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## NEPA REVIEW INFORMATION

- ◆ Herring
- ◆ Lingering Oil
- ◆ Long-Term Monitoring
- ◆ Harbor Protection/Restoration
- ◆ Habitat Acquisition & Protection
- ◆ Public Comments
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In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we encourage you to view the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Plan*. (available below)

This DSEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding to take action regarding significant new circumstances bearing on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's (Council) restoration efforts as assessed in the original EIS. Specifically, as the restoration funds remaining from the Exxon Valdez settlement diminish, the Council seeks a more discrete and efficient funding mechanism by which to direct the remaining funds.

Public comments on the DSEIS were accepted on or before July 19th, 2010. The comment period is now closed.

Click [HERE](#) to view the News Release (January 15, 2010).

Click [HERE \(PDF\)](#) or [HERE \(HTML\)](#) to read the Notice of Availability, as it appears in the *Federal Register*.

Click [HERE](#) to read the Final SEIS (August 26, 2010).

## Background Documents

[Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Plan Environmental Impact Statement \(Summary\)](#) (Sep. 1994)

[Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Plan Environmental Impact Statement \(Full\)](#) (Sep. 1994)

[Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Plan Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision](#) (Oct. 1994)

[Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Plan](#) (Nov. 1994)

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**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council** | [dfg.evostc.state.ak.us](mailto:dfg.evostc.state.ak.us) | 441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500 | Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 278-8012 | Fax: (907) 276-7178 | Toll-Free: (800) 478-7745 | Office Hours: Mon through Fri, 8am-4:30pm  
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## PUBLIC MEETINGS

- ◆ Herring
- ◆ Lingering Oil

The following public meetings were held to obtain input and comments from members of the public. Information about comments presented at each meeting is below:

- ◆ Long-Term Monitoring
- ◆ Harbor Protection/Restoration

**February 16, 2010 - Homer, Alaska**  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center  
 95 Sterling Highway  
 Homer, AK 99603  
 (audio not available for this meeting)

- ◆ Habitat Acquisition & Protection

**February 17, 2010 - Anchorage, Alaska**  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center- Kahtnu Room #1  
 600 West 7th Ave.  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

- ◆ Public Comments
- ◆ Index of Documents

[Listen to the Anchorage Meeting](#)

**February 18, 2010 - Cordova, Alaska**  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Cordova Public Library  
 622 First Street  
 Cordova, AK 99574

[Listen to the Cordova Meeting](#)

**March 16, 2010 - Seward, Alaska**  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 K.M. Rae Building  
 125 Third Avenue  
 Seward, AK 99664

[Listen to the Seward Meeting](#)

**March 17, 2010 - Valdez, Alaska**  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Valdez Civic Center  
 110 Clifton Drive  
 Valdez, AK 99686

[Listen to the Valdez Meeting](#)

**March 18, 2010 - Kodiak, Alaska**  
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
 Kodiak Refuge Visitor Center  
 402 Center Street  
 Kodiak, AK 99615

[Listen to the Kodiak Meeting](#)

Many written comments were also received. To view written comments, please click [HERE](#)

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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - HERRING

The Council has classified the Prince William Sound (PWS) population of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) as a resource that has not recovered from the effects of the 1989 oil spill. The PWS herring population was increasing prior to 1989 with record harvests reported just before the spill. The 1989 year class was one of the smallest cohorts of spawning adults recorded and by 1993 the fishery had collapsed with only 25% of the expected adults returning to spawn. The PWS fishery was closed from 1993 to 1996, but reopened in 1997 and 1998, based on an increasing population. Numbers again declined in 1999, and the fishery remains closed today. The 1993 collapse can be explained by several competing hypothesis; however, data uncertainty makes it unlikely that the reasons will be known.

The Council recognizes the uncertainty with regard to the role of the 1989 spill and the current depressed state of the PWS herring population. However, herring are considered a keystone species in the marine ecosystem and play a vital role in the food chain of many injured species. Thus, rebuilding the herring population has the potential to support the restoration of these injured species. In addition, supporting a healthy herring population may compensate for some of the losses in fishing opportunities that resulted from the spill and its damage to salmon and species other than herring. In April 2006, prompted by public comments about the continuing impacts to communities and commercial fishermen from herring losses, the Council convened scientists and researchers, commercial and subsistence fishermen, and natural resource managers for a herring workshop. One of the most important outcomes of the workshop was the consensus that a long-term strategic herring restoration program was needed if viable herring recovery activities were to be implemented. From 2006 to 2008, Council representatives met with natural resource managers, commercial fishers, scientists, the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and Alaska Native residents of spill-area communities to gain sufficient input to draft a cost-efficient, scientifically credible, and coordinated program. This effort produced the first draft of the Integrated Herring Restoration Program (IHRP) in December 2008.

