

The Day The Water Died

A Compilation of
the November 1989
Citizens Commission
Hearings on the
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill



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NATIONAL Wildlife Federation by the National Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Wildlife Federation of Alaska and the Windstar Foundation.

The Day The Water Died

A Compilation of the November 1989 Citizens Commission Hearings on the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill

Based on hearings held in November 1989 in Anchorage,
Cordova, Homer, Kodiak and Old Harbor, Alaska in the
presence of Commission members

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Sponsored and published by
the National Wildlife Federation in cooperation with
the Natural Resources Defense Council,
the Wildlife Federation of Alaska and the Windstar Foundation

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PREFACE

In the early morning darkness of March 24th, 1989 the accident that couldn't happen, occurred. The *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on Bligh Reef dumping almost 11 million gallons of North Slope crude oil into the pristine waters of the Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. In addition to the despoliation of the environment and the mortality of tens of thousands of birds, mammals, fish and invertebrates, the lives of thousands of Alaskans who depend upon the Sound and the Gulf for their livelihood and recreation have been altered forever. These people have an important story to tell and our hearings at five localities in November provided a forum for them to express their views. The resulting report conveys their concerns to all of us for the purpose of preventing and, when necessary, responding to future oil spill disasters.

The members of the Citizens Commission would like to extend our deep appreciation to the people of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska for their participation in these hearings. We recognize that it represented a considerable effort on their part to dredge up the emotions of the summer. It is a tribute to their dedication to the Alaskan wilderness that they responded with such passion and commitment.

Our responsibility as Commissioners was to listen to the stories of the Alaskans impacted by the spill and report what we heard. This report uses the actual words of those who testified because we believe that their words will best convey the human impacts of the spill. This essential human component has been overlooked in other reports. Our hearings were held eight months after the spill and it was clear then, as it is now, that the testimony represents one point on a continuum running from the date of the spill to some point in the interminable future. The impacts of the spill continue and it will be many years, perhaps decades, before we understand them fully.

Although the oil industry and a range of state and federal agencies were criticized during the hearings, we recognize that "in the field" many of their employees were devastated by the impacts of the spill and they worked tirelessly along side of volunteers and others to clean up the oil.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the sponsors of the hearings and the numerous volunteers in each community which made these hearings so successful. It is our hope that this report along with the wealth of other information gathered as a result of this disaster will make the difference in our society's response to oil spills so that the individual in Homer who testified before us will never again have to look into the sky and say, "For the first time in my life, I saw the first flock of geese in the spring and I felt no joy."

John Adams
Executive Director
Natural Resources Defense Council

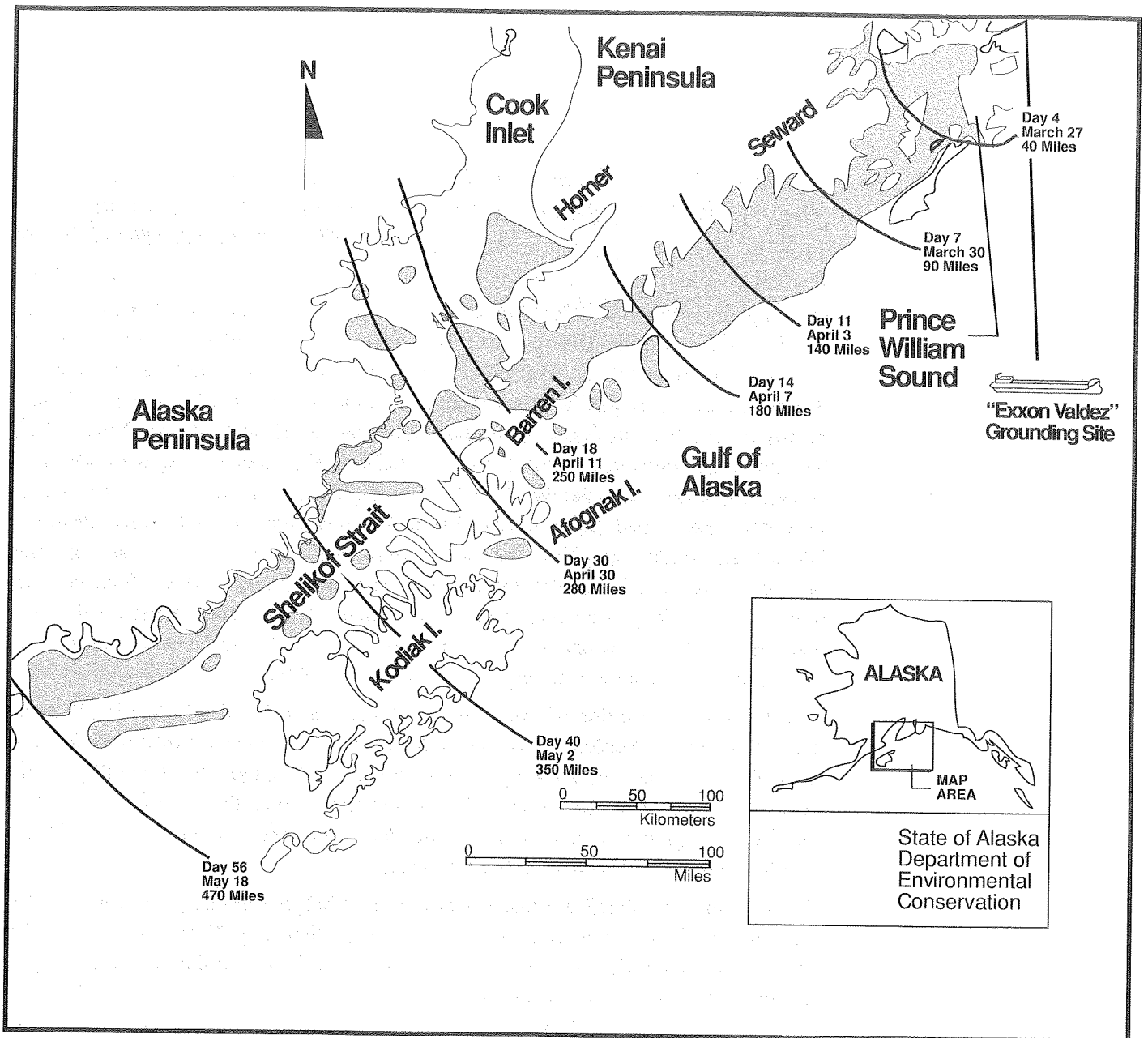
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A COMPILATION OF THE NOVEMBER 1989 CITIZENS
COMMISSION HEARINGS ON THE *EXXON VALDEZ* OIL SPILL

OVERVIEW

"Alaska is asked to be the nation's wilderness and also its repository for natural resources. Hopefully, we are going to find a graceful line (between the two)."

David Grimes, Fisherman, Cordova

Over a period of four days last November a distinguished commission, including four Alaskan conservation and political leaders plus the leaders of two national conservation organizations, listened to over 120 Alaskans who had been impacted by the March 24th oil spill in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. Public hearings were held in Cordova, Kodiak, Old Harbor, Homer and Anchorage. The hearings were sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. Joining the Federation in this endeavor were the Wildlife Federation of Alaska, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Windstar Foundation. In addition to National Wildlife Federation president Jay Hair, the Commission included, former Alaskan governor Jay Hammond, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council John Adams, pioneering Alaskan conservationist Celia Hunter, Native community leader and president of Akhiok-Kaguyak Native Corporation Ralph Eluska and Professor of Natural Resources at the University of Alaska Robert Weeden.

The Citizens Commission was proposed by the National Wildlife Federation because it was felt that the Alaskans of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska had not been given adequate opportunity to describe how the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and subsequent attempts at "clean-up" affected their lives and ability to earn a living. Nor had they been given an opportunity to voice their recommendations on how to avoid, or at least minimize, future oil related disasters.

The oil spill is an ongoing disaster. Not only is it but one in many worldwide spills currently polluting our waters, the effects of this particular spill have not abated. The effects on communities and individuals continue and the uncertainty about the future impacts on their lives are unresolved.

The full report categorizes the comments from many hours of often highly emotional testimony. Rather than attempting to paraphrase the testimony into a series of summary statements, we chose instead to use direct quotes to let the participants express how they felt in their own words.

CATEGORIES OF TESTIMONY

The testimony ranged from the disbelief immediately following the spill to specific recommendations about clean-up efforts and ways to prevent future spills. We have used some of the following categories to organize the testimony:

It Couldn't Happen

People in the communities affected by the oil spill expressed disbelief that such a catastrophe had occurred. They had lived with the oil industry for nearly 20 years. They had been assured that a major spill couldn't happen and if it did, industry was prepared to clean it up and prevent any serious environmental damage.

Who's in Charge?

Many people who testified at the hearings pointed to the confusion about "who's in charge" immediately after the spill and in the weeks to follow as a major contributing factor to the extent of the damage caused by the spill. Concern was expressed that more citizen and government oversight of oil industry activities is needed. Clear lines of responsibility in cases of such environmental disasters must be delineated before they happen. In addition, those responsible for the spill should not be in charge of the clean-up because they often do not live in the communities impacted by the spill and thus, have no real incentive to do an adequate job.

The Futility of Cleaning Rocks

Citizens were shocked at the inadequacy of the oil industries clean-up capabilities and preparedness. While oil exploration methods are state of the art, methods of oil spill clean-up have changed little over the past two decades.

Impacts of the Clean-up

Concerns were expressed and examples given by participants indicating that in many instances environmental damage caused by the clean-up activities only added to the damages caused by the spill.

The Human Cost

Missing from most news reports and previous analyses of the spill impacts has been any significant discussion of the effects of the spill and clean-up activities upon local communities. The spill was in all respects a disaster with lasting effects upon all components of communities. There were problems with community services being unable to deal with increased demands. Alcohol abuse, spouse and child abuse levels rose. Influx of people and clean-up dollars resulted in increased crime rates and chemical dependencies. High salaries paid for clean-up work depleted the normal community work force, making the delivery of services even more difficult. Children were being left alone as one or both parents who were unable to fish for their livelihood were forced to work on clean-up crews. The uncertainty about future impacts to fisheries continues to plague communities.

The Native Perspective

The impact of the spill on the subsistence lifestyle of the Natives of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska was an important component of these hearings. A very eloquent statement by the village elder chief of Port Graham Native Village clearly expresses the Native perspective and concerns about the inability to gather and eat traditional foods. The impacts of the spill on spiritual traditions was also discussed.

The Future

Nearly every one who testified emphasized that prevention of oil spills rather than clean-up is where industry and government should concentrate their efforts. Double-hulled or double-bottom tankers was consistently mentioned as an essential first step. Those who testified said that financial liability for damages caused by the spill should be the responsibility of the spiller. There was also a consistent recognition of the need for a national energy policy which emphasizes energy conservation and development of alternative energy sources. In addition, communities demanded that contingency plans include local input on all levels from planning to response.

Corporate Ethics

There was broad recognition among the participants that environmental catastrophes associated with oil extraction and transportation will continue until corporate boards develop an environmental ethic as an essential component of corporate policy.

INTRODUCTION

A COMPILATION OF THE NOVEMBER 1989 CITIZENS
COMMISSION HEARINGS ON THE *EXXON VALDEZ* OIL SPILL

"For about 14 years, I have fished and done research in Prince William Sound. The areas in which I have spent much of my time are the areas that were slathered with the fresh, black crude oil after it left the Exxon Valdez. I watched as the animals perished, and the bird and otter-rich waters of Montague Strait and Knight Island Passage became like deserts, devoid of furred and feathered life. It became silent, except for the incessant buzzing of helicopters.

Bald eagles cached dozens of oil-soaked cormorants in the rocks on small islands and feasted on their oil-blackened bodies. We watched as the tides of fresh oil engulfed the bay and drove marine birds and sea otters right up the beaches onto the snowbanks, fleeing what would have been certain death. The fumes from the fresh oil drove us from our anchorage, choked us and gave us painful headaches.

This was the Alaska wilderness as it appeared in late March and early April. I give this testimony because it's a vision that I'll never forget, and I want to make sure that people in Washington D.C. have a clear picture."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

In the wake of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill many words have been written as the world attempts to understand how this disaster could have happened, what the ongoing effects are and most important of all, how do we prevent it from happening again. The biologists strive to understand what 11 million gallons of crude oil does to fish, wildlife and benthic organisms. The sociologists attempt to assess the impacts on communities and villages. Our nation's legislators debate bills demanding long overdue tanker standards. Experts from all over the world have come to Alaska to tell the tale of the *Exxon Valdez*.

As the waves of winter drive the oil deeper into beaches, there is one set of voices missing from this tragic saga. Where are the voices of the Alaskans who spent their summer knee-deep in oil battling to keep it from their shores, the Alaskans who spent the long dark winter days healing the wounds of water, land and soul and preparing for an uncertain spring? This is the purpose of the Citizens Commission Hearings: to bring to the nation the continuing story of the *Exxon Valdez* in the words of those Alaskans whose lives were irrevocably changed.

PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE CITIZENS COMMISSION HEARINGS

"On Black Friday, March 24th, 1989, [Captain Joseph Hazelwood] put an unlicensed officer in charge of a 1,000 foot by 160 foot, 30,000 horse power super tanker. The ship is on autopilot, programmed to run aground on Bligh Reef. The pilot dozes off. The spill is reported to the Alyeska chief in Valdez. He wakes up, tells the caller to report to a subordinate, rolls back over and goes back to sleep. For the next 14 hours only one man knows how to run a forklift and crane. All oil spill equipment is buried under deep snows. Alyeska turns control back over to the perpetrator 24 hours later. President Bush chooses not to observe the biggest disaster in Alaskan history."

Mike Bruner, Citizen, Palmer

**Oil Spill Year
-14 years
(1975)**

A Coast Guard study concludes that double bottoms would have contained up to 97 percent of oil lost in 30 U.S. tanker groundings during 1969-1973.

Exxon pays Environmental Protection Agency fine of \$100,000 for pumping water contaminated with drilling fluids and oil into the Beaufort Sea, Alaska.

After the grounding of the *Exxon Valdez*, the National Wildlife Federation sponsored a full page advertisement in The Washington Post asking President George Bush to witness first hand the devastation caused by the oil spill. The Federation also lobbied Congress to arrange field hearings in Alaska. Questions needed to be answered. The American people had the right to know why this disaster happened. How effective was industry's response? What are the long term impacts to fish and wildlife? What is happening to the people whose livelihoods and lives depend on the pristine environment of coastal Alaska?

Both the request to the President and to Congress went unanswered. Fearing that Alaskans would not be heard, the National Wildlife Federation decided to sponsor its own hearings. The Wildlife Federation of Alaska, Natural Resources Defense Council and the Windstar Foundation joined with them. What follows is the story of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill told by Alaskans in their own words.

"Ever since I heard about this hearing, I've been trying to think of a way to explain to you what it felt like to go through the oil spill here in Kodiak. I wanted to make an impression strong enough to burn a little piece of your hearts so that you would never forget what was said here today, so that you would carry a little piece of our experience into other rooms, with other people, people who we will never personally meet, who have more power than we do, people who can make decisions about how we transport oil out of Alaska. Whether I can or cannot do that is beyond my judgment. I can only tell you what I feel and what I know about the oil spill."

Toby Sullivan, Fisherman, Kodiak

During the planning of the Citizens Commission Hearings, the coordinators heard again and again that people were weary. No one wanted to talk about the oil spill; everyone was trying to forget. Skepticism ran high about whether people would attend. Communities felt used by the news media, ignored and patronized by the "experts" of Exxon and its clean-up contractor Veco and they wondered if the Citizens Commission Hearings would be any different. They were "burnt out" and trying to put the trauma of the summer behind them. The communities and the Commission were

in for a surprise. For all of their admitted emotional and physical exhaustion, the Alaskans whose lives had been devastated by oil still had a lot to say.

"I don't enjoy being here. I'm sure nobody else does. I feel as bad as I did six months ago now."

Red Kvarford, Fisherman, Seldovia

"I wasn't going to come tonight. But it just reawakened all the hostility and frustrations that I saw out there last summer cleaning up that oil. I felt victimized. My heart was sick seeing birds and other wildlife dead in the water."

Mike Berg, Teacher, Kodiak

"I had hesitations about coming tonight because a lot of us got burned out throughout the summer, right down to our souls being ripped apart from us."

Dolly Raft, Native Citizen, Kodiak

"I think that even as many days as it is since the spill — I counted this afternoon and I think its 235 — I still find myself feeling a great deal of anger at the thought of talking about this, and it becomes difficult even to try to decide what to focus on, because there are so many issues at bay."

Nancy Bird, Oil Spill Disaster Response Office, Cordova

The hearings in Kodiak and Homer, which we had planned to keep to a total of three hours each, ran close to six. Several people said they had not planned to attend but had heard the testimony of others over the radio and were drawn to the hearings to recount their own experiences. There were enough attendees from the small winter population of the tiny fishing village of Cordova to keep the Commission for four hours. The Anchorage hearing, almost 100 miles inland from oiled beaches, lasted almost five hours and drew people from as far away as Fairbanks and Valdez. And a short visit to Old Harbor resulted in an hour of discussion.

The public hearings, which were publicized in local newspapers and on radio and television, drew over 250 people. They came by car, plane and boat. Some called in on phone lines coordinated by local radio stations which were broadcasting the hearings live. In spite of inclement weather and the difficulty of traveling from remote villages, more than 120 Alaskans spoke at the hearings or submitted written testimony. Those who participated included commercial fishermen and fisherwomen, social workers, child care providers, doctors, nurses, biologists, educators and other concerned citizens. The Commission accumulated nearly 1200 pages of testimony.

This report summarizes that tremendous volume of testimony using quotes from over half of the speakers. It is significant to note that many similar comments were made by people living in tiny villages accessible only by small planes and boats and separated by as much as 500 miles.

**Oil Spill Year
-9 years
(1980)**

Congress exempts oil, gas and mining industry from federal hazardous waste regulation. EPA estimates that the cost to the oil industry of meeting hazardous waste standard at \$200 million to \$500 million a year but could go higher if drillers had to pay for cleaning up past disposal sites.

**Oil Spill Year
-4 years
(1985)**

Arco Anchorage runs aground, 239,000 gallons Alaska crude oil spills into Port Angeles Harbor, Washington.

For some, the hearings filled an important void. Others felt more should have attended. Dolly Raft, a native woman from Kodiak said, "I think the silence should be an indicator of what an impact this has had on us. I think silence at this point is a strong indicator of the death not only of the environment, but of the spirit of these people." Judith Lethine, of the South Kachemak Alcohol Program, who had flown to the Homer hearing from Seldovia, told the Commission that she had attended many public meetings throughout the summer, with senators and other "highly influential people", but "very few people listened to us the way you're listening to us."

"It's just so refreshing to see some very interested faces up here that it encouraged me to come testify today. We need some help. People are burned out. We need fresh blood like this, people listening intently to us."

*Kathryn Kinnear, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Committee,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

**Oil Spill Year
-3 years
(1986)**

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company unable to clean up 700-gallon spill from tanker BT San Diego in the Port of Valdez.

"I want to thank you very much for caring what we think and what we feel."

