

SOUND PROGRESS

Scientists report that those areas of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska affected by the 1989 oil spill are healing rapidly, following two full seasons of cleanup efforts coupled with last year's strong winter storms. Among the findings:

- *Bird and wildlife populations are abundant.*
- *The water is pure.*
- *Shoreline life is thriving in previously-oiled water and sediments.*
- *Commercial fishing in the area has returned to normal. In fact, this year's catches are setting impressive records.*
- *The Sound and the Gulf have retained all of their great natural beauty.*



Cleanup crews have made every effort to bring shorelines to a condition from which natural forces can complete the recovery process. While small amounts of weathered and subsurface oil persist at a few sites, scientific studies indicate that this remaining oil is not an environmental threat. In most cases, there is greater risk of environmental damage from



removing the oil mechanically than from allowing it to degrade naturally.

The 1990 cleanup effort concluded September 15. While scientists expect another winter of storms will help complete the natural cleaning process, Exxon will return May 1, 1991 to participate with federal and state agencies in a joint survey of shorelines to determine if any additional work is needed.

The Exxon logo, consisting of the word "EXXON" in a bold, sans-serif font. The logo is positioned in the lower center of the page, superimposed over a background of a rocky shoreline with water splashing. The letters are dark and stand out against the lighter, textured background.

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