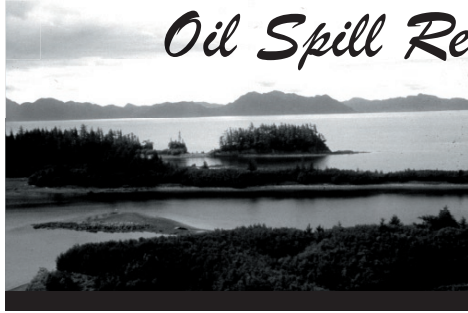


The Prince William Sound

Oil Spill Recovery Institute



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Our Mission

The purpose of the Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) is to:

- * Support Research
- * Support Educational Projects
- * Support Demonstration Projects

All of which are designed to deal with oil spills in Arctic and sub-Arctic marine environments.

Reference:

Oil Pollution Act of 1990, Public Law 101-380, Title V, Sec. 5001

Our Goals

Understand

Attain a four-dimensional¹ interdisciplinary understanding of Prince William Sound to enable detection and prediction of spill-related impacts and subsequent recovery.

- * Design Nowcast/Forecast observation and modeling system, demonstrate its utility, and seek long-term operational funding.
- * Conduct environmental research.
- * Profile potential impacts on the economy, life-style and well-being of communities and resource users in Prince William Sound.

¹ Time and 3 dimensional space (x,y,z, coordinates)

Respond

Enhance the ability of oil spill responders to mitigate impacts of spills in Arctic and sub-Arctic marine environments.

- * Fill knowledge gaps on behavior of spilled oil.
- * Fill knowledge gaps on use and effectiveness of specific mitigation techniques.
- * Identify and evaluate new prevention and response technologies.



Inform

Disseminate information and educate the public on the issues of oil spill prevention, response, and impacts.

- * Publish scientific and technical results in the open literature.
- * Brief oil spill responders on OSRI products and assist to include them in operational activities.
- * Facilitate the exchange of information and ideas.
- * Provide graduate and undergraduate fellowships and internships.

Partner

Partner with other organizations to take advantage of pooled funding, facilities, knowledge and experience.

- * Collaborate with other partners in achieving a long-term coastal and ocean observing system for Alaska.
- * Coordinate with the efforts of other related programs, such as the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) program and programs of the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)

Our Staff

Acting Executive Director, Nancy Bird
Technology Coordinator, Walter Cox

On-Line: <http://www.pwssc-osri.org>
frontdes@pwssc.gen.ak.us

Our Values

Knowledge:	Seeking intellectual stimulation, new ideas, truth and understanding.
Creativity:	Finding new ways to do things innovatively.
Achievement:	Successful completion of visible tasks or projects.
Credibility:	Having believable and verifiable research and information.
Teamwork:	Cooperating with others toward a common goal.
Competence:	Being good at what we do; capable, effective.
Communication:	Open dialogue; exchange of views.
Ethics:	Demonstrating and maintaining high standards of conduct.