*Bridget Milligan, Coordinator, Geotextile Project,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

"I thank the Commission for giving us this opportunity to present our views and to send those views to Washington D.C."

Nina Faust, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Homer

**Oil Spill Year
-2 years
(1987)**

After hitting a rock near the mouth of the Kenai River, Alaska, the tanker Glacier Bay dumps 150,000 gallons of crude oil into Cook Inlet.

THE PAST - BEFORE THE SPILL

"In 1971 Mr. L.R. Beynon, representing Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, testified before the U.S. Department of Interior promising that the best equipment, materials and expertise would be made available as part of the oil spill contingency plan, making operations at Port Valdez and in Prince William Sound the safest in the world.

We listened and believed that promise, and on March 24th the oil companies' promises were tested. Thirty-four hours into the spill there was a single boom hanging off the stern of the Exxon Valdez, and no other booms being deployed. After 24 hours of pure chaos, Alyeska handed responsibility for the clean-up over to Exxon. The Alyeska oil spill contingency plan had failed. The seven oil companies had broken their contract with the state of Alaska and the United States Government"

Trisha Gartland, Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort, Kodiak

When Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew cast the tie-breaking vote to route the 800 mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline to Valdez, the fate of Prince William Sound was sealed. How could the oil industry guarantee no mishaps when tankers carrying 1.9 million barrels of oil leave Valdez every day to navigate the treacherous waters of Alaska? But it did and many wanted to believe it was possible.

Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, a consortium of seven oil companies, vowed state of the art pollution controls, double-hulled vessels, highly trained response teams and the latest and greatest in response and clean-up equipment. What has emerged since the grounding of the tanker is a litany of neglect and broken promises.

"As I read into Alyeska's past record, I became ashamed, ashamed of my own ignorance and non involvement before the spill, ashamed to be a resident of a state that allowed the lying and cheating to continue for so long."

Trisha Gartland, Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort, Kodiak

The 19 year old pipeline has brought \$45 billion in profit to the company's owners, including Exxon. But with all that money, Alyeska has cut costs and scrapped environmental safeguards. Some were never built. When the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground, the state was limited in how long it could stall tanker traffic because 14 of the 32 storage tanks approved in construction plans were never built.

Also on the list of never built structures is a system for monitoring quality of water as it flowed into the Valdez Harbor or incinerators for toxic sludge, both of which have contributed to water quality disputes. Air quality around the terminal has also been a subject of controversy. Only three of the four incinerators for burning off vapors from the storage tanks were constructed and nearly 1,000 tons of hydrocarbons a

**Oil Spill Year
-2 years
(1987)**

Exxon admits to paying \$1.25 million in bribes and political payments between 1963 and 1975.

**Oil Spill Year
-1 year
(1988)**

231,000 gallons of bunker oil spills from barge soiling coastline in Olympic National Park, Washington and killing over 11,000 birds.

**Oil Spill Day
-54
(January 28)**

Argentine navy supply ship runs aground in Antarctica spilling 170,000 gallons of fuel into important seal and penguin feeding ground.

**Oil Spill Day
-21
(March 2)**

Exxon Houston grounded, spills 30,000 gallons off coast of Oahu, Hawaii.

**Oil Spill Day
-5
(March 18)**

State of Alaska spends \$350,000 to lobby in Washington, D.C. to open Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

week are released into the air during tanker loading. Mike Wenig, attorney for Trustees of Alaska environmental law firm, claims that the facility is one of the largest single sources of volatile organic compounds in North America. Alyeska has already spent more than \$35 million dollars in repairs to its air pollution control system.

"The failure in the Prince William Sound oil spill was a failure of technology and it was a triumph of public relations. We had been promised this wonderful shining example of technology, with the marine terminal facility and pipeline, and the ability to handle these tankers through Prince William Sound. And when, on March 24th, we suddenly came up with the realization that what had been happening all along was that technology was never put into place, but millions of dollars had been spent on public relations to make everybody think they were okay."

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

When it came to oil spill response, Alyeska insisted it need only be able to respond to a spill of 74,000 barrels, the equivalent of over three million gallons. The oil that flowed from the *Exxon Valdez* totaled almost four times that and could easily have been 17 times that had the entire 52 million gallons spilled. Alyeska also argued the 12 miles of boom the state wanted stockpiled was four times as much as it needed. As it was, the boom that was eventually deployed was the wrong kind and could not control the volume of oil erupting from the tanker. A twenty-person crew trained in oil spill response had been disbanded for seven years. Mike Berg, a teacher from Kodiak, blames Alyeska's "disregard for policies" and "lackadaisical clean-up effort" for the dead wildlife and "miles and miles and miles" of fouled beaches.

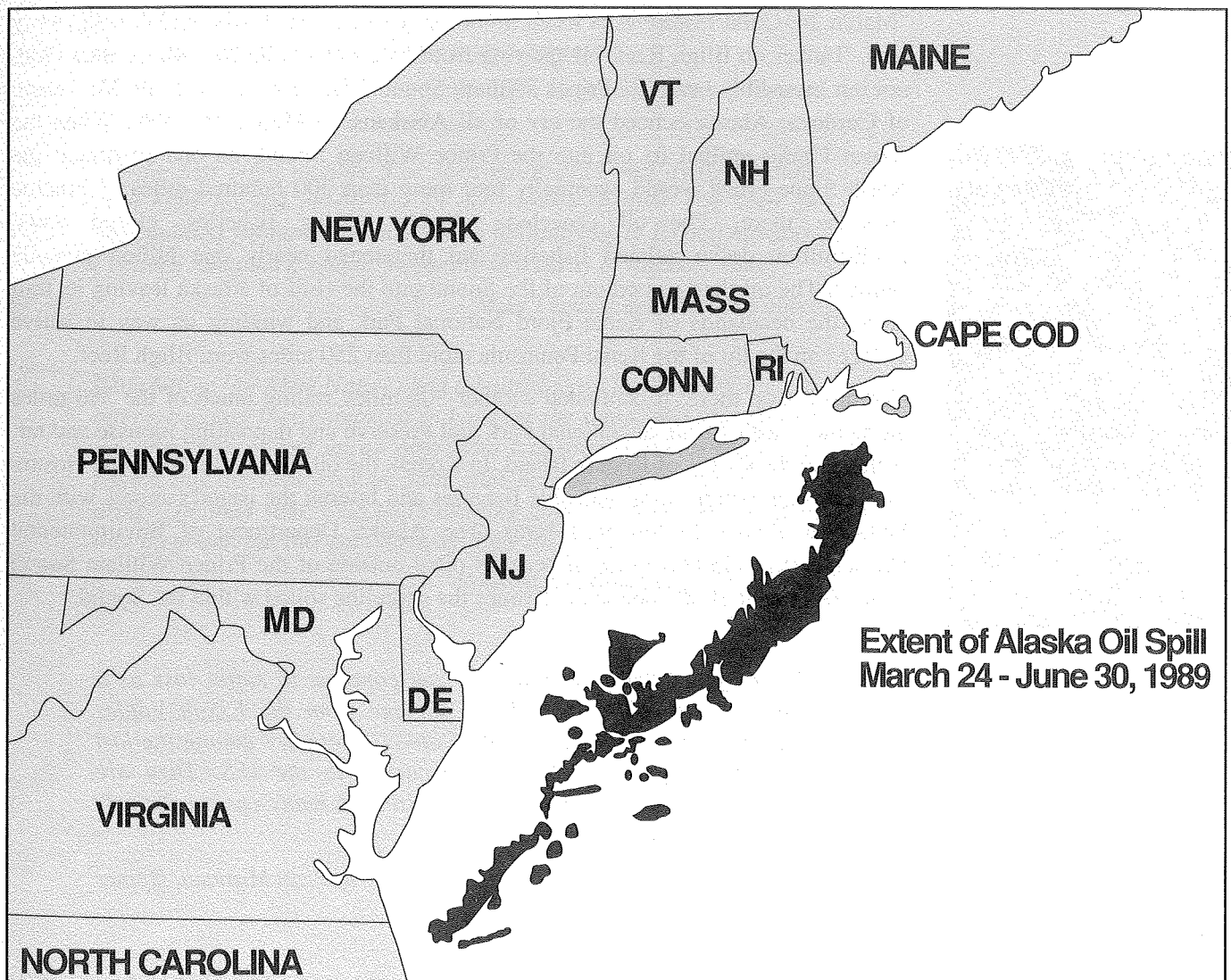
"If Alyeska had the number of skimmers that Norway has, in the unseasonably calm weather that occurred after the spill, it would have been cleaned up before it had a chance to hit the beaches."

Belle Mickelson, Educator, Cordova

It has been nearly 20 years since the pipeline was completed and there has never been an outside audit on the condition of the pipeline, pumping stations or marine terminal. Corrosion is eating away at the pipeline at hundreds of spots along its length. Alyeska expects to spend nearly \$50 million this year to repair corrosion damage at several pump stations. But it will cost the state of Alaska too. As the costs for repair climb causing the value of North Slope crude to fall, the state treasury could lose an estimated \$21 million in taxes and royalties this year.

"Recently, we've learned of slipshod construction practices in the construction of the Alyeska Marine Terminal Facility and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. That shining, crystal terminal with its silver umbilicus promised in the 70's has turned out to be a rusted, dripping plumbers's nightmare and Alyeska workers are frantically scurrying along the haul road with cement and patches, desperately trying to prevent the crumbling pipeline from springing a leak."

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez



THE PRESENT – THE OIL JUST DOESN'T GO AWAY

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN

"On April 19, 1989, I stepped out on to a devastated Gore Point beach. In front of me lay not hundreds, but approximately 3,000 dead birds mixed in six inches to 20 inches of crude oil. It coated the entire beach and floated in the water. My assignment of bird rescue was quickly transformed into bird collection. Knee deep in oil became elbow deep as I plunged arms into the thick substance to pull unidentifiable birds from a gripping grave. Our crew was soon to have collected 900 corpses, 631 in one pile alone. These visions are still vivid. This was my first introduction to the quiet side of the Alaskan oil industry, a first impression that will not fade."

Elizabeth Wolf, Citizen, Homer

"March 24, Good Friday. As I listen to the early morning news I couldn't believe my ears. 'Tanker on Bligh Reef, oil spewing from its broken hull.' No, not us, dear God, not our incredibly beautiful Prince William Sound." These words of Belle Mickelson of Cordova, Alaska echoed the cry of all Alaskans on March 24, 1989. When the *Exxon Valdez* spilled its oil into the Prince William Sound, no one suspected the North Slope crude would eventually foul more than 300 hundred miles of pristine coastline there. The oil canceled valuable herring fisheries, closed down multi-million dollar salmon fisheries and threatened nearly one billion juvenile salmon. The oil then passed out of the Sound into the Gulf of Alaska leaving its trail along the headlands of Kenai Fjord National Park and winding its way to native villages on the tip of the Kenai Peninsula more than 250 miles from Bligh Reef.

Nor did it stop there. It continued another 300 miles soiling much of the 380 miles along the coast of Katmai National Park and Preserve and depositing mousse and tar balls upon the shores of Kodiak Island. In Kodiak the oil caused the complete closure of one of the nation's most valuable fisheries and littered the island's shores with the bodies of almost 23,000 dead birds. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation estimates miles of beaches oiled outside of the Prince William Sound somewhere near 1000, almost three times the shoreline soiled within the Sound.

"You may not live in Alaska, but you continue to suffer loss as a result of this spill. Most of the damage from the Exxon Valdez catastrophe is occurring on public lands. These are among the last relatively large, unspoiled natural areas in the U.S. They are biologically rich, spectacularly scenic and in many cases relatively accessible. They belong to you."

Mike O'Meara, Pratt Museum, Homer

**Oil Spill Day
+10
(April 2)**

Mystery oil spill
soils beaches and
endangers sea
turtles and
humpback whales
in Hawaii.

Death tolls for sea birds reached nearly 37,000 not including 151 dead eagles. If biologists are right and those numbers only represent 5 – 10 percent of actual mortalities, then almost 3/4 million birds succumbed to oil. Death counts for marine mammals such as otters are more difficult to assess because their oil soaked bodies conveniently sink. But 1,016 dead otters were counted by October 1989. An undocumented number of whales were found dead on Tugidak Island with oil in their baleen. The heavily hit eagle population of Prince William Sound experienced widespread nest failure. Deer were seen eating oiled seaweed. Wolverines, foxes, bears and eagles fed on the dead and dying but no figures are available for casualties to the scavengers.

"I think for me, the dying animals and their suffering by our hand was the hardest. We will never know the true numbers lost, but hundred of thousands is probably a low estimate."

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

"In the last eight months, I've seen more dead and dying animals than most normal people see in their entire lifetime. I've seen an unpopulated wilderness turned into a floating city of 10,000 humans. I've seen humpback whales surfacing in a spray of rainbow sheen."

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

"This fellow (an Aleut Native) had admitted to no lost love for the sea otters, because they competed so hard for the same food. But on this day they had picked up an otter who had torn his chest open and ripped out his own eyes in pain, and he had died in the Native's arms. The man said, with tears running down his face, 'We need to thin them out, but this isn't the way. This isn't right.'"

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

**Oil Spill Day
+21
(April 13)**

**U.S. Small
Business
Administration
designates seven
Alaskan
communities
economic disaster
areas as a result
of the Exxon
Valdez oil spill.**

THE RESPONSE

Who's in Charge?

"I went down to the Cordova District Fisherman United hall later that morning and watched Kelley Weaverling draw the path of the oil on the chart as reports from plane flights came in. No booming. No clean-up efforts. Where is everyone? It was a nightmare, worse than I could have ever imagined."

Belle Mickelson, Educator, Cordova

**Oil Spill Day
+26
(April 18)**

Amoco Production Co. appeals Alaska's authority to require the company to prove it can obtain equipment to contain and clean up a spill in their off-shore oil-drilling program in the Beaufort Sea, north of Alaska-Canadian border.

By now Alyeska's inept response to the grounding of the *Exxon Valdez* is almost legendary. Its complete and immediate failure was a harbinger of the chaos that characterized the summer of 1989. When it became clear that Alyeska was unable to follow through with its oil spill contingency plan, state and federal agencies and the oil industry attempted to pick up the pieces. Included were the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Exxon and its contractors Veco and Norcon. The testimony painted a picture of confusion, lack of coordination and miscommunication.

According to Brian Johnson, a Kodiak resident, "Everybody duked it out over what do we do, whose responsibility it is, and all this buck passing that went on." Seldovia fisherman, Gary Hanson agreed that the companies and agencies running the clean-up couldn't get along. "The Department of Environmental Conservation couldn't get along with Fish and Wildlife. Fish and Wildlife couldn't get along. Everybody put the blame on the other guy."

Many people testified that there was little or no coordination among Exxon, Veco, the Coast Guard and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Jay Handley, a former Alyeska employee and Wasilla resident who worked for 16 weeks as part of the clean-up effort in Prince William Sound, said often his crew was instructed to do a task by one "group," then ordered not to do so by another. "There were times we just stood by because there wasn't agreement on the proper method of deploying boom, or even whether we were operating in the right area."

"There was no working relationship between Veco and Exxon."

*Kathryn Kinnear, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Committee,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

"The second problem that impeded the clean-up was the multitude and diversity of regulations, statutes and agencies, each doing the individual job they were charged with."

Paul Seaton, Fisherman, Homer

"Because of the amount of paperwork they (state and federal agencies) have to go through, approvals that they must seek, guidelines they must follow, they could not respond quickly enough to deal with a situation of this nature."

Fritz Brunthoff, Contractor, Kodiak

"We went on for a long time thinking that the Coast Guard were monitoring it (clean-up) and they had the final word, and we soon found out that wasn't really going to do it either."

Gary Hanson, Fisherman, Seldovia

**Oil Spill Day
+41
(May 3)**

**Oil from Exxon
Valdez reaches
Chignik, Alaska
525 miles south-
east of Valdez.**

Of the state and federal agencies that came under fire, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Environmental Conservation seemed to be at the top of the list.

"If a commercial fisherman had spilled 100 gallons, they (the Coast Guard) would have been on them like flies on a manure heap! Why was Exxon excused from this scrutiny? Is being one of the world's largest corporations an excuse from responsibility? Is the U.S. government afraid of Exxon? Who's in charge here?"

Laurene Madsen, Teacher, Bell's Flat

"In my experience, the prize oaf was the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation."

Sera Baxter, Fisherwoman, Homer

"I have seen a lack of guts, plain guts, in many instances from the government on down."

Yule Kilcher, Citizen, Homer

"I'm disappointed in the state, that they didn't show a little more spine and shut the tap off at the pipeline a little longer."

Brian Johnson, Fisherman, Kodiak

Homer fisherman, Paul Seaton, vented his frustration at Coast Guard regulations that did not allow his fishing vessel to tanker oil. On the second day of the spill he was told that Coast Guard regulations would not permit the waiving of licensing or certification so that his small boat could help pick up oil. Uncertified boats were not permitted to pick up oil until it had weathered and was considered sludge, which Seaton claimed took more than two weeks. He suggested that some regulations should be put in abeyance during the emergency phase of oil spill clean-up.

"Exxon was prevented from using local tankage to pick up and hold crude oil by the Coast Guard regulations that allow only certified tankers to load or hold crude oil. The herring tendering fleet was within six to 12 hours of Bligh Reef. The fleet is mostly composed of vessels that have stability tests and are used in tanked and untanked conditions and are used to load liquids and fish. The fleet also had vacuum suction pumps on board that could have picked up the oil. The herring fleet had the capacity in one load to hold half of the oil that was spilled. If these vessels would have been used at the beginning, I don't think any significant amounts of oil would have gotten out of Prince William Sound."

Paul Seaton, Fisherman, Homer

Dan Stockdell of the Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort agreed with Seaton. He testified that fishermen in Kodiak who were currently getting paid to haul oil off the beach had been told that they were in violation of a Coast Guard regulation because they are classified as freight vessels. He went on to say that an "oil spill is a disaster and an emergency situation and it ought to be written into the law that picking it up is legal, period."

On October 23, 1989 Exxon filed a countersuit against the State of Alaska for preventing it from using dispersants in the initial stages of the oil spill. The toxicity of dispersed oil in the water column, the effectiveness of dispersants in the prevailing calm weather in the days after the spill and the apparent lack of sufficient dispersant, continue to be hotly debated in the media and in the courts. The debate spilled into the hearings. Oliver Holm of the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association testified that, as a vessel operator, if he were to spill oil or fuel in the water and then throw dispersants on it, the Coast Guard "would nail me for it. If you throw dispersants on it, it shows you have no intention whatsoever of cleaning it up. And I think it's really ironic that the Coast Guard even considers allowing the oil companies to use dispersants to solve their spill problems."

"We must avoid dispersants. Diluting toxins in the water column is not the solution."

Jim Heinzen, Fisherman, Homer Area Recovery Coalition, Homer

"I think that (use of dispersants) should be studied further so before the next oil spill we aren't going through the same thing still arguing about whether dispersants should be used."

