



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107
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May 16, 1989

Memorandum

To: Director, National Park Service

From: Regional Director, Alaska Region

Subject: Oil Spill Assistance for The Alaska Region - Continued (Revised 5/16/89)

This follows my May 8th memorandum. Since then, we have established an Area Command Structure to manage our continued response to the EXXON Valdez oil spill. With this organization and assistance, work may proceed in an orderly fashion. Our activities to date, those forecast for the remainder of this fiscal year, and their estimated costs are listed below.

Activities to date

Recognizing the Coast Guard has overall responsibility for spill related activities on salt water, the Service has fully participated as a member of the Regional Response Team. From the first day of our involvement, when first notified by Paul Gates on March 29th that oil might strike Kenai Fjords, overlapping responsibilities and multiple jurisdictions have made coordinated planning and responses difficult. This aside, we must proceed with the overall objectives of protecting park resources to the extent possible, participating fully in the CERCLA assessment process to establish a claim against EXXON and fully understanding oil impacts upon the integrity of National Park Service ecosystems.

Project work has been initiated to provide a base for realizing the effects of oil upon park resources. This was done with concern for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process under CERCLA and our mandates for park management and resource protection. Dollar figures in this section are based on our cost estimates through May 8, 1989. These projects have been:

1. Mapping the extent and intensity of oil strikes. Daily, weather permitting, observations of masses of oil are made to anticipate which areas will be affected. Specific information is then gathered on each such area, before and after impact. It is a difficult process involving aerial and boat reconnaissance and ground surveys. So far, the headlands and 18 beaches at Kenai Fjords and the headlands, offshore islands and beaches (except an area between the Kamishak and Douglas rivers) at Katmai have been impacted by oil. Costs to date are approximately 686,400.

2. Tort claim investigation and evidence collection. Samples, photographs and video tape, reports, maps and pertinent information continues to be collected and treated as evidence. Information collected will be used during the assessment process to establish oil injury to park (and other agency) resources. Costs to date are approximately 166,400.
3. Pre and post oiling data collection. Results of these investigations establish baseline information immediately prior to oil impacts, record immediate effects of the oil, and contribute to tort investigations. Scientific activities include: collecting and analyzing water samples and plankton; monitoring fisheries, intertidal plants and animals, and terrestrial vegetation; collecting sediment, substrate and onshore soil samples; conducting seabird and marine mammal inventories; surveying beaches for condition, extent of oil, carcasses, and effects on public uses; and establishing the location and extent of known or obvious archaeologic sites. Conditions are also documented for land appraisal purposes. Costs to date are approximately 936,000.
4. Protection of critical areas. Working through the regional response and incident command structures and using information gathered by field teams, critical habitats have been identified. These areas have been prioritized. Where possible, booms have been, and will continue to be, installed. Priorities and methods for cleanup of national park beaches are established. Costs to date are approximately 249,600.
5. Removal of carcasses. It is critical that oiled carcasses be promptly removed from the beaches. Predators such as gulls, bald eagles, and brown and black bears typically depend upon winter killed birds and animals as springtime food sources. They routinely scavenge from beaches at this time of year. Consumption of oil has both short- and long-term adverse effects. EXXON has responsibility and bears the cost for collecting dead birds and mammals. The Service must monitor their in park activities and provide protection from (and for) bears. National Park Service monitoring costs to date are approximately 31,200.
6. Cleanup activities. The magnitude of this spill is incredible. Cleanup of all the oil isn't possible. Critical habitats and beaches which can be treated by passive means must be cleaned. So far, cleanup has just started at Katmai. Costs to date are approximately 10,400.

Activities planned

Future work will involve continuation of the projects described above, in coordination with other trustee land managers. Following are anticipated activities for the remainder of this fiscal year:

1. Mapping the extent and intensity of oil strikes. This activity will continue as long as masses of oil may affect either Kenai Fjords, Lake Clark, Katmai or Aniakchak. Because currents will

have carried the oil past these areas, less rigorous attention will be given to this activity during the summer. Estimated future costs this year are 155,000.

2. Tort claim investigation and evidence collection. As trustee land managers complete their assessment work, this information will be considered in establishing an eventual claim against EXXON. Pre oil investigations are now complete. Post oil data gathering and evidence collection will continue through this fiscal year. Estimated future costs this year are 248,000.
3. Pre and post oiling data collection. Trustee agencies are meeting now to determine projects to be completed under the assessment process. Future work in this regard will be coordinated with all other affected agencies to avoid duplication of assessment effort. CERCLA and the Clean Water Act aside, meeting basic National Park Service mandates requires a complete record. With this in mind, scheduled investigations as describe above will continue to be conducted. Estimated future costs for this fiscal year are 465,000.
4. Protection of critical areas. Activities relating to placement of booms and skimming are under direction of the Coast Guard. Future Service support to these efforts will include monitoring and refinement of priorities for Coast Guard consideration. Estimated future costs for this fiscal year are 310,000.
5. Removal of carcasses. Removal of dead birds and animals will probably continue through the summer. We hope it will be at a much reduced level once the large masses of oil have passed. Unknown is what will be longer term effects on "lightly" oiled wildlife and their food sources. Estimated future costs for this fiscal year are 1,054,000.
6. Cleanup activities. Cleanup will continue as a major concern. The Coast Guard, through EXXON and their contractor VECO, have direct responsibility. The Service must, however, diligently monitor these efforts to assure compatibility with park purposes. Estimated future costs for this fiscal year are 868,000.

Long-term research projects will be identified and proposals drafted this year. Clearly, pristine ecosystems have been impacted. We must understand the full implications of this disaster.

The following are special considerations:

1. Safety has been our highest priority. Cold water, aircraft and boat operations, remote coastlines, adverse weather, and the oil itself are all major safety factors. The length and intensity of response activities and the fact that many have worked with little or no break is of concern. Post traumatic stress counselling is being conducted for those most directly involved.
2. Oil is approaching Aniakchak and is predicted to move up the Cook Inlet to Lake Clark National Park. We hope these areas are

spared. Estimating, however, they might be hit; we've gathered pre oil assessment information.

3. The Area Command Structure is needed to effectively coordinate activities and allow a modicum of attention to critical regional operations.
4. Katmai and Kenai Fjords have an estimated 650 miles of national park shoreline; Lake Clark and Aniakchak about 130 more. These four park areas, totalling 9,400,000 acres, have a permanent staff of 26 people.
5. Recoverable costs, under the Clean Water Act and CERCLA, are not known at this time. The State of Alaska has not signed a Memorandum of Agreement among trustees. An Authorized Official has not been named. An assessment plan may not be completed this fiscal year. The Service may be required to pay all first year expenses.
6. The above costs are based on gross prorations of total costs according to the percent of time spent on each activity. Refinements to our accounting capabilities are in progress and will continue.
7. All costs estimated also include the base salaries of permanent personnel when they are involved in oil spill work. Recovery of these costs remain problematical due to questions raised about the legality of supplementing agency base appropriations. However, even if such costs are not ultimately recoverable, there remains the matter of salary coverage for various other personnel detailed. These people are not working on the oil spill, but on the backlog of regular agency work resulting from permanent personnel being assigned to the spill response. Attempts to resolve these questions are also underway.

We look forward to meeting with you.

Boyd Evison

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ACTIONS AND STRATEGY EXXON VALDEZ SPILL

I. Background of the Incident

The Exxon Valdez spill began on March 24, 1989 when the M/V EXXON VALDEZ ran hard aground on Bligh Reef within Prince William Sound. The accident resulted in the discharge of 11,240,000 gallons of Prudhoe Bay crude oil into the marine environment. The spiller, Exxon Inc., admitted responsibility and began containment efforts. These efforts failed to contain much of the product spilled. Local oceanographic information indicated that the spilled oil could be transported by the Alaska Current, tidal and wind driven currents westward and exit Prince William Sound into Blying Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. Coastal circulation and onshore winds kept the majority of the spill along the north-northwestern shoreline of the Gulf of Alaska. This spill behavior indicated a high probability of oiling the shorelines of Kenai Fjords National Park (KEFJ), Katmai National Park and Preserve (KATM), Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (ANIA), and Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (LACL), all units of the National Park Service.

Section 311(f)(4) and (5) Federal Water Pollution Control Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C.A. Section 1251-1387) [or the Clean Water Act] and Section 107(f)(2) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C.A. Sections 9601-9675) [or Superfund] provide for the recovery of any and all costs or expenses incurred by the Federal Government or any State government (trustees) in the restoration or replacement of natural resources damaged or destroyed as a result of an oil spill. Furthermore, Section 301(c) of CERCLA provides for the promulgation of regulations for the recovery of such costs or expenses to restore or replace natural resources. These recovered funds (damages) can only be applied to the restoration and/or replacement of affected (injured) natural resources under the stewardship of trustees.

II. The Natural Resources Damage Assessment Process

The Department of Interior was directed in E.O. 12316 to prepare a rule for the assessment of damages to natural resources that result from the discharge or release of oil or hazardous substances as per Sec. 301(c) of CERCLA. This rule, The Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), appeared in the Federal Register as the final Type B regulations on August 1, 1986 (Vol.51(148):27674-27753) and as the Final Type A regulations on March 20, 1987 (Vol.52(54):9042-9100). These regulations provide

a process for the assessment of injury, valuation of damages and restoration of injured natural resources for either CERCLA or CWA violations.

The rules make use of certain terms which are peculiar to common law such as injury and damages. The term "injury", defined at Sec.11.14(v) of NRDA, refers to the adverse changes to natural resources and encompasses injury, destruction (Sec.11.14(m)) and loss (Sec.11.14(x)) of those resources. The term "damages", defined at Sec.11.14(l), refers to amount of money sought by the affected trustees for injury, destruction, or loss of natural resources. The term "natural resources", defined at Sec.11.14(z) of NRDA, can be simply defined as air, surface water, ground water, geologic, and biological resources. These rules make no allowances for injury, destruction or loss of cultural resources. However, NRDA, at Sec.11.17, does mandate compliance with Federal and State policies and statutes for both natural and cultural resources.

The NRDA procedures are essentially modular and are referred to as "phases" (see Fig. 1). The initial phase is Notification of the trustees of potentially affected natural resources and Detection of the discharged (spilled) or released substance. An Emergency Restoration phase (Sec.11.21) can be employed if natural resources are threatened by the discharge and the efforts of the spiller, U.S. Coast Guard or EPA are not sufficient to protect the trustee's natural resources. An authorized official (defined at Sec.11.14(d)) oversees the preparation of the Preassessment Screen and determines the scope and informational requirements of the process based on "reasonable cost" (defined at Sec.11.14(ee)). The Preassessment Screen and reasonable cost check is usually followed by the preparation of an Assessment Plan. This Assessment Plan (refer to Fig.2) is commonly used to coordinate damage assessment efforts, notify the spiller and public that damages will be sought under this NRDA process, determine the contents and development methods for the damage determination, and decide what type of assessment technique will be used. It is obvious due to the extensive nature of this incident, complexity of the affected environment, and number of trustees involved, it can be assumed that a TYPE B assessment will be preformed. Since no authorized official has been designated for this incident the Preassessment Screen, reasonable cost check, or Assessment Plan have not been prepared.

The basic components of the Assessment Plan ,in the TYPE B mode, are: Confirmation of Exposure and Economic Methodology Determination. The Assessment Plan identifies the resources affected by the spill and the method to be used to calculate the damages. This Economic Methodology Determination requires a decision by the authorized official to seek damages based on lost/diminished use value or restoration/replacement of injured

resources. The Assessment Plan has a required 30-day public review before implementation.

Following review of the Assessment Plan, work in the three additional phases is needed and will result in the filing of a claim for damages or demand of payment from the spiller. The first additional phase is Injury Determination. This phase determines whether an injury to one or more of the natural resources has occurred and that the injury has resulted from the discharge of oil based upon the exposure pathway and the nature of the injury. This phase is explained in Sections 11.60-11.64 and guided by technical information provided in documentation available in 52 FR 43763. A check for reasonable cost will be made following this phase.

Upon completion of the Injury Determination phase, the authorized official shall quantify for each resource determined to be injured and for which damages will be sought, the effect of the spill in terms of the reduction from the baseline condition in the quantity and quality of services. The Quantification phase is explained in Sections 11.70-11.73 and guided by methods and procedures suggested in technical information documents for Type B assessments (52 FR 43763). This quantifies the effect of the spill on the reduction of services provided by the affected resources; determines the baseline conditions and compares it to the injured condition of the affected resources; and, determines the time needed for each injured resource to recover.

The final additional assessment planning phase is Damage Determination. This phase estimates the damages resulting from the spill based upon information provided in the Quantification phase. The purpose of this phase is to estimate the amount of money sought for compensation for injury to natural resources as result of this spill episode. The Damage Determination will be guided by the decisions in the Assessment Plan regarding Economic Methodology Determination (as per Sec.11.35). The technical information documents (52 FR 43763) suggest economic methodologies for making damage determinations. The authorized official will use either the restoration methodology provided in Sec.11.81 or one of the use value methodologies provided in Sec.11.83. If a restoration method is used then a Restoration Methodology Plan must be prepared as described at Sec.11.82.

The final phase or module of NRDA is Post Assessment. In this phase, the compensation for costs incurred in the emergency response by trustees, for the preparation of the Preassessment Screen and Assessment Plan, Injury Determination, Quantification, and Damage Determination are sought. Also, the calculated damages/restoration costs for the affected resources are submitted as a demand of payment to the spiller. The spiller has 60 days from receipt of the demand to pay the damages and costs sought. Support of the demand is in the form of an

administrative record or Report of Assessment. The NRDA process and the resulting damage determination are afforded the protection of "rebuttable presumption" (defined at Sec. 11.14(ff)). Agencies will be reimbursed for costs incurred in the process and a Restoration Plan will be prepared to guide the application of damage monies. These recovered monies for damages can only be spent to restore, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of such resources as per Sec. 311(f)(5) of the CWA and Sec. 301(c) of CERCLA.

III. Trustee Responsibilities of the National Park Service

The Department of the Interior is recognized as the trustee for:

- (1) the natural resources on, over or under lands owned by the United States and managed by the Department;
- (2) natural resources, not on lands described above, for which the Department has specific authority to manage and protect such as endangered species, migratory birds and anadromous fish, and;
- (3) natural resources protected by treaty or other authority pertaining to Native American tribes or located on lands held by the United States in trust for Native American tribes, communities or individuals.

These trusteeship responsibilities are recognized in Section 107(f)(2)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) [codified at 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 9601-9675] and delegated to the Secretary of the Interior in Executive Order 12580. CERCLA further directs the trustee to "assess damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources." Similarly, Section 311(f)(5) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, vernacularly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA) [codified at U.S.C.A. Sections 1251-1387] directs the President who has delegated this trust authority to the Secretary of the Interior in E.O. 12316 to "act on behalf of the public as a trustee of the natural resources to recover for the costs of replacing or restoring such resources." This section of the CWA directs that monies recovered from the liable party only "be used to restore, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of such natural resources by the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, or the State government." Additionally, the Department of Interior is named as a Federal trustee in Subpart G of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) [40 CFR 300 et seq.].

The Congress in the Act of August 25, 1916 (Organic Act) 16 U.S.C. 1-et seq.:

"...created in the Department of Interior a service to be called the National Park Service, which shall be under the charge of a director. The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint the director, and there shall be also be in said service such subordinate officers, clerks, and employees as may be appropriated for by Congress."

"The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations..."

Through this expression of Congress the National Park Service (NPS) was created and has been administered by a Director; 10 regional directors, one of which administers NPS areas in Alaska; and, various site managers or superintendents. It is apparent Federal trusteeship is delegated from the Secretary of Interior through the Director of the National Park Service to the Alaska Regional Director and the Superintendents of the respective units.

Additionally, Congress, at Section 1 of the Act, stated that the fundamental purpose of these areas:

"... is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Generally, each NPS area has specific establishing legislation or Presidential intent. The four NPS areas deemed most likely to be adversely affected by this incident are: Kenai Fjords National Park (KEFJ), Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (LACL), Katmai National Park and Preserve (KATM), and Aniakchak National Monument (ANIA).

