

WILDLIFE

Exxon is concerned about the impacts of the 1989 oil spill in Prince William Sound on birds and mammals. After the spill, Exxon supported substantial clean-up and rehabilitation programs, as well as wildlife surveys to assess damages and monitor recovery. Some of these latter projects, have provided some promising results, described below.

- Several thousand birds and mammals were sighted during three surveys conducted in Prince Williams Sound in late January and February. Many of those sightings were in previously oiled areas such as Northwest Bay on Eleanor Island and Herring Bay on Knight Island.
- Teams observed over 6000 birds from 45 different species, including harlequin ducks, red-breasted mergansers, pelagic cormorants, loons, and gulls. Two peregrine falcons also were observed.
- Over 225 bald eagles were seen in areas which previously had been oiled.
- In the same areas, over 360 mammals from 10 different species were also detected, including numerous sea otters and harbor seals, killer whales, Dall's porpoises, black-tailed deer and Steller's sea lions.
- Although natural animal mortalities are common this time of year due to the stresses of winter, only two carcasses were found, and neither showed any evidence of oil.
- The oil remaining on the shorelines is significantly reduced from last year, and is not likely to be a threat to wildlife. Only a small percentage of shoreline in Prince William Sound was impacted by the spill, and only a small percentage of the impacted shoreline has any significant amounts of oil remaining.
- It is expected that current joint shoreline survey teams could find numerous carcasses due to natural mortality. Exxon continues to work cooperatively with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) to document the occurrence of oiled bird and sea otter carcasses and cause of death.

PREPAREDNESS

Wildlife surveys will continue throughout the year to look for any signs of oil-related impacts. The following steps will be taken to protect wildlife as cleanup work continues:

- Cleanup crews will be equipped and trained to assist any oiled birds. In addition, they will aid the USF&WS in recovering other oiled animals if any are found.
- As a precaution, veterinarians in Anchorage and Soldotna will be available to treat oiled animals and birds, if any.

The outlook for the recovery of Prince William Sound and its bountiful wildlife is positive, as the winter observations show. However, Exxon is prepared in case any distressed animals are found.



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