Mary Jacobs, Kodiak Longliners, Kodiak

"But I think that it's a mistake to think that by dumping another chemical into the spill, that could solve the problem. It may solve the problem for the oil companies if they would actually work to sink the oil, so people wouldn't see it. You wouldn't see the heavily oiled birds and the heavily oiled beaches. But what would happen would be, all this oil would still be in the water column. It would be more likely, actually, to get into the food chain, because in small particles it would be much more difficult for marine organisms to avoid the oil."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

The Spiller Should Not be in Charge

"Letting oil companies be in charge of spills is about the same as a thief that steals so much money that when he runs down the street, it spills out of his bags and we expect him to pick it up and return it."

Frank Newton, Fisherman, Kodiak

"In a democracy, the party responsible for negligence or criminal offenses isn't given the power to decide how restitution is to be made, what it is, when it is completed, and where it is accomplished."

Anonymous Kodiak Citizen

One central authority must be established for the next spill. There was no consensus about who that authority should be, although there were several suggestions. They ranged from contracting a private company whose only business is cleaning up oil spills to the establishing an Incident Command System similar to that which is used for managing large wild fires. Every speaker did agree that the entity responsible for the spill should not be in charge.

"I will always fight the idea that the criminal should be put in charge of the rehabilitation of the victim." With that statement, Anna Young, of Cordova voiced the sentiment expressed by nearly every person who testified. In a seemingly endless stream of testimony, oiled Alaskans described how Exxon officials ignored their suggestions and local expertise, impeded their clean-up efforts and staged the clean-up as a media event.

"Their arrogance and disregard, not only for the environment but Alaskans, was shocking to behold."

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

"They (Exxon) were arrogant. They had no desire at all to work with local people, in my opinion. They could - where they had the opportunity - utilize a resource of fishermen, skippers, crewmen, natives that all know this area much better than any of people they brought in here. They said, 'we're running this show.' 'We're going to do it our way.' 'We know what's best, and we're going to tell you what to do.'"

Fritz Brunthoff, Contractor, Kodiak

**Oil Spill Day
+43
May 5**

Oil, Chemical and Atomic Worker's Union calls for moratorium on drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge until a cohesive national energy policy is in place.

**Oil Spill Day
+52
(May 14)**

Exxon
compensates
50 herring
pounders
(fisherman who
harvest herring
roe covered kelp)
\$2 million dollars
for losses from the
oiled 1989 season.

"They (industry) were very arrogant and came up with information that was totally false. They kept telling us, oil doesn't sink. Well, oil does sink if it gets silted."

Kristin Stahl-Johnson, Formerly of National Marine Fisheries Services, Kodiak

"It was always as if they (Exxon) knew better than we did what was good for us, good for our island, good for our waters. They didn't live here, and they came from environments that were so polluted, so devoid of any wildlife, they were insensitive to our concern for our wildlife, our waters."

Tracy Akers, Crude Women, Kodiak

Some speakers felt "victimized" by Exxon. Kathryn Kinnear, who coordinated the Kodiak Island Borough communication system during the clean-up, likened Exxon's tactics to the "Third Reich." She believed that they deliberately took advantage of the fact that locals did not have experience with oil spill clean-up and were "totally maxed out and giving all their effort." Kinnear was not alone in her perspective. Kodiak fisherman Brian Johnson compared Exxon's control of the clean-up to "a foreign invasion" and fisherman Tom Quinn said, "it was just like a police state they (Exxon) set up here."

"We felt totally powerless to create any change, in any situation this summer, because Exxon was in charge. No one could tell them what to do. We experienced an extraordinary amount of stress, having fished locally for 20 years. We found an unfriendly, outside corporation suddenly dictating our salmon season, our futures, and responsible for our paychecks."

Chris Berns, Fisherman, Kodiak

"Veco came in our office (City of Seldovia) unannounced and took all of our records and somehow lost them between Seldovia and Homer."

Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Seldovia

"People were, I feel, purposely confused by Veco and the Exxon representatives. They were lied to, and I think, willfully lied to. They were demoralized. The clean-up people tried to demoralize our people by constantly changing the rules. People would send out messages or give orders for people to do certain things, and the next day they would be changed. And I personally felt that this was a move on the part of Veco and Exxon to frustrate what our people were doing."

Judith Lethine, South Kachemak Alcohol Program, Seldovia

"Exxon tried to make every agreement they have made in the spirit of private business, just between the two people, so that the next guy in the room didn't know what the last guy got paid. They did that with fishermen, businessmen, and tried to do it with cities. So if you were a good haggler, you got something; if you were desperate and needed the money, you took what they offered. So I don't think they had intended to really make a deal with us. They were just going through the motions."

Bob Brodie, Mayor, City of Kodiak, Kodiak

After a harrowing night boat trip across Kachemak Bay in six foot seas to attend the Homer hearing, Seldovians described their experiences with Exxon and Veco clean-up officials. Jennifer Dilley, who initiated the volunteer response in Seldovia, spoke of local fishermen who had devised a plan to prevent the oil from reaching their shores.

"They left Seldovia in high spirits and with a determination which the local people were proud of. Exxon and Veco tried to call them back. They ordered our men to turn around and return to port. Our men refused. They went to Chugach Passage and witnessed the destruction from oil, dead birds and otters, beaches black with death. It made them even more determined to continue on. Some were sick with grief, some even cried."

Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Seldovia

Others spelled out incidents in which they were told by Exxon officials not to clean up oil. According to fisherman Gary Hanson, U.S. Coast Guard Vice Admiral Robbins visited his clean-up crew and encouraged it to do whatever it would take to clean up that beach. After working late and filling two barges with oily debris, Exxon officials told Hanson's supervisors that if they picked up oil like that again, the crew would lose their jobs. Hanson also said, "Whenever we felt good about what we did and what we were doing, that night we were either moved off that beach onto another beach or we were told not to continue as we were doing it." There were meetings with Exxon supervisors "in which they came out and said, 'we're not looking for oil, but if we find it we will pick it up,'" according to Roy Robertson, another Seldovia resident. He said that as part of a beach clean-up crew, he was only supposed to pick up surface oil. "You could kick it (gravel on the beaches) with your foot, half inch or inch (under the surface) and find little tar patches. Well, they (Exxon) didn't want to look for that."

Elizabeth Wolf of Homer was told that her crew could only recover surface oil by hand and absorbent padding. "To get around this Exxon directive, the crew would remove clean surface sand in four-foot squares, scoop up the oil and quickly cover our tracks and regrade this spot. Quite an odd situation of being hired to recover oil, and then having to hide the fact from Exxon."

Some of the testimony described deliberate work slow downs. Wolf said that Exxon officials told the foreman of her crew to stop work if they collected more than 1,000 bags of crude oil or oiled debris in one day. Two different times the crews were ordered to leave the beaches. "In order to keep collecting oil, we'd hold the bag count below 750 per day. The option was to be kept off the beach altogether." A friend told Homer resident Janis Schofield that after days of high oil recovery "they (clean-up crews) would have their shovels taken away. They had to go out there literally with their gloves and some would take teaspoons and start picking up oil."

"But we were told not to clean up as such again, and, God, there was much more oil."

Gary Hanson, Fisherman, Seldovia

"It is impossible for the field workers to know the origin of the obstructionism we encountered. Exxon's and Veco's conduct of the clean-up leads me to believe that the company wanted to have to deal with as little oil as possible."

Sera Baxter, Fisherwoman, Homer

"There were constant delays where we would waste a whole day waiting for the outcome of a meeting, waiting for instructions. We would get on a beach and be working and doing real good and they would transfer us to another beach where there was more oil. Well, we had more oil than we could handle here. It takes a whole day to move to another beach. Why move, and then three days later they move you back?"

Red Kvarford, Fisherman, Seldovia

"They had no where to put the oil that we gave to them," explained Elizabeth Wolf. Waste disposal problems were cited by several members of beach clean-up crews as a reason behind Exxon's apparent hindrance of clean-up activities. Janis Schofield of Homer said that "the corporate commitment was not there to pick up as much oil as possible, because the more oil that was picked up, the more disposal problems there were." Seldovian Roy Robertson testified that his crew would fill up the two barges available to them within three to four hours. "After that, we were pretty much grounded to be able to clean up any more because our barge was filled up, and Exxon was not supplying the tankage." Fisherman Dave Chartier, also of Seldovia, was frustrated that the situation never improved. "There was no tankage. How are we going to collect the oil? How was Exxon going to clean oil without places to put it? That was a stumbling block the whole six to eight weeks I worked there."

"It seems the less oil we returned to Exxon, the less trouble we'd receive while on the beaches."

Elizabeth Wolf, Citizen, Homer

The stories the Commission heard in Homer were corroborated by many Kodiak residents who contend that they too were prevented from cleaning up the oil. Exxon and Veco gave specific instructions concerning appropriate clean-up activities to boat owners whose boats they chartered. Jerome Selby, Mayor of Kodiak Island Borough testified that "they (Kodiak seine fleet) were told that they couldn't use the small net herring seines and they couldn't use geotextile materials and they couldn't go ashore." If they broke the rules, then Exxon or Veco terminated their 21-day contract.

But the Kodiak fishermen ignored Exxon's mandate and picked up oil from beaches because there was very little free-floating oil at the time. "Virtually everyone went to the beaches to clean up oil, and just disregarded the rules of Veco and Exxon" revealed Mike Berg, a Kodiak fisherman and school teacher. Fisherman Brian Johnson admitted that he too broke Exxon's contract. "After awhile we didn't care about if we lost our charter or got fired, because we were out there to clean up oil and that's it."

"After about three days of sitting there (on the boat) with (bad) weather, looking at oil on the beach, we said, 'we're out here to clean up oil and to do something, and we don't give a damn what Exxon thinks at this point.' So the four of us did hit the beach and we took about a ten-mile area and we knocked out 10,000 pounds of almost straight oil. And it was just four people. And you look what Exxon and their huge systems what would it have taken to go hit an area. It was incredible, the machinery and helicopters and landing barges and skiffs, and whatnot, just to do what four people in a ten-foot rubber raft could do on their hands and knees with buckets."

Brian Johnson, Fisherman, Kodiak

"We chose to clean up some of the beaches anyway, but that was totally unauthorized."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

In his testimony, Mayor Selby said that Exxon and Veco did not want the fishermen retrieving oil from the beaches because of the safety factors involved in taking skiffs from the boats. But he pointed out, "We were just as concerned for people's safety as anyone else. But you're talking about fishermen who live and fish on these waters in the summer around Kodiak, and they know these waters. That's as safe as it's going to get."

Then there was what Mayor Selby described as "another great unexplained mystery" of the summer. At the risk of having their contracts terminated, boats owners contracted by Exxon or Veco were also forbidden to use geotextile fabric in any form to recover oil. According to those who pioneered its use in Kodiak, geotextile is one of the most effective low impact methods of collecting oil. It is a reusable polypropylene road building fabric said by proponents to absorb 20 times its weight in oil. By July 26, it had been used from Cordova to Kodiak in a variety of



**Oil Spill Day
+56
(May 18)**

**Exxon Chairman
L. Rawls tells
stockholders that
Exxon has done its
best to clean up
Prince William
Sound.**

configurations ranging from bags to booms. In the bag form, contaminated beach material was put into it and anchored in the water where it would receive the most wave action. When the water had done its job, everything in the bag was clean. The Commission saw before and after pictures in which even tiny spruce needles were free of oil. As a boom or seine, contractor Fritz Brunthoff claimed it outperformed anything else being used for oil recovery.

By the beginning of May, Exxon had prohibited the use of geotextile by boats under contract, claiming they risked being sued for patent infringement. According to Bridget Milligan, one of the coordinators of the Kodiak Island Borough Geotextile Project, the company threatening Exxon had no patent on booms built with geotextile or any other use of geotextile for oil recovery.

Milligan said, "they (Exxon) forbid us to use it. We weren't allowed to use the word boom. We had lots of jokes. One of them was 'moob,' because we weren't even allowed to say the word boom." Mayor Selby testified that, "All of a sudden the geotextile material as a clean-up technique, all of a sudden it was out of play, not up for discussion, not to be used under any circumstances by folks who were under contract or being paid by Exxon." Geotextile booms and bags were only some of several examples of local technologies invented by residents but ignored by clean-up officials.

"Exxon definitely did not want the oil cleaned out of the water, and they did everything they could to keep the oil from being cleaned out of the water. I watched the people in Cordova crying because Exxon wouldn't let them take oil out of the water. They forbid them to use geotextile. People in Homer built big booms with concrete. And they were never allowed to deploy them, and they had to cut theirs up."

*Bridget Milligan, Coordinator, Geotextile Project,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

An interesting side note is that Dawn Black, a filmmaker for the city of Kodiak, documented geotextile material use by Exxon. "I was on one of their boats for a whole week and Exxon, strangely enough, had their own geotextile material on this boat. I think that the geotextile they were using was made by their own company, or one of their subsidiaries, and they preferred to use that geotextile material."

Few speakers believed that Exxon was sincere in its clean-up efforts. Most believed, as did fishermen Mike Milligan, that "too often the bottom line with the clean-up by Exxon wasn't to clean oil, but it was to document that they were willing to spend money, and that they were making appearances on certain beaches and that in fact there wasn't that much oil." Others, like Mike Berg of Kodiak, agreed that Exxon's tactic was to throw money at the clean-up and make it appear as if they were doing a good job. "But as far as really getting out there and cleaning up oil, that didn't seem to be the major concern."

"Let's not kid ourselves. Beach clean-up was primarily a public relations gambit by an oil industry that was shocked not only by the magnitude of the spill, but by the magnitude of the public outcry."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer.

One Seldovian fisherman, Red Kvarford, told us about one of several days when his crew "put on a show for the news media." He said, "One day they (Exxon) had us load all the people on boats and transport them halfway to the job site, shuttle them to the beach by skiff and then pick them up by helicopter to land on the beach, and they brought crews from the entire area all to that beach, and they had the news media there that day. Half our crew got left on the beach all day because the helicopter forgot to come back for them."

"It seemed like it (Exxon) was running a big public relations program. As long as it appeared that something was happening, it was okay if nothing was happening," said Kodiak Island Borough Mayor Jerome Selby. He also claimed that Exxon video taped beaches that had never been oiled to represent cleaned beaches. "Everyone knew they never had any oil on them in the first place. So, of course they looked good, they looked real good."

In a July letter to some 5,000,000 plus Exxon credit card holders, the company assured them that "they had taken every reasonable action to limit the damage and clean up the spill." They went on to say that "by mid-May essentially all of the oil on the water had been removed or had dissipated." If that was true why was 90% of the Kodiak salmon management area closed to fishing due to contaminated waters? Exxon may have placated stockholders, but they were not fooling Alaskans.

"They were even telling people Outside they were doing a great job cleaning up the oil spill, and of course, we knew differently in Alaska."

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

"For the record, as a commercial fisherman and as an Alaskan, I would like to say that the oil isn't gone, the spill isn't over, and despite Exxon's promises, neither I, nor Kodiak Island, have been made whole."

Toby Sullivan, Fisherman, Kodiak

"The Local People are the Real Experts"

Oil Spill Day
+60
(May 22)

National poll finds
most Americans
against drilling
for oil in Arctic
National Wildlife
Refuge.

"I would ask this Commission to take this message to Congress: Give local people some authority and some function and prevention and response in the clean-up. I know Alaska's fishermen could have done a better job of the clean-up than Exxon did."

Frank Newton, Fisherman, Kodiak

The Commission heard speakers emphasize local control of clean-up again and again for the simple reason that the local people have the most to lose. Without exception, the speakers felt as Trisha Gartland of Kodiak did, "that the local people are the most responsive in an emergency, took the most constructive actions, were the most knowledgeable about local areas, and were the most concerned about their welfare, environment and resources." Before Exxon and Veco came to the villages and towns, the local people were already trying to clean up the oil. They weren't getting paid. They weren't asked to be there. "They were going out there to fight for their livelihood, because they knew that was important to them," said Kodiak Native Dawn Black.

"The only real success was the diversion of oil away from the fish hatcheries and elaborate boom system installed by fishermen and the hatcheries."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

"People that were there from Seldovia wanted the beaches cleaned. They fished, that's their livelihood."

Gary Hanson, Fisherman, Seldovia

"You've got some really innovative, intelligent guys out there, and I don't think Exxon ever gave them the credit for being more than a bunch of fishermen coming in with oil underneath their fingernails."

*Kathryn Kinnear, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Committee,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

"They (Exxon) say the clean-up methods that the local people want to use are labor intensive. They act as if using your hands and your body to do work is primitive. They think that since we are people who make our living in a physical way, we must be dumb."

Bridget Milligan, Coordinator Geotextile Project, Kodiak

There were several occasions that industry ignored local suggestions in favor of its own methods. When those methods failed, it fell back on resident expertise. Emil Christiansen of Old Harbor said that he had attempted to discuss subsistence issues with the Veco representatives in his village but that "Nobody would listen. Nobody cared." He suggested taking clams from endangered beaches and hanging them in nets out in deep water to protect them from the oil. It wasn't until two months later that Veco came back to him with that same suggestion.

"We, on many occasions, made recommendations that would have expedited efforts, would have gotten more efficient responses, and had them either ignored or rejected outright (by Exxon). Then after other attempts had been made that didn't work out well, they came back to our original suggestions."

Jerome Selby, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak

The residents complained that Exxon and Veco brought in their own people who knew nothing about the weather, currents and tides. In written testimony, Red Kvarford of Seldovia discussed his bosses from Exxon and Veco. "We had one boss that was a good man, but he was a coal miner from Illinois. He had never been on a boat in salt water and knew nothing about oil. This was our leader. Another was a Texan with a background in electronics."

"Veco/Exxon refused to show the local people any respect. They called in their public relations people from Texas and Louisiana and put them in charge. These people didn't know how to read a tide book, were not at all familiar with the coast and didn't have the drive to clean up the oil."

Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Seldovia

"They changed their supervisors so often that the people could not be effective. We were always being jerked around by contradictory orders by new supervisors who didn't know even the little bit that their predecessor had known," fisherwoman Sera Baxter wrote in her testimony. Constant changing of supervisors was viewed as a "lower 48 mentality" by Seldovian Roy Robertson. "All they cared about was putting in their time and leaving. They get up here, and by the time they get to know what they need to do, it's time for them to leave, and they go back down to their suburban homes in Texas."

"Did anyone notice we spent the whole summer waiting for experts? Experts on animal rescue, experts on oil clean-up, experts on how to manage oil moneys, experts on where we could and could not go, experts on the toxicity of oil."

**Oil Spill Day
+61
(May 23)**

Former Captain of
the *Exxon Valdez*,
Joseph Hazelwood,
indicted by
Anchorage, Alaska
Grand Jury.

All the experts we met came here from everywhere but Alaska, and mostly they ended up saying, we just don't know. We're sick of experts who change their positions just about the time they start to get familiar with the local people and the habitat.

We know this environment, we know the water, we know the area, we know the tides, we know the seasons, we know the wildlife. We can tell if our food is polluted, and we care more than anyone what happens here. Most important of all, we are the experts at getting things out of the water. We're number one in the nation for getting things out of the water. It's what we do best. The local people are the real experts."

*Bridget Milligan, Coordinator, Geotextile Project,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

The Futility of Cleaning Rocks

"I don't believe that our citizens need to mop up the beaches with their own bodies for any reason."

