



# NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD

*"Building a clear understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources."*

Ian Dutton, Chairman  
Eric Olson, Vice Chairman  
Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director

1007 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 644-6700 Fax: 644-6780

**Ex-officio Members or Designees**

Alaska Dept of Fish & Game  
John Hilsinger  
Alaska SeaLife Center  
Ian Dutton, Executive Director  
Arctic Research Commission  
Michele Longo Eder  
North Pacific Fishery Mgmt Council  
Eric Olson  
Office of Naval Research  
Oil Spill Recovery Institute  
Nancy Bird  
Secretary of Commerce  
Douglas DeMaster, NMFS  
Secretary of Interior  
Leslie Holland-Bartels, USGS  
Secretary of State  
Justin Grubich, DOS  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Michael Cerne

**Appointed Members: Alaska**

Gerry Merrigan, Petersburg  
Prowler Fisheries  
Pamela Pope, Anchorage  
BP Exploration Alaska  
Denis Wiesenburg, Fairbanks  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Dorothy Childers, Anchorage  
Alaska Marine Conservation Council  
Stephen MacLean, Anchorage  
The Nature Conservancy

**Appointed Members: Washington**

John Iani, Seattle  
Van Ness Feldman  
Paul MacGregor, Seattle  
Mundt MacGregor LLP  
John Gauvin, Burien  
Groundfish Forum

**Appointed Member: Oregon**

Howard Horton, Corvallis  
Oregon State University

**Fishing Industry Representative**

Heather McCarty, Juneau  
McCarty and Associates

March 24, 2010

Laurel Jennings  
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
441 W. 5<sup>th</sup>, Suite 500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2340

Dear Ms. Jennings:

I am responding to the recent Notice of Intent of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (Council) to refine the scope of its restoration efforts and focus its diminishing funds on five defined restoration categories. I am especially interested in your efforts to provide long-term support for monitoring of marine conditions. Meritorious research in Prince William Sound and throughout the spill area has been a hallmark of the Council and will serve as an enduring legacy.

The North Pacific Research Board has funded marine research since 2002 under our legislated mandate to address pressing fishery management issues and marine ecosystem information needs. Our annual funding base of about \$9.5 million derives from the Dinkum Sands litigation and interest earned on the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund established in 1997. Since inception we have funded 228 regular projects for \$37.3 million. We have a \$52 million partnership with the National Science Foundation to study the Bering Sea ecosystem, and are finalizing a \$9 million integrated ecosystem research program (IERP) in the Gulf of Alaska. We strive for efficiency and only use 11-12% of our funds for administration. We also have a robust education and outreach program and data management system.

We would welcome the opportunity to explore with the Council options for transferring or linking an allocation of part of your restoration funds to our Gulf of Alaska IERP for continued long-term monitoring of marine conditions in the spill area. The Council and Board would jointly negotiate guidelines for their use. We believe this approach could greatly improve our understanding of the marine ecosystems in the spill area and provide an enduring legacy for the Council that leverages ongoing research programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. I would be happy to provide any additional information you may desire.

Sincerely,

Clarence Pautzke  
Executive Director

**RECEIVED**

MAR 26 2010

**EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL  
TRUSTEE Council**