

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

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## Introduction

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill was a manmade disaster that spilled 11 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Alaska. This was terrible for the fishing industry, it damaged food chains and businesses. In addition, millions of shore birds, sea otters, and dozens of other species were affected from the spill.

After the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in 2010, the Exxon Valdez oil spill ranks second in terms of oil released in U.S. waters.

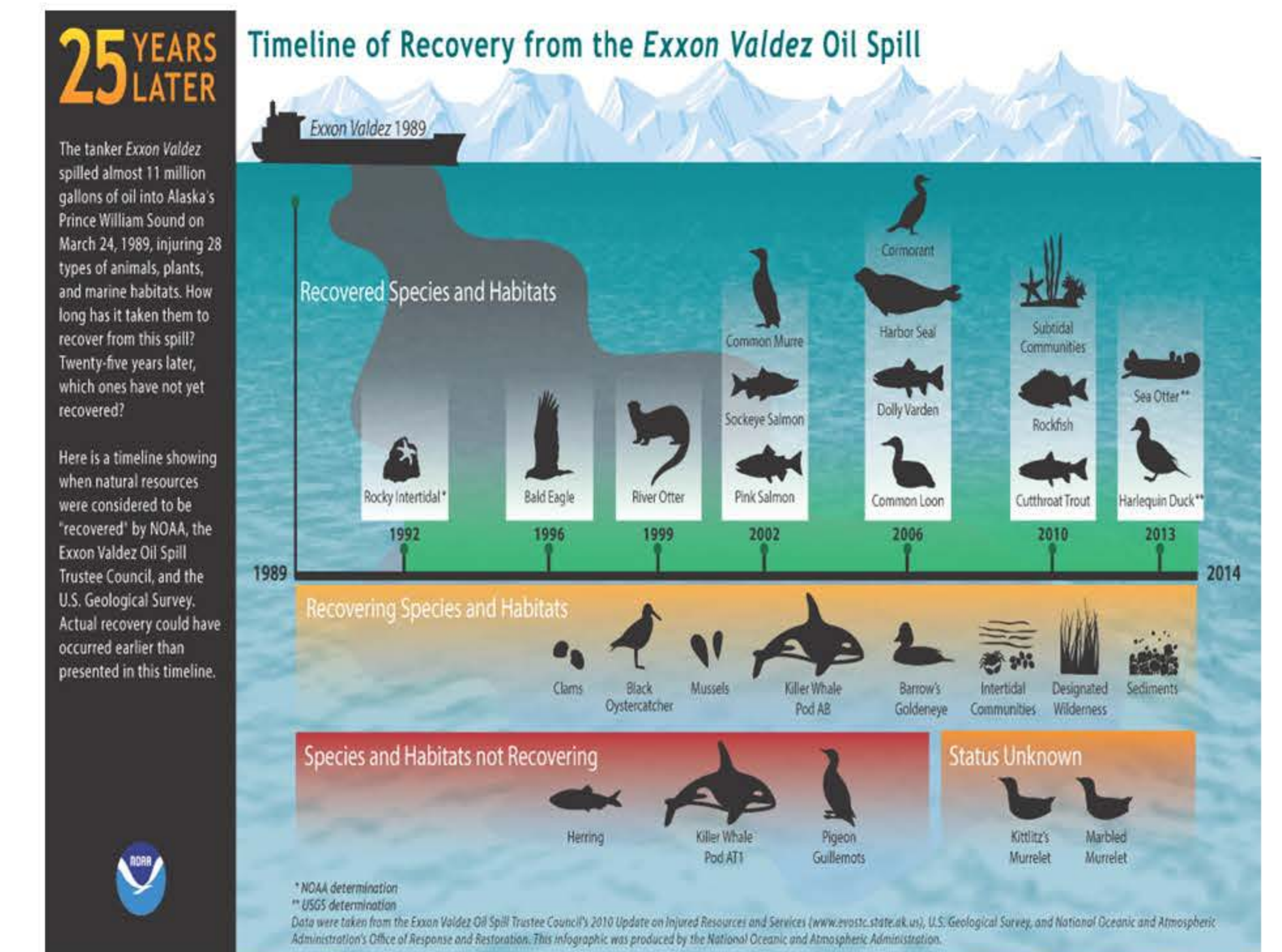


## Cause of the Spill

The Exxon Valdez was a 987-foot-long ship carrying 53 million gallons of oil. The ship struck Bligh Reef. A well-known navigation hazard in Alaska's Prince William Sound. Resulting in more than 350 miles of beaches and 3,000 square miles of land covered in oil.



