

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 320

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to Prince William Sound Recovery
7 Area; and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. (a) The legislature finds that the
10 fish, wildlife, aquatic plants, and natural habitat of Prince William Sound
11 and the Outer Kenai Peninsula Coast have long been healthy, productive, and
12 pristine. These areas were devastatingly affected by the Exxon Valdez oil
13 spill on March 24, 1989. The legislature finds that strong steps must now
14 be taken to protect Prince William Sound and the Outer Kenai Peninsula
15 Coast from additional adverse environmental effects, to assess the damage,
16 and to aid in their recovery.

17 (b) The legislature finds that the commissioner of fish and game, as
18 state trustee under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation,
19 and Liability Act of 1980 and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization
20 Act of 1986, is the officer most suited to fulfill the responsibility for
21 coordination of protection, enhancement, and recovery of Prince William
22 Sound.

23 * Sec. 2. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

24 ARTICLE 7. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND RECOVERY AREA.

25 Sec. 16.20.700. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND RECOVERY AREA. (a) The
26 state tide and submerged land and water in Prince William Sound and
27 the Outer Kenai Coast north of a line from Point Whitshed to Point
28 Pogibshi are designated as the Prince William Sound Recovery Area and
29 reserved for the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and study of

1 fish, wildlife, aquatic plant populations, habitat, and the natural
2 environment.

3 (b) The commissioner shall regulate the multiple uses and activ-
4 ities in the Prince William Sound Recovery Area. The commissioner may
5 authorize only those uses and activities within the Prince William
6 Sound Recovery Area that will not

7 (1) have a negative effect on the environmental recovery
8 and productivity of Prince William Sound and the Outer Kenai Peninsula
9 Coast; or

10 (2) hinder the restoration and rehabilitation of fish,
11 wildlife, and aquatic plant resources.

12 (c) The commissioner is responsible for the coordination, com-
13 pilation, and dissemination of scientific research related to the
14 Prince William Sound Recovery Area.

15 * Sec. 3. AS 16.20.700 as enacted by sec. 2 of this Act is repealed
16 March 24, 1999.

17 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).