The goal of the IHRP is to determine what, if anything, can be done to successfully restore PWS herring; to determine what steps can be taken to examine the reasons for the continued decline of herring in the Sound; to identify and evaluate potential recovery options; and to recommend a course of action for restoration. The document is currently being reviewed and updated with new information and will serve as a general road map for the Council's herring-related funding decisions. The Council has proposed to fund \$20 million for research in this area over a twenty-year period.





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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - LINGERING OIL

One of the most surprising revelations from two decades of research and restoration efforts since the 1989 spill is the persistence of subsurface oil in a relatively un-weathered state. This oil, estimated to be around 97.2 metric tons (or 23,000 gallons), is contained in discontinuous patches across beaches that were initially impacted by the spill. The patches cannot be visually identified on the beach surface, but their presence may be a source for continued exposure to oil of sea otters and birds that seek food in sediments where the oil persists and remains a concern and a perception of contamination by subsistence users. The survey work completed to date indicates that the oil is decreasing at a rate of zero to four percent per year, with only a five percent chance that the rate is as high as four percent. As a result, it may persist for decades.

Passive and subsistence uses were significantly impacted by the spill and this has affected the overall health of the communities in Prince William Sound. The lingering oil has also impacted the public's perception of the spill area as the pristine environment that was present before the spill occurred. This perception has continued to preclude full recovery for some passive and subsistence uses. It may require additional resources to evaluate, monitor, and redress the impact of lingering oil on these uses in the spill-area. An important function of this information gathering would be to pass this information back to the communities and the general public.

In an effort to address the issue of lingering oil, the governments developed a restoration plan under the terms of the Reopener provision in the Consent Decree with Exxon (click [HERE](#) for more information on the Reopener). Efforts to date include the development of a spatial probability model to identify beach segments with a high likelihood of persistent oil, and investigations of the reasons for the persistence of oil as a means to consider options that may accelerate the oil degradation. Under the lingering oil initiative, the Council envisions completion of the studies underway to reach a decision point on further efforts for active remediation. Upon receiving additional lingering oil information from these current lingering oil studies and the resolution of the Reopener, the Council will evaluate the need for restoration of related services and thus no prospective funding amount has been proposed.

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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - LONG-TERM MONITORING OF MARINE CONDITIONS

In the twenty years since the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, it has become apparent that the ocean ecosystem can undergo profound changes and such changes likely preclude a return to pre-spill conditions. The 1994 Restoration Plan (Plan) recognized that recovery from the spill would likely take decades. A Restoration Reserve was created from the Plan in part to provide for long-term observation of injured resources and services and provide for appropriate restoration actions into the future. To further this effort, in 1999 the Council also supported the development of a long-term research and monitoring program.

Long-term monitoring has two components: monitoring the recovery of resources from the initial injury and monitoring how factors other than oil may inhibit full recovery or adversely impact recovered resources. This second type of monitoring collects data on environmental factors that drive ecosystem-level changes. The information that is produced from such monitoring may be used to manage individual injured species and resources. However, such data is increasingly valuable in illuminating the larger ecosystem shifts that impact and influence a broad variety of species and resources injured by the spill.

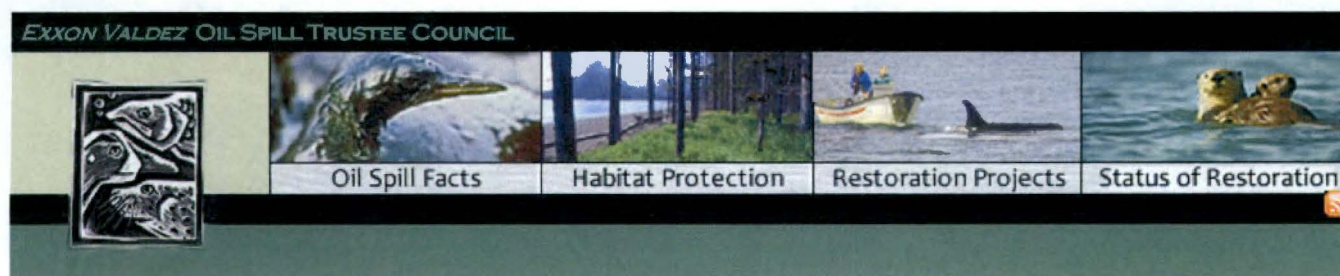
By monitoring these changes, agencies and interested parties may be able to adjust their own activities and management strategies to adapt to what may lie ahead and to further support injured resources in these quickly-shifting marine ecosystems. The Council has a history of supporting oceanographic monitoring by helping to establish and fund long-term data collections. In this initiative, the Council envisions seeking partnerships with scientific entities or consortiums able to maintain those collections and that can demonstrate an ability to leverage this support and develop science-based products to inform the public of changes in the environment and the impacts of these changes on injured resources and services. The Council proposes to fund this effort with approximately \$25 million, to be spent over a twenty-year period.