The enabling legislation for:

Kenai Fjords National Park (94 STAT.2379) states:

"The park shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To maintain unimpaired the scenic and environmental integrity of the Harding Icefield, its outflowing glaciers, and coastal fjords and islands in their natural state; and to protect seals, sea lions, other marine mammals, and marine and other birds and to maintain their hauling and breeding areas in their natural state, free of human activity which is disruptive to their natural processes."

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (94 STAT.2380) states:

"The park and preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To protect the watershed necessary for perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay; to maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of portions of the Alaska Range and the Aleutian Range, including active volcanoes, glaciers, wild rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and alpine meadows in their natural state; and to protect habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, Dall sheep, brown/grizzly bears, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons."

Katmai National Park and Preserve (94 STAT.2382) states:

"...Katmai National Park...shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To protect habitats for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, high concentrations of brown/grizzly bears and their denning areas; to maintain unimpaired the water habitat for significant salmon populations; and to protect scenic, geological, cultural and recreational features."

Aniakchak National Monument (94 STAT.2377) states:

"The monument and preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To maintain the caldera and its associated volcanic features and landscape, including the Aniakchak River and other lakes and streams, in their natural state; to study, interpret, and assure continuation of the natural process of biological succession; to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife, including, but not limited to, brown/grizzly bears, moose, caribou, sea lions, seals, and other marine mammals, geese, swans, and other waterfowl and in a manner consistent with the foregoing, to interpret geological and biological processes for visitors."

Based on these establishing laws for Kenai Fjords National Park, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and Aniakchak National Monument, it is apparent that the overall management of the areas is one of protection and conservation of the natural resources of these areas.

Therefore, through the aforementioned legislative direction, Congress has charged that the Department of Interior and its agencies, of which the National Park Service and these four Alaskan units which are part thereof, act as Federal trustees of the natural resources and lands which the Department is mandated to manage and protect.

IV. National Park Service Pre-Oiling Assessment Activities

As required by Sec. 11.20 of 43 CFR 11, the Department of the Interior was officially notified of the spill on **1** by** **1**. The National Park Service was likewise notified of the spill on **2** by **2** and determined it to be a threat to the aforementioned units. Subsequently, programs for contingency planning to respond to the spill as well as sampling of environmental parameters to establish a "pre-spill" condition, were developed.

The National Park Service requested through the **3** that action be initiated to protect natural resources and lands from damage on **3** . As per 43 CFR 11.21(a), the NPS began contingency planning, reconnaissance, and limited on-the-ground activities to avoid the irreversible loss of natural resources. These actions are consistent with the "emergency" nature of the incident and are evidenced by the following scenario of activities begun on March 27, 1989 at the direction of the NPS Alaska Regional Office acting as the trustee for the NPS units predicted to be most likely affected by the spill and/or its containment/cleanup activities.

In response to the oil spill incident at Valdez, the NPS, on March 29, 1989, made a request to the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), dated **4** , which provides to signatory agencies the services of the Incident Command System (ICS) for response to wildfire emergencies. Since the ICS concept is designed for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to both small situations and as well as very large and complex incidents (see pg 1-2, Basic ICS Student Workbook (I-220), Sept.1983). The ICS responded by calling up a Class I Incident Command Team (ICT) to be deployed in Seward and a Class II team in Kodiak for the incident.

The NPS management of the incident was a "phased approach". First, NPS engaged in drafting spill contingency plans for all potentially affected units prior to the arrival of this incident management organization. Second, following the arrival of the ICT (Seward and Kodiak), NPS engaged in sampling to ascertain the "pre-oiled" condition of the natural resources of the affected units, and surrounding waters. This sampling program was part of a systematic response that began with aircraft and boat reconnaissance of shorelines followed by site visits to collect information on water quality and intertidal organisms, locate concentrations of birds and marine mammals, and document high-use recreational areas. This sampling of potentially injured natural resources (as defined at 43 CFR 11.22) in all four potentially affected NPS units (KEFJ, LACL, KATM and ANIA). Third, planning was begun to outline the needed resources and types of

characteristics allow for: quick penetration of oil into the sediments; incorporation of mousse, mousse balls, and tar balls among the cobble; and, efficient surface sediment washing by the relatively high tidal range and current velocities commonly found along this coast. Since the spill has had a pulse type release from Prince William Sound, exposure of the coastline will vary over time and adding the effects of surface winds and the corresponding wind-driven circulations will vary the areas contaminated. This temporal and spatial variability of contamination can only be dealt with by daily aerial observations, monthly cruises to affected shorelines, and frequent on-the-ground shoreline observations coupled with the gathering of sediments, water, and oiled wildlife.

The physical processes and environmental problems with confirming exposure are formidable and are made no less so by the chemical properties of the spilled hydrocarbon. When oil is mixed with seawater, the oil can form macroparticles (droplets), microparticles (colloidal dispersions and emulsions), and single-phase, homogeneous mixtures (water-soluble fractions) of hydrocarbons. Complicating this condition, is the fact that some diagnostic features associated with petroleum may be reduced over time in importance, and other or new diagnostic parameters become more important. The composition of the spilled crude can be altered on time scales varying from days to years past the point where oil can be easily attributable to a particular source. The spilled compound is additionally affected by both photochemical and microbial oxidation which can affect the ability to fingerprint the compound and its toxicity. The National Academy of Science in its 1985 publication "Oil In The Sea" (pg.378) states: "In general, irradiated samples of petroleum or water-soluble preparations appear to be more toxic than the parent compound." The same report finds: "... that some petroleum metabolites or intermediate products can be quite toxic and may even have mutagenic properties." Given this suggestion of varying toxicity of the spill over time, frequent sampling of water and sediments seems warranted.

With the exception of the Confirmation of Exposure sampling and corresponding analyses that have occurred prior to the Preassessment Screen, post-spill activities of the NPS will be concerned with mostly Assessment Plan coordinated and approved projects. In keeping with the aforementioned "phased approach" (Section IV of this report), the NPS in recognition of the NRDA process will: (1) conduct and continue Confirmation of Exposure aerial reconnaissance, beach patrolling, and cruises; (2) participate in the preparation and review of the Preassessment Screen, Assessment Plan, Injury Determination phase, Quantification phase, Damage Determination phase, Report of Assessment, and Restoration Plan; and, (3) implementation of the necessary Restoration Plan projects for its affected resources.

Given the unpredictability of spill behavior along NPS coastlines, variable toxicity of the discharged substance, and lack of information concerning the natural resources that could be affected by this spill, the NPS will continue to conduct sampling and reconnaissance of the four areas originally identified at the beginning of the spill until otherwise directed by the "authorized official" (defined at 11.14(d)). The information collected under the pre-oil and post-oil programs will be available to the authorized official for use in the Preassessment Screen, Assessment Plan development, Injury Determination/Quantification/Damage Determination phases, Report of Assessment/administrative record/Demand phases of the Post-Assessment process.

VII. Justification of NPS Post-Oiling Activities

The following discussion will be justification of NPS activities in the post-oiling assessment under the provisions provided in NRDA. It should be realized that the activities and the information produced by them may be needed in the development of the Assessment Plan particularly in the Confirmation of Exposure, Injury Determination and Quantification phases of NRDA. Also, given the extent of the impact of this spill to NPS natural resources, the NPS will want to be involved in the preparation of the Preassessment Screen (Sec.11.23) and coordination, development (Sec.11.32), content (Sec.11.31), and review of the Assessment Plan (Sec.11.30).

The NPS will want to be an active participant in the determination of injury phase (Sec.11.61), pathway of contamination determination (Sec.11.63), and selection of testing and sampling methods for Injury Determination (Sec.11.64). The NPS will also want input into the Quantification phase (Sec.11.40) and the peculiar steps used to quantify injury such as reduction of services (Sec.11.71), comparison of the baseline vs. contaminated condition (Sec.11.72), and analysis of the recoverability of the injured resources (Sec.11.73). Furthermore, the trustee responsibilities of the NPS will mandate its participation in the Damage Determination phase (Sec.11.80) and the steps used in its preparation such as Restoration Methodology (Sec. 11.81), Restoration Plan (Sec.11.82), Use Value Methodologies (Sec.11.83), and guidelines for the implementation of the Restoration Plan (Sec.11.84).

The NPS generated information and results of the agency's participation in the damage assessment process will be used in the Report of Assessment (Sec.11.91(b)). This report of assessment and the Demand or claim it generates will rely on the interviews and evidence collected by investigators. This

information will, in essence, form the basic component of the NPS administrative record for the Demand.

Ultimately, the NPS will, as an aggrieved party, want to be compensated for its work in all phases of the NRDA process. In particular, the NPS will want to implement the Restoration Plan (Sec.11.93) to begin to rehabilitate, replace, or obtain some compensation for reduced/lost resource use values.

A. Confirmation of Exposure

The majority of the post-oiling assessment that the NPS has and will probably perform prior to designation of an authorized official and the preparation of the preassessment screen will be to confirm exposure. The confirmation of exposure is required in the Assessment Plan (Sec.11.34(a)). The type of analysis and sampling allowed in this phase is controlled by: (1) the need to confirm exposure prior to completion of the preassessment screen (Sec. 11.34(b)(2)), (2) unavailability or insufficiency of data to confirm exposure (Sec.11.34(b)(3)), (3) "reasonable cost" considerations as defined at Sec.11.14(ee), and (4) the constraints and limitations on the collection of "...significant new data...or modelling efforts" (Sec.11.35(d)). However, Sec.11.34(b)(2) suggests this data be collected using the analytical methodologies listed in the injury determination phase (Sec.11.64) and not include testing for baseline levels or injury determination. These methods are made available in technical information documents noticed at 52 FR 43763.

The utility of the confirmation of exposure information will be in the development of the Assessment Plan (Sec.11.34(a)) to determine which resources are potentially injured and to what extent are they injured. However, the retrieval of dead and injured wildlife will still be applicable to "emergency" sampling provided for at Sec.11.22(b)(1) and (3). The data collected and costs incurred for removal of dead and injured wildlife from the beaches is recoverable through the demand. The information and the costs incurred in obtaining confirmation of exposure, analyses of the samples, and the associated support costs are recoverable and should be made available to the authorized official. The costs will be part of the demand (Sec.11.91(a)) and the information will be part of the administrative record in support of the demand.

B. Assessment Plan Phase

The Assessment Plan phase should normally precede the Confirmation of Exposure but due to the complexity of the resources and number of trustees involved in this incident it will be out of sequence. The NPS participation in the Assessment Plan phase will rely on the use of the information by the authorized official collected in the Emergency Restoration or

pre-oil assessment phase by NPS crews. A claim for the costs of collecting, analyzing, and supporting the data collection efforts under the Emergency Restoration provisions (Sec. 11.21 and 11.22) should be submitted to the authorized official in the Preassessment Screen phase for incorporation in the Assessment Plan and final collection via the Demand.

The Assessment Plan will function to identify and document the use of all of the scientific and economic methodologies that are expected to be performed during the Injury Determination, Quantification, and Damage Determination phases. Of particular interest to NPS should be the descriptions of the natural resources and geographical areas involved in this incident (see Sec. 11.31(a)(2)). This is important because information on the observations and sampling performed by NPS needs to be incorporated into the Assessment Plan at this phase. Also, the "content" segment of the Assessment Plan phase is concerned with inclusion of sampling locations within those geographical areas, sample and survey design, numbers and types of samples to be collected, analyses to be performed, preliminary determination of the recovery period, and other information needed to perform the selected methodologies. The methodologies will probably be selected from Technical Information Documents provided at 52 FR 43763.

The NPS as a trustee also should be involved in and review the development of the plan (Sec. 11.32), additional work to confirm exposure (Sec. 11.34), and determination of economic methodologies for determining damages (Sec. 11.35). Costs for such involvement and review should be tracked and submitted for recovery in the Demand.

The NPS should be active in review of the Assessment Plan prior to the public involvement (provided for at Sec. 11.32(c)). Such coordination of input among trustees is one of the purposes of the regulations and emphasized in Sec. 11.32 (a)(1). Since the obvious scope of this incident requires the TYPE B assessment then the next critical decision facing NPS management will be the selection of the type of damages sought; that is, either diminished use value or restoration/replacement value. This decision will be made in the Economic Methodology Determination prepared as part of the Assessment Plan (Sec. 11.35).

C. Injury Determination Phase

The NPS involvement in the Injury Determination phase (Sec. 11.61) will primarily be in advising the authorized official as to the potentially injured resources within the boundaries of the four park areas affected by this incident (Sec. 11.61(c)(1)). National Park Service personnel will want to be involved in the selection of: (1) any additional sampling or testing required to determine injury (Sec. 11.64) and (2) the methods and analyses used in the

information required to confirm exposure of NPS shorelines to oil (as defined 43 CFR 11.34). Fourth, sampling cruises were and will continue to be launched to document and measure this exposure and continue collection of information needed to determine "injury", as per Sec. 11.61) and "quantify effects", as per Sec.11.72. Finally, NPS will assemble certain subject matter experts for use by the trustee "management team" that will assemble the Assessment Plan for public review.

The NPS, pursuant to its trustee function for the four potentially affected units, envisioned the ICT in Seward and Kodiak to coordinate monitoring of spill movement, recommend boom placement in an attempt to protect sensitive natural resources, initiate contingency planning, and support sampling of various natural resources. The basic function of the NPS portion of the ICT was in the Plans Section concentrating on the call-up of resource specialists; determination of over-flight/boat reconnaissance; preparation of sampling schedules and protocols; ordering support equipment, vehicles, and flights; de-briefing of field resource specialists; establishing and maintaining chain-of-custody of evidence (as per Sec. 11.63(a)) collected in the field; deposition of oiled and dead wildlife; compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and Archeological Resources Protection Act for all field operations; establishment and maintenance of natural resources database; and, short-range planning for additional resource assessment programs. The ICT organization provided the necessary and needed support for these NPS activities.

V. Justification of NPS Pre-Oiling Activities

The information assembled in the contingency plans and the pre-oil field observations and sampling is seen as consistent with the provisions for Emergency Restorations, as defined at 43 CFR 11.21 and 11.22. More specifically, the drafting of contingency plans meets the definition of an "emergency" as defined at Section 11.21(a)(2) as "...any situation related to a discharge or release requiring immediate action to avoid an irreversible loss of natural resources or to prevent or reduce any continuing danger to natural resources..."

The sampling and the associated support from the ICT in the pre-oil phase of the incident at LACL, KEFJ, KATM, and ANIA has occurred under the provisions of section 11.22 "Sampling of potentially injured natural resources". These samples were gathered in compliance with the various Federal laws and rules listed at Section 11.17 and were accomplished prior to completion of the Preassessment Screen in order "to preserve data and materials likely to be lost if not collected at that time and that will be necessary to the natural resource damage assessment"

(as defined at Sec.11.22(b)). Generally, the types of samples taken, at all four areas, were: (1) observations of living, injured, and dead wildlife which are by their nature perishable and could have been or would likely be affected by the spill (as defined by Sec.11.22(b)(1)); (2) water and soil samples collected to determine if contamination had occurred and determine the source and concentration of the contaminants (as defined by Sec. 11.22(b)(2)); (3) intertidal community and plankton samples which are ephemeral due to there susceptibility to degraded water quality (as defined by Sec.(11.22)(b)(2)); and, (4) periodic overflights to count dead and injured birds and marine mammals which could be lost to scavengers, decomposition or tidal water movement (as defined by Sec.11.22(b)(3)). This information will be available for use in the Pre-Assessment Screen process (Sec.11.23(b)(1-5)).

In addition to these "emergency" samples the survey crews established vegetation plots and conducted in-stream sampling of coastal fishes along with the aforementioned samples and observations made in the pre-oil phase of this investigation will form the "baseline" condition. This baseline condition will be applied to later phases of the development of the Assessment Plan and are compatible with the general requirements set forth in the "injury determination phase" (Sec.11.61) and the "baseline services determination" phase (Sec.11.72).

