilitators from five of the eight affected communities discussed the draft resolution. Participants endorsed the resolution in concept, but recommended that the funding for local display facilities be increased to \$300,000 for each community with a reduction in funding for a regional repository.

On November 5, the Public Advisory Group discussed the draft Trustee Council resolution. I have attached pertinent excerpts from the minutes of the meeting (**Attachment B**). The Public Advisory Group voted unanimously to support the draft resolution. However, because of marked differences of opinion regarding the allocation of funds between a regional repository and local display facilities, the Public Advisory Group suggested that the total amount of the project be limited to \$2.8 million and that funding limits for each of its components be deleted. I have attached a revised version of the Trustee Council resolution that incorporates the Public Advisory Group's suggestion (**Attachment C**).

On November 17, I sent the chief executives of Chugach Alaska Corporation and Chugachmiut a letter relaying the concerns and recommendations of the Public Advisory Group (**Attachment D**). The letter encouraged these two organizations to collaborate on a proposal that would combine the strengths and resources of each group. I understand that the boards of directors of Chugach Alaska Corporation and Chugachmiut will meet to discuss this issue on Monday, December 15.

Attachments (4)

**Attachment A**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL  
REGARDING ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPOSITORIES**

We, the undersigned, duly authorized members of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council ("Council"), after extensive review and after consideration of the views of the public and in response to strategies identified in the Restoration Plan, resolve to direct the Executive Director of the Trustee Council ("Executive Director") to:

1. Inform the communities in the Chugach and lower Cook Inlet regions (Valdez, Cordova/Eyak, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Seward/Qutekcak Native Tribe, Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek) that the Council respects their desire to have artifact repositories in their villages, but cannot justify the use of trust funds to construct eight separate local repositories to provide long-term curatorial services for the small number of spill-related artifacts that have been recovered from the Chugach region.

2. Invite comprehensive proposals to be submitted by April 15, 1998 that include all three of the following types of projects to restore injury to archaeological resources:

(a) **Establishment of a single regional repository** *within one of 8 communities* to house and display spill-related artifacts. This could either be a new or an existing facility. The proposed facility must meet at least the following conditions:

- (1) adequate physical plant and professional staff to provide long-term curatorial services for spill-related artifacts;
- (2) a commitment, supported by financial resources other than trust

funds, to programs in the local communities as well as the overall region that would restore or protect archaeological sites and artifacts as replacements for those injured in the spill;

(3) the potential to produce adequate revenues to cover future operating costs or a commitment (e.g., resolution from a corporate board of directors or a dedicated endowment) to assure the long-term operation of the facility;

(4) a reasonable degree of support from affected entities in the region;  
and

(5) a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000.

(b) **The construction of new or renovated community facilities** to display exhibits pertaining to spill-related archaeological resources. The request may not exceed *1.6 total* ~~\$200,000~~ *for the remaining seven* per community. In the future these facilities could be converted to repositories using non-Trustee Council funds.

(c) **The development of traveling exhibits** of spill-related archaeological materials for display in community facilities in the spill area. The request may not exceed \$200,000.

Approved by the Council at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997, held in Anchorage, Alaska, as affirmed by our signatures affixed below:

## Meeting Summary

- A. GROUP: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Public Advisory Group (PAG)
- B. DATE/TIME: November 4-5, 1997
- C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska

(Excerpt from page 5, paragraphs 5-7)

McCammon opened the discussion on archaeological restoration projects (distributed to the PAG). The Trustee Council plans to take action on this subject at their December meeting. Chugach Alaska withdrew their proposal for a regional repository, pending clarification of direction from the Trustee Council, although they are still moving forward with a cultural center in Seward together with Chenega Corporation. A draft resolution (distributed to the PAG) supports a single regional repository, 8 community displays, and construction of traveling exhibits. Short discussed his meeting with community representatives, Chugachmuit and Laura Johnson. Johnson said that communities endorse the local displays concept, but suggested more funds go there and reduced funding go to the regional repository, which could be an expansion of one of the local displays. This proposal is to go to the communities for their concurrence by the December meeting. McCammon noted that a key concern is who will support operations and how operating costs will be addressed. The PAG discussed this topic at length, in particular, the need for all parties to come together and use the best each has to offer to resolve this issue.

McBurney moved, second by Meacham, to request that the Trustee Council secure the services of a professional facilitator to help the profit and non-profit interests involved in cultural preservation/repository development to help develop an integrated plan for physical facilities and long-term operations. Passed with 1 no vote from Schwantes.

It was moved by Meacham, second by Totemoff, that the PAG supports the concept of the Trustee Council Resolution Regarding Additional Archaeological Repositories (Draft Revised 9/29/97), with the addition of the following to item #2, the first sentence: total not to exceed \$2.8 million. Also, the dollar amounts identified in items #2A, B, and C should be deleted. Passed unanimously.

## Attachment C

*Amended Resolution Recommended by the Public Advisory Group on November 5, 1997*

### RESOLUTION OF THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL REGARDING ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPOSITORIES

We, the undersigned, duly authorized members of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council ("Council"), after extensive review and after consideration of the views of the public and in response to strategies identified in the Restoration Plan, resolve to direct the Executive Director of the Trustee Council ("Executive Director") to:

1. Inform the communities in the Chugach and lower Cook Inlet regions (Valdez, Cordova/Eyak, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Seward/Qutekcak Native Tribe, Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek) that the Council respects their desire to have artifact repositories in their villages, but cannot justify the use of trust funds to construct eight separate local repositories to provide long-term curatorial services for the small number of spill-related artifacts that have been recovered from the Chugach region.

2. Invite comprehensive proposals to be submitted by April 15, 1998 that include all three of the following types of projects to restore injury to archaeological resources, with the total cost not to exceed \$2.8 million:

(a) **Establishment of a single regional repository** to house and display spill-related artifacts. This could either be a new or an existing facility. The proposed facility must meet at least the following conditions:

(1) adequate physical plant and professional staff to provide long-term

curatorial services for spill-related artifacts;

(2) a commitment, supported by financial resources other than trust funds, to programs in the local communities as well as the overall region that would restore or protect archaeological sites and artifacts as replacements for those injured in the spill;

(3) the potential to produce adequate revenues to cover future operating costs or a commitment (e.g., resolution from a corporate board of directors or a dedicated endowment) to assure the long-term operation of the facility;

(4) a reasonable degree of support from affected entities in the region;  
and

~~(5) a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000.~~

(b) **The construction of new or renovated community facilities** to display exhibits pertaining to spill-related archaeological resources. ~~The request may not exceed \$200,000 per community.~~ In the future these facilities could be converted to repositories using non-Trustee Council funds.

(c) **The development of traveling exhibits** of spill-related archaeological materials for display in community facilities in the spill area. ~~The request may not exceed \$200,000.~~

Approved by the Council at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 1997, held in Anchorage, Alaska, as affirmed by our signatures affixed below:

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



November 17, 1997

Michael E. Brown, President  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
560 East 34th Avenue, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4196

Derenty Tabios, Executive Director  
Chugachmiut  
4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 210  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Dear Messrs Brown and Tabios:

As you know, the Trustee Council has been struggling with the issue of funding for archaeological repositories in Prince William Sound and lower Cook Inlet. Until recently, the villages in these regions have voiced strong support for a local archaeological repository in each village. Because of the small number of spill-related archaeological artifacts and the high cost of operating and maintaining an archaeological repository, the Council has had difficulty justifying use of trust funds to construct eight separate local archaeological repositories (seven villages in the Chugach region as well as Seldovia).

At its meeting on October 3, 1997, the Trustee Council introduced a draft resolution about funding for archaeological repositories for Prince William Sound and lower Cook Inlet. The draft resolution states that the Council cannot justify the use of restoration funds for archaeological repositories in each village, but directs the Executive Director of the Trustee Council to,

Invite comprehensive proposals to be submitted by April 15, 1998 that include all three of the following types of projects to restore injury to archaeological resources:

(a) Establishment of a single regional repository...(at) a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000.

(b) The construction of new or renovated community facilities to display exhibits pertaining to spill-related archaeological resources...(at a cost not to) exceed \$200,000 per community.

(c) The development of traveling exhibits of spill-related archaeological materials for display in community facilities in the spill area...(at a cost not to) exceed \$200,000.

The Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group met to discuss this issue on November 5, 1997. Hugh Short, Community Involvement Coordinator, and Lora Johnson, Chugachmiut, presented the results of a discussion by Chugachmiut and village council representatives from five of the eight affected villages. The village council representatives supported the general approach of the resolution, but with funding up to \$300,000 for local display facilities in each village and a commensurate reduction in funding for a regional repository. Chuck Totemoff, President of the Chenega Corporation and a member of the Public Advisory Group, spoke in favor of a higher level of funding for a regional repository because it would have a greater potential to generate revenues to be self-sustaining and to support other cultural preservation programs.

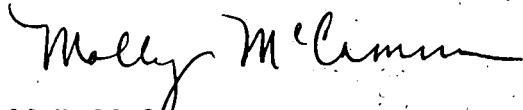
The Public Advisory Group voted unanimously to support the draft resolution. However, because of marked differences of opinion regarding the allocation of funds between a regional repository and local display facilities, the Public Advisory Group suggested that the second paragraph of the resolution be amended to limit the total amount of the project to a maximum of \$2.8 million and that funding limits for each of its components be deleted. It is understandable that village council representatives would express stronger support for local display facilities than for a regional repository. However, it appears as though a regional repository would be necessary to develop, coordinate and generate revenues for a region-wide archaeological restoration program.

Because of the potential that Chugachmiut and Chugach Alaska Corporation may submit competing proposals, the Public Advisory Group suggested that the Trustee Council offer to arrange for an objective facilitator to help both groups resolve their differences on this issue. It would be best for all parties concerned for the Trustee Council not to have to evaluate competing proposals from the two major Native organizations in the region. Furthermore, both the Public Advisory Group and the Trustee Council have indicated that a proposal that combines the resources of both Chugach Alaska Corporation and Chugachmiut would be stronger than a proposal that relies on the resources of only one organization. If you believe the Public Advisory Group's suggestion regarding a facilitator has merit, please contact me and I will do what I can to arrange it.



I expect that the Trustee Council will take action on the draft resolution at their meeting on December 18, 1997. I will keep you informed of developments on this issue.

Sincerely,



Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

Enclosure: Draft resolution regarding additional archaeological repositories (9/29/97)

cc: Trustee Council  
Public Advisory Group  
Chuck Totemoff, President, Chenega Corporation  
Lora Johnson, Chugachmiut  
Hugh Short, Chugach Regional Resources Commission

mmv/c/aw

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj. No.	Project Title	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	98 Revised Request	Funded August	Deferred August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY 99 Estimate	Total FY98-02	Exec. Director's Recommendation
98064	Harbor Seal Monitoring, Habitat, Trophics	ADFG	Cont'd	\$307.5	\$150.0	\$157.5	<b>\$122.5</b>	\$265.0	\$667.5	Fund
98131	Clam Restoration	ADFG	Cont'd	\$280.0	\$82.1	\$197.9	<b>\$197.9</b>		\$280.0	Fund contingent
98162	Herring Disease	ADFG	Cont'd	\$517.4	\$465.7	\$51.7	<b>\$52.0</b>	\$0.0	\$517.7	Fund
98163	Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experim't(APEX)	NOAA	Cont'd	\$2,018.0	\$1,899.5	\$118.5	<b>\$112.7</b>	\$1,880.3	\$4,774.6	Fund
98263	Port Graham Salmon Stream Enhancement	ADFG	Cont'd	\$135.4	\$0.0	\$135.4	<b>\$107.0</b>	\$23.6	\$154.2	Fund contingent
98286	Elders/Youth Conference	DOI	Cont'd	\$111.1	\$0.0	\$111.1	<b>\$90.2</b>	\$0.0	\$90.2	Fund contingent
98289-BAA	Status of Black Oystercatchers	NOAA	New	\$80.4	\$0.0	\$80.4	<b>\$80.4</b>		\$80.4	Fund
98314	Homer Mariner Park	ADNR	New	\$102.1	\$0.0	\$102.1	<b>\$0.0</b>	\$0.0	\$0.0	Do not fund
98320	Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA)	ADFG	Cont'd	\$2,383.4	\$2,332.6	\$50.8	<b>\$50.8</b>	\$755.2	\$3,138.6	Fund contingent
98338	Adult Murre/Kittiwake Survival	DOI	New	\$76.1	\$0.0	\$76.1	<b>\$56.2</b>	\$66.0	\$167.2	Fund
98339	Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	USFS	New	\$139.2	\$0.0	\$139.2	<b>\$139.2</b>	\$53.1	\$192.3	Fund
<b>Total (Deferred Projects Only):</b>				\$6,150.6	\$4,929.9	\$1,220.7	<b>\$1,008.9</b>	\$3,043.2	\$10,062.7	

## Summary:

Approved by Trustee Council in August: \$13,079.1  
 Recommended for Deferred Projects: **\$1,008.9**  
**TOTAL: \$14,088.0**  
  
**FY 98 Work Plan Target: \$14,000.0**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98064	Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor Seals in Prince William Sound	K. Frost/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	\$307.5	\$150.0	\$157.5	\$122.5	\$265.0	\$130.0	\$0.0	\$667.5

Project Abstract

This project will monitor the status of harbor seals in Prince William Sound and investigate the hypothesis that food limitation to pups and juveniles is causing the ongoing decline. Aerial surveys will be conducted during molting to determine whether the population continues to decline, stabilizes, or increases. Seal pups will be satellite-tagged to describe and compare their movements, hauling out, and diving behavior to older seals and seals in other areas. Fatty acids analysis will be conducted on recent and archived blubber samples and mathematical models developed to estimate seal diets and whether they have changed since the 1970s. Special emphasis will be on pups and juveniles, the age groups most likely to be affected by food limitation.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The monitoring component of this project was approved previously, but action was deferred on several expanded research objectives. Based on a harbor seal program review this autumn, I strongly support continued fatty acid analyses, statistical analyses of population trend data, and population modeling. Concern about the harbor seal in Prince William Sound is now being refocused on pups and juveniles, and it is important to better understand their movements and survival rates. Continued use of satellite tags should be informative, but there are limitations and technological questions about the smaller transmitters required for use on pups. There also is need to invest additional time in the analysis of existing transmitter data. Given this need and in view of the experimental nature of the pup-sized transmitters, I recommend providing funds for about half of the ten units proposed for FY 98 (a reduction of \$35,000). Otherwise, I recommend full funding for this important project.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund deferred component at a reduced level. This component, which focuses on pups and juveniles, was deferred pending a review of EVOS harbor seal studies. The results of this review, held in November, support an expanded research emphasis on pups. However, the Chief Scientist has recommended a "go-slow" approach to funding additional satellite tags for pups due to their experimental nature and current limitations, and the budget should be reduced accordingly. In general, Project 98064, in collaboration with projects 98001 and 98170, will help explain the long-term decline in harbor seals in Prince William Sound. The results of the study will enable resource managers, subsistence users, and others to focus their efforts and concern on the most probable causes of harbor seal population decline.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98131	Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration	P. Brown- Schwalenberg/ CRRC	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	\$280.0	\$82.1	\$197.9	<del>\$197.9</del> \$ 28.0				\$280.0

## Project Abstract

Cost effective procedures for establishing safe, easily accessible subsistence clam populations near Native villages in the oil spill region will be established. The Qutekcak hatchery in Seward will annually provide about 800,000 juvenile littleneck clams and cockles. Historical information, local and agency expertise, and research will be used to identify areas to seed and what method to use. Total seeded area during the project will not exceed five hectares. Follow-up research on success of seeding will be conducted. Development work will be confined to areas near the Native villages of Eyak, Tatitlek, Nanwalek, and Port Graham.

## Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The revised Detailed Project Description and progress report indicate improvements in conditioning of brood stock, gamete quality and larval survival in association with changes in hatchery protocols for littleneck clams. I encourage further work of this sort to improve and maintain future hatchery production. In addition, the nursery operation appears to be improved with sustained algal blooms and satisfactory growth in the Seward pond nursery as well as in the tidal FLUPSY in Prince William Sound. Beach growouts also appear to surpass expectations with survival of over 85 percent and a doubling of size in a 15-month period. The revised Detailed Project Description is properly focused on improving the hatchery protocols in order to define the optimal conditions for spawning and larval rearing, as well as maintaining production of the later stages in the FLUPSY and following up on growth of out-planted clams on beaches in Tatitlek, Eyak, Nanwalek, and Port Graham. I recommend funding the revised proposal as requested.

## Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund deferred component contingent on final award of a contract to Qutekcak Native Tribe for operation of the new shellfish hatchery. This component, which is the balance of FY 98 funding (interim funding was approved in August), was deferred pending a determination of whether Qutekcak would be awarded the contract for operation of the shellfish hatchery from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A decision to award the contract to Qutekcak, as a subcontract through the City of Seward, has now been made. The contract is expected to be finalized December 30, 1997, once Qutekcak obtains a \$100,000 bond and the necessary insurance. This project is an effort to establish subsistence clam populations as replacements for subsistence resources injured by the spill. The emphasis in FY 98 should be on the development of standard operating procedures that produce viable littleneck clams. Technical difficulties have been encountered at the old hatchery; it is hoped that production will improve and be sustained at the new hatchery. A decision on whether or not to provide additional funding in FY 99 will be made following a review of FY 98 progress and results.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98162	Investigations of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound	G. Marty/UC Davis; R. Kocan /Univ. Wash., C. Kennedy & A. Farrell, Simon Fraser Univ.	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	\$517.4	\$465.7	\$51.7	\$52.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$517.7
<u>Project Abstract</u>		<u>Chief Scientist's Recommendation</u>		<u>Executive Director's Recommendation</u>								
Field and controlled laboratory studies will focus on viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHS) and <i>Ichthyophonus hoferi</i> , a pathogenic fungus, to determine their role in the disease(s) and mortality observed in Prince William Sound herring since 1993. Herring will be monitored for signs of disease and immune status, while specific pathogen-free herring will be used to determine the degree of mortality, blood chemical changes, and pathogenicity produced by these organisms alone and in combination with exposure to stressors such as petroleum hydrocarbons, temperature and crowding. Wild herring will be studied under laboratory conditions to determine the course of VHS infection associated with captivity and their immune status and susceptibility to reinfection.		Funding for most of this project was approved previously, but action on the herring pound component was deferred pending review of the 1997 field results. I have now reviewed those results, which indicate that there is potential for spreading viral hemorrhagic septicemia from fish inside closed pounds to fish outside of the pounds. The significance of this potential remains unclear, however, as do the processes responsible for triggering viral outbreaks in the impounded fish. The principal investigators in this project are excellent. The possible management applications of their herring pound work warrant support for a second and, I hope, final field season in FY 98. I recommend funding this project.		Fund deferred component. This component, which would continue herring pound studies begun in FY 97 (Project 97162), was deferred pending evaluation of the FY 97 work. The FY 97 results indicate there is potential for spreading viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) from impounded fish to fish outside of the pound. Completing this study (FY 98 would be the final year) may have important implications for fisheries managers. In general, Project 162 is investigating the potential link between oil exposure and disease in herring, and between disease and the herring population decline in Prince William Sound. Understanding the causes of the decline and the lack of recovery is important for restoration of the herring population in the sound.								
98163	APEX: Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska	D. Duffy, et al/UAA	NOAA	Cont'd 4th yr. 6 yr. project	\$2,018.0	\$1,899.5	\$118.5	\$112.7	\$1,880.3	\$882.1	\$0.0	\$4,774.6
<u>Project Abstract</u>		<u>Chief Scientist's Recommendation</u>		<u>Executive Director's Recommendation</u>								
This project uses seabirds as probes of the trophic (foraging) environment of Prince William Sound, comparing their reproductive and foraging biologies, including diet, with similar measurements from Cook Inlet, an area with apparently a more suitable food environment. These measurements are compared with hydroacoustic and net samples of fish to calibrate seabird performance with fish distribution and abundance to determine the extent to which food limits the recovery of seabirds from the spill. Fish are sampled in order to compare diet, energetics and reproductive parameters of the different forage-fish species, to determine whether competitive and predatory interactions or different responses to the environment may favor the abundance of one fish species over another. In FY 98, a new sub-project (/163S-BAA) to study jellyfish is included.		Funding for most of this project was approved previously, but action on the marbled murrelet component was deferred pending a review of 1997 data relating the productivity index to forage fish data. Based on my review of a memorandum provided by the principal investigator and project leaders, a preliminary analysis of 1997 data indicates a very promising correspondence between murrelet productivity and the availability of forage fish in three different areas within Prince William Sound. Data of this type are fundamental to testing the APEX hypotheses, and the marbled murrelet continues to be a species of concern in the spill area. I recommend funding this project at the requested level.		Fund deferred component with a slight reduction in personnel costs. This component, which addresses marbled murrelet productivity, was deferred pending analysis of the FY 97 data (Project 97231) for a direct link to the APEX hypotheses, namely a relationship between murrelet productivity and forage fish abundance. Preliminary analysis of the FY 97 data indicated that such a relationship exists, and the Chief Scientist has described this project as fundamental to testing the APEX hypotheses. In general, the APEX project is investigating the link between forage fish and seabird productivity. It may yield results that will benefit the marine ecosystem in Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska.								

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98263	Assessment, Protection and Enhancement of Salmon Streams in Lower Cook Inlet	W. Meganack, Jr./Port Graham Corporation	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 4 yr. project	\$135.4	\$0.0	\$135.4	<b>\$107.0</b>	\$23.6	\$23.6	\$0.0	\$154.2

## Project Abstract

This project will replace lost subsistence services resulting from the oil spill by constructing enhancement projects on major salmon streams in the Lower Cook Inlet spill area. Protection and enhancement will be implemented using instream fisheries habitat improvement techniques, primarily creation of spawning channels, removal of natural barriers to spawning, and construction of wall-based rearing structures. Local subsistence users will be employed as technical assistants during field surveys and construction.

## Chief Scientist's Recommendation

A decision on funding this project was deferred pending evaluation of 1997 field results. Based on my review of an interim report of the 1997 results, the prospects for significantly increased production of coho salmon appear to be good for at least two of the five proposed stream enhancements (Port Graham River and Windy Creek). The other proposed enhancements are of more marginal value. In addition, there remain questions about the source of supplementation stock, difficulties in maintaining spawning channels, and possible harvest management issues. I also am concerned about the ambitious scope and schedule of what the Port Graham Corporation proposes to undertake in FY 98. I recommend phased funding for the two most promising enhancements, provided that technical and management questions can be resolved.

## Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund the Port Graham River (\$57,000) and Windy Creek (\$50,000) components only, contingent on (1) resolution of the technical questions raised by the Chief Scientist and (2) approval of a detailed budget. This project was deferred pending a review of the stream inventories conducted in FY 97 (Project 97263). The Chief Scientist's review found two of the stream projects, those on the Port Graham River and Windy Creek, to be feasible and worthwhile. However, a few technical questions need to be answered before these projects can go forward. Consistent with Trustee Council policy, funds for Project 98263 will be released in two phases: Phase I will be NEPA, necessary permits (e.g., approval by the state geneticist, endorsement by the Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team), and engineering and design. Phase II, to begin upon completion of Phase I, will be actual construction of stream improvements. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance salmon streams important to the restoration of subsistence in the Port Graham area.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98286	Elders/Youth Conference on Subsistence and the Oil Spill	B. Henrichs /Native Village of Eyak	DOI	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	\$111.1	\$0.0	\$111.1	<b>\$90.2</b>	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$90.2

## Project Abstract

This project will bring together, from all of the oil spill-affected communities, elders and other traditional knowledge bearers and youth, as well as principal investigators from EVOS-sponsored research projects to create a forum for the exchange of information between Western scientific ways of knowing and traditional ways of knowing. The forum will give rise to possible collaborative efforts between local community members and research scientists designing FY 99 restoration projects. In addition, it will facilitate a reexamination of the positive outcomes from the Community Conference on Subsistence and the Oil Spill sponsored by the Trustee Council in October 1995. Funds were provided in FY 97 for preliminary conference planning. Funds requested in FY 98 will be for holding the conference itself, which is scheduled to be held in Cordova in April 1998.

## Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Action on this project was deferred, pending receipt and review of a full Detailed Project Description. Based on my review of the Detailed Project Description, I believe that this is a worthwhile project that will bring together village subsistence users and EVOS investigators to exchange the latest scientific knowledge and traditional and local knowledge on the status of fish and wildlife resources injured by the spill. Although I can affirm the value of this concept, I am concerned that most of the tribal councils in spill-area communities, including the Eyak Tribal Council which proposed this project, have not adopted the traditional knowledge protocols developed under project /052B. In addition, I have questions about the timing, length, and content of the conference, and about the budget. If these policy and substantive issues can be addressed satisfactorily, I recommend funding the project at a reduced level.

## Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund contingent on (1) response to the issues raised by the Chief Scientist and (2) approval of a reduced budget. This project was deferred pending receipt of a Detailed Project Description that focused the conference on the recovery of injured resources and services and involved EVOS researchers. The Detailed Project Description adequately addresses these two issues. However, the fact that the Eyak Tribal Council, and most other village councils in the spill region, have not adopted the Trustee Council's TEK protocols is a concern. It is hoped that preparation for the conference, as well as the conference itself, will lead to active consideration and adoption of the protocols. The Elders/Youth Conference is intended to create a forum for the exchange of information between Western scientific ways of knowing and traditional ways of knowing. Initial planning money for the conference, which is scheduled for March or April 1998 in Cordova, was provided by the Trustee Council in FY 97 (Project 97286). The Council sponsored a similar conference in October 1995.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98289-BAA	Status of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound	S. Murphy/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr.	\$80.4	\$0.0	\$80.4	<b>\$80.4</b>		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$80.4
<p><u>Project Abstract</u></p> <p>Black oystercatchers currently are considered to be "injured with recovery unknown." Because most of the unresolved issues for this species pertain to impacts to the breeding population in Prince William Sound, this study is designed to assess aspects of the life history (e.g., phenology and productivity) of oystercatchers that potentially are spill-related for the same population of oystercatchers that was studied during 1989 - 1993. Year 1 will entail an examination of the life-history parameters that were identified by previous researchers as having been negatively impacted by the oil spill and an evaluation of whether these birds have recovered from the previously identified impacts. Data analyses will focus on comparisons of previously oiled sites with unoiled sites and among-year analyses.</p>			<p><u>Chief Scientist's Recommendation</u></p> <p>I previously had given this project a favorable recommendation, but a Trustee Council decision was deferred pending availability of funds. I continue to find that this is a worthwhile project. Ideally, it should be carried out and reported on in advance of the 10th Anniversary of the oil spill.</p>			<p><u>Executive Director's Recommendation</u></p> <p>Fund FY 98 only; additional funding in FY 99 will be considered following a review of FY 98 results. This project was deferred pending the availability of funds. The upcoming 10th Anniversary compels reassessment of the recovery status of black oystercatchers at this time. The FY 98 Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals invited proposals for this additional monitoring.</p>						
98314	Homer Mariner Park Habitat Assessment and Restoration Design Project	E. Bechtol/City of Homer	ADNR	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	\$102.1	\$0.0	\$102.1	<b>\$0.0</b>	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
<p><u>Project Abstract</u></p> <p>In its present state, Mariner Park is a highly stressed marine habitat in decline. The area is experiencing a dramatic reduction in marine biota and shorebird population while incompatible and environmentally destructive human uses flourish. From the results of a comprehensive feasibility study that includes botanical, biological, and hydrological field studies coupled to community information it is possible to develop a comprehensive habitat restoration and enhancement plan. This plan will establish the optimal hands-on restoration program to increase and diversify the intertidal fauna, which in turn will benefit migrating shorebirds and promote recreationally compatible use of the area by residents and tourists.</p>			<p><u>Chief Scientist's Recommendation</u></p> <p>I previously had given this project a favorable recommendation, but a Trustee Council decision was deferred pending availability of funds. Although I continue to find that this is a worthwhile project, it is not a high priority to start in FY 98.</p>			<p><u>Executive Director's Recommendation</u></p> <p>Do not fund at this time. Although the proposed habitat restoration is designed to benefit intertidal resources injured by the oil spill, the limited funds available for new projects in FY 98 make this project a lower priority this year. The Trustee Council should reconsider funding this project in FY 99. The project would produce a feasibility study and environmental review for restoration of an intertidal area damaged as a result of spill response efforts.</p>						



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98320	Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA)	T. Cooney, et al/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 6 yr. project	\$2,383.4	\$2,332.6	\$50.8	<b>\$50.8</b>	\$755.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3,138.6

## Project Abstract

This project is an integrated, multi-component study of processes influencing the annual survival of juvenile pink salmon and herring rearing in Prince William Sound. An emerging understanding of mechanisms of loss at this life stage is being captured by linked numerical simulations of ocean state, plankton dynamics, fish energetics, and prey/predator relationships. FY 98 will be the final fully-funded year of SEA, a period of reduced field work but accelerated data analysis and application of results to management models.

## Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Most of the funding for the SEA project was approved previously, but action on the component related to traditional and local knowledge about herring was deferred pending review of 1997 results. I have now reviewed those results as presented in an interim report. Although I have questions about the specific applications of these data, this project is documenting information that may prove valuable for scientists and managers who are trying to understand changes in forage fish populations in Prince William Sound. I consider this project to be a pilot effort in bringing local and traditional knowledge to bear to help answer scientific questions, and I recommend funding in FY 98.

## Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund deferred component contingent on approval of a revised budget that reflects work planned for FY 98. This component, which would continue the collection of traditional and local knowledge on juvenile herring and other forage fish in Prince William Sound, was deferred pending review of FY 97 results. The review, which was favorable, indicated that in FY 98 the emphasis should be on collecting more data and interacting with scientists and managers who could benefit from the data collected. The Herring TEK work is a component of SEA, an interdisciplinary ecosystem project focused on issues relating to the survival and recruitment of pink salmon and herring. SEA is entering the final year of a five-year study effort (to be followed by one year of data analysis/report writing). The project has been the subject of numerous technical reviews, including recent review sessions on the SEA modeling efforts (February 1997) and the SEA herring effort (March 1997). Both reviews indicated strong progress toward meeting project objectives. The FY 98 recommended funding level includes \$429,700 for PWSSC's FY 99 closeout costs. ADFG project management costs (\$49,500) have been deducted from SEA's FY 98 request and added to Project 98250/Project Management. In FY 99, only closeout funds are expected. Submittal of the draft final report is expected April 15, 1999.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98338	Survival of Adult Murres and Kittiwakes in Relation to Forage Fish Abundance	J. Piatt/USGS	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	\$76.1	\$0.0	\$76.1	<b>\$56.2</b>	\$66.0	\$45.0	\$0.0	\$167.2

## Project Abstract

Some seabird populations damaged by the spill continue to decline or are not recovering. In order to understand the ultimate cause of seabird population fluctuations, productivity, recruitment, and adult survival must be measured. Current APEX (Project /163) studies are focused on measuring productivity only. Recruitment measurement demands an unrealistic study duration. This project will augment current studies in lower Cook Inlet that relate breeding success and foraging effort to fluctuations in forage fish density by using banding and resighting to quantify the survival of adult common murres and black-legged kittiwakes.

## Chief Scientist's Recommendation

A decision on funding for this project had been deferred pending the results of a pilot effort (conducted with non-EVOS funds) to use subcutaneous radio tags on murres. I have reviewed an interim report on the 1997 pilot study and a revised Detailed Project Description for the FY 98 work. Although the subcutaneous radio tags were successfully used on murres this past summer, the principal investigators concluded that the cost and effort involved did not warrant pursuing this approach. The investigators have reformulated the proposal to emphasize use of conventional leg bands, which I think provide a feasible, cost-effective way to obtain important data on adult survival as a means of gaining insights into the population-level effects of food availability. This is a dimension that is missing from the current APEX program, which emphasizes the effects of food on annual productivity, and the APEX project will benefit from the work proposed here. I do not think it is essential to fund the proposed use of conventional, external radio transmitters to supplement the banding data. Otherwise, I recommend funding this project as requested.

## Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund all but purchase of radio transmitters and related laptop computers, which the Chief Scientist has indicated are not essential for meeting core project objectives. This project was deferred pending completion of an FY 97 pilot study using subcutaneous radio tags as a means of obtaining data on adult survival of murres and kittiwakes. Although the subcutaneous tags were successfully used, the researchers concluded that the cost and effort did not warrant using this approach, and the Detailed Project Description has been revised to emphasize use of conventional leg bands. The project will explore adult overwinter survival as one mechanism by which forage fish availability may be affecting the recovery of seabirds, and will complement the work on chick production and forage fish being performed under APEX (Project /163).

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: DEFERRED PROJECTS

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Request	Funded in August	Deferred in August	RECOM-MENDATION	FY99 Estimate	FY00 Estimate	FY01-02 Estimate	Total FY98-02 Estimate
98339	Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	K. Murphy, L. Suring/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	\$139.2	\$0.0	\$139.2	<b>\$139.2</b>	\$53.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$192.3

## Project Abstract

This project will use geographic information system (GIS) techniques to describe current human-use patterns in western Prince William Sound and to model potential changes in those use patterns as a result of additional development (e.g., increased access). GIS-generated maps of present and projected human-use patterns will be incorporated with GIS maps of the distribution of resources injured as a result of the oil spill. This will provide a basis to identify areas where there may be existing and potential conflicts between human use and wildlife concentrations resulting in disturbance. Disturbance of injured wildlife may result in decreased productivity exacerbating the effects of the oil spill and prolonging the time to recover.

## Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would assess and model impacts on injured resources and services associated with increased human uses in western Prince William Sound. The model would allow projections of future impacts from increased human access and provide a basis for evaluating and possibly changing agency management practices with respect to species injured by the oil spill. This work could be very valuable, and I recommend funding it.

## Executive Director's Recommendation

Fund. This project was deferred pending the availability of funds. Funding this year will allow the work to be coordinated with other ongoing planning efforts in Prince William Sound, such as the update of the Chugach National Forest Plan and the work being undertaken by the Alaska Department of Transportation. The project will develop and test in western Prince William Sound a model for projecting future impacts of human use on resources injured by the oil spill. The model, which will be designed to be adaptable to other locations, will provide information useful for evaluating and possibly changing agency management practices with respect to injured species. This management tool could help protect injured resources and services for many years into the future.



# Trails & Recreational Access for Alaska Citizens Advisory Board

Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
3061 C Street, Suite 1200  
Anchorage, AK 99503-5921

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
Division of Statewide Planning  
3132 Channel Drive, Room 200  
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

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NOV 24 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

November 19, 1997

## Members

HELEN NIENHUESER, CHAIR  
Anchorage 277-9330

MITZI BARKER  
Eagle River 343-4881

CHIP DENNERLEIN  
Anchorage 277-6722

KATHERINE ENINGOWUK  
Nome 443-4336

LANIE FLEISCHER  
Anchorage 274-2453

AUSTIN HELMERS  
Palmer 376-2050

E. J. HILKER  
Juneau 789-6172

KIRK HOESSLE  
Girdwood 783-2928

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Seward 224-8068

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Glenallen 822-3476

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**  
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Anchorage 269-8703

TOM BRIGHAM, ADOT&PF  
Juneau 465-6978

**Staff**  
ODIN BRUDIE, ADOT&PF  
Juneau 465-8769

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
c/o Molly McCammon, Executive Director  
645 G Street, Suite 401  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. McCammon and Trustee Council:

The Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAC) Citizens' Advisory Board wishes to restate its support for the EVOS Trustee Council to fund the US Forest Service proposed GIS model for human use and endangered species for western Prince William Sound.

Developing this model is a time and cost efficient step toward gathering data that will be very helpful for planning efforts. The model will be applicable all over Prince William Sound. It is an opportunity to start looking at managing natural resources in conjunction with human use.

We apologize for any confusion in our previous communication. We see value in starting this model project as soon as feasible.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Helen Nienhueser  
Chair

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NOV 24 1997

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE COUNCIL

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Council

FROM: Molly McCammon  
Executive Director

RE: Project Reports

DATE: December 11, 1997

The most recent Quarterly Project Status Report, for the quarter ending September 30, 1997, was mailed to you October 31. This memo is to update you on the status of the 11 reports for which you and your liaisons, back in August, worked to develop plans for timely completion.

Of the 11 reports:

- 3 have been submitted to the Chief Scientist for peer review
  - 93038 Gibeaut/ADEC
  - 95031 Kuletz/DOI
  - 95090 Rice/NOAA
- 6 are not yet due for submittal
  - B11 Rothe/ADFG Due 12/31/97
  - FS13 Baker/ADFG Due 12/31/97
  - 93006 Birkedahl/DOI Due 2/23/98
  - 93033-1 Rothe/ADFG Due 12/31/97
  - 93033-2 Rothe/ADFG Due 12/31/97
  - 95086C Highsmith/ADFG Due 12/15/97
- 2 have not been submitted as scheduled
  - FS01 Bue/ADFG Due 10/31/97
  - 96258A2 Swanton/ADFG Due 10/31/97

### Federal Trustees

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### State Trustees

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Alaska Department of Law



# 1998 EXXON VALDEZ TRUST COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

Budget Category:	Authorized FFY 1997	Proposed FFY 1998	PROPOSED FFY 1998 TRUSTEE AGENCIES TOTALS					
			ADEC	ADF&G	ADNR	USFS	NPS	FWS
		Amendment		\$19.0	\$51.9	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Personnel		\$15.2						
Travel		\$1.5						
Contractual		\$48.5						
Commodities		\$0.0						
Equipment		\$0.0	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS					
Subtotal		\$65.2	Estimated FFY 1999	Estimated FFY 2000	Estimated FFY 2001	Estimated FFY 2002		
General Administration		\$5.7						
Project Total		\$70.9	\$42.8					
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)		0.3						
Other Resources		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0

NOTE: This budget request is an amendment to Project 98126, requesting funding for Sitkalidik Island exchange between Old Harbor and the State of Alaska and for additional ADF&G involvement in the Afognak Joint Venture negotiations. The Sitkalidik Island exchange process is expected to take two years. Trustee Council support is also being requested for FY99 as follows:

Contractual	\$40.0
Survey & Hazmat	\$5.0
Planning, public process,	
Best Interest finding	\$25.7
Aircharters	\$1.3
Title & appraisal review	\$8.0
DNR General Administration	\$2.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42.8</b>

**1998**

Project Number: 98126  
Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
Lead Agency: AK Dept. of Natural Resources

FORM 2A  
PROJECT  
DETAIL

Prepared:

# 1998 EXXON VALDEZ TRUST COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

Budget Category:	Authorized FFY 1997	Proposed FFY 1998						
Personnel		\$0.0						
Travel		\$0.0						
Contractual		\$48.5						
Commodities		\$0.0						
Equipment		\$0.0						
Subtotal		\$48.5	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS					
General Administration		\$3.4	Estimated FFY 1999	Estimated FFY 2000	Estimated FFY 2001	Estimated	Estimated	
Project Total		\$51.9	\$42.8					
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)		0.0						
Dollar amounts are shown in thousands of dollars.								
Other Resources								

This budget request is based upon unanticipated costs associated with a renewed interest in pursuing the proposed Sitkalidik Island exchange referenced in the Old Harbor purchase agreement. Old Harbor is anxious to pursue this effort. The State will need additional resources to pursue this effort as exchanges, by state statute require that specific actions be taken.

Additional travel funds are being requested for Department of Law negotiators. Previously these expenses have been absorbed by the administrative budget. This request reflects a more accurate allocation of funds and expenditures to appropriate projects.