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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - HARBOR PROTECTION & MARINE RESTORATION

### a. Storm water, wastewater, and harbor projects

Many coastal communities in the spill area have a limited ability to collect and properly dispose of waste, such as oily bilge water, used engine oil, paints, solvents, and lead-acid batteries. Improper disposal of these wastes in landfills adversely affects the quality of nearby marine waters through runoff and leaching. In some cases, these wastes are discharged directly into marine waters. Chronic marine pollution stresses fish and wildlife resources, possibly delaying recovery of resources injured by the oil spill. For example, with regard to the worldwide mortality of seabirds, the effects of chronic marine pollution are believed to be at least as important as those of large-scale spills.

The Council has approved the funding of several projects to prepare waste management plans and has contributed to their implementation. These projects resulted in the acquisition of waste oil management equipment and the construction of environmental operating stations for the drop-off of used oil, household hazardous waste and recyclable solid waste in Cordova, Valdez, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek and Whittier, Kodiak and lower Cook Inlet. The Council seeks to further reduce pollution in the marine environment to contribute to the recovery of injured natural resources or services and is considering funding this effort with ten million dollars.

### b. Marine debris removal

Marine debris is an issue in the marine and near-shore environment in Alaska, where it is likely that thousands of tons of marine debris exist within three nautical miles of the Alaska coastline. Marine fish and wildlife become entangled in and ingest debris from foreign and domestic sources that may be a day or decades old and that range from small plastic items to very large fishing nets. Approximately 175 metric tons of debris was collected from Alaska coasts by citizen cleanup projects in 2007. Marine debris removal projects can result in an immediate improvement to the coastal habitat.

Coastal communities are effective in marine debris cleanups due to their intimate knowledge of the locations of debris accumulation. In addition, when communities participate in marine debris cleanups, they often alter the common practices that led to marine debris as their awareness of the effects of the debris on their coastline and the fisheries upon which they depend increases. Marine debris removal reduces marine pollution affecting injured resources and services and thus further supports natural restoration. The Council proposes to fund marine debris removal with approximately three million dollars.

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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - HABITAT ACQUISITION & PROTECTION

The protection of habitat is an important component of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. The acquisition of private lands or partial interests in private lands promotes the natural recovery of spill-injured resources and associated services by removing the threat posed by additional development impacts. The program is implemented by state and federal resource agencies, often in partnership with non-governmental organizations. The habitat program has protected approximately 650,000 acres of valuable habitat through a variety of purchases of various property rights, ranging from fee simple acquisition to conservation and timber easements. The goals of the habitat protection program remain viable. Resource and land management agencies, such as the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, continue to receive parcel nominations for Council consideration. Approximately \$24 million remains within the habitat subaccount for future habitat protection efforts. The Council is considering alternatives for allocation of these funds. For example, half of the funds remaining may be allocated to the purchase of large parcels within a period of two to three years, and the remaining half to a program spanning a 12-year period focused on the protection of small parcels less than 1,000 acres or \$1 million in price. The Council proposes to utilize the approximately \$24 million remaining to continue the habitat program. A variety of administrative options, funding allocations, time frames, and management strategies will be considered.

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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view the draft SEIS (Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement)

Laurel Jennings  
NEPA Coordinator  
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: 888-654-EVOS (3867)  
Email: [dfg.evos.nepacommments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.evos.nepacommments@alaska.gov)

## Comments on the Draft SEIS

Public comments on the draft SEIS were accepted on or before July 19, 2010. The public comment period has now closed. Our thanks to all who participated. To view public comments, please click the links below.

## Public Comments Received (click to view comments in PDF format)

Alaska Sea Life Center  
Brenner, Richard  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
The Conservation Fund  
Environmental Protection Agency  
ExxonMobil  
King, James  
Prince William Sound Science Center

## Draft SEIS Comments Received After July 19, 2010 Deadline

National Park Service

## Comments on the Intent to Prepare and Scope of the SEIS

Comments on the intent to prepare and the scope of an SEIS were accepted on or before April 1, 2010. The public comment period has now closed. Our thanks to all who participated. To view public comments received, please click the links below.