An inseparable component of the field work performed in the pre-oil phase of this incident in all four areas has been the interviews, data compilation, archiving, evidence collection, and maintenance of a chain-of-custody on all samples by the investigations unit attached to the ICT. This unit: interviewed all participants in the incident; collected related information concerning the incident, the response, and the follow-up sampling; catalogued and controlled all evidence collected by the sampling/observer teams including, water/soil samples, field logs/sheets, charts and maps, photographs and video tapes, dead wildlife, and any other documented findings; and archived all correspondence, press releases, interviews, evidence logs, and other information related to the incident.

The participation of cultural resources specialists (archeologist and paleontologists) on the NPS teams were dictated by NPS concerns which could have an effect on historic properties. These concerns are but are not limited incident activities on NPS lands related to: (1) anchoring of booms on the shore; (2) siting of oil containment and spill cleanup equipment, storage dumps, and staging areas; (3) logistic support and temporary camps for containment, resource reconnaissance, and cleanup activities; and, (4) sampling and reconnaissance techniques employed. Section 11.17(b) of NRDA mandates that all activities associated with emergency restoration, pre-assessment screen preparation, development of the assessment plan, and post-assessment be in

compliance with "... any applicable statutory consultation or review requirements... that may govern the taking of samples or in other ways restrict alternative management actions". For cultural resources such applicable review and consultation exist at Sec. 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archeological Resources Protection Act. Additionally, the NPS has the Departmental responsibility to consult with Native Americans when there are undertakings on Federal Lands which may impact human remains and other sacred areas. Native Americans are recognized as "trustees" in a February 22, 1988 notice (53 FR 5166).

All of the information collected in this phase, including the investigation team interviews, logs, etc., are available for and intended to be used by the "authorized official" for the trustees in the Preassessment Phase (43 CFR Subpart B). Many of the observations of the natural resources in these NPS areas can be directly inputted into the "preliminary identification of resources potentially at risk" (Sec.11.25) section of Subpart B as well as used in the injury determination phase (Sec.11.61) and quantification of effects, baseline determination, phase (Sec.11.72).

VI. National Park Service Post-Oiling Assessment Activities

Coincident to the pre-oil assessment work done under the "emergency" provisions of Sec.11.22 of NRDA were observations and samples of oiled shorelines, oil suspended in the water column, and dead/injured oiled animals. These activities while done in conjunction with pre-oiling work will be used to "confirm exposure" as per the requirements of Sec. 11.34(a). Section 11.34(b)(2) provides for "...chemical analyses of such samples may be performed to confirm that exposure has occurred..." prior to the completion of the Preassessment Screen. Therefore, the NPS will proceed with chemical analyses of these samples to fingerprint the contaminant.

The NPS intends to continue to perform Confirmation of Exposure sampling prior to the preparation of the Preassessment Screen because of the temporal variability of chemical constituents of the spilled oil and the corresponding variance of toxicity in the communities it contacts. Added to this temporal variability are the unique oceanographic and climatic conditions affecting the potentially impacted NPS units. The geostrophic currents, large tidal prism, high local current velocities, and strong low pressure systems function to move oil quickly and in unpredictable locations throughout the area of impact. Also, the spill has reached "neutral buoyancy" making aerial observation and prediction difficult. Coastal sediments make aerial detection almost impossible because of their naturally dark color, cobble cover, and coarse consistency. These sediment

determination of pathways (Sec.11.63). Participation in these activities is provided for at Sec.11.61(c) and (d).

If any additional sampling or testing (provided for at Sec.11.64) is required for Injury Determination, it will be guided by the methods and procedures suggested in the technical information documents made available at 52 FR 43763. These documents as well as the NRDA regulations contain the criteria for injury determination (see Sec.11.62) and pathway determination (see Sec.11.63).

The authorized official may use information collected by NPS personnel in the pre- and post- oiling assessment activities in the Injury Determination phase. Any costs incurred for review and participation in this phase should be tracked for inclusion in the Demand as well as any data or analyses used that were part of the pre/post oiling sampling should be noted. These data and the costs for their collection/analyses can be claimed, if used for Injury Determination, as long as they were not claimed in any other phase, commonly referred to as "double counting" (defined by reasonable cost at Sec.11.14(ee)).

D. Quantification Phase

Data collected in the pre- and post-oiling assessments by the NPS may be used by the authorized official to quantify effects of the spill especially in the baseline services determination phase (Sec.11.72). Studies conducted in the park concerned with basic inventory of fauna and flora, recovery potential of disturbed environments or ecosystem function should be made available to the authorized official for inspection and possible incorporation in this phase. However, this data and any subsequent data collection, analyses, or modelling will be subject to the suggested methods and procedures found in the technical information documents (52 FR 43763). Additionally, statistical information on visitor use, visitor preferences, and other visitor related studies can be used in determining reduction in services described at Sec.11.71. As with injury determination, existing information will be heavily utilized in keeping with the reasonable cost mandates of the regulations. However, the NPS should carefully review the information and methodologies proposed for use in this phase. The costs incurred for the collection of any data used or review and participation in formulating the quantification of effects can be recovered in the demand phase of the NRDA process recognizing that double counting is not allowed.

E. Damage Determination Phase

The authorized official will estimate the damages resulting from the spill based upon information provided in the Quantification Phase guided by the procedures in the Damage Determination phase (Sec.11.80(a)(1)). The purpose of this phase is to estimate the amount of money sought for compensation for injury to natural resources as result of this spill episode (Sec.11.80(b)). The damage determination will be guided by the decisions in the Assessment Plan regarding Economic Methodology Determination (as per Sec.11.35). The authorized official will use either the restoration methodology provided in Sec.11.81 or one of the use value methodologies provided in Sec.11.83. If a restoration method is used then a Restoration Methodology Plan must be prepared as described at Sec.11.82. Regardless of whatever methodology is selected guidance for its implementation is provided at Sec.11.84.

The NPS involvement in this phase may be limited due to the opportunities for input and review offered in the development and public involvement phases associated with the development of the Assessment Plan. However, the development of the Restoration Methodology Plan should be reviewed by agency personnel for acceptability with current agency policy and practices. Again, costs associated with such review and comment should be tracked for submission into the final claim as part of the "assessment planning" costs.

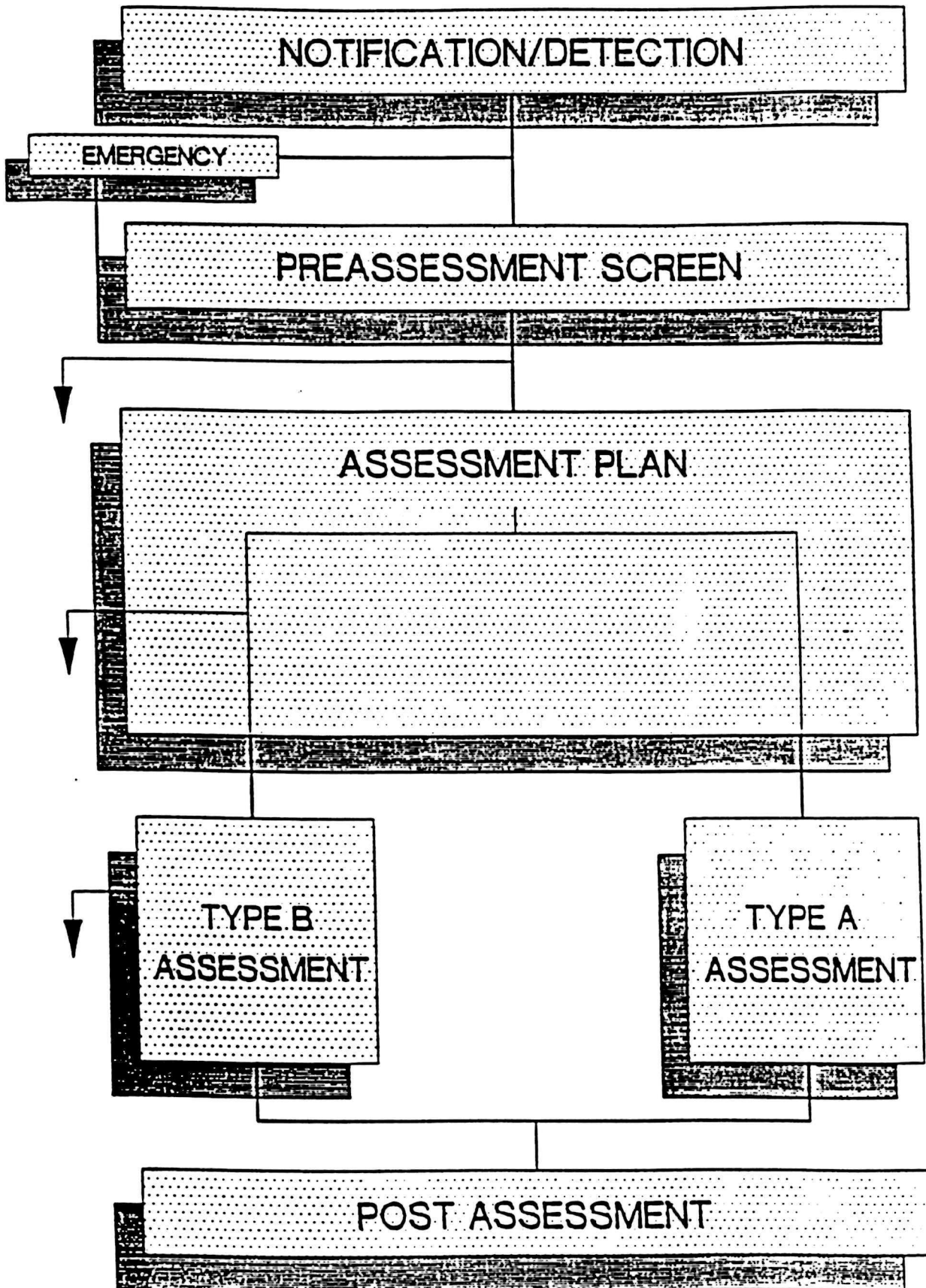
F. Post-Assessment Phase

The activities of the NPS in the post-assessment phase will be limited to compiling and summarizing information collected, analyzed, submitted and developed for use of the authorized official. This information will take the form of an administrative record which will be incorporated in the trustees Report of Assessment as provided for in Sec.11.90(c). This information will serve to support the bill of collection for services performed by the agency in the NRDA process. The bill of collection or similar claim shall be submitted with our administrative for inclusion in the demand (Sec.11.91(a)). The mechanics for the reimbursement for all costs associated with our participation in NRDA is provided for at Sec.11.92(c).

Finally, the only other agency involvement in this phase will be concerned with preparation and implementation of the Restoration Plan described in the Restoration Methodologies Determination (Sec.11.82).

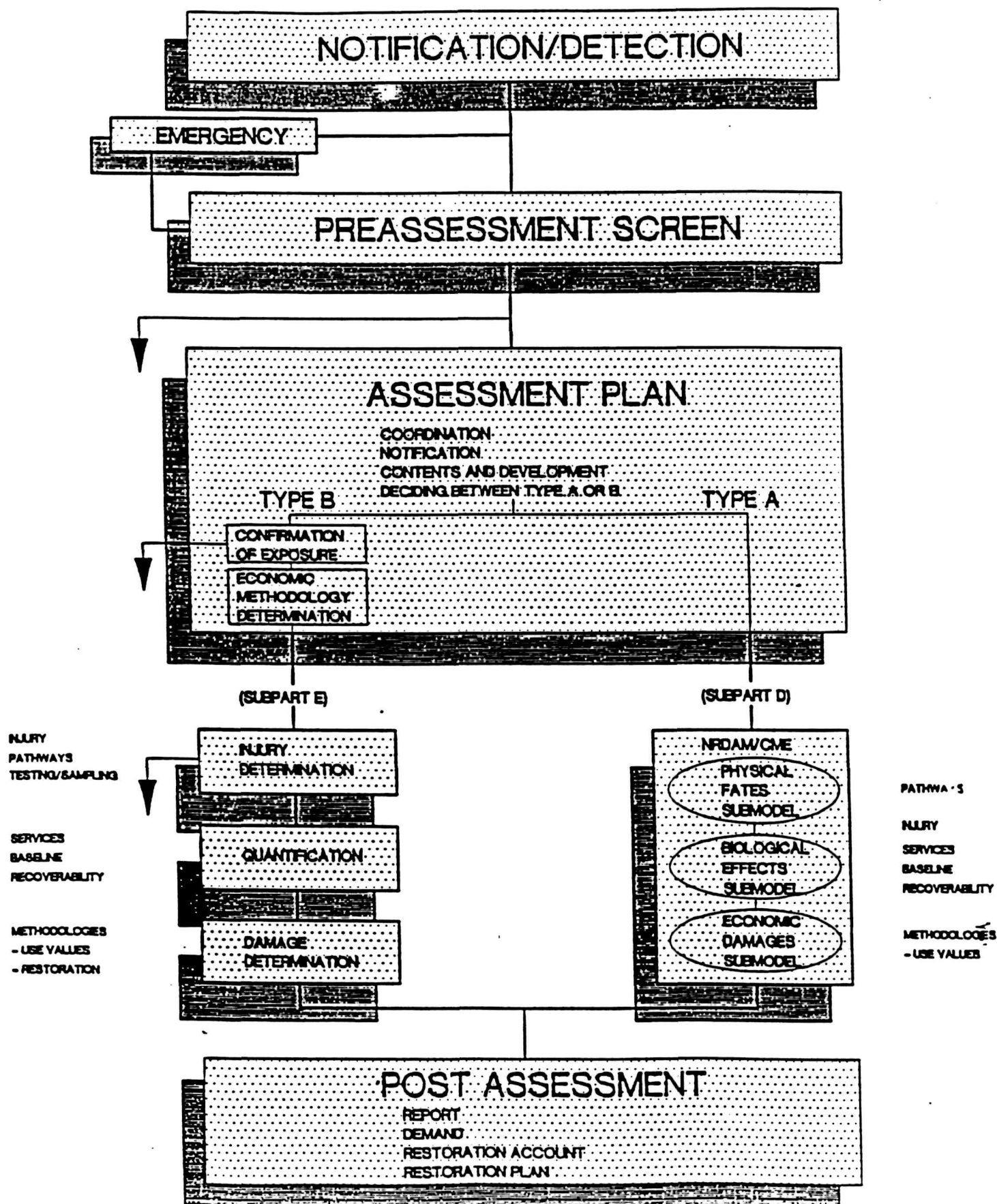
NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT RULE

43 CFR PART 11



NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT RULE

43 CFR PART 11



Susceptibility to Oil Impact

Hayes et al, (1976) and Owens, (1977) discuss the impact of oil on different types of beach environments. In order to provide a basis for assessing which coastal segments would show the greatest vulnerability to spilled oil, an environmental vulnerability scale slightly modified from that of Hayes has been adopted. Vulnerability or susceptibility is here defined to mean the retainability of the oil in the environment. The longer the retention the higher the rating. Biological damage is not considered in this classification other than to single out rocky tidal pools as a sheltered micro-environment.

Two major factors which complicate the situation and increase the vulnerability to damage for the entire Glacier Bay National Monument, Gulf of Alaska coastal segment are: 1) the tremendous quantity of storm deposited wood, and debris, mostly complete trees with root systems, which have accumulated at the upper limits of the back-beach along the entire coastal segment, and 2) the vegetated meadows behind most active beach segments but below the limits of storm deposits. The trees and other wooden debris could act as depositional sites for floating oil and hence greatly increase the duration for oil residence and oil related damage. Regardless of the character of the beach, the presence of the beach meadows and the wood and logs on the upper beach provides depositional sites which could later leak oil down the beach or at least provide a very difficult cleanup problem.

These eleven coastal environments are presented below in order of increasing susceptibility to oil spill. Those environments which do occur in the coastal segment of the Monument are shown by asterisks.