Jim Heinzen, Fisherman, Homer Area Recovery Coalition, Homer

Not one member of a beach clean-up crew who testified said that he or she had been able to do an effective job. Not only did they believe that they had been obstructed in their attempts, equipment promised by Exxon was inadequate or nonexistent. Most speakers voiced sentiments similar to those of Toby Sullivan of Kodiak: "I know that no matter how much effort is put into cleaning oil off beaches, once it's on the beach it's too late with our present technology. I know that trying to soak up millions of gallons of oil with wads of federal reserve notes is a fool's errand." In addition, some speakers worried that the hot water, high pressure hoses, chemical applications and mobs of people and boats caused even more damage to an already traumatized environment.

"All the people I know that worked it (clean-up), I don't know of a single one that thinks they did an adequate job, anywhere near it. It was a farce."

Frank Newton, Fisherman, Kodiak

"They say we did the best we could. Well, we didn't do the best we could. Nobody that worked that job — nobody I've talked to — and I've talked to guys from Valdez and other areas that I never saw, and they all agree, we didn't do the best we could."

Red Kvarford, Fisherman, Seldovia

"There was a lot of money spent on oil clean-up here and I received some of it myself in a charter. But the total effort was pretty ineffectual."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

Much of the promised clean-up equipment never materialized. The residents of Seldovia were promised commercial boom by the Coast Guard during the early days of the spill, but according to Red Kvarford, "we never saw any the entire job." Fisherwoman Jennifer Dilley testified that it was a struggle to get supplies from Veco. "We had to fight for everything we got," she said. Gary Hanson complained that his crew was unable to clean oil because of a shortage of plastic bags for gathering the oiled rocks, gravel and other debris. "We were talking among ourselves, great we'll get a thousand bags, fill the barge up and get this beach cleaned up. The Exxon supervisor ran around telling us we couldn't get a thousand bags."

"They're (Kodiak fishermen) out there and they're begging for boom. They're begging Exxon, get us some boom. And it was a foot-dragging situation. And they would get piddly amounts of boom."

*Kathryn Kinnear, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Committee,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak*

"I started with boom building. The boom-building experience was the community, me, the people, the high school students. I became a designer of sorts, only because Exxon wasn't there. They showed up at meetings. I asked for their opinions on booms, how to build booms, because booms weren't there. Exxon was there. When I asked them, they had no advice. This is a multi-million dollar corporation with no advice. I'm a father of four, putting my children to bed at 10 o'clock at night, sore, tired, coming up with designs, and I asked Exxon and got no advice."

David Chartier, Fisherman, Seldovia

We started out with home-made tools, fish totes, barrels, buckets, things we brought from home, home-made dip nets, and by the end of the job, it hadn't improved a bit. With all their technology, their engineers, their scientists working for their company, they couldn't come up with anything better than Dave Chartier (a local fisherman) invented."

Red Kvarford, Fisherman, Seldovia

As citizens told story upon story, it became apparent that their attempts to clean crude oil off the rocky beaches had been a futile proposition. As soon as they removed the surface oil, the incoming tide would reoil the beach. According to Red

**Oil Spill Day
+63
(May 25)**

**Exxon-chartered
oil tanker barely
misses hitting a
major oil transfer
station in San
Francisco Bay,
California.**

Kvarford, "It kept coming back in. We would get the surface scraped off and leave that beach and come back three days later and you would have oil on it again. Of course, if you got a hot sunny day, then it sunk back into the ground and was unrecoverable."

It was nearly impossible to clean up oil which had penetrated into the substrate. Toby Sullivan of Kodiak worked for six weeks wiping rocks by hand on one end of a beach. "Then after we thought we had done a pretty good job my wife dug a hole in the sand at the other end of the beach, and there was a layer of oil about ten feet wide, six inches deep that went the whole length of that beach, and we had never even noticed it." Even Exxon does not refer to beaches as cleaned, but "treated" or "environmentally stable" instead.

"It (oil) would wash up on the sandy beaches at the backs of the bays and then roll in the sand and get enough sand in the mousse patties, that the mousse patties would sink."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

"When we finally were allowed (by Veco) on S.E. Elizabeth (Island), the oil had sunk into the gravel, making it impossible to remove the oil without also taking large amounts of beach material."

Sera Baxter, Fisherwoman, Homer

"A lot of these beaches may appear relatively clean on the outside, but if you use a garden shovel, a common garden shovel and just dig down a foot, they're just laced with oil and mousse that melted through the rocks that were on the beach. And no matter how hard we worked all day long cleaning up the surface we just can't get at that oil down deep in those rocks."

Mike Berg, Teacher, Fisherman, Kodiak

'One of the quotes from Admiral Robbins (U.S. Coast Guard) was he was real happy to see no standing oil, and Exxon thought that was a good deal. Well, he made that quote in July, and that's after the heat came and it's all poured down into the beaches. The oil hadn't gone anywhere. It's just been covered up. The grainier, siltier beaches, it didn't penetrate as far, but when you got to the real gravel beaches, it would go down further. That's just where it would end up.'

Roy Robertson, Carpenter, Seldovia

"If it (an oiled rock) was two inches, you put it in a sack. If it was three inches, you wiped it off. You can spend a lot of time deciding, but Exxon brags about how much money they spent, how many people they hired."

Joe Lawlor, Citizen, Homer

The Impacts of Clean-up

"The beach cleaning became an enforced penance for Exxon and will be likely discovered in the future that more damage was done by the cleaning than good. As they turned on the heat on the omni booms of these giant steam cleaners and they became more desperate to get the oil off, you could smell the stench of the dead organisms that were still on the beach."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

As speakers discussed the impact of the clean-up itself on the environment, the Commission was left to wonder if the clean-up was like rubbing salt into an oily wound. In the Prince William Sound alone, the Department of Environmental Conservation officials estimate there were nearly 6,000 people involved in the clean-up. What is the impact of that many people and support equipment in a wilderness that is normally home to the staff of four fish hatcheries, two small native villages and a summer fishing fleet? It took the Department of Environmental Conservation three maps and an 1100 page report to document 421 locations, mostly in Prince William Sound, where oily debris and trash were left on the beaches after September 15th.

"I have found the clean-up activities deploying thousands of people, heavy equipment, and an armada of thousands of boats, to be damaging to the wildlife and the environmental quality of Prince William Sound. I have with me a sampling of daily logs that I kept as a part of my research. This pile of logs all contain information on clean-up activities that I was observing, and these logs include instances of harassment of killer and humpback whales, as well as other marine mammals, by clean-up vessels and aircraft, especially helicopters and large vessels that were pursuing animals, including cows and calves and helicopters landing on sea lion rookeries and causing the animals to flee from the rookeries.

I also document occurrences of diesel and gas spills, including 200 gallons of diesel which were spilled into a bay that was clean previous to the occupation of the bay by a task force. This bay was a bay that was used last year frequently by humpback cows and calves for feedings and this year was not used by these animals. I discovered large slicks on several occasions, and each of these spills I reported to the Coast Guard, and also to Exxon boats, and I never got any evidence that these spills were investigated or mitigated in any way.

Every day in August we picked up garbage, including those insidious pom-poms — plastic pom-poms covered with oil — oily garbage bags full of oily kelp, oily booms and oily sorbant padding. We found bags of floating dead otters in the middle of an open area north of Knight Island."

Eva Saulitis, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Fairbanks

**Oil Spill Day
+66
(May 28)**

Four months after it ran aground in the Antarctica, an Argentine Navy supply ship is still leaking oil.

"I sat in my bay and I watched 100 boats, nine hotel ships and a garbage barge less than a block away, and I watched one of the hotel ships throw 30 cases of food overboard, and all they had to do was call the garbage barge and the garbage barge would have sent a running skiff. They dumped it overboard."

Marla Adkins, Citizen, Cordova

Secondary spills were a big problem during clean-up. Jay Handley, a resident of Wasilla, witnessed several spills of fuel or oil in 16 weeks of working on the spill. He said one spill was from the Navy vessel the U.S.S. Mount Vernon. Handley also said that he saw and reported several small slicks in an area where there were many vessels, but none was attended to. "While I did not witness any incidents personally," he said, "I was informed by some with firsthand knowledge that black water was occasionally mixed with gray water, then pumped overboard." Marla Adkins of Cordova testified that she knew of four spills in just one bay on Knight Island.

Several speakers severely criticized the use of unrecyclable petroleum products such as, plastics bags, pom-poms and fuel, to clean up the crude oil. Jim Heinzen, a Homer resident who spent the summer working with the Homer Area Recovery Coalition and the Kodiak Geotextile Project, agreed with Saulitis, that the plastic pom-poms used to collect oil littered the beaches and caused environmental problems. "We'd like to see an end to flaky shredded polystyrene booms and pom-poms and reconsider the incendiary hazard these processes entail. We have to eliminate the need for landfills and incinerators and their environmental hazards."

"I don't know how much plastic we wasted on that job. It must have been millions and millions of bags. Most of the money that Exxon bragged about spending on this job was wasted."

Red Kvarford, Fisherman, Seldovia

"Clean-up pom-poms were blowing around the beaches and up into the woods. Many are probably still there."

David Martin, Fisherman, Clam Gulch

It took fuel to clean up the oil. Both Jim Heinzen of Homer and Jay Handley of Wasilla questioned the fuel efficiency of the boats and equipment used. Handley worked on two different omni barges. These barges were considered to be the most effective means of removing and recovering oil from the beaches. "We may have recovered a reported 12 barrels during an outstanding 12 hour shift, usually far less. A boom operator employed by Chemtrak stated that the boilers on the omni require 2700 gallons of fuel per shift. I don't know what it took to propel the barge or operate the other craft, but it would seem that the impact of these operations and emissions on the environment might be significant, especially in light of the questionable effectiveness of the clean-up", testified Handley.

"We only need two basic premises for picking a clean-up approach. It should be environmentally sound and the very best. Alaska deserves no less. Our criteria for judging a clean-up approach should consider that they are low-tech and adaptable to coastal resources. They should be fuel efficient. Let's not waste oil to clean-up oil. We need recyclable technologies."

Jim Heinzen, Fisherman, Homer Area Recovery Coalition, Homer

What was actually accomplished with clean-up techniques like high pressure washing and fertilizers? Heinzen concurred with biologist Craig Matkin that high pressure washing with hot water was unacceptable. "We don't want to save the beach by sterilizing it. As well as that, we would like to avoid pushing oil into the substrate."

The application of bioremediation, a fertilizer which enhances the naturally occurring "oil-eating" bacteria, also concerned those who testified. Especially several people who had been contaminated by the stuff. In a three-page document submitted to supplement his spoken testimony, Seldovia fisherman Gary Hanson describes health problems suffered by his crew from what he believes to have been bioremediation.

"I was the beach foreman on the beach at the time. We were sent to a beach to cut oiled wood and move it onto the barges and take it to a place to burn. When we reached the beach we noticed thousands of small pellets all along the beach. A couple of us picked up the pellets and rolled them around in our hands. I thought, 'This must be the bioremediation.' I didn't think that much of it at the time because at our last safety meeting our Exxon supervisor explained to us that it wasn't harmful or hazardous to us. So we went on with our work. I figured they wouldn't put us on a beach if there would be any problems for the workers; I thought wrong. At lunch that day a worker came to me and showed me some sores and blisters on the back of his hand and forearm. Later that day we just got finished with our first load of wood and on our way back to get a second load, Exxon supervisors called us by radio and shut us off for the day which was strange because it was only three o'clock and good weather."

Gary Hanson, Fisherman, Seldovia

That evening, the entire crew was terminated without explanation. Days later other crew members developed similar reactions and Exxon officials flew to Seldovia to test the crew for side effects. An industrial hygienist with the Department of Labor, Mac Davis, told Hanson that he thought Exxon had sprayed in the area with two different chemicals that were not supposed to be used near each other. Hanson's complaints to representatives of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Labor, Exxon and Alaska Department of Fish and Game have confirmed only the presence of bioremediation.

**Oil Spill Day
+76
(June 7)**

**Oil from the Exxon
Valdez postpones
opening of \$95
million dollar
Kodiak salmon
fishing season.**

Some speakers considered the application procedures of bioremediation to be seriously flawed or useless. Jack Lentfer, the biologist employed by the Native Chugach Alaska Corporation, testified that in the Homer area the fertilizer was applied after the latest date recommended by the experts. He also said, "Exxon did not test the Homer zone beaches before treatment for presence of bacteria whose growth would be enhanced by treatment. Nor did Exxon follow up by measuring bacteria growth and changes in amount of oil after treatment." Dr. Sandra Thomas, who worked as a staff scientist on the Environmental Protection Agency bioremediation project, said that while not all of the data was in, the general consensus is that neither tests with oliophilic ("oil-loving") or hydrophilic ("water-loving") fertilizers showed improvements over the areas that were left alone. "To me it was a last ditch effort — sort of using Prince William Sound as a test tube."

September 15 — the day slated for "demobilization" of some 12,000 clean-up workers. Most speakers argued that it was too early to stop the clean-up. Kodiak Island Borough Mayor Selby said, "a whole lot of oil could have been picked up in the balance of September and October. Now it's getting rough out there and that's what we had told them (Exxon) when they were here." Bird retrieval boats around Kodiak were still picking up 30-40 dead birds a day. Some, like biologist Eva Saulitis, believed that the hordes of people, boats and machinery should have been kept off the already devastated beaches. No one believed that the beaches were clean.

"On September 15th I stood on a patch of beach that had been declared environmentally stable the day before, and I couldn't stand upright on it, it was so slippery with oil, black, tarry, sticky oil."

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

"It's an ongoing emergency. Regardless of what Exxon says, September 15th, it did not end."

Dan Stockdell, Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort, Kodiak

"We are still picking up tar balls on our beaches. Our future is questionable."

Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Seldovia

"Tar balls are being generated as we speak, and nothing is going to stop that through the course of the winter."

Jim Heinzen, Fisherman, Homer Area Recovery Coalition, Homer

"We don't have any clean beaches that got oil on them. We have 600 miles plus that had the surface stuff picked up. The other 1,400 miles or so that got oil on them still has it on them out there today."

Jerome Selby, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak

THE HUMAN COST

Communities Torn Apart

"This was a very tight-knit, close community, and it's really been fragmented. People are uncertain. The children, it goes down to the 12-year-olds, it goes down to the two-year-olds. My little boy knows how to pick up dead birds." Kathryn Kinnear, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Committee, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak.

The impacts of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill reached into every corner of family and community life. The Commission heard about divided communities, increased drug and alcohol abuse, neglected children, overloaded mental health clinics and local labor and housing shortages. In all the communities we visited, the stress of the summer was apparent in the voices and on the faces of the people.

The influx of people brought a multitude of problems ranging from sewage disposal to a dramatic rise in crime. Normal city business was ignored while employees coped with the crisis. The city of Valdez, which probably experienced the greatest influx of reporters, state and federal agency people and job seekers of all kinds, watched their population grow from 3,500 to 11,000 in a couple of months. Helicopter and plane flights grew from 10 per day to sometimes over 600. "Our crime rate rose about 400 percent. It tended to be more violent crime. We had a greater abuse of alcohol and drugs during the summer," said Valdez City manager Doug Griffin.

"We had to treat all of the sewage and bury all of the solid waste, uncontaminated we hope."

Doug Griffin, City Manager, Valdez

Local businesses suffered when they lost employees to high paying jobs with Exxon. Brenda Guest, Deputy Director of the Cordova Oil Spill Disaster Response Office which was created and staffed to free City staff from oil spill related issues, testified that, "the community's economy was impacted by the loss of employees and the lack of a normal fishing season which caused financial impacts on virtually every business within the community. When boats contracted for the clean-up refueled and restocked in Valdez, our grocery stores, fuel vendors and repair facilities were not used. Net vendors to net menders incurred losses." Local tourism lost business when the images of an oil-tainted Alaska reached the public. Outfitters canceled boating and kayaking trips to oiled areas. It wasn't just the impacted areas which suffered. Misunderstanding the extent and location of the spill, would-be tourists called Alaska wondering if the spill had reached Fairbanks yet.

"By the end of April, Cordova businesses had 'help wanted' signs filling their windows having lost their employees — waitresses, cooks, hotel workers, childcare givers — to the \$16.69 oil spill clean-up wage offered by Exxon."

*Brenda Guest, Deputy Director,
Cordova Oil Spill Disaster Response Office, Cordova*

**Oil Spill Day
+92
(June 23)**

**Greek tanker runs
aground off
Newport, Rhode
Island spilling
300,000 gallons of
toxic heating oil.**

"While we were given money (by Exxon) to promote people coming to Kodiak, we couldn't because we didn't have any hotel rooms, we didn't have any rental cars and we didn't have air charters or boat charters. Those were all impacted by Veco and other people who came in to clean up."

Tom Watson, Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kodiak

"We have suffered as a result of the spill, not only as a result of canceling half of our courses scheduled for the summer of 1989, but also in a personal way. Prince William Sound is a wilderness resource of national significance."

Don Ford, Director of the National Outdoor Leadership School, in Alaska, Palmer

"Our beaches and waters provide us with deer and fish and game which helps offset the high cost of food here (Kodiak Island). This is not simply a recreational question, it is everyone's livelihood and food resource that is affected."

Laurene Madson, Teacher, Bells Flats

Disasters are not new to the people of coastal Alaska but the impacts of an earthquake, tsunami or volcano are short-lived. According to Dr. Pam Baglien of the Kodiak Mental Health Clinic in an address to the Alaska Environmental Assembly, the oil spill was a different kind of disaster. There was a beginning but there is no end. Uncertainty about the future stressed whole communities to the breaking point. Will there be a salmon season next year or the next or the next?

"If perceptions and statistics are right, we have increased alcoholism, domestic violence, child neglect, all of those family-related problems."

Dr. Sharon Araji, Professor of Family and Social Psychology, University of Alaska, Anchorage.

"We saw tremendous increases in alcohol and drug abuse, and domestic violence."

Judith Lethine, South Kachemak Alcohol Program, Seldovia

Mental health programs were completely overwhelmed. By August, Mayor Jerome Selby reported a 700 percent rise in the demand for mental health services in the Kodiak Island Borough alone. According to Kathy Hill of Homer, "Our community has seen an increase in crime and domestic violence. It has taken seven and half months to get more professional help for overburdened agencies such as Community Mental Health and Women's Services."

No one expected the social and psychological impacts to decrease in the immediate future. "The post-oil disaster stresses will unfold as time goes by. One village which was approximately 80 percent sober before the spill has fallen to 50 percent. Another village has had one attempted suicide in the past month, and identified six other youths who are at risk for suicide" said Mary Mullen a family services worker with the Native organization The North Pacific Rim. She also asked the Commission "to recommend that funding of human service programs be flexible and unencumbered by traditional bureaucratic processes, so that we can access funds immediately throughout the coming years."

"Livelihoods destroyed, emotional stability of people destroyed, tremendous stress -- these things will be etched on my mind for the rest of my lifetime, and I think I will be grieving for many, many years to come over what I saw in the summer of 1989."

Mike Berg, Teacher, Kodiak

"The oil spill wouldn't go away; the pain, anger, depression and disruption stayed all through the summer and now into winter. It continues to play havoc with our lives."