## 25 Years After



## Clean up

Cleaning up the oil costed Exxon approximately \$2.5 billion. Exxon paid around \$2 billion in clean up costs and around \$1 billion in habitat restoration. The Coast Guard, Exxon employees, federal responders, and more than 11,000 Alaskan residents contributed to the clean up. There were 3 methods used for cleanup, Burning, Mechanical Cleanup, and Chemical Dispersants.

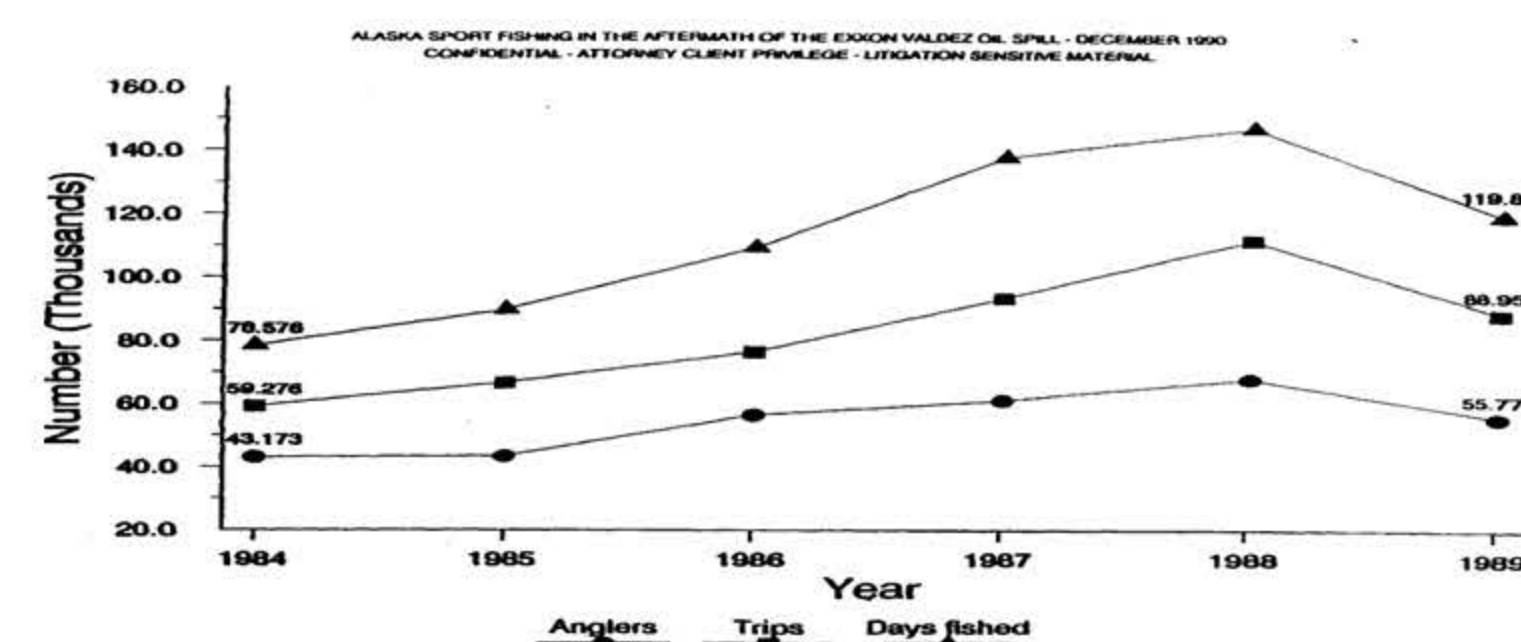


## Impact on Environment

The oil killed an estimated:

- 250,000 sea birds
- 2,800 sea otters
- 300 harbor seals
- 250 bald eagles
- 22 killer whales
- Billions of salmon and herring eggs

The loss to recreational fishing was estimated up to \$580 million. Fishing industries were crippled, and some had to find a new line of work.



## References

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