6 public meetings were held to obtain comments. Please click [HERE](#) to view meeting information and listen to public comments presented at these meetings.

## Written SEIS Scope Comments Received (click to view comments in PDF format)



Adams, Kenneth  
Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC)  
American Land Conservancy (ALC)  
American Wildlife Conservation Partners  
Anderson, Paul  
Brenner, Richard  
Busch, Dan  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRRC)  
Danielson, Seth  
Draskovich, Margie  
Fitzhugh, Ben  
Gulf Of Alaska Keeper  
Hopcroft, Russell  
Karluk IRA Tribal Council  
Keen Eye Birders Club  
Kenai Area Fishermans Coalition  
King, James  
Klasner, Frederick  
Kodiak Chamber of Commerce  
Kodiak Island Borough  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA)  
Kodiak State Parks Citizens Advisory Board  
Kozub, John  
MacIntosh, Richard  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute  
Matkin, Craig  
McCammon, Molly  
Mete, Greg  
Murphy, Kevin  
National Audubon Society-Kodiak Chapter  
National Center for Conservation Science & Policy  
National Park Service( NPS)  
Natives of Kodiak  
Native Village of Eyak  
North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)  
Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC)  
Rankin, Colleen  
Rostad, Mike  
Royer, Thomas  
Schmidt, Dake  
Schwarz, Len  
Seward Harbor  
Sirofchuck, Mike  
The Conservation Fund  
The Wildlife Society  
Thomas, Gary  
Tschersich, Hans  
Weingartner, Thomas  
Wittenbrader, Jill  
Worton, Carrie

## **SEIS Scope Comments Received By Telephone**

Kidder, Judy (Kodiak Sportfishing Association)

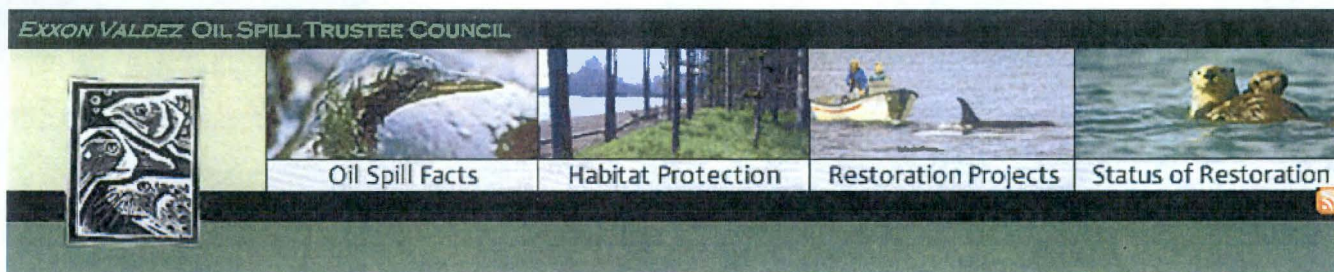
## **SEIS Scope Comments Received After April 1, 2010 Deadline**

City Of Seward  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

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## EVOSTC NEPA Review

### CASE DOCUMENTS, ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD INDEX

Below is a listing of all documents pertaining to this NEPA review. Additional documents will be added in coming weeks as this process proceeds, so please check back often.

#### Laws & Regulations

##### Applicable Laws & Regulations

National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA) 42 USC §§ 4321-4347 (1969)  
 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) 15 USC § 1531 et. seq. (1973)  
 The Fed. Water Pollution Control Act - amended by the Clean Water Act (CWA) 33 USC § 1368 (1977)  
 Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) 33 USC § 1321; §§ 2701-2719 (1990)  
 Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) 16 USC § 1801 et. seq. (1996)  
 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) 16 USC § 661 et. seq. (1934)  
 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 16 USC § 703 et. seq. (1918)  
 Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act 33 USC § 401 et. seq. (1899)  
 The Rehabilitation Act 29 USC § 508 (1998)  
 Archaeological Resources Protection Act 16 USC § 470 et. seq. (1979)  
 Coastal Zone Management Act of 1982 (CZMA) 16 USC 1451 et. seq. (1972)  
 Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) 16 USC § 1361 (1972)  
 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) 16 USC § 470 et. seq. (1966)

##### Federal Register Notices

Notice of Intent (NOI)

