



## Marine Conservation Biology Institute

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William Chandler, Vice President

March 31, 2010

*Laurel Jennings*

*Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council*

*441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500*

*Anchorage, AK 99501*

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Dear Ms. Jennings,

The mission of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) is to advance the science of marine conservation biology and protect ocean ecosystems.

MCBI advocates for actions that natural and social scientists tell us are essential to maintain the integrity of life in the sea. We cooperate with researchers, fishermen, conservationists, businessmen and women, legislators, government officials, educators—whoever will help us conserve the ocean's biodiversity. We believe that marine ecosystem-based management is the way to protect, recover and sustainably use the living sea.

From this perspective, MCBI applauds the *Exxon Valdez* Trustee Council's Restoration Plan and your impressive and stabilizing work to date in the arena of marine ecosystem conservation. Your record is all the more satisfying when contrasted to the tragic and highly visible Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, and the turmoil it unleashed in Alaska and the nation.

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The Council has expressed a desire to narrow and refine the scope of its remaining restoration efforts, and MCBI agrees that the issues of herring recovery; lingering oil; long term monitoring of marine conditions; harbor protection and marine restoration; and habitat acquisition and protection are valid uses of the remaining roughly \$100 million in oil spill settlement funds.

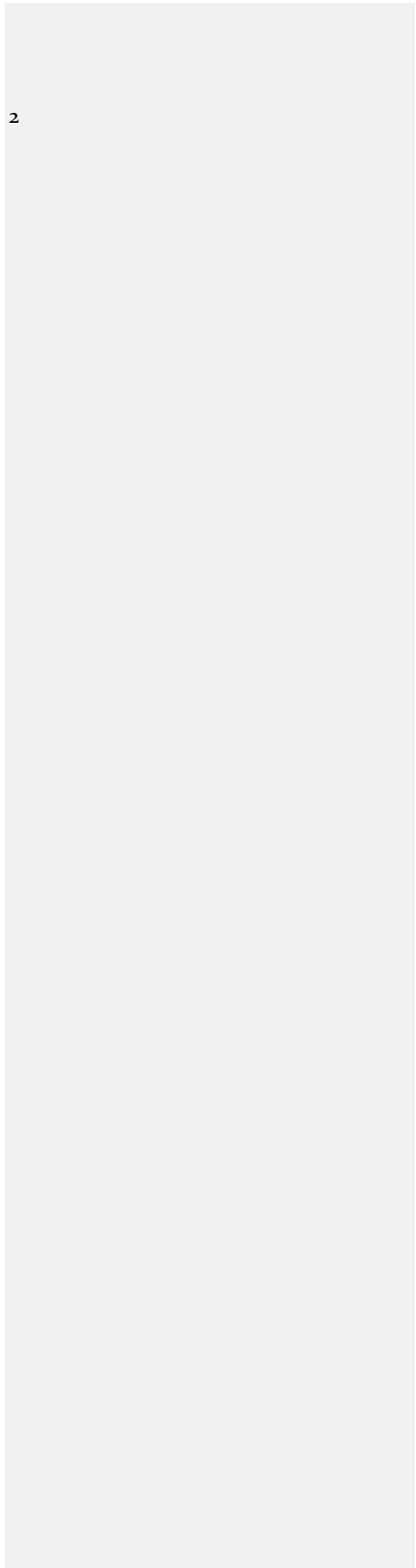
MCBI urges the Council to remain flexible in allocating habitat acquisition investments. We suggest seeking the largest marine-coastal ecosystem benefits per dollar invested and utilizing both fee acquisition and conservation easement tools in accomplishing your objectives.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



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