**1998**

Project Number: 98126  
 Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
 Agency: AK Dept. of Natural Resources

**FORM 3A  
 AGENCY  
 PROJECT  
 DETAIL**

Prepared:

# 1998 EXXON VALDEZ TRUST COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

Personnel Costs:			GS/Range/ Step	Months Budgeted	Monthly Costs	Overtime	Proposed FFY 1998	
PM	Name	Position Description						
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
Subtotal				0.0	0	0	0.0	
Those costs associated with program management should be indicated by placement of an *.							<b>Personnel Total</b>	\$0.0
Travel Costs:			Ticket Price	Round Trips	Total Days	Daily Per Diem	Proposed FFY 1998	
PM	Description							
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
							0.0	
Those costs associated with program management should be indicated by placement of an *.						<b>Travel Total</b>	\$0.0	

1998

Project Number: 98126  
Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
Agency: AK Dept. of Natural Resources

FORM 3B  
Personnel  
& Travel  
DETAIL



October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

## 1998

**FORM 3B**  
**Contractual &**  
**Commodities**  
**DETAIL**

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

# 1998

Project Number: 98126  
Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
Agency: AK Dept. of Natural Resources

FORM 3B  
Equipment  
DETAIL

# 1998 EXXON VALDEZ TRUST COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

Budget Category:	Authorized FFY 1997	Proposed FFY 1998						
Personnel		\$15.2						
Travel		\$1.5						
Contractual		\$0.0						
Commodities		\$0.0						
Equipment		\$0.0						
Subtotal		\$16.7	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS					
General Administration		\$2.3	Estimated FFY 1999	Estimated FFY 2000	Estimated FFY 2001	Estimated	Estimated	
Project Total		\$19.0						
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)		0.3						
Dollar amounts are shown in thousands of dollars.								
Other Resources								
Comments: This amendment reflects additional biological input and travel associated with the Afognak acquisition.								

**1998**

Project Number: 97126  
Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
Agency: AK Dept. of Fish & Game

FORM 3A  
AGENCY  
PROJECT  
DETAIL

Prepared:

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

## 1998

Project Number: 98126  
Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
Agency: AK Dept. of Fish & Game

FORM 3B  
Personnel  
& Travel  
DETAIL

**1998 EXXON VALDEZ TRUST COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET**

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

<b>Contractual Costs:</b>		Proposed FFY 1998
Description		
When a non-trustee organization is used, the form 4A is required.		
<b>Contractual Total</b>		<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Commodities Costs:</b>		Proposed FFY 1998
Description		
<b>Commodities Total</b>		<b>\$0.0</b>

**1998**

Project Number: 98126  
 Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
 Agency: AK Dept. of Fish & Game

**FORM 3B**  
**Contractual &**  
**Commodities**  
**DETAIL**

October 1, 1997 - September 30, 1998

## 1998

Project Number: 98126  
Project Title: Habitat Protection & Acquisition Support  
Agency: AK Dept. of Fish & Game

FORM 3B  
Equipment  
DETAIL

# Janik climbs rungs

## Forester named deputy chief

By DAVID WHITNEY  
Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Alaska Regional Forester Phil Janik is being promoted to deputy chief in Washington, D.C.

The promotion was announced Wednesday by Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck, under whom Janik will head up the federal agency's state and private forests division.

"Phil brings a full career of field, regional and national experience to the deputy's position," Dombeck said in a prepared statement. "Phil's skill in building and maintaining partnerships and integrating science with management will be of particular value."

Under Janik's watch, logging in the Tongass National Forest was reduced in favor of more wildlife protections, which earned him criticism from environmentalists and the timber industry alike.

Janik's administration also oversees the Chugach National Forest, where there is little commercial logging. He was in Washington this week but was tied up in meetings Wednesday and could not be reached for comment.

In a prepared statement, Janik said his four-year tour in Alaska helped equip him to "lead a national program that has tremendous potential to help define and influence sustainability on all of our nation's forests."

Steven Ambrose, who handles congressional operations for the Alaska office in Washington, D.C., said it's not clear when Janik's replacement

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS  
DECEMBER 11, 1997

might be picked.

Janik will remain in Juneau through the spring to preside over the implementation of a new 10-year logging plan released this spring.

Logging interests condemned the plan because it halves the volume of land available for logging while setting the annual cut below what they think is needed to meet timber demand.

Environmentalists are fighting it because they believe the allowable cut is still too high to protect fish and

wildlife and will provide more timber than the existing mills can use.

The forest plan's preparation was a frequent subject of congressional hearings, and Janik often was called to testify about the plan.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that conducted many of those hearings, said Wednesday that Janik's promotion came as no surprise.

"He certainly toed the administration line," Murkowski said of Janik. "If he has a legacy, it certainly won't be

in timber sales."

Murkowski said with a new regional forester, Alaska "can pretty much expect what we've had in the past — which isn't much."

Jack Phelps, director of the Alaska Forest Association, said Janik's departure will have little impact.

"I don't see this as particularly significant for us," Phelps said. "We've got a guy who was made regional forester at a time when the White House was making all the calls. Janik's not the problem. It's the administration."

But Bart Koehler, director of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, said Janik was a steady force.

"He was under incredible pressure and constant bombardment by the congressional delegation," Koehler said.

"We didn't agree with every decision he made, but he showed a lot of courage under fire."

The Alaska regional forester — one of nine regional foresters nationwide — oversees more than 1,000 employees and 22 million acres of national forest land in Alaska.

# Trustees take the 'carrot'

■ \$10 wetlands sale entices EVOS council to support Mineral Creek marine park

By Tony Bickert

Valdez Vanguard

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council, which had previously showed little interest in buying the 100 acres of ocean shoreline at the mouth of Mineral Creek — the site for a proposed marine park — has changed its mind, now that the City of Valdez has offered to throw in another 50 acres for \$10.

Molly McCammon, executive director of the Trustees Council, said Monday that the state portion of council, which holds three of the six seats, will vote on Dec. 18 to have the land appraised, and will encourage remaining council members to do the same. Land appraisal is a key step in the Trustees' small parcels purchase process.

In June, when local members of the State

Parks Citizens Advisory Board began lobbying the Trustees to buy the land — for sale by owner Wayne Blondeau — Trustees director of operations Eric Myers said there was little chance of appraisal, let alone a sale, because the land was not considered high-priority in terms of habitat restoration. Plus, he said the Trustees are backlogged with more than 100 other parcels under consideration and had issued a moratorium on new purchases.

But McCammon said the Valdez City Council's Nov. 3 resolution to sell the Trustees 50 acres of adjacent wetlands for \$10 on the condition that the Trustees buy the Blondeau parcel, got her attention and moved the issue to the front burner.

"Certainly what the city has done makes it a much more enticing parcel," she said. "What we're interested in doing is maximizing the bang for the buck. And when you get a situation like this where the city steps up to the plate and shows its commitment to a parcel, I think the council listens to that and responds."

The Blondeau property, the only beach-

front land in Valdez other than Dock Point, is an ideal site for a state-run picnic area, with pink and silver salmon fishing available from the shore, said Valdez Mayor Dr. Cobb, a strong supporter of the project.

Bill Bixby, chairman of the state advisory board, said it's also a strategic trail head location; the Shoup Glacier-to-Valdez Trail, to be completed next year, runs through the area. Bixby also wants to establish the spot as a marine trail launch area for kayaks.

If the council does purchase the property, the State Parks Department would develop and manage the area, Bixby said. The Department of Natural Resources has also shown an interest.

"I don't see the city putting any money into it," Cobb said in June. "It will all be done by the Trustee funds and maintained by State Parks. So, we want to try to get it moved ahead in the process."

The council had voted to sell the \$10 parcel because the wetlands, protected under state and federal preservation laws, are of no developmental use to the city.

"I guess it's kind of a carrot," said Valdez Community Development Director Dave Dengel. "But we're not just going to give it to them. They have to buy Blondeau's property. And that would mean some of that Trustee money is spent in Valdez and we get a state park presence down here as well."



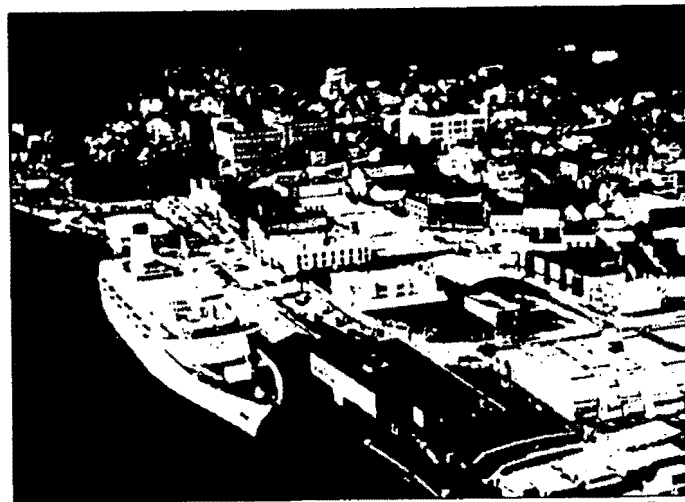
# Aquarium developers see research, tourism potential in Ketchikan

By Nicole A. Bonham  
For the Journal of Commerce

**K**etchikan — Plans are moving ahead for a regional aquarium outside Ketchikan — and with them are aspirations of more federal fisheries research in southern Southeast.

Although still on paper, the proposed 21,000-square-foot Tongass Coast Aquarium is backed by a nonprofit group that expects to see the facility on line within five years, with Ketchikan's burgeoning flock of annual tourists picking up much of the tab for operating costs. More than a half-million visitors passed through southeast Alaska this summer.

Considering the high-profile Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward cap-



ALASKA JOURNAL  
OF COMMERCE

12/8/97

tured headlines this year, and an existing, smaller aquarium is already operating in Juneau, talk about Ketchikan's latest marine project has been relatively low key. Yet, supporters like fisheries expert Gary Freitag say there's a definite niche for a regional aquarium in southern Southeast, especially in terms of the research potential.

"We're right in an area which is a hotbed of new dive-fisheries development and U.S./Canada treaty implications — all kinds of reasons why research should be done here," said Freitag, research and evaluation manager for Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture.

Already, the University of Texas commissioned the Aquarium Association to collect mussel data. And there's been some interest from the Denver-based Colorado Ocean Journey marine project to somehow join forces with the Ketchikan group, perhaps also to link the site with other Pacific Coast aquariums. Freitag said down the road he'd also like to see southern Southeast participate more in future National Marine Fisheries

Service research.

"NMFS is speculating that they're going to increase some of their research in Alaska," he said. "There's no reason why some of ... the new programs might make more sense to occur at a facility that was located on the site of the aquarium."

"It's always better to do research from a facility that's close to the site of what you're studying," he said.

The project's progress is not without setbacks. A tentative construction date for 1996 is long past, with no ground disturbed. But the enthusiastic group of project volunteers remains optimistic. Pledging to rely solely on private funding, donations and grants, rather than government loans, they say progress is slow, but steady.

Three years ago, a feasibility study commissioned by the Aquarium Association and the City of Ketchikan estimated the total project cost at \$10.8 million — with \$8.1 million for

direct construction; \$1.8 million for engineering, administration and fees; and the remainder earmarked for start-up operating costs. Organizers say the facility would employ 12 to 25 people upfront, many of them new hires and in training positions.

"You can combine educational opportunities with economic development," said Paul McIntosh, an Aquarium Association board member and local U.S. Forest

Service employee. "If you're programming people year-round to come up here to do research, take short courses, do field camps, it takes staff ... you're creating jobs."

Plus, aquarium developers are hoping their remote site could help alleviate summer congestion of tourists downtown and offer another stop on the itinerary of bus tours, whose options are limited by the island's few miles of highway.

"There's potential to package travel to Saxman (Village), the aquarium and the

George Inlet Cannery, and tie a lot of the things that are unique to Southeast Alaska into a package deal," McIntosh said. "We think that would be attractive to the travel industry."

The anticipated site for the complex — including a marine aquarium and interpretive centers — is an estimated 80-acre parcel 10 miles south of the Panhandle city along pristine George Inlet, a spectacular juxtaposition of Tongass rain forest and deep-water marine ecosystem.

It's that combination that would distinguish Ketchikan's marine complex from its more civilized cousins, proponents say.

"The biggest difference with this one is ... it will be set in a pristine, natural environment, looking at real oceanography," Freitag said. It's a sentiment echoed by the authors of the project's feasibility study. "They told us that we have an opportunity to do something that no other facility in the country — and potentially in the world — has. And that's to do an aquarium in a wild site, a nonurban site," McIntosh said. "The program will extend beyond the walls of the tanks and out into the environment."

**"The biggest difference with this one is ... it will be set in a pristine, natural environment, looking at real oceanography," Freitag said.**

# FS Air, Era vie for edge in Seward

By Rob Stapleton  
*For the Journal of Commerce*

**F**S Air and Era Aviation are quietly competing for a federal subsidy to provide essential air service to Seward, and residents of this fast-growing Resurrection Bay community will get the opportunity to help choose the air carrier they want to serve them. Flights to Seward, located about 120 miles from Anchorage at the southern end of the Seward Highway, are subsidized by the U.S. Department of Transportation. DOT is seeking community input by year's end for a final decision on which carrier will receive the subsidy.

FS Air has provided Seward with air service to Anchorage since 1994 and has received the Essential Air Service subsidy of about \$78,000 annually. FS Air offers three flights a week in the winter and up to 10 flights a week during summer months. The subsidy for the flights is assigned for a two-year period and the current one to FS Air expired Oct. 1.

Era Aviation entered the Seward market in June and applied for the EAS, according to DOT.

Though FS Air has provided initial service to Seward and is considered the incumbent, DOT offers new carriers interested in providing service to an eligible community a chance at the subsidy. According to DOT documents on the EAS service for Seward, the subsidy amounts to 5 percent more than the cost of doing business. Alaska has 27 communities eligible for and receiving EAS flights from eight air carriers for a total of \$2.2 million in subsidies. Alaska Airlines receives \$1.2 mil-

lion of this amount, in what DOT calls the "lion's share" of Alaska's subsidy.

Competition for the government money has been like a poker game, according to FS Air officials. "When Era applied for the subsidy amount of \$76,894, we were given an opportunity to counter, as the incumbent. We adjusted our bid to \$73,499," said John Seman, accountant for FS Air.

Joe Sprague of Era Aviation said Era will not lower its estimated bid to match FS Air. Era forecasts that it will carry 2,400 passengers, a claim that FS Air officials say they can't understand. FS Air carried 1,600 passengers in 1996 and estimates passenger traffic totaling 1,700 this year. Era estimates it has carried

1,600 passengers to date. Questions about the subsidy, asked by other Southcentral Alaska carriers, and about the qualifications of FS Air, a part 135 certificated carrier, to operate a subsidy normally serviced by a Part 121 certificated carrier (operating aircraft with 10 or more passengers, requiring a dispatch department and ground-to-air radio contact) have been squelched by the DOT. DOT waives the 121 certificate requirement for Alaska carriers due to the amount, frequency and remote locations of EAS communities in Alaska.

Although FS Air normally operates a Piper Navajo, a twin-engine with less than 10 seats, FS Air acknowledges that it has flown a 19-passenger Fairchild Metroliner

to Seward's 4,420-foot runway.

"This is a fairly straightforward case," said Bernard Calure, an aviation specialist handling the case for DOT. "The original 1978 law, an act of Congress, gives certain criteria for smaller communities with one or no air service. In Alaska, we rely on smaller carriers who fly into airports with few navigation aids, if any, and that are very remote."

Seward is a visual flight rule (VFR) airport with no navigational aids.

FS Air officials say they are committed to serving Seward. "We have a fuel sale operation on land we purchased from Harbor Air, and we have a hangar that we let the Civil Air Patrol and the state Troopers use for free," said FS Air's John Seman. "In addition to this, we have several full-time employees in Seward.

When the weather is down, we dispatch vans from Seward to Anchorage and at the same time, dispatch a van from Anchorage, which meets at the halfway point and transfers passengers. We guarantee delivery."

Sprague, who directs marketing for Era Aviation, said the airline wants to fly into Seward because of its visitor destination opportunities, such as the new SeaLife Center, and tour boat operations. "Era is not a seasonal operator. Every community we serve, we do on a year-round basis," he said. "This subsidy will guarantee and help us justify flying to Seward in the winter."

Sprague also said the Seward Chamber of Commerce has endorsed Era's bid to provide Anchorage-Seward air service.

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS  
DECEMBER 8, 1997

# Murkowski challenges land buys

## Interior Department's plan for Exxon fund raises ire

The Associated Press

FAIRBANKS — U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski said Saturday he plans to look into the U.S. Interior Department's support for the purchase of Native lands with Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement money.

The Interior Department has an obligation to protect the heritage of Native Americans and their land is crucial to that heritage, Murkowski said. The department should not be involved in buying up Native land, he said.

"Once it's gone, they've lost their heritage. They may have the money, but how long is the money gonna last?" Murkowski said. "It's very similar to what happened in Manhattan where (Indians) traded Manhattan Island for beads."

The Interior Department is represented on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, which determines how the \$900 million Exxon Valdez settlement is spent.

"Virtually none of the funding is directed toward trying to find economic development for the people of the region," Murkowski said.

Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said his committee is planning an oversight hearing into actions of the department under Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

Molly McCammon, executive director of the oil spill fund trustee council, took exception to Murkowski's remarks.

"The purpose of the money is for restoration ... not economic development," she said. "The No. 1 restoration tool the public wanted was habitat protection."

Public hearings are scheduled to begin next spring to determine how the remaining spill settlement funds will be spent, McCammon said.

Murkowski said he's also concerned that \$31 million of the fund has been spent on

administration and public relations. He called for a General Accounting Office audit of the oil spill money.

McCammon said \$31 million has been spent over the course of 10 years and has involved extensive scientific peer review and a public outreach program that helps people in the villages understand the technical research concerning the spill.

Murkowski said the hearing also will look into allegations that Babbitt rejected a tribe's application for a casino license because rival tribes, interested in limiting gambling competition, made campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

## Senator wants look at spill trustees' land purchases

FAIRBANKS (AP) — U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski said Saturday he plans to look into the U.S. Interior Department's support for the purchase of Native lands with Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement money.

The Interior Department has an obligation to protect the heritage of Native Americans and their land is crucial to that heritage, Murkowski said. The department

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tection."

Public hearings are scheduled to begin next spring to determine how the remaining spill settlement funds will be spent, McCammon said.

Murkowski said he's also concerned that \$31 million of the fund has been spent on administration and public relations. He called for a General Accounting Office audit of the oil spill money.

# The Exxon Valdez legacy: What will it be?

By SEN. FRANK MURKOWSKI

The federal government already owns 248 million acres of Alaska — more than the entire eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida, home to one-third of the entire population of the United States.

Through the use of the \$900 million Exxon Valdez civil settlement, the federal government is acquiring even more of Alaska — possibly as much as 750,000 acres more, according to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. This land in many cases may end up under the control of federal agencies. The additional land is equal to three-fourths of the size of the state of Rhode Island. Here's why this is reason for concern:

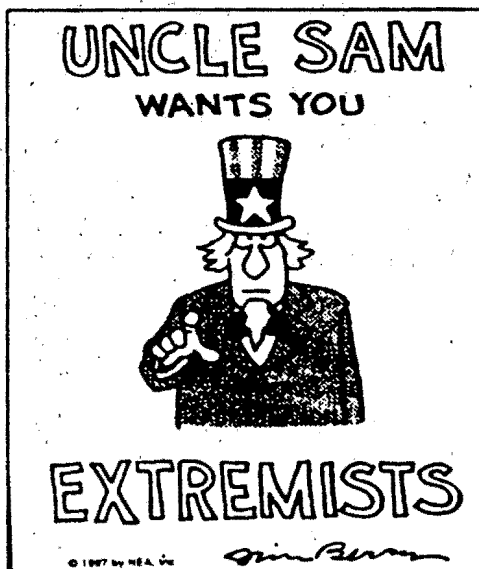
The Trustee Council — made up of three federal and three state agency representatives — already has spent a large part of the money received from Exxon on land acquisitions and on easements that limit the use of land which it has not purchased outright. To date, the council has completed the acquisition of some 424,000 acres, in a combination of large and small parcels, many of which were purchased from Native corporations. In many cases, these land acquisitions merely add to the land already controlled by the Trustees' own agencies.



Murkowski

Examples include 23,800 acres of in-holdings added to Kachemak Bay State Park; 41,549 acres near Seal Bay; and 26,665 acres on Shuyak Island. In addition, the council has agreed to, but not yet completed, the purchase of another 55,357 acres, including more than 7,000 acres previously logged, from Eyak Corp. It is also negotiating for another 46,300 acres on Afognak Island, and 57,082 acres owned by Koniag Corp. These lands presumably would be added to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

Generally, all these lands will be added to the 20 protected state and federal lands in the spill-affected area, including the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Katmai National Park and Preserve, the Chugach National Forest, and the Copper River Delta Critical Habitat Area.



Land acquisition is expected to account for more than 40 percent (\$386 million) of the \$900 million settlement. Another \$213 million has been used for direct payments to state and federal agencies for spill expenses, and to Exxon to reimburse it for cleanup activities after January 1992. The council's list of approved projects will take another \$311 million, including a staggering \$31 million for public relations and administration.

Who would have expected public relations to soak up such a large part of a settlement intended to remedy the environmental impacts of the spill?

Essentially, the only money not already spoken for is the 12 percent of Exxon payments the council is tucking away in a "restoration reserve." By the year 2002, this account (counting interest) may reach nearly \$150 million — but it also will be the only money left. After inflation-proofing, interest on the restoration reserve could provide about \$2.1 million annually for long-term research and economic reconstruction projects — or it could vanish in more land acquisitions.

Recently, the Trustee Council requested that Congress allow it to broaden its investment options. The trustees say the public is being short-changed because the settlement requires the council to place all the incoming money (Exxon is paying the \$900 million over 10 years) in a court-administered account with lower yields (5 percent) and higher administrative costs (10 percent) than the trustees could earn simply by investing in safe U.S. government securities.

I agreed this should be changed, and earlier this year prepared an amendment that would allow — but not require — the council to invest the money outside the court system. The council would decide how much, if any, it would put in new investments under my plan.

I also specified that, rather than putting all the new money into still more land acquisition, new earnings should be used for long-term activities such as marine research and economic restoration projects for local communities and the fishing industry. Without something like this, there is no guarantee that the remaining money would go to these purposes instead of to more land acquisitions, or to payments for activities of the Trustees' own agencies.

My amendment also asked the Trustee Council to bring Congress its thoughts on forming an independent board to administer the funds (in place of the Trustees) after the last Exxon payment is received. Personally, I'd like to see it recommend an independent, scientifically oriented group to guide a long-term research program — a board that would call for proposals, arrange for scientific peer review, publish findings, and so forth, without the appearance of a conflict of interest that exists when the trustees are funding projects in which their agencies are involved.

Unfortunately, the Trustee Council, led by the Department of the Interior, chose to oppose the amendment in a last-minute lobbying campaign against its own request — perhaps because my version meant the Trustees would have to relinquish some of the control they now enjoy. So it didn't become law this year.

But I don't intend to drop the issue. In fact, I plan to pursue it with separate legislation — legislation I have already introduced. I still think Alaska could and should benefit from the additional dollars that better investments would earn, and I still think marine research and economic restoration should get more attention than the Trustees have given them so far.

If it were your money, what would you do? And, by the way, it is your money.

Frank Murkowski represents the state of Alaska in the U.S. Senate.

### **Murkowski letter insulting**

I was astonished by Sen. Frank Murkowski's insulting remarks (quoted in the Dec. 8 issue of the Daily News) about Alaska Natives and their corporations who, as willing sellers, sold land or development rights to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. By comparing land sales to the Trustee Council with the mythical trade of Manhattan Island for beads, Sen. Murkowski exhibits the stereotypical condescending attitude that Native people somehow don't have the common sense to make sensible financial decisions with either their property or their money.

For the senator's information, Alaska Natives are as capable as the rest of us to wisely manage their lands and money without the paternalistic supervision of a government agency or a senator whom I suspect cares less about whether they keep their land as who will get to exploit it for them. As for Native heritage, the senator should be aware that the Native corporations that have sold land to the Trustee Council have been careful to preserve the subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering rights of their shareholders on those lands.

As a U.S. taxpayer I'm insulted that Sen. Murkowski intends to throw more of my money away on an "oversight hearing" on the actions of the Interior Department as a way of promoting his narrow-minded political goals. His mistake is in thinking that the rest of us taxpaying rubes don't have enough sense to realize what he's really up to.

— *Karl Becker*  
*Cordova*

**SAME LETTER WAS PRINTED**  
**DECEMBER 11, 1997**  
**ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS**

# What will Exxon Valdez legacy be?

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Through the use of the \$900 million Exxon Valdez civil settlement, it will be acquiring even more of Alaska — possibly as much as 750,000 acres according to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council — land that in many cases may end up under the control of the federal agencies. That's three-fourths of the size of the entire state of Rhode Island. Here's why that's important:

The trustee council — three federal and three state agency representatives — already has spent a large part of the money received from Exxon on land acquisitions and on easements that limit the use of land it has not purchased outright. To date, the council has completed the acquisition of some 424,000 acres, in a combination of large and small parcels, many purchased from Native corporations. In many cases, these land acquisitions merely add to the land already controlled by the Trustees' own agencies!

Examples include 23,800 acres of inholdings added to Kachemak Bay State Park; 41,549 acres (including 1,000 acres previously logged) near Seal Bay and 26,665 acres on Shuyak Island. In addition, the council has agreed to, but not yet completed, the purchase of another 55,357 acres, including more than 7,000 acres previously logged. It is also negotiating for another 46,300 acres on Afognak Island, and 57082 acres owned by Koniag Corporation. These lands presumably would be added to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

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CONTINUED.....

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If it was your money, what would you do?  
... And by the way, it is your money.



The following is a summary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's land acquisition process:

■ **Title and easements purchased as of October 24, 1997:**

- 76,211 acres and easements for 42,463 acres

of land from Akhiok-Kaguyak Inc. to be added to or managed as part of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

- 37,236 acres and easements on 16,268 acres from Chenega Corp., of which the purchased land is divided between the state and the U.S. Forest Service and the easement of lands will be managed by the Forest Service.

- 23,800 acres of inholdings now added to Kachemak Bay State Park.

- 41,549 acres (including 1,000 previously logged) near Seal Bay.

- 26,665 acres on Shuyak Island from the Kodiak Island Borough.

- 59,689 acres and a limited-term easement until 2001 on 57,082 acres from Koniag Inc. for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

- 28,609 acres, an easement for 3,000 acres and a non-development agreement on another 65,000 acres from the Old Harbor Native Corp. for addition to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

- Commercial timber rights on 2,052 acres of land near Cordova from the Eyak Corp.

■ **Purchases agreed to, but not completed:**

- 55,357 acres, conservation easements on 6,667 acres (including 1,500 acres previously logged) and timber easements on 13,401 acres from Eyak Corp.

- 32,537 acres from English Bay Corp., with special access rights retained by English Bay Corp.

- 31,490 acres (including 5,000 acres previously logged) and 37,398 acres of timber and conservation easements (some of which are for land already logged) from Tatitlek Corp. Public access will be restricted on some of the land formerly held by Tatitlek Corp.

■ **Purchases still under negotiation:**

- 46,300 acres from Afognak Joint Venture

- 57,082 acres from Koniag Corp.

■ **Small parcels:**

In addition to its large-parcel acquisition program, the trustee council has purchased or agreed to purchase approximately 6,800 acres in small parcels ranging from 1.6 to 3,000-plus acres and is negotiating on or considering purchase of another 2,600 acres from a variety of sources.

■ **Protected state and federal lands previously designated in the spill area:**

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Afognak State Park

Shuyak State Park

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Katmai National Park and Preserve

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Kenai Fjords National Park

Kachemak Bay State Park

Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area

Canoe Passage State Park

McNeil River State Game Refuge and Sanctuary

Kalgin Island Critical Habitat Area

Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area

Clam Gulch Critical Habitat Area

Chugach National Forest

Copper River Delta Critical Habitat Area



# Murkowski to probe Exxon Valdez fund

By SEAN COCKERHAM  
Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski said Saturday he plans to probe the U.S. Interior Department's involvement in using Exxon Valdez oil spill recovery money for Native land purchases, which he said represents a conflict with the agency's charge of protecting Native heritage.

"I have a growing concern over the disposition of the Exxon Valdez funding," the Alaska Republican said. "Most of which has been utilized to buy private land from various Native village corporations in the Prince William Sound Area and out to Kodiak."

The senator was in Fairbanks Saturday to donate fund-raising proceeds to the Breast Cancer Detection Center of Alaska.

In an interview following the donation ceremony at the center's headquarters, Murkowski blasted the Department of Interior, one of the six federal and state trustees that determines how the \$900 million Exxon Valdez settlement money is spent.

Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said his committee is planning an oversight hearing into actions of the department under Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

The senator said the department has an obligation to protect the heritage of Native Americans, and their land is crucial to that heritage. The department shouldn't be involved in buying up Native land and transferring

it to federal agencies, he said.

"Once it's gone they've lost their heritage. They may have the money, but how long is the money gonna last?" Murkowski asked. "It's very similar to what happened in Manhattan where (Indians) traded Manhattan Island for beads."

Murkowski said some national environmental groups are pushing for the purchase of

Alaska Native lands to prevent development.

"The money is just being spent for land acquisition with nothing in the sense of an ongoing fund for research and so forth, and virtually none of the funding is directed toward trying to find economic development for the people of the region," Murkowski said.

Molly McCammon, executive

director of the oil spill fund trustee council, which she said makes its decisions by unanimous consensus, took exception with Murkowski's remarks.

"The purpose of the money is for restoration...not economic development," she said. "The No. 1 restoration tool the public wanted was habitat protection."

She added that another public process is beginning to figure out

how the remaining about one-third of the fund gained from lawsuits against Exxon Corp. will be spent. She said there are public hearings set for this spring and Murkowski's criticisms are pre-judging the result of the public process.

Murkowski said he's also concerned that \$31 million of the

fund has been spent on administration and public relations. He called for a General Accounting Office audit of the oil spill money.

"My attitude is, hey, let's just take a look at it because this is public money," Murkowski said.

McCammon said that \$31 million has been spent over the course of ten years and has involved extensive scientific peer review and a public outreach program that helps people in the villages understand the technical research concerning the spill.

Murkowski said the hearing will also be looking into the Interior Department's credibility relating to allegations that Babbitt rejected a tribe's application for a casino license in return for Democratic campaign contributions from a rival tribe interested in killing gambling competition.

Also in the Saturday interview, Murkowski said he still hasn't made up his mind concerning his political future but added that possible problems with new Alaska Campaign Finance Law wouldn't be a factor in his decision whether to run for governor, Senate or simply retire.

"I'm going to get together with our family over the holiday and discuss this and some other issues," Murkowski said, adding that there's still a lot he wants to accomplish in Washington.

"It's a tough decision because I've been in 17 years and to run again (for Senate) would be another six-year commitment. To serve another six years I'd be six years older," said the senator as he mused about the time he could be spending duck hunting.

Murkowski said he's also tired of the long trips from Alaska to the nation's Capital, something that could be solved if he decides to run for governor next year.

But Alaska's campaign finance laws could prevent him from using a sizable portion of his campaign chest if he chooses to enter such a state race, although he's free to use that money in a federal race.

Murkowski said there's a lot of unanswered questions on exactly what funds could be used under the new state law, and he'll cross that bridge if he comes to it.

"I'm confident that if we decided to run for state office, we could raise an adequate amount," Murkowski said. "That would not be a factor in my decision."

# Time to stop oil spill appeals

## Exxon must accept its responsibility

By RICK STEINER

Back in the 1980s, when I lived in Cordova, I had a friend named Gene Rossilini. He lived in a small, smoky wood hut in Shelter Cove, a mile or so north of town. Gene was convinced that, someday soon, the world as we knew and loved it would end. To prepare for this eventuality, he walked many miles every day loaded with over a hundred pounds of rocks on his back, climbing local mountains, marching along roads. He wore ragged clothes, looked sooty and bedraggled, and seldom bathed, claiming that "bathing is just a bourgeois affectation." He was contemplative, kind, generous and troubled. To the few he let in, he spoke of his dire concern for the world. Many thought he was crazy.

Then on March 24, 1989, the "wrecklessness" of one of the largest corporations in the world caused one of the most damaging industrial disasters in human history—the Exxon Valdez oil spill, right here in Alaska. The spill spread over 10,000 square miles of Alaska's coastal ocean, oiled 1,500 miles of some of the most beautiful and productive coastline in the world including national wildlife refuges and parks, killed more marine mammals and seabirds than any industrial disaster ever, and sent coast communities into a social and economic tailspin from which none fully recovered. A recent publication by Time Magazine ranks the Exxon Valdez spill as "one of the most significant events of the 20th century," alongside such others as the Holocaust, the airplane, the Russian revolution, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the invention of television and computers, the moon landing, the Titanic, etc. Time says "the Exxon Valdez oil spill highlights Planet Earth's imperiled natural resources."

Just after the grounding of the Exxon-Valdez, the Exxon corporation stood in front of the community in what ultimately became known as "the mother-of-all corporate public relations dis-

### Guest Opinion

asters." This was in front of a group of people who, from the earliest days of the pipeline debate, had expressed concern that someday, despite the assurances of government and the oil industry, an Exxon-Valdez would occur and it would catastrophically disrupt their fishing economy and way of life. At the 1989 town meeting, Exxon told the people that they were "lucky", because it was Exxon who had "besmirched their beautiful Prince William Sound", and that "Exxon does business straight." Exxon went on to promise that the people whose lives were affected by this spill "would be made whole" by Exxon.

But now after 8½ years of costly litigation and a \$5 billion judgment against Exxon, the corporation continues to fight paying the human victims of its recklessness what an unbiased Alaska jury has determined to be necessary to punish and correct Exxon's behavior. Exxon continues to file motion after motion, appeal after appeal, in what has become a comedy of desperation, arrogance, and utter disdain for the people of Alaska whose lives they turned upside down. All of our lives have been diminished by this, and communities such as Kodiak, Chenega Bay, Homer, Cordova, Valdez, Kenai, Chignik, Whittier, Tatitlik, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Old Harbor, Ahkiok, etc. deserve better. It is time for Exxon to end this legal chess game, pay what they owe, and everyone get on with their lives.

It is now incumbent on Exxon to step to the plate, admit their recklessness, pay the people they hurt, and release Alaska and Alaskans from the prolonged and ongoing agony of this oil spill. Without prejudging the appellate process, there should be no realistic chance whatsoever that Exxon's appeals will be successful. They were reckless, they know it, the world knows it, and they now have to compensate the victims of their reckless disregard for the Alaska people and environment. Attempts to delay all of this will only add to the bitterness and resentment of industry,

which is in no one's best interest ... not even Exxon's.

As Exxon caused this disaster and they have been found reckless by a jury of Alaska citizens, it is right that they have to pay the largest environmental verdict in history, and it is undoubtedly in society's interest to have this thing resolved now. The longer this drags out, the more damage will be caused. Dr. Steven Picou, who has studied many an industrial disaster around the world, has found that the social and psychological effects of these disasters will abate only when there is a just resolution of all the litigation. For Exxon to continue profiting at the expense of the Alaska people, economy and environment is evidence that the company is morally bankrupt indeed.

It is a tragic commentary on Exxon's sense of social responsibility that many of the people who were harmed by this company's negligence have since passed away, with no reparation whatsoever. Some, such as the former mayor of Cordova, to take their own lives rather than continue to exist in the emotional chaos from the Exxon spill. The last few years of these lives were entirely dominated by the Exxon-Valdez, and too much of all of our lives has been swept into this maelstrom. It is time for this madness to end. It is time for Exxon to resolve this mess. There are any number of legitimate ways the state and federal governments can encourage Exxon to take care of this, and they should do so.

I have discussed all of this with many people throughout the state and nation and most seem to agree that it is time for Exxon to stop holding Alaska hostage to its own antiquated corporate ideology, and bring this to closure.

As for my friend Gene Rossilini, who was prepared for almost anything, he was found dead one morning in his hut a year or so after the spill. He had taken his own life and lay dead on the frozen dirt floor of what he thought was his refuge from the industrial world, on the shore of Prince William Sound. Wasn't he?

Rick Steiner, formerly of Cordova, lives in Anchorage and is a marine advisory program faculty member with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. This article reflects his personal views only.

# Group backs study of Cordova community center

By Jennifer L. Strange

The Cordova Times

Twenty Cordovans were invited by the city to meet with two experts Tuesday about planning a Cordova community center that could receive funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The group agreed to form a proposal asking City Council at its Dec. 10 meeting to approve a \$50,000 feasibility study on the project.

The study will provide the Trustee Council with information it needs to consider funding the project. It will also show good faith from the community, said city attorney Roy Jones, and without community support, the project will go nowhere.

Under the right circumstances, however, the Trustee Council is very interested in funding a community project in Cordova, as long as it doesn't have to choose between different proposals, Jones said.

"Cordova hasn't had the back-up needed to win favor with the trustees and the state," said Jones. "And, so far, Cordova has been a side beneficiary of (EVOS) funds. But the council knows that the impact of the spill in Cordova has been real, tangible and ongoing."

Combining the city's community center plans with similar plans put forth by the Prince William Sound Science Center will help to sell the idea, said project manager Maureen Sims from Rise Alaska. Sims worked as project manager on the Seward Sea Life Center and believes that with the right vision and financial planning, a center in Cordova could be a reality.

The plan includes space for tenants such as the PWS Community College, who would help defray the costs of maintenance and operations by paying rent; creating a single library that houses the research,

information and books from the Science Center, the Forest Service and the municipal libraries; an auditorium for community events, concerts, art shows, retreats and conferences; and scientific exhibits and laboratories that would help fulfill the research requirements of the Trustee Council.

Purposes for the center were identified by Jones in conjunction with Mayor Margy Johnson, City Manager Scott Janke and PWS Science Center president Gary Thomas, Jones said.

Most discussion about the center was positive, with participants extolling the virtues of having more space to hold meetings and events and diversifying the economy by encouraging wintertime conferences.

Concerns were raised by Port and

Commerce Development Advisory Board chair Kim Ewers, who wondered how Cordova residents would react to the cost of the study and the building and how the community would deal with buildings left vacant by tenants who moved into the center. Cordova District Ranger Cal Baker said he wants the group to make sure the focus of the center is on what's best for the community and that it is kept on that track.

The idea of a community center has been kicked around in some circles for a couple of years, said city manager Scott Janke. There was a

bit of controversy surrounding the topic late last summer when a number of city council members said they hadn't been made aware of the idea even though Janke said he had spoken to all council members and had their support. Although there were no council members present at this week's meeting, the people who did attend were well-briefed on the

project.

"This is long overdue and you are the wisdom-bearers here," Mayor Margy Johnson told the roomful of representatives from Cordovan fishing, business, administrative, Native, school, science and children's activities groups. "I'll be calling on every one of you to convince your constituencies."

# Subsistence is a vital component of restoration

THE CORDOVA TIMES  
DECEMBER 4, 1997

## Coastal currents

By Joe Hunt  
For The Times

Restoration of subsistence since the Exxon Valdez oil spill has taken on many forms.

Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering were severely reduced in villages hard hit by the spill. It took years for subsistence users to regain confidence in the safety of the food source they depend upon. Eight years after the spill, subsistence users in Prince William Sound have yet to return to many once-popular beaches which continue to hold substantial quantities of buried or trapped oil.

During the last two years, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has provided funds for 29 subsistence-related projects, in addition to the research involving specific subsistence resources such as herring, salmon and harbor seals.

Many of those projects provide direct relief to communities to help supplement subsistence resources. For example, hatchery-produced king salmon are starting to return to Chenega Bay and similar enhancements will bring coho to Tatitlek and Perryville, sockeye to Solf Lake in Prince William Sound and pink salmon to Port Graham.

To assist scientists in their efforts to learn why the harbor seal is continuing its decline, the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission is training subsistence hunters in the proper procedures for taking and storing tissue samples. This provides a wealth of information about harbor seal locations, diet, and overall health.

Last year, a video was produced which chronicled the importance of harbor seals to the subsistence lifestyle within the community of Tatitlek. "Alutiiq Pride: A Story of Subsistence" took the viewer on a harbor seal hunt, taught how to prepare seal for food and other uses, and joined the village for a potlatch to celebrate the harvest.

Alaska Natives and scientists are also encouraged to work together in understanding the intricate relationships within the marine ecosystem.

The Trustee Council is promoting indigenous science, also known as traditional ecological knowledge, as a vital tool in viewing the marine ecosystem.

The knowledge gained from thousands of years of subsistence

living can help today's researchers better understand the movements and habits of individual species and how each interacts within the ecosystem.