##### Consent Decree

Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree (US vs. Exxon Corp.) (August 29, 1991)  
 Agreement and Consent Decree (US vs. State of Alaska) (September 20, 1991)

#### Trustee Coordination & Management

##### Memoranda of Understanding/Memoranda of Agreement

Governments' Memorandum in Support of Agreement and Consent Decree (October 8, 1991)

##### Meeting Documentation

[View Documentation of Past Meetings](#)

##### Trustee Council Resolutions

[View Trustee Council Resolutions](#)

##### Court Registry Disbursement Notices

[View Court Registry Disbursement Notices](#)

##### Correspondence

General Letter to Agencies  
 Response Letter from Denby Lloyd (AK Dept. of Fish & Game)  
 Response Letter from Daniel Sullivan (AK Dept. of Law)

#### Scientific Studies & Reports

##### Annual and Final Project Reports

[View Reports & Other Trustee Council Project Information](#)

##### Expert Reports

[View Reports on Economic Impacts of the Spill](#)

#### References

##### Distribution Lists

[Community Contacts](#)

#### Public Outreach & Involvement

##### Public Meetings



[View Information About Past and Upcoming Public Meetings](#)

**Press Releases and Factsheets**

[View the Notice of Intent \(NOI\) News Release](#)

**Correspondence**

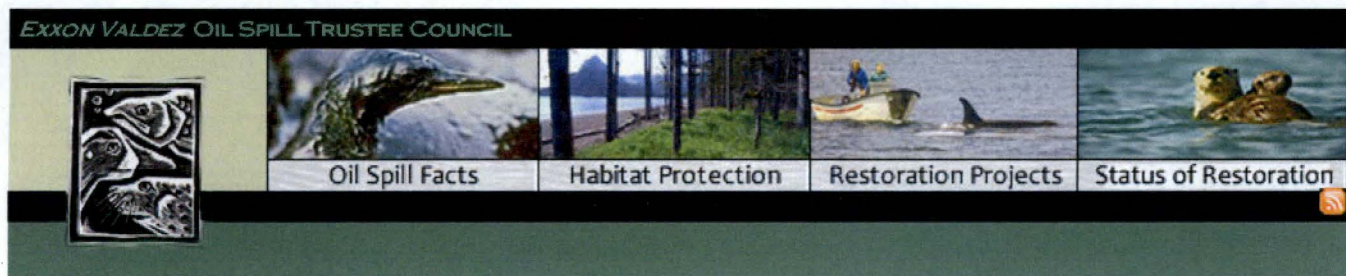
[Letter to Tribal Governments](#)

[List of Native Groups](#)

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 Homer, AK 99603  
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 Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center- Kahtnu Room #1  
 600 West 7th Ave.  
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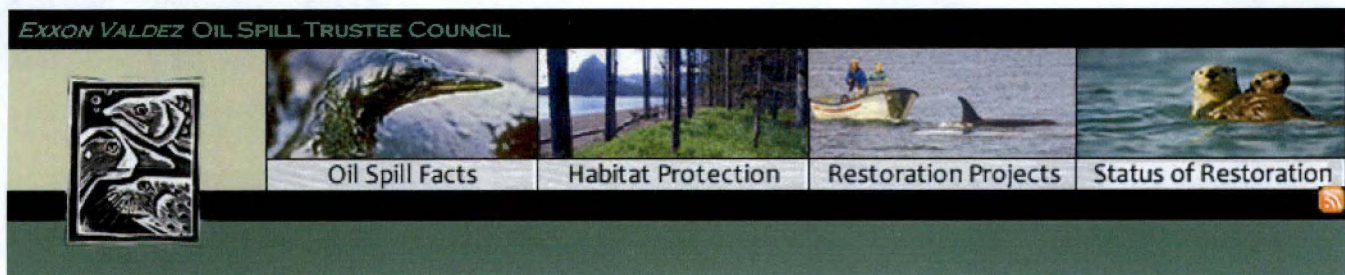
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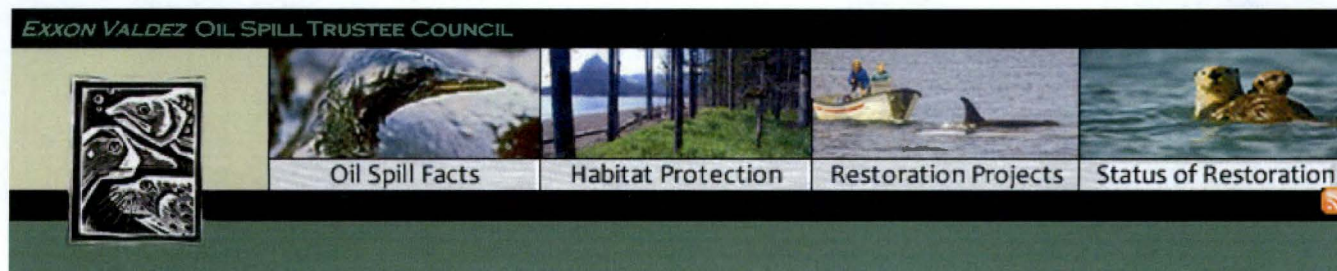
## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - HERRING