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

"What I am saying to you is that we're going to need money for years to come."

*Mary Mullen, Family Services Worker,
The North Pacific Rim, Anchorage*

"I've come to the conclusion that the most neglected resource and the one that has received the least amount of attention to this very minute is the people that have been affected by the oil spill."

*Dr. Sharon Araj, Professor of Family and Social Psychology,
University of Alaska, Anchorage*

In a letter to the "Oiled Mayors," a group composed of the mayors of the impacted villages and towns, dated August 8, 1989, an Exxon official wrote that "costs for studies dealing with potential environmental, socioeconomic or mental health impacts of the spill" were not considered "appropriate for Exxon funding." Dr. Araj,

**Oil Spill Day
+119
(July 20)**

250 - 400 tons of oily waste are produced each day during clean-up from the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Exxon employee erases computer tapes, spill information lost.

professor of Family and Social Psychology, University of Alaska, Anchorage, who had been trying since August to obtain funding for studies related to the psychological and economic impacts, told the Commission she received a letter saying Exxon was not funding anything related to the social, psychological or economic impact on people. "Thus, that meant that the State was not funding anything either, because they were not funding anything (for which) they couldn't get their money back from Exxon."

Although Exxon wouldn't fund socio-economic studies, the "Oiled Mayors," considered human impacts important enough to dedicate \$655,000 of a state grant to fund research detailing socio-economic costs. The study, covering 26 communities, is scheduled to start in early spring.

"The spill had a more wide-ranging effect on fishermen who couldn't fish, subsistence users who couldn't eat, and cannery workers who couldn't work, you have to recognize the human resource."

Bob Brodie, Mayor, Kodiak

The Creation of Spillionaires

"I just wanted to make a comment related to what some people around town have been saying: 'Well, I'm real sorry for the animals, but the oil spill was the best thing to happen for business and our individual incomes around here.' I think it's a clear lesson of economics that boom economies are never very healthy, and that the influx of a continuous amount of money for prevention is far better than a boom economy like we have seen this summer. It's far more valuable to spend lots of money on an annual basis on protective ideas, drills, people to man the booms, than to spend a billion dollars in one summer and make a lot of people in Cordova spillionaires."

Nancy Bird, Oil Spill Disaster Response Office, Cordova

While many businesses and individuals suffered financially, many others did not. There was a lot of money to be made from high wages and exorbitant contracts. But the influx of money into communities created its own impacts. According to Kodiak resident, Chris Berns, boats chartered by Exxon made from \$60,000 to \$100,000 a month, a boom truck operator working for Veco made over \$200,000 and a skiff owner made more than \$200,000 this spring and summer. For those who did not make money on the spill or refused to take oil company money, resentment and jealousy grew. "I've seen communities torn apart by the haves and the have-nots -- those who worked for big bucks and those who didn't," said Mary Mullen, a family services worker with The North Pacific Rim Native organization. Some who worked for Exxon suffer from guilt and are often ostracized by family and friends.

**Oil Spill Day
+123
(July 24)**

Exxon cuts animal rescue crews in half in the Prince William sound and the Gulf of Alaska.

**Oil Spill Day
+130
(July 31)**

The *Exxon Valdez* arrives in San Diego Bay for repairs.

"This summer also saw families pitted against families; i.e. oilers and non-oilers, the fishermen and those who contracted their boats. Basically, what was happening was that the fear and uncertainty led people to make decisions, and the crisis pitted one against the other. The result is that the children suffered, families suffered, marriages suffered and friendships suffered."

Chris Booren, Cordova Children's Task Force, Cordova

"Vehement disagreement growing out of the anxiety and frustration has split communities and broken friendships."

Mike O'Meara, Pratt Museum, Homer

Inequities in boat contracts were another source of resentment. In Kodiak, the Commission heard that only certain owners of large boats received charters from Exxon or Veco to work on the spill. Although oil reached the north end of Kodiak Island by April, Kodiak fisherman Chris Berns claimed the majority of the boats remained moored in the harbor until the middle of July.

"The community of Seldovia came together and organized themselves. We all went into our own backyards and collected materials for booming the mouth of Seldovia Bay. All citizens from Seldovia were involved in one way or another and the community spirit was outstanding. Upon the entry of Veco, that unity was divided. Money came into the picture and attitudes changed."

Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Seldovia

"We had an enormous amount of volunteer work going on at first in the communities, and as soon as they started getting paid the work slowed down and the heart went out of it."

David Grimes, Fisherman, Cordova

Who Takes Care of the Children?

"How do you measure the time of growth a child has over a whole summer, a summer usually filled with fun and family, fishing and vacations? This summer saw children's growth filled with questions like; 'Where's Mommy?' 'Where's Daddy?' 'Why is money so important?' 'What are we going to do if we're broke?' 'Why did the otters and birds die?' 'Are all the fish dead?' 'Why do we need oil so much?' 'Will it ever end?'"

Chris Boreen, Cordova Children's Task Force, Cordova and the children of Prince William Sound

**Oil Spill Day
+133
(August 3)**

**Disabled Mobile
Oil tanker pushed
to Port Valdez by
tugboats.**

At all of the hearings, people expressed concern about the children. Gayle Campbell of the Susitna Girl Scout Council quoted Dr. Earl Grollman of the Harvard Bereavement Team, who told her that "in a time of crisis, children are a lost population." As stresses to parents increase, adults tend to neglect children, or worse. According to Campbell, Alaska is already the number one state in per capita child abuse, teen pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse. When child care providers in Valdez and Cordova reported significant increases in the stress levels of children in their care, her council was concerned that the impacts of the spill would inflate those already high statistics.

Armed with counselors from Charter North Hospital in Anchorage and funding from the State of Alaska and the oil industry, the Susitna Girl Scouts put together a program for the children in oiled communities. Sixty children in Valdez and 94 in Cordova, including Native children from the bush communities of Tatitlek and Chenega Bay, spent one day with health professionals and environmental educators "processing their sadness and confusion about the oil spill," according to Chris Booren of the Cordova Children's Task Force.

In an October visit to the remote communities of Seldovia, English Bay and Port Graham, Campbell found a great deal of interest in the "Listen to Me" program. However, she claims she is unable to obtain funding from Exxon or Alyeska which she says feel that there is no longer any need.

Who cared for the children when their parents flocked to endless town meetings and went to work "on the spill?" Child care facilities were over taxed. Not only was there a greater demand for child care, the facilities were often unable to hire the needed employees to meet state mandated child/staff ratios. The low hourly wages for child care providers could not compete with the \$16.69 being offered by Veco and Exxon for oil spill work. Two facilities were forced to close, one in Seward and one in Valdez.

"It ultimately seemed logical to ask Exxon for assistance, since the major problem had originated with Exxon. Since May, I have averaged two proposals per month (to Exxon, City of Cordova, State of Alaska). To date, only one of those proposals have been accepted, and with great reluctance on the part of Exxon. I was no match alone to negotiate with slick Exxon financiers. However, the grant did alleviate the problem for a few months out of the last eight. Before that money came through was a nightmare and after the money was spent, we went back to the same circumstances."

Jacqueline Fowler, Odiak Child Development Center, Cordova

It was only after Jacqueline Fowler, director of the Odiak Child Development Center in Cordova, contacted the Lieutenant Governor and a state Senator, that Exxon responded to her request for financial help. That wasn't until mid-June, almost three months after the spill. But Fowler said, "the long and short of it was that they (Exxon) were completely uncooperative." Although, State Emergency Services provided some financial aid, the State of Alaska has rejected two separate requests for funding. Chris Booren of the Cordova Children's Task Force, formed in response to the oil spill, asked "if they (Exxon) were willing to put up all that money out on the so-called clean-up, why wouldn't they be willing to help families whom their negligence caused to suffer?"

"Child care was a big problem (in the Native villages) for those that did work. How to care for children in times of disaster must be addressed."

Mary Mullen, Family Services Worker, North Pacific Rim.

"My mom's never home. I take care of my two sisters all the time now instead of just sometimes."

Village Girl

"My dad's out on the oil spill. My mom watches the news all the time."

Village Child

The members of the Cordova Children's Task Force believes that the federal government should implement a federal disaster plan in which the "spiller" is responsible and willing to respond to the needs of children. They also believe that the State, if delinquent in their responsibility to prevent a spill, must be prepared to deal with children's needs both during the crisis and the recovery periods.

**Oil Spill Day
+149
(August 19)**

**Tug boat *Lorna B*
capsizes in Cook
Inlet, Alaska,
leaking oil.**



The Day The Water Died

For those who do not live the Native life, there is no better way to understand the effects of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill on the Native communities than to read it in the eloquent testimony submitted by Walter Meganack. Meganack is the traditional Village Chief of Port Graham Native Village on the tip of the Kenai Peninsula.

"The Native story is a different story from the white man's story because our lives are different. What we value is different, how we see the water and the land, the plants and the animals is different. What the white man does for sport and recreation and money, we do for life, for the life of our bodies, for the life of our spirit, for the life of our ancient culture. Fishing and hunting and gathering are the rhythms of our tradition, regular daily lifetime, not vacation time, not employment time.

Our lives are rooted in the seasons of God's creation. Since time immemorial, the lives of Native people harmonized with the rhythm and the cycles of nature. We are a part of nature. We don't need a calendar or clock to tell us what time it is. The misty green of new buds on the trees tell us, the birds returning from their winter vacation tell us, the daylight tells us.

When the days get longer, we get ready. Boots and boats and nets and gear are prepared for fishing.

The winter beaches are not lonely anymore, because our children and the grownups visit the beaches in the springtime, and they gather the abundance of the sea, the shellfish, the snails, the chitons. When the first salmon is caught, our whole village is excited. It is an annual ritual of mouth watering and delight. The children are excited, the parents are pleased and proud, the elders smile in their memories of other times in the village.

When our bellies are filled with the fresh new life, then we put up food for the winter. We dry it and smoke and can hundreds of fish to feed a family. The homes have hanging fish alongside hanging laundry. The sights and smells of a village in the spring is the Native way. This is the way the elders taught us, and the elders taught them for thousands of years since the big ice left Alaska. There was no Europe then, no Roman Empire, there were no Jews, no Christians, no Egyptian civilization, but my people were here. The Alaska Natives were here celebrating spring and laughing and loving and working and teaching the rhythm of nature, the rhythm of our lives.

Much has happened to our people in recent centuries. We have toilets now, schools, we have clocks and calendars in our homes. Some of us go to the office in the morning,

the children go to school. But sometimes the office is empty and locked, and sometimes the child is late for school because there are more important things to do, like walking the beaches collecting the chitons, watching for the first fish.

The roots of our lives grow deep into the water and land. That is who we are. We are like our brothers the bear and the deer. We live on the land and our food is mostly from the water. The bear eats the fish, the deer eats the seaweed, Natives eat all of the life in the sea and the water. The land and the water are our sources of life. The water is sacred. The water is like a baptismal font and its abundance is the holy communion of our lives.

Of all the things that we have lost since non-Natives came to our land, we have never lost our connection with the water. The water is our source of life. So long as the water is alive, the Natives are alive.

It was early in the springtime. No fish yet, no snails, but the signs were with us. The green was starting, some birds were flying and singing. The excitement of the season had just begun, and then we heard the news, oil in the water, lots of oil killing lots of water. It is too shocking to understand. Never in the millennium of our tradition have we thought it possible for the water to die, but it's true.

THE NATIVE PERSPECTIVE

We walked the beaches, but the snails and the barnacles and the chitons are falling off the rocks, dead. We caught our first fish, the annual first fish, the traditional delight of all; but it got sent to the state to be tested for oil. No first fish this year.

We walked the beaches, but instead of gathering life we gathered death: dead birds, dead otters, dead seaweed. Before we have a chance to hold each other and share our tears, our sorrow and our loss, we suffer yet another devastation.

We are invaded by the oil companies offering jobs, high pay, lots of money. We are in shock. We need to clean the oil, get it out of our water, bring death back to life. We are intoxicated with desperation. We don't have a choice but to take what is offered. So we take the jobs, we take the orders, we take the disruption, we participate in the senseless busywork.

We start fighting. We lose control. We lose trust for each other, we lose control of our daily life. Everybody pushing everyone. We Native people aren't used to being bossed around. We don't like it, but now our own people are pointing fingers at us. Everyone wants to be boss. We are not working like a team. We lost control of our village. Our preschool meets in a community center. We shut the preschool down so the oil

company can have it. We work for the oil company now. We work for money. The springtime season of our village ways is gone, destroyed.

Our people get sick. Elders and children in the village, workers on the beaches, lots of sickness this year; stomachaches, head pain, bad colds. We hardly talk to each other anymore. Everybody is touchy. Everybody is ready to jump on you and blame you. People are angry and afraid, afraid and confused. Our elders feel helpless. They cannot work. They can't work on the clean-up. They cannot do all the activities of gathering food and preparing for the winter. And most of all, they cannot teach their young ones the Native way. How will the children learn the values and the ways if the water is dead? Very afraid if the water is dead. If the water is dead, maybe we are dead, our heritage, our tradition, our ways of life and living and relating to nature and to each other.

The oil companies lied about preventing the spill. Now they lie about the clean-up. Our people know what happens on the beaches. Spend all day cleaning one huge rock and the tide comes in and it's covered with oil again. Spend a week wiping and spraying the surface, but pick up a rock and there's four inches of oil underneath.

Our people know the water and the beaches, but they get told what

to do by people who should be asking, not telling. We fight a rich and powerful giant; the oil industry. While at the same time we take orders and a paycheck from it. We are torn in half.

Will it end? After five years maybe we will see some springtime water life again. But will the water and the beaches see us? What will happen to our lives in the next five years? What will happen this fall when the cleaning stops and the money stops? We have lived through such devastations. Our villages were almost destroyed by chicken pox and tuberculosis. We fight the battles of alcohol and drug abuse and we survive.

A wise white man once said, 'where there is life, there is hope.' And that is true. But what we see now is death, death not of each other, but of a source of life, the water. We will need much help, much listening in order to live through the long barren season of dead water, a longer winter than ever before.

I am an elder. I am chief. I will not lose hope. I will help my people. We have never lived through this kind of death, but we have lived through lots of other kinds of death. We will learn from the past, we will learn from each other, and we will live. The water is dead, but we are alive, and where there is life there is hope."

The "Scratch and Sniff" Test

"An elder in a different village told me that people must understand that for him Native foods are medicine. 'My body tells me when it's time to eat seal meat,' he said."

Mary Mullens, Family Services Worker, The North Pacific Rim, Anchorage

**Oil Spill Day
+182
(September 21)**

British Petroleum tanker *Atigun Pass* loses power near Bligh Reef carrying 40 million gallons crude oil. Emergency escort vessels attach tow lines and prevent oil spill.

**Oil Spill Day
+201
(October 10)**

Of 93 tankers registered for trade in Alaska, only 25 have double hulls.

For Alaska Natives, subsistence is a way of life. To live off the land requires a combination of unique skills and indepth understanding of the environment that is both conscious and mystical. The traditional subsistence economy is based on complex social and cultural relationships that links the people to each other and to their past. "The fear of this oil spill is the loss of our subsistence lifestyle. We can't live on a lawsuit with the oil company," said Vincent Kvasnifkoff of English Bay." It is this way of life that has been disrupted by oil.

Subsistence gatherers were told by state epidemiologist, John Middaugh, that if their traditional marine food smelled, looked and tasted okay, then it was probably is okay to eat. Based on the ability of the human nose to detect the presense of hydrocarbons in concentrations of 15 parts per million (ppm), the organolyptic test or the "scratch and sniff" test as it has become known since the spill, became the standard for the safety of marine organisms as food. Unfortunately, the test was not very reliable if conducted in areas smelling of oil fumes such as, oiled beaches or boats run on diesel. So people were uncertain about the safety of their food. It was enhanced by seemingly conflicting information from the federal Food and Drug Administration which was telling fishermen not to fish if oil was present. Whether or not subsistence foods have been contaminated by oil is still unresolved, especially for the people who rely on those foods.

"Exxon and public health officials have done an extremely poor job of collecting specimens, analyzing them for toxicity, interpreting findings, and getting findings and interpretations back to the village on a timely basis. So few specimens have been collected and analyzed that no statistically valid conclusions can be drawn."

Jack Lentfer, Consulting Biologist, Chugach Alaska Corporation

It wasn't until late in September that results of tests on summer samples showed that finfish, like salmon, were probably safe to eat but that clams from oily beaches weren't. Most of the salmon tested contained less than the 50 parts per billion (ppb) of hydrocarbons considered "safe" by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control. Unfortunately, those results came after the summer gathering period for subsistence foods and were of limited value.

Results from research on salmon conducted by the School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska and presented by John French, PhD at the Kodiak hearing indicated that, "the situation is getting worse rather than better." His research

revealed that petroleum contaminants (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) were showing up in concentrations that were 20 to 30 times higher in fish that had not been exposed to the oil. Although these high levels of hydrocarbons were not found in the edible flesh, some fish had levels above 50 ppb. In addition, French said that there is no consensus on the toxic level for humans.

Clams, which are an important subsistence food, are known to accumulate substances in their bodies. In pristine salt water, contaminated clams can clean themselves in three or four months. But no one knows how long it would take in oil-tainted water. Department of Environmental Conservation and Alaska Department of Fish and Game are attempting to assess this problem on locally important beaches in time for spring subsistence gathering in 1990.

There is little information on the effects of long term ingestion of low levels of hydrocarbons. Unfortunately, no long term epidemiological studies are planned that address those effects especially in Native populations whose diet consists of proportionately more seafood.

"We have been reduced to accepting the Veco and Exxon checks because our subsistence lifestyle isn't secure. Our clam beds are dying, the kelp beds are dead. We don't know what steady ingestion of this oil is going to do to us in a year, five years down the line. We don't know what's going to happen to us, and yet we feed our children. We pray and we hope they're going to be okay."

Dawn Black, Native Citizen, Kodiak

The uncertainty surrounding the safety of their traditional foods, especially intertidal organisms, stopped many villagers from collecting them. "Even though the appearance, smell, and taste of organisms from an oiled beach may after time appear to be normal, the perception is that there may still be a danger. Therefore, organisms were not gathered," according to biologist Jack Lentfer. And the many village residents who did clean-up work weren't able to gather food. On behalf of the Chugach Alaska Corporation, Lentfer also expressed his concern that income earned from clean-up work would not compensate for the loss of traditional foods because store food which must be flown in or brought in by boat is often quite expensive or unavailable."

To alleviate the shortfall of subsistence food in some of the coastal villages where fishing was curtailed by oil, Exxon donated salmon. However, this caused its own problems. At a village potluck to which the Commission was invited, residents of Old Harbor described what they felt was an inequitable distribution of the salmon. According to Eleanor Naumoff, "Some people had to go and almost beg for some salmon, and some people didn't get frozen salmon."

