

Water Pollution

In an effort to halt pollution of its waters, the state of Alaska has filed suit against an oil firm and a drilling contractor for alleged pollution of the Anchor River on the Kenai Peninsula.

The suit, filed against Standard Oil Co. of California and Reading and Bates, Inc., a drilling contractor, claims that oils and drilling muds from pits at a drill site have polluted the Anchor River, a major fisheries resource river.

The suit claims damage in excess of \$5,000.

There are also three other suits pending concerning pollution of Alaskan waters.

Separate from these four suits is the pollution in the Kodiak Island area that has affected about 1,000 miles of shoreline and killed an estimated 10,000 birds.

Believed to be from dirty ballast pumped from oil tankers at sea, the pollution and ways to reduce the damage from it are under investigation by the office of the Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.