The Council has classified the Prince William Sound (PWS) population of Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*) as a resource that has not recovered from the effects of the 1989 oil spill. The PWS herring population was increasing prior to 1989 with record harvests reported just before the spill. The 1989 year class was one of the smallest cohorts of spawning adults recorded and by 1993 the fishery had collapsed with only 25% of the expected adults returning to spawn. The PWS fishery was closed from 1993 to 1996, but reopened in 1997 and 1998, based on an increasing population. Numbers again declined in 1999, and the fishery remains closed today. The 1993 collapse can be explained by several competing hypothesis; however, data uncertainty makes it unlikely that the reasons will be known.

The Council recognizes the uncertainty with regard to the role of the 1989 spill and the current depressed state of the PWS herring population. However, herring are considered a keystone species in the marine ecosystem and play a vital role in the food chain of many injured species. Thus, rebuilding the herring population has the potential to support the restoration of these injured species. In addition, supporting a healthy herring population may compensate for some of the losses in fishing opportunities that resulted from the spill and its damage to salmon and species other than herring. In April 2006, prompted by public comments about the continuing impacts to communities and commercial fishermen from herring losses, the Council convened scientists and researchers, commercial and subsistence fishermen, and natural resource managers for a herring workshop. One of the most important outcomes of the workshop was the consensus that a long-term strategic herring restoration program was needed if viable herring recovery activities were to be implemented. From 2006 to 2008, Council representatives met with natural resource managers, commercial fishers, scientists, the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and Alaska Native residents of spill-area communities to gain sufficient input to draft a cost-efficient, scientifically credible, and coordinated program. This effort produced the first draft of the Integrated Herring Restoration Program (IHRP) in December 2008.

The goal of the IHRP is to determine what, if anything, can be done to successfully restore PWS herring; to determine what steps can be taken to examine the reasons for the continued decline of herring in the Sound; to identify and evaluate potential recovery options; and to recommend a course of action for restoration. The document is currently being reviewed and updated with new information and will serve as a general road map for the Council's herring-related funding decisions. The Council has proposed to fund \$20 million for research in this area over a twenty-year period.





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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - LINGERING OIL

One of the most surprising revelations from two decades of research and restoration efforts since the 1989 spill is the persistence of subsurface oil in a relatively un-weathered state. This oil, estimated to be around 97.2 metric tons (or 23,000 gallons), is contained in discontinuous patches across beaches that were initially impacted by the spill. The patches cannot be visually identified on the beach surface, but their presence may be a source for continued exposure to oil of sea otters and birds that seek food in sediments where the oil persists and remains a concern and a perception of contamination by subsistence users. The survey work completed to date indicates that the oil is decreasing at a rate of zero to four percent per year, with only a five percent chance that the rate is as high as four percent. As a result, it may persist for decades.

Passive and subsistence uses were significantly impacted by the spill and this has affected the overall health of the communities in Prince William Sound. The lingering oil has also impacted the public's perception of the spill area as the pristine environment that was present before the spill occurred. This perception has continued to preclude full recovery for some passive and subsistence uses. It may require additional resources to evaluate, monitor, and redress the impact of lingering oil on these uses in the spill-area. An important function of this information gathering would be to pass this information back to the communities and the general public.

In an effort to address the issue of lingering oil, the governments developed a restoration plan under the terms of the Reopener provision in the Consent Decree with Exxon (click [HERE](#) for more information on the Reopener). Efforts to date include the development of a spatial probability model to identify beach segments with a high likelihood of persistent oil, and investigations of the reasons for the persistence of oil as a means to consider options that may accelerate the oil degradation. Under the lingering oil initiative, the Council envisions completion of the studies underway to reach a decision point on further efforts for active remediation. Upon receiving additional lingering oil information from these current lingering oil studies and the resolution of the Reopener, the Council will evaluate the need for restoration of related services and thus no prospective funding amount has been proposed.