1. Straight, Rocky Headlands:

These are areas of maximum wave energy where waves reflect off rocky scarps readily dispersing the oil. No section of the coastline between Icy Point and Sea Otter Creek falls into this type.

2. Eroding Wave-cut Platforms:

Generally, these areas are swept clean by wave erosion. However, in the Monument where bedrock is Yakataga, the platforms have numerous depressions which serve as centers for biological communities. These tidal pools are very vulnerable to oil accumulation and because of the high productivity, may suffer severe biological damage. In essence, the tidal pools are a miniature sheltered rocky headland, and are, therefore, rated equivalent to category 8 below.

3. Flat, Fine-grained Sandy Beaches:

These beaches are generally flat and hard-packed. Oil that reaches these beaches does not penetrate the fine sand. Cleanup is easy and involves only scraping the upper layer of sand. Unfortunately, this type of beach does not occur in the monument.

*4. Steeper, Medium- to Coarse-grained Sandy Beaches:

Rates of burial of oil can be high (50 to 100 cm in a few days) and depth of penetration would be only a few centimeters on these beaches. Removal of oil is a major problem and involves destruction of the beach. Beach erosion releases oil at later times after burial. Burial often prevents degradation of oil and hence the natural beach cycle assures long-term pollution of the environment. This type of beach is common in the Monument.

*5. Impermeable Muddy Tidal Flats:

These do not occur in the area of the outer Coast. Small areas of muddy flats occur in Lituya Bay near both North Crillon and Lituya Glaciers.

*6. Mixed Sand and Gravel Beaches:

Oil on these beaches may penetrate several centimeters and be rapidly buried. The longevity of oil on this type of beach is high, especially on berm top areas and low tide terraces. This type beach is common in the Monument.

*7. Gravel Beaches:

"Gravel" is used here in a broad sense, to include all particle sizes larger than sand. Very large amounts of penetration and high rates of burial are typical of this type of beach. Cleanup is nearly impossible. This type of beach is very abundant in the entire coastal area. Such beaches exist at Lituya Bay Mouth, near Fairweather Glacier, between Echo and Portage Creeks and west of Justice Creek and near Fairweather Slough.

*8. Sheltered Rocky Headlands:

Hayes et al, (1976) report that oil tends to stick to rough rocky surfaces and remain for extended periods of time. This type of environment, especially in the Icy Point area, is common. The small tidal pools and ponds of the Yakataga outcrop areas have been added to this category since they are a smaller analog of the larger sheltered headlands.

*9. Protected Estuarine Tidal Flats:

None exist in the area of study, but certain reaches of streams such as Justice Creek, Echo Creek and Fairweather Slough, have protected beaches where oil could be very long lasting.

10. Protected Estuarine Salt Marshes:

None exist in the study area.

*11. Vegetated Beach Meadows and Forests:

Behind almost every active beach segment there are areas of vegetated beach meadows and forests, many of which show recent evidence of storm surge deposition. Oil deposited during higher water conditions could have a devastating affect on the vegetation and might impact bird habitats and small mammal ecology.

1989 Operations and Monitoring Plan
EXXON Valdez Oil Spill

Katmai National Park
Katmai Field Office
Kodiak, AK

Objectives:

1. Document Impacts to Park Resources from oiling, assessment, and clean-up activities.
2. To present NPS needs to FOSC and other local, state, and federal agencies on clean-up priorities in Kodiak sector.
3. Collect evidence for potential tort litigation.
4. Complement and not duplicate Damage Assessment Program studies.
5. Monitor cleanup activities to minimize adverse impacts to Park Resources.

I. Introduction/Legislative Mandate

There is a need to identify and outline a program for protecting park resources from further damage, and to monitor the environmental impacts associated with the EXXON Valdez oil spill in Katmai National Park and Aniakchak National Monument. The Act of 1916, ANILCA, and the Redwoods Act all give clear mandates to aggressively protect park resources. This document provides a broad picture of efforts that will be undertaken during the remainder of the 1989 field season.

II. Efforts to date

A. Pre-Assessment Work

A great amount of field work was conducted in the Park prior to a significant amount of oil entering the park. This data may become part of legal proceedings against EXXON. This work included established baseline or pre-oiling conditions for water quality, vegetation, intertidal communities, marine mammals, and seabirds. Plots and transects were established for some subject areas, while population data was collected on others. It appears that the transects will be relocateable, while the population data may be more problematic. No estimates, measurements, or documentation has been conducted on the degree of oiling that has occurred on any of the plots or transects to date.

B. Oil Impact Identification and Monitoring

1. Coastline Monitoring

Much effort has been expended to document the location and degree of oiling that has occurred on the beaches of the two park areas. At the present time no oil has been found at Aniakchak, however, oiling has been documented Southwest of the Monument. Park monitoring has proven to be extremely useful in the setting of cleanup priorities, and documenting the level and scope of impacted beaches. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has agreed to accept NPS impacted beach data. NPS impact data, along with other agency data, is being assimilated by the Kodiak Interagency Shoreline Cleanup Committee (KISCC).

2. Beach Assessments

Over 80 point assessments of beach impact have been conducted to date. The assessments include information on beach substrate, degree of oiling by tidal zone, and photo documentation. The data is becoming more and more useful in helping to describe movement of the oil along the coastline, and in rigorously documenting the degree of oiling that occurred. Because the oiling is now becoming more mixed with the substrate, it is becoming very difficult to visualize from aircraft. More point assessments will be conducted to document oil movement consistent with other agency data gathering protocols.

C. Clean-Up Priority Setting

The information collected above has been critical to the development of an overall picture of the oiling situation along the Katmai Coast. This data, through the ICT Superintendent's Representative, has been invaluable in pursuing an aggressive strategy to clean-up the Oil on the Katmai Coast. The Chiniak area was the first location in the Kodiak Sector to begin cleanup operations.

D. Operations

1. "Catcher Boats"

Originally designed to catch oiled live wildlife, these boats are primarily used to pick-up dead oiled wildlife to remove the exposure of contaminated food to scavengers. These boats have also supplemented information on beach oiling status, and document

Revised: August 7, 1989

terrestrial resource impacts from oiling. An NPS Resource Protection Officer has accompanied the activities of these vessels. Over 7,000 birds have been collected to date in the Park, comprising about 25% of the total collected for the entire oil spill. Numerous birds continue to wash ashore.

2. "Clean-Up Boats"

Resource Protection Officers have accompanied clean-up crews on the beach to provide protection from bear encounters, assure compliance with special use permits and Park Regulations, and to document accomplishments of the clean up operation.

E. Interagency Coordination

Under direction of Coast Guard Vice Admiral Robbins, who is the designated Federal On-Scene Federal Coordinator (FOSC) for all oil spill operations, a Kodiak Interagency Shoreline Cleanup Committee (KISCC) has been established. Its purpose is to make recommendations to the Coast Guard for shoreline assessment and cleanup priorities in the Kodiak Sector, which includes the Kodiak Archipelago and the entire Alaska Peninsula. Participating agencies include the NPS, USFWS, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), NOAA, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), the City of Kodiak, and the Kodiak Island Borough. The Superintendent's Representative serves as the NPS representative on the KISCC team. The committee also recommends shoreline cleanup standards and shoreline areas for approval by the Coast Guard as being clean. Actual shoreline cleanup work is done by Veco, which is a company contracted by Exxon to do the work. As of this date, the KISCC committee has recommended eleven areas for high priority cleanup, including two on the Katmai coastline. No areas in Katmai have been signed off as being clean.

III. Proposed Programs

A number of temporary positions will be filled to conduct the monitoring program beginning June 19th. These, along with detail assignments for the RPO's and IC Team in Kodiak will perform the following tasks.

A. Resources Monitoring

1. Oiling Impact Documentation

a. Coastline

The location, timing, and severity of oiling along the Katmai and Aniakchak coasts will continue to be documented. Even casual observations show that the oil continues to move throughout the coastal environment through tidal and wind action. Although there continue to be new oiling "hits", the level of activity in general, is expected to decline. This effort will be concurrent with other biological monitoring activities. Beaches will be checked weekly until no new oil is found or August 1st. Thereafter checks will be made once every two weeks.

b. Wildlife

Large numbers of a variety of species including marine and terrestrial mammals, birds, most notably raptors including bald eagles, and the inter-tidal zone inhabitants continue to be severely affected by the occurrence of oil. Timely observation, collection, and necropsy, all in coordination with cooperating agencies is crucial to understanding and documenting the effect of the spill.

c. Clean-up Priority Setting

The KISCC group meets several times each week to coordinate and update requests for beach assessments and cleanup. The actual assessments are done by Exxon's Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team (SCAT), who measure the degree of oil impact on shoreline areas and pass their information and recommendations on to the KISCC committee for prioritization. In National Park areas, the committee is also guided by assessments done by NPS biologists, which are often more current than those done by the SCAT team.

B. Pre-Assessment Plots

1. Degree of Oiling

All of the established transects will be revisited to insure that they are adequately marked for the long-term, and to quantitatively document the degree of oiling, if any, that has occurred on the transect. These plots will be revisited at least once every two weeks so as to describe the visible environmental pathways of the oil.

2. Data Collection Replication

Resource availability and pre-planning constraints do not permit the post-oiling replication of all transects. Priority will be given to those most heavily impacted, those in very sensitive ecosystems, and those where the complexity of data replication is manageable and consistent with the level of expertise of biological technicians. The vegetation work, and 1/2 of the water quality samples (hydrocarbons-TPH) will be replicated. Intertidal transects (mollusks), Fisheries, and Zooplankton will not be conducted.

C. Marine Avian Species

Seabirds are one of the first wildlife resources that are directly impacted by oil spills and therefore are a key indicator in determining if an adverse impact has occurred. A detailed colony survey was conducted along the Katmai Coast in 1988. Population counts of the various species on given coastal shorelines and islands were documented providing unparalleled baseline data by which to assess oil impacts. Counts will be duplicated this summer to determine if there has been a significant change in numbers. In addition, productivity of the various colonies will be documented and special efforts will be undertaken to look for oil contaminated birds, nesting material, eggs, and egg shells. Any contaminated specimens found will be collected and made available for tort evidence.

D. Marine Mammals

Twenty-six dead sea otters and one Sea Lion have been picked up along the Katmai Coast. Pre-assessment data again provided good baseline data by which to measure population density and species composition. Efforts will be made to reassess the status of sea lion, hair seals and sea otter that occupy islands and rocks within Katmai NP.

E. Raptors

Bald eagles may be particularly vulnerable to direct oiling impacts, or, as a result of assessment and cleanup operations. Twelve dead bald eagles have been recovered from the Coast, with a live, oiled eagle sighted as recently as June 5th.

A series of nesting surveys of bald eagle and other raptor populations will be conducted to determine hatching and fledgling success. In addition active nests that are

accessible on foot will be checked periodically to examine left over food contents. Remains will be collected and analyzed for possible hydrocarbon content. Unhatched eggs will also be collected and sent to the US F&W for examination.

F. Small Mammals

Beaches will be surveyed periodically along the coast, especially in heavily contaminated oil regions to collect scats that appear oil contaminated. Several active fox dens have been located. These will be monitored to determine if parents are bringing oil contaminated food items. Any found will be collected and preserved for tort claim evidence. Observations of sick or oiled mammals will be recorded.

G. Operations

1. Clean-up & Catcher Boat Monitoring/Protection

Special Use Permits (SUP) issued by the Superintendent, Katmai National Park, authorize the Exxon Corporation to conduct passive shoreline cleanup and collect both dead and live oiled birds along the Katmai coast. National Park Rangers as part of the ICT will serve as Resource Protection Officers (RPO) aboard these vessels to insure compliance with elements of the SUP and insure the safety of both wildlife and workers.

2. Support Functions

Logistical support for both resource monitoring and protection operations will be provided by the ICT in Kodiak. The resource monitoring team will be based on an NPS contracted vessel capable of remaining at sea for periods up to 30 days. Spike camps on the Katmai coast would be supported from this vessel. Rotor and fixed wing aircraft will continue to provide aerial survey capability at remote locations, ferry RPO's to Exxon vessels, and provide general support. Aircraft will be based out of Kodiak.

The following personnel, aircraft, and vessels will be required.

Kodiak ICT

Incident Commander	Logistics Chief
Ops/Plans Chief	Finance Chief
Situation Unit Leader	Air Ops Chief
Resource Planner	Dispatch/Clerk/Typist

Supply/Property Officer

Resource Protection
Officers - 6

Resource Monitoring Team

Biological Technicians - 8

Aircraft

Rotor - Bell Jet Ranger (long term contract)

Fixed Wing - Intermittent Use

Vessel

USCG approved with licensed skipper to carry 6
bio-techs with adequate room for onboard
processing of data and samples (long term
contract)

3. Tort Investigation

Tort investigation procedures will include a protocol
for all collection and safeguarding of evidence. This
protocol will be consistent with guidelines established
by Alaska Area Command and coordinated by the Resource
Planner or an RPD as appropriate. Evidence collected
will be preserved for future litigation and tort claims
by the NPS for compensation as an aggrieved party.

4. Interagency Coordination

Following cleanup of a shoreline area by Veco crews,
the KISCC committee (or responsible agency
representative) inspects the beach for compliance with
established cleanup standards. If standards have been
met, the committee recommends that the Coast Guard
approve the work.

IV. Consequences of No Program

It is very clear that an extremely catastrophic and unnatural
perturbation has impacted the coastal ecosystem of Katmai
National Park. What is not understood and documented are the
short- and long-term impacts. Projects conducted under the
Damage Assessment Plan are not sufficient to comprehensively
document the ecosystem changes that are occurring, and likely to
occur in the Park. This program is designed to fill a void in
data collection and impact documentation that would not occur in
the Damage Assessment Program.

Close interagency involvement must continue if assessment and
clean-up resources are to be aggressively sought for the Katmai
Coast. Timely and comprehensive information on the location and
degree of oiling, and of sensitive resource concerns must be

integrated into the KISCC program, along with efforts to monitor clean-up activities and mitigate resource impacts.

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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: June 28, 1989 (prepared 2 p.m. ADT)

Title: Alaska Oil Spill

Issue: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument.

Status:

- o Secretary of Transportation Samuel Skinner, Admiral Yost, C.G., and Admiral Kyme toured Seward and Kodiak for an overview of oil spill response activities. They attended the MAC group meeting in Seward where the major agenda item was discussion of a type B clean up for Yalik Bay.
- o Members of the Kodiak based response team completed a field reconnaissance trip to the coast of Aniakchak National Monument on June 24. They found scattered globs of oil and determined the beach to be lightly oiled. They proceeded up the coast to Chiniak and observed crews continuing clean up work on the north side of Cape Gull.
- o Training of a resource monitoring team for work on the Katmai coast took place on June 25.
- o A cooperative bird study between the NPS and USFWS to cover the Kenai Fjords and Katmai coasts is planned for June 27 through July 6.
- o Further closures for salmon fishing have occurred this past week in Cook Inlet areas.
- o Katmai coast clean up has now totaled 34,700 bags of debris (about 1.5 million pounds).

Issue Background:

- o The regional office is sending documents on the oil spill to the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, under a FOIA request by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: June 7, 1989 (Prepared 8 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Alaska Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O High seas forecast late last week and over the weekend limited cleanup activities in Katmai and Kenai Fjords. Both parks had seas to 24 feet, winds to 45 knots and rain. By 6/6/89 weather had improved to allow aircraft and boat operations.
- O Exxon surveillance flight along the Katmai coast on 6/1/89 reports mousse and sheen along several bays and capes along the entire park coast. Ground crews have reported new oil coming ashore at Hallo Bay, Chiniak, and Cape Gull. New bird kills also reported from the Katmai coast; more than 7,000 dead birds have been recovered from the park.
- O Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is advocating more intensive cleanup work on the Katmai coast. This would use small front end loaders to collect oiled material for burning. ADEC has authority below mean high tide, although cleanup work has, and will continue, to stretch above mean high tide and into park property. NPS has expressed concern that digging on the beaches could further cause beach erosion and affect tidal lagoons, cultural resource sites and other park values.
- O As of 6/1, nearly 20,000 bags of oiled debris had been collected in Seward from cleanup in Kenai Fjords and outside the park. Exxon reports a total of 739 employees working out of the Seward area.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O NPS personnel are required to use only OAS-approved aircraft for work-related flights. Some Exxon helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft are not OAS certified, and NPS cannot honor requests for employees to ride on them as observers or for other work purposes.
- O Sen. Frank Murkowski (AK) visited Kodiak on Friday, 6/2/89.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688.