**Oil Spill Day
+202
(October 11)**

**Scientific studies
find high levels
of carcinogenic
hydrocarbons
in shellfish in
some areas hit by
crude oil from the
Exxon Valdez.**

THE FUTURE — BEYOND THE *EXXON VALDEZ*

"Captains Should Drink Milk"

"The lesson here is clear to me. We can only be successful by preventing oil spills. The only thing worse than this particular spill would be to see a recurrence."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

"Captains should drink milk." A preschooler offered this advice about oil spill prevention to family services worker Mary Mullen during her travels in the Prince William Sound. It was no surprise that most witnesses to the spill viewed prevention as the most important issue. According to carpenter Roy Robertson, "You really lose the battle once you spill the oil. But once you've got it in the water, you've got to get it, because once it hits the beach, you've just lost it."

Speakers viewed double-hulled and double-bottomed tankers as the first step to oil spill prevention. "If it (oil) must go by ship, then those ships, at the very least, need to be double-sided and double-bottomed. Legislation should be introduced for rapid, mandatory compliance" said Kelly Weaverling of Cordova. He cautioned the Commission that delays and extensions were unacceptable. "By the time it comes time to comply, the resource is going to be gone." Cordovan David Grime agreed and added that pending legislation didn't address the "18 percent of the tankers that I understand are already rated substandard. We know that some of those have lost a million gallons of oil from stress factors between here and California."

"They measure oil in barrels because years ago it used to be transported in barrels. I'm not suggesting that we go back to an ancient technology that's successful, but I would like to point out that if the Exxon Valdez was full of barrels of oil, they would have had to puncture 240,000 individual containers of oil to get this amount of oil in the water, and that is after it got through two hulls."

Kelley Weaverling, Book Store Owner, Cordova

"To even debate the consideration that all tankers should be double-hulled is ludicrous. It should be done now, immediately, and starting with the Exxon Valdez in San Diego."

Mike Tumey, Citizen, Girdwood

"Those tankers are 15 years old. They have a 20-year life span. They should have been double-hulled."

Mike Bruner, Citizen, Palmer

"The finest, state-of-the-art skimmer will never clean up as much as a double-hulled tanker."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

"We have to incorporate strong regulations, double-hulled vessels, new oil spill technology and foolproof ways to transport oil."

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

"The oldest of their (Chevron's) double-hulled fleet is 19 years of age, indicating this option was available in the early 70's. The majority of the shippers around the world chose not to use double-hulled tankers because of additional costs."

Dyer VanDevere, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Homer

"Double-bottom tankers should be required. I've been around the fishing industry all my life. And double-bottom vessels don't sink as easily, and suffer less damage in groundings and collisions."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

"It really exasperates me to see our own legislators working against us. They're saying that we should have more studies on whether we should have double-bottoms and double-hulls. I think it's crazy. First we should have the double-bottoms and the double-hulls, and then study how best to use those double bottoms."

Mary Jacobs, Citizen, Kodiak

"Design the tankers so it is compartmentalized into self-contained bladders so a breach in one area of the tanker will not allow oil from other compartments to leak. It is ludicrous to equivocate about double-bottoms when they are already the industry standard for cargo ships for dry goods."

Nina Faust, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Homer

It was apparent from the testimony that tanker traffic and crews need to be closely monitored and stringently controlled. Biologist Craig Matkin emphasized the need for redundancy for tanker guidance systems and improved training for crews. Homer resident, Dan Winn criticized industry policies that reduced crew size and encouraged overtime. No one could understand how tankers could be permitted to travel in bad weather when the same conditions would make clean-up impossible.

"If its too inclement to attempt to contain, retrieve or clean-up a tanker oil spill for certain periods of time in the winter, then there should be no transportation for that period of time."

Kelley Weaverling, Book Store Owner, Cordova

"Exxon stopped work (clean-up) on the outer coast, and I heard the Admiral (Coast Guard) himself talk about the problem of safety, the problem of the weather being too bad. Yet every day those tankers are going through. That is almost like admitting to me that they can't clean it up"

David Chartier, Fisherman, Seldovia

**Oil Spill Day
+ 207
(October 16)**

More than 3 million gallons of oily waste from the Exxon Valdez clean-up still awaits recycling in Seattle, Washington.

**Oil Spill Day
+236
(November 14)**

Greek cargo ship Miles Reefer runs aground on St. Mathews Island, Alaska, spilling fuel oil into the Bering Sea National Wildlife Refuge. No clean-up planned until spring.

"If the seas are so rough that equipment is basically ineffective, then maybe we shouldn't be driving those tankers through there."

Jerome Selby, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak

"They're having a spill outside of Bergen, Norway and they have the most advanced booms. They said they have eight and nine foot seas, and that can't contain oil in eight and nine foot seas."

Brian Johnson, Fisherman, Kodiak

"Now the oil companies admit that they are incapable of cleaning up any oil spill in Prince William Sound from September until mid-March, during a time in which over 17 billion gallons of crude oil will be transported in tankers averaging over fifteen years old through some of the stormiest seas in the world."

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

**Oil Spill Day
+249
(November 27)**

**Former Exxon
Valdez Captain
Joseph Hazelwood's
pretrial hearing
starts in Anchorage
courts.**

The oil industry must be held completely accountable for all damages and costs incurred due to oil spill. Only then could they be expected to prevent spills. "Liability for the spill is a very key thing for prevention," testified Oliver Holm of the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association. He emphasized that, "if a corporation knows that they're going to pay for the damages, they will take a lot more steps to prevent spills. Mike Tumey of Girdwood agreed, "We should put our foot down and say, 'the next person that does this is going to be fully accountable.'"

"Liability for spills, responsibility for prevention and clean-up, and mechanisms for compensation need to be clarified and should reflect the real problems and costs associated with such events, as should civil penalties."

*Mike O'Meara summarizing comments made by visitors to
the Pratt Museum, Homer*

"There should be absolutely no ceiling put on the liability for compensation to the effected parties. Criminal penalties should be imposed."

David Martin, Fisherman, Clam Gulch

"I support major spills being declared a national disaster requiring the efforts of the nation for clean up, with the company responsible ultimately footing the bill. I support more responsibility for oil spill prevention and stiff penalties for any infractions."

Janis Schofield, Citizen, Homer

"I think there should be some legislation enacted to put full financial responsibility on any company causing the spill. If you cause a spill and you don't fully clean it up to the standard, which needs to be set, then they don't get any more oil from Alaska."

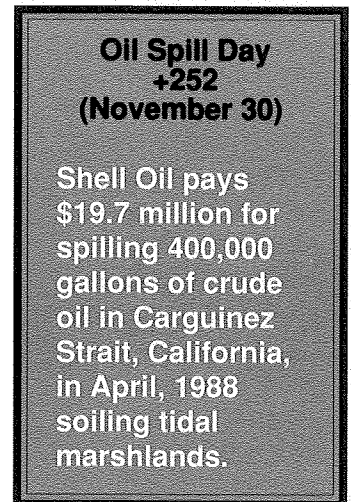
Roy Robertson, Carpenter, Seldovia

"The people that were impacted there (Cook Inlet) in that fishery still haven't been paid off from the '87 spill. So the laws need to be changed."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

"(Oil) companies will not be responsible until the real costs of their activities are internalized by law and they understand they really are going to have to pay for it. They then have the incentive to put their substantial resources to work to prevent future spills."

Jerome Selby, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak



While most speakers emphasized the need for fiscal responsibility, some like political scientist Charles Konigsberg, PhD, of Anchorage endorsed strong criminal penalties.

"It seems very ironic to me that a man can go out and steal a hundred dollars and get stuck in jail for several years, and the enormous damage done by people such as this is not really punished in the significant sense at all. So I'm suggesting to you that what we have here is a kind of Mafia of the economic world that has to be punished in criminal terms."

Charles Konigsberg, PhD, Political Science, Anchorage

Corporate Ethics

"As a corporation, I can see where Exxon is liable to its shareholders and its profit portfolio, but I believe it's also time to look far beyond these short-term personal profits and to look at the larger picture."

Janis Schofield, Citizen, Homer

While it was a catastrophic disaster, the March 24th oil spill represented nothing more than "business as usual" for the oil industry in Alaska and elsewhere. At least that was the opinion of the speakers at the November hearings.

**Oil Spill Day
+265
(December 13)**

"In the spring, you're just not going to be able to tell there was ever an oil spill there," said Exxon's Otto Harrison. He also claimed that there were only about 20 miles of beaches in Prince William Sound that still needed intensive cleaning.

"In August, 1988, there was a spill of unknown origin that no one was willing to report as oil fouled the west rip of Cook Inlet, slimed the nets of the Cook Inlet drift fleet and came ashore on Kalgin Island. The Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Coast Guard were able to collect samples of this crude, but were unable to determine where it came from or who it belongs to. The lips of the industry were sealed."

Dyer VanDevere, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Homer

"There are lots of oil spills. There are lots of shipwrecks. I think in 1988 there were over 35 ships that were lost just in the Aleutian Islands. Just two days ago, a 400-foot ship went aground on St. Matthew Island. There was over 286,000 gallons of diesel spilled, and chances of cleaning up the spill out there are much less likely than in Prince William Sound."

Art Sowls, Pacific Sea Bird Group, Homer

"Between March 24th, when the Exxon Valdez went aground, and the end of June, there were eight major spills in U.S. waters alone. In 1988, more than 55 million gallons of oil and other toxic substances were accidentally spilled by tankers in the oceans. Almost 4 million of that was spilled in U.S. waters, where about 86 percent remains."

Mike O'Meara, Pratt Museum, Homer

"For most of us, the horror of this lack of responsibility began on July 2, 1987, when the tanker Glacier Bay, anchored in shallow water at low tide in Cook Inlet, struck a rock and began leaking oil. The tanker's owners and all of their insurer's, not only did a contemptible job in the clean-up effort, but have delayed and passed the buck with regard to paying for damages caused by the Glacier Bay spill. Trinidad Shipping filed chapter eleven in bankruptcy court as a result of the incident and although they continue to do business in Cook Inlet, they have not compensated damaged parties."

Dyer VanDevere, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Homer

For residents of the Kenai Peninsula, the horror started in the 1960's. Fourteen onshore oil and gas fields, seven offshore fields, three petroleum refineries and the world's largest urea/ammonia plant have brought not only economic development but pollution of surface water, ground water and air and the dumping of hazardous wastes. In the last three years, 632 unauthorized releases of chemicals, petroleum products and toxic wastes have been reported to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Reported during the same period were 130 spills into Cook Inlet of waste or petroleum products.

"With the incredible destruction happening in Prince William Sound from this one spill, it is important to remember that the volume of the spill is small when compared to the total quantity of product and by-products illegally and legally dumped and being dumped onto the ground and into the waters of the Kenai Peninsula. I recently attended the Alaska Water Board Meeting in Soldotna. There we all listened, as I have many other times, to representatives of industry calmly state the water on their property is contaminated. This statement is so commonplace and the recurrence of contaminated water so frequent, that it apparently means nothing to industry except an inconvenience."

*Sheila Dickson, Public Awareness Committee for
the Environment, Sterling*

Maryli Sisson of the Public Awareness Committee for the Environment drove 90 miles from Sterling to Homer to present her testimony and the testimony of several others. "There are over 300 oil wells drilled on the (Kenai) Peninsula with drilling muds stored in unlined pits," she told the Commission. According to Sisson, the only reason the Sterling Waste Site, an industry dump, was turned down as a Superfund Site was because of the small population affected. Pointing to a poster size list, she went on to recite a litany of substances dumped into those pits that are now endangering water supplies.

"Some of these substances are found in drilling muds and include, fungicides, biocides, number 2 diesel, chromium 3,4,5 and 6, barium, copper, nickel, cadmium, magnesium and zinc. The stuff that went into the site (Sterling Special Waste Site) was not documented. Nobody knows what went into it. It was supposed to have been non-hazardous, but then everything is non-hazardous that the industry uses."

*Maryli Sisson, Public Awareness Committee for
the Environment, Sterling*

Most speakers believed that the oil industry never had any serious intention of preventing or cleaning up oil spills. If they had, the technology would have been available, the equipment on hand and contingency plans in place. Oil transport had grown beyond the industry's ability to move it safely and technology for clean-up had been "left on the drawing board back in the 70's as soon as they realized they could get away with it," according to Dyer VanDevere of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association. Instead of perfecting new methods for safe transport and efficient clean-up, Trish Gartland of Kodiak told the Commission, "If one looked into Alyeska's prespill history, they would see a record of broken promises, they would see how big oil had cut corners and scrapped safeguards."

"I was out there that night, March 24th, and I was floating on top of two feet of oil, six miles long and two miles wide. We just did not have the technology to control that at that point once it came out of the ship. Not only was it impossible to contain that much oil released that quickly, industry spokesmen pointed out that to have contained such a huge amount of vaporous hydrocarbons would have risked a catastrophic explosion."

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

"It is remarkable to me that an industry that has the technology to build a pipeline all the way across Alaska, develop oil fields in hundreds of feet of water or in Arctic conditions, and is capable of directional drilling, doesn't have the ability to clean oil out of the water. It appears that the petroleum industry's financial priorities are responsible for ignoring the development of this technology."

Dyer VanDevere, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Homer

"It staggers my imagination what we could have done with that kind of money in terms of prevention, control and also for the resources, if they would have used that money for some other purpose rather than cleaning up after a disaster."

Armin F. Koernig, Fisherman, Cordova

"In the Pribilofs (Alaska), we have a Greek ship that's aground and threatening to spill oil, and they're dragging in people from San Diego and all over the place. There's a good example where if you had something here a little closer and something set up, we wouldn't have had to call cutters and people from San Diego."

Brian Johnson, Fisherman, Kodiak

Even after the spill, the industry had not changed its practices but instead continued to invest money into public relation campaigns meant to reassure a cynical public. Joe Lawlor of Homer said he had only come to the hearing because he had received a phone call the night before asking him to participate in a survey. After answering a few of the questions, he said he got "more and more irritated because I thought they were pretty well slated for public relations work for the oil companies." He later commented that if the oil companies really cared about cleaning up oil, "they wouldn't be putting the money into public relations that they are, like calling me on the telephone on this poll or some of these ads that Arco is doing trying to raise their image. They'd be saying, 'by God, we're willing to put ten cents a barrel into a super fund, and before the next spill comes along we will do the research, we will have the skimmers, we will have somebody capable of moving in and cleaning a spill,' rather than this farce that we have had here this summer."

Profit was the sole motivation behind industry's irresponsibility to the environment. Many speakers, including Mike Milligan of Kodiak, said that industry can't be trusted to take care of the environment, even if it had "big, full-meal deal contingency plans," because it's not their job to clean up oil. "It's their job to produce oil and to make a profit for their shareholders."

They're (Exxon) a greedy corporation. That's what they care about, and everybody here knows it."

Michael Bruner, Citizen, Palmer

"The oil companies operate within a free-market, capitalistic system. On their own, they can only be expected to maximize their profits."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

"There's only one responsibility for a director (of a corporation), and that is a fiduciary responsibility, so no matter how good you are as an individual, no matter what your level of consciousness is, no matter what your morality is, it cannot be applied to a corporation."

*Ken Castner, North Pacific Fisheries Association,
Cook Inlet Seiners Association, Homer*

"They're (industry) going to protect themselves first rather than an environment."

Fritz Brunthoff, Contractor, Kodiak

"The sole motivation for large companies is profit. Without profit, the companies leave or shut down. When the oil industry is done with production in the state of Alaska, will we be able to fall back on our natural beauty to continue to attract visitors, or will they be put off by the sight of one destroyed area after another?"

*Sheila Dickson, Public Awareness Committee for
the Environment, Sterling*

Regardless of the profit motive, there is a dire need for morality in industry. Many felt as did Charles Konigsberg, PhD, a political scientist of Anchorage, that any large company with so much power should wield it in an ethical manner. "Anybody who has achieved a position of power in human society has a social responsibility in both the moral and the legal sense. You cannot exercise authority over your fellow man without accepting the responsibility that goes with it."

"We should speak to the stockholders of those large corporations that profit at any cost is not profit."

Joseph Hollister, Citizen, Homer

**Oil Spill Day
+275
(December 23)**

Exxon filed with the Alaska Superior Court to obtain a "protective order" to bar public disclosure of all evidence and testimony gathered by those seeking damages from the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

**Oil Spill Day
+278
(December 26)**

Brown king crab and shrimp trawl fisheries closed in Prince William Sound due to oil sheen.

The Role of the Government

"Our elected officials have one responsibility, and that is to protect the interest of all their constituents. The only interest everyone has in common, regardless of race, religion, political persuasion or the ability to financially support a candidate, is the environment. If our elected officials allow development that poses any risk at all to the environment, they fail to represent all their constituents and their basic needs."

John Michelson, Citizen, Seldovia

National leadership in government is a must if this country is to avoid another oil disaster. Speakers stressed the need for a strong national energy policy that will reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels. "We have been dependent on oil for less than 100 years and experts tell us we have only 50 years of oil left," said Kathy Carleson of Homer. "We have to find ways to deal with our energy needs by then." Chris Provost representing the Kodiak National Audubon Society added, "A national energy policy should become a national priority."

That policy should be committed to "energy conservation, mandatory recycling and alternative energies," according to Janis Schofield of Homer. Seldovian Jennifer Dilley agreed, "We cannot continue at this pace of destruction. We need to concentrate on alternative energy resources such as wind, hydro and solar power."

"The federal government has got to produce a strong sensible plan for energy conservation. Isn't it about time that cars average 45 miles per gallon of gas, and homes are well insulated and energy efficient. This has a direct bearing on how much oil we use and whether or not we will see another disaster like this."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

"I think that our national energy policy has been "energy dependent." It should be energy efficiency, conservation and a wide use of resources, renewable resources being the priority."

Nancy Bird, Cordova Oil Spill Disaster Response Center, Cordova

"Government must be made to function in a way that provides a climate supportive of environmentally-responsible business practices. There should be a government policy to support development and application of recycling, alternative energy sources and energy-efficient products to support individuals in their effort to change."

Mike O'Meara, summarizing comments made by visitors to the Pratt Museum Oil Spill Exhibit, Homer

"I think we need a national energy policy that pulls us away from fossil fuels."

Mike Milligan, Fisherman, Kodiak

**Oil Spill Day
+292
(January 10)**

Due to continued eruptions by Mt. Redoubt, Drift River terminal shut down along with 8 offshore wells.

"Science is Not Magic"

"Science is not magic. You can't go out there in a vacuum and find out everything you have to know in a single season. Without the background research of many years, nothing intelligent can be said about the change brought by the oil spill. By the same token, the true effects of the spill may take years to emerge, the disruption of the food chain and changes in the species composition that results from this type of thing. Without the long-term studies, nothing meaningful can be said about these effects."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

That dead animals and birds were collected in the tens of thousands is common knowledge. What is not known are the long term effects on salmon and herring life cycles, the impact on bird and mammal populations and the reason for seven missing and presumed dead killer whales in Prince William Sound.

Fisherman and biologists were concerned about what biologist Craig Matkin, called "lip service to long term research." Matkin, who has studied populations of killer and humpback whales in the Prince William Sound since the early 1970's, was critical of research that started too late and was over too early. Most of the impact assessment studies were concluded in the fall after only one field season.

"My feeling is, we will not even come close to being able to guess what the actual damages are within the time frame of one year. I think that in terms of fisheries hatch rates, the survival and introduction of larval fish in the stocks next year, which means that in terms of our salmon fisheries, depending on which salmon they are, we're not going to see them for two to five years down the line."

