

Organizational

Meeting

1-14-93

HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
18th Alaska State Legislature

Room 124  
Capitol Building

COMMITTEE MEMBER LIST

---

Member	Office	Phone	Staff Contact re: Resources	Phone
<b>Chairman:</b>				
Rep. Bill Williams	Rm 128	x6842	Mary McDowell Rm 126	x3715 X6844
			Marie Murray Rm 128	x2338
<b>Vice Chairman:</b>				
Rep. Bill Hudson	Rm 108	x3744	Royce Weller	
<b>Members:</b>				
Rep. Con Bunde	Rm 112	x4843	Jenny Murray/Patty Swenson	
Rep. Pat Carney	Rm 607 (Court)	x6578	Caroline Lombard	
Rep. John Davies	Rm 604 (Court)	x4457	Curt Parkan	
Rep. David Finkelstein	Rm 612 (Court)	x6576	Tom Atkinson/ Meg Simonian	
Rep. Joe Green	Rm 114	x4931	Jeff Logan	
Rep. Jeannette James	Rm 501	x3743	Walt Wilcox	
Rep. Eldon Mulder	Rm 116	x3731	Paula Conru	

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE THREE STATE RESOURCE DEPARTMENTS WHICH ARE  
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE RESOURCES  
COMMITTEES:

FISH AND GAME (ADF & G)

NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC)

( FROM THE 1991-92 ALASKA BLUE BOOK )

# Department of Fish and Game

Carl Fosier, Commissioner  
P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, AK 99802-2000

The Department of Fish and Game is charged with maintenance, development, and enhancement of the fish and wildlife resources of Alaska to provide for the sustained optimum use of these resources consistent with the social, cultural, aesthetic, environmental, and economic needs of the people. In accordance with regulations adopted by the Boards of Fisheries and Game, the department conserves and provides opportunities to use these important resources.

The department has its headquarters in Juneau and regional offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kodiak, and Nome. It also has 42 field offices throughout the state.

Commissioner .....	465-4100
Public Communications .....	465-4112
Boards of Fisheries & Game .....	465-4110
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission .....	789-6160
Division of Administration .....	465-4120
Division of Commercial Fisheries .....	465-4210
Vessels Section .....	465-4144
Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development .....	465-4160
Division of Habitat .....	465-4105
Division of Oil Spill Impact Assessment and Restoration .....	465-4125
Division of Sport Fish .....	465-4180
Division of Subsistence .....	465-4147
Division of Wildlife Conservation (Juneau) .....	465-4190

Regional Offices—Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kodiak, and Nome. Check local directory for specific division phone numbers.

## Office of the Commissioner

The commissioner has final departmental responsibility for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of the fish and game resources of the state. The commissioner's office develops and organizes the technical, human, and fiscal assets of the department to manage effectively and efficiently the fish and wildlife resources of Alaska consistent with public interests and maximum benefit of the people.

The public communications staff, a section of the commissioner's office, produces a bimonthly magazine and a monthly news bulletin, responds to media inquiries, and annually answers over 10,000 inquiries for information about Alaska's fish and wildlife, and hunting and fishing opportunities.

## Boards of Fisheries and Game

The Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game promulgate regulations for the purpose of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries and game resources. (For more information see Boards and Commissions.)



## Alaska Board of Fisheries

Irving "Irv" Carlisle .....	P.O. Box 2349, Soldotna 99669
John Hanson .....	P.O. Box 1, Alakanuk 99554
Deborah Lyons .....	P.O. Box 296, Petersburg 99833
Michael Martin, Chair .....	13300 Venus Way, Anchorage 99515
	Summer: P.O. Box 889, Kodiak 99615
H "Robin" Samuelson, Vice Chair .....	P.O. Box 412, Dillingham 99576
	(2 seats vacant as of 6/14/91)

