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Referred: Resources

6-1414A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY KERTTULA AND SZYMANSKI

2

SENATE 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 Biological
7 Recovery 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 Sec. 16.20.620. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND BIOLOGICAL RECOVERY AREA.

25 (a) The state tide and submerged land and water in Prince William
26 Sound and the Outer Kenai Coast north of a line from Point Whitshed to
27 Point Pogibshi are designated as the Prince William Sound Biological
28 Recovery Area and reserved for the protection, rehabilitation, resto-
29 ration, and study of fish, wildlife, aquatic plant populations, habi-

1 tat, and the natural environment.

2 (b) The commissioner shall manage the Prince William Sound
3 Biological Recovery Area under AS 16.20.500 - 16.20.530 to

4 (1) prevent negative effects on the environmental recovery
5 and productivity of Prince William Sound and the Outer Kenai Peninsula
6 Coast; and

7 (2) encourage the restoration and rehabilitation of fish,
8 wildlife, and aquatic plant resources.

9 * Sec. 3. AS 16.20.620 as enacted by sec. 2 of this Act is repealed
10 March 24, 1999.

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