

# Oil Slicks Capable of Killing Fish

The Arctic Environmental Research Laboratory released a report entitled "Effects of Crude Oil and Some of Its Components on Young Coho and Sockeye Salmon."

"This report discusses a laboratory study conducted under conditions which attempted to duplicate a natural Alaskan environment," said Richard W. Latimer, director of the Arctic Environmental Research Laboratory.

The purpose of the research was to investigate some effects of crude oil spilled on the fisheries of Prince William Sound. This area is one of the major fisheries in Alaska and is also the site of the terminus facilities for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

By determining the toxicity levels of crude oil and understanding the mechanisms of this toxicity, public officials may be able to predict, ameliorate, or hopefully, avoid any damage to this important area.

The report concludes that young coho and sockeye salmon are vulnerable to Prudhoe Bay crude oil slicks when the amount of oil present is in the equivalent of 500 ppm or greater.

He's not saying, I told  
you so but . . .

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