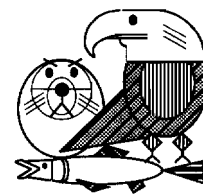


# Restoration Update

May 1994

Volume 1 Number 3



## An Invitation to Submit 1995 Restoration Projects

### New document outlines process

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council funds activities each year to restore resources and services injured by the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Trustee Council staff have prepared a packet of guidelines for submitting projects for use of the Restoration Fund during the next fiscal year (October 1994 through September 1995) which conform to the Trustee's ecosystem-based, balanced approach to restoration.

You can help the Trustee Council develop the 1995 restoration program by:

- reviewing the *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects*, and
- submitting projects for 1995 based on the criteria described in the document.

The Trustee Council needs to receive your comments and restoration project descriptions by June 15, 1994, if they are to be used in developing a Draft 1995 Work Plan.

### 1995 Work Schedule

To be sure that your project is considered for funding in 1995, first obtain a copy of the *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects* (see box on this page). Send your project descriptions to the Trustee Council by June 15, 1994. The Trustee Council will also be asking for project descriptions from federal and state resource agencies. All project descriptions will be subject to independent scientific review and examined by the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group, a 15-member panel representing interest

groups affected by the spill.

Using recommendations of the scientific review board, the Public Advisory Group, and agency staff, Trustee Council staff will compile the *Draft 1995 Work Plan*. Public review and comment on the draft work plan will take place during September.

The *Draft Work Plan* will describe restoration projects proposed for funding — how much they will cost, how they will help restore the resources and services injured by the spill, and whether competitive project proposals will be solicited to implement them or if the project will be conducted by a state or federal agency.

The *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects* includes information for people who may be interested in submitting competitive project proposals. The Trustee Council is expected to meet and decide on projects for 1995 in late October 1994.

### A Restoration Project Should...

Under the terms of the court-approved Settlement, the Trustee Council may only use restoration funds

"... for the purposes of restoring, replacing, enhancing, or acquiring the equivalent of **natural resources** injured as a result of the oil spill and the reduced or lost **services** provided by such resources..."

Only projects designed to

restore injured resources or services as identified in the *Draft Restoration Plan* (published in November 1993) will be funded unless new scientific or local knowledge shows that other resources or services experienced an injury.

However, restoration actions may address resources for which there is not documented injury if these activities will benefit an injured resource or service. The *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects* has detailed guidelines and the information needed to submit a project description.

Habitat protection and acquisition is *not* the subject of the *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects*. The Trustee Council is currently soliciting nominations for small parcels of land (less than 1,000 acres) that should be protected. A Small Parcel Nomination Package is also available starting May 15, and is described in an article on Page 3.

### Where to get more information

To request a copy of the *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects*, contact the Restoration Office by calling 907/278-8012, toll-free from within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745, or toll-free from outside Alaska at 1-800-283-7745.



Fish pathologist Corrine Davis and Cordova Fish and Game biologist John Wilcock collect samples of Pacific herring to analyze for the presence of VHS virus. Photograph by Joe Sullivan.

## Study to investigate causes of Pacific herring decline

Ongoing problems with the Pacific herring run in Prince William Sound have prompted scientists working for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to expand research for this year to try to understand why the herring run is failing for the second year in a row.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game surveys and test fisheries conducted in April determined that far fewer herring than expected were returning to Prince William Sound, and many of those which returned were not spawning.

Skin lesions ranging from discolored or bloody spots to open ulcerated sores were observed in 1993 and again this year. The Fish and Game pathology laboratory in Juneau confirmed the presence of a virus — viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus, or VHSV — in fish with similar lesions in 1993 and again in 1994. The Trustee Council studies will investigate whether the virus is involved in the apparent decline in the herring spawning population and try to determine the magnitude of this effect.

Fisheries biologists are unsure

if the virus is causing the decline in herring returns, or if it is even the cause of the lesions. VHSV has the potential to infect many species of bony fish (fish other than sharks and rays), but its presence does not always result in disease. The virus is harmless to humans.

The decline in herring observed in Prince William Sound is occurring at the same time as other spring herring runs in the state are breaking size and volume records. The Pacific herring is a long-lived fish — they can live as long as 15 years — and dramatic population declines such as this are unusual.

"Herring are an important food to a number of marine birds and mammals which were injured by the spill," said Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist for the Trustee Council. "A major reduction in the number of herring in Prince William Sound has the potential for a significant impact throughout the ecosystem. Collapse of the herring population could seriously limit the recovery of other species injured by the spill such as otters, seals, and sea birds."

