

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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## NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** January 15, 2010

**Contact:** Laurel Jennings, 888-654-3867

### **Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Seeks Public Comment on Future of Program**

EVOSTC seeks public comment on proposed focus areas for remaining restoration funds, concurrent with a NEPA update of its 1994 Restoration Plan.

ANCHORAGE, January 14, 2010 — The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (Council) announces the posting of a Notice of Intent (NOI) and the opening of a public comment period to supplement the Council's existing Environmental Impact Statement. The public comment period will end on April 1, 2010 and a series of public meetings will be held in six communities during this time (please see below for dates and times).

The Council, recognizing that the restoration funds remaining from the *Exxon Valdez* settlement continue to diminish, seeks to narrow and refine the scope of the Council's restoration efforts and to enable a more discrete and efficient funding mechanism by which to direct these remaining funds. In the NOI, the Council proposes to focus their restoration efforts to five defined restoration categories: herring; lingering oil; long-term monitoring of marine conditions; harbor protection and marine restoration; and habitat acquisition and protection.

These Council efforts and deliberations dovetail with the need for the Council to complete a National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) update of its original 1994 Restoration Plan. Thus, in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Council has posted a Notice of Intent to prepare a supplement to the existing environmental impact statement (SEIS) on the Council's restoration efforts. A copy of the NOI can be obtained from the EVOSTC office and on its website, [www.evostc.state.ak.us](http://www.evostc.state.ak.us).

The Council would like to encourage public comment which may be submitted in several ways:

- Written comments may be submitted by mail to: Laurel Jennings, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, 441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500, Anchorage, AK 99501 or via email to [dfg.evos.nepacomments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.evos.nepacomments@alaska.gov)
- Verbal comments may be submitted by calling 888-654-3867.
- Written or verbal comments may be submitted at any of the following public meetings:

February 16, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center, 95 Sterling Highway, Homer, AK 99603.

February 17, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, 600 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501.

February 18, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Cordova Public Library, 622 First Street, Cordova, AK 99574.

March 16, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the K.M. Rae Building, 125 Third Avenue, Seward, AK 99664.

March 17, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Valdez City Council Chambers, 206 Pioneer Drive, Valdez, AK 99686.

March 18, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kodiak Refuge Visitor Center, 402 Center Street, Kodiak AK 99615.

For more information about the scoping process, please contact the EVOSTC office and details will be provided. Updates or changes to the meeting times or dates, due to weather or other factors, can be found at <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us>.

Please note that for the NEPA public scoping process, comments must be received by April 1, 2010, in order to be incorporated into the official scoping record. Comments received after April 1 will still be considered by the Council in the development of the SEIS, but will not be a part of the scoping record

Once this NEPA scoping process is complete, the Draft SEIS will be developed and released for public comment in Spring 2010. This second public comment period will be for 45 days. Further opportunities for public comment are provided through public review and comment on documents contained in the Administrative Record, as well as on the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. If you would like to receive electronic notices of these future public involvement events, please send your e-mail address to [dfg.evos.nepacomments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.evos.nepacomments@alaska.gov), along with a message that you would like to be added to the mailing list.

#### About the Council

In 1992, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council was formed by six trustees, three State of Alaska trustees and three federal trustees, to oversee restoration of the natural resources and ecosystem damaged by the 1989 oil spill. The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council was funded by settlement of civil claims brought against Exxon Companies by the State of Alaska and the United States.

To learn more about the Council and its mission, visit [www.evostc.state.ak.us](http://www.evostc.state.ak.us)