*John French, PhD, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences,
University of Alaska, Kodiak*

John French, PhD, of the School of Fisheries and Ocean Science, University of Alaska, agreed with Matkin. He testified that it took "an inexcusable number of delays to get the process on line, and it turned out to be a highly politicized process, that in my mind is not going to answer a lot of the damage assessment questions." According to French instead of beginning the evaluation of fisheries impacts in April when it should have been initiated, it took until September before the agencies involved even got the contracts to start damage assessment.

"We won't know the full extent of what the impact was on these fish, because there wasn't an effective monitoring program in existence when the fish first emerged in May, and that's when most of the oil was here."

Oliver Holm, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

**Oil Spill Day
+302
(January 20)**

**Canadian tanker
Frank H. Brown
strikes reef in
Wrangell Narrows,
Southeast Alaska
and leaks 57,000
gallons of gasoline,
no clean-up
scheduled.**

While biologists continue to debate whether the concentrations of hydrocarbons in the water column could have had a detrimental effect on salmon fry and their nursery habitat, fishermen are worried. Ten months of research, which ended on February 28, will not even begin to resolve the controversy. Some species of salmon have four, five and six year life cycles so the effects on the juvenile fish that left their spawning beds during the oil spill may remain a mystery until they return in 1994. If impacts on the habitat or physiology of the young salmon were severe enough, and they fail to return in sufficient numbers, then salmon runs could be reduced well into the next century.

"The impacts will develop as we go through the years of cycles of salmon and herring, and it will be at least five years before we even recognize what the damage was that was done this year. A one-year observation that was done this year by the various agencies is not going to do it."

Armin F. Koernig, Fisherman, Cordova

Although John French's research assessed impact to salmon in Kodiak, he worried that other fisheries were not being studied adequately. "We don't really know what's happening with the bottom fish. There have been some studies that have been initiated since then that are beginning to look at the bottom fish, but any decent damage assessment protocol would have been sampling these types of fisheries."

Also of concern was that good research protocol was being sacrificed for litigation purposes. According to biologist Jack Lentfer, "too much emphasis is being placed on gathering information for litigation and damage assessment." Not enough on determining true biological and environmental effects and what can be done to better deal with future spills. Lawyers, not scientists, in many cases are setting the guidelines for data gathering."

"There is much more at stake here than simply providing ammunition for suits against Exxon, on behalf of the animals that have died. There are lessons here that need to be learned for the long-term approach to oil and oil transportation."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

As to whether Exxon should play any part in the damage assessment, Kristin Stahl-Johnson of Kodiak was quite adamant. She told the Commission, "It's like having the fox guard the hen house. How can they be the people that do the environmental assessment of the impact? They're not qualified even by virtue of conflict of interest, if nothing else, to be analyzing environmental and biological data and telling us what the answers are. And who is going to trust then? They can't take us for that big of fools." In Homer, Roberta Highland used the identical analogy, "It's like the old saying of the fox watching the chickens."

"Trust Us"

"The oil companies' response has been, 'Oops, gee, sorry guys. We sure made a boo-boo this time. But we promise it won't happen again. Here's a billion dollars. Hope that covers the damages.'

And, 'Oh, by the way, we still need to develop the Arctic Coastal Plain for the thirty days worth of oil there. And we need to put drilling rigs in Bristol Bay and the Chukchi Sea. National Security and all that. We promise we'll be real clean this time. Trust us.'"

Mike Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

Oiled Alaskans feel betrayed. Any trust that speakers may have had in the oil industry before the spill is gone. With only one exception, a Conoco geologist, none of the speakers believed that the oil industry could be relied upon to develop environmentally sensitive areas in a responsible manner.

It was on March 23, 1989, just hours before the nation's largest oil disaster, that Representative Walter Jones, North Carolina (D) introduced House Bill HR3601 to open oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A similar bill in the Senate was ready to go to the floor. But when tens of thousands of blackened bodies of sea otters and birds began washing ashore, industry's hopes for exploiting the arctic coastal plain were grounded. The legislation was put in abeyance. The fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains undecided. Oiled Alaskans are not.

"It may seem like a drastic measure to some, but how can we trust these fragile resources of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to an industry already proven untrustworthy?"

Sheila Dickson, Public Awareness Committee for the Environment, Sterling

"We also need to stop oil exploration and development in or anywhere near Kachemak Bay, Bristol Bay and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer

"Designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness and do not pursue oil and gas development there. We tell third world countries to save their last wildernesses, and, yet, here's the U.S. in a hurry to develop the last great wilderness in Alaska."

Nina Faust, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Homer

"As one person, one citizen, I therefore propose the following: absolutely no drilling for oil in Bristol Bay, no drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, double-bottoms and double-hulls for all tankers sailing in U.S. waters."

Toby Sullivan, Fisherman, Kodiak

**Oil Spill Day
+309
(January 27)**

\$393 million oil spill response plan issued by the American Petroleum Institute for the United States does not include Alaska.

**Oil Spill Day
+320
(February 9)**

Forty-four sea birds died and 126 more are under care as a result of 400,000 gallons of Alaska crude oil spilled from British Petroleum tanker *American Trader* off the coast of Southern California. The 811-ft tanker punctured itself twice with its own anchor creating a slick 14-miles long.

"The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the last natural wildlife areas in the northern hemisphere and I think it's essential that it stays that way. And Bristol Bay oil lease development, I don't think it's wise."

Mike Berg, Teacher, Kodiak

"I'm not willing to accept the costs of developing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and I'm not willing to pay those costs in Bristol Bay."

Sue Mathews, Wildlife Biologist, Homer

"Oil will someday be depleted, but our seafood is a renewable resource. We can plan, pass new laws, and upgrade the methods of removing oil from our sea beds and transporting it on our waters. But man is fallible and accidents such as the *Exxon Valdez* are going to happen. I do not think we should jeopardize the largest red (sockeye) salmon fishing industry in the world for the sake of oil." said Frank Newton of Kodiak in defense of Bristol Bay. With fisheries that include the famous Bristol Bay red salmon, king crab and halibut worth more than \$1 billion dollars annually, the controversial federal lease sales in that region were a hot topic.

"If this industry wants us to see them as socially responsible, let them show us some evidence of it. Let them withdraw their leases in the Bristol Bay as evidence of a sense of social responsibility."

Charles Konigsberg, PhD, Political Science, Anchorage

"At this point not enough has been demonstrated to lead us to believe that Bristol Bay could be drilled without having similar disasters occur."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

"Kodiak Audubon strongly recommends halting oil and gas development of the Arctic National Wildlife refuge, and canceling oil lease sales in Bristol Bay. Both of those projects have serious environmental flaws."

Chris Provost, Kodiak Audubon Society, Kodiak

"We also need to delay any further off shore and gas lease sales unless comprehensive safeguards are in place and we have satisfactory response plans worked out. We can no longer expect the oil company maxim 'trust us.'"

Nina Faust Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Homer

Then there is the question of lease sales and future of oil development in the Bering, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. Nina Faust of the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society in Homer strongly advocated halting lease sales in these areas. She said, "Some areas are more valuable for their fishery resources and other biological, historic or cultural resources than to risk oil development. We cannot afford to sacrifice these sensitive, rich resource areas."

"There is no technology to clean up oil spills in ice and in the Bering and Chukchi Seas. I feel that our wilderness, our livelihoods and our hearts cannot survive another oil spill."

Eva Saulitis biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Fairbanks

"The Chukchi is an ecologically important and sensitive area, home to tens of thousands of female walrus and their calves, hundreds of thousands of waterfowl, and whales, seals, and polar bears. Extreme remoteness, harsh weather conditions, and frequent concentrations of sea ice make the Chukchi Sea a more difficult place to respond to oil spills than the Prince William Sound."

Larry Landry, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Fairbanks

Tanker traffic and spill response in the waters in Cook Inlet, which are far more treacherous than those in Valdez have "downstream" residents of Homer and Valdez particularly concerned. "We also need to make sure we don't underestimate the waters of Cook Inlet," said Nina Faust. According to Dyer VanDevere of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, "Hazardous materials being produced and shipped from Cook Inlet range from off-shore production platforms, underwater pipelines, liquid natural gas, ammonia, urea, land-based drilling, refineries and gas fields. All those operations potentially expose our environment to hazardous materials."

Both Trisha Gartland and Mike Milligan of Kodiak claimed that the Cook Inlet Response Organization is ill prepared to handle a spill in Cook Inlet. Not only does Cook Inlet have more tanker traffic than any other place in Alaska, according to Gartland, but it also has "some of the world's highest tides and swiftest currents." Seldovia fisherman Red Kvarford helped to clean-up the 1987 *Glacier Bay* spill in Cook Inlet. "Every day we got a little more oil. After two weeks they (Cook Inlet Response Organization) said, 'that's good enough, we got most of it.' We thought, 'we're just getting started.' There was a lot of publicity then. We thought, 'this won't happen again.' We will be ready next time, and obviously, we weren't."

**Oil Spill Day
+346
(March 5)**

The Liberian-flag tanker *Flying Clipper* carrying 4 million gallons of fuel oil lost power twice within two days trying to navigate through the drifting ice of Cook Inlet, Alaska.

"Once a tanker leaves Hinchinbrook Entrance and Prince William Sound enroute to Cook Inlet, there are no emergency response vessels available for assistance. Simply put, it is apparent that the oil industry and the state are not serious about prevention of oil spills in that region. The Cook Inlet Response Organization operations manual shows that of the 15 oil platforms in the Inlet, none have oil spill containment or clean-up equipment. Most of the shore-based facilities do not have adequate oil spill response equipment."

Trisha Gartland, Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort, Kodiak

"I recently went to a contingency plan hearing on Cook Inlet response. Because of logistics with the tides, it would be difficult to have a really good response to a spill up there. But I still came away left with the feeling that most of what we were looking at from the response organization was pretense."

Mike Milligan, Fisherman, Kodiak

Awakened Environmental Awareness

"A clean, healthy environment and ecology must become our number one priority. It encompasses all aspects of our lives: the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the shelter we live in and the transportation we use. Each person, each day in living must make decisions as to what to consume, and how to balance that consumption with a goal of keeping our earth clean and healthy."

We must no longer be complacent with any mistreatment of the land and waters of our earth. We must begin yesterday to protect and cultivate a clean and healthy environment, or we won't have an earth to pass on to our children and to future generations."

Tracy Akers, Crude Women, Kodiak

In spite of their despair and grief, Alaskans saw the oil spill as an opportunity for change. They believed the spill was a turning point in personal and national environmental consciousness. David Grimes, a fisherman from Cordova, actually thanked Prince William Sound for the "sacrifice" because he believes the American people now "recognize Alaska as a symbol that somehow life does need clean air and water and wildlife." Many speakers believed it had awakened their families and communities to the ramifications of oil dependency.

"The single good thing to come out of this mess is the increased awareness of the public to environmental issues, and I hope that we can now grasp the opportunity to use that power to finally achieve some good for all."

Mike O'Meara, Pratt Museum, Homer

**Oil Spill Day
+341
(February 28)**

Deadline for completion of environmental damage studies from the Exxon Valdez disaster. Environmentalists and fishermen claim such short term research will not be able to tell them anything about long term effects to the environment.

"I know that a spill like this is a crime against the planet, and as participants in this culture we all share responsibility for it." Like Toby Sullivan who made this statement, witnesses to the spill recognized that their own reliance on oil and petroleum products and complacency toward the oil industry had contributed to the soiling of their homes. Nancy Hillstrand, a Homer commercial fisherwoman, said that she realized that when she points her finger to blame industry, she has three fingers pointing back at herself. "Anytime we drive in our cars or jump in an airplane, we're using the stuff (oil). So in pointing my finger and knowing that I myself use oil, I am trying desperately not to."

"We have all dipped into the candy jar too much, and we haven't take the responsibility to see where all these resources have gone."

Neil Snider, Citizen, Anchorage.

"We're much in the attitude of a spoiled child who has spilt milk and he keeps summoning another glass, and another glass is brought to him: spills that, he gets another glass."

Mike Milligan, Fisherman, Kodiak

Joe Lawlor began his testimony with an apology. "I've been a Republican for some 50 years. I've got two of my children that have got good jobs working for the oil industry, but I wanted to apologize for what I have done for the oil spill." As the former head of the Division of Lands in Fairbanks for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Lawlor told the Commission he was responsible for selection of the lands on the North Slope for oil development. "Before we selected, we had quite a few discussions on how we would move the oil safely to market. I got elected to the borough assembly in Fairbanks, and I got wined and dined by the oil companies. I got flown up to the North Slope, and we approved their study, impact statement and running the pipeline to Valdez." He said that he assured people "because the oil companies assured me -- there was no way there could be a spill of that magnitude. There was no way, the people (industry) had all of the technology, all of the modern equipment, all the electronics."

It wasn't until later that Lawlor "started wisening up to some of this manipulating by the oil companies" and began to get "a little concerned about the future. And then the oil spill came along and I got angry." His change of heart, inspired Joe Lawlor to volunteer at the oil spill exhibit at the Pratt Museum in Homer.

"Do we have to — I'm asking you — do we have to pump all the oil out in my lifetime for the world? Do we have to do it? Do we have to take all the fish out of the ocean? Do we have to pollute the ocean the way we are? Aren't any of us capable of stopping this? This is crazy what we're doing."

Joe Lawlor, Citizen, Homer

**Oil Spill Day
+349
(March 8)**

A Brazilian-owned tanker ran into a tug boat and dumped thousands of gallons of fuel oil into a ocean reserve for rare fish along Brazil's Atlantic coast.

Witnessing the ruination of their water and land has spurred a growing number of Alaskans into action. Three of the four communities that the Commission visited initiated recycling programs. Hundreds of individuals and organizations have formed the Oil Reform Alliance, a coalition dedicated to oil reform. Individuals are actively lobbying for oil spill legislation, instituting community contingency plans and launching advertising campaigns to counter the oil industry's drive to improve its image. "We are the people. It is our responsibility to protect our environment, lifestyles and habitat," said Seldovian Jennifer Dilley.

"I think we have got to recognize the power that we have. We have a voice."

Judith Lethine, South Kachemak Alcohol Program, Seldovia

"Alaskan citizens have been baptized with crude oil. I think I once felt Alaskans were somehow immune to the environmental catastrophes that we see shaking much of the world. But, no, we're just as vulnerable, if not more so, because of the less resilient nature of the northern ecosystems. It's now our responsibility to see the changes made to prevent the recurrence of such a disaster."

Craig Matkin, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer

First hand experience taught local residents that they are the experts in their environment. They want to be consulted and involved in every step of contingency planning and oil spill response. Both Trisha Gartland of Kodiak and Cordovan David Grimes talked about the need for a citizens' advisory process for the Alyeska Marine Terminal. Kodiak resident Gartland said Alyeska should fund technical advisory groups "composed of representatives from local communities, fisheries and hatcheries." Grimes used the Sullom Voe Oil Terminal in the Shetland Islands, which is owned and operated by residents, as an example for successful citizen oversight.

"The only way we're going to be able to keep track of this Exxon bunch is to have watchdog groups that follow them around everywhere they go."

Neil Snider, Citizen, Anchorage

Additionally, communities want and need their own contingency plans, response equipment and training. "I believe all the communities around the areas they are caring for should be trained, like volunteer fire departments, except for oil spills," said Seldovian Roy Robertson. Kodiak Island Borough Mayor Selby agreed. "Every community should go ahead and get to work on planning for not only oil spills, but other natural disasters. Because, in my mind it's local preparedness that's eventually going to either pull you through or sink you." Oiled Alaskans also want those contingency plans to include adequate resources to cope with the impact on the human population as a result of such a disaster.

"A contingency plan that does not use the trained resources at hand is not a contingency plan. And a contingency plan that does not unleash all regional resources in the first 48 hours of a spill is also not adequate. We must discipline ourselves. Get trained, stay sharp, and be ready. Maintain equipment and in a place handy for fast deployment. Only then can we dare hope the weather to be warm and calm, the spill to be small and those that have been trained to be close-by."

*Ken Castner, North Pacific Fisheries Association,
Cook Inlet Seiners Association, Homer*

"The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation needs to realize that contingency plans for refined products shipped in and out of Cook Inlet each year need to be individually written for each type of waste. A contingency plan for crude oil won't help with a clean-up of ammonia or urea spills. Jet fuel, gasoline, and diesel also need to be dealt with differently."

*Betty Farrally, Public Awareness Committee for
the Environment, Soldatna*

Communities all throughout the United States need to establish incident command systems for emergencies, with ongoing training in all areas, because disasters will happen. It is not a question of if, but when. We must be prepared."

Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Seldovia

"Contingency plans should require that local community response teams be organized, trained, adequately funded, and coordinated with governmental and industry clean-up teams, so that they can respond immediately when a spill occurs."

Mike Wenig, Staff Attorney, Trustees for Alaska, Anchorage

Alaskans also had very specific recommendations for the future protection of valuable fish and wildlife resources and habitat. Although, none believed that any land which could be acquired would mitigate damages caused by the spill. "There's no parcel of land on earth that will compare with what we have and what we've lost. I don't consider it a fair trade," said Jim Heinzen of Homer.

"Settlement money (from oil spill litigation) should be used for acquisition of sea bird habitat, sea bird research and survey work. Lands around Kodiak deserving of acquisition and protection would include, Cathedral Rocks, Triplet Island group, Barren Island, Noisy Islands and Trinity islands. Furthermore, a list of statewide valuable sea bird habitat that needs immediate protection should be developed for potential acquisition. We recommend that a trust fund be established."

Chris Provost, Kodiak Audubon Society, Kodiak

**Oil Spill Day
+352
(March 11)**

An open pipe valve spilled 90,000 gallons of crude oil into a containment dike at the Drift River oil terminal, Alaska.

**Oil Spill Day
+356
(March 15)**

In an Anchorage press conference to announce clean-up plans, Exxon officials state that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided no proof of any "stressed animals" as a result of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

**Oil Spill Day
+361
(March 20)**

Prince William Sound shrimp and brown crab fisheries have become the first *Exxon Valdez* oil spill related closures of 1990 when state surveys found oil in those fishing areas.

Of particular concern was planned logging in impacted areas would compound wildlife losses due to oil. Several speakers suggested buying back timber rights in those areas.

"Prince William Sound is about to start a timber economy based primarily on net operating loss sales. We're at the northern end of the coastal rain forests. You can't log it profitably, but we're finding ways to log it, nevertheless, irresponsibly."

David Grimes, Fisherman, Cordova

"Buying back the timber rights to the area would protect the habitat. One of the species of sea bird that was badly hit in Prince William Sound was the marbled murrelet. This species has been reduced in numbers along most of the west coast because of logging of old-growth forests where they nest."