## Alaska Board of Game

Richard "Dick" Burley .....	1165 Coppet Street, Fairbanks 99709
Sidney Huntington .....	P.O. Box 27, Galena 99741
Jack Lenifer .....	P.O. Box 2617, Homer 99603
Rosemarie Maher .....	P.O. Box 474, Northway 97764
Ben Nageak, Vice-Chair .....	c/o North Slope Borough P.O. Box 69, Barrow 99723
Doug Pope, Chair .....	912 W. 6th Avenue, Anchorage 99501
R.T. "Skip" Wallen .....	P.O. Box 21063, Juneau 99802

Fish board and game board members may also be contacted at: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Boards, P.O. Box 3-2000, Juneau, AK 99802-2000, phone (907) 465-4110.

## Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

The commission is a quasi-judicial agency responsible for promoting the conservation and sustained yield management of Alaska's fisheries resources and the economic stability of commercial fishing. (See Boards and Commissions.)

## Division of Administration

Responsible for budgeting, accounting, contracting, leasing, reimbursable services agreements, supply, purchasing, personnel management, payroll, data processing, and labor contract administration. The division is also responsible for the data collection and management of the fish and game licensing function.

## Division of Commercial Fisheries

Manages commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries in Alaska on a sustained yield basis. The division's first priority is the protection and maintenance of fish stocks. The second priority is full utilization of the surplus fish available for harvest under a sustained yield policy. The division also seeks to encourage the development of new commercial fisheries. Activities of the division are aimed at ensuring a sustained yield from the resource and include research on fish population dynamics, forecasting, stock abundance assessments, tagging, and habitat protection work. In-season management activities include harvest monitoring, test fishing, setting fishing times and areas, and controlling escapements.

## Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development

The division has statutory authority to do "all things necessary to insure perpetual and increasing use of the food resources of Alaska waters." Given the status of the salmon fisheries in the mid-70s, the major emphasis has been on salmon fishery enhancement, development and rehabilitation. Due in part to the success achieved by the statewide salmon enhancement program, the division is turning over commercial production of salmon to private non-profit operators. It is facing new challenges in salmon enhancement in the north and northwest regions of Alaska and with

enhancement of other economically important species, specifically king crab. The division not only produces salmon and will produce other species, but also works to preserve the natural populations of aquatic organisms across the state through its pathology, genetic and limnological expertise. It also plays a major role in the planning, permitting and technical support of private salmon production across the state. The division utilizes many tools in its work, including hatcheries, lake and stream rehabilitation, lake fertilization, fishways, technical laboratories, and other innovative means of enhancing fish populations.

### Division of Habitat

Assists the commissioner in protecting the state's fish and wildlife habitat from unnecessary disturbance or destruction, and in doing so considers many user groups in formulating its decisions and recommendations. These include commercial, subsistence, and recreational fish and wildlife users as well as those developing other natural resources.

Under Alaska statutes, Title 16, the department has the discretion to approve, deny, or modify activities that affect freshwater anadromous fish habitat, obstruct fish passage in any fresh fish-bearing water bodies, or occur in legislatively designated State Game Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, or Game Sanctuaries.

The division also reviews projects and provides information and recommendations to other governmental agencies with regulatory or permitting responsibilities such as the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Habitat Division is an active participant on interdisciplinary planning teams engaged in the classification and land-use planning of state, federal and coastal district lands.

### Division of Oil Spill Impact Assessment and Restoration

The division was established by the legislature in June 1989, three months after the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. It has five primary responsibilities: to oversee the state's scientific natural resource damage assessment studies, to plan for restoration of oil-damaged natural resources, to coordinate oil spill activity within the department, to provide support to the commissioner in his role as natural resource trustee, and to participate in the state/federal management team that has day-to-day responsibility for the overall conduct of the oil spill case.