The Chugach School District is now in its third year conducting the Youth Area Watch

program. That program places students into the field and laboratories to work side by side with scientists conducting oil spill research. The students also learn first-hand from village elders about food gathering and prepara-

tion.

*Joe Hunt reported on the Exxon Valdez oil spill for The Anchorage Times. He currently serves as communications coordinator for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council.*

# Assembly supports Karluk health clinic

By SUE JEFFREY  
*Mirror Writer*

Karluk will begin construction of a new health clinic next spring if the Kodiak Island Borough obtains a \$196,957 bloc grant from the state.

After holding a public hearing at last night's borough meeting, the assembly gave the go-ahead to the borough to apply for the Department of Community and Regional Affairs Community Development bloc grant.

Kathryn Reft, an employee of the Karluk Tribal Council, explained to the assembly that the community sorely needs a new health facility.

There is no privacy for patients," Reft said, "because everyone in town can see who is in the clinic."

The small, crowded clinic is located within the Karluk community hall. The new clinic would be built on a lot more advantageous for medevacs, Reft said.

Kodiak Island Borough Mayor Jerome Selby explained that Karluk has an old school lot available for the project.

"It is relatively flat," he said. "A Coast Guard helicopter could feasibly land there."

Karluk is the only community within the borough to qualify for a community development bloc grant because it meets the low- and moderate-income criteria, Selby said. The borough and the Karluk Tribal Council looked at the community's capital projects and decided the health clinic was the most important on the list. Sewer, water and landfill upgrades are already underway, he said, funded by state land and water conservation money.

To receive the bloc grant, DCRA requires \$70,000 in matching funds from the borough. Most of the money would be in-kind, Selby said, including lot valued at \$30,000 and backhoe time for ground preparation. Karluk would add \$17,500 in cash to make up the balance.

The assembly authorized the borough to submit the grant application on behalf of the Karluk Tribal Council. The grant requires the borough and the tribal council to enter into a cooperative agreement, with the borough acting as applicant.

As such, the borough has ultimate responsibility for the project until construction is completed. Karluk will then be responsible for operation and management of the building.

The grant application is due Dec. 12. The borough will learn in March if DCRA funds the project.

Hearing no comments from citizens during a public hearing last night on the action from the mayor to manager form of government, the assembly quietly passed the ordinance. During citizens comments at the end of the meeting, however, Kodiak resident Roger Redicopp opposed the change and blamed the assembly for it.

"We're losing the benefits of a strong mayor ...he submitted a budget which would raise property taxes but it was the assembly who didn't do their job in controlling the budget..."

"If you ignore the wishes of the people, this happens. In the future, when you have a lot of people telling you something, listen to them."

In other business, the assembly passed the first reading of an ordi-

nance reflecting mid-year budget adjustments. The balance sheet looks good. The borough netted \$600,000 in federal revenue sharing for Native corporation lands sold to the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council instead of the \$30,000 originally budgeted after the borough put pressure on Congress to recognize the purchase price as the fair market value rather than the U.S. Forest Service appraised price.

On the negative side, the borough received \$179,100 less in raw fish tax than the borough originally anticipated. Before approving the amendments to the budget, the assembly will hold a public hearing at its next meeting, Dec. 18.

## Vandals ruin things for everyone

To the editor,

I would like to thank the vandals and irresponsible 4 wheeler operators for the destruction they have done at the new End of the Road Park in Monashka Bay.

That project was over a year in the making and took a lot of hard work, time and paper work to see it completed. The project was not built with Kodiak Island Borough funds but with grant money from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Marine Recreation Fund. Obviously we can't take care of gifts; why would we want to expend Borough funds to do any repair.

Over the past 2 years I have had the opportunity to be involved in several Parks and Recreation projects with the Kodiak Island Borough and have seen other destruction take place. We designed and had an outhouse built for the Salomie Creek Rifle Range. The day after the project was complete I went out to inspect the new facility; that night it was burned down. I was the only person, besides the carpenter that built it, that got to see it (except for the vandals). Now you have to purchase a key to even drive out to the range.

The park at Otmeloi had beautiful facilities; playground equipment, picnic tables, grilles, a basketball court, bridges and a covered gazebo. Not anymore. The gazebo has been burned, the bridges have had their planking and banisters pulled off faster than they can be replaced, the grills and tables end up in the

## Letter to the editor



pond on a regular basis and the barrier boulders that have been placed around the basketball court to protect the slopes from eroding have been moved.

The damage at End of the Road Park was just as significant. Steel picnic tables were shot up, one had a hole cut in the top, the new wood stairs were shot up, the concrete pad for the stairs was broken, the doors to the new restroom were jimmied to be inoperable; and barrier boulders that had been placed around the new parking area to protect the streams which have been trampled had been moved. Mind you, all the barrier boulders I have mentioned weigh in excess of 2,500 pounds.

The vandalism I have described merely scratches the surface. The litter and broken bottles found Borough wide are enough to make you sick. It's time for people to be held accountable for their actions. If

you are a responsible 4 wheeler operator and see these irresponsible operators doing their dirty deeds — report it. If you have any information about these malicious acts — report it. It may be time for a Borough curfew to be implemented.

The sad thing about all this is that a select few have ruined it for the majority. All summer while End of the Road Park was being built, there were countless families and people in general using the area. They probably want to thank the vandals too for ruining something that could have been nice.

The Borough was recently given additional grant money to do more trail work. Maybe we should send it back to the state with a note:

"Thank you, but please give this money to a community that knows how to take care of their parks and trails."

—Chris Lynch

# Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



## Seabirds need energy-rich fish for survival

Scientists studying animals injured by the *Exxon Valdez* spill know that declines in some species may be related to changes in the marine ecosystem. Shifts in ocean temperature and abundance of certain fish species are prompting them to examine the food supply for several seabirds and marine mammals.

Sand lance is one of several types of small schooling forage fishes that are critical to many marine birds and mammals, yet seldom studied by scientists. Their Latin name, *Ammodytes hexapterus*, means "sand digger." And that's exactly what they do. They spend much of their time in the sediments of the intertidal zone.

Sand lance come out of the sand to feed in spring, growing and putting on weight through summer. They spawn in October. Little is known about their lives from when they hatch in December until they show up in April near shore to feast on the new bloom of plankton.

Scientists do know some things: they apparently need light to feed. They come out during the morning and return to their bedding areas in the evening.

And they are choosy about their beaches. Sand lance have no swim bladder so they can't just rest in the water column. After feeding they go back into the sand to digest their food. They don't like thick mud, which might clog their gills, but prefer sand and fine gravel.

Aside from these distinctive qualities, sand lance have two very important characteristics: they are a schooling fish, which allows predators to get a lot to eat in one place; and they are rich in energy. After their first year, sand lance are loaded with fatty

oil, often several times that of a cod or pollock of the same size. That's a big boost to birds such as pigeon guillemots, which can only bring one fish back to their chicks at a time.

Scientists say when birds have ready access to fish with high oil content, they do well. It allows a high proportion of breeding adults to raise young that are healthy and in good condition when they leave the nest.

On the other hand, when seabirds don't have access to high energy food items, such as sand lance, herring, and capelin, and instead rely on low-fat cod and pollock, they don't do well. The number of birds hatching and surviving to breed decreases, and the population size may decline.

No one knows exactly what happened to sand lance during the oil spill. Since they are not commercially exploited in the North Pacific, there is scant information on their distribution or abundance before the 1989 spill.

However, data on seabird diets in Prince William Sound show that birds there have been eating less sand lance since the 1970s, and since that time, their populations have declined by two thirds.

The pattern is different in Kachemak Bay, where seabirds appear to be thriving. Recently scientists compared current data on sand lance with trawl data from the 1970s and found no apparent decline in sand lance there.

*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.*

## Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



### Mussel beds may help predict salmon runs

A chemical tracer made by a special type of animal plankton may signal a low return of salmon a year in advance. The tracer is called pristane, and it appears to reflect the abundance of an important food source for salmon — calenoid copepods.

Pristane is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon created by the copepods. Salmon feeding on plankton emit pristane through their feces, which drops to the ocean floor. It ultimately is taken up in filter feeders such as clams and mussels.

Researchers have learned to measure the pristane levels by sampling mussels. In this way, they can gauge the level of zooplankton production in the sound and determine the feeding success of salmon fry, which is key to their survival.

Last summer, research chemist Jeff Short, of the National Marine Fisheries Service Auke Bay Laboratory, visited one of the sound's hatcheries. He sampled the levels of pristane in the mussels before and after the hatchery released 120 million pink salmon fry.

"I was able to observe the juvenile pink salmon feeding on the zooplankton and defecating directly over the mussels that I'd been sampling," said Short. "Consequently we saw a spectacular rise in the pristane concentra-

tions that were in the mussels."

The pristane "signal" shows up along with the zooplankton bloom around the sound. It starts in the most protected, remote corners where there is less wind. The water column stabilizes and generates an explosion of microscopic plants. That attracts the zooplankton rising from the deepest parts of the sound.

"If there's less energy there and it's not available for as long, then you don't get as many zooplankton in the sound," said Short. The salmon eat less zooplankton, and they defecate less of it onto the mussels.

"It's that defecation process we pick up in the mussel signal," said Short.

In 1994 and 1995 there were large plankton blooms and healthy returns of pink salmon in subsequent years. But in 1996, the bloom was 33 percent lower than the previous two years. The result was a low return of pinks to Prince William Sound in 1997, helping substantiate pristane as an early indicator of run strength.

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# Kodiak Daily Mirror

ISSN-0740-2112





## **Director of Development Alaska SeaLife Center**

The Alaska SeaLife Center is a \$60 million world class cold water marine research, rehabilitation and public education facility dedicated to understanding and maintaining the integrity of the marine ecosystems of Alaska.

The ASLC is looking for a dynamic professional to provide executive leadership in building a comprehensive development program. The Development Director reports to the Executive Director and works closely with the Center's Board of Governors and Board of Directors. The Development Director will oversee a professional staff that includes a grant administrator, annual membership manager and marketing associates, as well as administrative staff.

Primary responsibilities include; Development of overall strategic fund raising plan; management of complex projects and programs promoting public education, scientific research and wildlife rehabilitation; working collaborately to further organizational and fund-raising partnerships; identification, evaluation, cultivation and solicitation of major gift prospects; designing, implementation and stewardship of a long-range program of bequests and planned gifts; cultivation, solicitation and relationship management of foundations and corporations; administration of grant application programs; oversight of annual membership effort and direct mail (acquisitions, renewals, special appeals), radio, TV and telemarketing campaigns; directing overall marketing efforts relative to programs, facilities and visitor and tourism components.

Successful candidates should hold a Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing or equivalent field, plus a minimum of five years progressively responsible experience in development; demonstrate a strong record of success developing/implementing fund raising plans that result in major gifts (\$100,000 +) from individuals, corporations and foundations, both nationally and internationally; achievement in planned giving, securing endowments, successful grant writing and knowledge of marketing strategies and trends.

To apply, forward resume, cover letter and salary requirements to: Executive Director, Alaska SeaLife Center, P.O. Box 1329, Seward, Alaska 99664. EOE.

## SeaLife funded

The Alaska SeaLife Center has received a \$25,000 donation by Princess Cruises and Tours. The gift will go toward the capital fund-raising campaign for the visitor component of the center, a release said.

The SeaLife Center and Princess Cruises and Tours are cooperatively marketing the Center for 1998. Princess passengers will have the option to experience the Alaska SeaLife Center either before or after a cruise.

THE ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS DECEMBER 9, 1997

## STATE NEWS

### SeaLife Center hires veterinarian

SEWARD — The Alaska SeaLife Center has hired a staff veterinarian. Dr. Pam Tuomi had been working part time at a veterinary clinic in Anchorage and part time at the SeaLife Center, which is under construction in Seward. She has also served as a part-time consultant for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state Department of Fish and Game and the International Wildlife Research Association. She will start full time at the center in February, designing and equipping the veterinary clinic and setting up rehabilitation programs. She also will supervise the use of animals in research projects. The SeaLife Center is the first cold-water marine research center in the Western Hemisphere. It will combine research, rehabilitation and visitor education.

# The Anchorage Times

Publisher: BILL J. ALLEN

*"Believing in Alaskans, putting Alaska first"*

Editors: DENNIS FRADLEY, PAUL JENKINS, WILLIAM L. TOBIN

*The Anchorage Times Commentary in this segment of the Anchorage Daily News does not represent the views of the Daily News. It is written and published under an agreement with former owners of The Times, in the interests of preserving a diversity of viewpoints in the community.*

## Hammer head

**S**UPPOSE AN arsonist set fire to a house and that neighbors rushed to save as much of the home as they could. Then, the community pitches in to rebuild the structure.

Now suppose at a ceremony dedicating the newly constructed house, the arsonist shows up to present an award to the community for its teamwork in the rebuilding job. He calls it his "hammer award."

How would the community receive this commendation? No one would be very impressed, would they? Well, it isn't necessary to make suppositions because this scenario — as unlikely as it may seem — actually occurred, right here in Anchorage.

Rather than an arsonist, it was the vice president of the United States who was involved. In place of a house being set afire, it was a number of federal resource agencies that were being gutted by the Clinton administration. And instead of showing up in person at a dedication ceremony, the vice president sent a stand-in to make his hammer award.

Al Gore's representative was here last Friday to be at the grand opening ceremonies of the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, called ARLIS for short. Judy Kusek presented a hammer autographed by Gore to a number of federal and state officials for their roles in combining the collections of eight different federal and state independent agency libraries under one roof.

She said ARLIS was an example of re-inventing government, and implied that her boss, Al Gore, deserved credit for making it all happen. What gall.

This is not to find fault with the ARLIS facility, itself. Without a doubt, the resource library is a tremendous asset for Alaska. People from all walks of life will benefit from the thousands of volumes of reference material dealing with the natural and cultural resources of this state.

Housed at the ARLIS, located on the corner of C Street and 31st Avenue, are the Alaska collections from the U.S. Minerals Management Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Fish & Wildlife Service, state Department of Fish & Game, Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, the Oil Spill Public Information Center and a number of other federal and state agencies.

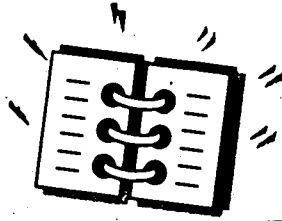
But let's keep in perspective how this facility came to be. The Clinton administration was in the process of moving out of Alaska a number of these resource collections. Some were headed for Denver.

Alaska miners and other interested parties objected loudly. A number of Alaskans, including Sen. Ted Stevens and officials from the University of Alaska Anchorage, rallied to keep the documents here within the new ARLIS facility.

Then Gore hands out hammers. Whoop de do.

21 Nov 97

Anchorage Daily News



## **A R O U N D** anchorage

### **TODAY**

**Alaska Libertarian Party** meets at 5:30 p.m. at Qupqugia Coffee House, 640 W. 36th Ave. (566-1235)

**1997 Alaska State Cheerleader Conference and Competition** is at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel today, with classes from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a competition at 7 p.m. On Saturday at West High School, the partner stunt competition starts at 9 a.m., followed by practice; the main event — the squad competition — begins at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. This is the 11th year for this event, which will feature cheerleading teams from around the state and local teams from Colony, Palmer, Wasilla, Anchorage Christian School, Chugiak, West and Bartlett high schools. (Holly, 333-3596, or 561-5752)

**Alaska World Affairs Council** presents Jack Roderick, author of "Crude Dreams: A Personal History of Oil and Politics in Alaska," discussing "Oil and Politics in Alaska," at noon in the Anchorage Hilton Hotel Chart Room. Cost for lunch and lecture is \$16 for members, \$18 for nonmembers; \$5 for coffee and lecture and \$4 for students for coffee and lecture. (276-8038)

**Anchorage International Chapter, Rotary Club** meets at noon at WestCoast International Inn, 3333 W. International Airport Road. Local writer Fern Chandonnet will speak on "English Only." (Reservations, 243-2233)

**American Society for Training and Development, Southcentral Alaska Chapter**, meets at 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Guest speaker Beverly Gallant presents "Communication through Clothing." (Steve Berkshire, 564-8365)

**Anchorage Senior Center: The Health and Wellness Potluck** begins at 1 p.m., and the Young at Heart Band plays at 8:30 at the Friday Night Dance. The center is at 1300 E. 19th Ave. (258-7823)

**Alaska Resources Library and Information Services Grand Opening** is at 11 a.m. at 3150 C St., Suite 10. ARLIS has been formed from eight libraries to focus on Alaska's natural resources. The grand opening will feature Sen. Ted Stevens, Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer and Mayor Rick Mystrom, and the open house will run through the day. (278-8012)

**AWAIC Silent Auction**, to benefit women and children at the Abused Women's Aid in Crisis shelter, has a theme of "Silent Nights" and features wine and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hotel Captain Cook, Quarterdeck. Tickets cost \$25 and are available by calling 279-9581.

# Habitat purchase raises questions at council

by Hal Spence

Staff Writer

Differences between members of the newly elected Homer City Council became apparent Monday when the council voted 4-2 to proceed with the purchase of private holdings on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough to protect wildlife habitat.

Most of the money for the land acquisitions — over \$1 million — will come from the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement fund, though \$41,000 will come from city coffers.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council determined in October that purchase of the properties met all the requirements of its mission — to set aside land for wildlife in an effort to help restore resources damaged by the 1989 spill.

But what the spill council decided was a fair price for the land did not sit well with two new members of the Homer council.

"I'm against this one," Councilman Luke Welles said. "The price is way out of line."

He said the appraised values were far above the Kenai Peninsula Borough tax assessment on the parcels and that the prices being offered were good only for the

owners who, as far as he could tell, he said, didn't live in Homer. The money, he said, would be better spent buying and protecting land around Homer's watershed near Bridge Creek Reservoir.

Welles also said the city budget has a hard time paying for the upkeep of the 266 acres of parks it has now. Adding another 107 acres on the Spit and in the Slough doesn't make sense, he said.

Councilman Ray Kranich agreed, saying there were better things to do with that money and that the properties aren't good candidates for development anyway.

Councilman Dennis Leach countered that the city had no control over the borough assessments or the appraisal. The appraisal, he said, was a two-step process in which local appraiser Dave Derry did the initial appraisal, followed by a review by state and federal appraisers.

He also pointed out the reservoir's surroundings are not within the purview of the trustee council's mission, thus an impossible alternative to the tidal lands.

Leach said that if Homer turns down the money and the responsibility for husbanding the property afterward, the trustee

council will simply find an alternative small-parcel purchase somewhere else.

He noted that purchase of the property has won the overwhelming support of city commissions; the Chamber of Commerce and the general public, for whom protection of the environment has not only aesthetic value but economic value, too.

In its report, the trustee council recognized, among other things, the importance of the land to shorebirds.

"This is a tourism issue," Leach told his colleagues. "It's fine, if you guys want to vote against the tourism industry, because that's what you are doing."

Councilman Kurt Marquardt, who has worked hard to promote the purchase using oil-spill money, said setting aside the land for habitat would pay dividends far into the future, and urged other members to support the resolution.

He also said the tidal land won't need much in the way of city maintenance because the whole purpose of the acquisition is to leave it alone.

The key vote — one that avoided the possibility of throwing a council tie into the lap of Mayor Jack Cushing — was

Councilman Al Waddell's.

Also a new member, Waddell split with Welles and Kranich, saying he fully supported the land acquisition and had no problem with the price tag. "It will add to the tourist industry," he said.

In other business, the council postponed introduction of an ordinance to create a rezone along Main Street that would permit auto-related business including car sales. An Alaska Supreme Court decision forced the council last month to dissolve the zone. The issue had to do with conflict of interest, not the zone itself.

The council debated whether or not Waddell had a conflict and decided to seek the opinion of the city attorney before ceeding further.

The council also passed a resolution opposing any plan by state and federal game managers to relocate a portion of Anchorage's Canada goose population to the Homer area, and approved a contract for \$130,000 with the Anchorage engineering firm Anderson Bjornstad Kane Jacobs to design a new multipurpose ocean dock at the site of the city's Main Dock.

# HOMER NEWS OPINION

## GIVE THANKS, HOMER



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE  
WANTS TO GIVE YOU  
A GOOSE...



THE TRUSTEE COUNCIL  
WILL HELP YOU  
CONSERVE YOUR SPIT...



CITY COUNCIL HOPES  
TO EASE THE PAIN OF  
MAKING WATER, AND...



ENSTAR WANTS  
TO GIVE YOU GAS.

WAVEY  
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## Mussel beds signal food production in Prince William Sound

**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.

By JODY SEITZ

A chemical tracer made by a special type of animal plankton may signal a low return of salmon a year in advance. The tracer is called pristane, and it appears to reflect the abundance of an important food source for salmon — calenoid copepods.

Pristane is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon created by the copepods. Salmon feeding on plankton emit pristane through their feces, which drops to the ocean floor. It ultimately is taken up in filter feeders such as clams and mussels.

Researchers have learned to measure the pristane levels by sampling mussels. In this way, they can

gauge the level of zooplankton production in the sound and determine the feeding success of salmon fry, which is key to their survival.

Last summer, research chemist Jeff Short, of the National Marine Fisheries Service Auke Bay Laboratory, visited one of the sound's hatcheries. He sampled the levels of pristane in the mussels before and after the hatchery released 120 million pink salmon fry.

"I was able to observe the juvenile pink salmon feeding on the zooplankton and defecating directly over the mussels that I'd been sampling," said Short. "Consequently we saw a spectacular rise in the pristane concentrations that were in the mussels."

The pristane "signal" shows up along with the zooplankton bloom around the sound. It starts in the most



Alaska  
Coastal  
Currents

Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oil spill

protected, remote corners where there is less wind. The water column stabilizes and generates an explosion of microscopic plants. That attracts the zooplankton rising from the deepest parts of the sound.

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But in 1996, the bloom was 33 percent lower than the previous two years. The result was a low return of pinks to Prince William Sound in 1997, helping substantiate pristane as an early indicator of ru... strength.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

# Alaska Coastal Currents

By Joe Hunt



No one can argue with the fact that commercial fishing families from Cordova to Kodiak took it hard during the summer of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Nearly every herring and salmon fishery in the region was canceled that summer due to floating oil.

When the state and federal governments settled their joint lawsuit against Exxon, the agreement specifically stated that the money must be used to help recovery of the natural resources as well as recovery of the human services: subsistence, recreation and commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing has benefitted in several ways. The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's habitat programs have protected hundreds of miles of anadromous waterways providing basic protection for spawning and rearing sockeye, pink, coho and king salmon. In addition, many research projects seek to improve the health of commercial fish species and provide the tools for better fisheries management.

In Cook Inlet, state fisheries biologists are using genetic coding to determine exactly to which systems sockeye salmon are returning. Fisheries managers have long sought a way to determine where the salmon moving through Cook Inlet are going so that they can better protect individual rivers and creeks.

"Genetic identification takes some of the mystery out of it," said Stan Senner, science coordinator for the Council. "It allows better in-season decisions concerning fisheries management and helps secure the future health of salmon populations."

Hatchery raised pinks in Prince William Sound are now being identified through a new process known as otolith mass marking. Mass marking is expected to eliminate the labor-intensive process of tagging tiny salmon fry. Researchers have learned that changes in water temperature will cause distinctive patterns, much like the rings of a tree, to develop on the earbone (or otolith) of young salmon fry. This lets fisheries managers accurately identify to which hatcheries adult pink salmon are returning.

On Kodiak Island, a fish bypass was renovated at Little Waterfall Creek to open additional spawning habitat for pink and coho salmon. During its first year after renovation, 44 percent of the returning pink salmon passed through the bypass, twice the percentage that reached the upper river before the renovation.

A project at Port Dick Creek on the Kenai Peninsula also opened more habitat for spawning. That creek was excavated to restore spawning habitat buried by debris after the 1964 earthquake. During its first year 572 pinks and 300 chum salmon entered the newly opened tributaries and spawned, generating a projected contribution of more than 11,600 adults.

The collapse of the herring population in Prince William Sound brought a halt to the lucrative fishery for four years. Council-funded research identified a viral disease and fungus as the probable reasons for the crash. Further studies are attempting to identify possible triggers that caused the latent virus to spread.

Other herring research has identified for the first time where juvenile herring spend their first winter. Continuing studies are trying to determine what factors affect the survival rate of young herring.

In other projects, lakes have been fertilized, salmon runs enhanced, and the impacts of over-escapement studied.

*Joe Hunt reported on the Exxon Valdez oil spill for The Anchorage Times. He currently serves as communications coordinator for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council, which sponsors this series.*



## **Alaska SeaLife center receives \$25,000 donation**

Princess Cruises and Princess Tours donated \$25,000 to Seward's Alaska SeaLife Center, scheduled to open in May, 1998. The gift will go toward the capital fund-raising campaign funding the visitor component of the center.

The center and Princess are cooperatively marketing the center, which is included as a feature in two Princess "Voyage of the Glaciers" 11-day cruise tours and is expected to be a popular shore excursion for many of the passengers on board.

"Princess Tours and Cruises is looking forward to working with

**CORDOVA TIMES**  
**NOVEMBER 20, 1997**

the Center," said Dean Brown, president of Princess Tours. "The Alaska SeaLife Center will greatly enhance our passengers' experience in Seward while on the Gulf of Alaska cruises and cruise tours."

The Alaska SeaLife Center is Alaska's largest tourism infrastructure, at 115,000 square feet. The center will combine rehabilitation with research and visitor education and be home to Stellar sea lions, harbor seals and a variety of sea birds.

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*The Alaska Journal of Commerce • November 24, 1997 •*

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## **Street *Talk***

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• **Princess Cruises and Tours has donated \$25,000 to the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward set to open in May. The donation will go toward the capital fund-raising campaign for the visitors center portion of the facility. The center is included on Princess' tour packages next year.**

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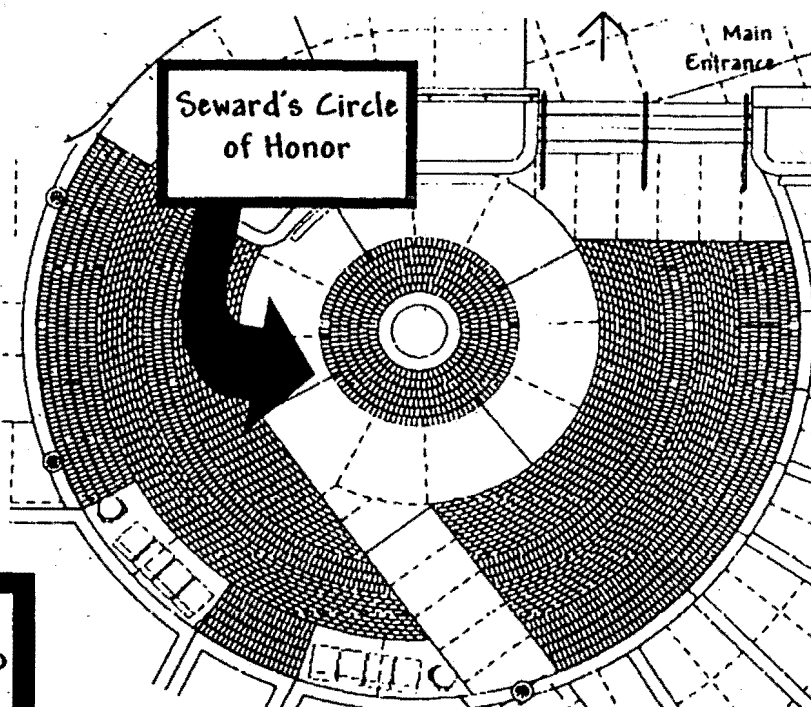
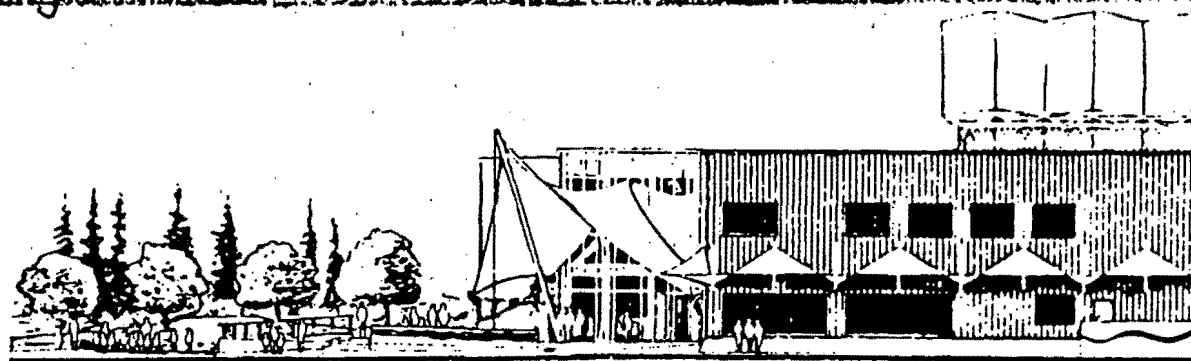
## Alaska SeaLife Center

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Bricks will go on Sale  
November 24th, 1997

#### **EVOS Trustees land pitch**

Williams was the only council member to vote against authorizing the sale of 50 acres of city land to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for less than the fair market value, as part of a package to entice the Trustee Council to purchase Wayne Blondeau's shoreline property west of Mineral Creek to be used as a proposed marine park.

"We're using public land to try and leverage the purchase of private lands. That bothers me. I just don't feel it is in the best interest of the community," Williams said.

Cobb said the land is "undevelopable" because it is wetland, and there's a federal ban on wetland development. Council Member Lynn Chrystal said the city would still have some control of the land, because the EVOS Council would turn the land over to the Alaska State Parks, which would develop the area according to a joint city-state management plan.

Cobb said the city has a hearing Dec. 18 with the trustee council to discuss the land package.

**VALDEZ VANGUARD**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 1997**

**KODIAK MIRROR**    **NOVEMBER 18, 1997**

## **Conservation fund buys Karluk land**

The Conservation Fund has purchased a 5.46-acre tract on Karluk Lagoon, to secure public access and protect wildlife habitat.

The tract is one of five properties acquired from Wards-Cove Packing Company for an undisclosed sum.

The property will eventually be transferred to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Brad Meiklejohn, Alaska representative for The Conservation Fund, said.

Len Schwartz, ADF&G sports fish biologist, said the property will be helpful in management of the Karluk salmon run.

The Conservation Fund is a national land trust that has been purchasing land in the Kodiak area since 1994.

"This is the first of several acquisitions we have in the Karluk area," Meiklejohn said. "We are also looking at the possibility of a conservation easement on the lower Karluk."

In 1995, the Conservation Fund donated 318 acres in Uyak Bay to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

# SeaLife Center birds settle in

By JON LITTLE

Daily News Peninsula Bureau

**SOLDOTNA** — The Alaska SeaLife Center is still under construction, but some of its tenants already are flying into Seward. Six tufted puffins and eight common murres recently arrived from New York and Florida, by airplane.

They are temporarily housed at the University of Alaska's Institute of Marine Science, next door to the huge new SeaLife Center in Seward, center officials said. They will move to their permanent home inside the center early in 1998.

"The birds all arrived in excellent condition and have adapted beautifully to the cooler weather and their new surroundings," said the center's veterinarian, Pam Tuomi.

The six puffins were flown in from New York's Central Park Zoo on Oct. 30. They joined seven puffin chicks that arrived from Oregon Coast Aquarium in September. The common murres arrived from Sea World in Florida on Nov. 6.

Murres and puffins, members of the alcid

family, are some of the deepest-diving sea birds. Puffins can dive to 250 feet and murres to 600 feet, to feed on fish and shellfish.

Center officials say the birds are natural roommates, and the artificial habitats created at the center will

mirror the birds' natural roosts. In the wild, they share steep cliffs, each assuming a different niche. Murres nest in horizontal cracks, laying their eggs on bare rock. Puffins, meanwhile, dig burrows in the soil at the tops of cliffs.

The birds won't be on display until the center's opening,

which is scheduled for May.

The 115,000-square-foot SeaLife Center is the first cold-water marine research center in the Western Hemisphere. It will combine public education with research and wildlife rehabilitation, and will be home to Steller sea lions, harbor seals and seabirds.

# Eelgrass beds provide important habitat

The recovery of eelgrass beds following the Exxon Valdez oil spill has helped the recovery of numerous intertidal creatures that depend on the eelgrass for survival.

Eelgrass beds flourish in the still waters of lagoons and backwater bays. Their soft mud and verdant leaves are home to clams, tiny snails, crabs, worms, mussels, and plankton. It's a haven for salmon smolt, herring and other tiny fishes and a smorgasbord for waterfowl, river otters, and sea otters.

As oil from the Exxon spill settled into Herring Bay, Sleepy Bay, and Bay of Isles it affected the grass, clams, crabs, seastars and tiny organisms called amphipods, an important food for fish and birds. Following the oil came cleanup workers in boats, scarring the beds with anchors, and at low tide, mowing the eelgrass with propwash.

Scientists compared unoiled sites with oiled sites at several locations in Prince William Sound from 1991-1995. The first year after the spill, they found less seed production and fewer invertebrates at oiled sites. The oil killed amphipods, larval helmet crabs, sunflower seastars, and leather stars.

The way recovery occurred was somewhat of a surprise. According to Stephen Jewett of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a lead investigator of the intertidal studies, "mother nature basically cleaned itself up. The oil didn't simply evaporate. It was incorporated into the food chain.

The breakdown of the oil leads to increased microbial activity which in turn leads to an increase of a number of organisms that feed on those microbes and right on up

the food chain," said Jewett.

The presence of oil meant the presence of much more carbon. Many bottom dwellers can actually use the carbon from oil as it degrades. There was an explosion of polychaete worms and tiny mussels, a favorite food of diving ducks.

During previous spills, scientists learned that hydrocarbon levels up to about 500 parts per billion may actually enhance microbial activity. But hydrocarbon levels in the water column become toxic when they exceed 500 to 1000 parts per billion. The average level of hydrocarbons in 1990 ranged greatly from 45 to 15,253 parts per billion in the oiled areas, but most were in the range that causes enhancement of bottom dwelling organisms.

"An awful lot of bacterial decomposition of the oil occurred. Most of the toxic fractions were lost within sight of a couple of years," said Jewett. The oil-degrading bacteria was most abundant in 1990 and declined steadily in the following years.

When studies ended in 1995, there were few differences between oiled and unoiled areas. Hydrocarbon levels and the abundance and types of life forms in the eelgrass beds was generally like that of the beds never hit by oil.

However, some larger invertebrates, such as sea stars, have not fully recovered, and the oil-consuming bacteria was still more abundant at oiled sites. This is consistent with observations after the Amoco Cadiz spill off the coast of France, where the bottom environment of the Bay of Morlaix took more than a decade to fully recover.



## Alaska Coastal Currents By Jody Seitz

4—KODIAK DAILY MIRROR, Friday, November 14, 1997

*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.*

# Restoration of salmon, herring benefit fishing industry

**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.

By JOE HUNT

No one can argue with the fact that commercial fishing families from Cordova to Kodiak took it hard during the summer of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Nearly every herring and salmon fishery in the region was canceled that summer due to floating oil.

When the state and federal governments settled their joint lawsuit against Exxon, the agreement specifically stated that the money must be used to help recovery of the natural resources as well as recovery of the human services: subsistence, recreation and commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing has benefited in several ways. The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's habitat programs have protected hundreds of miles of anadromous waterways providing basic protection for spawning and rearing sockeye, pink, coho and king salmon. In addition, many research projects seek to improve the health of commercial fish for better fisheries management.

In Cook Inlet, state fisheries biologists are using

genetic coding to determine exactly to which systems sockeye salmon are returning. Fisheries managers have long

sought a way to determine where the salmon moving through Cook Inlet are going so that they can better protect individual rivers and creeks.

"Genetic identification takes some of the mystery out of it," said Stan Senner, science coordinator for the council. "It allows better in-season decisions concerning fisheries management and helps secure the future health of salmon populations."

Hatchery raised pinks in Prince William Sound are now being identified through a new process known as otolith mass marking. Mass marking is expected to eliminate the labor-intensive process of tagging tiny salmon fry.

Researchers have learned that changes in water temperature will cause distinctive patterns, much like the rings of a tree, to develop on the carbone (or otolith) of young salmon fry. This lets fisheries managers accurately identify to which hatcheries adult pink salmon are returning.

On Kodiak Island, a fish bypass was renovated at Little Waterfall Creek to open additional spawning



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habitat for pink and coho salmon. During its first year after renovation, 44 percent of the returning pink salmon passed through the bypass, twice the percentage that reached the upper river before the renovation.

A project at Port Dick Creek on the Kenai Peninsula also opened more habitat for spawning. The creek was excavated to restore spawning habitat buried by debris after the 1964 earthquake.

During its first year 572 pinks and 300 chum salmon entered the newly opened tributaries and spawned, generating a projected contribution of more than 11,600 adults.

The collapse of the herring population in Prince William Sound brought a halt to the lucrative fishery for four years. Council-funded research identified a viral disease and fungus as the probable reasons for the crash. Further studies are attempting to identify possible triggers that caused the latent virus to spread.

Other herring research has identified for the first time where juvenile herring spend their first winter. Continuing studies are trying to determine what factors affect the survival rate of young herring.

In other projects, lakes have been fertilized, salmon runs enhanced, and the impacts of overescapement studied.

*Joe Hunt is the communications coordinator for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.*

# City Council OKs dock idea

By Eric Fry  
LOG Staff

The City Council unanimously authorized the administration on Nov. 6 to negotiate an agreement with Kenai Fjords Tours to develop a passenger dock on city tidelands at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

The dock would bring more people to the SeaLife Center and reduce downtown traffic, especially of buses, proponents said. The Downtown Business Association and the SeaLife Center support the dock.

The 30-foot by 100-foot floating dock would sit perpendicular to the

metal breakwater east of the center and be reached by an 80- to 100-foot ramp. Some uplands would be paved for a passenger waiting area and a ticket booth.

Under the proposal Kenai Fjords Tours, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cook Inlet Region Inc., would build, maintain and probably manage the dock, but allow competitors to use a berth.

Kenai Fjords Tours would use its side of the dock for free because it had invested in it, but competitors would pay city moorage or passenger

fees, which would be shared with Kenai Fjords Tours and the SeaLife Center.

The city has a boat moorage fee of \$1 a foot a day, or 50 cents a foot for stays of less than 12 hours. Outside of the small-boat harbor, it has a passenger fee of \$2 a person, which currently doesn't apply anywhere. The city probably would apply the greater of the two fees, said Harbormaster Foster Singleton.

Dock users would need at least \$5 million in liability insurance and would have to hold harmless the city, Kenai Fjords Tours and the SeaLife Center.

Singleton said he wanted Kenai Fjords Tours to manage the dock, so that the city would be one step removed from liability.

Tom Tougas, president of Kenai Fjords Tours, said the dock, which would be an anchored barge basically, would cost \$320,000-\$500,000 to build. It would be removed and dry-docked in the winter.

Tougas' plan is to carry his customers from the small-boat harbor to Fox Island and Kenai Fjords National Park, and drop off some passengers at the SeaLife Center on the way back.

He figures that cruise ship passengers and visitors who are staying downtown would use the service — perhaps 12,000 a season. A user of

the other berth, which might be Major Marine Tours, the only other large-boat tour operator currently in Seward, might drop off 10,000 passengers, Tougas said.

Council members generally supported the plan, but some wondered about negotiating directly with Kenai Fjords Tours rather than requesting proposals.

Two citizens, Brad Snowden and Edward Fenwick, said they were concerned about the lack of an RFP and the length of the proposed lease — 20 years with two 5-year extensions.

City administrators said there wasn't time for an RFP, although the idea has been kicked around for two years. Tougas wants the dock in place for the SeaLife Center's expected opening in May 1998.

Tougas also argued that no other Seward operator was interested in building a dock. Acting City Manager Rick Gifford suggested that an RFP would leave the city where it is now, with Kenai Fjords Tours' offer.

Mark Holland, owner of Major Marine Tours, told the council in a letter that a dock would be beneficial to day cruise operators, but said he didn't have the cash to invest in one.

But Holland also said that if customers embark and disembark from the SeaLife Center, they could avoid the small-boat harbor entirely. "This would, of course, negatively impact any tour boat operator that did not have access to such a facility," Holland wrote.

