

Dark Cloud with a Silver Lining

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill resulted in scientific research and habitat protections that will benefit Alaska's spill-area ecosystems for years to come.

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: A Dark Day in Alaska's History

Early Friday morning, March 24, 1989, the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground on Bligh Reef, spilling over 11-million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound. Winds arose, overwhelming any efforts to contain the oil. Within days, the oil spread across hundreds of miles, leaving oiled sea otters and struggling birds, animal carcasses, and oil-slicked beaches in its wake.



Immediately following the spill, concerned citizens did much of the initial cleanup. Many continued to help long after government workers appeared on the scene.



Researching and documenting the effects of the spill on injured species enables long-term management plans to be developed.



EVOSTC-funded studies reveal information about various species and produce management tools that can be used to support the spill-affected ecosystems and beyond.

The Sound Ecosystem

A state and federal partnership called the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) was established in 1991. Its purpose is to oversee the restoration of the spill area and support the many spill-affected species and resources as well as the services that rely upon them. Soon, EVOSTC-funded projects were underway within the spill area.

A Lasting Legacy

EVOSTC now focuses on supporting habitat protection and enhancement, and producing information for resource management. Although some long-term effects persist, visitors today can appreciate abundant wildlife and spectacular landscapes in a world-class natural environment.



EVOSTC field scientists work hard to collect information needed to protect and support spill-affected species.



For more information about EVOSTC: <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/>

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