Art Sowls, Pacific Sea Bird Group, Homer

Jeff Parker, an Anchorage attorney, proposed mechanisms for mitigation that do not rely on the acquisition of private land, 98 percent of which is owned by Native corporations. He believes that it makes more sense to find solutions "that comport with the economic and social purposes of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and protect Native title rather than undermine it." Some of his suggestions include a mitigation fund to: purchase timber conservation easements along anadromous fish streams, endow conservation organizations, endow a scholarship fund for Alaska Natives who pursue an education in natural resource management providing long term conservation benefits, finance efforts to halt high seas foreign intercept fisheries that kill thousands of marine birds and mammals and interfere with Alaska fisheries and finance restoration projects in areas not directly impacted by oil but used by fish and wildlife that were impacted. Parker also submitted a draft "Alaskan Oil Spill Mitigation Act." The advantages to the Mitigation Act, he claims, would be that it would not be dependent on a damage fund created from litigation and the long delays inherent in that process.

Meanwhile, many Alaskans are turning their vision toward the future concerned about the world they will leave for their children. "Are our children and their future important? Are we willing to make the changes necessary to insure that they have a safe world in which to live?" asked Chris Booren of Cordova.

"We know that we want to have something more for our children and our grandchildren. We know that in order to do that we all have to drive few cars. We all have to turn our thermostats down. Beauty is one of our values, love of our children, love of our homes. These are all things that we value, and we have to all be willing to pay the price to protect these things."

Judith Lethine, South Kachemak Alcohol Program, Seldovia

"Damn, we have a pretty good world, us old guys. What is the future generation going to have if we keep going like this?"

Joe Lawlor, Citizen, Homer

EPILOGUE – ALASKANS STILL FIGHTING FOR THE EARTH

"The oil spill is not over. It began long before March 24th and it is still happening. It will continue for as long as this country pursues short-sighted energy policies, and for as long as industry is allowed to regulate itself in the extraction and transportation of petroleum."

Mei Mei Evans, Oil Reform Alliance, Anchorage

The story of the *Exxon Valdez* is not over. The people of Alaska are still picking up pudding-like oil and tar balls; they live with the fear of another catastrophic spill every day. But neither have they been idle since March 24, 1989. On September 20 when the British Petroleum supertanker *Atigun Pass* lost power just miles from Bligh Reef, only a newly installed vessel escort system saved Prince William Sound from a repeat of the *Exxon Valdez*. A citizens' watchdog group, the Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee, formed to oversee Alyeska Marine Terminal and the tankers served by it. After ten months of negotiation, the committee and the owners of Alyeska signed a contract that extends for the lifetime of the pipeline. Grassroots educators have completed an oil spill curriculum to be distributed in Alaskan schools by spring, 1990 and nationwide by 1991. More than 150 lawsuits have been filed against Exxon for damages caused by the oil. Most recently, Governor Cowper introduced six oil spill bills to the state legislature as direct result of the findings of the Alaska State *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Commission.

Neither have the American people been remiss in their pursuit for safe oil and gas exploration and transportation. A federal conference committee is currently debating the issues of mandatory double-hulled and double-bottomed tankers, liability limits and legally binding contingency plans. The National Wildlife Federation in conjunction with the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a damage lawsuit against Exxon and Alyeska seeking to establish a multi-billion dollar trust fund to pay for complete restoration of the coastal environment. And just a month before the one year anniversary of the nation's largest oil spill, U.S. Attorney General Thornburgh announced that Exxon and Exxon Shipping Company had been indicted on five criminal charges stemming from violations of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, Dangerous Cargo Act, Clean Water Act, Refuse Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The threat of uncontrolled irresponsible oil development is not over. It continues to endanger fish and wildlife anywhere the environment is second to oil. The people of Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island are not idle. In the words of Mavis Muller, Homer artist and activist, "the fight is still on."

"Still fighting a half-hearted, haphazard recovery effort by industry that has compromised our quality of life by a cosmetic clean-up focused on public relations.

Still fighting to prevent future tragedies which will strike alternatives to oil and oil transport are developed.

Still fighting "business as usual" while oil companies continue to the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, Norton Sound and Bristol Bay despite contingency plans based on lies and unproven technology.

Still fighting the industry propagated myth of "environmentally sound" development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — America's last great wilderness!

Still fighting an oil industry than "owns" state legislators and the press.

Still fighting to govern our government and private industry and hold them to environmentally ethical practices."

Mavis Muller, Artist, Homer

APPENDIX 1

OPENING STATEMENT OF JAY D. HAIR President, National Wildlife Federation

I'd like to thank you all for coming today. We appreciate the time you have taken to share your thoughts and recommendations on the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and how we might use lessons of this spill to bring about changes in public policy regarding conservation and wise use of our nation's energy resources.

The *Exxon Valdez* spill has deeply stirred the environmental conscience of the American public, and has heightened the demand for environmental protection. As the spill and its aftermath have faded from the newspaper headlines and the television nightly news, we feel a strong commitment to remember its bitter lessons and to bring recommendations that you — the people who experienced these lessons first-hand — have to the rest of the country.

We will never fully reverse the calamity the *Exxon Valdez* left in its wake in the early morning of March 24, 1989. Nor can we give adequate solace to the grief and despair that many of you have felt. And we can never completely compensate the losses suffered by those of you whose livelihoods depend on a clean and healthy environment. But we would be compounding the harm if we let the lessons of the nation's worst environmental disaster be forgotten.

Our plan is to gather your thoughts and recommendations for inclusion in a report that the other commissioners and I will be putting together to take to the President, Congress, the Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature. Sharing your thoughts with us will help in our efforts to strengthen the laws, regulations, and policy decisions affecting the development and transportation of oil and gas. Sharing your experiences will help us to make sure the social and economic impacts of environmental catastrophes are understood and avoided. Providing us with your recommendations will help us to begin the task of addressing restoration and mitigation of natural resources damaged by the spill.

With your guidance, we can have a stronger voice in determining the direction our nation will take in the conservation and wise use of our energy resources.

Through these hearings, we hope to:

- Gather first-hand information on the environmental impacts of the spill;
- Receive eyewitness accounts of the spill clean-up effort and its effectiveness;
- Hear your opinions on the adequacy and execution of oil spill contingency plans; and
- Listen to your recommendations for improvements in state and federal laws and regulations.

It is our hope that these hearings will provide you an opportunity to make your voices heard throughout Alaska and the nation so that through sharing your experiences you can help prevent another tragedy and help ensure an environmentally responsible and energy secure future for our country.

We are happy to accept a complete written statement for the record, and we welcome written comments submitted before November 30.

APPENDIX 2

BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

John H. Adams

A co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council, John Adams has served as its Executive Director since 1970. The Defense Council is a legal and scientific environmental organization with a professional staff of over 60 lawyers and scientists with offices in New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Los Angeles and Honolulu.

A graduate of Michigan State University (1959) and Duke University Law School (1962), Mr. Adams served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York prior to his work at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Currently, he is President of the Open Space Institute and an adjunct professor of law at New York University.

Mr. Adams is also a director of the World Resources Institute, the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research, and the Winston Foundation for World Peace, as well as a member of the Governor's Environmental Advisory Board (New York State). In addition he is a contributing author to An Environmental Agenda for the Future (1985).

Ralph Eluska, Sr.

Ralph Eluska is currently president of the Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. Village Corporation created by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The Village Corporation consists of 147 stockholders and owns 138,00 acres of land on the south end of Kodiak Island.

Mr. Eluska received a Bachelors of Arts in education from Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado in 1969. Mr. Eluska has worked in the broad area of education for a dozen years with particular emphasis on Alaskan Native students. Through his activities with the Alaska Native Foundation he served as the director of a comprehensive fisheries development program. He also served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Bureau of Indian Affairs reviewing policy and legislation concerning the Indian People and Natives of Alaska.

The many professional affiliations of Mr. Eluska include the Alaska Legislation Task Force on Guiding and Game and most recently, the Alyeska Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Jay D. Hair

Jay D. Hair became chief executive officer of the National Wildlife Federation in May of 1981. Today, the Federation has more than 5.8 million members and supporters and 52 state and territorial affiliates. Dr. Hair directs a staff of over 700 employees in Washington D.C., Virginia and regional offices. Prior to heading the National Wildlife Federation, Dr. Hair was the administrator of the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Hair earned both his undergraduate degree in biology (1967) and his Master of Science degree in zoology (1969) from Clemson University. In 1975 he was awarded a Ph.D. in zoology by the University of Alberta, Canada.

Jay D. Hair has been active in many civic and professional organizations including the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He was awarded top conservationist awards in both South Carolina (1977) and North Carolina (1980).

Jay Hammond

Two term governor of Alaska (1974-1982), Jay Hammond is a homesteader, trapper, guide and bush pilot. Currently the host of the popular TV show, "Jay Hammond's Alaska," former governor Hammond also continues to fish commercially in Bristol Bay and to write his memoirs. As governor he initiated the buy-back of Kachemak Bay oil leases and opposed the controversial Bristol Bay oil leases. Since political retirement, Jay Hammond has served on the board of Directors of the National Audubon Society.

Jay Hammond first came to Alaska in 1946 and worked as a trapper and guide. Later he attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where he graduated with a degree in biology. He used his biology degree while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and he has since received two Honorary Doctorate degrees in law and humanities.

Celia Hunter

Pilot, adventurer, and conservationist are but three of Celia Hunter's avocations. Having first flown to Alaska in 1947 at the controls of a gullwing Stinson aircraft, Ms. Hunter has travelled extensively throughout Alaska and the world. She is perhaps best known for building and operating Camp Denali, a wilderness camp, north of Denali National Park.

In 1960 Ms. Hunter helped to found the Alaska Conservation Society and served as its Executive Secretary for twelve years. In 1969 she was elected to governing council of The Wilderness Society. Elected President of The Wilderness Society in 1976 and, in 1977, she served in Washington D.C. as its Executive Director for a year and a half.

Ms. Hunter has remained actively involved in conservation activities. She was instrumental in the protection of Alaska land under the 1980 Alaska Lands Bill and has written environmental columns for the "Fairbanks Daily News Miner" and "Alaska Magazine."

Robert Weeden

Dr. Weeden received degrees in wildlife conservation from the University of Massachusetts (BS, 1953), the University of Maine (MS, 1955) and in zoology from the University of British Columbia (Ph.D., 1959). He was a wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 10 years before joining the faculty of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 1970. While at the University of Alaska, Dr. Weeden has developed courses in natural resource legislation and policy, environmental decision-making and environmental ethics. In addition to his appointment with the University of Alaska, Dr. Weeden has developed short courses to train Alaska's natural resource managers and served as Director of Division of Policy Development and Planning in the office of the Governor.

His writing and his participation on the federal Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and the Marine Mammal Commission as well as his work on state boards and commissions has well prepared Dr. Weeden for involvement with the Citizens Commission. Perhaps his best known writing is his 1978 book, Alaska: Promises to Keep published by Houghton Mifflin.

APPENDIX 3

SPEAKERS LIST

Cordova, November 16, Mt. Eccles School

Jacqueline Fowler, Odiak Child Development Center, Cordova
 David Grimes, Fisherman, Cordova
 Robert Clarke, Oekos, Anchorage
 Chris Booren, Cordova Children's Task Force, Cordova
 Adam Bauer, Citizen, Cordova
 Marla J. Adkins, Citizen, Cordova
 Anna Young, Citizen, Cordova
 Dr. John Crowley, Cordova Mental Health Clinic, Cordova
 Belle Mickelson, Educator, Cordova
 Armin F. Koernig, Fisherman, Cordova
 Nancy Bird, Cordova Oil Spill Response Center, Cordova
 Kelley Weaverling, Book Store Owner, Cordova

Homer, November 17, Mariner Theater

Paul Seaton, Fisherman, Homer
 Maryli Sisson, Public Awareness Committee for the Environment, Soldatna
 Craig Matkin, Biologist-Fisherman, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Homer
 Nina Faust, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Homer
 Roberta Highland, Citizen, Homer
 Michael O'Meara, Pratt Museum, Homer
 Yule Kilcher, Citizen, Homer
 John Michelson, Citizen, Seldovia
 Joe Lawlor, Citizen, Homer
 Joe Hollister, Citizen, Homer
 Sandra Thomas, M.D., Jakaloff Otter Center, Homer
 Janis Schofield, Volunteer Coordinator, Homer Borough, Homer
 Gail Parsons, Homer Area Recovery Coalition, Artist, Homer
 James Heinzen, Fisherman, Homer Area Recovery Coalition, Homer
 Jennifer Dilley, Fisherwoman, Oil Spill Volunteer Response Coordinator, Seldovia
 Roy Robertson, Carpenter, Seldovia
 Gary Hanson, Fisherman, Seldovia
 David Chartier, Fisherman, Seldovia

Red Kvarford, Fisherman, Seldovia
Judith Lethine, Director, South Kachemak Alcohol Program, Seldovia
Sharon Araji, PhD, Professor of Family and Social Psychology,
University of Alaska, Anchorage
Dyer VanDevere, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Fisherman, Homer
Ken Castner, North Pacific Fisheries Association, Homer
Dan Winn, Fisherman, Homer
Art Sowls, Pacific Sea Bird Group, Homer
Elizabeth Wolf, Citizen, Homer
Carl Nostrand, Citizen, Homer
Nancy Hillstrand, Fisherwoman, Homer
Sue Mathews, Biologist, Homer
Joy Post, Citizen, Homer
Kathy Carleson, Nurse, Homer
Mary Pearsall, Community Liaison, Oil Spill Coordinating Office,
Governor's Office, Homer
Linda Redmon, Citizen, Homer
George Ripley, Citizen, Homer

Anchorage, November 18, ZJ Loussac Library

Gayle Campbell, Susitna Girl Scouts, Anchorage
Eva Saulitis, Biologist, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Fairbanks
Doug Griffin, City Manager, Valdez
Charles Lundfelt, Fire Chief, Valdez
Mei Mei Evans, Oil Reform Alliance, Anchorage
Charles Konigsberg, Retired Professor of Political Science, Anchorage
Tom Lakosh, Citizen, Whittier
Ben Marsh, Whittier Boat Owners Association, Anchorage
Chris Low, PhD, Associate Professor, Management Science,
University of Alaska, Anchorage
Jim Sykes, Citizen, Anchorage
Jeff Parker, Lawyer, Anchorage
Ruth Forehand, Citizen, Anchorage
Mary Mullen, Family Services Worker, The North Pacific Rim, Anchorage
Paul Bratton, Fisherman, Talkeetna

Rick Wheeler, Geologist, Conoco, Anchorage

Mike Tumey, Citizen, Girdwood

Michael Lewis, Earth First!, Valdez

Michael Bruner, Citizen, Palmer

Neil Snider, Citizen, Anchorage

Gloria Gill, Citizen, Anchorage

Kodiak, November 19, Kodiak High School

Robert Torkowski, Department of Environmental Conservation, Kodiak

Trisha Gartland, Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort, Kodiak

Tom Watson, Director, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Kodiak

Oliver Holm, President, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, Kodiak

Toby Sullivan, Fisherman, Kodiak

Tracy Akers, Crude Women, Kodiak

Kristin Stahl-Johnson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Kodiak

Mitch Simeonoff, Mayor, City of Akhiok, Akhiok

Fritz Brunthoff, Contractor, Kodiak

Jerome Selby, Mayor, City of Kodiak, Kodiak

Brian Johnson, Fisherman, Kodiak

Frank Newton, Fisherman, Kodiak

Mary Jacobs, Fisherwoman, Kodiak Longliners, Kodiak

Tom Quinn, Fisherman, Kodiak

John French, PhD, Biochemist, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences,
University of Alaska, Kodiak

Dan Stockdell, Kodiak Environmental Clean-up Effort, Kodiak

Chris Provost, Kodiak Audubon Society, Kodiak

Mike Milligan, Fisherman, Kodiak

Mike Berg, Fisherman, Teacher, Kodiak

Bridget Milligan, Fisherwoman, Kodiak Borough Geotextile Project, Kodiak

Dawn Black, Filmmaker, Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak

Kathryn Kinnear, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Committee,
Kodiak Island Borough, Kodiak

Dolly Raft, Alaska Native, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kodiak

Molly MacIntosh, Citizen, Kodiak

Susan Jeffry, Fisherwoman, Northwest Set-netters, Kodiak

Robert Brodie, Mayor, City of Kodiak, Kodiak

Old Harbor, November 19

Ron Bernsten, Citizen, Old Harbor

Emil Christiansen, Citizen, Old Harbor

Eleanor Naumoff, Citizen, Old Harbor

Emily Bigiloi, Citizen, Old Harbor

Rick Berns, Citizen, Old Harbor

APPENDIX 4

WRITTEN TESTIMONY LIST

Mavis Muller, Homer Area Recovery Coalition,
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Homer

Betty Farrally, Public Awareness Committee for the Environment, Soldatna

Vincent Kvasnikoff, Citizen, English Bay

Kathy Hill, Citizen, Homer

Sera Baxter, Fisherwoman, Homer

Jack Lentfer, Biologist, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Homer

Frank Bauer, Citizen, Homer

Jack Laam, Cordova District Fisherman United, Cordova

Ellen Lockyer, Citizen, Cordova

Bob Van Brocklin, Mayor, City of Cordova, Cordova

Dave Clark, Citizen, Cordova

Brenda Guest, Cordova Oil Spill Response Center, Cordova

Chris Berns, Fisherman, Kodiak

Lacey Berns, Fisherwoman, Kodiak

Laurene Madsen, Teacher, Bells Flats

David Martin, Fisherman, Kodiak

Judy Fulp, Teacher, Kodiak

John Jaskoski, Fisherman, Kodiak

Don Ford, Director, National Outdoor Leadership School, Palmer

Dave Cline, Regional Vice-President, National Audubon Society, Anchorage

Cliff Eames, Issues Director, Alaska Center for the Environment, Anchorage

Jay Handley, Citizen, Wasilla

Mike Wenig, Trustees for Alaska, Anchorage

Larry Laundry, Northern Alaskan Environmental Center, Fairbanks

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people contributed their time and energy to make these hearings a success and to bring this Report to completion. I would like to acknowledge the distinguished panel of Commissioners who gave unselfishly of their time and expertise throughout the hearings and preparation of the Report.

I would especially like to thank the volunteers in each of the communities that we visited for their hard work and dedication. That they had any energy left to give after such a tumultuous summer makes it a heroic feat. Heather McCarty, a continuing friend to the efforts of the National Wildlife Federation, once again extended her expertise and helped to organize the Cordova hearing. Elizabeth Wolf of Homer contributed long hours that resulted in over 100 people attending the hearing there. Many thanks are also due to KBBI, the Homer radio station, and the staff of the Mariner Theater for broadcasting proceedings to the outlying villages. Tony Hartshorn worked very hard assisting with the Anchorage Hearing. In Kodiak, it is hard to find one person to thank with so many enthusiastic helpers including, Mariann Weideman, Briget Milligan, Joanna Fujimoto and Sheila Perry, all of the Kodiak Island Borough office. The Kodiak radio station, KMXT, provided broadcasting and recording services and the Kodiak High School donated its auditorium and sound system.

In addition, Doug Miller and Ann Rothe of the National Wildlife Federation's Alaska Natural Resources Center, provided essential support in all phases of the planning of the hearings and the writing of the report. In particular, the technical expertise and organizational skills of Georgia Seitz, were indispensable. The good natured humor and wisdom of the entire staff made this a rewarding endeavor.

Thea Levkovitz, Editor
Alaska Natural Resource Center
Anchorage, Alaska

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The Day the Water Died



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