WARD PHOENIX LOG  
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He asked that any tour operator be allowed to sell tickets and accept passengers at the SeaLife Center dock.

But it's not likely that the dock could accept small vessels. The seas can be rough in front of the breakwater. It's not sheltered like the small-boat harbor, Singleton said.

The dock would be suitable for 60- to 100-foot boats, Tougas said. "If a vessel and a dock are relatively the same size, they'll pretty much move in unison" with the waves, he told the council.

Even so, Tougas said his boats might not be able to use it 10 percent of the time because of the seas.

To alter the dock to be usable by 21-foot vessels, for example, would make it unusable by anyone, Singleton said, because the dock would be too light and would bounce around in the waves.

Tougas himself brought up another concern, that of sport fishing at the breakwater. He said the anchoring chains would be directly under the dock, so that anglers' casts wouldn't be likely to get caught in them. The upland loading area, which would be 8 feet wide, would be set back 10 feet from the breakwater, leaving room for fishermen, he said.

The council plans to hold a work session before it votes on the negotiated agreements, which could be in December.

The council met last Thursday, rather than Monday this week, because many members were scheduled to attend the Alaska Municipal League meeting in Ketchikan.

# Kenai's five-year plan gets refined

## Council organizes priorities for city

By DAVE O. LUCAS  
Peninsula Clarion

The Kenai City Council got together Wednesday at the Kenai Community Library in another informal session designed to help the members hash out a plan for the city's development into the next century.

Call it: How do we get there from here? As any good business person will tell you, one of the most important keys to success is building a good plan, with long- and short-term goals.

Working off a list of future projects and improvements to the city's infrastructure developed at the last work session, where Mayor John Williams asked council members to picture where they saw the city in five to 10 years and brainstorm about how to get there, the seven-member group began attaching tentative dates and priorities to the projects they envisioned.

"We're going to continue to shape our list into a five-year plan that's doable and realistic, funding-wise," said Williams. "If we lay out a plan and follow it pretty closely, I think we can get a lot accomplished."

Like most municipal governments, the city of Kenai depends heavily on state and federal money to fund big-ticket infrastructure items, such as roads, water and sewer upgrades or other major construction. In the past few years, the trend at the state level has been toward less and less funding being made available to local govern-

ments.

Williams said he was hopeful this trend would turn around in the next few years, but whether it does or not, having a good, solid plan in place for implementation of the projects, the council believes, will help Kenai compete for what dollars are available.

With that in mind, council members set down four items from their

long-term capital improvements list as the top priorities for inclusion in the state Legislature's budget for the 1999 fiscal year.

Number one on the list was \$700,000 for design and engineering of a new city water treatment plant. The new plant will be a necessity for the city by the year 2002, and the sooner the city can start planning for its construction the better, said council member Ray Measles.

Second on the list was \$2.5 million for maintenance and upgrades of city streets and roads. Third was

\$300,000 for design and engineering of a new city shop. Fourth on the list was a request for projects that would help the city cope with problems created by the dipnet fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River, including paving the parking area at the city dock, building a new launch ramp, construction of a new dock access road, development of better access to the south side of the river and additional parking at the Spruce Street beach access.

The total cost of all the dipnet-related projects is in excess of \$2 million. However, the south side

access and Spruce Street parking projects will be submitted for funding from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill fund.

All the money to fund the enhancements to the dipnet fishery should come from sources "outside the city," said Williams, and an emphasis will be placed on tapping state and federal sources for wildlife recreation money to fund those projects.

"At the very least, I'd really like to have that parking lot built before the next dipnet season," said Williams.



# Survival rates for harlequin ducks in spill area down

**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

Research shows harlequins in the spill area don't do as well in winter.

Two years of research show harlequin ducks in the oiled areas of Prince William Sound still have lower rates of survival than harlequins in areas never hit by oil.

Like other seabirds, harlequins live relatively long lives. Their population size is more affected by the number of breeding females than the number of chicks they produce. That's why oil spill research now centers on comparing adult female winter survival in oiled and non-oiled areas.

Prince William Sound is home to both migratory

and resident harlequins, which overwinter in the sound. Each spring some of the sound's harlequins move inland to

mountain streams to breed and lay their eggs, returning with their young in summer.

At the end of summer the birds lose their flight feathers for about a month. Researchers take advantage of this molting period to capture harlequins, and implant radio transmitters for monitoring their survival and movements.

For three consecutive years, scientists have conducted a kind of "duck round-up," using kayaks to herd the flightless flocks into corrals made of nets. Researchers then count and band the birds, take blood samples, and implant some with tiny radio transmitters.

According to research biologist Dan Esler of the U.S. Geological Survey, the study has had similar outcomes during each of the first two years. "This year as in last year the survival rates were similar between oiled and unoled areas through fall," said



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Esler, "and then survival in the oiled areas became progressively poorer starting mid-winter."

The transmitters have a temperature-sensitive mortality switch that is activated when the bird dies. During the 1995-96 winter, the chance of survival was 17 percent lower for ducks in the oiled areas; and during the 1996-97 winter, 8 percent. Most of the birds lived and died in the same area where they were originally captured.

Scientists want to know if food supply or continued exposure to oil are responsible for the harlequin population's apparent lack of recovery. The harlequin studies are part of a larger program to assess the food supply and health of several nearshore species injured by the oil spill.

Questions remain regarding the genetic distinctiveness of the sound's harlequins. If the breeding populations are totally isolated, with no immigration, it'd be especially damaging for populations on the oiled side if female survival rates are poor.

"That would mean the population is declining at a steep rate and no birds are coming in to fill in the gaps," Esler said.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

# Museum brings past to life for Kodiak area residents

**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.

By JODY SEITZ

The 2-year-old Alutiiq Museum is reaching back thousands of years and bringing the past home to Kodiak. The museum staff aim not only to educate people but to salvage and study Alutiiq prehistoric sites before they disappear.

The first major archaeological project was in the fall of 1995. Archaeologists revisited the well-known Karluk I site to salvage its remaining treasures before they were swept away by the eroding effects of the Karluk River.

Karluk I was special among archaeologists sites throughout the world. It was continuously occupied for more than 1,000 years. Many items were preserved that normally do not survive the ravages of time and weather.

By 1995, the site was rapidly eroding. Many rare artifacts were being thrown into the lagoon and deteriorating, rotting in the muck of the Karluk River.

Museum archaeologists did a reconnaissance. "We

picked up everything we could find that was lying in the river," said Amy Steffian, museum curator, "and then we excavated

portions of the site to save the material before the site was ultimately destroyed by winter storms.

During the next two summers the excavation added thousands of pieces to the museum's collection, preserving the best view of late prehistoric Alutiiq culture that there is, according to Steffian.

"There's no other site like this site that we know of yet. We're talking about wooden artifacts, in addition to the normal bone and ivory, human hair, fiber and basketry, botanical remains, leaves, bumblebees. You name it, it was preserved at that site," said Steffian.

The museum is also an educational jumping off point for the Dig Afognak program located on southern Afognak Island. People come to the museum, learn about Alutiiq culture and artifacts, see what's happening in the museum and then go out and participate in the ongoing excavation.

Three doctoral students are currently working on the dig. Last summer, 56 students participated in a "spirit camp" at the site.



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"We'd had so many of those school-age children in the museum, and they'd seen artifacts and handled them. But to put those kids in a pit with an archaeologist and be the first one to scrape off and touch an ulu in 500 years — that was pretty mind-boggling to some of those youngsters," said Steffian.

The museum also attracts collections on loan. Using a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities the museum is working with the Anchorage Museum of History and Art to bring a Smithsonian collection to Kodiak. It consists of many items of Alutiiq clothing, weaponry, masks and other items of traditional culture collected in the late 1800s.

Elders will be involved in creating the displays of the cultural objects. For Rita Stevens, of the Kodiak Area Native Association, that lends poignancy to the show.

"They'll try and remember how it was in their family or passed down traditionally the different things that the artifacts were used for," said Stevens. "I'm just so excited that there will be the input of Native people so it becomes more alive, more when they're typing out the descriptions of the things that will be on display."

The exhibit, called Looking Both Ways, is scheduled for May 1999.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

## Interim SeaLife Center Exec Named

SOLDOTNA (AP)--The Alaska SeaLife Center has named a recently retired state biologist as interim director to guide the facility through its May opening.

The center's board on Wednesday named Kim Sundberg as interim director while it begins a nationwide hunt for a permanent leader.

Sundberg is no stranger to the SeaLife Center. He has had a hand in its design and budget since late 1993 as a representative of the state Department of Fish and Game.

"It's a real natural for him," said Maureen Sims, a member of the center's management team. "We don't need to bring somebody up to speed. He's already there."

He will replace John B. Hendricks, the center's first executive director, who resigned late last week citing personal reasons. Hendricks had been on board for a year. He was credited with assembling a staff of experts and leading the \$55 million project through an intense period of

construction, which should be essentially complete by late this month.

Sundberg's role will be to see the facility through its transition from construction to daily operation, Sims said. The center's governing board now will look for a director who has a strong background not only in budgets and staff management, but also in research.

The 115,000-square-foot facility on the shore of Resurrection Bay in Seward is the first cold-water marine research center in the Western Hemisphere, managers say. It will combine rehabilitation with research and visitor education.

It is being built with \$37.5 million from settlements related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Another \$17.5 million in revenue bonds were sold to cover the rest of construction and other costs.

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The Seward Phoenix LOG

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### Where are the jobs?

The idea of whether to hire outside contractors for janitorial, maintenance, security and groundskeeper for the Alaska SeaLife Center upsets me.

Twelve people out of 21 so far are from Alaska to fill "professional" positions — reason, "wasn't sure if anyone in Alaska qualified for the jobs."

Are we going to let the other jobs be filled by outsiders also? I hope not. We need to write letters and get local people hired in these jobs, or do we not qualify for these jobs also?

Kelly Bross  
Seward

Back in the 1980s, when I lived in Cordova, I had a friend named Gene Rossilini. He lived in a small, smoky, wood hut in Shelter Cove, a mile or so north of town. Gene was convinced that, someday soon, the world as we knew and loved it, would end. To prepare for this eventuality, he walked many miles every day loaded with over a hundred pounds of rocks on his back, climbing local mountains, marching along roads. He wore ragged clothes, looked sooty and bedraggled, and seldom bathed, claiming that "bathing is just a bourgeois affectation." He was contemplative, kind, generous, and troubled. To the few he let in, he spoke of his dire concern for the world. Many thought he was crazy.

Then, on March 24, 1989, the recklessness of one of the largest corporations in the world caused one of the most damaging industrial disasters in human history — the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, right here in Alaska. The spill spread over 10,000 square miles of Alaska's coastal ocean, oiled 1,500 miles of some of the most beautiful and productive coastlines in the world, including national wildlife refuges and parks, killed more marine mammals and seabirds than any industrial disaster ever, and sent coastal communities into a social and economic tailspin from which none has fully recovered.

A recent publication by Time magazine ranks the Exxon Valdez spill as "one of the most significant events of the 20th century," along side such others as the holocaust, the airplane, the Russian revolution, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the invention of television and computers, the moon landing, the Titanic, etc. Time says "the Exxon Valdez oil spill highlights planet Earth's imperiled natural resources."

Just after the grounding of the Exxon-Valdez, the Exxon corporation stood in front of the community in what ultimately became known as "the mother-of-all corporate public relations' disasters." This was in front of a group of people who, from the earliest days of the pipeline debate, had expressed concern that someday, despite the assurances of government and the oil industry, an Exxon-Valdez would

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR NOVEMBER 12, 1997

## Guest opinion

By Rick Steiner



cally disrupt their fishing economy and way of life. At the 1989 town-meeting, Exxon told the people that they were "lucky", because it was Exxon who had "besmirched their beautiful Prince William Sound," and that "Exxon does business straight." Exxon went on to promise that the people whose lives were affected by this spill "would be made whole" by Exxon.

But now, after 8 1/2 years of costly litigation and a 5 billion dollar judgment against Exxon, the corporation continues to fight paying the human victims of its recklessness what an unbiased Alaska jury has determined to be necessary to punish and correct Exxon's behavior. Exxon continues to file motion after motion, appeal after appeal, in what has become a comedy of desperation, arrogance, and utter disdain for the people of Alaska whose lives they turned upside down. All of our lives have been diminished by this, and communities such as Kodiak, Chenega Bay, Homer, Cordova, Valdez, Kenai, Chignik, Whittier, Tatitlek, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Old Harbor, Ahkiok, etc. deserve better.

It is time for Exxon to end this legal chess game, pay what they owe, and let everyone get on with their lives. Without prejudging the appellate process, there should be no realistic chance whatsoever that Exxon's appeals will be successful. They were reckless, they know it, the world knows it, and they now have to compensate the victims of their reckless disregard for the Alaska people and environment. Attempts to delay all of this will only add to the bitterness and resentment of industry, which is in no one's best interest... not even Exxon's.

As Exxon caused this disaster and they have been found reckless by a jury of Alaska citizens, it is right that they should have

verdict in history, and it is undoubtedly in society's interest to have this thing resolved now. The longer this drags out, the more damage will be caused. Dr. Steven Picou, who has studied many an industrial disaster around the world, has found that the social and psychological effects of these disasters will abate only when there is a just resolution of all the litigation. For Exxon to continue profiting at the expense of the Alaska people, economy and environment is evidence that the company is morally bankrupt indeed.

It is a tragic commentary on Exxon's sense of social responsibility that hundreds of the people who were harmed by this company's negligence have since passed away, with no reparation whatsoever. Some, such as the former mayor of Cordova, chose to take their own lives rather than continue to exist in the emotional chaos from the Exxon spill. The last few years of these lives were entirely dominated by the Exxon-Valdez, and too much of all of our lives has been swept into this maelstrom. It is time for this madness to end. It is time for Exxon to resolve this mess. There are any number of legitimate ways the state federal governments can encourage Exxon to take care of this, and they should do so.

I have discussed all of this with many people throughout the state and nation and most seem to agree that it is time for Exxon to stop holding Alaska hostage to its own antiquated corporate ideology, and bring this to closure.

As for my friend Gene Rossilini, who was prepared for almost anything, he was found dead one morning in his hut, a year or so after the spill. He had taken his own life and lay dead on the frozen dirt floor of what he thought was his refuge from the industrial world, on the shore of Prince William Sound. Crazy,

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE VALDEZ STAR  
NOVEMBER 12, 1997

## EXXON PURCHASE

Editor;

Many Valdezans are aware of a small-parcel purchase request to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for the purchase of Wayne Blondeau's property past Mineral Creek.

There has been a community-wide effort to make the EVOS trustee council aware of Valdez' support of this purchase.

Specific uses for the land have not yet been determined, but ideas include a public picnic and parking area, kayak put-in, trailhead to the new Shoup Bay trail, and an interpretive state park ranger station.

In a show of support, the City of Valdez has offered to donate adjacent lands, contingent on an EVOS purchase.

These lands are designated wetlands and so could not be used for development.

The purchase request will be considered at the November 18 meeting of the EVOS Trustees in Anchorage. If you support this project, please write to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill trustee Council, 645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Additional information is available from several local businesses, Mayor Cobb, or any of your Alaska State Parks/DNR Community Advisory Board representatives: Bill Bixby, Bill Deppe, Nancy Lethcoe, Richard Chaffin, Shanna Simmons, Pat Welch, Jeanne Passin or Tabitha Gregory.

Shanna Simmons  
Valdez

THE VALDEZ STAR NOVEMBER 12, 1997

**\$380,000,000 To Remain In Court Fund...**

# **Murkowski Surrenders In Tiff Over Oil Spill Funds**

**ANCHORAGE (AP)**—A tussle between Sen. Frank Murkowski and Exxon Valdez oil spill trustees ended in a stalemate Saturday when a proposal to boost the investment income of the spill settlement was dropped from a spending bill.

As a result, \$280 million Exxon Corp. has yet to pay--and more than \$100 million the trustees want to sock away as a kind of permanent spill-recovery endowment--cannot be invested to earn the highest possible interest rates.

The issue could be revived in the 1998 congressional session. But, for now, the money now must be deposited in a

court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest.

In compensation for its costs, the court gets about 10 percent of the interest proceeds, effectively reducing the trustee council's return to only about 4.5 percent.

The trustee council is made up of federal and state representatives appointed to determine how Exxon's \$900 million settlement of civil and criminal oil spill claims will be spent.

The council had appealed to Congress for legislation allowing a more aggressive investment strategy.

While Murkowski thought it

was a good idea for the money to be freed from the court's control, the Republican senator was worried that higher interest income would mean more money for the council to use buying up private lands for protection.

Murkowski drew up a spending-bill rider that would have permitted the trustee council to invest the money but use the interest only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry.

Murkowski's position drew strong objections from the council. Molly McCammon, executive director of the council, said last month that

she would prefer to see no legislation rather than have Murkowski tying the council's hands.

The council's biggest concern is over the investment of about \$108 million it wants to set aside as an endowment for use after Exxon makes its last settlement payment in 2002.

McCammon said the council wants a higher rate of return on those funds because the plan is to spend only the interest income. By investing at a higher rate of at least 9 percent, the council could earn several million dollars more annually to finance spill recovery projects.

The spending bill went to a

House-Senate conference committee Friday, but the panel broke without working out a compromise on Murkowski's amendment.

With time running out and several federal agencies already technically operating without any money, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Ted Stevens convened the appropriations committee Saturday afternoon to fold several spending bills into a single pared-down package to send to the House in hopes that it would go along. Murkowski's amendment was left on the cutting room floor.

# Battle over investment of spill funds stalls

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A tussle between Sen. Frank Murkowski and Exxon Valdez oil spill trustees ended in a stalemate Saturday when a proposal to boost the investment income of the spill settlement was dropped from a spending bill.

As a result, \$280 million Exxon Corp. has yet to pay — and more than \$100 million the trustees want to sock away as a kind of permanent spill-recovery endowment — cannot be invested to earn the highest

possible interest rates.

The issue could be revived in the 1998 congressional session. But, for now, the money must be deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest.

In compensation for its costs, the court gets about 10 percent of the interest proceeds, effectively reducing the trustee council's return to only about 4.5 percent.

The trustee council is made up of

federal and state representatives appointed to determine how Exxon's \$900 million settlement of civil and criminal oil spill claims will be spent. The council had appealed to Congress for legislation allowing a more aggressive investment strategy.

While Murkowski thought it was a good idea for the money to be freed from the court's control, the Republican senator was worried that higher interest income would mean more money for the council to use buying up private lands for protection.

Murkowski drew up a spending-bill rider that would have permitted

**PENINSULA CLARION**

**NOVEMBER 10, 1997**

the trustee council to invest the money but use the interest only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry.

Murkowski's position drew strong objections from the council. Molly McCammon, executive director of the council, said last month that she would prefer to see no legislation rather than have Murkowski tying

the council's hands.

The council's biggest concern is over the investment of about \$108 million it wants to set aside as an endowment for use after Exxon makes its last settlement payment in 2002.

McCammon said the council wants a higher rate of return on those funds because the plan is to spend only the interest income. By invest-

ing at a higher rate of at least 9 percent, the council could earn several million dollars more annually to finance spill recovery projects.

The spending bill went to a House-Senate conference committee Friday, but the panel broke without working out a compromise on Murkowski's amendment.

With time running out and several federal agencies already tech-

nically operating without any money, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Ted Stevens convened the appropriations committee Saturday afternoon to fold several spending bills into a single pared-down package to send to the House in hopes that it would go along. Murkowski's amendment was left on the cutting room floor.

## Investment of spill funds stalls in Congress

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ANCHORAGE** — A tussle between Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski and Exxon Valdez oil spill trustees ended in a stalemate Saturday when a proposal to boost the investment income of the spill settlement was dropped from a spending bill.

As a result, the \$280 million Exxon Corp. has yet to pay cannot be invested to earn the highest possible interest rates. Nor can the more than \$100 million the trustees want to sock away as a kind of per-

manent spill-recovery endowment.

The issue could be revived in the 1998 congressional session. But, for now, the money now must be deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest. In compensation for its costs, the court gets about 10 percent of the interest proceeds, effectively reducing the trustee council's return to only about 4.5 percent.

The trustee council is made up of federal and state representatives.



# Spill-funds battle stalls in Congress

By DAVID WHITNEY  
Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A tussle between Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski and state and federal trustees over the investment of proceeds from the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement ended in a stalemate Saturday.

The consequence is that some \$280 million Exxon Corp. has yet to pay — and more than \$100 million the trustees want to sock away as a kind of permanent spill-recovery endowment — cannot be invested to earn the highest possible interest rates for spill recovery work in Prince William Sound.



Murkowski

The trustee council, made up of federal and state representatives appointed to determine how Exxon Corporation's \$900 million settlement of civil and criminal claims will be spent, had appealed to Congress for legislation allowing a more aggressive investment strategy.

Although the issue could be revived in the 1998 congressional session, the money now must be deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest. In compensation for

its costs, the court gets about 10 percent of the interest proceeds, effectively reducing the trustee council's return to only about 4.5 percent.

While Murkowski thought it was a good idea for the money to be freed from the court's control, the Republican senator was worried that higher interest income would mean more money for the council to use buying up private lands for protection.

More than a third of the total settlement proceeds, or roughly \$380 million, will have been spent on land purchases by the time the deals now on the table are wrapped up.

In total, the trustee council will have purchased title or conservation easements to about 700,000 acres, including about 1,000 miles of coastline in the area effected by the 1989 spill.

Insistent that enough land already had been bought by the trustee council, Murkowski drew up a spending-bill rider that would have permitted the trustee council to invest the money but use the interest only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry.

Murkowski's position drew strong objections from the council. Molly McCammon, executive director of the

council, said last month that she would prefer to see no legislation rather than have Murkowski tying the council's hands.

The council's biggest concern is over the investment of about \$108 million it wants to set aside as an endowment for use after Exxon makes its last settlement payment in 2002.

McCammon said the council wants a higher rate of return on those funds because the plan is to spend only the investment interest. By investing the money at a higher rate, McCammon said the council could earn at least 9 percent, giving it several million dollars more annually to finance priorities that will be determined following a public process.

Native corporations and environmentalists rallied behind the trustee council in opposition to Murkowski.

"Language restricting the uses of the interest to marine research and fishing industry projects could downgrade or eliminate many projects of great importance to our corporation, our shareholders and our community," wrote Uwe Gross, chief executive officer of Koniag Inc.

"Projects such as research on archaeological resources, subsistence and habitat acquisition would be restricted," Gross said in an Oct. 22 letter to the senator.

"If the (Murkowski) amendment passes, the losers would be the fish

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## **EXXON:** Panelists' patience was running thin, and tempers were running hot

and wildlife injured by the oil spill as well as those Americans who care strongly about conservation," wrote David Cline, chairman of the Kodiak Brown Bear Trust.

But Murkowski, despite efforts to strike a compromise with the council, persisted with his rider and counted on the help of Sen. Ted Stevens, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to attach it to a spending bill for the Commerce Department and other federal agencies.

The spending bill went to a House-Senate conference committee Friday, but the panel broke in the midst of angry exchanges involving other items without making any progress toward working out a compromise bill.

With time running out and sev-

eral federal agencies already technically operating without any money since midnight Friday, Stevens pulled the plug on the conference.

He convened the appropriations committee Saturday afternoon to fold several spending bills into a single pared-down package to send to the House in hopes that it would go along.

Murkowski's amendment was left on the cutting room floor, and Murkowski seemed miffed with his Alaska colleague.

"I was assured it was going to be brought up, ... but I'm not even a member of the committee," was all the senator had to say about Saturday's development, according to his press aide, Chuck Kleeschulte.

John Raffetto, spokesman for the Stevens' appropriations panel,

said there was no way controversial items such as Murkowski's were going to make it through in the closing bargaining sessions of the 1997 congressional session.

Patience was running thin and tempers were running hot, Raffetto said.

"It fell victim to a desire to break a logjam and get these spending bills moving," Raffetto said of Murkowski's provision. "It's unfortunate."

McCammon said in a telephone interview that she, too, is disappointed — but for different reasons.

"The council went to the congressional delegation for help," she said. "We're disappointed that it got politicized like this. We'll just keep plugging away at it and see where we go from here."

# Congress drops spill fund investment plan

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A tussle between Sen. Frank Murkowski and Exxon Valdez oil spill trustees ended in a stalemate Saturday when a proposal to boost the investment income of the spill settlement was dropped from a spending bill.

As a result, \$280 million Exxon Corp. has yet to pay — and more than \$100 million the trustees want to sock away as a kind of permanent spill-recovery endowment — cannot be invested to earn the highest possible interest rates.

The issue could be revived in the 1998 congressional session. But, for now, the money now must be deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest. In compensation for its costs, the court gets about 10 percent of the interest proceeds, effectively reducing the trustee council's return to only about 4.5 percent.

The trustee council is made up of federal and state representatives appointed to determine how Exxon's \$900 million settlement of civil and criminal oil spill claims will be spent. The council had appealed to Congress for legislation allowing a more aggressive investment strategy.

While Murkowski thought it was a good idea for the money to be freed from the court's control, the Republican senator was wor-

ried that higher interest income would mean more money for the council to use buying up private lands for protection.

Murkowski drew up a spending-bill rider that would have permitted the trustee council to invest the money but use the interest only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry.

Murkowski's position drew strong objections from the council. Molly McCammon, executive director of the council, said last month that she would prefer to see no legislation rather than have Murkowski tying the council's hands.

The council's biggest concern is over the investment of about \$108 million it wants to set aside as an endowment for use after Exxon makes its last settlement payment in 2002.

McCammon said the council wants a higher rate of return on those funds because the plan is to spend only the interest income. By investing at a higher rate of at least 9 percent, the council could earn several million dollars more annually to finance spill recovery projects.

The spending bill went to a House-Senate conference committee Friday, but the panel broke without working out a compromise on Murkowski's amendment.

## Alaska SeaLife Center director leaves after year

*By the Alaska Journal of Commerce*

**J**ohn B. Hendricks, executive director of the Alaska SeaLife Center, has resigned after one year on the job, the center's board of directors announced Oct. 31.

"We regret the loss of John's leadership," said Jack Scoby, board president, in a statement. "During John's one-year tenure, he has assembled an outstanding team of leaders in their respective fields and brought the center to near completion in a timely and fiscally responsive manner."

Hendricks said in the same statement that the job represented a great opportunity, and he was glad to be a part of the project. He did not disclose his plans.

The Alaska SeaLife Center Board is initiating an interim management team made up of center staff and others involved with the ongoing management and completion of the final stages of construction.

The Alaska SeaLife Center, the first cold-water marine research center in the Western Hemisphere, is a 115,000-square-foot center nestled on the shore of Resurrection Bay in Seward. It will combine rehabilitation with research and visitor education, and be home to Stellar sea lions, harbor seals and a variety of seabirds.

### FOCUS

#### Seward

Construction of the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward is about 93 percent complete, according to Roe Sturgulewski, construction manager with contract administrator Rise Alaska.

"The contractor (Strand Hunt Construction) projects substantial completion by Dec. 8," he said, about two months ahead of his contractual obligation.

What remains is largely finish work: carpeting, final painting, architectural railings, ceiling systems, some concrete work and zinc finish on the outside wall. About 90 percent of the outside landscaping is finished.

The center will open May 1, employing more than 40 people. The total project cost is \$51 million; Strand Hunt holds a \$30 million construction contract.

## State buys fish habitat along Kenai River

*By the Alaska Journal of Commerce*

**T**he state has acquired a 27-acre parcel of land on the Kenai River known as the Grubba property in a move to protect additional Kenai River fish habitat. "The sloughs and wetlands of the lower Kenai are vital to salmon," said Gov. Tony Knowles. "Thanks to Dolores Grubba, these important wetlands are still intact, and now they will be protected in perpetuity."

The property, at mile 17.5 on the Kenai River, includes about 750 feet of river frontage, grassy wetlands and a slough important to rearing salmon. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage the property to protect its riparian habitat.

The land was purchased for \$255,000 with Exxon Valdez oil spill criminal settlement funds dedicated specifically for the protection of Kenai River habitat. The Grubba parcel is one of three properties acquired so far by Alaska Department of Fish & Game with assistance from The Conservation Fund, a national land trust. It brings the total of Kenai River habitat protected this year to about 67 acres.

# Scoby says center going as planned

By Roger Kane

LOG Staff

With the Alaska SeaLife Center's grand opening in May 1998 fast approaching, the finishing touches are being applied to the facility, the existing staff is getting ready to move into their new building, and the excitement is building.

Board President Jack Scoby said the project is moving along as planned and that "the stuff that's been done is within the bids."

He said there have been a few changes to the original plans as they were presented in 1995, but "they were all good changes."

Such as creating a fish ladder leading into the facility, which a small run of salmon will use to return to their imprinted spawning ground inside the building. Or the relief

impressions of fish adorning the otherwise dull-gray concrete walls. Minor changes related to visitor flow also had to be incorporated.

Aside from that, "we have never varied from our forecast," Scoby said.

But as time goes by, change is an inevitable facet of operating a facility with the size and capabilities of the SeaLife Center. He said no concrete plans have been made, but an amphitheater may be in the works. He said in the near future the board will also wrestle with the questions of whether or not to hire outside contractors for security, janitorial, maintenance and groundskeeping services.

And with the completion and operation of the SeaLife Center, Seward will definitely be experiencing some changes.

"You can't stand still. If you do, you go backwards and die," he said,

adding that Seward is a town that has survived more than its share of changes. The railroad changed things, as did the 1964 earthquake, long-shoremen, fishermen, floods and tourism. He said the SeaLife Center will have a profound impact on the city, but he anticipates it will be positive.

Maurcen Sims, who works on the board of directors' project management team, said "as a tourism element, and as far as changes, this is a really positive one. But the balance is what the (city) ends up with, a huge, world-class facility. That's going to make the difference."

Sims said the facility is unique throughout the world and that it's attracting a lot of attention, most importantly from people wanting

jobs.

At this point, 21 of the estimated 53 full-time-equivalent positions have been filled. Forty-four of those positions are full time and 14 are part time. Nine of those hired are Seward residents and three others are from the Kenai Peninsula or Anchorage.

Sims said the focus on hiring thus far has been on experience and skill, as they are vital to the operation of such a highly technical and specialized facility. She said the best people were hired for each of those positions.

"These are experts with the expertise needed to run this facility," she said.

Sims said the search for people to fill those positions extended outside Alaska in some cases, because she doesn't think there was anyone in Alaska with the necessary experience in aquatics, aviculture or animal husbandry to fill them.

She said advertisements were placed with the American Zoological Association, in trade journals and on the Internet.

"When we're looking for someone so skilled, we have to go where they are," she said.

She said the number of people who would qualify for one of the lead positions comes from a "relatively

small community."

"We're lucky to snag the experts that come here," Sims said.

Corinna Quilliam, public relations coordinator at the SeaLife Center, said the people who've been hired for the key departmental-head positions and their immediate support staff were not only hired for their experience, but also for their versatility.

She said although they have each been hired for their expertise in one area, they will all be cross-trained to assist in other departments.

"This is a very unique project because it includes research rehabilitation and public education. It's the only place of its kind in Alaska," she said.

## SeaLife gets its first birds

ANCHORAGE (AP) — The Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward has taken possession of its first permanent residents. Seven baby tufted puffins arrived earlier this month, six from Oregon and one from Homer, and all younger than 2 months.

For now, the birds are staying at the nearby Institute of Marine Science feasting on herring, squid, clams and shrimp, while a team of artists works on an artificial rock ledge to look and feel like the birds' natural habitat.

"The rock goes up about 30 feet or so, and there are burrows that are made into the rocks so the birds can do their nesting," said SeaLife Center spokeswoman Corinna Quilliam. "The company painted on sea stars and mussels and barnacles where the water line is. ... It looks very realistic."

Quilliam said the bird exhibit is one of the largest on the West Coast, with a 17-foot-deep, 105,000-gallon water tank. It cost \$2.8 million to build.

Because the puffins are so young, they don't yet look like

the puffins of calendar photographs, Quilliam said. They won't develop their bright summer plumage for another two years. And until they begin breeding, their sex is unknown, too, said SeaLife Center bird curator Tiffani Thompson.

Even though they are indigenous to Alaska, the six Oregon-born birds need to acclimate to the colder temperatures in Seward, Thompson said. The Homer bird is holding its own.

"He is very imprinted by humans and actually follows the handlers around and sits on their laps," Quilliam said.

The center is expecting to receive several mature tufted puffins, and other marine birds before its grand opening in May.

"We're looking at common murrelets, possibly some horned puffins and possibly some black oyster catchers," Quilliam said. "Puffins in general will be popular because they're very bright in the summer."

The younger puffins should be settled permanently in their new rock homes in January or February.

# New director for SeaLife Center

SOLDOTNA (AP) — The Alaska SeaLife Center has named a recently retired state biologist as interim director to guide the facility through its May opening.

The center's board on Wednesday named Kim Sundberg as interim director while it begins a nationwide hunt for a permanent leader.

Sundberg is no stranger to the SeaLife Center. He has had a hand in its design and budget since late 1993 as a representative of the state Department of Fish and Game.

"It's a real natural for him," said Maureen Sims, a member of the center's management team. "We don't need to bring somebody up to speed. He's already there."

He will replace John B. Hendricks, the center's first executive director, who resigned late last week citing personal reasons. Hendricks had been on board for a year. He was credited with assembling a staff of experts and leading the \$55 million project

through an intense period of construction, which should be essentially complete by late this month.

Sundberg's role will be to see the facility through its transition from construction to daily operation, Sims said. The center's governing board now will look for a director who has a strong background not only in budgets and staff management, but also in research.

The 115,000-square-foot facility

on the shore of Resurrection Bay in Seward is the first cold-water marine research center in the Western Hemisphere, managers say. It will combine rehabilitation with research and visitor education.

It is being built with \$37.5 million from settlements related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Another \$17.5 million in revenue bonds were sold to cover the rest of construction and other costs.

VALDEZ STAR NOVEMBER 5, 1997

## Marine Life Center Manager Resigns

SEWARD (AP)--The director of a nearly completed marine life center has resigned with the public opening of the SeaLife seven months away.

John Hendricks announced his departure Friday, citing personal reasons.

Hendricks, selected among 38 candidates after a yearlong search, is former director of the Texas State Aquarium at Corpus Christi. He had a five-year contract in Seward.

"We're sorry to see him go," said Jack Scoby said, president of the SeaLife Center's board.

Scoby credited Hendricks with assembling one of the top marine research staffs in the country. "That was probably the biggest thing, that and being able to keep the costs within range," Scoby said.

The \$55 million research and education facility, funded in part with Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement funds, will house marine wildlife such as puffins, salmon and sea lions.

Staff plan to begin moving in late this month. A public opening is scheduled May first.

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR NOVEMBER 4, 1997

## SeaLife Center director quits

SEWARD (AP) — The director of a nearly completed marine life center has resigned with the public opening of the SeaLife seven months away.

John Hendricks announced his departure Friday, citing personal reasons.

Hendricks, selected among 38 candidates after a yearlong search, is former director of the

Texas State Aquarium at Corpus Christi. He had a five-year contract in Seward.

"We're sorry to see him go," said Jack Scoby said, president of the SeaLife Center's board.

Scoby credited Hendricks with assembling one of the top marine research staffs in the country. "That was probably the biggest thing, that

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Staff plan to begin moving in late this month. A public opening is scheduled May 1.

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# Street Talk

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AK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE 11/17/97

## POLITICS

- Former University of Alaska chancellor, legislator, publisher and businessman **John Lindauer** announced Nov. 10 that he will run for governor of Alaska next fall. Lindauer, a Republican, held press conferences in Fairbanks and Anchorage to kick off his campaign.

- Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, received the Dana Foundation's Distinguished Achievement Award Nov. 6 in New York for his support of new medical technology. He also announced that the federal government is moving to OK Medicare coverage of scans used to diagnose and treat lung cancer.

- Alaska SeaLife Center officials said Nov. 5 **Kim Sundberg** has been appointed interim executive director of the center in the wake of former Executive Director **John Hendricks'** departure. Sundberg, a retired habitat biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, will serve until a new permanent director is chosen.

*Street Talk is a regular column of news, speculation and plain ole gossip reported by the Journal of Commerce staff and compiled by Rose Ragsdale.*

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG 11/13/97

## News briefs

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### Be a brick

The Alaska SeaLife Center is offering Seward-area residents the opportunity to make their mark at the facility. The center is selling 492 bricks, from \$100-\$175, that will be engraved with your name or message, or a company logo.

The bricks will be placed in the outdoor plaza in front of the center's entrance. The center is calling the inner circle of the design the "Circle of Honor" and reserving the bricks for local residents, volunteers, and people who have been associated with the center's governance, design or construction.

The plaza eventually will contain 4,482 salable bricks. Proceeds will go to the center.



# SeaLife director resigns

## Sundberg named interim chief

By Eric Fry

LOG Staff

Kimbal Sundberg, a former state habitat biologist, has been named interim director of the Alaska SeaLife Center. He replaces John Hendricks, who was asked to resign Oct. 31.

SeaLife Center Board President Jack Scoby said it wasn't fair to the board or to Hendricks to discuss why Hendricks resigned.

"We left on good terms," Scoby said. "We left with the feeling there's no harm to the SeaLife Center and no harm to John."

Scoby said Hendricks assembled "an outstanding staff" and the board is comfortable with it and doesn't plan to make changes. Hendricks "was able to take the SeaLife Center where it is and within budget," Scoby said.

Hendricks said he didn't volunteer to resign and doesn't know why he was asked to leave. He said some things had been bothering the board and lots of things had been bothering him, but he thought they were working it out.

Hendricks said the SeaLife Center would have fulfilled a dream of his to do scientific discovery and pass it on to a wider audience. He said he's sorry not to be part of it.

Hendricks was hired in October 1996 from the Texas State

Aquarium in Corpus Christi, where he was credited with reversing its downward finances and developing a widespread educational program.

Sundberg, who is due to start Nov. 12, will be interim executive director until June, while the board of directors searches for a permanent director.

The board chose Sundberg

because he's already familiar with the SeaLife Center, Scoby said. "We wanted to get someone as fast as we could and continue with the plan," he said.

Sundberg, who lives in Anchorage, was a Department of Fish and Game habitat biologist from 1975-1996.

Sundberg said he first became involved with the SeaLife Center in December 1993, when the project was in a "very embryonic stage" with the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, which eventually

supplied \$25 million for the scientific portion of the center.

The Trustee Council asked Sundberg to work on the project description with the Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science, the nonprofit local developers of the center.

Sundberg also formed a scientific group that worked with the architects to develop what the facility would do and how it should be designed, he said.

After the Trustee Council granted funds in 1995, Sundberg helped

develop the contract stipulations, and he administered the pass-through money to Fish and Game and the city until he retired in August 1996.

Sundberg also has been working on the scientific content of the narratives that will be placed beside exhibits and on two films that visitors to the SeaLife Center will see.

The state attorney general's office granted Sundberg a waiver take the interim director's job, because state ethics laws otherwise

would prohibit him from working for an entity that he had dealings with as a recent state employee.

Sundberg has never managed a facility. Not all of the department heads are in place, and he said the center may hire 20 more people by the time it opens to the public in May 1998.

"The business plan and the budget and the issues of start-up are going to be the main things I'll be working on," he said.

Scoby said the project will open on schedule and on budget.

## SeaLife Center's director quits

SEWARD — The director of a nearly completed marine life center has resigned with the public opening of the SeaLife Center seven months away.

John Hendricks announced his departure Friday, citing personal reasons.

Reached at his home Saturday, he said he could not discuss his departure or future plans until "some details" are resolved with the board.

He likes Alaska and hopes to remain in the state, he said. He also expressed his wish that the people he hired will stay on and continue with the project.

Hendricks, selected among 38 candidates after a year-long search, is former director of the Texas State Aquarium at Corpus Christi. He had a five-year contract in Seward.

"We're sorry to see him go,"

said Jack Scoby, president of the SeaLife Center's board.

Scoby credited Hendricks with assembling one of the top marine research staffs in the country.