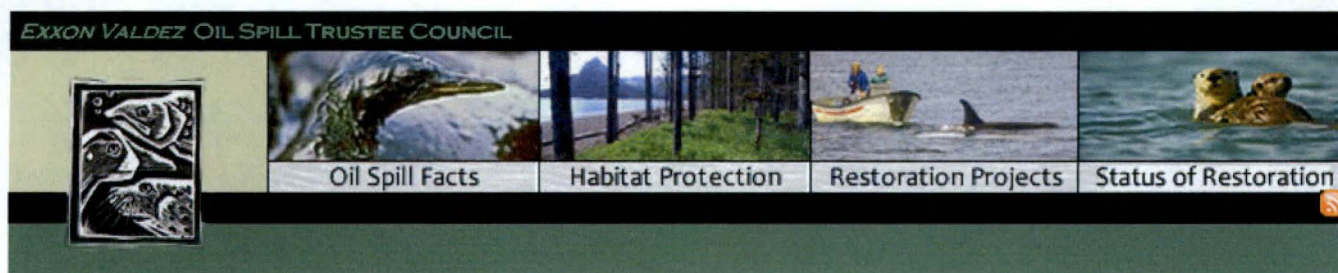
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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - LONG-TERM MONITORING OF MARINE CONDITIONS

In the twenty years since the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, it has become apparent that the ocean ecosystem can undergo profound changes and such changes likely preclude a return to pre-spill conditions. The 1994 Restoration Plan (Plan) recognized that recovery from the spill would likely take decades. A Restoration Reserve was created from the Plan in part to provide for long-term observation of injured resources and services and provide for appropriate restoration actions into the future. To further this effort, in 1999 the Council also supported the development of a long-term research and monitoring program.

Long-term monitoring has two components: monitoring the recovery of resources from the initial injury and monitoring how factors other than oil may inhibit full recovery or adversely impact recovered resources. This second type of monitoring collects data on environmental factors that drive ecosystem-level changes. The information that is produced from such monitoring may be used to manage individual injured species and resources. However, such data is increasingly valuable in illuminating the larger ecosystem shifts that impact and influence a broad variety of species and resources injured by the spill.

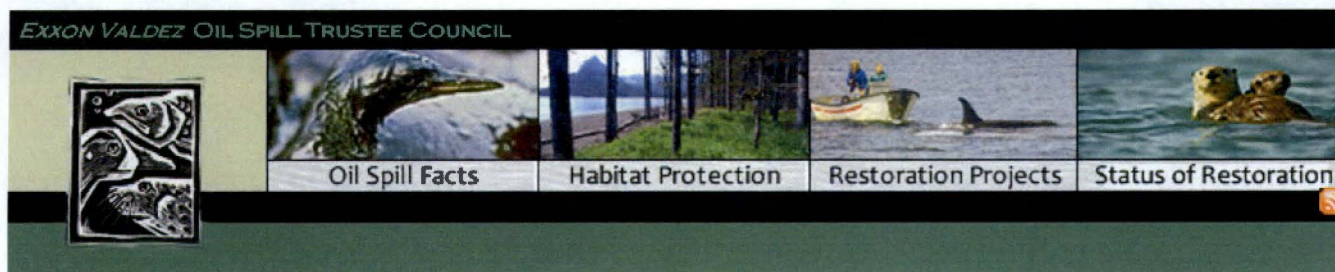
By monitoring these changes, agencies and interested parties may be able to adjust their own activities and management strategies to adapt to what may lie ahead and to further support injured resources in these quickly-shifting marine ecosystems. The Council has a history of supporting oceanographic monitoring by helping to establish and fund long-term data collections. In this initiative, the Council envisions seeking partnerships with scientific entities or consortiums able to maintain those collections and that can demonstrate an ability to leverage this support and develop science-based products to inform the public of changes in the environment and the impacts of these changes on injured resources and services. The Council proposes to fund this effort with approximately \$25 million, to be spent over a twenty-year period.

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 Phone: (907) 278-8012 | Fax: (907) 276-7178 | Toll-Free: (800) 478-7745 | Office Hours: Mon through Fri, 8am-4:30pm

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## RESTORATION CATEGORIES - HARBOR PROTECTION & MARINE RESTORATION

### a. Storm water, wastewater, and harbor projects

Many coastal communities in the spill area have a limited ability to collect and properly dispose of waste, such as oily bilge water, used engine oil, paints, solvents, and lead-acid batteries. Improper disposal of these wastes in landfills adversely affects the quality of nearby marine waters through runoff and leaching. In some cases, these wastes are discharged directly into marine waters. Chronic marine pollution stresses fish and wildlife resources, possibly delaying recovery of resources injured by the oil spill. For example, with regard to the worldwide mortality of seabirds, the effects of chronic marine pollution are believed to be at least as important as those of large-scale spills.

