

Exxon Valdez oil spill – 30th anniversary

Thirty years ago the Exxon Valdez oil tanker spilled 41 million litres of crude oil off the coast of Alaska, causing an ecological disaster



Mar 24, 1989: Vessel exits shipping lane to avoid icebergs and hits **Bligh Reef**

Area affected by oil spill

A L A S K A

Kenai Peninsula

Oil spread by wind and currents for 56 days

200km
124 miles

Inset map

Prince William Sound

Kodiak Island

Gulf of Alaska

U.S. Prudhoe Bay oil field
Trans-Alaska Pipeline
2,000km
1,240 miles
 Valdez
C A N A D A

Main map

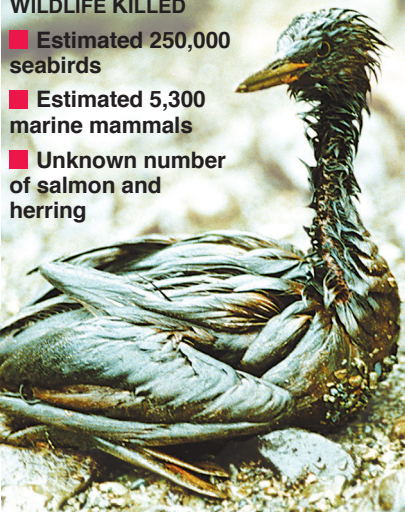
Oil, originally extracted from **Prudhoe Bay oil field**, covers 2,100km of coastline and 28,000km² of ocean



Eight of 11 cargo tanks ruptured

WILDLIFE KILLED

- Estimated 250,000 seabirds
- Estimated 5,300 marine mammals
- Unknown number of salmon and herring



WHAT HAPPENED TO OIL?

- 50%** Biodegraded
- 20%** Evaporated
- 14%** Cleaned up (over two years)
- 13%** Remained in subtidal sediments (5.3m litres)
- 2%** Remained on shoreline (818,000 litres)
- 1%** Remained in water (409,000 litres)