"That was probably the biggest thing, that and being able to keep the costs within range," Scoby said.

The \$55 million research and education facility, funded in part with Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement funds, will house marine wildlife such as puffins, salmon and sea lions.

Staff plan to begin moving in late this month. A public opening is scheduled May 1.

## SeaLife Center picks new director

SEWARD (AP) — The Alaska SeaLife Center has named a recently retired state biologist as interim director to guide the facility through its May opening.

The center's board on Wednesday named Kim Sundberg as interim director while it begins a nationwide hunt for a permanent leader.

Sundberg is no stranger to the SeaLife Center. He has had a hand in its design and budget since late 1993 as a representative of the state Department of Fish and Game.

"It's a real natural for him," said Maureen Sims, a member of the center's management team. "We don't need to

bring somebody up to speed. He's already there."

He will replace John B. Hendricks, the center's first executive director, who resigned late last week citing personal reasons. Hendricks had been on board for a year. He was credited with assembling a staff of experts and leading the \$55 million project through an intense period of construction, which should be essentially complete by late this month.

Sundberg's role will be to see the facility through its transition from construction

to daily operation, Sims said. The center's governing board now will look for a director who has a strong background not only in budgets and staff management, but also in research.

The 115,000-square-foot facility on the shore of Resurrection Bay is the first cold-water marine research center in the Western Hemisphere, managers say. It will combine rehabilitation with research and visitor education.

It is being built with \$37.5 million from settlements related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Another \$17.5 million in revenue bonds were sold to cover the rest of construction and other costs.

November 1, 1997

# SeaLife Center director quits

By JON LITTLE  
Daily News Peninsula Bureau

**SOLDOTNA** — The head of Seward's nearly completed SeaLife Center, John B. Hendricks, suddenly called it quits Friday after seeing the facility through a year of construction.

Hendricks left for personal reasons, said Jack Scoby, president of the SeaLife Center's board of directors. Scoby gave no details, other than to say the board and Hendricks had been meeting for the past few days.

"We're sorry to see him go," Scoby said. "He's put together one of the top staffs in the country as far as animals, fisheries, research and education. That was probably the biggest thing, that and being able to keep the costs within range."

The \$55 million research and education facility will house marine wildlife such as puffins, salmon and sea lions.

The Seward aquarium is being built with \$37.5 million from settlements related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Another \$17.5 million in revenue bonds were sold to cover the rest of construction and other costs.

The center will be close to completion after Thanksgiving, at which point the staff will move in and begin a series of tests. The grand opening is set for May 1.

Hendricks came from the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, Texas, which he had been running since 1991. He was selected after a year-long recruitment drive that included 38 applicants.

"He was our choice," Scoby said. "In this, as in any business, things happen."

Hendricks, who had a five-year contract, could not be reached for comment Friday afternoon.

The Texas aquarium has had more than 3 million visi-

tors since it opened in 1990, according to press reports. It was built with a combination of private and public funds.

In Seward, Hendricks was in charge of a facility that has more of a research role than the Texas aquarium, which was primarily a visitor attraction, SeaLife Center officials have said. But like the aquarium in Corpus Christi, the Seward facility will depend on revenue from tourists to fund its operation.

# Seabirds need energy-rich forage fish to remain healthy

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.

By JODY SEITZ

Scientists studying animals injured by the Exxon Valdez spill know that declines in some species may be related to changes in the marine ecosystem. Shifts in ocean temperature and abundance of certain fish species are prompting them to examine the food supply for several seabirds and marine mammals.

Sand lance is one of several types of small schooling forage fishes that are critical to many marine birds and mammals, yet seldom studied by scientists. Their Latin name, *Ammodytes hexapterus*, means "sand digger." And that's exactly what they do. They spend much of their time in the sediments of the intertidal zone.

Sand lance come out of the sand to feed in spring, growing and putting on weight through summer. They spawn in October. Little is known about their lives from when they hatch in December until they

show up in April near shore to feast on the new bloom of plankton.

Scientists do know some things: they apparently need

light to feed. They come out during the morning and return to their bedding areas in the evening.

And they are choosy about their beaches. Sand lance have no swim bladder so they can't just rest in the water column. After feeding they go back into the sand to digest their food. They don't like thick mud, which might clog their gills, but prefer sand and fine gravel.

Aside from these distinctive qualities, sand lance have two very important characteristics: they are a schooling fish, which allows predators to get a lot to eat in one place, and they are rich in energy. After their first year, sand lance are loaded with fatty oil, often several times that of a cod or pollock of the same size. That's a big boost to birds such as pigeon guillemots, which can only bring one fish back to their chicks at a time.



Alaska  
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Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oil spill

Scientists say when birds have ready access to fish with high oil content, they do well. It allows a high proportion of breeding adults to raise young that are healthy and in good condition when they leave the nest.

On the other hand, when seabirds don't have access to high-energy food items, such as sand lance, herring, and capelin, and instead rely on low-fat cod and pollock, they don't do well. The number of birds hatching and surviving to breed decreases, and the population size may decline.

No one knows exactly what happened to sand lance during the oil spill. Since they are not commercially exploited in the North Pacific, there is scant information on their distribution or abundance before the 1989 spill.

However, data on seabird diets in Prince William Sound show that birds there have been eating less sand lance since the 1970s, and since that time, their populations have declined by two thirds.

The pattern is different in Kachemak Bay, where seabirds appear to be thriving. Recently scientists compared current data on sand lance with trawl data from the 1970s and found no apparent decline in sand lance there.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

# Eelgrass beds provide habitat for many creatures

**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.

By JODY SEITZ

The recovery of eelgrass beds following the Exxon Valdez oil spill has helped the recovery of numerous intertidal creatures that depend on the eelgrass for survival.

Eelgrass beds flourish in the still waters of lagoons and backwater bays. Their soft mud and verdant leaves are home to clams, tiny snails, crabs, worms, mussels and plankton. It's a haven for salmon smolt, herring and other tiny fishes and a smorgasbord for waterfowl, river otters and sea otters.

As oil from the Exxon spill settled into Herring Bay, Sleepy Bay and Bay of Isles it affected the grass, clams, crabs, seastars and tiny organisms called amphipods, an important food for fish and birds. Following the oil came cleanup workers in boats, scarring the beds with anchors and, at low tide, mowing the eelgrass with propwash.

Scientists compared unoiled sites with oiled sites

at several locations in Prince William Sound from 1991 to 1995. The first year after the spill, they found less seed production and fewer invertebrates at oiled sites. The oil killed amphipods, larval helmet crabs, sunflower seastars and leather stars.

The way recovery occurred was somewhat of a surprise. According to Stephen Jewett of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a lead investigator of the intertidal studies, Mother Nature basically cleaned itself up. The oil didn't simply evaporate. It was incorporated into the food chain.

"The breakdown of the oil leads to increased microbial activity which in turn leads to an increase of a number of organisms that feed on those microbes and right on up the food chain," said Jewett.

The presence of oil meant the presence of much more carbon. Many bottom dwellers can actually use the carbon from oil as it degrades. There was an explosion of polychaete worms and tiny mussels, a favorite food of diving ducks.

During previous spills, scientists learned that



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hydrocarbon levels up to about 500 parts per billion may actually enhance microbial activity. But hydrocarbon levels in the water column become toxic when they exceed 500 to 1,000 parts per billion. The average level of hydrocarbons in 1990 ranged greatly from 45 to 15,253 parts per billion in the oiled areas, but most were in the range that causes enhancement of bottom dwelling organisms.

"An awful lot of bacterial decomposition of the oil occurred. Most of the toxic fractions were lost within sight of a couple of years," said Jewett. The oil-degrading bacteria was most abundant in 1990 and declined steadily in the following years.

When studies ended in 1995, there were few differences between oiled and unoiled areas. Hydrocarbon levels and the abundance and types of life forms in the eelgrass beds were generally like that of the beds never hit by oil.

However, some larger invertebrates, such as sea stars, have not fully recovered, and the oil-consuming bacteria was still more abundant at oiled sites. This is consistent with observations after the Amoco Cadiz spill off the coast of France, where the bottom environment of the Bay of Morlaix took more than a decade to fully recover.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR  
NOVEMBER 7, 1997



## Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz

# Alutiiq Museum more than just preservation

The two-year-old Alutiiq Museum is reaching back thousands of years and bringing the past home to Kodiak. The museum staff aim not only to educate people, but to salvage and study Alutiiq prehistoric sites before they disappear.

Their first major archaeological project was in the fall of 1995. Archaeologists revisited the well-known Karluk I site to salvage its remaining treasures before they were swept away by the eroding effects of the Karluk River.

Karluk I was special among archaeological sites throughout the world. It was continuously occupied for more than 1,000 years. Many items were preserved that normally do not survive the ravages of time and weather.

By 1995, the site was rapidly eroding. Many rare artifacts were being thrown into a lagoon and deteriorating, rotting in the muck of the Karluk River.

Museum archaeologists did a reconnaissance. "We picked up everything we could find that was lying in the river, said Museum Curator, Amy Steffian, "and then we excavated portions of the site to save the material before the site was ultimately destroyed by winter storms."

During the next two summers the excavation added thousands of pieces to the museum's collection, preserving the best view of late prehistoric Alutiiq culture that there is, according to Steffian.

"There's no other site like this site that we know of yet. We're talking wooden artifacts, in addition to the normal bone and ivory, human hair, fiber and basketry, botanical remains, leaves, bumblebees. You name it, it was preserved in that site," said Steffian.

The museum is also an educational jumping off point for the Dig Afognak program located on southern Afognak Island. People come to the museum, learn about

Alutiiq culture and artifacts, see what's happening in the museum and then go out and participate in the ongoing excavation.

Three doctoral students are currently working on the dig. Last summer, 56 students participated in a "spirit camp" at the site.

"We'd had so many of those school age children in the museum, and they'd seen artifacts and handled them. But to put those kids in a pit with an archaeologist and be the first one to scrape off and touch an ulu in 500 years — that was pretty mind-boggling to some of those youngsters," said Steffian.

The museum also attracts collections on loan. Using a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the museum is working with the Anchorage Museum of History and Art to bring a Smithsonian collection to Kodiak. It consists of many items of Alutiiq clothing, weaponry, masks and other items of traditional culture collected in the late 1800s.

Elders will be involved in creating the displays of the cultural objects. For Rita Stevens, of the Kodiak Area Native Association, that lends poignancy to the show.

"They'll try and remember how it was in their family or passed down traditionally the different things that the artifacts were used for, said Stevens. "I'm just so excited that there will be the input of the native people so it becomes more alive, more real when they're typing out the descriptions of the things that will be on display."

The exhibit, called Looking Both Ways, is scheduled for May 1999.

*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.*

# Treat the Sound like patient it is, and do no more harm

**COMPASS**  
POINTS OF VIEW FROM OUR COMMUNITY

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 \$1 billion fund earmarked for restoration to pay for so-called science. This science, if it's any good, will tell us only the two things we already know: prevent oil spills and protect habitat.

Giving \$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.

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 preventative medicine. 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 mostly Native corporation landowners. Clear-cut 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 end of their range — this is forest mining. These clear-cuts will not recover to be harvestable forests again for many lifetimes.

In its natural state, a place like 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. 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.

Are there any other threats to the region today? On the east side of the

patient is the Copper River Delta ecosystem, every bit as remarkable and threatened as the Sound. The salmon runs of the Copper River are world-renowned, 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 also hosts nearly the entire population of Dusky Canada geese and the largest concentration in North America of nesting trumpeter swans. The east Delta contains the Bering River and its half-billion-ton coal fields. Early this century the region was protected from exploration by the remarkable conservation work of Teddy Roosevelt.

But today, the coal fields below and the forests above are being set up for invasion by Chugach Alaska Corp., a regional Native Corporation that has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in its short career and is just emerging from 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 the Sound, but the timber subcontractor is flying a new Lear jet.)

In the equivalent to a new oil

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*In the equivalent to a new oil spill, Chugach Alaska Corp. 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 Exxon spill.*

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spill, 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 Exxon spill.

Keep the patient healthy. Without having to sell away, Chugach Alaska Corp., certainly can find lucrative ways to create shareholder dividends through conservation of resources. The Trustee Council has over \$100 million in a Restoration Preserve. 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 lands and resources — and the federal government made a clear commitment to set 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 course.

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.

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□ David Grimes is a wilderness guide, musician, and former commercial fishermen who has lived in Cordova for 20 years.

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## **The facts on Chugach Alaska**

The Compass piece by David Grimes of Nov. 3 was full of lies and distorted facts, typical of an extreme environmentalist. Let's review a few facts first:

1. The Chugach Alaska Corp. has not lost hundreds of millions of dollars.

2. The Chugach Alaska Corp. is solvent.

3. The Chugach Alaska Corp. has paid out dividends and other forms of benefits.

4. The contractor logging Patton Bay bought a 1977 Cessna Citation, not a new Lear Jet.

5. Harvesting trees is a sustainable, renewable source.

6. Logged areas can be relogged within one lifetime.

7. All salmon streams are protected by buffer zones; it's federal law.

8. Loggers kill trees, not fish; fishermen kill fish.

9. The Copper River and Bering River draw into the Gulf of Alaska, not Prince William Sound.

10. The Copper River and Bering River were not in the "region" of the oil spill, but 75 and 100 miles east, respectively.

11. Teddy Roosevelt never intended to protect the Upper Bering River coal fields; it was a trust-busting measure against the Guggenheim syndicate.

The Chugach Alaska Corp. chose these re-

mote, isolated lands for one reason, to develop them for their shareholders' future. To help their educational, business and personal needs. To lock up these valuable lands would be insane. As Alaska's share of the salmon market continues to fall, Cordova's future may lie on these high-grade coal and timber lands just as it did on the copper mines for almost 40 years previous. To predict that the 25 miles of access road along the foothills will despoil fish and wildlife habitat to become the equivalent of another oil spill is using scare tactics to its worst. How come nobody has ever complained about the 50 miles of Copper River Highway that cross the delta? Also, to predict the Chugach Alaska Corp. will post losses developing their lands simply to divide its shareholders is a cheap shot indeed.

— David Werner  
Cordova

**ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS**

**B-8 FORUM/LETTERS**

**NOVEMBER 20, 1997**

# The Anchorage Times

Publisher: BILL J. ALLEN

"Believing in Alaskans, putting Alaska first"

Editors: DENNIS FRADLEY, PAUL JENKINS, WILLIAM J. TOBIN

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## Land barons

**G**ENERATIONS FROM now, people discussing the tragic legacy of the Exxon Valdez oil spill won't be talking about lasting effects on populations of fish, birds or wildlife. The resiliency of Mother Nature will assure no measurable long-term impacts on the environment.

But there will remain one shameful blight on Prince William Sound — the massive transfer of land ownership that occurred when agents of government used oil company settlement money to purchase vast tracts of Native-owned real estate.

The story a few decades from now will be similar to the one history tells about the early settlers who used \$24 worth of blankets and trinkets to buy Manhattan from the Brooklyn Indians. The price was considerably cheaper than the hundreds of millions spent to acquire land in Prince William Sound. But in both instances, Indians came out on the losing end of the deal.

In 1991, the state of Alaska, the federal government and the Exxon Corp. agreed to a \$900 million civil restitution settlement for damages caused by the spill. The joint federal-state Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council was established to manage the money being paid in annual installments over a 10-year period.

Over the years, the trustees have authorized spending for a wide range of projects related to the spill recovery. From mopping up oil to disseminating public information, from legal fees to scientific research, and from archeological digs to a Sea Life Center in Seward, numerous endeavors have been financed. But the one spending category that has surpassed all others is "habitat protection," the purchase of private lands owned by Native corporations.

The trustees earmarked about 40 percent of the total fund to buy almost 700,000 acres. Land deals completed so far have made some lawyers and lobbyists very rich and provided certain Native groups with a short-term financial windfall.

But generations from now, when that windfall is long spent, young Natives will wonder what happened to their endowment of land acquired in the hard-fought Alaska Native lands settlement effort. What happened to the promise of self determination, which ownership of the land was to provide?

Now the trustees want congressional permission to invest remaining settlement money to provide an ongoing revenue source after Exxon's debt is paid off. Sen. Frank Murkowski says an investment fund is fine — provided none of its earnings is used to acquire more land. The trustees are balking at that stipulation.

Perhaps this is a good time to disband the trustees and put the University of Alaska in charge of administering the investment fund to advance marine science in Alaska's waters.

That would provide greater lasting benefits than the purchase of more land.

# Cash windfall divides Natives

## \$30,000 checks, election spoils of shareholder uprising

By NATALIE PHILLIPS  
Daily News reporter



Andrew Kahutak has been an Akhiok-Kaguyak board member for 23 years.

Two years after a tiny Native corporation sold a big chunk of its land on Kodiak Island for \$46 million, a shareholder battle broke out that pitted brother against brother and wife against husband about whether to invest the money or hand it out.

After six months of courthouse jousting, the cash-seeking shareholders are declaring victory.

Two weeks ago, each of the 150 Akhiok-Kaguyak Inc. shareholders got checks averaging \$30,000 in the mail. A new board election is scheduled for early December when the dissident shareholders hope to take control of the board and authorize another round of

Please see Back Page, KODIAK



Paula Peterson, Clinda Leger and Irene Coyle are some of the original Akhiok shareholders who want the corporation to disburse money from the purchase of Akhiok-Kaguyak land.

JIM LAVRAKAS :  
Anchorage Daily News

# KODIAK: Board election, \$30,000

Continued from Page A-1

\$30,000 checks.

"The board was making bad investments," said David Eluska, a shareholder who found himself challenging his brother, Ralph Eluska, the president of the corporation. "We thought it was better to give out distributions before they lost all the money in bad investments."

The rumbling started a year ago when a group of shareholders began questioning some of the board's investment decisions and argued that more money from the land sale should be distributed. They circulated a petition demanding an election of new board members.

In response, the corporation's board of directors sued the leaders of the dissident shareholders last May, claiming they were spreading false information.

"I had to sue my sister. She was spearheading the whole thing," said Andrew Kahutak, chairman of the corporation's board. "Basically what it came down to was greed. What they wanted was ridiculous. It would kill our corporation. They just want money. They don't care about the future."

His sister, Irene Coyle, said she would not discuss the matter because of the pending election.

Kahutak said the corporation is worth about \$50 million and its investments are sound. Each shareholder gets \$500 a month from the corporation's operating profits and another \$500 from a corporation trust fund, he said. They have gotten a total of about \$75,000 each, over the past three years, including the initial \$30,000 payout.

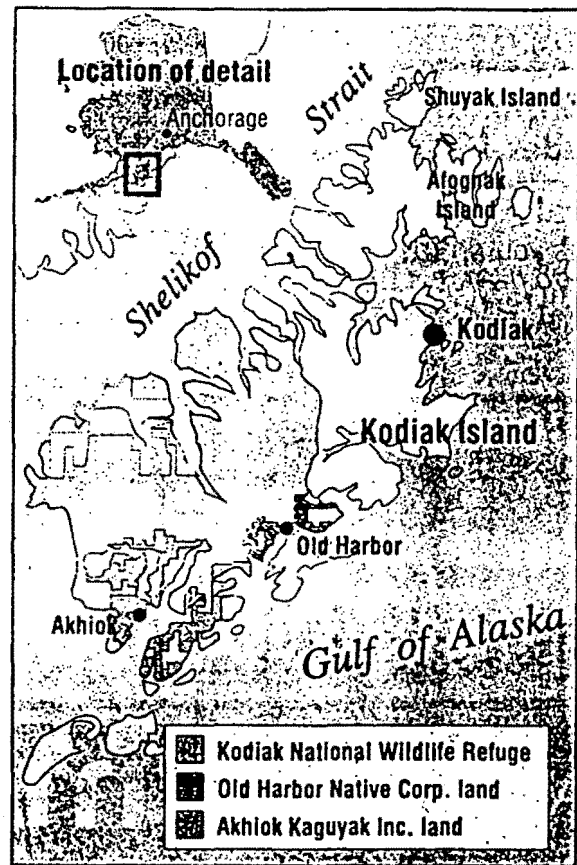
"We don't know how they came to the conclusion that the investments were bad," he said.

This summer the court case file grew to fill four files, each 2 inches thick. In August, the two sides reached an out-of-court agreement calling for, among other things, the December election and the recent cash distribution.

"It was our counteroffer that they took," Kahutak said. "We are back to what we were going to do in the first place if they had left us alone."

This is not the first time Native corporations have been rocked by pay-me-now shareholder revolts.

Under a 1971 federal law that settled Alaska Native homeland claims, Natives became shareholders in 225 different corporations that split \$1 billion and 44 million acres. After a rocky financial start, some of the corporations saw a turnaround when Congress in



RON ENGSTROM / Anchorage Daily News

1986 created a tax loophole for their benefit. Corporations that lost money were allowed to sell "net operating losses" to companies that wanted to offset profits and cut their tax bills.

The revolts began when those windfalls were realized. Starting with shareholders of the Juneau-based Sealaska Corp., the dissident movement has crept up from Southeast, through Anchorage and more recently struck Doyon Ltd. in Fairbanks and the Barrow-based Arctic Slope Regional Corp.

What prompted the Akhiok-Kaguyak dispute was a different windfall, one that could trigger a whole new wave of shareholder revolts.

Akhiok and Kaguyak started out as separate village corporations, then merged in 1979. Like many village corporations, it struggled financially in the early years. Most of the land acquired by the company under the federal law fell within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and was effectively blocked from development.

4. In 1995, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee

# checks left in wake of shareholder uprising

Council offered the corporation \$46 million for title and easement rights to about half of the corporation's land in the refuge.

The Trustee Council has spent more than \$325 million in the past four years buying land and easements along Alaska's Southcentral coast from a half-dozen Native corporations, using money Exxon paid the state and federal governments to settle lawsuits stemming from the 1989 spill. The land was purchased because it provided habitat for many of the fish and wildlife species injured by the spill.

The corporations just now are deciding what to do with their windfalls. When Akhiok-Kaguyak first sold its land, each shareholder got a \$30,000 check and the board had shareholders' approval to set up a permanent trust fund with the leftover money.

About a year ago, some of the shareholders started circulating petitions for a new election because they feared the corporation was wasting money. The corporation had spent \$4.78 million buying a 241-unit apartment complex in New Mexico and another \$6.25 million to become a part-owner in the New York Life Building on Benson Boulevard.

The dissidents also questioned the purchase of a 38-foot pleasure boat, the Luba Marie, and complained the corporation didn't have a program to help shareholders purchase homes. They objected that the board seats had been locked up by the same people for years, and they questioned why board members were paid \$1,500 a month. They complained that the board refused to financially help a shareholder who died because he didn't have the money for needed surgery.

The lawsuit was the first filed in a dispute over how to spend the Exxon money, but the dissidents' attorney, Richard Jameson of Anchorage, said he suspects there will be more.

"There's a tendency for many of the corporations, when they do settlements with the Exxon money, to say 'This is our money and we will keep it in house and preserve it for future generations,' then go out and invest in all sorts of things, some rather risky," Jameson said.

"From what I understand there is a bit of an upswelling in the Native community. They would like to have some fair share distributed now, so they can individually invest in something."

Board chairman Kahutak said everything was fine until the corporation got the Exxon money. "Then all of the sudden, we got all these experts telling us what to do," he said. "All of these outsiders started sticking their noses in."

The corporation's board members argued

that the dissident shareholders were stirring up trouble with misinformation and if they succeeded, the corporation could go broke. The board sought a temporary court order to stop the dissidents.

"The board recognizes that it may not have handled things as well as it could have," the corporation's attorney wrote in its legal request. The corporation believed its decisions were made in the best interest of shareholders, the attorney wrote, but it may not have explained its actions well enough.

State Superior Court Judge Rene Gonzalez denied the request for the temporary order and scheduled an August trial date for the lawsuit. But the two sides reached a settlement before then. Still at issue is whether money for a third \$30,000 payout can be taken out of the trust and distributed to shareholders.

Dissident shareholder David Eluska said he likes the idea of having a trust fund for future generations, but he thinks it comes at the expense of the current shareholders.

"I wanted to see money go to people who are living today," said the 50-year-old Eluska, who is the mayor of Akhiok, a south Kodiak Island community of 100. "Because the way they are going into marriages nowadays, marrying non-Natives, when distributions are made in the future, it will go to all non-Natives."

Eluska said he and his brother Ralph, the corporation president, no longer speak.

"I try to deal with him on a friendly basis, but it seems like he doesn't want anything to do with me," he said.

Ralph Eluska could not be reached for comment.

After 23 years on the board, Kahutak said he is not running for re-election. Kahutak, his wife and seven children are moving from Anchorage back to Akhiok. He expects the dissidents will win enough seats in the December election to take over the board, but he thinks he will be more effective fighting them if he is not on the board.

"I will be in the village where I can talk to the people," said the 48-year-old Kahutak. "I look at it this way. I am not going to be a board member anymore. I will be on the other side and I will be able to talk without holding back."

"It's not hard for me to go back," he said. "I am proud to go down there and I will hold my head up because I know what I did was right. I can look them in the face and said there is nothing to hide."

Kahutak said he and his sister, one of the dissident shareholders, still speak, "but we don't talk politics."

# More land protected along river

## Exxon settlement allows purchase of 188 acres

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH  
Peninsula Clarion

Gov. Tony Knowles recently announced purchase of 188 acres along the Kenai River using settlement money from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

That makes roughly 4,700 acres purchased to date with roughly \$12.2 million in Exxon settlement money to protect habitat along the Kenai and its tributaries.

Meanwhile, the Nature Conservancy of Alaska recently accepted the donation of 40 acres along the Killey River to preserve an important brown bear migration route. The Killey is a tributary to the Kenai.

The vast majority of Kenai River purchases were made by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, using money from the \$900 million civil settlement. But some come from a second pot — \$1.25 million the Legislature appropriated from the state's \$50 million share of the Exxon criminal settlement for Kenai River habitat protection.

The purchases Knowles announced include some of each.

The 146-acre River Ranch parcel east of Sterling was purchased with \$1.65 million from the EVOS trustees. That includes 5,300 feet of Kenai River frontage.

That brings the EVOS total to about 5,009 acres, for which the trustees paid roughly \$11.7 million. The largest EVOS purchases are 1,377 acres bought from the Salamatof Native Association off Funny River Road, 803 acres bought from Kenai Native Association at the outlet to Skilak Lake, and 1,997 acres along the Moose River, also bought from KNA. The Salamatof and KNA purchases became part of the federal Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Meanwhile, the Alaska

A-10 Peninsula Clarion, October 7, 1997

Department of Fish and Game has asked The Conservation Fund, a national land-trust group based in Arlington, Va., to arrange purchases with the \$1.25 million from the Legislature.

Knowles' announcement includes the first two such purchases — the 17-acre Lowe tract at Mile 10 of the Kenai River, and the 22.7-acre Tall Timbers tract at Mile 14.5 on the Kenai River.

The Lowe parcel, bought for \$51,000, is mostly wetlands, and includes 1,500 feet of riverfront. The Tall Timbers parcel, bought for \$450,000, includes 3,600 feet of riverfront.

Brad Meiklejohn, Alaska representative for The Conservation Fund, said two more deals totaling roughly \$350,000 are pending. The fund has several others in mind to use the remainder of the state's \$1.25 million. In total, the money should buy about 200 acres along the Kenai River, he said.

Fish and Game habitat biologist Mark Kuwada said the Tall Timbers and Lowe parcels will remain undeveloped. Whether they're opened for public access or sport fishing depends on a future assessment of what the habitat will withstand, he said.

The future of River Ranch and other small state parcels acquired through the EVOS trustees depends on management agreements between Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources, he said. Those have yet to be written.

Connie Wolfe, planned giving coordinator for the Nature Conservancy in Anchorage, said the 40 acres along the Killey was donated by brothers Frederick and Louis Reeb of Bellevue, Wash. It was part of land homesteaded in 1949 by Louis Reeb. It lies along a major brown bear migration corridor. The area also provides important feeding grounds for brown bears, she said. King, silver and pink salmon spawn in the Killey.

The land is inaccessible, she said, and the Killey there is too shallow for motorboats.

"It will be managed as a natural area," she said. "We aren't going to encourage or discourage recreational use."

The Reeb land is one of just two parcels the Nature Conservancy owns in Alaska. The other is on Lower Talarik Creek by Lake Iliamna.

Because so much land is publicly owned in Alaska, the Nature Conservancy often refers inquiries to groups like the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, said Michelle Brown of the conservancy's Soldotna office. The land trust deals largely in conservation easements and already has two such easements along the Kenai River.

# More land purchased along river

## State buys 27 acres to protect Kenai River

Staff report

Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles has announced purchase of another 27 acres along the Kenai River to protect fish habitat.

The state Department of Fish and Game bought the land, at Mile 17.5 on the river, using some of \$1.25 million the Legislature appropriated to protect Kenai River habitat from its \$50 million share of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The price of the 27 acres, known as the "Grubba" parcel, was \$255,000.

"The sloughs and wetlands of the lower Kenai are vital to salmon," Knowles said. "The Grubba property is outstanding habitat that the state will manage carefully for the benefit of all Alaskans. Thanks to Dolores Grubba, these important wetlands are still intact, and now they will be protected in perpetuity."

The land includes roughly 750 feet of river frontage, grassy wetlands and a slough important to young salmon. Fish and Game will manage the land.

"Our plan to protect habitat is a holistic approach which involves purchasing some parcels and protecting them in perpetuity while will providing responsible recreational access at other sites," Knowles said.

Fish and Game has asked The Conservation Fund, a national land-trust group based in Arlington, Va., to arrange purchases with the \$1.25 million. The first two purchases, the 17-acre Lowe tract at Mile 10 on the river, and the 22.7-acre Tall Timbers tract at Mile 14.5, came earlier this year. Brad Meiklejohn, Alaska representative for The Conservation Fund, said the \$1.25 million should buy about 200 acres in total.

*Bixbey Seeks City Donation Of Land...*

## 50 Acres Sought For Park

**CITY HALL**—A proposal that would add 50 acres of city-owned land to 100 acres of Wayne Blondeau property at the mouth of Mineral Creek for purchase as a state park won the approval of the Planning & Zoning Commission Wednesday night.

Valdez attorney Bill Bixby, a member of the State Park Advisory Board said the donation of 50 acres of waterfront property by the city would "sweeten the pot."

It may be enough, he said, to convince the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to purchase the adjoining 100 acres owned by Blondeau.

The combined parcel, Bixby told the commission, ideally would be operated as a state park.

He described the site as "prime recreation property, ideal as a trailhead for the new Shoup Glacier trail, and a launching point for kayakers."

City planner Dave Dengel described the 50 acres as part

of the "seismic wave run-up area" at the mouth of Mineral Creek and was not included in the city's master plan for an area of development.

Nevertheless, planning commissioner Jerry Saylor had some misgivings about the donation of city property.

"It gives the impression the city is aiding the sale of for the owner, the ultimate benefactor. Are we putting financial gain on one person at city expense?" he asked.

Commission Chairman John Fanin, said he would go along with two conditions attached:

1. That the trailhead for the Shoup Bay trail not traverse any residential areas.
2. That the city's 50 acres not be "locked up" once donated.

In the end, the commission voted 6 to 0 to recommend to the city council that the 50 acres be donated for park purposes.

Bixby's appearance before the council is phase two of his

effort to convince the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council to acquire the property.

On the first go around, according to Bixby, the property was low-rated by the council.

But Bixby believes that community support, in the form of petitions and letters, and the donation of 50 adjoining acres, might convince the trustee council to give the proposal a higher billing.

The trustee council is charged with spending nearly \$1 billion in settlement funds the Exxon Corp. in the wake of the 1989 oil spill. The funds are dedicated to education and restoration projects in the spill-impacted areas.

In a response to Bixby's proposal, Molly McCammon, executive director of the trustee council said, "These kinds of actions would certainly make acquiring the parcel more interesting from the council's perspective."



# Alaska Coastal Currents

By Joe Hunt



## Funds provide access

Kayakers, boaters, hunters, sport fishing enthusiasts, hikers, campers, wildlife viewers and just about anyone who enjoys the outdoors will find new recreational opportunities in the region once smothered by Exxon Valdez oil.

Criminal and civil settlements with Exxon have provided the funds to open previously private land for public use and to build new facilities at many of the more popular parks and recreation areas in the oil spill region.

Through its programs to protect habitat vital for restoration of injured species, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has acquired about 1,000 miles of shoreline and a half million acres of land, including hundreds of miles of salmon streams.

Public ownership means better public access. Outfitters and guides report that kayakers and boaters are discovering the beauty of Eshamy Bay and other bays in western Prince William Sound. Afognak Island State Park was established and Shuyak Island State Park recently tripled in size, increasing recreational opportunities.

An Alaska Marine Park system is emerging in Prince William Sound, offering new facilities for boaters. The Department of Natural Resources is using funds from the state's criminal settlement to build hiking trails, public use cabins, docks, camp sites, informational signs, and boat launches at several locations throughout Prince William Sound, the Kenai Peninsula and the Kodiak Archipelago.

The Kenai River is the economic engine for both the sport fishing and commercial fishing industries on the Kenai Peninsula and protecting habitat along the river is strongly supported by both industries. Altogether, the

Council has either protected or reached agreements to acquire more than 2,500 acres on the river, including several miles of riverbank vital for the successful rearing of sockeye and king salmon.

Private inholdings within Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge are often found at key access points, often areas where birds, bears and fish congregate. The Council has purchased several parcels along estuaries, bays and salmon streams, providing key access for fishing and hunting as well as good anchorages for boating.

Sometimes, small parcels are acquired primarily for recreational purposes. Near Homer, a rare 220-acre parcel along the bluff, known as the Tulin homestead, has been acquired as a possible recreation area. Alaska State Parks is managing the land and, although its final uses haven't been determined, hikers this summer made use of its scenic access to the beach along Kachemak Bay.

The last remaining beach site on Lowell Point near Seward has been saved from possible development and will continue to serve as a fishing beach, launch site for kayaks and intertidal classroom. The site has long been used by teachers, particularly from the Anchorage schools, to provide lessons in marine biology to fifth and sixth graders. The state parks office has plans to develop the site to provide parking, toilets and access to the Caines Head coastal trail.

*Joe Hunt reported on the Exxon Valdez oil spill for The Anchorage Times. He currently serves as communications coordinator for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council, which sponsors this series.*

# Spill funds increase recreational opportunities

**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.

By JOE HUNT

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Eshamy Bay and other bays in western Prince William Sound. A foggy day at Kodiak Island State

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Private inholdings within Kodiak National



Alaska  
Coastal  
Currents

Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oil spill

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*Joe Hunt is communications coordinator for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee's Council.*

# Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



## Heritage finds a home

On Kodiak Island, a cultural renaissance has taken place during recent years, beginning with a significant archaeological discovery 14 years ago and culminating with a state-of-the-art repository and museum built in 1995.

People in Kodiak began dreaming about establishing a repository many years ago as interest in traditional culture grew. Excavation of an ancient site along the Karluk River spurred them to accomplish their dream.

The tiny village of Karluk lies at the mouth of the salmon-rich Karluk River. In 1983, a group of archaeologists led by Rick Knecht and his teacher, Dr. Richard Jordan, began unearthing items unseen for hundreds of years and unknown to modern archaeologists. As several summers went by and the collections grew, research was expanded to include other parts of the island. Interest in traditional culture surged. Alutiiq Museum Curator Amy Steffian said.

"It brought back a tremendous feeling of pride and interest in traditional culture," she said.

Rita Stevens, of the Kodiak Area Native Association, was at a meeting where some of the artifacts from the Karluk dig were revealed publicly for the first time.

"I remember the archaeologists coming to town and having a special meeting up at the senior center," she said. "A lot of the Native people came to that talk and got to actually see these incredible artifacts from the Karluk. It was really an awakening of what a rich artistic and civilized culture we had in the past that we didn't even know about.

"I remember one woman say-

ing, 'gee I thought we were Russian. I didn't know that all this was here.'" said Stevens.

A foundation was established to promote all aspects of Alutiiq culture and history and plans were drawn for a cultural center, which included a climatically controlled home for safe storage of the artifacts.

During the Exxon Valdez oil spill, several archaeological sites were damaged by oil and vandalized by cleanup workers. To offset the harm, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council funded projects to excavate and preserve some sites. In Kodiak, \$1.5 million was dedicated to building a repository as part of the Alutiiq Museum.

The two-year-old museum is located in the heart of Kodiak city, in an area representing more than 7,000 years of heritage. The museum staff host educational events and provide logistical support and professional expertise for archaeological and historical projects.

The collection includes more than 100,000 cultural items - from ancient artifacts to census records, photographs, art, and private collections.

It is unique, even among tribal repositories nationwide, Steffian said. "We're able to take the best of everything and put it together in one facility so that the goals of archaeology and the dreams and wishes of Native American people can be jointly pursued," said Steffian.

*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 museum reaching into the distant past

By Jody Seitz

For The Times

The two-year-old Alutiiq Museum is reaching back thousands of years and bringing the past home to Kodiak. The museum staff aims not only to educate people, but to salvage and study Alutiiq prehistoric sites before they disappear.

The museum's first major archaeological project was in the fall of 1995. Archaeologists revisited the well-known Karluk I site to salvage its remaining treasures before they were swept away by the eroding effects of the Karluk River.

Karluk I was special among archaeological sites throughout the world. It was continuously occupied for more than 1,000 years. Many items were preserved that normally do not survive the ravages of time and weather.

By 1995, the site was rapidly eroding. Many rare artifacts were being thrown into a lagoon and deteriorating, rotting in the muck of the Karluk River.

Museum archaeologists did a reconnaissance. "We picked up everything we could find that was lying in the river," said Museum Curator, Amy Steffian, "and then we excavated portions of the site to save

### Coastal currents

the material before the site was ultimately destroyed by winter storms."

During the next two summers the excavation added thousands of pieces to the museum's collection, preserving the best view of late prehistoric Alutiiq culture that there is, according to Steffian.

"There's no other site like this site that we know of yet. We're talking wooden artifacts, in addition to the normal bone and ivory, human hair, fiber and basketry, botanical remains, leaves, bumblebees. You name it, it was preserved in that site," said Steffian.

The museum is also an educational jumping off point for the Dig Afognak program located on southern Afognak Island. People come to the museum, learn about Alutiiq culture and artifacts, see what's happening in the museum and then go out and participate in the excavation.

Three doctoral students are currently working on the dig. Last summer, 56 students participated in a "spirit camp" at the site.

"We'd had so many of those school age children in the museum, and they'd seen artifacts and handled them. But to put those kids in a pit with an archaeologist and be the first

one to scrape off and touch an ulu in 500 years — that was pretty mind-boggling to some of those youngsters," said Steffian.

The museum also attracts collections on loan. Using a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the museum is working with the Anchorage Museum of History and Art to bring a Smithsonian collection to Kodiak. It consists of many items of Alutiiq clothing, weaponry, masks and other items of traditional culture collected in the late 1800s.

Elders will be involved in creating the displays of the cultural objects. For Rita Stevens, of the Kodiak Area Native Association, that lends poignancy to the show.

"They'll try and remember how it was in their family or passed down traditionally the different things that the artifacts were used for," said Stevens. "I'm just so excited that there will be the input of the Native people so it becomes more alive, more real when they're typing out the descriptions of the things that will be on display."

The exhibit, called "Looking Both Ways," is scheduled for May 1999.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

# Stakeholders' ideas may have hurdles to overcome

by Hal Spence

Staff Writer

A citizens' panel has served up a dozen recommendations for ways to improve future state oil and gas lease-sale practices and boost public confidence in the process by ensuring greater disclosure of the potential impacts on residents of the Cook Inlet basin.

The 11-member Stakeholders Group delivered its report to Natural Resources Commissioner John Shively on Thursday of last week after reaching consensus on the 12 recommendations during a month of hearings and deliberations. Panel members said they expect the recommendations to become policy.

"We understand that these consensus items will be implemented by your department (Alaska Department of Natural Resources)," the panel wrote Shively.

Whether some or all the recommendations will get that far is unclear, because at least some will require legislative action. Earlier this year, Sen. Drue Pearce, R-Anchorage, blocked an effort to fund the stakeholder process itself, calling Gov. Tony Knowles' initiative "unwarranted" and counter to recent legislative efforts to streamline the state leasing policy and protect it from delays.