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 30, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Alaska Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Poor weather limited operations in Katmai and Kenai Fjords over much of the weekend. Flights have been grounded for four days out of Kodiak and two days out of Seward. One cleanup boat had to leave the Katmai coast and take shelter in a bay off Kodiak Island; others restricted activities to sheltered bays on the coast.
- O Katmai N.P. cleanup continues at Chiniak Bay. Boat crews report that storms and tides are lifting old oil, suspending it, and redistributing it.
- O In Kenai Fjords, Exxon contractors report collecting 17,378 bags of oiled debris and sand as of 5/26/89. Fifteen NPS resource protection officers from parks across the country are working with Exxon/Veco crews on beach cleanup.
- O OSHA is inspecting Exxon/Veco boats working along the Kenai Fjords coast after sanitation problems were reported. NPS personnel were already assigned to other boats because of safety and sanitation concerns.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Coast Guard Commandant Paul Yost will visit Kodiak this week and receive a briefing from NPS personnel.
- O Sen. Frank Murkowski (AK) will be in Kodiak on Friday for briefings by NPS and others.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations)
907-257-2688.
- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 24, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O On Friday, May 19, In Katmai N.P., an Exxon contract employee shot and killed a brown bear that was charging a cleanup crew. The investigation found it was a legitimate defense of life shooting. According to witnesses, the crew was attempting to rescue an oiled eagle about 1,000 feet inland from the beach when the bear charged. The bear was shot at a distance of about 16 feet. The employee had been hired as a bear protection guard before NPS personnel were on-board, and was authorized to carry a shotgun. An armed NPS ranger was on the beach, but with another group of workers at the time.
- O Katmai cleanup continues along beaches. Cleanup crews have been directed not to go above the beach line; NPS rangers are now the only armed members of the beach parties. On 5/19 one cleanup ship reported collecting about 1,600 bags (about 64,000 pounds) of oiled debris. Oiled, dead birds continue to wash ashore.
- O NOAA is no longer conducting flights to track position of the oil.
- O In Kenai Fjords, beach cleanup continues, with the majority of work being conducted in the Nuka Bay area at the south end of the park. About 70 Exxon-contract employees are working in or near the park. An additional crew of about 80 is due this week. NPS is overseeing the crew activities oin the park.
- O A special use permit is being prepared for Exxon to establish a fuel cache for helicopters in the south end of Kenai Fjords.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Tony Schetzle, from Canyonlands N.P., is the incident commander at Katmai.
- O Regional Director Boyd Evison is in Washington D.C. to brief Director Ridenour on oil spill response plans for the balance of the fiscal year.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688.
- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: May 16, 1989 (Prepared 2 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O In Katmai N.P., cleanup crews have removed more than 111,000 pounds of oiled sand and debris from beaches. The material is bagged, taken off the beach in small boats and transferred to a larger ship.
- O Weather grounded surveillance aircraft on 5/13 and 5/14 for flights along the Katmai and Kenai Fjords coast.
- O A flight on 5/13 located oil off the Kupreanof Peninsula (part of Alaska Peninsula NWR), about 250 miles southwest of Katmai N.P. and 600 miles southwest of the accident site.
- O In Kenai Fjords, beach cleanup continues. Oiled debris, dead wildlife and oiled sand are being collected. NPS is providing on-site supervision and protection from bears.
- O In Nuka Bay, at the south end of Kenai Fjords, skimming operations continue. Light sheen remains off the Aialik Peninsula, McArthur Pass and the lower reaches of the Kenai Peninsula (outside KEFJ).

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Gil Blinn, Lassen N.P. superintendent and former Katmai N.P. superintendent, will work in Kodiak as the park's representative.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688.
- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 12, 1989 (Prepared 2 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O In Katmai, initial cleanup priorities are as follows: Cape Chiniak beach and lagoon, Hallo Bay beach, Cape Douglas, Swikshak lagoon and beach, Kashvik Bay, Katmai Bay and Kukak Bay. A permit was given Exxon for this work on May 9, 1989.
- O Cleanup boat near Cape Chiniak reported removed 27,000 pounds of oil and sand on 5/10/89. Coast Guard reports Kukak Bay cleanup started with 27 people and three vessels; addition 40 people and 3 vessels en route.
- O Four wildlife catcher boats were on the Katmai coast on 5/11. Two cleanup boats were also on the coast. One NPS representative is on each boat; they include employees from Yellowstone, Olympic, Isle Royale, Wrangell-St. Elias and Gates of the Arctic.
- O Boat crew south of Cape Douglas reports collecting 642 birds and two otters. Bear activity prevented further bird pickup.
- O Cleanup work is continuing at Kenai Fjords, with Bear Glacier nearly complete and Beauty Bay under way.
- O A survey of Kenai Fjords beaches not covered by previous reconnaissance trips reported oil on 18 of 62 beaches visited. Beach condition ranged from scattered tarballs to saturated kelp and oil soaked material.
- O Kenai Fjords' multi-agency resource group completed a "Notice to Pilots and Captains" regarding overflights and bird activity around sensitive wildlife areas for distribution to public.
- O Alaska Regional Director Boyd Evison requested assistance from other regional directors and chief rangers to make available shotgun-qualified personnel for two-to-three week tours in Alaska to represent the superintendent and provide bear protection on the Katmai and Kenai Fjords coast. All available Alaska Region employees have been used.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O International media attention remains high. A BBC crew was on the Katmai coast today. National Geographic and CBS News were on the beach on 5/11.
- O John Kraushaar, park ranger from Sequoia-Kings Canyon N.P., to serve as area commander in Anchorage for two weeks until arrival of Frank Betts, retired superintendent of Denali National Park.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations)
907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 10, 1989 (Prepared 2 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Skimmer operations out of Seward were hampered by weather on 5/9/89. Coast Guard reports 28 vessels in area of Kenai Fjords collecting oil. Twenty-nine other boats are collecting birds, five are recovering otters and two have emergency medical personnel aboard.
- O In Seward, tort claims investigators are assembling their final reports.
- O Exxon helicopter flight crew reported on 5/9/89 that areas of oil remain along the Kenai Fjords coast, from the Aialik Peninsula on the north side to Gore Point on the south end. Exxon reported on 5/8/89 that light sheen remains in Montague strait, the exit from Prince William Sound
- O In Katmai, skimming operations occurred in Kukak Bay in on 5/9/89. Beach cleanup has begun at Hallo Bay. On-shore work is being supported by 40-foot landing craft.
- O Coast Guard reports shoreline cleanup hampered by severe weather. Weather from lower Kenai Peninsula to Katmai coast included gale warnings, winds at 45 knots with gusts to 65 knots, seas to 20 feet. Outlook through Friday is calmer winds, seas to 5 feet.
- O Kodiak incident command post will be moved to a larger location this week. IC team members have worked out of two hotel rooms since the early last month.
- O NPS representative accompanying Exxon's Shoreline Cleanup Advisory Team (SCAT) to Shaw Island off the north coast of Katmai.
- O Oil remains offshore of Aniakchak National Monument, but no oil has come ashore. No oil has been seen on the Lake Clark N.P. coast. Oil has travelled about 500 miles southwest of the accident site.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Personnel to work the spill response are being brought from throughout the NPS. Gil Blinn, superintendent at Lassen N.P. and former Katmai N.P. superintendent, will act as the park's representative in Kodiak. While Kodiak is the closest community to the Katmai coast, the park has never had the staff to establish any presence there.
- O More than 250 people have worked or are currently working for the Alaska Region either full-time or part-time on the spill response. Cost to date of the response is about \$2.1 million. Estimated cost for the remainder of the fiscal year are is additional \$2.5 million.
- O Video briefing for WASO and others of Katmai coastal situation is expected next week. This is being prepared by Jim Boyd, of Albright Training Center, in Kodiak.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688.
- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: May 9, 1989 (Prepared 11 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Beach cleanup has begun in Katmai National Park. Crews contracted for by Exxon Corp. are picking up oiled debris from beaches, beginning with Hallo Bay. A crew of 20 people is being used, with only a portion of the crew actually on the beach. The others are shuttling bags and barrels of oiled material to a command ship offshore.
- O Cleanup methods on the Katmai coast will be low-impact. In addition to collecting oiled, dead wild wildlife and oiled debris, the crews will be allowed to remove only the first inch of oiled beach sand with hand tools. Any mechanical cleanup or deeper cleanup of oiled beaches will not occur until further analysis of the effects.
- O Park Service rangers will be with the cleanup crews. The rangers will oversee the operation and have the only firearms for bear protection.
- O All-terrain vehicle use below mean high tide will be allowed when needed to help move bags and barrels of oiled material to the waterline for transfer off the beach.
- O Onshore oil has been sighted just south of Wide Bay; Coast Guard reports sheen offshore of Aniakchak N.M.
- O Boats contacted on night of 5/7/89 report collecting 297 birds and 2 otters from Chiniak, and 120 birds and 6 otters from Swikshak. The crew surprised a brown bear at 10-20 feet away; aerosol repellent was used and the bear ran away. High winds (40 knots plus) prevented much shore work on 5/8.
- O Russian skimmer is in Seward, and will be released by Exxon.
- O On 5/6/, Seward otter center reports 54 dead otters, 45 living. Cumulative bird count in Seward is 1,875 dead.
- O In Seward, Exxon and its contractors report 731 employees working on spill-related business.
- O Exxon reports mousse and sheen in Pye Islands/Nuka Bay

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Media interest includes a BBC film crew and CBS News. NBC has aired a segment on the Katmai coast. In Alaska media, oil spill stories continue to lead in broadcast and print. The spill was second only to stories on the state legislature increasing oil industry taxes on 5/8/89.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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907-257-2688
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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 8, 1989 (Prepared 11 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Air operations in Katmai were hampered on 5/6 and 5/7 due to poor weather.
- O A fishing boat working off Cape Douglas in Katmai reported on 5/6/89 that additional dead birds were picked up, with about 20-30 percent having been scavenged.
- O On 5/6/89 more mousse was reported on the east and south shores of Cape Douglas. Dead birds were floating in the oil.
- O A second fishing boat off Hallo Bay in Katmai reported on 5/6 that three bears were observed eating dead, oiled birds. The crew picked up 55 dead birds from the beach at Hallo Bay and 33 from a nearby island.
- O Offshore of Kenai Fjords N.P., cleanup operations continue at Pye Islands and Chiswell Islands.
- O Kenai Fjords has provided USCG with lists of shoreline areas where cleanup is authorized. The work involves picking up oiled kelp, tar balls, and other debris. Excavation of sand and gravel by mechanical means is not authorized.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O On 5/6/89, USCG Admiral Robbins visited Katmai N.P. coast to view oil impacted areas.
- O On 5/7/89, Congressman Bruce Vento, D-Minn., visited Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks with Regional Director Boyd Evison.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations)
907-257-2688

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 4, 1989 (Prepared 11 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O At Hallo Bay in the central Katmai coast, a team on 5/3/89 picked up 524 dead, oiled birds on 1.5 miles of coastline. The crew ran out of disposal bags and could not continue collecting carcasses on the rest of the 6-mile beach.
- O The state Department of Environmental Conservation classifies Hallo Bay as having "light impact" from oil. These classifications refer to the volume of oil relative to the heaviest oiling in Prince William Sound. They do not refer to wildlife mortality, or the short-term and long-term biological and ecosystem effects.
- O Alaska Regional Office is planning to replace key personnel who have been working three weeks with no days off in Kodiak and on the Katmai coast.
- O Off the coast of Kenai Fjords, cleanup operations continue at Pye Islands and Chiswell Islands.
- O A method for setting shoreline cleanup priorities has been approved by the Seward multi-agency coordinating group for use in the Seward area, both in and outside of KEFJ. Rankings are based on the degree of oiling, accessibility of the shoreline, and the presence of important ecological and human use factors.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Media attention remains strong, particularly on the Katmai situation.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations)
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- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 3, 1989 (Prepared 11 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O After coastal inspections and overflights on 5/1 and 5/2, the Katmai superintendent estimates that 75-90 percent of the 250-mile coastline has been hit by oil in various forms.
- O Hallo Bay in the middle portion of the Katmai coast has had major impacts from oil. On 5/1, a group inspecting the beach estimated that 2,500 dead, oiled birds were in the sand along the tide lines. Dead birds are not visible from the air; each high tide brings a layer of sand over the carcasses and soon they are difficult to locate on the ground.
- O Marine mammals have also been sighted in oil off the Katmai coast. On 4/30, a group of more than 500 otters and 200 sea lions were seen in oil off the Shakun Islets.
- O Passive oil collection devices called pom-poms will be deployed in some bays along Katmai today to try to prevent more oil from reaching the shore. Most oil booms are useless along much of the KATM coast because of rough water, tides and currents.
- O Numerous brown bears, bald eagles, foxes and other scavengers have been seen eating oiled wildlife.
- O In Kenai Fjords, a shoreline inspection of the inner bays is finding oil in many locations. The oil is not visible from the air or offshore.
- O In Black Bay (KEFJ, northeast of the Pye Islands), boulders were seen that were clean on top, but covered with oil on the bottom. The oil extended into the beach for up to one foot deep. At Taroka Bay, about 10 miles north, bears, otter and fox were observed in oil.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Congressman Vento and others will tour Kenai Fjords on Sunday, 5/7/89 before holding committee hearings in Valdez.
- O Russian skimmer and Army Corps of Engineers dredge are collecting oil in Shelikof Strait.
- O National media attention has resurfaced with the impacts at Katmai. ABC News had a crew on the Katmai coast today; NBC is to have a crew on the coast by Friday.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations)
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- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: May 1, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O On 4/30/89, the Coast Guard notified NPS that a heavy body of mousse and thick sheen stretching from Hallo Bay to Katmai Bay was making landfall in Hallo Bay, adjacent headlands and Katmai Bay (all land withing Katmai N.P.)
- O According to the Coast Guard, heavy impacts were occuring in the southern section of Katmai Bay and the northern section of Hallo Bay. Otters and other sea mammals were in or near the oil, and were attempting to pull themselves out of the polluted water and onto the Katmai Bay beach.
- O Gray and killer whales were seen swimming in oil-contaminated waters along the Katmai coast on 4/30/89.
- O The Russian skimmer ship has been sent to the Katmai coast; Kenai Fjords staff reports the skimmer had little success working on the KEFJ coast.
- O Oil impact on the Alaska Peninsula have been verified by the Coast Guard as reaching as far south as Wide Bay, about 50 miles south of KATM's southern boundary, and about 50 miles north of Aniakchak National Monument. Several hundred dead murrees and other sea birds were found at Wide Bay.
- O Boom material is being deployed to area identified by NPS as sensitive resource locations.
- O NPS priorities for Katmai are to avoid large, shore-based cleanup efforts until we are certain more oil will not wash ashore. Offshore, the first priority will be keeping floating oil from reaching shore; on-shore, the top priority will be removing contaminated dead wildlife to prevent scavenging.
- O Katmai and Aniakchak coastal assessment teams and boats returned to Homer over the weekend.
- O In Kenai Fjords, as of 4/27, about 1,500 dead birds have been brought to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Seward. More than half the dead are murrees.