The Council has approved the funding of several projects to prepare waste management plans and has contributed to their implementation. These projects resulted in the acquisition of waste oil management equipment and the construction of environmental operating stations for the drop-off of used oil, household hazardous waste and recyclable solid waste in Cordova, Valdez, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek and Whittier, Kodiak and lower Cook Inlet. The Council seeks to further reduce pollution in the marine environment to contribute to the recovery of injured natural resources or services and is considering funding this effort with ten million dollars.

### b. Marine debris removal

Marine debris is an issue in the marine and near-shore environment in Alaska, where it is likely that thousands of tons of marine debris exist within three nautical miles of the Alaska coastline. Marine fish and wildlife become entangled in and ingest debris from foreign and domestic sources that may be a day or decades old and that range from small plastic items to very large fishing nets. Approximately 175 metric tons of debris was collected from Alaska coasts by citizen cleanup projects in 2007. Marine debris removal projects can result in an immediate improvement to the coastal habitat.

Coastal communities are effective in marine debris cleanups due to their intimate knowledge of the locations of debris accumulation. In addition, when communities participate in marine debris cleanups, they often alter the common practices that led to marine debris as their awareness of the effects of the debris on their coastline and the fisheries upon which they depend increases. Marine debris removal reduces marine pollution affecting injured resources and services and thus further supports natural restoration. The Council proposes to fund marine debris removal with approximately three million dollars.

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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view the draft SEIS (Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement)

Laurel Jennings  
NEPA Coordinator  
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 888-654-EVOS (3867)  
Email: [dfg.evos.nepacommments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.evos.nepacommments@alaska.gov)

### Comments on the Draft SEIS

Public comments on the draft SEIS were accepted on or before July 19, 2010. The public comment period has now closed. Our thanks to all who participated. To view public comments, please click the links below.

### Public Comments Received (click to view comments in PDF format)

Alaska Sea Life Center  
Brenner, Richard  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
The Conservation Fund  
Environmental Protection Agency  
ExxonMobil  
King, James  
Prince William Sound Science Center

### Draft SEIS Comments Received After July 19, 2010 Deadline

National Park Service

### Comments on the Intent to Prepare and Scope of the SEIS

Comments on the intent to prepare and the scope of an SEIS were accepted on or before April 1, 2010. The public comment period has now closed. Our thanks to all who participated. To view public comments received, please click the links below.

6 public meetings were held to obtain comments. Please click [HERE](#) to view meeting information and listen to public comments presented at these meetings.

### Written SEIS Scope Comments Received (click to view comments in PDF format)

Adams, Kenneth  
Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC)  
American Land Conservancy (ALC)  
American Wildlife Conservation Partners  
Anderson, Paul  
Brenner, Richard  
Busch, Dan  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC)  
Danielson, Seth  
Draskovich, Margie  
Fitzhugh, Ben  
Gulf Of Alaska Keeper  
Hopcroft, Russell  
Karluk IRA Tribal Council  
Keen Eye Birders Club  
Kenai Area Fishermans Coalition  
King, James  
Klasner, Frederick  
Kodiak Chamber of Commerce  
Kodiak Island Borough  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA)  
Kodiak State Parks Citizens Advisory Board  
Kozub, John  
MacIntosh, Richard  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute  
Matkin, Craig  
McCammon, Molly  
Mete, Greg  
Murphy, Kevin  
National Audubon Society-Kodiak Chapter  
National Center for Conservation Science & Policy  
National Park Service( NPS)  
Natives of Kodiak  
Native Village of Eyak  
North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)  
Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC)  
Rankin, Colleen  
Rostad, Mike  
Royer, Thomas  
Schmidt, Dake  
Schwarz, Len  
Seward Harbor  
Sirofchuck, Mike  
The Conservation Fund  
The Wildlife Society  
Thomas, Gary  
Tschersich, Hans  
Weingartner, Thomas  
Wittenbrader, Jill  
Worton, Carrie

## **SEIS Scope Comments Received By Telephone**

Kidder, Judy (Kodiak Sportfishing Association)

## **SEIS Scope Comments Received After April 1, 2010 Deadline**

City Of Seward  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



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