

**NOAA organized event sponsored by the  
Senate Commerce Committee, Washington, DC  
to commemorate 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill**

**Remarks by Patience Andersen Faulkner, President, Prince William Sound  
Regional Citizens' Advisory Council with offices in Valdez, Alaska and  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**Patience Andersen Faulkner:**

Thank you for the invitation to speak for the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, which was set up after the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989 and later authorized under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA 90.

Prince William Sound is a wild and beautiful place with forested mountains and abundant marine life. The Sound is a rich source of food, income, and – perhaps most importantly – spiritual sustenance to the people who live and visit there.

On Good Friday of 1989, the Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef and spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil. It fouled 1,300 miles of shoreline and killed hundreds of thousands of seabirds and marine mammals. The human damage included increases in drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, mental health problems, suicides, and financial problems.

Our mission is to oversee operations at the tanker terminal in Valdez, where the trans-Alaska oil pipeline brings North Slope crude oil to tidewater. We also oversee the tankers that carry oil from this terminal through Prince William Sound.

Our board has 19 representatives from the cities and boroughs in region of Alaska affected by the spill, as well as from the fishing and tourism industries, Alaska Native organizations, and environmental groups.

We believe that the success of our work in partnership with industry, the Coast Guard, the state of Alaska, and federal agencies has proved the wisdom of Congress in authorizing such panels.

We have with us today, and I ask that they stand, please, Donna Schantz, our acting executive director while our executive director is on medical leave; Stan Jones, our director of external affairs; Linda Robinson, our outreach coordinator; and attorney Roy Jones, who serves as a consultant to the council here in Washington.

And now Donna will discuss our work in more detail.