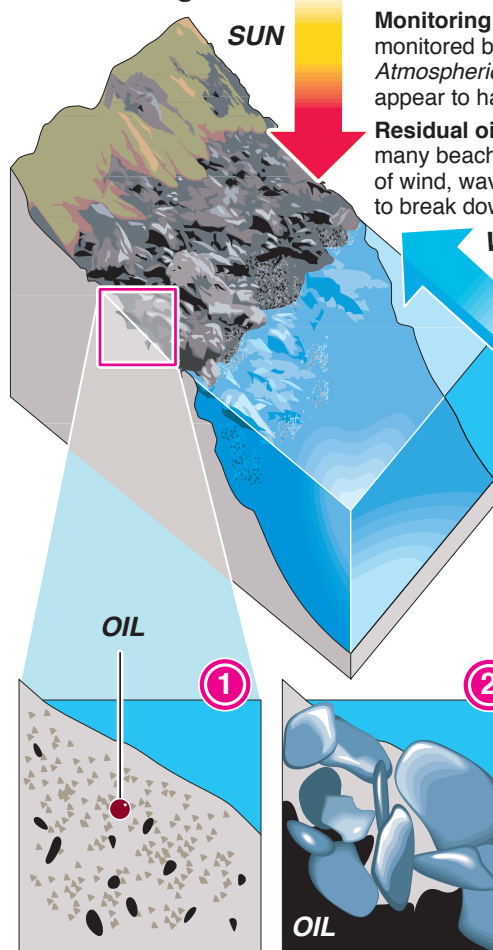


Exxon Valdez: Ten years on

The effects of the oil spill in March 1989, when the *Exxon Valdez* spewed 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound, remain hotly contested. Exxon argues that the ecosystem is healthy, robust and thriving, but government scientists say the spill – which killed more wildlife than any other environmental disaster – continues to have lasting effects



Oil remaining in Prince William Sound...



Monitoring programme: Some sites, monitored by the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, (NOAA) appear to have recovered

Residual oil: Lies below surface of many beaches sheltered from actions of wind, waves and sun – which help to break down and remove stranded oil

1. Sandy beaches:

Most of the oil evaporated or biodegraded. Waves washed many sandy beaches clean

2. Rocky shores:

Oil remains beneath and between rocks, sheltered from surf and wind

3. Marshes and mudflats:

Hold oil even tighter. Fine sediments keep out oxygen and microorganisms that break oil into non-toxic elements

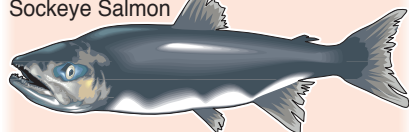


Effect on wildlife...

The spill killed an estimated 250,000 birds, as many as 5,300 marine mammals and an unknown number of salmon and herring

Recovered: Bald Eagle

Recovering: Common Murres, mussels, Pink Salmon and Sockeye Salmon



Not recovering: Cormorants, Harbour Seals, Harlequin Ducks, Orcas, Marbled Murrelets, Pacific Herring, Guillemot and Sea Otters

Recovery unknown: Black Oystercatchers, clams, River Otters, Rockfish