### Division of Sport Fish

The goals of the Division of Sport Fish are to manage, improve and extend the state's recreational fishery resources and to conserve stocks of fish in order to provide a diversity of sport fishing opportunities to the public on a sustained yield basis. Major objectives of the division's program are to: (1) provide data that describe variations in fishery resources, effort, harvest, factors affecting the fishery, and economic impacts; (2) manage the fishery in accordance with sound management principles and, together with the Division of Commercial Fisheries, carry out directives of the Board of Fisheries; (3) provide the public with information and opportunity to become involved in the sport fish program; (4) enhance selected high-use fisheries by providing management and guidance of stocking of fish; (5) improve access to desirable waters; and (6) protect fishery habitat by providing assistance to the Habitat Division and other agencies.

### Division of Subsistence

The Division of Subsistence has two primary goals: to reduce conflicts over the allocation of wild renewable resources by providing the information necessary for

rational, satisfactory allocation decisions; and to compile existing data and conduct studies on all aspects of subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska.

The division's staff is located in communities throughout the state and conducts field-based research on a variety of fisheries, game, and habitat-related problems. The division undertakes projects which provide information used in developing or improving management plans and regulatory actions. These research products and other technical services are used directly by other divisions, local fish and game advisory committees, regional councils, and the Boards of Fisheries and Game.

### Division of Wildlife Conservation

333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage, AK 99502

Responsible for the conservation and management of Alaska's wildlife resources, including game and nongame species. Its goal is to protect, maintain, and enhance the state's wild mammal and bird populations, to be used on a sustained yield basis for the maximum benefit of the people.

The division monitors the status and trends of big game populations by collecting and analyzing biological and harvest data on an annual basis. This information is used primarily in developing management plans and regulatory recommendations for the Board of Game. The division then carries out the regulations of the board related to hunting, trapping, nonconsumptive, and scientific/educational uses of wildlife.

Wildlife research projects are conducted to learn more about specific animal requirements or population dynamics and to develop improved investigative techniques that will assist management.

A nongame wildlife program provides information on species not hunted or trapped, and addresses nonconsumptive uses of all wildlife species. The division administers a hunter education and safety program and provides wildlife education materials and information to the public and to school systems across the state.



*Fish & Game biologists measure a radio collared wolf. (Photo by ADFG.)*

# Department of Natural Resources

Harold C. Heinze, Commissioner  
400 Willoughby Ave., 5th Floor, Juneau, AK 99801

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the inventory and management of all the state's surface and subsurface resources except fish and game. This includes approximately 85 million acres of uplands and 69 million acres of tidelands and submerged lands.

The department's goal is to contribute to Alaska's economic health and quality of life by protecting, maintaining, and encouraging wise development of the state's resources and making them available for public use.

Commissioner .....	465-2400
Anchorage Office .....	762-2483
Public Affairs Office (Anchorage) .....	762-2452
Division of Agriculture (Palmer) .....	745-7200
Division of Forestry (Anchorage) .....	762-2501
Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (Fairbanks) .....	474-7147
Division of Land and Water (Anchorage) .....	762-2692
Division of Management .....	465-2406
Division of Mining (Anchorage) .....	762-2165
Division of Oil and Gas (Anchorage) .....	762-2547
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Anchorage) .....	762-2600
State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (Anchorage) .....	278-8594
Other Offices, Agencies, and Commissions:	
Alaska Historical Commission .....	762-2626
Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (Fairbanks) .....	456-2012

## Office of the Commissioner

The Commissioner, as the chief executive officer, sets direction for the department and has final decision-making authority on all matters. As a member of the governor's cabinet, he reports to the governor, legislature and the judiciary on issues affecting the department.

The **Public Affairs Office** informs the public about policies, actions and activities of the department and how to participate in its programs and decision-making process.

The **Alaska Coastal Management Program Coordinator** coordinates the department's participation in the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

The **State Pipeline Coordinator's Office** is a joint state/federal office that coordinates the administration and oversight of pipeline construction, operation and maintenance in Alaska.

## Division of Agriculture

P.O. Box 949, Palmer, AK 99645-0949

Promotes and supports the agricultural industry in Alaska. The division plans agricultural sales and leases, gives marketing assistance, provides financing for farmers and processors, educates and assists farmers in conservation methods, and inspects and certifies farm products to control disease and ensure that products are of high quality.