She said Knowles had "taken a major step backwards" in initiating the stakeholder process. She said it was likely to invite "delays, appeals and litigation" in the course of holding future lease sales.

Pearce was in England this week and unavailable for comment. However, House Speaker Gail Phillips, R-Homer, on Tuesday took issue with the stakeholders' presumption of implementation.

"This causes me a great deal of problems," Phillips said. "The stakeholders group is advisory to the commissioner. The commissioner made it clear he would con-

tions if there was no legal restriction or if it didn't have a funding requirement."

She said two recommendations — that DNR's Division of Oil and Gas consider the aesthetic appeal of permanent structures and their compatibility with surrounding areas where there are no local zoning laws, and a proposal for tax breaks to companies conducting water quality monitoring projects — would require legislative action.

She said DNR has no zoning power and couldn't do anything like require compatibility. As to the tax issue, Phillips said she doesn't know how lawmakers would react.

Shively said this week he would try to implement the recommendations he could.

"My commitment to (the stakeholders) was that we would implement them," he said Monday.

The tax-credit recommendation also was supported by an earlier stakeholders panel — formed in February in the wake of state Lease Sale 85A held in December of last year. Shively said that implementing it would require a change in state law.

According to Shively's aide, Patty Bielawski, the Department of Revenue is working on possible statutory amendments that

would clear the way for such tax credits. That puts the issue squarely in the Legislature's lap.

Budget constraints also could preclude implementing some recommendations.

"We are on reasonably good grounds as far as the recommendations we got," Shively said.

However, some of the public-notice suggestions could be costly, he said.

For instance, the stakeholders recommended DNR adjust its internal budget to accommodate efforts at better and more effective advertising of lease-sale procedures, including raising the current commu-

"notice" of sales and their preliminary hearings to one of "advertising" targeted toward soliciting participation" by the public.

There were recommendations concerning surface entry and private property rights, including a requirement that land owners within a half-mile of a planned lease get notification complete with a list of responsibilities and rights and procedures to follow in asking for reconsideration by the commissioner as well as how to proceed as an aggrieved party.

Stakeholders also suggested that courtesy notices of the exploration and development operational plans which come out of a lease sale be given to adjacent property owners.

Such efforts may require additional funding, Shively said, but probably would be implemented eventually.

One notification issue on which the stakeholders failed to agree concerned announcements by state agencies when petroleum companies actually apply for exploration and development permits, Shively said. Those permit requests typically run through the state's coastal zone management process, which has its own public notification procedure.

"Individual agencies may or many not publicly notice their individual permits," Shively said.

Phillips said she thinks there is merit to the notification recommendations.

"I don't have any problems on the proposals on notification and things like that. I think that is something that is necessary and something that needed to be done," she said.

Other areas where agreement could not be reached included whether specific areas should be removed from the areawide sale, and possible changes in surface entry rules, such as whether certain areas should be off-limits to surface entry.

"Those are things we will have to look at," Shively said.

Another recommendation likely to need legislative approval was a suggestion that the state seek funding for a water-data management project from the Exxon



Rep. Gail Phillips

Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The money would be used to address the health of critical watersheds in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.

Council funding decisions must also get the OK from the Legislature, or at least the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee, Shively said.

The panel also has recommended changes in the way DNR addresses mitigation measures.

Stakeholders also asked that a 60-day comment period for the preliminary best interest finding issued for the Cook Inlet areawide lease sale be extended to 90 days, that Alaska make an effort to encourage local hire, that better maps be made available giving property owners and other residents pertinent information, that the state encourage conservation measures to reduce hydrocarbon emissions and encourage research into alternative energy sources.

Shively praised the stakeholders' efforts and the process, but said it might have been more thorough.

"I think it's been beneficial," he said. "It's always a good idea to see how others view what you are doing. It's an expensive process, and we didn't have the money to do it as fully as we might have."

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# One-time state biologist picked to

## run Alaska SeaLife Center

By JON LITTLE

Daily News Peninsula Bureau

**SOLDOTNA** — The Alaska SeaLife Center has named a recently retired state biologist as interim director to guide the one-of-a-kind facility through its May opening.

The center's board on Wednesday named Kim Sundberg as interim director while it begins a nationwide hunt for a permanent leader.

Sundberg is no stranger to the SeaLife Center. He has

had a hand in its design and budget since late 1993 as a representative of the state Department of Fish and Game.

"It's a real natural for him," said Maureen Sims, a member of the center's management team. "We don't need to bring somebody up to speed. He's already there."

He will replace John B. Hendricks, the center's first executive director, who resigned late last week citing

personal reasons. Hendricks had been on board for a year. He was credited with assembling a staff of experts and leading the \$55 million project through an intense period of construction, which should be essentially complete by Thanksgiving.

Sundberg's role will be to see the facility through its transition from construction to daily operation, Sims said. The center's governing board now will look for a director

who has a strong background not only in budgets and staff management, but also in research.

"The facility is different from any other because of its research and scientific component," Sims said. "Others are more oriented toward public visitation."

The 115,000-square-foot facility on the shore of Resurrection Bay in Seward is the first cold-water marine research center in the Western

Hemisphere, managers say. It will combine rehabilitation with research and visitor education. And it will be home to Steller sea lions, harbor seals and a variety of seabirds.

It is being built with \$37.5 million from settlements related to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Another \$17.5 million in revenue bonds were sold to cover the rest of construction and other costs.

A 20-year biologist with

Fish and Game, Sundberg had recently retired and was tracked down while he and his wife were visiting family in the Pacific Northwest, Sims said. "They were kind enough to adjust their plans for the next six or seven months to come back."

In 1996, Sundberg was recognized by the Seward Association of Marine Science for his commitment to the SeaLife Center.

"During his three-year involvement, he led the scientific and educational work groups that developed the

center's programs and was instrumental in guiding this project through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council process," said Jack Scoby, the SeaLife Center board president.

# SeaLife Center awards indoor exhibitry bid

By Eric Fry  
LOG Staff

It starts with underwater photographers recording kelp in Resurrection Bay and will end with people in puffin costumes popping out of eggs.

As construction begins on the indoor exhibits at the Alaska SeaLife Center, staff members are brainstorming the programs that will make up a big part of the visitors' experience.

They're thinking of hands-on science and art projects, video communications with researchers, microscopes connected to video screens, and puppet shows and skits, such as a baby puffin emerging from an egg.

"It will be almost impossible to walk in and not encounter someone to explain and enhance the experience," said Jim Pfeifferberger, coordinator of the Discovery Program, the education component of the center.

The SeaLife Center recently awarded an \$884,000 bid to Strand Hunt Construction for the indoor exhibits.

The work, which is scheduled for completion in late March, consists mainly of manufacturing and installing tanks with artificial habitats, and graphic panels explaining the exhibits.

Strand Hunt has subcontracted with Visual Images of Portland, Ore., for the graphics, which include photographs and text on a framed backing similar to artwork, said Pete Edmonds, project manager for Strand Hunt, which is also the general contractor for the SeaLife Center's construction.

International Concept Management of Grand Junction, Colo., is making the aquarium-like tanks and their molded and painted fiberglass habitats, Edmonds said. Service Electric of Seward is doing the electrical work.

BIOS: Inc. of Seattle designed the exhibits for \$272,000. Company president Jim Peterson said the series of exhibits with their graphics show Alaska marine environments, provide information on research projects, and explain why the research is needed, "a soft take on resource management."

Panels on Steller sea lions have

**'We're trying to integrate the senses and a sense of play into the learning experience.'**

— Vicki Seigel

photographs of them and text about their weight, height, vocalizations and diving abilities.

But they also includes messages about their endangered condition. "They are big but fragile. In Alaska young Steller sea lions compete with other marine mammals and fishermen for food. ... In 1970 there were 107,000 Stellers here, now there are 20,000."

BIOS staffers read up on the scientific literature, talked to aquarium workers, and photographed under water in Resurrection Bay to learn about the environments the tanks would display, Peterson said.

When visitors enter the SeaLife Center's lobby and go up an escalator to the second floor, which is where the exhibits begin, they'll see photomurals on the walls.

Then visitors will see introductory videos in a stand-up "theater" area. A side gallery will accommodate changing exhibits.

The main gallery will have tanks, some as large as 3,600 gallons, featuring the habitats of pelagic fish like herring, lingcod and flounder; jellyfish; a kelp forest with rockfish, crabs and bottom animals; a "discovery zone" of small animals that can be touched, which overlooks the fish genetics lab; a salmon stream; a series of small tanks showing aspects of the intertidal zone such as barnacles and mussels, anemones and algae, and sea stars; crabs; and octopus and wolf eels.

BIOS has been in business since 1972, designing aquarium and zoo exhibits worldwide. The staff is a mix of biologists, architects and researchers with a science-writing background.

"What we bring to it is our knowledge of what people do in exhibits and what they like to see," Peterson said.

Part of that is to provide a variety of ways of seeing, such as telescopes looking out onto Resurrection Bay, microscopes, and large and small tanks, Peterson said.

The exhibits aren't intended to stand alone as displays, he said.

They require interactions with researchers and staff. "People will find their visits will be only half-passive," Peterson said.

That's where the SeaLife Center's discovery staff comes in. "We're trying to integrate the senses and a sense of play into the learning experience," said discovery program designer Vicki Seigel.

Their goal is to have some kind of program every half hour at various locations for 10-20 minutes, "going into a little more depth about the exhibitry," Pfeifferberger said.

"We'll have hands-on science, too," said Leslie Peart, discovery education director. "We're operating on the philosophy you'll bring your own special talents to the study of science."

Visitors could see updates on research at the center through videos of the scientists, she said, and maybe get real-time information from oceanographic research conducted by the Institute of Marine Science.

Staff members could use mobile cabinets to bring natural objects to the public that they could touch, such as animal skulls and pelts, Pfeifferberger said.

They're working on a "See Life" tour for school groups, in which students will be instructed in natural history and given materials to draw animals.

"We're hoping to really tap the schools," Seigel said. Elementary students could write skits for puppet shows. They're developing a mathematics program related to measurements.

The daily routine of the SeaLife Center is part of what they expect visitors will be interested in. The animals will be fed when the center is open to visitors.

Even the SeaLife Center's construction should attract curiosity. Based on what visitors said during hard-hat construction tours this summer, they're interested in the center's life-support systems and how the artificial habitats were made. Pfeifferberger is making a video about the latter.

## Alaska Week *in Review*

### **Murkowski spill fund spending plan sparks battle**

Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, wants tight controls on how proceeds from future investments of Exxon Valdez oil spill money are spent. His effort has provoked a battle with spill fund trustees.

The trustees last month asked Congress for a change in federal law to allow money from the \$900 million settlement to be invested at higher rates of interest.

That money is now deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest. Trustees are convinced they can get a better deal elsewhere.

While that's fine with Murkowski, he wants to prescribe how the millions of dollars in additional interest will be spent. Under Murkowski's proposal, none of the money could be spent on land acquisitions.

Instead, the trustee council could spend the interest windfall only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry.

Molly McCammon, executive director of the trustee council, is so concerned about Congress horning in on the council's responsibilities that she now wants Murkowski and Congress to back off making any changes in the investment law, even though it could cost \$4 million or more in foregone interest this year.



# Tufted puffins first birds at SeaLife Center

By Eric Fry

LOG Staff

The Alaska SeaLife Center's first birds arrived in Seward in early October.

The seven young tufted puffins are staying at the nearby Institute of Marine Science until they move into the SeaLife Center in January or February.

They aren't available for public viewing yet. "We want to give them a chance to settle in without a lot of fuss," said the SeaLife Center's birds curator Tiffani Thompson in a press release.

Six of the puffins came from the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport, Ore., where puffins were bred with the intention of sending the chicks to the SeaLife Center. The seventh puffin was part of a completed research project in Homer.

The chicks are several months old and nearly fully grown, but they won't have their adult plumage and bright orange bills for about three years, said Steve Rollins, the SeaLife Center's aviculture supervisor. Their sex isn't known because it isn't visible. "You can't tell by looking at a bird as to what sex they are," Thompson said.

When the SeaLife Center is completed, the puffins will be exhibited in the enclosed outdoor bird habitat, where they will live in man-made burrows or ones they make themselves, use man-made nest boxes that they line themselves, and dive in the 105,000-gallon pool for at least part of their food.

They'll eat needle fish, herring, clams, squid, shrimps and possibly krill, plus one fish that has been fortified with vitamins to replace nutrients lost by freezing the other fish, Rollins said.

Besides feeding the birds on land, the SeaLife Center will shoot frozen fish into the water, to simulate the way birds would feed on live fish in the wild. They could have frozen krill served in ice cubes.

An bubble-creating aerator at the bottom of the pool will give them something to play with, Rollins said. "Birds do really love that stuff. Because they're in a captive situation, you try to enrich their environment," he said.

The puffins will have their choice of 46 artificial burrows, from 3 feet to 15 feet in depth, with openings of varying sizes so that horned puffins don't have to compete for space against larger tufted puffins.

One of the main functions of the puffins' bills is to burrow into dirt. The habitat will have dirt areas where they can build their own burrows.

The birds will be given disinfected nesting materials like pine needles and leaves, with which they'll line their



Photo courtesy the Alaska SeaLife Center

Young tufted puffins like this one are hanging out at the Institute of Marine Science before moving into new quarters at the Alaska SeaLife Center this winter.

foot-square nest boxes at the end of the artificial burrows.

The nests won't be directly visible because the least disturbance could cause the puffins to abandon their eggs, Rollins said. But the SeaLife Center might monitor a nest box with a video camera, and the public could see the birds incubating their eggs and feeding their chicks.

Both parents take turns incubating eggs, keeping the chicks warm after birth and feeding them, Rollins said.

By the time the SeaLife Center opens to the public in May 1998, these puffins will be joined by six adults from New York City's Central Park Zoo and eight adult common murrelets from Sea World of Florida, Rollins said. The murrelets will nest on ledges in the habitat.

Besides the 105,000-gallon pool, which is up to 21 1/2 feet deep, the seabird habitat will have about 100,000 cubic feet of space above ground. The covered and netted area is 60 feet long by 60 feet wide by 27 feet high. The public will be able to walk within part of it and be with the birds.

"The nicest part about it is you'll actually be able to hear the birds," Rollins said. Bonded birds slap their bills together to greet each other.

# SeaLife Center gets first puffins

By MELISSA DeVAUGHN  
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE (AP) — The Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward has taken possession of its first permanent residents. Seven baby tufted puffins arrived earlier this month, six from Oregon and one from Homer, and all younger than 2 months.

For now, the birds are staying at the nearby Institute of Marine Science feasting on herring, squid, clams and shrimp, while a team of artists works on an artificial rock ledge to look and feel like the birds' natural habitat.

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mate to the colder temperatures in Seward, Thompson said. The Homer bird is holding its own.

"He is very imprinted by humans and actually follows the handlers around and sits on their laps," Quilliam said.

The center is expecting to receive several mature tufted puffins, and other marine birds before its grand opening in May.

"We're looking at common murre, possibly some horned puffins and possibly some

black oyster catchers," Quilliam said. "Puffins in general will be popular because they're very bright in the summer."

The younger puffins should be settled permanently in their new rock homes in January or February. The only other mammal to be taken in at the center was a week-old injured male dall porpoise that was rescued from Juneau in July. It died less than a week later.

Valdez Star    October 29, 1997    Page 13

## Sea Life Center Takes In First Birds

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## Homer Spit cannot be reserved for birds only

by Bob Cousins

We here at Devilfish Lagoon like birds as much as anyone. In fact, I eat like a bird and a lot of Homeroids say I am bird-brained.

I can't, though, imagine a designation of birdless Spit land becoming a bird sanctuary. Plovers land here in the spring, passing through to northern destinations to peck at the intertidal invertebrates. And yes, a small contingency of spotters arrive with 100-power scopes seeking the rare and wonderful anomaly that on occasion mistakes these mudflats as a fast-food establishment.

Using this vestige of unreality conjures up the idea that groping pseudoenvironmentalists would use Exxon Valdez oil spill money to further restrict enhancement proposals such as our original plan, which was rejected by the eminent planning minds at work in City Hall.

This disservice has been propagandized by this newspaper's editorial bias in keeping the facts from public scrutiny in an attempt to legitimize the further disenfranchisement of even logical enhancement development scenarios such as our original plans (to construct a series of lagoons dribbling into each other, planted with aquatic organisms that would have provided a feed source for a multitude of birds that are now plucking at the heavy-metal dumpsite that your eminent City Council preserved in perpetuity).

If you were truly concerned for our fine-feathered friends, you would have welcomed our original enhancement plans with open arms and you would have done something about the axles and who knows what that protrude from the beach at the satellite dish easy chair TV. Talk about liability at old dump sites!

I have found that reality comes from a distinct sense of honesty and the will to act on it. The lagoon constructed by Herndon and Thompson on their mitigation acres is a prime example of the kinds of enhancement possibilities that exist. This enhancement lagoon has not enjoyed the light of day in your paper. Let us suggest that it is not the birds that you protect, rather the rape and destruction of private enterprise with any handy excuse. In the construction of Devilfish Lagoon, we had no alternative but to design an outright allowed use of our three acres of homestead, or lose our property. Personally, I am having fun preserving Alaska's marine heritage here, and my kids enjoy paddling and swimming in the summer and skating in the winter.

Something is terribly awry with the political unreality that exists here. The Constitution is the most sacred instrument in the history of man. Without constant vigilance protecting others' private property rights and others' freedoms guaranteed by it, you too will be disenfranchised in turn. One would think that the media would attend planning commission meetings and let the public in on the horrendous considerations being bantered about. Your absence betrays the public's right to know.

This last City Council election, though attended by only 25 percent of the eligible voters, assuredly has indicated to your editors that people are able to read between

*Your politicians build \$60,000 swingsets in the boondocks ... all the while diminishing the tax base by using oil spill money for the birds, and not our kids.*

the lines. Your assertion that there is no evidence of anti-development claims is as ludicrous as the sick feeling I get after reading your propaganda. A lie of omission from the media does our whole societal process fatal harm. Our children's blood will assuredly be spilled because of your agenda.

Just look at the breaches of Constitutionally guaranteed rights you have let slide. Complacency in engineering the downfall of our democracy was warned in Benjamin Franklin's statement, "a free press is a free people."

Where were you when the planning department tried to take two 50-foot swaths out of our property two months ago? Who are you protecting and for what end? In a state where the government owns 95 percent of the land and the Sierra Club pumps \$100 million into its environmental defense fund to do things such as file frivolous lawsuits against road accesses and the like, and with a media whose owners already got theirs, there needs desperately to be an effective opposition to heavy-handed pseudoenvironmentalism that is used to disenfranchise the heritage we inherited from Charlemagne and that millions have died for.

We have, in this state, eroded our children's opportunities to the state of abject poverty. This can be felt most

succinctly here in Homer. Halibut and black cod IFQs have been selectively handed to the good ol' boys. It is no coincidence that Tyson is from Arkansas. Nor is it a coincidence that campaign money is traced to communist China.

Here in Homer I read many bumper stickers expounding to think globally and act locally. Well, here it is. The right of free travel has been extirpated by the Permanent Fund. Freedom of speech has been abrogated as the Homer News would not print my last letter to the editor. Private property rights are nonexistent anymore, as your view takes precedence over my right to do as I please on my own property. Also, you unanimously grant the marine commercial use to marine industrially designated parce that you lease out, while expounding through your puppets that if uses are allowed in one zone, they cannot be allowed in another. How ridiculous. Have you ever pondered a variance? You yourself have dedicated marine industrial property for open-space recreational use.

Your excuses hold no water in the real world of feeding and nurturing children to become responsible adults. Your crooked kids' programs are quite obviously aimed at teaching kids the art of cheating to win. Your jealous zealot politicians have eradicated a Boys and Girls Club opportunity for the Homer Intermediate School gym.

It makes me sick to think I was so naive as to think there was support for a community center where all the kids' programs could grow and prosper. Instead we have built more bureaucracy and expanded the waste of public resources as the wood-floored Homer Intermediate School gym sits dark and idle. Your politicians build \$60,000 swingsets in the boondocks ... all the while diminishing the tax base by using oil spill money for the birds, and not our kids.

Many more Constitutional guarantees have been abrogated, but, writing this down has made me sick, and you idiots don't really deserve the rest of my day. Homer is for the birds.

P.S. The freedom of speech thing continues. I spoke to the City Council once about the Bolt cover-up. Since then, when I report stolen items, no police come to investigate as I've lost my generator and a crab block, and it took two months to get a truck hauled from the right-of-way in front of our lagoon.

*Bob Cousins owns property on the Homer Spit which he calls Devilfish Lagoon.*

## Farmers to meet

The setting of the annual gathering of aquatic farmers from across the state in Seward this year is symbolic of the importance to the industry of the recently completed shellfish hatchery. The highlight of the meeting will be tours of the facility, which is one of the most modern shellfish hatcheries in the United States.

I recently visited Taylor United in Shelton, Wash., the country's largest bivalve farm, and was struck by how its hatchery paled in comparison to the facility in Seward. The Alaska hatchery surely is capable of producing seed shellfish to stock the kind of crops that will allow our farms to grow and prosper like our counterparts in Washington and British Columbia.

What makes the facility even more important to our developing industry is the research and development component, which will allow farmers to work independently on projects in pre-production phases. The Mariculture Technical Center will operate separately from the hatchery, but it is completely dependent upon the utilities, water flow and physical plant operations of the adjoining commercial operation.

Our delight will naturally be tempered by the fact that the completed facility still lacks an operator. After watching the state and Qutekcak Shellfish Hatchery negotiate for what seems like years over a contract to lease the hatchery, we are anxious to get the issue settled and the hatchery up and running.

Expansion of our industry hinges upon development of new commercial crops of shellfish beyond our high-quality oysters we produce with great labor and expense. Less labor- and capital-intensive species such as littleneck clams, purple-hinged rock scallops and geoduck clams will provide us with high-value products to sell to eager markets. Many of us have invested in the infrastructure and gained the knowledge necessary to make these new operations a reality. All we need is commercial sources of seed.

The potential of the new hatchery is great. Let's not let that promise become as empty as the new building.

On behalf of the industry, I'd like to extend an invitation to you and other local officials to attend the annual meeting of the Alaskan Shellfish Growers Association on Nov. 7-8.

Rodger Painter  
Vice-president  
Alaskan Shellfish Growers  
Association  
Juneau

# METRO

FRIDAY, October 24, 1997 ★

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

SECTION B

## Panel drops Native land-claim rider

### Budget bill moves minus Lake Clark provision

By STEVE RINEHART  
Daily News reporter

A U.S. House-Senate conference committee has dropped a legislative rider from the Interior Department budget bill that would have bolstered Native corporations' claims to 30,000 acres of Cook Inlet coastline now managed as part of Lake Clark National Park.

The budget bill, which moved out of the committee Wednesday, holds money for several park projects in Alaska. Few details were available Thursday, but according to the National Park Service, the bill includes \$4.2 million to buy the historic Kennecott Mine in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park near McCarthy and a \$2.2 million pass-through grant to help build an Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

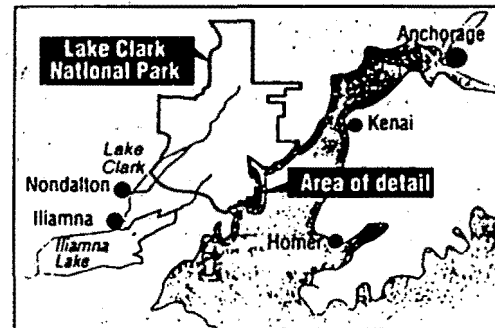
The Lake Clark land provision had been offered by Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska. He said he did so to resolve a 20-year-old Native land claim that has resulted in a dispute between the Interior Department and Cook Inlet Region Inc., along with several of its member villages.

Under Stevens' provision, if the dispute went to court, the case would start from scratch and the key disputed land agreement "shall be construed as an agreement for the benefit of Alaska Natives" in accord with federal trust responsibilities to American Indians.

CIRI had hailed the move, but it alarmed federal land managers and conservation groups. They said it could lead to the improper transfer of about 30,000 acres of Cook Inlet coastline — now managed as part of the national park — to private ownership.

The land at issue comprises most of the accessible public land along the Inlet's wild west coast south from Tuxedni Bay to Chinitna Bay.

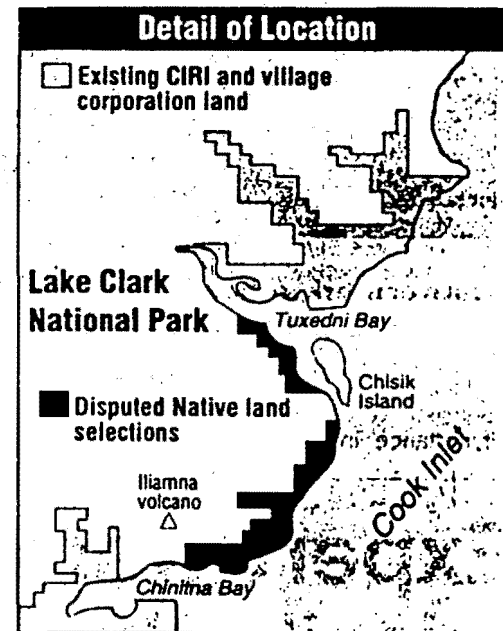
The budget bill as it now stands will not settle the land claim, but will set the stage for a resolution in or out of court. According to the Interior Department, it will grant CIRI and its villages an additional year in which to file a lawsuit over the land. It says that if the case goes to court, "any party may introduce any relevant evidence."



CIRI President Carl Marrs said Thursday he is glad to see that language. "There is substantial information, volumes of it fact, from the villages," he said, which supports their claims to the land. CIRI's role is to obtain the land and then immediately reconvey it to the village corporations.

Marrs said that if the Interior Department won't transfer the land, the villages are prepared to go to court.

Please see Page B-3, LAND RIDER



RON ENGSTROM / Anchorage Daily News

## **SALES:** Panel offers suggestions for oil, gas leases

Continued from Page B-1

tion, since the best interest finding covers 5.3 million acres where 60 percent of the state's population lives," said Stacey Marz, Cook Inlet issues coordinator for Trustees for Alaska, an environmental law firm that had one representative on the panel.

While the state does plan on issuing findings for most of the Cook Inlet basin, only about half the area it studies, 2.5 million acres, will be up for lease. The rest of the mineral rights are already leased, are within state parks or are in the hands of the federal government, Native corporations or the state's Mental Health Trust.

Confusion over just what is and isn't up for sale was one of the points the panel sought to clear up. It suggested detailed maps that will let the public know not only what's for sale but also nearby critical habitat areas, refuges and whether those areas have drilling restrictions.

The panel was assembled by Gov. Tony Knowles to represent a diverse group of interests, among them environmentalists, the oil industry, Native villages, private property owners, commercial fishermen and tourism-based businesses. Like a jury, these stakeholders had to agree on each point. They were led by former Department of Envi-

ronmental Conservation Commissioner Gene Burden.

Their recommendations will guide the state's approach to Oil and Gas Lease Sale 85, a new breed of lease sale that covers a huge region, from Houston to Anchor Point, and will be reoffered each summer for 10 years. The shift away from smaller sales was made possible by a law enacted last year by the Legislature.

The panel agreed that the waters of Southcentral Alaska are so critical to the region's health and economy that the state should immediately find a way to compile the vast existing watershed data — information from oil companies, water well logs and past stud-

ies by the state, federal government and others.

It urged the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to consider funding the project.

The idea makes sense to Department of Natural Resources Commissioner John Shively, who said he's been looking into it since the first panel meetings last winter.

"What impressed me during the first stakeholders meeting was how much data there is," Shively said. "It just sits there; nobody uses it."

The panel failed to reach consensus on a lot of points, Shively said, but some of those may still find their way into state policy.

Lease Sale 85 is scheduled for April 1999.

# Court Challenge Halts EVOS Land Sale

KENAI (AP)—A land purchase on the Kenai Peninsula approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has been blocked, for now at least, by a court challenge.

Kenai Native Association shareholder James Showalter contends the group is trying to sell land to the trustee council that it is holding in trust for him.

"We're not attacking the deal. We're just trying to get Jim his land," Tucker Thompson, Showalter's attorney, said. "We're just trying to make sure KNA doesn't sell something Jim owns."

The deal would transfer 3,254 acres in KNA land selections to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, pay the association \$4.4 million from the Exxon trustees, give

it five acres the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service owns in Old Town Kenai and lift restrictions blocking development from 15,500 acres of KNA land.

The deal, portions of which Congress and the Clinton administration approved last year, also would protect 37,000 acres of federal land adjacent to Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge for fish and

wildlife habitat.

About two-thirds of KNA shareholders approved the deal in an advisory election last spring, and the association's board added its endorsement in March. But now, Showalter said some of the land is his.

under the 1906 Native Allotment Act. In 1976, when KNA made its land selections due under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, it filed on top of Showalter's claim.

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On Nov. 11, 1971, Showalter filed for about 60 acres at the mouth of Stephanka Creek under the 1906 Native Allotment Act. In 1976, when KNA made

its land selections due under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, it filed on top of Showalter's claim.

"KNA felt it had to clear the interests of individual allotment claims," Thompson said. "There were several. James wasn't the only one."

Thompson thinks the others sold their land rights to KNA. But Showalter wouldn't sell until KNA agreed to hold 11 acres of family land in trust for him. That property includes a cabin that's been in Showalter's family since the 1930s, Thompson said. Showalter relinquished his allotment claim in December 1977.

Thompson said he can find no signed agreement, but he has a hand-drawn map from KNA's files showing the area KNA was to hold for Showalter.

"There have been written acknowledgements by KNA," he said. "There may be discrepancies as to the terms of the deal, but there's no question that there was a deal."

Bruce Gagnon, an attorney representing KNA, said the corporation thinks it has no obligation to transfer the land to Showalter. There's no written agreement, he said.

KNA plans to file for summary judgment, Gagnon said.



## EVOS land purchase gets stalled by lawsuit

KNA shareholder says some of the land is his

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH  
Peninsula Clarion

One of the biggest land purchases approved by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is now stalled by a challenge in Kenai Superior Court.

The deal would transfer 3,254 acres in KNA land selections to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, pay Kenai Natives Association Inc. \$4.4 million from the Exxon trustees, give it five acres the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns in Old Town Kenai, and lift restrictions blocking development from 15,500 acres of KNA land.

The act approved by Congress also would protect 37,000 acres for federal land adjacent to Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge for fish and wildlife habitat.

But the whole deal is on hold, pending resolution of the lawsuit KNA shareholder James Showalter

filed shortly after the KNA board approved the deal last spring. Showalter claims KNA is trying to sell land it agreed to hold in trust for him.

"We're not attacking the deal. We're just trying to get Jim his land," said Tucker Thompson, Showalter's attorney. "We're just trying to make sure KNA doesn't sell something Jim owns."

Fish and Wildlife, which manages the refuge, is standing clear.

"We don't want anybody to not get what they're entitled to," said Steve Shuck, a Fish and Wildlife realty specialist. "We'd like to make a deal with KNA, too."

Shuck said the land purchase is at appraised market value, and if Showalter prevails, Fish and Wildlife may have to renegotiate the deal with KNA. He wasn't sure if revisions would require approval from Congress and the president.

See KNA, page A-5

## Shareholder's claim blocks KNA land sale

The Associated Press

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★ Friday, October 24, 1997 B-3

## STATE NEWS

### State buys Kenai River property

Gov. Tony Knowles on Thursday announced the acquisition of a 27-acre parcel of land on the Kenai River known as the Grubba property. The state Division of Habitat and Restoration recently closed on the Grubba property, located at mile 17.5 on the Kenai River. Acquisition of the tract, which includes approximately 750 feet of river frontage, grassy wetlands and a slough important to rearing salmon, is intended to offset increasing development that threatens the Kenai's salmon runs. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will manage the property to protect its riparian habitat. "Our plan to protect habitat is a holistic approach, which involves purchasing some parcels and protecting them in perpetuity while still providing responsible recreational access at other sites," Knowles said. The land was purchased for \$255,000 with Exxon Valdez oil spill criminal settlement funds dedicated specifically for the protection of Kenai River habitat. The Grubba parcel is one of three properties acquired so far by Fish and Game with assistance from The Conservation Fund, a national land trust.

# SeaLife Center's first residents arrive

By MELISSA DeVAUGHN  
The Associated Press

The Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward has taken possession of its first permanent residents. Seven baby tufted puffins arrived earlier this month, six from Oregon and one from Homer, and all younger than 2 months.

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woman Corinna Quilliam. "The company painted on sea stars and mussels and barnacles where the water line is. ... It looks very realistic."

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need to acclimate to the colder temperatures in Seward, Thompson said. The Homer bird is holding its own.

"He is very imprinted by humans and actually follows the handlers around and sits on their laps," Quilliam said.

The center is expecting to receive several mature tufted puffins and other marine birds before its grand opening in May.

"We're looking at common murrelets, possibly some horned puffins and possibly some black oyster catchers," Quilliam said. "Puffins in general will be popular because they're very bright in the summer."

The younger puffins should be settled permanently in their new rock homes in January or February.

## Excavation leads to a new home for Kodiak's heritage

**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.

By JODY SEITZ

On Kodiak Island, a cultural renaissance has taken place during recent years, beginning with a significant archaeological discovery 14 years ago and culminating with a state-of-the-art repository and museum built in 1995.

People in Kodiak began dreaming about establishing a repository many years ago as interest in traditional culture grew. Excavation of an ancient site along the Karluk River spurred them to accomplish their dream.

The tiny village of Karluk lies at the mouth of the salmon-rich Karluk River. In 1983, a group of archaeologists led by Rick Knecht and his teacher, Dr. Richard Jordan, began unearthing items unseen for hundreds of years and unknown to modern archaeologists. As several summers went by and the collections

grew, research was expanded to include other parts of the island. Interest in traditional culture surged, according to

Alutiiq Museum Curator Amy Steffian.

"It brought back a tremendous feeling of pride and interest in traditional culture," she said.

Rita Stevens, of the Kodiak Area Native Association, was at a meeting where some of the artifacts from the Karluk dig were revealed publicly for the first time.

"I remember the archaeologists coming to town and having a special meeting up at the senior center," she said. "A lot of the Native people came to that talk and got to actually see these incredible artifacts from the Karluk. It was really an awakening of what a rich artistic and civilized culture we had in the past that we didn't even know about."

"I remember one woman saying, 'gee I thought we were Russian. I didn't know that all this was here,'" said Stevens.



Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oil spill

Alaska  
Coastal  
Currents

A foundation was established to promote all aspects of Alutiiq culture and history, and plans were drawn for a cultural center, which included a climatically controlled home for safe storage of the artifacts.

During the Exxon Valdez oil spill, several archaeological sites were damaged by oil and vandalized by cleanup workers. To offset the harm, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council funded projects to excavate and preserve some sites. In Kodiak, \$1.5 million was dedicated to building a repository as part of the Alutiiq Museum.

The 2-year-old museum is located in the heart of Kodiak City, in an area representing more than 7,000 years of heritage. The museum staff host educational events and provide logistical support and professional expertise for archaeological and historical projects.

It is unique even among tribal repositories nationwide, according to Steffian. "We're able to take the best of everything and put it together in one facility so that the goals of archaeology and the dreams and wishes of Native American people can be jointly pursued," she said.

*Jody Seitz lives in Cordova and also produces the Alaska Coastal Currents radio program.*

# Contaminants found in orcas mirror their diets

By JODY SEITZ

Alaska Coastal Currents

Killer whales feeding on marine mammals have accumulated high levels of contaminants in their blubber when compared to fish-eating whales.

Craig Matkin of the North Gulf Oceanic Society has been studying killer whales in Prince William Sound since 1983. Through population monitoring and genetic research he has helped identify two kinds of killer whales that use the sound: residents, which typically eat fish, and transients, which prefer to prey on marine mammals. The resident whales have very tight family groups — the young never leave their mother — but the mammal-eating transient whales spend less time in the sound and have looser social groups, which are not well understood.

Recently Matkin had blubber samples analyzed and concluded that the resident whales are genetically distinct from transient whales. Both types of orca have several identifiable subpopulations. The well-studied AT1 transient group in Prince William Sound, for example, turned out to be genetically unique from other transient groups.

Researchers also found that resident and transient whales differ in the amounts and types of pollutants accumulating in their blubber. Matkin said they didn't expect to find hydrocar-



Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oil spill

bons from the Exxon Valdez oil spill and they didn't.

"What we expected to see, and what we did find are pesticides, DDT derivatives, PCBs, hexachlorobenzene — materials that have traveled across the ocean from other areas where they're used for agriculture and other purposes," said Matkin.

Contaminants are passed along the food chain as predators consume contaminated prey. The fish-eating whales tended to have lower levels of contaminants in their blubber. This makes sense, said Matkin, because they are eating lower on the food chain.

"The resident whales eat fish, and their contaminant levels are much lower than the transient whales that eat Dall's porpoises and seals," he said. "Their contaminant levels are over ten times higher than the fish eaters."

The contaminants accumulate in the fat of animals that eat anything having the pesticide on it or in it.

Young whales also had higher levels of contaminants. Mothers basically download the contaminants in their bodies to their offspring through their milk during nursing.

The mother whales had virtually no contaminants while their calves had much higher levels. The bulk of the contaminants in the mother's blubber was passed to the first born calf. The oldest calf always had the highest level of contaminants of all the siblings.

Dangers posed by the contaminants are not known at this time. But the discovery has heightened concern for a transient pod called AT1. Researchers have been monitoring the pod since the mid 80's. After the oil spill, the pod lost half of its 22 members. It has not had a new calf since before the spill.

Matkin believes AT1 is in decline. Should the pod fail to survive, its unique genetic makeup would also disappear. Genetic variability among populations is considered beneficial to the species and the loss of AT1 would be seen as a serious loss to the killer whale population.

*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.*

# SeaLife Center adds more staff

By Roger Kane

## LOG Staff

Susan Inglis, the research laboratory manager and co-coordinator of the rehabilitation program at the Alaska SeaLife Center, said her positions "are like an umbrella that encompasses all the different areas — birds, fish and marine mammals."

Inglis was previously employed by the Institute of Marine Science here, where she worked in the fish energetics lab.

As manager of the rehabilitation program, she'll be working closely with an animal health care manager and a veterinarian.

She also hopes "to work with the people of Seward. We're going to need a lot of volunteers."

She'll also be managing the research labs.

She is unsure which research projects will get under way first. She said proposals are still coming in. A list of research projects will be released in November.



**Susan Inglis**

Prior to beginning research, each of the researchers will be doing a video presentation related to their research proposals, which will give the public a good idea of what they're trying to accomplish.



**Corinna Quilliam**

Inglis said the SeaLife Center is closely associated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and that graduate students from all over will conduct research at the facility. "We're looking at maybe starting out with seven good students," she said.

She is certain that part of the pink salmon genome project will create a run of pink salmon at the SeaLife Center.

Humpys that have imprinted on the facility will be released and a run of about 200 fish will be established for a multi-generational study.

The returning salmon will become part of the exhibits as well and will have a fish ladder to enter the facility.

The fish genetics projects will be administered by the state Department of Fish and Game.

Although many projects will be at least in part funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill restoration fund, not all projects will be related to EVOS.

"Anyone who can fund their research projects and work in conjunction with the SeaLife Center,"

may be allowed to use the facility, Inglis said.

She said one of the SeaLife Center's missions is to provide a facility to do the research at a reasonable cost.

She'll also work as a facilitator between researchers and the facility, coordinating equipment use and the release of research information through the public relations coordinator, Corinna Quilliam.

Quilliam worked for Kenai Fjords Tours for the past three years. She graduated from Washington State University this year with a bachelor's degree in communication and public relations.

She will be the liaison between the city and the facility, and will be responsible for coordinating media coverage.

"And I'll probably be the closest one, out of the business center, to the animal portion — so that I can be informed and inform the public," she said.

She is also planning the grand opening, which will be May 1.

"We'll be starting to get all the animals early next year, in January and February. We have sea lions waiting in Vancouver, British Columbia. And we have harbor seals waiting for us at several locations on



**Steve Rollins**

the West Coast," Quilliam said.

