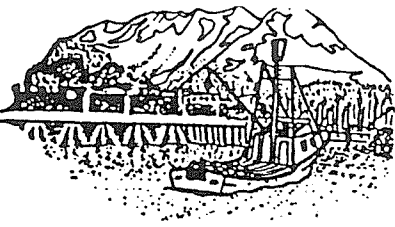


# CITY OF CORDOVA



## STATEMENT OF CITY MANAGER DONALD L. MOORE OF CORDOVA, ALASKA

April 5, 1989

The people of Cordova, Alaska are privileged to live and work in one of the two most beautiful places on Earth--the formerly pristine Prince William Sound. As the world now knows, on March 24, 1989, the fully loaded tanker Exxon Valdez hit a well-marked reef near Bligh Island and spewed 10.5 million gallons of crude oil into the Sound. We are now experiencing a catastrophe of unprecedented impact on our environment, our economy and our way of life. Most unfortunately, the impact is worse than it needs to be because we trusted those who profess to know how to triage their own negligence.

In the early phase of the spill we in Cordova expected Exxon to mobilize to clean up the spill and begin assisting Cordova and other Sound communities with recovery efforts.

The truth is that the people of Cordova reached into their own treasury and began cleaning up the spill and protecting uncontaminated areas of the Sound while Exxon helped its out-of-town experts react. It is not a joke that the inevitable souvenir "T-shirts" were deployed before the containment boom was around the Exxon Valdez. In our view, Exxon has mustered only a fraction of its available resources to clean up the spill.

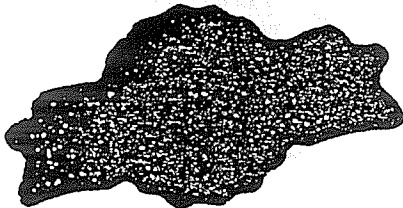
The City of Cordova and the two villages in the Sound are totally dependent upon commercial and subsistence fishing for our existence.

On April 3, 1989, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced that our herring fishing days were over. The impact of the spill on the salmon fishery is uncertain.

We also greatly fear the socio-economic displacements that will afflict our community as a result of this tragedy. The loss of jobs, the loss of a way of life and all the attendant expectations of perhaps a generation of Cordovans are at risk. The people are afraid and they are frustrated. I will assume, for now, that Exxon will be driven by fundamental fairness to honor its pronouncement to "make us whole."

I appeal to the world to watch.

I referred to Prince William Sound as one of the two most beautiful places on Earth. I leave it to each of you to individually decide what the other one is. We all have a special Shangri-La in our hearts and minds. Think of yours when you contemplate what has happened to ours.



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