The **Plant Materials Center** develops and tests plants for Alaska's climate and for use in erosion control, land reclamation and habitat improvement.

## Division of Forestry

P.O. Box 107005, Anchorage, AK 99510-7005

Manages forest land and protects the forest's natural values while supporting Alaska's economy through development of timber and wood products. The division ensures the public resources, such as water, fish, wildlife, and timber are protected on state, municipal and private land; manages renewable resources on state-owned forest land in a balanced manner to serve the needs of Alaskans now and in the future; protects the public, private property and natural resources from fire, insects and disease.

## Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys

794 University Ave., Suite 200, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3645

Maps and inventories mineral resources on Alaska's lands, including oil, gas, coal, metallic and industrial minerals, water, geothermal resources, and sand and gravel. This information is used by state and federal resource-management and policy-making agencies and by the public and private sector in the exploration, development and economic assessment of mineral resources. This division also assesses and monitors the quality and quantity of surface and ground water and conducts a geologic hazards program that promotes public safety through slope-stability studies, engineering analysis of foundations materials, and volcano and earthquake hazard studies.

## Division of Land and Water

P.O. Box 107005, Anchorage, AK 99510-7005

Responsible for the surface management of the over 154 million acres of state-owned uplands, tidelands, shorelands and waters, excluding state park lands. Activities include land selections to fulfill the state's entitlement from the federal government; classifying land and preparing land-use plans; holding land offerings and construction material sales; leasing state land for recreational, commercial and industrial use; leasing shorelines for setnet sites, mariculture, ports, logging and mining activities; administering a dam safety program, issuing water rights, and completing appraisals and surveys.

## Division of Management

400 Willoughby Ave., 3rd Floor, Juneau, AK 99801

Provides financial, personnel and administrative services to the department. It prepares and monitors the annual capital and operating budgets; collects and processes revenue from the sale, lease and use of the state's natural resources; and operates the **State Recorder's Offices** and the **Uniform Commercial Code Office**. Management maintains all personnel records, and provides classification, recruitment and payroll services for DNR employees. The division is also responsible for the department's data processing, computerized land records, and production of the state's land status maps.

## Division of Mining

P.O. Box 107016, Anchorage, AK 99510-7016

Oversees state mineral exploration, development and leasing programs (excluding oil, gas and geothermal energy) on state land and maintains records of known mineral locations. It administers the state's **Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Program**, provides mineral information to the public and technical assistance to the mining industry.

## **Division of Oil and Gas**

P.O. Box 107034, Anchorage, AK 99510-7034

Develops and manages the state's five-year oil and gas leasing program. It identifies prospective lease areas; performs geologic, economic, environmental and social analyses; and coordinates public review of proposed sales. The division conducts competitive oil, gas and geothermal lease sales and monitors collection of all lease and sale payments. It also performs technical reviews of federal lease actions, land trades and land classifications.

## **Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation**

P.O. Box 107001, Anchorage, AK 99510-7001

Plans, develops and manages the **Alaska State Park System**, which includes state campgrounds, trails, visitor centers, recreation areas, historic sites and a wildlife preserve. The division provides information and educational programs for park visitors; administers federal and state grant programs for outdoor recreation and historic preservation; manages the **Volunteers in Parks** and youth employment programs; and coordinates search and rescue efforts. The division also includes the **Alaska Office of History and Archaeology**, which administers a program for the identification, evaluation and protection of Alaska's prehistoric and historic resources, reviews development projects, and provides technical assistance. This office also administers the **National Register of Historic Places** program, the tax certification program for historic buildings, and the **Certified Local Government Program** for historic preservation activities on a local level. In addition, the section serves as **Alaska's State Historic Preservation Office**.