Aviculture Supervisor Steve Rollins said tufted puffins and common murrelets will be at the grand opening in May, and other species will arrive when the exhibits are ready to accommodate them.

Rollins has worked with penguins and puffins for the last three years at Sea World of Florida.

His primary focus will be the bird exhibit. But he's also interested in marine mammals and fish, and said he's happy to be cross-training to work with those other animals.

"Most of the things I do will be bird-related, but anytime they need it, I'll be there to help" with the other exhibits.

Rollins said the SeaLife Center's staff is being cross-trained "in case someone needs help, or a spot needs to be filled."

The philosophy behind the cross-training "is that anyone could fill in and do another person's shift if necessary," he said.

"And we'll all be going through some sort of rotational shift with the diving. The diving part's simple. Basically the same in all the tanks. Although the birds will make a little more nitrogenous waste for us," he said.

"This facility is a lot different than other facilities doing the same things. It's a non-profit organization devoted to the research, rehabilitation and public education. The primary concern here is not to make money. And in all areas, I've noticed they're making the effort to be as animal-friendly as possible," Rollins

said.

The SeaLife Center's aquarium supervisor, Richard Hocking, said he'll be working mostly with fish and invertebrates, but that he'll be assisting his co-workers in other departments, "to whatever degree they think is appropriate."

Hocking came to Seward from Tacoma, where he worked as a staff biologist specializing in fish at the Point Defiance Zoo.

One of the things Hocking is working on is a recirculating system to provide the aquatics tanks with clean, clear water.

He said water for the tanks will come from Resurrection Bay and will be circulated through the system. The water will be filtered to remove glacial deposits and animal waste and will be recirculated.

As anyone who's ever had a fish tank will tell you, keeping the tank clean is important. Hocking said bacteria will be introduced to the tanks as part of the system's bio-filtration loop and will feed on the waste in the tanks. The bacteria are natural denizens of sand and gravel.



**Richard Hocking**

**ALASKA JOURNAL OF COMMERCE 10/20/97**

The Alaska SeaLife Center has hired three new employees. Angie Colón as sales manager; Judy King as project coordinator; and Corinna Quilliam as public relations coordinator.

**PENINSULA CLARION 10/16/97**

## **SeaLife Center expands staff**

The Alaska SeaLife Center has hired Susan Inglis as research laboratory manager. Inglis previously worked six months on fish energetics at the University of Alaska Institute of Marine Science and was formerly a senior fisheries biologist with the Fisheries Research Section of the British Columbia government.

Richard Hocking will be the center's aquarium supervisor. He has been a staff biologist with the Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, Wash., and has worked for the Seattle Aquarium.

Steve Rollins will be the center's aviculture supervisor. For the last three years, he's worked with Sea World of Florida on puffin and penguin exhibits.



## State plans Lowell Point improvements

By Eric Fry

LOG Staff

The state Parks Division may install a parking lot, toilets and paths at a 19.4-acre site at the southern tip of Lowell Point near the Caines Head trailhead and a popular sandy beach.

Oil spill money paid for the land and the proposed improvements. Trustees of the Exxon Valdez oil spill civil settlement, and the state, using funds from Exxon's criminal restitution, bought the property this spring from Jim McCracken for \$626,000.

The Parks Division has about \$210,000 from the criminal restitution to develop the site, said district ranger Jack Sinclair at a meeting in Seward Oct. 8.

The design could be complete by the end of October, and construction could begin in the spring, he said.

The site includes hilly ground well-covered with mature spruce, rye grass near the beach, and one of the few sandy beaches on Resurrection Bay, Sinclair said. The trail to Caines Head State Recreation Area goes past it.

Based on public comment, state parks is looking at one or two parking lots, a vaulted toilet at each lot, and a path from the trailhead parking lot

through the beach grass. State parks has pretty much decided against fire pits and picnic tables, Sinclair said.

Some nearby residents are concerned about fires, he said. In the spring, the tall grass is dry, and a beach fire could spread rapidly.

Nearby residents also are concerned about an increase in traffic that the developed site could bring. On the other hand, the site's parking lots could regularize parking. People visiting the beach now park along both sides of the narrow road.

The trailhead parking lot, with about 24 spaces, would be in an area already cleared in the midst of the spruce forest. The state is considering another parking lot closer to the beach on land that already contains fill.

The state hopes that a path from the parking lots to the beach will keep people from trampling the rye grass.

Another issue is a right-of-way leading to the beach that is used to launch boats. Some nearby landowners want it vacated, Sinclair said. State parks wouldn't oppose them, he said.

But Carol Chaudiere, a citizen speaking at the public meeting, said homeowners knew the right-of-way was there when they bought their property and it's not appropriate for them to try to take it away.

## Chugach awarded lease for historic depot

By Eric Fry

LOG Staff

The City Council on Monday awarded Chugach Alaska Corp. a lease and option to buy the historic railroad depot downtown.

Chugach intends to renovate the depot and create a Native cultural center, to open May 1998, timed to coincide with the expected opening of the nearby Alaska SeaLife Center.

The council's decision puts an end to prolonged negotiations and a dispute between Chugach, the regional Native corporation, and Qutekcak Native Tribe of Seward over the latter's participation in the project.

"We will have substantial participation," said Qutekcak administrator Edgar Blatchford. He's also a City Councilman and declared a conflict of interest and didn't vote on the council's resolution.

Chugach president Michael Brown said Qutekcak would participate with employment, opportunities to buy into the project down the road, and other cooperation with Chugach on other projects.

The city's goals were to keep the depot, built in 1917, on the National Register of Historic Places, and to have a Native cultural center. The contract requires that Chugach invest at least \$500,000. Brown said they are ready to begin construction right away.

The lease is for 20 years with an optional 20-year extension. Rent would be \$22,000 a year to start, which is 8 percent of its appraised value of \$275,000.

The appraisal, by MacSwain Associates of Anchorage, included 16,538 square feet of land and the building of 2,472 square feet with an unfinished basement of 576 square feet.

But Chugach's rent would be waived in the first five years if it has the facility substantially complete and open by May 1, 1998; if the depot is renovated and construction is complete by Sept. 30, 1998; and if it has made \$500,000 in capital improvements by Sept. 30, 1998.

The rent would be adjusted every five years, after an appraisal, but the appraised value wouldn't include improvements made by Chugach. Councilman Stu Clark

inserted a clause that the rent wouldn't be less than in the previous five-year period.

Chugach also has the option to buy the depot for \$275,000 through Sept. 30, 2002, if it has met all of the requirements listed for the rent waiver, and if it will keep the depot on the historic register and use the depot only for purposes listed in the lease.

Permitted uses are: retail space, museum, community theater, public-use building, meeting rooms, conference center, visitor center, art gallery, cultural and heritage center, and other uses consistent with the building's historical character as a railroad depot, and compatible with adjacent Hoben Park.

The depot would revert to the city if it isn't kept on the historic register or if it is used contrary to the lease provisions.

Chugach, in responding to the city's request for proposals for the depot, said it would offer exhibits, documentary films, archeological displays, demonstrations by storytellers and dancers, and working studios in which artists and apprentices would carve, make masks and build boats.

# Spill-fund spending plan ignites fight

By DAVID WHITNEY

Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Frank Murkowski wants tight controls on how proceeds from future investments of Exxon Valdez oil spill money are spent.

His effort has provoked a battle with trustees seeking permission from Congress to invest spill money at higher rates of interest but still maintain control over how they're spent.

The federal and state trustees appealed to the Alaska congressional delegation last month for a change

in federal law to allow the money to be invested at a higher interest rate. While that's fine with Murkowski, he wants to prescribe how the millions of dollars in additional interest will be spent.

Under Murkowski's proposal, none of the money could be spent on land acquisitions.

stead, the trustee council could d the interest windfall only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry. And any enhanced investment authority would automatically expire in 2002 unless a congressionally approved board is set up to take over management of the settlement funds from the six state and federal spill trustees.

Molly McCammon, executive director of the trustee council, is so concerned about Congress horning in on the council's responsibilities that she wants Murkowski and Congress to back off making any changes in the investment law now, even though it could cost \$4 million or more in foregone interest this year.

"If they're going to put additional provisions on it, we'd rather withdraw the proposal," McCammon said.

But with a House-Senate conference committee poised to begin work on a 1998 spending bill to

h Murkowski's proposal is likely to be attached, Murkowski's provision may be difficult to stop. Aides to Sen. Ted Stevens, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he's deferring to Murkowski, who is chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Re-

Exxon Corp. still has about \$280 million left to pay under terms of the \$900 million settlement of state and federal civil claims arising out of the 11 million gallon Exxon

Valdez disaster nearly nine years ago.

That money now is deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest. In compensation for its costs, the court gets about 10 percent of the interest proceeds, effectively reducing the trustees' return to about 4.5 percent.

Oil spill trustees are convinced they can get a better deal on the open markets if Congress would lift the requirement for the money to be invested with the court system.

McCammon said the larger concern is over the council's efforts to set aside roughly \$108 million of the settlement proceeds in a kind

of permanent endowment. Interest from that account would finance a wide range of projects as needs are identified over the coming decades.

McCammon said that by investing the endowment funds at higher rates, interest proceeds would increase from as little as \$1.5 million or so annually to \$6 million or more a year.

While the council does not foresee the need for any of that to be spent on land acquisitions, McCammon said those are decisions for the council to make, not Congress.

"This prejudices the end result of the public process," McCammon said. "I'm concerned about Congress making a public judgment about how the money should be spent."

But Chuck Kleeschulte, Murkowski's press aide, insisted the senator isn't trying to tie the council's hands.

"We're expanding their ability to use the interest money to do more research and other types of marine projects," Kleeschulte said. "The only restriction is that it can't be used for additional land acquisitions."

Of the \$900 million Exxon is paying in \$70 million annual installments, McCammon estimated that about \$380 million will be spent on land acquisition. By the time the last anticipated deal is closed, McCammon said, the trustees expect to have picked up title or conservation easements to about 700,000 acres. That acreage includes about 1,000 miles of coastline.

Land purchases have to be

unanimously approved by the six-member trustee council, equally divided between state and federal representatives. The council's restoration plan was approved following extensive public hearings.

While Murkowski recognizes the land acquisitions were from willing sellers and had popular support, Kleeschulte said the senator was never very excited about seeing more privately held lands end up in government ownership.

"Sen. Murkowski has never been overwhelmingly supportive of further land acquisitions," Kleeschulte said. "If we're going to get more interest money, which makes sense, it should go to more research and economic development that could help commercial fishermen."

## Senator wants spill fund controls

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Sen. Frank Murkowski wants tight controls on how proceeds from future investments of Exxon Valdez oil spill money are spent.

His effort has provoked a battle with spill fund trustees.

The trustees last month asked Congress for a change in federal law to allow money from the \$900 million settlement to be invested at higher rates of interest.

That money is now deposited in a court-administered fund that earns only about 5 percent interest. Trustees are convinced they can get a better deal elsewhere.

While that's fine with Murkowski, he wants to prescribe how the millions of dollars in additional interest will be spent. Under Murkowski's proposal, none of the money could be spent on land acquisitions.

Instead, the trustee council could spend the interest windfall only on marine research and economic restoration projects sought by the fishing industry.

In addition, the trustees' expanded investment authority would automatically expire in 2002, unless a board was set up by Congress to take over management of the spill settlement funds from the six state and federal spill trustees.

Molly McCammon, executive director of the trustee council, is so concerned about Congress homing in on the council's responsibilities that she now wants Murkowski and Congress to back off making any changes in the investment law, even though it could cost \$4 million or more in foregone interest this year.

"If they're going to put additional provisions on it, we'd rather withdraw the proposal," McCammon said.

But with a House-Senate conference committee poised to begin work on a 1998 spending bill to which Murkowski's proposal is likely to be attached, Murkowski's provision may be difficult to stop. Aides to Sen. Ted Stevens, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he's deferring to Murkowski, who is chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Chuck Kleeschulte, Murkowski's press aide, insisted the senator isn't trying to tie the council's hands.

"We're expanding their ability to use the interest money to do more research and other types of marine projects," Kleeschulte said. "The only restriction is that

it can't be used for additional land acquisitions."

THE CORDOVA TIMES    OCTOBER 16, 1997

# Ancient village leads to a new home for Kodiak's heritage

By Jody Seitz  
For The Times

On Kodiak Island, a cultural renaissance has taken place during recent years, beginning with a significant archaeological discovery 14 years ago and culminating with a state of the art repository and museum built in 1995.

Dreams of a repository in Kodiak began many years ago as more people became interested in traditional culture. But excavation of an ancient site along the Karluk River spurred the people to accomplish their dream.

The tiny village of Karluk lay along the productive Karluk River. In 1983, a group of archaeologists led by Rick Knecht and his teacher, Dr. Richard Jordan, began unearthing items unseen for hundreds of years and unknown to

modern archaeologists. As several summers went by and the collections grew much larger, research was expanded to include other parts of the island. Interest in traditional culture surged, according to Alutiiq Museum Curator Amy Steffian.

"It brought back a tremendous feeling of pride and interest in traditional culture," she said.

Rita Stevens, of the Kodiak Area Native Association, was at a meeting where some of the artifacts from the Karluk dig were revealed publicly for the first time.

"I remember the archaeologists coming to town and having a special meeting up at the senior center and a lot of the Native people came to that

## Coastal currents

incredible artifacts from the Karluk," she said. "It was really an awakening of what a rich artistic and civilized culture we had in the past that we didn't even know about."

"I remember one woman saying, 'gee I thought we were Russian. I didn't know that all this was here,'" said Stevens.

A foundation was created to promote all aspects of Alutiiq culture and history and plans were drawn for a cultural center, which included a climate-controlled home for safe storage of the artifacts.

During the Exxon Valdez oil spill, several archaeological sites were dam-

talk and got to actually see these

aged by oil and vandalized by cleanup workers.

To offset the harm, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council funded projects to excavate and preserve some sites. In Kodiak, \$1.5 million was dedicated to building a repository as part of the Alutiiq Museum.

The museum is now two years old. It's located in the central historic district of Kodiak, an area representing more than 7,000 years of heritage. The museum hosts educational events and provides logistical support and professional expertise for ongoing archaeological and historical projects.

The collection today includes more than 100,000 cultural items — ancient Alutiiq artifacts as well as historic items such as census records, 120 years of photographs, art objects, and

private collections people want to preserve for future generations.

It is unusual even among tribal repositories nationwide, according to Steffian, because it combines the knowledge of Native people with an excellent facility and professional archaeologists.

"What's really unique is we're able to take the best of everything and put it together in one facility so that the goals of archaeology and the dreams and wishes of Native American people can be jointly pursued," Steffian said.

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.

## *Point of View*

# Our community voice wins: Spit and Slough forever!

by Betsy Webb

Two years ago the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust embarked on an ambitious project to develop a comprehensive conservation strategy for the southern Kenai Peninsula by gathering data and mapping important conservation values, land uses and development patterns. By creating map overlays depicting natural value concentrations, we created a conservation strategy that recognized the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough as two of the highest priorities for protection.

Through fortuitous circumstance, we were contacted at this important juncture by the national land conservation organization, the Trust for Public Land. They were prospecting for projects in Alaska, so we invited them to town and showed them around. The Trust for Public Land specializes in acquiring and protecting land for the public to improve the quality of life in our communities, and is expert at land-acquisition negotiation. They agreed that the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough are significant in many

ways, such as critical habitat for migrating shorebirds who can't find alternate stopovers once their habitat is lost, as tidelands that provide for everything from clam digging to birdwatching and environmental education to subsistence fishing, as rich nurseries for the intertidal life that feeds Kachemak Bay, and as rejuvenating open space to balance developed areas.

KHLT, the city of Homer and the Trust for Public Land submitted a proposal to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for acquisition of nine important properties through the council's Small Parcel Program. Appraisals for these parcels totaled \$1.3 million. These privately owned properties were very carefully selected and had the willing cooperation of all landowners throughout the process. Two weeks ago, based in part on their receiving the largest outpouring of public support for any of their small parcel projects, the trustee council approved the purchase of six properties (totaling 68 acres on the Spit and 38 acres at Beluga Slough) for just less than \$1 million.

This project is indicative of the clear commitment that the city of Homer has made in recent years to conservation of significant lands in Homer. This acquisition, its work with KHLT to permanently protect by conservation easement 26 adjacent acres of intertidal habitat on the Spit, and its creation of a conservation zone classification within city limits will be the enduring legacy of the conscientious and forward-thinking mayor and 1996-1997 city council.

The partnership of KHLT, Trust for Public Land, city of Homer and EVOS Trustee Council was truly inspiring. In the end, though, it was not just the hard work of these organizations and the extraordinary values of the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough, but the strong spirit and voice of this community that earned us this magnificent open space. Many of us made this happen — let's keep up the good work!

*Betsy Webb is president of the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Board of Directors.*

# Spill fund buys Spit, slough land

HOMER NEWS  
OCTOBER 9, 1997

by J. Michael Lyons  
Staff Writer

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, prompted by an outpouring of sentiment from Homer residents and visitors, rewarded a 10-year effort to preserve wildlife habitat by buying more than 100 private acres on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough and turning over management of it to the city.

The purchase includes 68.7 acres of intertidal land south of Mud Bay on the Spit that is a popular site for thousands of migrating shorebirds and a featured attraction of the annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, which draws hundreds of bird-watchers to the Spit each spring.

It also includes a 38-acre parcel on Beluga Slough near the intersection of the Bypass and Lake Street that is home to waterfowl, shorebirds and wintering moose.

Development on both parcels will be limited to boardwalks and kiosks.

"It will assure for many generations to come an aspect of Homer we've all grown to love," said Mayor Jack Cushing, who

has kept the idea alive since he served on the Kachemak Bay Planning Commission in the mid-1980s. "It ensures balanced development on the Spit that's a part of Homer as we've come to know it."

As part of the agreement, the oil spill trustee council will turn ownership and management of the land over to the city, which has wanted to purchase land on the Spit for more than a decade but was unable to come up with the money.

Surveys in recent years showed overwhelming public support for the idea.

The Belugua Slough parcel was recently added to the deal as a way to preserve land in conjunction with the multi-million-dollar U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visitors center scheduled to be built early next

century.

The idea of preserving land on the Spit got a shot in the arm in 1995 when the oil spill council was in Homer for a sparsely-attended public hearing. Trustees told Cushing there was money available to purchase small parcels but that a deadline was looming.

The city scrambled to put a plan together but the trustee council rejected it. It wanted to see more commitment from the city and landowners.

*"I think the economic benefits for the city are wonderful, as of course are the habitat benefits."*

— Barb Seaman

The city contacted the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, which planted the idea with the California-based Trust for Public Lands.

"That's when things started blossoming," said Cushing.

The Trust for Public Lands paid for appraisals of the five private parcels on the Spit and the Beluga Slough parcel, then bought

purchase options.

Meanwhile, the city approved a conservation easement on a 26-acre plot near the Spit parcels last December and contributed \$41,000 it received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the purchase of the Beluga Slough land. The easement prompted some to accuse the city council of leaning toward environmentalism, but it and the \$41,000 contribution coupled with public support clinched the deal with the oil spill trustee council.

The Council paid \$422,100 for the Spit parcels and \$574,000 for the Beluga Slough land out of its dwindling small parcels fund.

"The public support for this project has been overwhelming," said Molly McCammon, the council's executive direc-

tor. "The outpouring of letters and phone calls from Homer and around the country has been nonstop."

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Executive Director Barb Seaman said that like the city, her organization has been pursuing land on the Spit for years.

"I think the economic benefits for the city are wonderful, as of course are the habitat benefits," she said. "I think it's a win-win for everybody."

Gov. Tony Knowles also praised the deal and said it will "ensure that beachside habitat is protected, that the Spit's worldwide reputation remains untarnished and that tourism in Homer remains sustainable."

The city has no firm plans on tourism-like development such as boardwalks or

kiosks on the Spit Land. It first must wait for the construction of a \$1.5 million bike trail along the Spit Road.

"Once that's taken care of and the deal's finished then we can start planning for boardwalks," said Cushing.

As part of the land deal, the Trustees Council will require a second-party easement — probably the state or federal government or both — to ensure that the city lives up to the agreement in the future.

The deal's downside will be a loss of approximately \$9,500 in borough, city and service area taxes.

The proposal to turn the land over to the city will come before the city council for final approval this fall. The deal must also be approved by the Alaska Legislature.

## EVOS Trustees OK Homer Spit purchase

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Trustees overseeing Alaska's \$900 million oil spill settlement will buy 100 acres on the Homer spit to preserve lands used by migrating shorebirds.

Land at the base of Homer spit is home to the annual Kachemak Bay shorebird festival, which draws thousands of birdwatchers to Homer during spring migration. The oil spill trustees also approved buying a parcel at nearby Beluga Slough.

Homer Mayor Jack Cushing said the purchase satisfies a decade-long city wish to acquire and protect both tracts. "It's absolutely wonderful," Cushing said.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill trustee council voted Friday to spend \$422,100 for 69 acres of low-lying intertidal flats and salt marsh at the base of the spit and another \$574,000 for a 38-acre lot on Beluga Slough.

The city of Homer is contributing \$41,000 toward the slough purchase and will hold title to the land and manage it.

Part of the purchase includes land on both sides of the spit. The site attracts migrating shorebirds to the bay side to feed on invertebrates in the intertidal flats.

Harbor seals, juvenile salmon and a variety of waterfowl also feed in the area. The slough draws shorebirds and waterfowl as well.

The property was purchased from several private landowners in package deals put together by

a California nonprofit organization called Trust for Public Lands.

The Homer tract is the latest in a series of land purchases by the council, which includes state and federal officials overseeing Exxon's payment to settle lawsuits stemming from the Prince William Sound oil spill in 1989.

Much of the settlement was used to buy land deemed useful habitat for birds and marine mammals hurt by the spill.

**ALASKA JOURNAL OF COMMERCE  
WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 1997**

### Environment

• The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has agreed to assist local efforts by the City of Homer to protect key shorebird habitats on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough. The council on Oct. 3 authorized \$422,100 to protect 68.7 acres of low-lying intertidal flats and salt marsh at the base of the spit, and \$574,000 for a 38-acre lot on nearby Beluga Slough. The City of Homer is expected to contribute another \$41,000 toward acquisition of the Beluga Slough property.

*Street Talk is a regular column of news, speculation and plain ole gossip reported by the Journal of Commerce staff and compiled by Rose Ragsdale.*



## Council Covets EVOS Dollars

CITY HALL—Valdez mayor Dave Cobb says the city should revive its effort of five years ago to establish an archives depository here for the mass of papers and documents compiled in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989.

"I think its time to revisit that," Mayor Cobb told the council Monday night. "Let's open up the dialogue again and try to get the proposal revisited."

The issue was raised by councilman John Harris who noted that the city hired Tom Van Brocklin several years ago to explore the possibility of an archives center in Valdez.

"Can we bring that back to life again?" he asked.

Councilman Tim Plummer says he was puzzled about the dispensing of the \$900 million by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

"I find it more than amazing when I watch all of that money spent by the trustee council all over the state of Alaska," said Plummer.

"Valdez was impacted as much as anybody and we will probably feel the longest impact of anyone and yet nothing still seems to be done or earmarked for Valdez, he said.

"And that to me is just unbelievable. If someone else can figure out the basis for the decisions they are making, then they are a better person than I am because there is no rhyme nor reason for how they determine how that money is spent," Plummer told the council.

"It's a sad state of affairs that Valdez has been unable to benefit the way so many other areas have."

"I see the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) where it announced it would use some of the fine money to spend in New York and New Jersey. So it's made it to the east coast now, some of the (Exxon Valdez fine money," Plummer added.

"The money follows the political power," remarked councilman Lynn Chrystal. "That's what it amounts to and it's very frustrating."

Mayor Cobb rose to the defense of the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council. "I will say in defense of the council that

there have been a number of small jobs done in Valdez," he said.

The Blondeau property is under review right now and the Duck Flats is under study, he said. "However when you look at the volume of money, compared to the impact, we have certainly been short-changed.

"When you see tens of millions of dollars spent in Kodiak and Afognak who got a couple of tarballs about this big, compared to what was spent in Valdez," said Chrystal. "Whatever was spent here was chump change."

"I don't disagree," remarked the Mayor.

### Homer Spit will receive EVOS protection

CORDOVA TIMES  
OCTOBER 9, 1997

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee council authorized on Oct. 3 \$422,100 to protect 68.7 acres of low-lying intertidal flats and salt marsh at the base of Homer Spit. It authorized another \$574,000 for a 38-acre lot on nearby Beluga Slough. It is anticipated that the City of Homer will contribute an additional \$41,000 towards acquisition of the Beluga Slough property.

The Trust for Public Lands, working with the City of Homer and the Kachemak Bay Heritage Land Trust, put together the land packages by acquiring options from several landowners. The Trustee Council agreed to pay the appraised value for the properties and to turn the land over to the City of Homer for long-term management under the terms of a protective conservation easement.

# Opinion

The Seward Phoenix LOG

## Teacher visits Seattle Aquarium for some tips

*Editor's note: Seward teacher Jerry Dixon was awarded a \$44,000 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Grant last spring to integrate Seward schools with the Alaska SeaLife Center. Dixon traveled to the Seattle Aquarium to learn about its educational programs.*

By Jerry S. Dixon

The Seattle Aquarium has a waterfront location just down from the historic Pike Street market. It attracts 600,000 visitors a year most of whom, interestingly enough, do not live in the Seattle area. On the weekend of Sept. 6 it was hosting a salmon festival celebrating the annual arrival of the salmon to Puget Sound. There is a fish ladder in the aquarium where the mature salmon can swim right into the aquarium. Thousands of people can watch as the salmon complete their life cycle.

Outside the aquarium a truck-size salmon is on display. It is large enough that children can and do crawl inside. Hundreds of people have gathered to hear a Native elder talk about what the returning salmon have meant to his people that depended on them for hundreds of generations.

Scientists have divided the world into 11 major fisheries. All but two of them are in serious decline. Seward sits in the mid-

## Commentary

dle of one of the few healthy fisheries remaining in the world. Nothing brings this home more than a visit Outside to an area like Seattle that once had a booming salmon fishery and now has but a remnant. Returning to the Kenai one cannot help but notice that the streams are full of salmon and fishing is great in Resurrection Bay. The Seattle Aquarium is trying to educate the populace in the hope that someday they may see a shadow of the salmon runs in Puget Sound that we take for granted here.

The Seattle Aquarium serves 40,000 students a year. Most of them come to the waterfront where the aquarium is located. But there also is an outreach program with a mobile field lab. The van that is used for this lab can service students in groups of 15. The biologists working with the mobile lab are working at setting up a quality long-term relationship with area schools. Instead of just a "show me" tour of the aquarium or mobile field lab, Seattle Aquarium person-

nel are endeavoring to integrate the Washington State curriculum into their programs.

The aquarium is setting up a partnership with schools. They hope to work with teachers and set up working relations that have a minimum four-year commitment. Even the Seattle Zoo works with a specific age group by targeting second graders and fulfilling a portion of their learning requirements.

Seward schools and the Alaska SeaLife Center have already begun working on a similar partnership. The fruits of this can be seen in the recent presentation by a National Geographic photographer Flip Nicklin to a capacity student crowd at Seward Middle/High School. This presentation was made possible through the efforts of Les Thomas of the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation and Leslie Peart of the Alaska SeaLife Center. It is just the beginning of what should be a symbiotic partnership between our schools and the world's newest aquarium.

*Jerry Dixon is the Quest teacher at the Seward Elementary School and a McAuliffe Fellow.*

# HOMER NEWS

Homer, Alaska, Vol. 24, No. 41

Thursday, October 9, 1997

## Challengers Welles, Waddell oust incumbents

by Hal Spence  
Staff Writer

Voters turned out both Homer City Council incumbents by wide margins Tuesday, electing in their place a pair of businessmen who had successfully spun the straw of controversial zoning decisions and higher water rates adopted this year into political gold.

Meanwhile, voters outside the city in Assembly District 9 re-elected Assemblyman Drew Scalzi to another term.

Scalzi was unchallenged. They also returned both incumbents to the Kenai Peninsula Board of Education. (See story, Page 13.)

In a city election that had been difficult to predict, Luke Welles and Al Waddell easily defeated Councilwoman Susan Kernes, who was seeking her second term, and Councilwoman Sylvia Cassidy, a relative newcomer to Homer who had been appointed to fill a vacancy last fall. Cassidy was seeking her first full term.

Welles topped all candidates with 365 votes, followed by Waddell with 339. Kernes was a distant third with 274 votes and Cassidy was last at 262 votes. The same relationship was reflected in all three city precincts.

Long-time Homer resident Ray Kranich also was elected to a one-year council seat. He was unchallenged and got 572 votes.

Voter turnout was poor. Slightly more than one out of every five eligible voters

cast ballots. Of 3,267 registered voters, only 766 bothered to go to the polls — 23.4 percent. Another 65 absentee ballots and 18 questioned ballots remain to be counted.

"For better or worse, onward and forward. That's about the sum of it," Welles said yesterday morning after waking up a councilman-elect. "I guess now I'll have to mark off every other Monday for meetings and go forward from there."

Welles said he had a feeling he would be the top vote-getter.

"In all honesty, I wanted to be either No. 1 or No. 4," he said. "The low turnout is disturbing, but Homer is known for notoriously low voter turnout. I hope that will change."

Welles said writing the 1998 budget will be the first thing on his list. Then he said he wants to pursue creation of an economic development coordinator position and the projects on the legislative wish-list — most important, money for the sewer-line upgrade and pump station under the Bypass.

"As soon as possible, I'd like to cap the time of council meetings at 11 p.m.," he said. Currently, the council can conduct business until midnight, and beyond if they suspend the rules.

Welles also has his sights set on revamping city zoning laws. Differences in interpretation of the zoning code between the council and the Homer Advisory Planning and Zoning Commission earlier this year led to charges by Welles and

Waddell that the current council was "anti-development." That issue had a decided effect on the election.

"I would dearly love to get immediately rolling on public meetings in regards to the comprehensive plan and use that as the driving force for a zoning law review," Welles said. "Timing will be the thing. There is a full plate (before the council) at this moment."

— Luke Welles

He also said he expects the new water and sewer rates passed a few weeks ago to get a second look.

"I have a sinking feeling all that's not over yet. I haven't done my homework on that yet. I've just heard rumors that people want to revisit this."

Waddell said the vote was a mandate — for more progress.

"It's not that anyone wants skyscrapers in Homer," he said. "We've got a community here, but we have to look at tax bases and jobs. Those are quite important."

Waddell said he thought the election turned on the controversy over the car wash

and the new water rates.

"I'd have to say 100 percent," he said.

Working up the 1998 budget will be the first order of business, he said. After that, he said he wants to focus on rebuilding the city's Main Dock and encouraging more freight and tour-ship business here.

He also said he is in favor of setting aside land on the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough for habitat, a project that now enjoys the backing of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The council is likely to consider a supportive resolution in the next few weeks that should help clear the way for spill money to fund the conservation easements. Waddell said he also supports trails and parks.

Kernes said she enjoyed her three years on the council, adding that she thinks she helped do good work. She thanked her supporters and wished the new council good luck.

"They're going to need it," she said.

Kernes said she lost because the opposition did what it needed to do to win and she did not.

"I think they successfully networked

and got out the vote," she said. "They paid more attention to the campaign than I did. I was busy doing my paid consultant work and when I wasn't doing that, my council work. I didn't take the time I certainly should have to campaign."

There were other reasons, however, she said.

"I think the winning candidates successfully manipulated the car-wash issue to their advantage by turning it into an emotional, as opposed to a factual, issue," she said. "The emotional part was 'Why can't there be a car wash in the Central Business District? That would be nice,' versus the factual issue that car washes are not allowed in the CBD and that the council simply had no choice" but to overturn the planning commission.

Kernes said the increase in the water and sewer rates was a contributing factor in the defeat of the incumbents. She said there has been general dissatisfaction with the city and how it handles finances — a perception that it does so badly. Kernes said that isn't

necessarily the case, but that it is true that administrative costs are high. She noted a study done during preparation of the new water rates that showed around 45 percent of the costs were administrative.

"It has to be examined why it costs \$17 to send out each bill," she said.

Being voted off the council was disappointing and she said she was saddened by the outcome. But she also was relieved, she said. She now has more time to devote to her other public position as a member of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission.

Being on the council "was a juggle," she said. "I do have a life."

Cassidy said she was, too, sorry the vote turned out the way it did.

"I think what we started to do on the council was very good stuff," she said. "Now I'm afraid that effort will be truncated." She added that next year's election could be critical. The seat held by Councilman Dennis Leach and the one-year seat just won by Kranich will both be up, as will the office of mayor.

Cassidy said it was clear the people opposing the incumbents were well-organ-

nized. She also said the council has had to deal with some "heavy issues" during the past year, the results of which got a lot of publicity.

"It appears to me that these were used by some in the community as a reason to speak against the actions of the council to evoke some kind of negative comment," Cassidy said. "It gave them fuel for the information they were trying to disseminate."

During the controversy that arose over a commission decision that a car wash should be permitted on the Bypass, Cassidy pointed to the record of the commission meetings saying two of its members who might have had a conflict of interest had led that discussion. Calling into question the integrity of those commissioners may have helped fuel the effort to turn out the two incumbents.

Cassidy, however, has no regrets about what she said or how she voted when the council sat as a board of adjustment and reversed the commission's car-wash decision.

Cassidy was philosophical about her short-lived political career. "I was sort of like a Roman candle. I burned briefly and now I'm gone," she said. "The year was

good and I had good input. I ran on my record. I thought that people who listened to KBBI, had cable TV and read newspapers would be the ones out there voting and giving weight to my arguments and decisions. It should have been obvious, but the vote doesn't reflect that. It reflects that I came in last. I hoped I would win, but anticipated that I wouldn't."

Kranich, who ran unopposed, was reluctant to read too much into the overall election.

"I wouldn't want to say the vote reflects a mandate or anything like that," he said. "But voters have sent a message that the council and the city administration need to look differently at how we do business. I can't get a vision out of a crystal ball why voters voted the way they did."

Kranich said he is ready to go to work, but expects, despite his years on the Port and Harbor Commission, to require a learning period. One thing he would like to see happen is to review policies regarding how various city departments work and to give City Manager Patti Whalin some "explicit marching orders" on conducting city business. That, he said, would apply to any manager.

# Harbor Seal Numbers Are Still In Decline

VALDEZ (AP)--Scientists say Prince William Sound harbor seals remain in decline while populations south of Kodiak Island have stabilized.

Biologists focused Friday on ramifications of the Exxon Valdez oil spill as the American Association for the Advancement of Science met in Valdez. The three-day meeting drew about 140 researchers and ended Saturday.

The tanker wreck in 1989 dumped nearly 11 million gallons of oil into prime fishing waters and tainted hundreds of miles of Alaska coastline as far south as Homer.

Experts continue to debate the spill's longterm effect, if any, after oil killed birds and marine life in its path.

At the Valdez conference, Brian Fadely, a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, said harbor seal populations in Southeast have long been stable or increasing slightly.

In the Sound and off Kodiak Island, however, the seal's numbers have dropped dramatically for 20 years. Fadely, with UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, said the oil spill had accentuated the problem.

"There's lots of speculation

and work being done on finding out what is the cause," Fadely said.

So far there are no answers but a favored theory is that there has been a reduction in the amount of or quality of food, Fadely said. Scientists have tested the idea by examining the seals' blood, weight and body condition.

But a comparison of 1960s and 1990s data on length, body weight and blubber thickness showed no significant differences.

Scientists also found that Prince William Sound seals have a slightly higher blubber density than Southeast seals. That means the fat has more lipids, which provide better energy storage and indicate the animals are in better condition, Fadely said.

Researcher Amy Hiron, of UAF's Institute of Marine Science, said she started collecting seals' whiskers in 1993 to look at their chemical content and growth rates, to test the food-chain idea.

The institute also reported on a study begun this summer on seal pups south of Kodiak, near Tugidak Island. Scientists say a separate study completed this summer shows the Tugidak-area seal populations had stabilized but at a reduced number.

# Land Otters Placed On Protective List

**CORDOVA**--The 1997/98 trapping season for land otters in western Prince William Sound between Port Nellie Juan and Icy Bay on the mainland and in the Knight Island area has been cancelled by emergency order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Area wildlife biologist Roy Nowlin said the closure is necessary to help researcher determine if otters are recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

He said oil contamination from the 1989 spill caused injury to the land otter populations in western Prince William Sound.

Damage assessment studies during the three years following the spill showed otter food, body mass, movements and physiology were affected by oil pollution.

Ongoing research is essential he said, to determine if otters are recovering. Researchers must capture and release a many animals as possible to collect samples and take measurements, Nowlin said.

Trapping activity could interfere with the research if otters are removed from the study area, or if otters become trap shy, he added.

Thursday, October 9, 1997

The Cordova Times

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## Area update

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### Chenega Bay uses new technology to clean up Exxon oil

Chenega Bay residents, state officials and an oil spill contractor spent six weeks using "air knives" to inject air and solvent into oily rock and gravel that has been left uncleaned at Sleepy Bay and Latouche Island since the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

The process helped lift the oil to the surface, where it was then washed down the beach and corralled by booms floating offshore. The aeration was also said to contribute to the biodegradation of the oil by supplying much-needed oxygen to the subsurface microbes.

The project was funded by the

Exxon Valdez Trustee Council based on a grant proposal from Chenega residents. The Prince William Sound Economic Development Council managed the beach cleaning project.

# Homer Spit land purchased

## Oil spill trustees approved \$1 million for 100 acres

ANCHORAGE (AP) — Trustees overseeing Alaska's \$900 million oil spill settlement will buy 100 acres on the Homer spit to preserve lands used by migrating shorebirds.

Land at the base of Homer spit is home to the annual Kachemak Bay shorebird festival, which draws thousands of birdwatchers to Homer during spring migration. The oil spill trustees also approved buying a parcel at nearby Beluga Slough.

Homer Mayor Jack Cushing said the purchase satisfies a decade-long city wish to acquire and protect both

tracts. "It's absolutely wonderful," Cushing said.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill trustee council voted Friday to spend \$422,100 for 69 acres of low-lying intertidal flats and salt marsh at the base of the spit and another \$574,000 for a 38-acre lot on Beluga Slough.

The city of Homer is contributing \$41,000 toward the slough purchase and will hold title to the land and manage it.

Part of the purchase includes land on both sides of the spit. The site attracts migrating shorebirds to the bay side to feed on invertebrates

in the intertidal flats.

Harbor seals, juvenile salmon and a variety of waterfowl also feed in the area. The slough draws shorebirds and waterfowl as well.

The property was purchased from several private landowners in package deals put together by a California nonprofit organization called Trust for Public Lands.

The Homer tract is the latest in a series of land purchases by the council, which includes state and federal officials overseeing Exxon's payment to settle lawsuits stemming from the Prince William Sound oil spill in 1989.

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR    OCTOBER 2, 1997

## EVOS council meets in Juneau

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council will meet in Juneau, Friday, Oct. 3, to discuss strategies for archaeological restoration in Prince William Sound and future financial investments.

The Council is also scheduled for possible action to acquire small parcels on the Homer Spit.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Forest Service Conference Room 541A, Federal Build-

ing, 709 West Ninth Street in Juneau. It will also be teleconferenced to the Restoration Office conference room, 645 G Street, Suite 401 in Anchorage.

A public comment period is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Individuals can arrange to participate via teleconference by contacting the Restoration Office at 907-278-8012 or toll free, 1-800-478-7745.

# SeaLife habitats mirror real thing

By Roger Kane

LOG Staff

Barnacles, mussels, limpets, starfish and a couple types of shellfish adorn the boulders and other large chunks of rock, just below the tide-lines.

Dead trees and tree branches litter the cliff faces. Small patches of grass have sprung up in the crevasses and on the tops of the cliffs.

The low-tide waterline is delineated by muted green, red and brown stains that gradually fade into the black and grey speckles of the granite.

Black sand covers the cave floors and lays in ripples, deposited by the receding tide.