- O Kenai Fjords has a multi-agency group of resource specialists developing priorities for cleaning beaches and determining appropriate methods for that work. Detailed shoreline survey of where oil has hit the park coast is under way.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O National media interest in the oil's effects in national parks continues. recent contacts with Wall Street Journal and United Stations Radio Network (former RKO network).
- O House Interior Committee hearings in Valdez planned for later this week. Park visits possible.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 27, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Additional oiling of the beaches of Cape Douglas, along the northeast corner of Katmai N.P. was reported during evening radio contact of 4/26 with the coastal assessment vessel Kittywake II. The largest documented area was a continuous concentration of oil measuring 550-by-10 feet, with an average depth of 2-4 inches.
- O The team also found and photographed 108 dead oiled murre on the beach, and observed 20 oiled, living gulls. A sample of the dead birds was taken for evidence.
- O The Kittywake II also reported heavy mousse offshore from Cape Douglas south for 20 miles to Kiukpalik Island. The vessel will return to Homer beginning Friday.
- O A second Katmai boat reported mousse at the head of Kaflia Bay, near the middle of the park coastline. No oiled birds observed. This boat will return to Homer beginning Friday evening or Saturday morning.
- O The Aniakchak boat, the Polar Star, has crew members conducting archeological documentation, intertidal plots and otter surveys. The boat will return to Homer beginning Friday, 4/28.
- O Weather for Katmai work, including air operations, has improved. Winds are light, ceiling at 3,000, Kodiak temperatures in upper 40s with rain.
- O In Kenai Fjords, Coast Guard helicopter flight on 4/25 reports 80 percent of the shoreline in Nuka Passage is affected by oil, with a heavy sheen off the outer coast of Nuka Island.
- O Boom repair at James Lagoon and McCarty Lagoon remains incomplete.
- O Seward area weather forecast for southeast winds at 15 knots, seas to 5 feet.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Several calls are coming to the Alaska regional office requesting copies of video or still photos of oil spill response in the parks. Boise Interagency Fire Center has control of originals; no public release is planned until law enforcement clearance is obtained.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 26, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Oil has been found on the shore of Kashvik Bay, the southernmost bay in Katmai N.P. A team of NPS, BLM and FWS personnel from the shoreline assessment team walked about 2.5 miles of beach, and found spots of oil every 4-5 feet from the waterline to high tide mark. Oil and vegetation samples and photographs were taken, and an intertidal plot established. Oiled gulls were also observed.
- O Weather along the Katmai coast is greatly improved, although strong surf has kept some crews off some beaches. Some air support is now possible. Winds to 15 knots, seas 3-6 feet, rain and snow showers.
- O The Aniakchak N.M. vessel has had radio equipment problems, preventing communication with the USCG in Kodiak. The helicopter servicing the vessel out of Port Heiden reported the crews conducting surveys in Amber Bay. Weather was fair, wind to 20 knots.
- O One of the Katmai coastal boats has returned to Homer. The second will continue survey operations in the Hallo Bay and Cape Douglas areas. The third is working the southern KATM coast, and hopes to conduct surveys along Katmai Bay. The Aniakchak boat will work in Amber Bay.
- O In Seward, weather is poor. Superintendent reports this morning that fog has grounded flights.
- O In waters near the Aialik Peninsula (Agnes Cove), an Army Corps of Engineers dredge is having success at collecting oil. KEFJ superintendent reports that vessel is having less trouble with debris clogging its machinery.
- O KEFJ superintendent reported on 4/25 that a recommendation will be made to Exxon to direct crews to beaches to collect dead, oiled wildlife. Fewer oiled birds are being found in the water, but many have washed ashore.

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 25, 1989 (Prepared 11 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O To date, oil has been reported along the Katmai coast as far south as Missak Bay, generally in the form of tar balls and mousse. Poor weather has hampered oil tracking and resource assessment work.
- O One vessel along the Katmai coast will return to Homer today if weather permits. The trip takes about 20 hours. Aniakchak boat is completing fish and intertidal surveys in Aniakchak Bay. Two boats on the Katmai coast are waiting for better weather to continue field work.
- O James Lagoon and McCarty Lagoon booms (in KEFJ) remain damaged; repair depends on arrival of materials.
- O Weather at south end of Kenai Fjords to Katmai coast remained rough Monday, with gale warnings, rain and seas to 18 feet.
- O Weather prevented skimming operations in Nuka Passage on 4/23. Coast Guard summary noted 18-foot seas. Overflight found high southeast winds (35 knots) pushing mousse and sheen into bays on southern shore of lower Kenai Peninsula, including beaches of Gore Point.
- O Oil recovered in the Seward area through 4/23/89 estimated at 31,500 gallons.
- O The Coast Guard has deployed 35 fishing vessels from Kodiak to spot and attempt to catch oil approaching Kodiak Island and Katmai coast. Two fishing vessels are deployed near Cape Douglas with 3,000 feet of boom to react to oil sightings.
- O No oil seen north of English Bay on the Kenai Peninsula. No oil reported north of Kamishak Bay, the northern border of Katmai N.P.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Sen. Ted Stevens (AK) was in Seward on 4/25 and met with the superintendent and multi-agency coordinating group.
- O A post-traumatic stress counseling team worked with KEFJ staff for a portion of 4/25.
- O Exxon reported to Seward MAC group that 43,000 barrels of oil remains on the shoreline throughout the region, and 28,000 barrels remains on the water. Recovered oil is estimated at 42,000 barrels; natural evaporation is estimated at 127,000 barrels.
- O Visitation to the KEFJ headquarters and visitor center is above average. Interpretation is developing displays and programs on the spill and the NPS response.
- O The Alaska Regional Office has issued a policy statement on dealing with bears and the use of firearms along the coast during damage assessment and cleanup operations. Information on avoiding confrontations with bears will be distributed to all work crews.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

- O Senate Energy Committee staff visit to Kenai Fjords planned April 28.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations)
907-257-2688
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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 24, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Katmai coastal work by crews in three boats continues, although bad weather has slowed their work. Studies have included examinations of intertidal and vegetation resources, water samples, bird and marine mammal surveys, and cultural resource surveys.
- O Rough seas prevented Aniakchak team from using skiffs to do on-shore field work. As of 4/22/89 no oil or oiled birds seen at Aniakchak. Kodiak-area weather over the weekend included gale warnings, rain, winds to 35 knots and seas to 16 feet.
- O Tarballs along a three-mile stretch of beach at Hallo Bay at KATM were reported on 4/21.
- O Overflight of KATM coast on 4/21 reported mousse along rock cliffs at Missak Bay and mousse and tar balls off the mouth of Kukak Bay. Coast Guard flight on 4/21 confirmed oil on beach at Sukoi Bay near Cape Douglas.
- O Storms last week damaged booms at James Lagoon and McCarty Lagoon in McCarty Fjord. An overflight on 4/21 found oil had moved into the lagoons, which were high priority protection areas. Repair work over the weekend was waiting on supplies.
- O The Soviet skimmer working at the south end of KEFJ and the Kenai Peninsula is having little success due to the thick consistency of the oil and debris which has accumulated with it. Large amounts of mousse and oil remain in the Nuka Passage/Gore Point area.
- O In Seward, about 1,200 dead birds have been turned in to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Resource working group suggested on 4/21 that Exxon or Coast Guard develop a program to recover oiled carcasses to reduce the likelihood of scavengers, such as bald eagles, from eating them.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Interior Secretary Lujan flew over Kenai Fjords on 4/21 and visited Seward and the park on 4/22.
- O Senate Energy Committee staff members planning visit to KEFJ on 4/28.
- O KEFJ Superintendent Anne Castellina was presented with a performance award from Secretary Lujan for her effective work with the incident command team and for coordinating the park's response with other federal, state and local agencies.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 21, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Superintendent of Katmai N.P. reported oil on or near beaches of the park in several locations during an overflight on 4/20/89. Sightings include:
 - Sheen, mousse, and possible tar balls from Sukoi Bay/Cape Douglas to Big River. Numerous sea birds, seals and sea otters sighted in the contaminated area. Bears sighted on the beach.
 - Possible oil sheen streaks seen between Hallo Bay and Kukak Bay. Extensive streaks of sheen, substance unknown, along coastline of Kinak Bay. Whales, birds, otters and sea lions in the area.
- O Response team member from Olympic N.P. and Coast Guardsman reported the following oil locations on a 4/20/89 flight of the Katmai coast:
 - Mousse and sheen one-quarter mile offshore, five miles south of Cape Douglas.
 - Mousse and sheen one-half mile offshore, eight miles south of Cape Douglas.
 - Sheen and mousse onshore at Kiukuk Island. Mousse also on islands at the entrance of Kukak Bay.
- O A helicopter crew collected heavily oiled dead murres and oil samples from a cove on Cape Douglas on 4/20/89.
- O Secretary of Interior Lujan, Rep. Don Young (AK) and others are flying over Kenai Fjords, Katmai and Lake Clark national parks today. The Secretary and others plan to be in Seward and on the ground at an oiled beach within KEFJ on Saturday. Sen. Ted Stevens (AK) is being briefed by the NPS regional director and others in Anchorage today. Sen. Frank Murkowski (AK) is also in-state.
- O The Russian skimmer was deployed off the coast of KEFJ on 4/20. No word yet on results.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Seward Multi-Agency Coordinating Group continues daily meetings. KEFJ superintendent is chairman.
- O Coastal survey boat expected to reach Aniakchak National Monument on 4/22/89.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 20, 1989 (Prepared Noon ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Russian mega-skimmer was in Seward on 4/19/89. Plans to depart this morning for mouth of Resurrection Bay, and work along the coast southwest of the Chugach Islands.
- O Secretary Lujan, Rep. Don Young (AK) and others are in Valdez today, and will fly over and visit Kenai Fjords National Park on Friday and Saturday. Sens. Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski (AK) will also be in the state on Friday.
- O Exxon has put the proposed Seward otter facility on hold.
- O Approximately 800 miles of shoreline have been oiled, according to the Regional Response Team 4/19/89 meeting.
- O Incident Command Team in Seward held debriefing on 4/19.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Coast Guard Vice Admiral Clyde Robbins has been designated federal on-scene coordinator for cleanup operations. Capt. Rene Roussel is assistant on-scene coordinator in western Alaska.
- O Fifty-three vessels are operating in oil recovery or support activity. These include 33 skimmers..
- O As of 4/18/89, wildlife impact is listed as 1,982 dead birds, 343 dead sea otters.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 19, 1989 (Prepared 11 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O No major oil sightings on 4/18 in the Shelikof Strait or Kodiak area.
- O Two boats continue to work the northern Katmai coast doing intelligence gathering, and assessing the resources and potential for protecting sensitive areas with booms. A helicopter will fly from Homer to Cape Douglas (in KATM) with a video crew to assess bird and marine mammal populations and locations. A fixed wing aircraft will fly the Shelikof Strait, Cape Douglas and Tuxedni River area to search for oil impacts.
- O Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan and Rep. Don Young (AK) will arrive in Alaska today. On 4/20 he and his party will visit Valdez and Prince William Sound. On 4/21, he and his party will fly over Kenai Fjords, Lake Clark and Katmai national parks.
- O Sen. Ted Stevens (AK) arrive in Anchorage on 4/21 for briefing on oil spill response.
- O On 4/28, Senate Energy Committee staff will visit KEFJ for review of oil spill response and damage to the park.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O A large Russian open-water oil skimmer is in the state today and scheduled to begin clean-up operations.

CONTACTS:

- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- David Ames, Associate Regional Director (Operations) 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 18, 1989 (Prepared Noon ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Oil is confirmed to have hit the coast of Katmai National Park at Cape Douglas.
- O Two boats are working the northern Katmai coast doing intelligence gathering, and assessing the resources and potential for protecting sensitive areas with booms. This is similar to the work done at Kenai Fjords prior to the oil hitting the beaches. A third boat will be under way today to work the southern coast of Katmai. A fourth boat will depart later this week and work the Aniakchak National Monument coast.
- O Working conditions along Shelikof Strait are very difficult. High seas, poor communications, long distances to safe harbors and rapidly changing weather add to the dangers faced. The boats being used are in the 90-foot range .
- O The transition from the Seward Incident Command Team to Exxon and the Coast Guard has been smooth. Most of the command team is expected to leave within a few days. The multi-agency coordinating group, which includes the NPS, will continue to meet.
- O Oil came ashore in the city of Seward on 4/17/89. Contract crews were sent to clean the beach.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Interest remains steady from news media, including travel publications interested in how the oil will affect tourist visits this summer.

CONTACTS:

- O -- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 17, 1989 (Prepared 9 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O In the past week, two Coast Guard cutters worked in the Resurrection Bay area and retrieved about 10,000 gallons of oil. Because of the oil's thick consistency, pump problems developed, and new equipment is due in today. The skimming operation is to work Resurrection Bay and move south.
- O An ocean-going Russian skimmer is expected to arrive in Seward on April 20.
- O A NPS reconnaissance trip from Friday, 4/14, to Sunday, 4/16, covered most of the Kenai Fjords coast and found numerous oiled coastlines and dead birds. Locations checked include Pony Cove, on the east side of the Aialik Peninsula, where oil on the rocks and water was observed. Dead birds also seen, and 70 were picked up in the area. Also checked Thunder Bay, southwest of Harris Bay. The beach appeared clean from a short distance offshore, but a group walking the beach reported oil under all the rocks. Oil was the consistency of molasses. Dead birds had washed ashore in many places, and eagles were feeding on them.
- O The Snowbird is leaving today for a 7-day trip down the KEFJ coast to check all areas that were documented before oil came ashore.
- O Exxon is taking over the incident command post in Seward. The Exxon incident commander is due on-site today. Exxon's operation will be modeled on the NPS incident command team.
- O Oil continues to hit the shore of Kenai Fjords, but in smaller sheets, sometimes a few hundred square feet.
- O In Katmai National Park, park superintendent reported seeing oil in Sukoi Bay on 4/16/89. This and earlier reports of oil at Big River have not been confirmed on the ground.
- O Two boats are en route to the Katmai coast for intelligence gathering work on resources. A third boat is to leave tonight, and a fourth boat will leave for Aniakchak National Monument later this week.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- o The Park Service response to Katmai is being run through a Class Two Incident Command Team in Kodiak. The team was called in by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Coast Guard continues to have overall control.
- o The cost of the NPS response to the spill (as of 4/17/89) is about \$1.4 million; absent cost-sharing agreements or cost-recovery methods, the Alaska Region of the National Park Service is obligating about 2 percent of its annual operating budget per week for oil response alone.
- o Logistics at Katmai and Aniakchak are extremely difficult. The Shelikoff Strait is known for routinely very high seas, there are few safe harbors, and Kodiak is about 100 air miles from the park. The park headquarters in King Salmon is 100 miles from the coast, and on the opposite side of the Alaska Peninsula mountains. Aniakchak is even more remote, at about 200 air miles from Kodiak.
- o Approximate coastline mileage:

Kenai Fjords	395 miles
Katmai	250 miles
Lake Clark	60 miles
Aniakchak	68 miles
Wrangell-St. Elias	115 miles
Glacier Bay	900 miles
- o Boom placed inside Kenai Fjords totals 7,200'. As of this weekend, no boom had been placed at Katmai.

CONTACTS:

- o -- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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907-257-2688
- John Quinley, public affairs specialist, 257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 15, 1989 (Prepared Noon ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords and Katmai National Parks, and potential effects on Lake Clark National Park and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Incident command team reported on evening of 4/14 that oil was on the coast of Katmai National Park at Big River, south of Cape Douglas.
- O A 40-square-mile slick of mostly sheen was sighted on the afternoon of 4/14 about 2 miles off the coast of Cape Douglas.
- O Incident command team reports oil was found on the beaches of the Chugach Islands. Barren Islands have oil on shore, and bird fatalities.
- O At Kenai Fjords National Park, a Park Service crew aboard the Snowbird confirmed oiled shoreline at Aialik Peninsula on 4/14. The Snowbird is continuing southwest along the park boundary. Oil has moved into Nuka Bay's East Arm to James Lagoon, and Yalik Bay on the West Arm of Nuka Bay.
- O In the middle section of the park, heavy mousse was reported on 4/14 in Granite Passage between the Harris Peninsula of the park and Granite Island in the wildlife refuge.
- O Command team reports oiled sea otters being collected by the Fish and Wildlife Service at Notoa Island in the Chiswells for transport to the Valdez Otter Treatment Center.
- O Resurrection Bay weather outlook for variable winds becoming south to 15 knots. Gulf weather forecast for southeast winds to 25 knots, seas building to 8 feet. Barren Islands and Katmai north coast weather forecast for southeast winds to 25 knots, seas to 10 feet.
- O Boom deployment for the protection of the Katmai Coast is being handled out of Kodiak. Twelve vessels were deployed on 4/14 to the Katmai coast. Six vessels have net equipment to break up the spill. The other six are carrying boom material to be deployed according to NPS priorities for the Katmai coast.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Demobilization of incident command team continues in Homer and Seward as the operation is turned over to Exxon, Veco and Coast Guard. Katmai intelligence gathering operations in Homer have been transferred to the Incident Command Team at Kodiak but will continue to be deployed out of Homer.