## **OTHER OFFICES, AGENCIES, AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas**

250 Cushman Street, Suite 4H, Fairbanks, AK 99701

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, created by the Alaska Legislature in 1981 as an advisory agency of the executive branch of the state, is charged with the responsibility of researching issues related to federal lands in Alaska and determining the impacts of federal statutes, regulations, policies, programs, and management decisions on the citizens of the state. In addition, the commission functions as an ombudsman to investigate complaints or problems individuals are having with federal land management agencies.

# Department of Environmental Conservation

John A. Sandor, Commissioner  
P.O. Box 0, Juneau, AK 99811-1800

The Department of Environmental Conservation is a technical assistance, regulatory and grant-in-aid agency that protects the environment and public health. The agency prevents or responds to air, land, and water pollution; assures wholesome meat, fish, and dairy products for consumers; enforces basic standards of sanitation in public facilities; and provides financial and technical assistance to municipalities and local communities for water, sewer, and solid waste projects.

Three regional offices, 16 district and field offices, and two laboratories are responsible for providing services directly to the public. These include responding to complaints; inspecting public water supplies, landfills, and wastewater treatment facilities; responding to pollution incidents such as oil and hazardous waste spills; processing permit applications; providing technical assistance; monitoring environmental conditions; and enforcing regulations.

The department also has two laboratories that provide support to all programs. The Palmer Laboratory, a biological lab, provides analysis in the testing of dairy and other food products, testing of stock animals for tuberculosis and brucellosis, and sampling commercial shellfish for paralytic shellfish poisoning toxin. The Douglas Laboratory provides chemical analysis and testing for samples of drinking and surface waters, soils, oil and hazardous materials from spills, and substances found in drums, transformers, and tanks. In addition, the lab monitors local air quality, certifies other labs in Alaska for drinking water analysis, and provides quality assurance for environmental measures.

Commissioner .....	465-2600
Division of Administrative Services .....	465-2621
Public Information Office .....	465-2606
Division of Environmental Health .....	465-2609
Division of Environmental Quality .....	465-2640
Division of Facility Construction and Operation .....	465-2610
Southcentral Regional Office (Anchorage) .....	563-6529
Northern Regional Office (Fairbanks) .....	451-2360
Southeast Regional Office (Juneau) .....	789-3151
Pipeline Corridor Office (Anchorage) .....	278-8594

## Office of the Commissioner

The commissioner sets department policy and priorities, provides information to the legislature, and is responsible for overall administration and management of the department.

In 1991, the Office of the Commissioner initiated formal agreements with several Alaskan local governments to meet their environmental management objectives. Under these one-year, renewable agreements the department provides a single community contact person who is accountable to local government. The community contact person represents the community's needs and concerns to the department, coordinates the department permit application process, offers regulation assistance workshops, and directs community needs and concerns to the proper department staff or coordinates with other agencies as required.

## Division of Administrative Services

Provides administrative and managerial support to the department including finance, budgeting, grant accounting, supply and property control, human resource services and payroll, safety program, contracting and leasing, data processing, and internal auditing.

The **Public Information Office** serves as the department's primary contact for the news media. The office also provides information to local residents affected by pollution events such as contamination of water supplies or emergencies resulting from accidental release of hazardous substances.

## Division of Environmental Health

Protects public health as related to environmental matters. This includes responsibilities in the areas of wholesome seafood, red meat, poultry, and dairy products; animal health; pesticide and herbicide applications; and sanitation in public facilities. The staff members are organized into four programs: Environmental Sanitation, Seafood Industry, Animal Industries, and Pesticides.

The **Environmental Sanitation Program** issues food service permits and provides technical assistance and inspection of restaurants, bars, food processing plants, schools, day-care centers, institutions, tourist accommodations, grocery stores, compressed air sellers, and barber and beauty shops. The control and elimination of unsanitary conditions in public facilities are achieved through education, consultation, and enforcement of state statutes and regulations. This program

is also responsible for the state's "Smoking in Public Places" law. Environmental health officers provide technical assistance, monitor the required posting of no-smoking signs, and enforce the law. Epidemiological investigations, complaint response, and plan reviews are additional responsibilities.

