

Numbers reveal oil spill's lasting legacy

By KENT STURGIS

After the angry words of summer died down, Exxon packed up and went home, and fierce storms moved in to scrub Prince William Sound. What remained, besides unrecovered crude oil, were The Numbers.

These statistics compiled from Exxon and from state and federal agencies define the nation's worst oil spill, its effects, and the massive reaction to it:

The grounding—At 12:04 a.m. March 24, 1989, the 987-foot tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef, carrying 1,263,018 barrels (10,920,000 gallons) of Prudhoe Bay crude. Eight of nine tanks were ruptured, spilling an estimated 260,000 barrels.

- Exxon cleanup costs—\$1.9 billion, according to U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner.

- State oil cleanup fund, March 24—\$2 million.

SHORELINE OPERATIONS

- State's estimate of number of barrels of oil recovered—32,500 barrels.

- Approximate per-barrel cost of oil recovered—\$5,846,100.

- Unrecovered oil (estimated)—114,000 barrels.

- State's estimate of the portion of spilled oil that has evaporated—30 percent.

- State's estimate of shoreline contaminated—1,244 miles including 311 miles in Prince William Sound, 100 on the Kenai Peninsula and 833 on Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula.

- Shoreline treated—1,069 miles total including 357 miles in Prince William Sound and 732 in

the Gulf of Alaska.

- Solid waste collected (estimated)—25,000 tons.

- Average daily volume of water used for shoreline cleaning—200 million gallons.

EQUIPMENT DEPLOYED AT PEAK

- Vessels—1,436.
- Skimmers—54.
- Aircraft—85.
- Booms—506,000 feet.

WORKFORCE

- Peak employment—More than 11,000.

- Worker's compensation injury claims filed through Oct. 23 and the Alaska Department of Labor—1,639.

Peak weekly requirements to supply oil-recovery workers:

- Food—300 tons.
- Fuel—400,000 gallons.
- Potable water—450,000 gallons.

- Offshore berths—4,000.

- Sewage and wastewater requiring treatment—1.4 million gallons weekly.

- Exxon funds spent recruiting and housing approximately 1,000 workers for Valdez and Cordova area jobs that could not be filled locally because the workforce had been lured away by higher-paying cleanup jobs—\$3 million
- Hourly wage of Oil-Recovery Technicians—\$16.69.

DAMAGES

- Wildlife mortality (actual count)—36,471 birds, 1,016 otters, 151 eagles, 18 other raptors.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimate of total number of birds killed—Between 90,000 and 270,000.

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- leased—816 birds, 193 otters, 19 eagles.

- Exxon's estimated expenditure per sea otter rehabilitated—\$40,000.

- Claims paid through Dec. 2—\$160 million to approximately 10,000 claimants.

- Average amount of claim paid—\$16,000.

- Lawsuits filed (estimated)—150.

- Lawyers fees—10-15 percent of judgments in class-action cases; 15-20 percent and up in direct-action case

- Maximum penalty if Capt. Joseph Hazelwood is convicted of three felony charges—10 years in prison, \$100,000 fine.

- Exxon's insurance coverage (estimated)—\$800 million less deductibles.

- Funds appropriated by Alaska Legislature for spill response—\$60 million.

PIPELINE/VALDEZ TERMINAL

- Average daily through-put of trans-Alaska pipeline for the week ending Dec. 3—1,914,546 barrels.

- Tanker berthings for week ending Dec. 3 at Valdez terminal—30.

- Largest tanker ever loaded—1,855,000 barrels.

- Average tanker turnaround time—18 hours.

- Number of tanker crew members failing new sobriety tests through Dec. 7 at Valdez terminal—83.

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