PROGRAM CONTACTS:

- O -- Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: April 14, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park, and potential effects on Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Incident command team reports "heavy oil impact along the outer peninsulas of the Kenai Fjords coastline, Pyle Islands, Nuka Island and Aialik Cape."
- O Command team reports oil three miles west of Cape Douglas, the easternmost point of Katmai National Park and Preserve.
- O Fingers of sheen extend up to Caines Head along the west shore of Resurrection Bay and surround Fox, Hive and Rugged Islands. Caines Head is about four miles from the city of Seward.
- O Seward incident command team will be demobilized by Monday, 4/17/89, with operations turned over to Exxon and its contractor, Veco, and the Coast Guard.
- O Homer branch operation will be demobilized beginning Saturday, 4/15/89.
- O Oiled birds have been found near the leading edge of the spill, along Afognak Island, the Chugach Islands and Gore Point. Also, oil reported at Shuyak Island in Big Fort Channel, north of Kodiak.
- O Marine weather today includes northwest winds to 15 knots, seas to 4 feet, with an outlook for winds shifting to southeast at 25 knots. Aviation weather includes 5 mile visibility, broken clouds above 1,500', little turbulence.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O National coverage of NPS spill response included Anchorage Daily News (McClatchy News Service), Anchorage Times (States News Service), Minneapolis Star-Tribune (Scripps-Howard wire service) and Washington Times.

CONTACTS:

- O Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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907-257-2688

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: April 13, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park, and potential effects on Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Incident command team reports oil evident throughout the Chugach Islands, stretching out in a fine ribbon of sheen around the end of the Kenai Peninsula as far as Port Graham and English Bay.
- O Reconnaissance from Seward confirms oil encroached into the lower bays of Kenai Fjords N.P. Also, sheen is along the east side of Resurrection Bay as far north as Caines Head. In Aialik Bay, sheen extends to Three-Hole Bay; in Harris Bay, sheen is inside Granite Island. Sheen and patchy mousse is evident along outer capes and coastal islands.
- O In the lower reaches of Kenai Fjords N.P., light sheen is present in Nuka Bay, from McArthur Cove to Nuka Passage. Mousse and sheen is present from the Pye Islands to the outer coast of Nuka Island.
- O USCG cutters Planetree and Vocone using 84-inch boom and skimmers to continue work on 4/13/89 east of Cape Resurrection and west of Montague Island, with a second skimmer working to the west.
- O Boom repair or replacement work planned includes Tonsina Creek, Pederson Lagoon, James Lagoon and Delight Lake.
- O Kenai branch will be demobilized on Friday, 4/14 with operation turned over to Exxon/Veco.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Revised approximate cost to (4/12/89) of incident command team response for the three national parks, including base salaries for NPS and BLM personnel, is \$800,000.

CONTACTS:

- O Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 12, 1989 (Prepared 5 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park, and potential effects on Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Sheen has encroached farther into Resurrection Bay, up to Bear Glacier (park boundary)
- O Coast Guard reconnaissance on 4/11/89 found oil along the east sides of all points of land extending gulfward, from Resurrection Bay to Gore Point, but little or no visible sheen in the bays. Storm on 4/10/89 broke up large areas of oil, and there is less visible oil on the water since Monday. On 4/12/89 Montague Strait was reported more free of oil than previous sightings.
- O USCG cutters Planetree and Vocone using 84-inch boom and skimmers to continue work on 4/13/89 east of Cape Resurrection and west of Montague Island, with a second skimmer working to the west.
- O Weather expected to remain favorable for operations on 4/13, although increasing southeast winds predicted for Friday and the weekend.
- O Commandant of the USCG was to arrive in Anchorage on the afternoon of 4/12, and will fly over the spill area on 4/13/89.
- O Exxon held a meeting for bird capture crews at the incident command post on 4/11, and 50 people attended. As of afternoon of 4/12 there were four boats out, but no birds returned. Coast Guard report of 4/12 notes 189 otters and 1,307 birds dead; 116 otters and 226 birds at Valdez cleaning center.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Revised approximate cost to date of incident command team response for the three national parks, including base salaries for NPS and BLM personnel, is \$800,000.
- O Media coverage of Kenai Fjords on 4/12/89 included NBC News. Additional newspaper coverage is expected over the weekend, and ABC News is expected in Seward later in the week.

CONTACTS:

- O Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 12, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park, and potential effects on Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Barrier and deflection boom to be placed today at McArthur Pass (between Pye Islands and McCarty Fjord).
- O Coast Guard reconnaissance on 4/11/89 found oil along the east sides of all points of land extending gulfward, from Resurrection Bay to Gore Point, but little or no visible sheen in the bays. Storm on 4/10/89 broke up large areas of oil, and there is less visible oil on the water since Monday.
- O USCG skimmers working east of Cape Resurrection and west of Montague Island today.
- O Weather is favorable for operations, with south winds to 10 knots, mostly sunny, seas to 5 feet, and aircraft VFR.
- O Seward operations on 4/12/89 planned to include aerial reconnaissance of deployed boom, and repair (either by Exxon or command team units) of boom damaged near Port Dick during a storm on 4/10/89.
- O Out of Kenai, cultural resource specialist will survey site on the Lake Clark National Park coastline. Out of Homer, biologists will gather intelligence from lower Kenai Peninsula coast.
- O Special payment team was demobilized from Seward. More than \$80,000 was paid out to local businesses.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plans guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Revised approximate cost to date of incident command team response for the three national parks, including base salaries for NPS and BLM personnel, is \$800,000.
- O Media coverage of Kenai Fjords has expanded to include Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Portland Oregonian, and Los Angeles Times.

CONTACTS:

- O Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 11, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park, and potential effects on Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- O Two Coast Guard cutters are off the mouth of Aialik Bay conducting a booming and skimming operation.
- O High southeast winds on 4/10/89 moved oil onshore in some locations, including Aialik Cape (within KEFJ). The Coast Guard reports this morning (4/11/89) that oil is in Kennedy Entrance, the mouth to Cook Inlet. The adjacent land on the Kenai Peninsula is either part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge or Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park. Oil also reported 60 miles south of Gore Point.
- O The otter and bird cleaning station in Seward is not running; the operation was told it could not use the military recreation center in Seward as a base of operation.
- O Incident Command Post reports that a 425-foot Russian open-water skimmer will be calling in Seward about April 19.
- O On 4/10/89, high seas (to 16 feet along the north Gulf coast and southern Kenai Peninsula) and low ceiling prevented safe operations outside Resurrection and Kachemak Bays.
- O Over the past two days, boom has been placed on Middle Creek, James Lagoon (2,800'), and Resurrection River (1,800'). Work today (4/11/89) will include completion of Resurrection River work with 3,400' of boom.
- O Weather today is improved, with occasional rain and snow, and a high near 40; lows in mid-30s. Southeast winds diminishing to 10 knots, seas subsiding to 5 feet.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Approximate cost to date of incident command team response for the three national parks is \$500,000.
- O Intelligence gathering work continues on potential spill effects in Lake Clark and Katmai national parks. Lake Clark protection priority list is complete and will be given to the Coast Guard.
- O Media coverage of Kenai Fjords includes CNN and CBS; local reports on 4/11/89 from Alaska Public Radio Network and Anchorage Daily News.

CONTACTS:

- O Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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907-257-2688
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BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 10, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park, and potential effects on Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument

STATUS:

- o Outside the park, in areas with high recreation and resource value to the Seward community, there is oil inside Resurrection Bay, along Rugged Island, Eldorado Narrows, Barwell Island, Fox Island and west side of the Resurrection Peninsula.
- o Inside KEFJ, or in waters adjacent to its boundary, oil is reported close to the east side of the Aialik Peninsula, Cape Aialik, and is inside of Harbor Island in Aialik Bay. Tracking southwest, the oil is also in the Chiswell Islands, along Granite Passage, the mouth of Harris Bay, less than a mile from Two Arm Bay, inside the Pye Islands, Nuka Bay and along the outer coast of Nuka Island.
- o Weather this morning (4/10/89) includes rain and snow in Seward, southeast winds to 45 knots, with seas to 14 feet. Aircraft weather is marginal, with ceiling at 1,000 feet. Weather is breaking up larger fingers of oil.
- o On 4/8 and 4/9/89, boom was placed in Dick Creek and Mike Creek in the Port Dick area (outside KEFJ), and in Nuka Bay. There is 30,000 feet of boom in Seward for additional work.
- o Two seiners, a tender and two skiffs out of Homer will place boom in Kachemak Bay according to the priority list developed by Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee.
- o A Navy skimmer was reported working at the mouth of Resurrection Bay.
- o Additional Exxon and Coast Guard presence is building in Seward. Exxon contract wildlife cleaning station has been established at the military recreation facility, but as of this morning (4/10/89) is not in full operation.
- o Homer branch of the command team is operational, as is the Kenai branch. Operations planned include intelligence gathering on species density on Chisik Island and the adjacent park coastline where there are large kittiwake colonies, and survey clam beds at Tuxedni Bay.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Public meeting in Seward attracted about 100 people for National Park Service, ICT, Exxon, Coast Guard briefings.
- O Media interest in effects on the park is high: contacts at public affairs include CBS, CNN, NBC, wire services, radio networks, Seattle and other West Coast newspapers.

CONTACTS:

- O Boyd Evison, Alaska Regional Director, 907-257-2690
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907-257-2688

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 8, 1989

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- o Line of oil is generally holding slightly offshore of Kenai Fjords. Winds and current are keeping movement in balance. Oil has come ashore on Cape Resurrection, Barwell Island, the Chiswell Islands, and is close to shore of Granite Island and Pye Islands.
- o Boom operations are planned to resume today after receipt of 6,500' of boom late on 4/7/89. Boats will work on booming streams in lower Kenai Fjords and outside the south end of the park. 5,000' of boom is being reserved for the Resurrection River in Seward.
- o A Navy open-water oil skimmer is planned to be used near the mouth of Resurrection Bay today to pick up oil.
- o One intelligence-gathering crew will return from the Nuka Point area today; a second boat will depart to resume work in southern portion of the park (below James Creek). A 206 on floats will patrol existing boom sites.
- o Branch operations have been opened in Kenai, and will be opening in Homer.
- o Press reports this morning that oil is tracking on course to enter Cook Inlet.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

BACKGROUND:

- o Alaska Regional Office of NPS reported 4/7/89 that the ICT and region had committed 122 people to the spill.
- o Public affairs staff in Seward was boosted by two people from Pacific Northwest Region.
- o A community meeting is planned at 7 p.m. on 4/8/89. Daily public updates will be held at the Incident Command Post at 11 a.m.

CONTACTS:

- o Boyd Evison, Regional Director, 907-257-2690
- o John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 7, 1989 (Prepared 3:30p.m. AST)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE: The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- o On evening of 4/6/89, oil reported close to Aialik Peninsula and Granite Island. Oil is in the Chiswell Islands, Barwell Island and Harbor Island.
- o Winds remain favorable from south, but conditions could deteriorate over the weekend.
- o No boom deployed today - new shipment of boom expected this afternoon.
- o Aircraft are VFR.
- o Branch of Incident Command Post being established in Kenai for Katmai and Lake Clark National Parks and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.
- o Leading edge 40-60 miles south/southeast of Gore Point.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- o The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.
- o A spill response plan showing general areas of concern for park resources is complete. Detailed maps showing rookeries, marine mammal haul-outs, and other high-priority resources will be prepared.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- o 101 working on ICT and in ARO.
- o Public meetings/briefings planned in Seward 11 a.m. daily.
- o Superintendent Castellina back from invitational trip to USCG/Kodiak.
- o Media interest, national and local, is high.

CONTACTS:

- o David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
- o John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

STATEMENT

*p949XBRIEFING
ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 6, 1989 (Prepared 5 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- O Leading edge of main oil slick has been reported 40 miles south of Gore Point and is tracking southwest at 15-18 miles per day under present conditions. Expected to reach Kodiak Island in 4-5 days.
- O Overflight on afternoon of 4/5/89 from Seward to Homer by Associate Regional Director (Resources) Paul Haertel reports oil sheen on most of the rocks along outer portions of peninsulas and bays of the park and elsewhere. Also reported mousse and oil throughout the Chiswell Islands. Reports also of oil hitting Barwell Island, just off Cape Resurrection. Oil in the Pye Islands (AMNWR) at the south end of the park.
- O Weather should hold through Saturday. Saturday probable 25-30 knot winds blowing from the southeast into Prince William Sound. This would be detrimental to keeping oil out of the Kenai Fjords.
- O No boom was deployed out of Seward today.
- O Superintendent Anne Castellina was in Kodiak (4/6/89) at the USCG's request to help establish spill command center.
- O As of 4/6/89 there are no facilities for cleaning oiled wildlife in Seward. Regional Response Team recommended that centers be established Seward, Cordova and Whittier.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O ICT and the regional office have a total of 85 people working on spill-related issues as of 4/6/89.
- O ICT branch is being established in Kenai to handle work in Lake Clark, Katmai and Aniakchak.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 6, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- O Overflight on afternoon of 4/5/89 from Seward to Homer by Associate Regional Director (Resources) Paul Haertel reports oil sheen on most of the rocks along outer portions of peninsulas and bays of the park and elsewhere. Also reported mousse and oil throughout the Chiswell Islands. Reports also of oil hitting Barwell Island, just off Cape Resurrection. Oil in the Pye Islands (AMNWR) at the south end of the park.
- O On Barwell Island, small numbers of oiled birds, alive and dead, were observed. Otters were in the oil. Elsewhere on intelligence gathering flight, whales were seen breaching in oil. Sea lions on the Chiswells were above the oil at the time of the flight. Haertel reported heaviest concentrations of birds and marine mammals were on the outer islands and peninsulas, with fewer in the more protected areas of the park's fjords and bays.
- O Some traces of oil seen off Cape Elizabeth and hooking toward Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay, and English Bay.
- O Weather is fair in Seward. Aircraft are marginal VFR. Light winds from the north, forecast to hold for next few days. Earlier predictions for storm and strong south winds may not materialize or be less severe than forecast.
- O Three intelligence gathering boats returned afternoon of 4/5/89 and crews will begin compiling pre-spill data.
- O Boom operations include Resurrection River, James Lagoon and streams in Nuka Bay. Possible work to be done in McCarty Lagoon, according to incident action plan of 4/6/89.
- O Spill contingency plans for Katmai, Aniakchak and Wrangell-St. Elias are being finalized. Lake Clark is complete.
- O Superintendent Anne Castellina going to Kodiak today (4/6) at the USCG's request to help establish spill command center.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O ICT and the regional office have a total of 85 people working on spill-related issues as of 4/6/89.
- O Exxon now has team of people of in Seward and will take a more active role. ICT is under Coast Guard direction.
- O ICT branch will be established in Kenai to handle work in LACL and KATM.
- O Regional director and deputy regional director were to testify this morning (4/6/89) in Washington D.C. on park actions regarding oil spill.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 5, 1989 (Prepared 5 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- O Park reports on afternoon of 4/5/89 that oil has hit Barwell Island, just off Cape Resurrection. Small numbers of oiled birds, alive and dead, were observed. Also, otters were observed in the oil. Oil also has hit Seal Rocks, about 8 miles southeast of Harris Peninsula and 5 miles south of Chiswell Islands. No oil on beaches of KEFJ. Oil sheen is on the southeast side of the Chiswells curving north. Oil on Barwell is on the northwest side.
- O USCG Capt. Roussell spent much of the day in Seward with ICT and park staff, and community leadership.
- O Weather is fair in Seward. Aircraft are VFR. Winds are light and from the north. Same forecast for 4/6/89.
- O 4,100 feet of oil boom was deployed as of morning of 4/5/89. Boom deployment for 4/5/89 included Island Creek, Port Dick Creek, Middle Creek and Petrof Creek.
- O Leading edge of oil is approximately 250 miles from Valdez, and is off the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula.
- O Spill contingency plans for Katmai, Aniakchak and Wrangell-St. Elias are being finalized. Lake Clark is complete.
- O Superintendent Anne Castellina will go with USCG on 4/6/89 to help establish spill command center in Kodiak.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O Camera crews from CBS, NBC and ABC have been in or are planning to come to the park. Associated Press regional writer Tad Bartimus has moved at least three stories on national wire regarding the park and ICT. Local print and broadcast interest remains high. Local media have committed more people over a longer period to this story than any in the past eight years.
- O ICT and the regional office have a total of 78 people working on spill-related issues as of 4/5/89.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 5, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- O Park reports oil has hit Seal Rocks, about 8 miles southeast of Harris Peninsula and 5 miles south of Chiswell Islands.
- O Weather is fair in Seward this morning. Aircraft are VFR. Winds are light and from the south.
- O USCG Capt. Roussell is in Seward for fly-over of park and neighboring areas.
- O 4,100 feet of oil boom has been deployed at the following locations: Thumb Cove in Resurrection Bay (commercial and sport fishing, waterfowl and wildlife habitat, heavy recreation values); Humpy Cove in Resurrection Bay (commercial and sport fishing and heavy recreation values); Pederson Lagoon in Aialik Bay (commercial and sport fishing, wildlife habitat, significant recreation site within KEFJ); and Tonsina Creek in Resurrection Bay (commercial and sport fishing, heavy recreation). These areas were boomed at request of state Fish and Game, commercial fishing groups, city of Seward and Kenai Peninsula Borough, with resource value input from KEFJ. Boom owned by city.
- O Boom deployment planned for 4/5/89 includes Island Creek, Port Dick Creek, Middle Creek and Petrof Creek.
- O Leading edge of oil is approximately 250 miles from Valdez, and is off the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula.
- O Spill contingency plans for Katmai, Aniakchak and Wrangell-St. Elias are being finalized. Lake Clark is complete.
- O Kenai Fjords has about 275 miles of coastline. Katmai has approximately 200 miles of coastline; Aniakchak about 40 miles and Lake Clark about 75 miles. Except for the city of Seward, there is no road access to any coastal areas in the four parks. There are no permanent communities along any of the coastal areas. Aniakchak, for instance, is 400 air miles from Anchorage.