The **Seafood Inspection Program** inspects all phases of Alaska fisheries, including fish product processing, shellfish processing, cold storage, and ice plants, and operates a permit system to review and approve both shore-based and floating processors. In addition, this program monitors the state's participation in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, which sets standards for paralytic shellfish toxin levels and bacteriological water standards before certifying benches for commercial shellfish production. The program also includes the Seafood Task Force, which acts as an advisory group to the department.



*Fishermen and fish buyers have worked closely with the Seafood Inspection Program to deliver a top quality, fresh product to the market. (Photo by Peter Metcalfe.)*



The **Animal Health** section monitors the import and export of domestic animals and controls animal-to-animal and animal-to-human diseases, and provides for quarantines and compliance with disposal of diseased livestock.

The **Dairy Sanitation** section oversees Alaska producers and processors of milk and frozen dairy desserts, which allows Alaska dairy products to participate in federally regulated markets.

The **Meat and Poultry Inspection** section ensures that facilities meet federal standards as required by the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967.

The **Pesticide Program** has been delegated authority by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the regulation of pesticides and herbicides in the state, and trains users of restricted use pesticides and issues permits for public pesticide projects, area applications, and applications to state waters.

The Palmer Laboratory conducts paralytic shellfish poisoning and wholesomeness analysis and a variety of microbiological, chemical, and animal health tests to support the division's programs. The laboratory also certifies private drinking water labs throughout the state.

## Division of Environmental Quality

This division has seven major programs: Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, Air Quality Management, Water Quality Management, Water and Wastewater Treatment, Contaminated Site Management, Spill Prevention, Planning and Management, and Spill Response Office. Staff are located in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Sitka, Tok, Nome, Soldotna, Wasilla, Valdez, Cordova, Bethel, Kodiak and Dutch Harbor. Under the supervision of the commissioner's office, it is the Division of Environmental Quality's responsibility to develop policy and standards for pollution prevention and control, implement and enforce statutes and regulations, issue permits, perform inspections, and help industry and communities maintain environmental quality and public health. The division also provides technical assistance to ensure that new industrial and community development takes place correctly.

The **Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Program** ensures the safe and sanitary disposal of Alaska's solid waste through permitting of industrial and municipal land disposal sites, enforcing management regulations, and performing inspections. The program assists communities with the location of appropriate sites and management of solid wastes. The department is in the process of assuming responsibilities of the federal hazardous waste program. This includes inspection, enforcement, and permitting for hazardous waste management in Alaska. In addition to managing hazardous waste disposal, the program staff investigates potential hazards of older waste disposal sites, conducts the department's annual "Spring Cleanup" for households and small businesses, develops educational and public participation activities, and manages solid wastes statewide.

Since 1972, the department has managed an **Air Quality Program** which monitors Alaska's air quality by evaluating the effectiveness of new pollution control technology, establishing air quality standards and regulations, and permitting industrial facilities. This program monitors the impacts from increasing industrial activity, the number of motor vehicles in urban areas, the use of woodstoves, and slash burning from agricultural land clearing. Air pollution control programs have been successful in maintaining healthful air quality in Alaska's urban centers by implementing annual motor vehicle emission inspections in Anchorage and Fairbanks, and limiting the use of woodstoves in Juneau's Mendenhall Valley. The federal air quality permit program has been fully delegated to the state, which allows the department to assist industry in working through complex federal requirements.

The **Water Quality Management and Waste Water Treatment Programs** administer water quality regulations, issue state permits for facilities not covered

under the federal permit program, inspect industrial and domestic treatment facilities, and enforce water quality standards. The programs staff review federal permits for industrial development that impacts Alaska's water quality, such as placer mining, pulp mill activities, petroleum development, log transfer facilities, agriculture, and seafood processing. The programs staff are also responsible for approving plans for water and sewer systems for subdivisions. Program objectives are to ensure that Alaska's waters are not polluted and that sewage disposal is proper.