Our Board

Federal Representatives

Chair, John Calder, Ph.D. NOAA
Douglas Mutter, DOI
Capt. Jack Davin, USCG

State Representatives

Leslie Pearson, ADEC
Carol Fries, ADNR
Mark Fink, ADF&G

Alaska Native Representatives

Gail Evanoff, Chenega Bay
Glenn Ujioka, Cordova

Fishing Industry Representatives

Virginia Adams, Kodiak
R.J. Kopchak, Cordova

Oil & Gas Representatives

Ed Thompson, BP

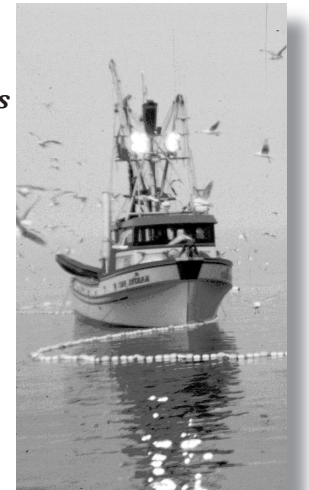
Doug Lentsch, CISPRI, Nikiski

At-Large Representatives

Susan Saupe, Cook Inlet RCAC
Marilyn Leland PWS RCAC

Non-Voting Representatives

John Goering, Ph.D. UAF
Walter Parker, PWSSC Board



Our History

In Alaska, 1989 is remembered as the year of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. In the science world, it was two years later, 1991, that an international group of marine scientists identified a need to understand how global change affects the abundance, diversity and productivity of marine populations. They concluded that our ability to predict natural changes in marine animal population is very limited and initiated the GLOBEC (Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics) program. GLOBEC aims to advance our knowledge of the structure and functioning of the world's oceans and the ocean's response to physical forcing. It identifies the development of numerical models that assimilate real-time environmental information to track and forecast natural physical and biological conditions. These models will improve our ability to predict marine animal population change, and that predictive ability is a prerequisite for assessing anthropogenic impacts such as an oil spill on marine ecosystems. In turn, improved predictive abilities will result in much more effective oil spill prevention and response strategies.



The Prince William Sound (PWS) Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) was authorized in 1990 by the United States Congress to “*identify and develop the best available techniques for preventing and responding to oil spills in the Arctic and sub-Arctic*” (Title V, Section 5001, Oil Pollution Act of 1990); and, also to “*assess and understand the long range effects of Arctic or sub-Arctic oil spill impacts on the natural resources of Prince William Sound. . . and the environment, the economy and the lifestyle and well-being of the people who are dependent on them.*” OPA90 identifies the PWS Science and Technology Institute (commonly known as the PWS Science Center) in Cordova, Alaska, as

administrator and home for OSRI. Between 1992 and 1995, Congress appropriated \$500,000 for the OSRI program. Since 1996, when amendments instituted a funding mechanism for OSRI, the program has received annual interest earnings from a \$22.5 million trust held by the U.S. Treasury. In 2002, Congress again amended OPA90 to extend OSRI's program through the year 2012.

OSRI published its first strategic plan for oil pollution research and development in 1995 (Thomas et al. 1995). This plan divided oil spill problems into the risk of a spill and the costs of a spill (response and damage). Recognizing GLOBEC's conclusions about our weakness in making physical and biological predictions, and the consequential impact on our understanding of damages caused by oil spills, the OSRI program incorporates GLOBEC's goal and approach to improve prediction of natural changes. This approach also improves our assessment of costs, a key element in identifying the best oil spill prevention and response technologies.

Following 1996 Congressional amendments, the newly reorganized OSRI Advisory Board hosted a workshop in May 1997 to review the scope of oil spill R&D and refine OSRI plans. At the workshop, the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) research program¹ was featured as an application of GLOBEC goals to the PWS region. SEA investigators presented descriptions of new tools to predict changes in circulation and physical conditions, plankton production and selected fish populations in the Sound. The prototype models demonstrated by the SEA program represented potential tools for OSRI to develop and use to identify best techniques for oil spill prevention and response.



OSRI solicited its first proposals for grant projects in late 1997. Since 1998, OSRI has awarded an annual average of 1 million dollars supporting a wide range of projects. The primary focus of many OSRI-funded projects is to build a nowcast forecast system in Prince William Sound and contribute to improving our prediction of marine ecosystem changes. OSRI promotes team-research that includes researchers, users and managers and a multi-disciplinary approach that includes physicists, biologists and technologists.

The OSRI Advisory Board meets twice each year to set policies and review the implementation of OSRI programs. The Board's structure includes four committees - Executive, Scientific and Technical, Financial and Work Plan - each of which meet as needed throughout the year. Annual work plans are adopted by the Advisory Board in the early fall and determine continuing projects and new project solicitations. Prior to 2003, the OSRI work plan categorized projects into three program areas (technology, ecology and education) and the Advisory Board promoted a goal of allocating funding among the three areas on a 40:40:20 ratio.

In 2002, the Board solicited a program assessment by the National Academies' Polar Research Board (PRB). In response to the PRB report, published in early 2003, the OSRI Advisory Board deleted the three program areas, revised its Strategic Plan and adopted four goals for OSRI programs (detailed earlier in this plan). The Advisory Board meets annually with the Prince William Sound Science Center's Board of Directors to discuss issues of mutual interest and assure complementary development of the two organizations .

¹ The SEA program was a multi-organization, multi-disciplinary program with the goal of improving ecosystem predictions in PWS. SEA was a five-year program funded by the EVOS Trustee Council.