Soon there will be birds, sea lions and seals on the rocks and in the water. Researchers will be gathering information and tourists will be jockeying for the best views. And there will be the inevitable ooohs and aaaahs over the landscape.

All the species of plants and animals are what you would find on the Chiswell Islands and in Resurrection Bay, but you won't have to leave shore to find them.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of the Alaska SeaLife Center will be the three large exhibits, housing Steller sea lions, harbor seals and a host of seabirds.

It took the subcontractor, Jolly Miller, all summer to create the natural-looking \$1.35 million habitat, and painstaking efforts were made to make things as realistic as possible, said Matt Stevens, the crew's superintendent.

Cliffs and boulders are created from steel rebar, chicken wire and super-strong concrete, pneumatically applied. After that hardens, a three- to four-inch layer of the "shot crete" is applied to the structural concrete surface and expertly carved to look like granite.

Barnacles, mussels and other shellfish, apparently clinging to the boulders, are also man-made.

Lead artist for the project, Pancho Vining, said silicon molds must first be made from the real critters. From them, castings are made with a cement mixture and mortared to the rock work in a wide band called the tidal zone.



Roger Kane/LOG staff

Aaron Miracle assists Mike Bowden with concrete application in one of the small caves between the seal exhibit and the sea lion exhibit. The concrete they are pouring will be troweled smooth, rippled to create the illusion of a sandy floor and will be impregnated with black sand.

To make the simulated granite look as realistic as possible, it is painted.

Julia Goldman, one of the painters working on the project, said "it's sort of a water-color technique," with a lot of thin layers of paint applied to give the concrete a speckled look.

She uses watered-down latex house paint and dyes to achieve the colors of the natural landscape. She does her painting with spray bottles, sponges and hoses.

Cracks are darkened to make them look wet, like natural rocks. And the gentle shading of the tidal zones is mimicked with dyes from spray bottles.

Goldman has a fine-arts degree, but she said there's no formalized training for rock painting.

"You do it enough and it sort of becomes automatic," she said.

Mike Pope, the man in charge of placing the deadfalls and vegetation, said the recently completed bird exhibit is his "pride and joy," so far. The deadfalls really came together, in part because of a gold mine of deadfalls in his friends' backyards.

He said locating the plant species

he needed was easy after he consulted with friends and co-workers from Seward.

"I showed them pictures from books and they'd say, 'Oh, I know where that is,'" Pope said.

Because gathering plants from national parks and national forests is illegal, he said the locals' knowledge of the plants was crucial and that many of the species he needed were found alongside roads or in people's backyards.

Some species of plants Pope incorporated into the exhibits are Pacific water parsley, wild celery, yarrow, smooth alumroot, dwarf fireweed, Sitka spruce and beach rye.

Other grasses were supplied by Stoney Wright, manager of the Alaska Plant Material Center in Palmer, an arm of the state Department of Natural Resources.

Wright said the Plant Material Center was contracted by Jolly Miller, which was looking for native grasses. He said he was working on a project for the state Department of Transportation at the time, and collected the seeds while he was on that job.



## Alaska Coastal Currents

By Jody Seitz



# Weathered crude oil impacts herring eggs

The *Exxon Valdez* spilled its oil just as herring were returning to spawn along the shores of Prince William Sound. In 1993, when most of the herring hatched during the spill should have returned to spawn for the first time, the population collapsed. That year saw the least spawn ever recorded in Prince William Sound. The \$12 million annual fishery was canceled for four successive years.

Researchers are still trying to determine whether the 1993 herring failure was in any way connected to the oil spill.

Scientists at the National Marine Fisheries Service Auke Bay Lab experimented to find out if the spill had affected the herring's ability to reproduce. In the process they discovered some important effects of crude oil on eggs, larvae, and adults.

They found that the most toxic parts of the Prudhoe Bay oil are actually the heavier hydrocarbons which remain when oil "weathers." As the lighter compounds dissipate, the weathered oil becomes more toxic at lower concentrations. How long it remains toxic and harmful to living organisms is unknown.

Researchers exposed adult herring to weathered oil and observed them. Eggs and larvae also were exposed to weathered oil over a 16-day period in separate tests.

When herring are exposed to the heavy compounds a little can cause a lot of damage, said Mark Carls of the Auke Bay Lab. "The take home message that we came up with was the amount of oil that was required to cause problems in the eggs and the subsequently hatched larvae was a lot smaller than has been reported previously," said Carls.

Eggs exposed to weathered crude oil were much more likely

to develop abnormally. "One of the most prominent effects we saw, which we measured right after the eggs hatched, was a swelling of the yolk sac and this would become progressively more severe and more frequent with increases in concentration," said Carls. "The same thing would happen as time went on. So you could see the effect increasing as a function of time as well." Other defects included small jaws, shorter larval length, reduced swimming ability, increased spinal defects, and premature hatch.

In the lab, herring larvae experienced genetic damage when exposed to crude oil. But the level of exposure that led to genetic damage was higher than the level that produced abnormal development. Researchers think that any genetically-damaged herring larvae probably died due to deformities before they could pass on the genetic harm.

Adults exposed to weathered crude oil had compromised immune systems and were more likely to develop viral hemorrhagic septicemia, the deadly virus suspected of being the immediate cause of the 1993 herring crash.

Although scientists still have not established how many wild herring were actually killed by exposure to oil in 1989, they have shown that the spill could have been a factor in the 1993 population crash, and that there is a strong likelihood that the virus was present in 1989.

*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.*

# Research studies effects of weathered oil on herring

By JODY SEITZ

Alaska Coastal Currents

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Alaska  
Coastal  
Currents

Restoration and recovery following the Exxon Valdez oil spill

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# Mayor, council candidates focus on growth in Seward's future

By JON HOLLAND  
Peninsula Clarion

The booming little town of Seward will have plenty of choices in Tuesday's election. Eight candidates, including two incumbents, are vying for three seats on the city council, and the mayoral race features a longtime Alaskan, Seward resident and public servant against a Harvard-educated, globe-trotting, former world bank advisor.

The key issues in the election seem to center around problems most Alaska towns would envy — how to control burgeoning growth in a local economic boom. The city wants to expand its harbor facilities to accommodate more traffic from cruise ships; the new Alaska SeaLife Center is scheduled to be fully operational by May 1 and a small boom in business ancillary to these momentous events is expected.

Other projects on the horizon include expansion of the railroad freight dock, a convention center and expansion of the Spring Creek Correctional Center.

Louis Bencardino said his long and diverse career of public service in Alaska makes him the most qual-

**NAME:** Louis Bencardino  
**OFFICE:** Mayor  
**AGE:** 60  
**RESIDENCY:** 30 years in Alaska, 23 years in Seward  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** Seward police chief 17 years, city council three years, two years as mayor of Seward.  
**JOB:** Retired police chief  
**FAMILY:** Wife Dianne and four children, all grown and living on the East Coast.

ified for the office.

His personal goals for his next

term in office, if elected, are to get the SeaLife Center up and running, to build a new Alaska Railroad freight dock and to start planning a convention center. He also would like to build more Nordic ski trails around town and expand the prison.

Bencardino said the biggest challenge facing the city of Seward will be "to know when enough is enough."

"I expect tourism in Seward to be maxed out in the next 10 years," he said.

Bencardino said he is running out of a sense of altruism toward the town of Seward.

"I love this community and the people in it. I'm dedicated to this town and I like helping people."

Bob Satin believes his education, a doctorate in economics and a masters in geology, plus his experience as a project advisor and portfolio manager for the world bank qualify him to be mayor of Seward.

His personal goal for his first term in office, if elected, will be to conduct a systematic review of enterprises owned by the city and whether or not the city belongs in

**NAME:** Bob Satin  
**OFFICE:** Mayor  
**AGE:** 66  
**RESIDENCY:** Three years in Seward  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** Former senior advisor to the World Bank in Washington, D.C., taught at the University of Michigan, Harvard, the Polytechnic of Central London, and University College of London.  
**JOB:** Retired from world bank in 1994. Currently a volunteer with the National Park Service at Kenai Fjords National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.  
**FAMILY:** Seven grandchildren, all living on the East Coast or in London.

those businesses.

"It distresses me to see a city whose motto seems to be 'Ready, fire, aim,'" Satin said. "It also distresses me to see the assets of the many converted to the assets of the few."

The biggest challenge facing the city, he said, is completing the transition to a major tourism center.

He also believes too much of the city's business has been conducted in secrecy by a network of insiders.

"Local government should be more open and fair than it has been in the last few years," he said.

**NAME:** Margaret Anderson  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 64  
**RESIDENCY:** A lifelong Seward resident  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** Two two-year terms on the city council and previous experience on the hospital and school boards  
**JOB:** Retired fish processor manager  
**FAMILY:** Widow with grown children and nine grandchildren

Margaret Anderson said her long tenure in Seward has given her "a pretty good understanding of Seward politics."

"I feel we're a progressive community in a period of transition. I'd like to provide some continuity during that transition," she said.

Her personal goals are to participate in the hiring of a new city manager, work on flood control, the opening of the SeaLife Center and the beautification and historical preservation of Seward.

The biggest challenges facing the council, she said, are economic

development, the development of year-round jobs and finding a balance between the booming tourism industry and quality of life for year-round residents.

"Frankly, I wasn't going to run again, but because of the development crossroads we are at right now, I feel I can lend some valuable experience and knowledge."

**NAME:** Marianna Kiel  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 46  
**RESIDENCY:** Seward for seven years  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** One two-year term on the city council and "lots of volunteer jobs"  
**JOB:** She is the legislative information officer in Seward during the legislative session  
**FAMILY:** Husband Duane Kiel and two children

Marianna Kiel believes helping her husband run a charter business, raising a family and working give her the sort of busy, balanced life that provides a good background for an elected official.

"I have a younger family to balance the mix," she said.

Kiel would like to remain on the council to provide some continuity, to see some of the big projects going on in Seward through to completion and to help with the growing pains she sees Seward experiencing.

The biggest challenges facing the council, she said, are to follow through on projects already in the works, such as the expansion of the harbor, the prison and completion of the SeaLife Center.

She is running again because the position is another chance to serve her community.

"There are a lot of people running this time and I think that's great for the community," she said.

**NAME:** Michael B. Calhoon  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 40  
**RESIDENCY:** Alaska for 35 years, Seward for two  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** None  
**JOB:** Part owner of a B&B and a janitor  
**FAMILY:** Single

Michael Calhoon said his knowledge of the Seward area and position on the board of directors of the Seward Chamber of Commerce and experience as a business owner qualify him to serve on the city council.

If elected, his personal goal for his first term would be to try and get the diverse interests in the commu-

*Peninsula Clarion  
October 2, 1997*

nity "all pulling in the same direction" and to restore public confidence in city government.

The biggest challenges facing the city, he said, are preparations for the opening of the SeaLife Center and diversifying the economy for more year-round employment opportunities.

Calhoon said he decided to run because he believed the city government has lost touch with the electorate.

"I hope to offer a fresh point of view, an open mind and to be accessible to the public," he said.

**NAME:** Patrick Callahan  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 23  
**RESIDENCY:** Seward for nine years  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** None  
**JOB:** Employed by city of Seward campgrounds  
**FAMILY:** Single

Patrick Callahan said because he is not a small business owner, he would offer a new and unique perspective to the city council.

"It's not that I'm against business interests, but the council is dominated by business interests. I would be the only one who is not a business owner," he said.

Callahan would like to see Seward's growth proceed at a more moderate pace and to see the town retain some of its small-town atmosphere.

"People don't come to Alaska to see T-shirt shops," Callahan said.

The biggest challenges facing the council, he said, are all about growth and development. The council, he believes, needs to take a more long-term approach to growth.

He is running, he said, because he sees it as an opportunity to serve his community.

Nathan Orr says he is qualified for the job based on 20 years of self employment and previous

**NAME:** Nathan Orr  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 44  
**RESIDENCY:** Alaska for 15 years, Seward for 6 years  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** None  
**JOB:** Motel owner and carpenter  
**FAMILY:** Wife Marilyn Olson and a 3-year-old child

experience as a construction and maintenance superintendent in Barrow.

"Working in a village for a Native corporation is pretty political," Orr said. "I'm used to budgeting and listening, and I have good communication skills."

His personal goal for his first term is to improve communications between the council and the public and to overcome what he called, "a perception by the public of a lot of deals made behind closed doors."

Orr said the biggest challenges for the council will be to establish a good working relationship with Seward's new city manager, new harbor master and bring the SeaLife Center on line.

Orr decided to run for the council because Seward has been good to him and he wants to give something back.

**NAME:** Marie Gage  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 43  
**RESIDENCY:** 37 years Seward  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** None  
**JOB:** Correctional officer at Spring Creek Correctional Center  
**FAMILY:** Husband John and seven children

Marie Gage believes her personal experience qualifies her for a position on the council. She has often served in volunteer positions in the community and has previ-

ously been given a governor's award for volunteer work.

Her personal goal for her first term is to find more year-round employment for Seward residents.

The biggest challenge facing the council, she said, is Seward's rapid growth and bringing the SeaLife Center on line as part of the community.

Gage is running, she said, because she thinks the council needs to be more attentive to the preferences of voters.

"It seems like there is an agenda and it goes that way no matter how many people speak out against a plan," she said.

**NAME:** Michael Shott  
**OFFICE:** City council  
**AGE:** 50  
**RESIDENCY:** Seward, 30 years  
**PUBLIC OFFICE EXPERIENCE:** None  
**JOB:** Retired from the Alaska Marine Highway System  
**FAMILY:** Wife Donna

Michael Shott said he has no particular qualifications for a city council job, but he is going to try it anyway.

"I've got no experience in public office, but I'm going to do it anyway, just like everybody else," he said.

Shott said he hasn't got a personal agenda for his first term either. He is just going to listen to the public and respond accordingly.

Shott said there are so many things going on in Seward at present, it is hard to isolate any single issue as the biggest challenge.

He said he is running out of a sense of civic duty.

"I've been here 30 years and this little town has been pretty good to me, so I thought it was time to give something back."

Council candidate Brad Snowden could not be reached because he was out of town.

## SeaLife center expands staff

The Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward has hired Judy King as its new project coordinator, Angie Colon as sales manager and Corinna Quilliam as public relations coordinator.

King will start and maintain the membership program and coordinate special projects. She was formerly a cost engineer at Alaska Petroleum Contractors.

Colon previously worked five years as operations supervisor for Gray Line of Alaska. At the SeaLife Center, she will launch and manage in-state and national sales campaigns and plan conferences.

Quilliam worked three years for Kenai Fjords Tours and recently finished her marketing and public relations internship there prior to graduating from Washington State University.

*Peninsula  
Clarion  
10/2/97*

# Spill money to provide bird refuge

## Homer Spit land protected

By NATALIE PHILLIPS  
Daily News reporter

About \$1 million of the money paid by Exxon for damage caused by its 1989 spill will be used to buy and protect 100 acres of land at the base of the Homer Spit and on nearby Beluga Slough.

The land on the spit is the site of the Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird festival, which draws thousands of birdwatchers to Homer every spring for the annual migration of shorebirds.

"It's absolutely wonderful," said Homer Mayor Jack Cushing. The purchase and protection of both parcels has been a city dream for 10 years, but the city didn't have the money to do it, he said. The city hopes to someday build boardwalks and an interpretative center on the land.

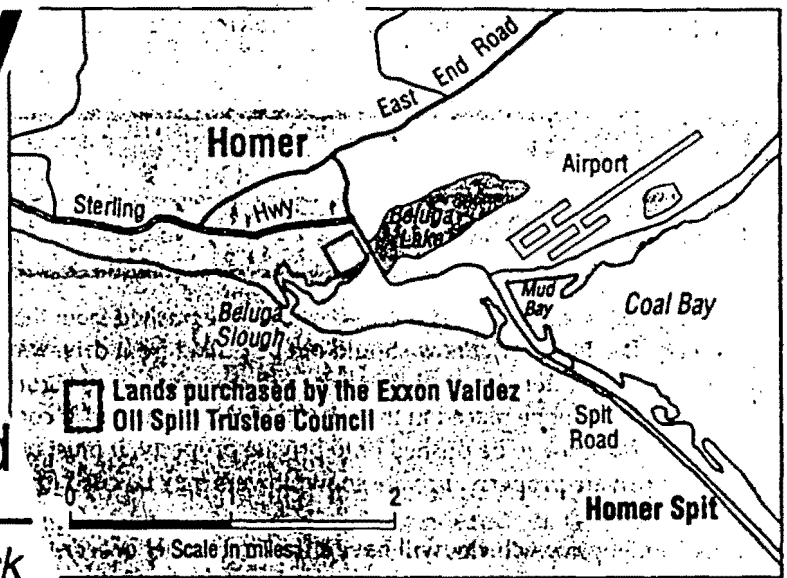
The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council voted Friday to spend \$422,100 for 68.7 acres of low-lying intertidal flats and salt marsh at the base of the spit and another \$574,000 for a 38-acre lot on Beluga Slough, across from the city's only McDonald's. The city of Homer is con-

*Homer Mayor Jack Cushing said the purchase and protection of the land parcels has been a city dream for 10 years.*

tributing an additional \$41,000 toward the slough purchase and will hold the title to the land and manage it.

Part of the purchase includes land on both sides of the spit. Every spring, migrating shorebirds are attracted to the bay side to feed on invertebrates in the intertidal flats. Harbor seals, juvenile salmon and a variety of waterfowl also feed in the area. The slough draws shorebirds and waterfowl, as well.

The property was purchased from several private landowners in package deals



put together by a California nonprofit organization called Trust for Public Lands, which worked with the City of Homer and the Kachemak Bay Heritage Land Trust.

The Trustee Council had received more than 150 letters and petitions with hundreds of signatures from local resi-

dents supporting the land purchase, according to Molly McCammon, the council's executive director.

Gov. Tony Knowles issued a statement praising the land deal as something that will ensure the "spit's worldwide reputation remains untarnished and that tourism in Homer remains sustainable."

The state and federal governments received \$900 million to settle their civil lawsuits against Exxon following the 11 million gallon spill. The Trustee Council, made up of state and federal officials, oversees the spending of the settlement money. Much of the \$900 million has gone to the purchase of land that is considered critical habitat for birds and marine mammals injured by the spill.

# Villages get help to deal with pollution

By JEFF RICHARDSON  
*Mirror Writer*

Kodiak Island villages could get some much-needed help with waste disposal, through a plan being developed by the borough and the Kodiak Area Native Association.

With the help of grants from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and the Environmental Protection Agency, borough and village officials have worked for the last six months to develop a waste management plan.

Eventually, they hope it will clean up some of the pollution problems in island villages that are slowing recovery from the oil spill.

And according to Ron Riemer,

borough environmental engineer, the problems villagers face are profound. From overflowing sewers to small fuel spills, most villages on the island share the same concerns, he said.

That was confirmed earlier this year, when a council of villagers met to discuss their environmental problems. A representative from each village was asked to take pictures to help bring the issues to life.

"It was amazing," Riemer said. "It didn't matter what community it was, they were the same pictures."

Through those meetings, the borough has targeted five areas: waste water, solid waste, disposal of used oil/household hazardous

waste, scrap metals, and fuel delivery systems.

The solutions are still evolving. Although a \$250,000 EVOS Trustee Council grant is paying for the study, it will take extra money to implement the plan.

The borough is looking for grant sources — and cooperation from the villages — to help cover some of those costs.

Officials are also trying to determine what the specific solutions should be. Brenda Schwantes, tribal operations coordinator for KANA, said a group of village representatives is working with the borough to make sure they have the same environmental vision.

"I think it's been a real positive process, the work between the borough and KANA," she said. "I think it's important that (the villagers) feel like they have a big role in this."

Some of the village concerns, Schwantes said, are that the

proper resources and education are not available in rural areas. People have not been told how to properly dispose of waste oil or hazardous waste. And in many cases, villages are too isolated to make proper waste disposal convenient.

"There are ways to bring things into the villages," Schwantes said. "But there aren't good ways to bring anything out."

Schwantes hopes a waste management plan can be completed by November, when it can be discussed and fine tuned in each of the villages.

Village representatives have said they are looking for a multi-faceted approach — from a new environmental curriculum in the schools to updated equipment for landfills and fueling systems.

Whatever the solutions, borough officials vow they will be part of a realistic effort to battle pollution.

At a meeting with the EVOS Trustee Council earlier this month, mayor Jerome Selby said "low-tech, simple solutions" are at the heart of the plan.

**KODIAK DAILY MIRROR**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 1997**

# NIRF is now the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center

By SUE JEFFREY  
Mirror Writer

Affectionately called the NIRF building for the past few years, the Near Island Research Facility has lost its nickname.

Its new persona, the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center, does not lend itself to an amusing acronym but it does say more about the facility, Kodiak Island Borough Mayor Jerome Selby explained to the assembly at last night's borough meeting.

"Other than in Kodiak, most people would not know where Near Island is," he said. "And 'research facility' does not indicate what kind of research will take place here."

The name change will go into effect immediately so it can be used for signs being prepared for the building, Selby explained.

Construction is going full-

speed, 10 days ahead of schedule, with doors to open Oct. 1, 1998.

The timing could not be better, Selby said last night.

"The Dinkum Sands money is a done deal. \$160 million went to the federal government and Sen. (Ted) Stevens' bill to dedicate 20 percent for marine research remained intact as it passed out of conference this afternoon."

Dinkum Sands are funds which accumulated from oil royalties as the state and federal government argued in court about who had royalty authority in Alaska. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the federal government. The marine research funds will become an endowment dedicated to marine research in Alaska, Selby said.

The borough is constructing

the \$19 million Kodiak Fisheries Research Center with funds from the Shuyak Island land sale, the University of Alaska and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

The 51,739-square-foot research center will house circulating salt water laboratories and office space for its tenants, NOAA, the National Park Service, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

A two-story interpretive center will include a live, circulating seawater tide pool and a salt-water aquarium.

As landlord, the borough will create two new positions — a receptionist and a full time maintenance person, especially needed to oversee the circulating seawater system. Their salaries are included in the lease payments the

agencies will pay the borough, Selby said.

The \$19 million dollar building neighbors the University of Alaska Fisheries Industrial Technology Center, called the Fish Tech Center, and the two will accommodate resident and visiting scientists studying Alaska's marine environment.

In other business at last night's

meeting, the assembly learned that Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center will likely take over the borough Mental Health Center Jan. 1, 1998.

"I'm very confident a formal agreement between Providence and the borough will be reached," said Phil Cline, hospital administrator. "A verbal agreement h

## Research facility

Continued from Page 1

already been reached."

The reorganization cannot happen too soon, according to some assembly members.

"Jack Walsh (school district director of special services) says in a letter to the borough that 'the recent exodus of staff members at the Mental Health Center has seriously compromised

the level of services that the district was promised last spring,'" said assembly member Tuck Bonney. He asked, "What are we doing about it?"

Selby and Cline said the hospital and borough are "plugging the gaps in very short order." They are currently conducting a joint recruitment for three clinicians.

"We already have clinician I applications in — 10 good can-

didates — and we may have someone hired by next week," Selby said. "We are already recruiting for a clinician III position."

In the meantime, the psychiatrist on staff at the hospital is helping "fill the gaps," Selby said.

Last night, the assembly also passed a resolution to retain the firm Jamin, Ebell, Schmitt and Mason for legal counsel for

three years with an amendment that the assembly would meet with the borough attorney every six months to receive an oral report on legal matters.

"This does not reflect any dissatisfaction with the firm," said assembly member Dr. Bob Johnson.

The assembly agreed it is simply overseeing legal matters as it should.

# Science lecture reveals why birds have not recovered in Sound

By Tataboline Brant

*Special to the Northern Light*

If you visited Prince William Sound today, you would no longer smell the stench of animal carcasses, or see beaches and mussel beds saturated with oil. But you won't observe an abundance of indigenous birds either.

"It's really a detective story with a lot of dead victims and a smoking gun," said David Duffy, UAA associate professor of biology, at the Science and Society Lecture Series last Monday evening.

His presentation, titled "Why Haven't Seabirds Recovered from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill?" recapped the devastation caused when oil coated Prince William Sound and killed a quarter of a million birds almost nine years ago.

The detective story began when the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council funded researchers to find out why some birds have recovered and others have not.

Duffy said some birds, such as the bald eagle, have re-established a stable population, but species such as tufted and horned puffins, black-legged kittiwakes and pigeon guillemots have not fully recovered.

Duffy and other researchers hypothesized that the birds' food source was the probable element inhibiting their recovery. Their diet consisted mainly of three types of high-fat fish: sandlance, capelin and herring. Researchers gathered information about bird and fish colonies; active nests were observed; and species were counted, weighed, and sometimes dissected.

After the data was processed, researchers realized pollock, a low-fat fish, had replaced sandlance, capelin and herring both in the water and in the birds' diets. Pollock is low in lipids, which means it supplies

very little energy for the birds.

Duffy compared the diet of an athlete to the diet of a bird. He said that while training for a sport, athletes eat foods high in energy to yield the best performance. A bird requires much the same to survive when it leaves the nest. It needs food that is "more energetically rich," Duffy said.

Duffy explained past scientific research has established the theory that birds who leave the nest with a higher body mass have a greater chance of survival.

To test the hypothesis that a pollock diet affects the body mass of birds, tufted puffins and black-legged kittiwakes were captured and studied. Some were fed pollock and others were fed sandlance.

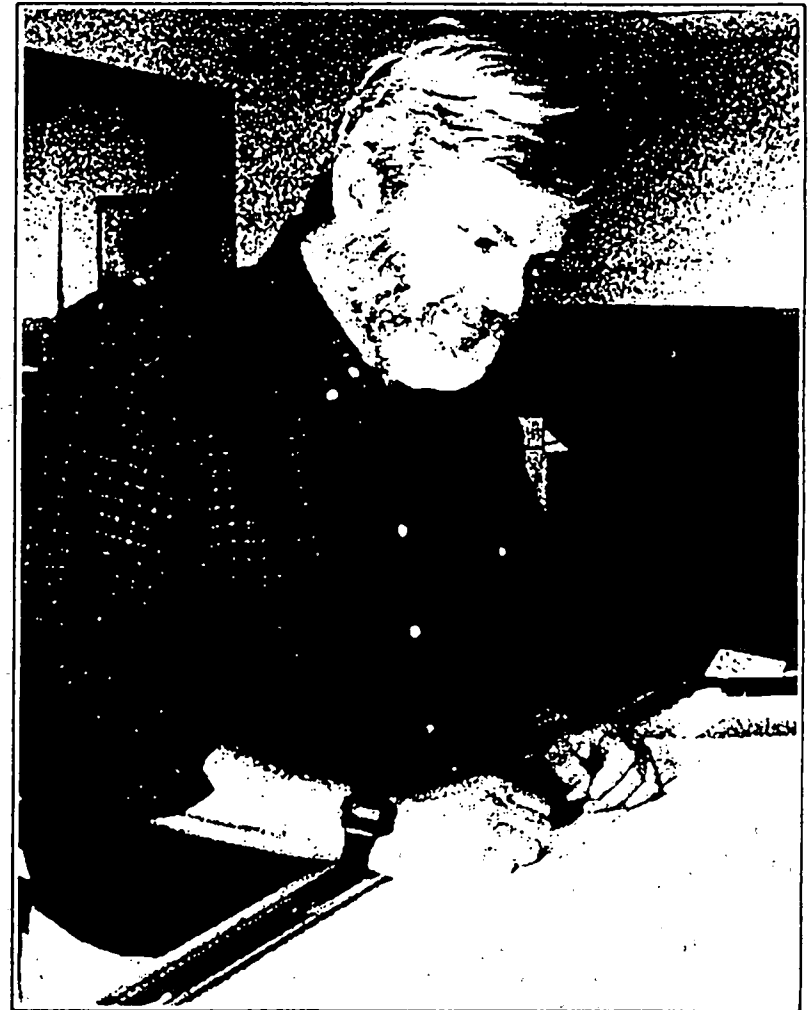
Duffy's graphs revealed that tufted puffins who ate the sandlance increased in body mass more than those who ate pollock. The results were much the same with the black-legged kittiwake.

The reason the birds are eating pollock is because of the decline in the "energy-rich" fish available. So, where have the high-energy fish gone, and why the increase in pollock?

For the past 20 to 30 years, the water in Prince William Sound has been getting warmer, Duffy said. Several fish and shrimp species that prefer colder water have been on the decline since the '70s, while others that prefer warm water, like pollock, have increased.

Duffy, who is the program manager for the Alaska Natural Heritage Program, hopes this research will benefit Alaskans. He brought up concerns related to how the tourism industry can affect colonies of birds and fish.

"People are beginning to love the Sound to death," Duffy said. He pointed out that coverage of the Exxon oil spill has brought in busloads of tourists. He hopes the research will help provide ways to manage growth and avoid development in bird and fish habitats.



TOM SIKORA/THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Biology Professor Dr. David Duffy, in his office at UAA, recently lectured on Prince William Sound sea birds. The Science and Society Lecture Series continues through October.



# 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 and the University.

Doors will open October of 1998.

## New York City gets \$150,000 from Exxon Valdez spill settlement fund

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 in-

curred in the aftermath of the 11-million-gallon 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 to plant a symbolic Great Bulrush 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 to curtail erosion of salt-marsh habitat.

New York Parks spokesman Edward Skyler said the \$150,000 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 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 com-

pany to pay \$5.3 billion in actual and punitive damages to fishermen, Natives and others harmed by the pollution. Exxon has appealed that verdict.

# Harbor seals decline in Prince William Sound

VALDEZ (AP) — Scientists say Prince William Sound harbor seals remain in decline while populations south of Kodiak Island have stabilized.

Biologists focused Friday on ramifications of the Exxon Valdez oil spill as the American Association for the Advancement of Science met in Valdez. The three-day meeting drew about 140 researchers and ended Saturday.

The tanker wreck in 1989 dumped nearly 11 million gallons of oil into prime fishing waters and tainted hundreds of miles of Alaska coastline as far south as Homer.

Experts continue to debate the spill's long term effect, if any, after oil killed birds and marine life in its path.

At the Valdez conference, Brian Fadely, a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, said harbor seal populations in Southeast have long been stable or increasing slightly.

In the sound and off Kodiak Island, however, the seal's numbers have dropped dramatically for 20 years. Fadely, with UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, said the oil spill had accentuated the problem.

"There's lots of speculation and work being done on finding out what is the cause," Fadely said.

So far there are no answers but a favored theory is that there has been a reduction in the amount of or quality of food, Fadely said. Scientists have tested the idea by examining the seals' blood, weight and body condition.

But a comparison of 1960s and 1990s data on length, body weight and blubber thickness showed no significant differences.

Scientists also found that Prince William Sound seals have a slightly higher blubber density than Southeast seals. That means the fat has more lipids, which provide better energy storage and indicate the animals are in better condition, Fadely said.

Researcher Amy Hirons, of UAF's Institute of Marine Science, said she started collecting seals' whiskers in 1993 to look at their chemical content and growth rates, to test the food-chain idea.

The institute also reported on a study begun this summer on seal pups south of Kodiak, near Tugidak Island. Scientists say a separate study completed this summer shows the Tugidak-area seal populations had stabilized but at a reduced number.

## Seal populations going down

Harbor seals continue to decline in Prince William Sound, experts say

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# Otter population takes toll on Southeast shellfish

JUNEAU (AP) — As sea otters thrive again in Southeast Alaska after a long absence resulting from hunting, fishermen are losing out as the animals devour increasing numbers of crab and other shellfish.

"Sea otters are having and will continue to have a very strong effect on the bottom communities throughout this region," Brendan Kelly, assistant biology professor at the University of Alaska Southeast, told the Juneau Empire. "The outlook is for very reduced human harvest" of the shellfish otters target.

Otters had been wiped out in the region by fur traders last cen-

tury. The population has soared since otters were reintroduced to Southeast Alaska in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Kelly said.

The 400 otters transplanted to the region back then has grown to a population now numbering more than 10,000, Kelly said.

Although tourism operators like the otters and some scientists see the changes as nature taking its course, some commercial and subsistence fishermen aren't pleased with the success of the reintroduction program.

Sea otters will eat a quarter to a third of their body weight a day,

Kelly said. Among those he studied this summer, females typically weighed 40 to 50 pounds and males 60 to 70 pounds.

Frustrated fishermen say appetites that size are devastating their fishing grounds.

"They're like a vacuum cleaner," said Bobbie Anderson of Petersburg. She said she and her husband got out of crab-fishing after 20 years, partly because of the otters.

Where previously they'd bring in 1,500 crabs in their 150 pots in Rowan Bay, about 60 miles west of Petersburg, they were coming up with one or two a pot, she said.

Doug Woodby, marine fisheries research supervisor in Southeast for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said the department doesn't do underwater stock assessments for Dungeness crab, so he can't say for certain whether the otters have made a difference yet.

The overall harvest levels aren't down so far, but fishermen may be working harder for what they're getting, he said.

The department has seen dramatic declines in sea cucumbers and sea urchin stocks near Sitka, which appear to correspond to the movement of otters into the area, Woodby said.

Anecdotes about the affects of otters are plentiful.

Eric Holmlund, a commercial diver from Sitka, said he recently dove in Slocum Arm off Chichagof Island, an area that "used to be rich in abalone and different shellfish and stuff."

About all he found were "bits and pieces" of sea cucumbers. "It was just dead. And I could see these sea otters eating the cucumbers, just ripping them apart and throwing them back."

Some people say the government should begin managing otter popu-

lations. Though hunted to near-extinction last century, otters are now protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, which allows only coastal Alaska Natives to kill them for personal use.

Mike Sheldon of Petersburg thinks the government should put up a bounty on otters to control the population — "not wipe out the species but manage it," he said.

Juneau crab fisherman Lawton Paddock said he's seen evidence of human harvesters frustrated with the sea otters taking the law into their own hands.

"All I could tell you is I've seen several otters floating in the tide rips and they had bullet holes in them," he said.

Carol Gorbics, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, said conflict between fishermen's needs and protection of otters is inevitable.

"The reality is sea otters use resources that have become commercially valuable to people as well," she said. The way the law is written, "there's really very little that can be done to avoid that conflict."

Eventually, she said, the otter population probably will level off as their numbers exceed the capacity of the food supply.

## Otter population taking toll on Southeast shellfish

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PENINSULA CLARION  
SEPTEMBER 9, 1997

Sea otters will eat a quarter to a third of their body weight a day, Kelly said. Among those he studied this summer, females typically weighed 40 to 50 pounds and males 60 to 70 pounds.

Frustrated fishermen say appetites that size are devastating their fishing grounds.

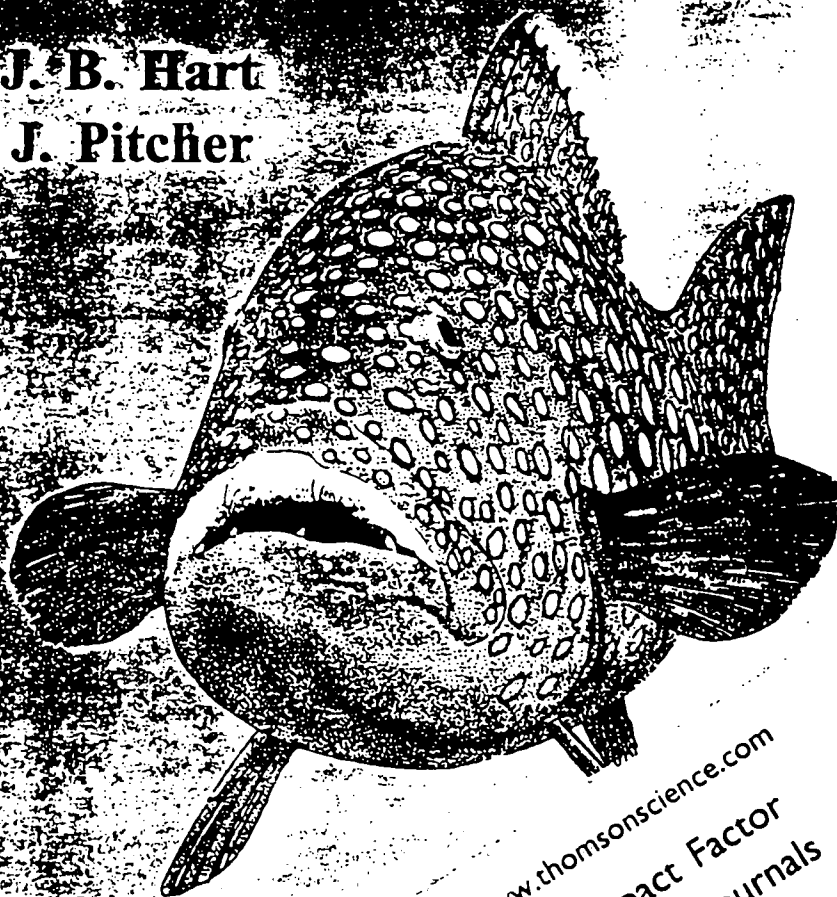
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EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
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Proceedings of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Symposium (American Fisheries Society Symposium 18)

S.D. Rice, R.B. Spies, D.A. Wolfe and B.A. Wright (eds)

American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, MD, 1996

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Hard cover, pp. xii + 931, acid-free paper, numerous tables and figures, author and subject indexes  
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There must be few biologists who were not deeply affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Prince William Sound in 1989. The contemporary press accounts and subsequent TV documentaries revealed the scale of the problems and mistakes made during the initial attempts to control the spill, the horrifying effects on individual sea birds and mammals and the impacts on those whose livelihoods depended on the ecology of the Sound, particularly the fishers. Many readers may feel they are already apprised of the ecological effects of the incident and the conservation and socio-economic issues it raised, so why another volume dealing with the spill and its aftermath?

The main aim of the editors in producing this volume was to "provide a lasting record of the unprecedented effort on behalf of the governments to determine the extent and nature of injuries caused by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill." The book does just that. It provides a sober and authoritative version of the effects of the spill and contains the necessary scientific details and arguments behind many of the generalities available in more popular texts. Because of the attention the spill has received over the last six years, most readers will not be surprised at the findings of many of the contributions. For instance, we read that the shoreline biota was affected at the biochemical, physiological, population and community levels, that subtidal areas were generally less damaged and that it may be many years before low-energy, sink areas are clear of the oil. Also, that at least 250 000 sea birds and several thousand sea otters were killed, that the clean-up techniques adopted in some areas (high-pressure hot water) exacerbated these effects and that there was substantial impact on the fishing industry and its communities. Although much of this came out at the time of the spill, this volume is important in that it delivers the science that underpins these facts and provides object lessons for those unlucky enough to be involved in similar incidents in the future.

The structure of the book is clear and logical. The editors provide a very readable overview of the spill which serves to put into perspective the 63 contributions that follow. These papers are grouped into sections dealing with the fate and toxicity of the oil, effects on intertidal assemblages, on subtidal assemblages, the treatment of the oil, effects on Pacific herring, salmon and other fish, effects on sea birds and mammals, the response of subsistence fishing communities to the spill and the psychological and social impacts on these communities.

Those whose primary interests are in fish and fisheries will not be disappointed. About 30% of the 890 pages of text deals with these and related issues. Most of the research effort has naturally been focused on the immediate and medium-term effects of the spill on commercially important species, such as herring and salmon. Because of the timing of the spill, Pacific herring, *Clupea pallasii*, were constrained to spawn on oiled grounds. The hatched larvae displayed a range of sublethal effects and larval recruitment was down by three orders of magnitude that year. Pink salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, were also hard hit, with an estimated 2 million adult fish (28% of the wild stock) failing to return to the Sound in 1990, although the losses were less in subsequent years. The growth rates of cutthroat trout, *Oncorhynchus clarki*, and Dolly Varden, *Salvelinus malma*, were also depressed by the oil. In some cases, impact on fish populations could be attributed to the direct effects of oiling, whilst in others there was evidence of indirect effects through increased mortality of their invertebrate prey. The spill also had a major impact on subsistence fishing, harvests being down by up to 77%, mainly because of fears (largely unfounded) over food safety.

This book will surely become the standard scientific treatise on the *Exxon Valdez* spill and should be required reading for all those likely to become involved with similar incidents elsewhere.

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