The **Safe Drinking Water Program's** goal is to ensure that the approximately 1,600 public drinking water systems in Alaska supply uncontaminated drinking water. The federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 established minimum standards for the protection and monitoring of public drinking water supplies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delegated the Public Drinking Water Program to the state in 1978 to ensure the monitoring of water system compliance rates, maintenance of drinking water regulations, and a more timely response to water supply problems; and to alleviate the risk of transmitting waterborne diseases which could threaten public health.

**Spill Prevention, Planning and Management** was initiated in 1976 when legislation was passed to assign oil spill responsibility and cleanup. The program staff reviews oil spill contingency plans for oil exploration, production, storage and transfer facilities, and ensures that operators have the necessary financial resources to clean up any oil spills they cause. In addition, the agency staff responds to more than 800 spills a year, often with extensive investigations of the source and extent. Legal action is taken when appropriate to recover costs incurred for investigation and cleanup. With the passage of House Bill 470 in 1986 the department's authorities were expanded to include the investigation, cleanup, and cost recovery for hazardous substance spills as well.

The **Spill Response Office** provides specially-trained staff in programs and technologies related to the containment and cleanup of releases or potential releases



*Eleanor Island, Prince William Sound, March 25, 1991. The legacy of the Exxon Valdez will remain with Alaska for many years. (Photo by Patrick Endres.)*



of oil and hazardous substances. Major activities include maintaining a volunteer state spill response corps and equipment depots, maintaining department spill response plans, managing contracts with spill cleanup contractors, serving as an information source on available spill technology, and providing technical assistance on spill response to local governments and other response organizations.

The goal of **Contaminated Site Management** is to identify, assess, and clean up threats to human health and the environment posed by sites contaminated by past improper disposal or discharge of hazardous substances.

In 1986, the department initiated a new program to inventory underground storage tanks, respond to underground spills, and educate tank installers on new federal requirements. This program's primary objective is to ensure new tank installations will prevent leakage of gasoline and other hazardous substances into Alaska's environment.

### **Division of Facility Construction and Operation**

This division is responsible for administering the Municipal Matching Program, the Alaska Clean Water Loan Fund, the Village Safe Water Program, and the Operator Training and Certification Program. The division's overall goals are to prevent diseases associated with contaminated drinking water and improperly disposed wastes, and to assist communities in planning, designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining adequate sanitation facilities.

The **Municipal Matching Grants Program** assists the department in meeting the objectives of reducing health hazards by providing grants to communities for producing and distributing potable water, for treating and disposing of sewage, and for properly managing solid wastes. The program provides grants which cover 50 percent of eligible project costs in constructing needed facilities. It also administers the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wastewater Construction Grants Program in Alaska.

The **Alaska Clean Water Fund** provides low-interest loans to communities for the planning, design, and construction of water, wastewater, and solid waste projects. Loans may be made for up to 100 percent of eligible project costs. Loan repayment must begin one year after the facility initiates operation. The maximum amortization period for all loans is 20 years.

The **Village Safe Water Program** provides funding and engineering assistance to small communities (second class and unincorporated) for sanitation projects. Program staff assist communities with hands-on technical support, while each community maintains project control and responsibility. Grants are awarded for up to 100 percent of eligible project costs.

The **Operator Training and Certification Program** provides certification and essential training to ensure the competence of water and wastewater system operators statewide. Training culminating in certification is required in order to protect public health and the continued efficiency of sanitation systems. The program consists of hands-on training, workshops in central locations, a lending library of audio-visual materials, books, and manuals, and correspondence courses. The Water and Wastewater Works Advisory Board assists the division in administering the program.

### **Pipeline Regional Office**

On February 1, 1991, a new office was established to improve efficiency and consistency of environmental protection tasks along the corridor of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Organized within the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office in Anchorage, this new office issues permits, reviews engineering plans, assesses potential health and environmental problems, and provides technical assistance to industry and the public.