- O USCG will establish spill command center in Kodiak.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O National and local media interest is high; to date, reports about the incident command team and planning/resource assessment efforts have been positive.
- O ICT and the regional office have a total of 78 people working on spill-related issues as of 4/5/89.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 4, 1989 (Prepared 5 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords, Katmai, Lake Clark national parks and Aniakchak National Monument.

STATUS:

- O Weather deteriorated in Seward this afternoon, with winds shifting and now blowing out of the south. Snow was falling in the late afternoon. Weather reports continue to report weather more favorable than is observed in Seward. Seward airport closed briefly on afternoon of 4/4 because of low visibility.
- O As of this afternoon, incident command post maps showed oil/mousse had moved closer to the park. Mousse about 8 miles southwest of Granite Island (located near tip of Harris Peninsula) and within 5 miles of Aialik Peninsula. Both peninsulas are within KEFJ. No oil had hit land within the park. Earlier reports showed a large body of oil about 20 miles offshore, roughly parallel to the Kenai Peninsula's eastern coast. NOAA and others note that wind direction is critical in keeping oil offshore.
- O Southern tip of oil is below Port Dick off tip of Kenai Peninsula, according to presentations at 4/4/89 Regional Response Team (RRT) meeting.
- O A Coast Guard lieutenant arrived in Seward today. His transition into the incident command post went well. He will be based at the ICT headquarters. The Park Service and ICT will be under the USCG direction. USCG Capt. Roussell is commanding Seward-based efforts out of Anchorage, and is supportive of the incident command post structure.
- O Coast Guard noted at 4/4/89 RRT meeting in Anchorage that the "spill response will eventually stretch to an area half the size of the United States." Also noted that most of the area can't be reached by roads. Valdez to Seward distance, in a straight line, is 130 miles; by road it is about 425 miles. Anchorage to Seward by road is 125 miles.

- O RRT also discussed likelihood of oil stretching to Kodiak and Shelikoff Strait. Weather Service said 75-80 percent chance of low pressure system with 35-40 knot winds out of the south or southeast by Sunday. Increases the likelihood of oil reaching shore in KEFJ, Katmai and Lake Clark NP.
- O Two-person teams are going to KATM and LACL to finalize details of those parks' spill contingency plans. The coastal areas of each park could receive oil depending on currents, winds and containment efforts. Logistics are more difficult since those parks are considerably larger than Kenai Fjords and have no road access or city adjacent to their coastlines.
- O City of Seward has placed booms in Humpy Cove and Thumb Cove (outside KEFJ); also booms were on Pederson Lagoon in Aialik Bay (inside KEFJ). Boom placement on James Creek, Tonsina Creek and Island Creek was taking place today.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O CBS Sunday Morning crew is in Seward. Other media interest is high regarding possible impacts to the national park.
- O Cities of Whittier and Homer have sent delegations to review and observe incident command post operation.
- O ICT has 46 people assigned to it; additional 20 in Alaska Regional Office are working full or part-time on spill.
- O ICT headquarters is moved to larger quarters 1 block from city hall.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 4, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park.

STATUS:

- O As of this morning (4/4/89) the closest body of oil was holding 2-3 miles off the Chiswell Islands (Alaska Maritime NWR) and 10 miles off mouth of Resurrection Bay. About 20 miles offshore of the park is a large body of oil, about 15-25 miles wide made up of oil that has come out of Montague and Bainbridge passages and reformed as a single body. Newspaper maps show it reaching from Montague Island to a point close to the same latitude as south end of Kenai Peninsula. Winds and freshwater flows are keeping oil offshore. NOAA and others note that wind direction is critical in keeping oil offshore.
- O A Coast Guard lieutenant will arrive in Seward to represent its command interests today. He will be based at the ICT headquarters. The Park Service and ICT will be under the USCG direction. A USCG captain is commanding Seward-based efforts out of Anchorage.
- O City of Seward has placed booms in Humpy Cove and Thumb Cove (outside KEFJ); also booms were on Pederson Lagoon in Aialik Bay (inside KEFJ).
- O Boom placement on James Creek, Tonsina Creek and Island Creek will take place today.
- O Resource assessment work today includes collection of water and plankton samples in McCarty Fjord and Beauty Bay, surveys of high-use recreation areas and beach surveys in Northwestern Lagoon, Delight Bay and James Bay, bivalve surveys and vegetation evaluations in the intertidal areas, evaluations of species compositions, density and distribution.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O ICT has 46 people assigned to it; additional 20 in Alaska Regional Office are working full or part-time on spill.
- O Weather and winds predicted to be favorable through 4/5/89. Highs are in the upper 40s. lows in 30s. Seas to 3 feet, light north winds. Aircraft are VFR along Kenai Fjords and Resurrection Bay.
- O ICT headquarters is moving today to larger quarters 1 block from city hall.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

STATEMENT

*p949XBRIEFING
ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 3, 1989 (Prepared 4 p.m. ADT)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park.

STATUS:

- O As of this afternoon (4/3/89) leading tendrils of oil were holding 3 miles off the Chiswell Islands (Alaska Maritime NWR) and 10 miles off mouth of Resurrection Bay. About 20 miles offshore of the park is a large body of oil, about 15-25 miles wide made up of oil that has come out of Montague and Bainbridge passages and reformed as a single body. Winds and freshwater flows are keeping oil offshore, according to information presented at Regional Response Team meeting this afternoon.
- O The Coast Guard will send a lieutenant to represent its command interests to Seward on Wednesday, 4/4/89. Park Service and ICT action will be taken with USCG clearance. A USCG captain is commanding Seward-based efforts out of Anchorage.
- O City of Seward has placed booms in Humpy Cove and Thumb Cove (outside KEFJ); also booms were on Pederson Lagoon in Aialik Bay (inside KEFJ) today.
- O Wildlife death counts are beginning to come in; on Montague Island, state and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joint report show 130 dead birds per mile, according to reports at the Regional Response Team meetings in Anchorage.
- O Incident Command Team has sent boats and aircraft along the coast for resource assessments. Assignments include wildlife evaluation, coastal land evaluation, recreation impacts, and intertidal zone evaluations. Photographs and descriptions are being recorded for before and after use, if needed.
- O About 25,000 feet of oil boom is in or bound for Seward. NPS has established priority protection areas in conjunction with local and state officials.
- O Three Interior Department aircraft are committed to the Seward operation, as is one NOAA helicopter. FAA will reactivate the Seward control tower on 4/3/89.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O ICT has 46 people assigned to it; additional 20 in Alaska Regional Office are working full or part-time on spill.
- O Administrative history has been started.
- O Weather and winds predicted to be favorable through 4/6/89. Highs are in the mid-40s, lows in low 20s. Aircraft are VFR along Kenai Fjords and Resurrection Bay.
- O Sen. Ted Stevens(AK) visited Seward on Saturday.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: April 3, 1989 (Prepared 10 a.m. AST)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park.

STATUS:

- O As of this morning (4/3/89) leading tendrils of oil were 3 miles off the Chiswell Islands (Alaska Maritime NWR) and 10 miles off mouth of Resurrection Bay.
- O City of Seward has placed booms in Humpy Cove and Thumb Cove (outside KEFJ); booms will be placed on Pederson Lagoon in Aialik Bay (inside KEFJ) today.
- O Wildlife death counts are beginning to come in; on Montague Island, state and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joint report show 130 dead birds per mile. Other reports as high as 250 birds per mile.
- O Incident Command Team has sent boats and aircraft along the coast for resource assessments. Assignments include wildlife evaluation, coastal land evaluation, recreation impacts, and intertidal zone evaluations.
- O About 25,000 feet of oil boom is in or bound for Seward. NPS has established priority protection areas in conjunction with local and state officials.
- O Unified command of Seward operation is bringing together NPS, other Interior agencies, state Exxon, city of Seward, fishermen and native corporations.
- O Three Interior Department aircraft are committed to the Seward operation, as is one NOAA helicopter. FAA will reactivate the Seward control tower on 4/3/89.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O The spill is the nation's largest. Skimming is difficult due to the thickening consistency of the oil.
- O ICT has 45 people assigned to it; additional 20 in Alaska Regional Office are working full or part-time on spill.
- O Administrative history has been started.
- O Weather and winds predicted to be favorable for remainder of 4/3/89. Highs in mid-40s, lows in low 20s. Aircraft are VFR along Kenai Fjords and Resurrection Bay.
- O Sen. Ted Stevens(AK) visited Seward on Saturday.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
- John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan

Submitted: March 31, 1989 (Afternoon report; prepared 11 a.m. AST)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park.

STATUS:

- A 10-member Incident Command Team is in Seward and is establishing staging and command areas. The team will augment the Kenai Fjords staff. The ICT will not take independent action, but report to the park superintendent, the Alaska Regional Office and the Interior Department's Regional Environmental Officer (Paul Gates). The team will also coordinate the monitoring of park resources and document pre-spill and post-spill conditions.
- NOAA said on the afternoon of 3/30/89 that chances are not high that the oil will reach the park, and added that winds are the most important variable. A wind shift would be required to move oil from the Gulf current to park shoreline. NOAA has been asked to provide updated trajectory predictions for oil near the park.
- The Coast Guard reported at the Regional Response Team meeting that it would move boom material to Seward, and was considering moving some operations to Seward since it was closer to the leading edge of the oil. That information was also noted in newspaper stories on 3/31/89.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.
- A spill response plan showing general areas of concern for park resources is complete. Detailed maps showing rookeries, marine mammal haul-outs, and other high-priority resources will be prepared. The NPS DeHavilland Beaver is being changed from skis to floats by Office of Aircraft Services in Anchorage for use by the ICT. A Grumman Goose is being held at OAS for possible use.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- The spill is the nation's largest. The oil is now in a condition that does not allow the use of chemical dispersants, nor will it burn while on the water. Collected oil on shore may be collected and burned.

- The Regional Response Team meeting on 3/30/89 reported a substantial increase in the number of flights over the Sound. Normal traffic is about eight per day; on 3/29/89 about 700 flight plans were logged.

CONTACTS:

- David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688
John Quinley, Public Affairs, 907-257-2696

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: March 31, 1989 (Morning report)

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park.

STATUS:

- O A 10-member Incident Command Team has been sent to Seward after an earlier assignment in Valdez and briefings in the Anchorage Regional Office. The team will augment the Kenai Fjords staff, and is available for use by the Coast Guard's on-scene coordinator. The ICT will not take independent action, but report to the park superintendent, the Alaska Regional Office and the Interior Department's Regional Environmental Officer (Paul Gates). The team will also coordinate the monitoring of park resources and document pre-spill and post-spill conditions. The team will be briefed before going to park headquarters in Seward. The Coast Guard may stage equipment and an on-scene commander in Seward.
- O NOAA said on the afternoon of 3/30/89 that chances are not high that the oil will reach the park, and added that winds are the most important variable. Oil would have to move out of the Sound, into the main Gulf current, and then a shift of wind would be required to take the oil into the park

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.
- O A spill response plan showing general areas of concern for park resources is complete. Detailed maps showing rookeries, marine mammal haul-outs, and other high-priority resources will be prepared.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O The spill is the nation's largest. The oil is now in a condition that does not allow the use of chemical dispersants, nor will it burn while on the water. Collected oil on shore may be collected and burned. The Regional Response Team's afternoon meeting on 3/30/89 reported the federal government had spent \$870,000 on the incident to date.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688

BRIEFING STATEMENT

ALASKA

Prepared for: Secretary Lujan
Submitted: March 30, 1989

TITLE: Prince William Sound Oil Spill

ISSUE:

- O The potential effects of the spill on Kenai Fjords National Park.

STATUS:

- O At 10:30 a.m. (AST) a nine-member Incident Command Team arrived in Anchorage from an earlier assignment in Valdez. The team will augment the Kenai Fjords staff, and is available for use by the Coast Guard's on-scene coordinator. The ICT will not take independent action, but report to the park superintendent, the Alaska Regional Office and the Interior Department's Regional Environmental Officer (Paul Gates). The team will also coordinate the monitoring of park resources and document pre-spill and post-spill conditions. The team will be briefed before going to park headquarters in Seward. The Coast Guard will stage equipment and an on-scene commander in Seward.
- O The Coast Guard and NOAA predict the oil spill may reach the park boundary in 3-to-5 days. The oil is about 50 miles to the northeast of the park; the slicks have moved up to 50 miles since the March 24 accident.

DEPARTMENT POSITION:

- O The region's primary interest is to protect park resources while working within the established contingency plan guiding the overall response to the spill.
- O A spill response plan showing general areas of concern for park resources is complete. Detailed maps showing rookeries, marine mammal haul-outs, and other high-priority resources will be prepared.

ISSUE BACKGROUND:

- O The spill is the nation's largest. The oil is now in a condition that does not allow the use of chemical dispersants, nor will it burn while on the water. Collected oil on shore may be collected and burned. The ICT was called to Valdez by the BLM, but was released after consultation with the Coast Guard's on-scene commander.

CONTACTS:

- O David Ames, Acting Regional Director, 907-257-2688