## Draft EIS Available

Last year the Trustees prepared a draft plan for guiding future restoration actions. The *Draft Restoration Plan* describes a comprehensive, balanced approach toward restoration. The Trustee Council is now preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the *Draft Restoration Plan* to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Both the *Draft Restoration Plan* and the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* will be available for public review and comment for 45 days beginning about June 18.

To obtain a copy of the *Draft Restoration Plan*, the entire 400-page *Draft EIS* or a 30-page summary, contact the Oil Spill Public Information Center, 645 G St., Anchorage, AK 99501-3451, or call 907/278-8008, toll-free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745, outside Alaska at 1-800-283-7745. The Draft EIS will also be available on computer diskette upon request.

## Restoration Update

The Restoration Update is published approximately six times a year by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Its purpose is to update interested members of the public about actions, policies and plans of the Trustee Council to restore resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

For more information, mailing address correction or to request future articles on specific subjects, contact:

Editor: L.J. Evans

Executive Director:  
James R. Ayers

Director of Operations:  
Molly McCammon

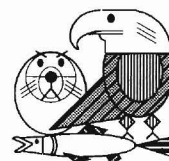
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
645 G Street, Suite 401  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451

Telephone: 907/278-8012

Toll free within Alaska  
at 800-478-7745

Toll free outside  
Alaska at  
800-278-7745

FAX:  
907/276-7178



## Other Restoration Activities and Funding Sources

### Subsistence Planning

The Trustee Council on April 11 approved a new project for this year for subsistence restoration, planning and implementation.

For the next several months, the Alaska Departments of Fish and Game and Community and Regional Affairs, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service will be helping subsistence communities and users develop a subsistence restoration plan, including a prioritized list of subsistence projects for the Draft 1995 Work Plan. Projects not eligible for funding by the Trustee Council as part of the 1995 Work Plan might be eligible for funding from the \$5 million in criminal funds appropriated by the Alaska legislature for grants to unincorporated rural communities in the oil spill area.

To ensure that subsistence recommendations reflect and are consistent with the priorities of subsistence users, subsistence project ideas will be referred to the subsistence planning project coordinators at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. For more information concerning the subsistence planning efforts, call Jim Fall or Rita Miraglia, Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 907/267-2353.

### Recreation Projects

The 1993 Alaska Legislature also appropriated \$4.75 million of the *Exxon Valdez* criminal settlement plus interest for a total of approximately \$8.6 million to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for "the construction or placement, within Prince William Sound, the southern Kenai Peninsula, and the coastal areas of the Kodiak Archipelago, of

See Page 4, **Activities**

## Small Parcel Nominations

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council requests that interested landowners participate in the restoration of resources and services injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill by nominating parcels under 1,000 acres for possible protection or acquisition. Completed nominations must be postmarked by July 15, 1994 to be considered.

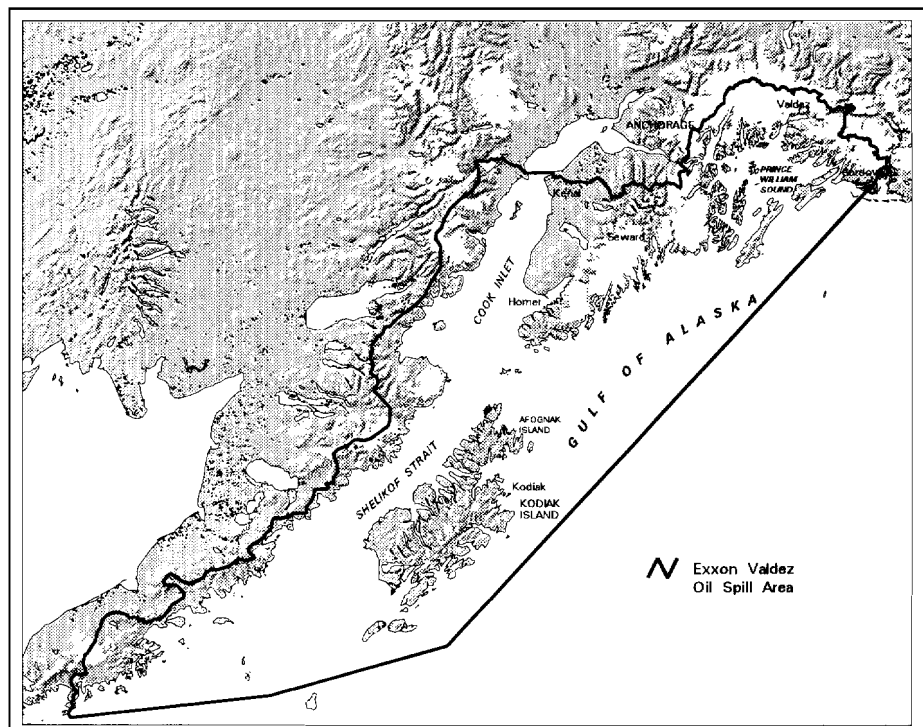
The Trustee Council last year approved a process for evaluating lands in the oil spill region that may be important to protect from various kinds of disturbance in order to assist restoration. Scientists working for the Trustees have identified protection of key habitat as an important tool for accomplishing restoration objectives.

