

# Oil spill moves 500 miles, hits 730 miles of beaches

The crude oil from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill has now moved about 500 miles from Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, along the southern edge of the Kenai Peninsula, and has affected the east side of the Alaska Peninsula and the west shore of the Kodiak Archipelago, according to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

The slick measured about 2,600 square miles before it broke into several smaller bodies in early April, and the oil has hit more than 730 miles of beach.

The State of Alaska, the federal government and Exxon are attempting to assess the environmental and fiscal damage at this time, according to DNR's July 18 *Oil Spill Update*. Thus far, 856 sea otters, 27,578 sea birds, 96 bald eagles and a small number of deer, seals, sea lions and whales have been recovered dead, according to the newsletter.

To date, 59.38 miles of shoreline in Prince William Sound and 99 miles of shoreline in the Gulf of Alaska-Kodiak area have been treated or determined not to have been oiled, according to DNR.