

Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association

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Ms. Laurel Jennings
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 30, 2010

Re: Exxon Valdez Restoration Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Trustee Council Members,

The Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) is a Non-Profit, member-driven salmon research, conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement organization comprised of over 600 commercial salmon fishermen as well as all other individuals and Kodiak organizations and communities that utilize and rely on the salmon resources of the Kodiak Archipelago. KRAA is dedicated to sustaining and maximizing yields and strongly supports Kodiak's salmon industry. We believe long-term success in conserving and managing fishery resources, particularly salmon resources, depends on the protection of habitat such as anadromous lakes and streams, and nearshore marine areas.

KRAA favors the balanced approach in the EVOS Restoration Plan, with habitat protection and marine ecosystem research efforts. We now support the Council's proposal to narrow and refine the scope of their restoration efforts to the five defined categories, and we wish to reemphasize the need for further habitat acquisition and protection.

With regard to habitat protection dollars you have allocated to date, we are especially pleased to see that most of the Trustee Council's habitat investments target salmon spawning systems and their critical freshwater nursery areas. Minimizing upland habitat disturbance to avoid negative water quality events promotes stable salmon production. Additionally, the positive effects of the Council's protection of the coastal near-shore habitats so crucial for successful early marine rearing of anadromous salmon, as well as other marine species, cannot be overstated.

As you evaluate your remaining habitat protection opportunities, KRAA strongly supports use of EVOS restoration funds to protect the American and Olds Rivers on the Kodiak road system and, in remote areas, the lower Karluk River, Portage River and Lake and Sitkalidak Island.

Thank you for your consideration of the views of KRAA for evaluating future allocations of EVOS restoration funds and your prioritization of habitat acquisition and protection.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brennan, Executive Director