Lands nominated for the Small Parcel Habitat Protection Process must meet the following criteria:

1. There is a willing seller of the parcel or property right;

2. The parcel is linked to the restoration of one or more injured resources and/or services;
3. The seller acknowledges that the governments can purchase the parcel or property rights only at fair market value;
4. The acquired property rights can reasonably be incorporated into public land management systems in a manner that will facilitate restoration objectives;
5. The parcel is located within the oil spill area. A map of the oil spill area is reproduced below.

If your small parcel meets all of these criteria and you would like a nomination package, contact the restoration office: *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, Attn: Small Parcel Process, 645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451, or call the Oil Spill Public Information Center at 907/278-8008, toll free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745.



Date Printed: May 05, 1994

Produced by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Land Records Information Section

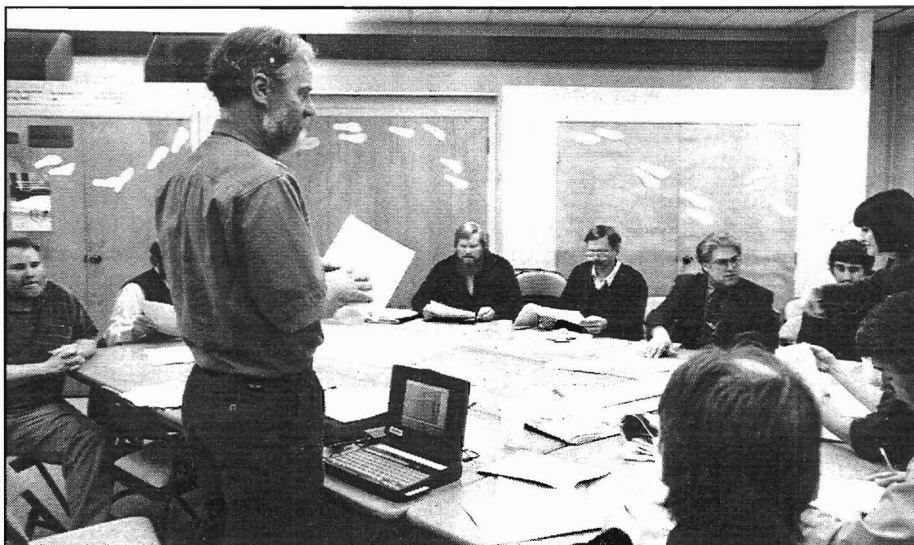
### Activities, from Page 3

recreational amenities, including recreational cabins, trails, mooring buoys, floating docks and similar items, and the acquisition of sites and access rights for such amenities, that restore or enhance recreational services lost or diminished by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill."

Earlier this year, the Department of Natural Resources established the Marine Recreation Project to administer these funds. In June the Department will issue an invitation to the public to submit suggestions for recreation project ideas. For more information concerning the Marine Recreation Project, call Ron Crenshaw at 907/762-2613.

#### Are we reaching you?

We are updating our mailing list. If you received this newsletter in the mail, please take a minute to check the mailing label. Is the address correct? If you would like to be added to the Trustee Council mailing list to receive the *Restoration Update* through the mail, please call Cherri Womack at 907/278-8012.



Alex Wertheimer of NOAA leads a discussion about research priorities for the pelagic or offshore ecosystem with other scientists during a workshop conducted in April. Photo by L.J. Evans

## Research Priorities Workshop Held

### Leading scientists help define restoration studies

Some of the best scientists in the state convened for three days in April to help the Trustee Council identify and prioritize appropriate ecosystem research objectives.

The goal is to better understand the injuries caused by the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill within the context of the entire ecosystem.

Preliminary recommendations are included in the *Invitation to Submit Restoration Projects* as guidance for suggested proposals.

These recommendations will be reviewed annually and modified at a mid-winter workshop with all field researchers in order to take into account new information received during the summer field season.

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

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit #1013  
Anchorage