

FACT SHEET: SENATOR MARTINEZ'S CONNECTIONS TO EXXONMOBIL AND BIG OIL

Martinez took campaign contributions from ExxonMobil in 2004

MARTINEZ TOOK MONEY FROM EXXONMOBIL OIL COMPANIES: The ExxonMobil Corporation Political Action Committee (ExxonMobil PAC) contributed \$2,500 to Senator Mel Martinez's 2004 U.S. Senate campaign. Martinez collected a total of \$50,500 from oil industry PACs in 2004. [Opensecrets.org]

ExxonMobil has lobbied heavily for drilling in the Arctic Refuge

EXXONMOBIL IS THE ONLY MAJOR OIL COMPANY REMAINING IN ARCTIC POWER: Even after all other major oil companies, including BP, ConocoPhillips Co., and Chevron Texaco Corp., pulled out of Arctic Power, a lobbying and advocacy group for Arctic Refuge drilling, ExxonMobil remains part of the group. Most oil companies demonstrate a waning interest in Arctic drilling. Paul Sankey, and oil analyst with Deuch Bank AG says, "ANWR not an immediate- or even medium-term interest to large integrated oil companies or even smaller independents right now." [Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 1/6/2005]

EXXON MOBIL RECENTLY REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR ARCTIC DRILLING: A company spokesperson recently said, "It's fair to say that if ANWR is opened, Exxon Mobil would be interested in exploring there... We believe that with more than 30 years of industry experience on Alaska's North Slope and with recent technological advancements, ANWR can be developed." [Financial Times, 3/18/2005]

MARTINEZ CASTS DECIDING VOTE TO ALLOW DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC REFUGE AS PART OF BUDGET: On March 16, 2005, Sen. Martinez voted to allow oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge as part of the FY 2006 budget revenue assumptions [Orlando Sentinel, 3/17/2005].

ExxonMobil and Big Oil want to Drill off Florida's Coast

THE ARCTIC REFUGE VOTE PAVES THE WAY FOR DRILLING IN FLORIDA: Jeff Eschelman, a spokesman for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, responded positively to the Senate vote to retain Arctic Refuge language in the budget bill. He says, "To have this vote take place is extremely significant and hopefully will lead the way for further action in Congress on energy issues. We're going to continue to try to open up new non-park, non-wilderness lands to oil and gas production . . . in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, the East Coast, the Pacific Coast and areas in the Mountain West." [CQ Weekly, 3/21/2005]

EXXONMOBIL MAKES CONNECTION BETWEEN ARCTIC REFUGE AND FLORIDA DRILLING: In December 2004, ExxonMobil Chairman and CEO Lee Raymond named "offshore Florida" as a target for drilling. Raymond has said that the fight to open up the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge is "representative" of the fight to open other off-limit areas. [The Pensacola News Journal, 3/14/2005]

EXXONMOBIL OWNS EXISTING LEASES OFF FLORIDA’S COAST: ExxonMobil has 17 active leases in Florida’s eastern Gulf. Five of these leases are sales that took place in lease sale area known as “181”, off the coast of the Florida panhandle. [Minerals Management Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior]

MARTINEZ DEAL WITH BUSH ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT INCLUDE BUYING BACK EXISTING EXXONMOBIL LEASES IN EASTERN GULF: Most of the assurances Sen. Martinez received from the Bush Administration regarding the drilling moratorium near Florida’s coasts were *already* in place due to actions taken by the Clinton Administration in 1998 and upheld by the Bush Administration in 2001. **In addition, Sen. Martinez failed to receive a commitment from the Bush Administration to buy back existing leases, including those owned by ExxonMobil, some of which are 25-30 miles from Florida’s panhandle beaches.** [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 3/18/2005; Minerals Management Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior]

MARTINEZ TOOK MONEY FROM OTHER OIL COMPANIES THAT ALSO OWN LEASES OFF FLORIDA’S COAST: Sen. Martinez accepted campaign contributions in 2004 from the following oil companies:

- \$5,000 from Anadarko Petroleum PAC: 31 active leases
- \$5,000 from Chevron Texaco Employess PAC: 42 active leases
- \$4,000 from Marathan Oil Company Employees PAC: 15 active leases
- \$2,000 from Kerr-McGee Corporation PAC: 11 active leases

EXXONMOBIL AND OTHERS COULD APPLY TO DRILL TOMORROW: If ExxonMobil chose to, it could apply for permits to drill on the leases tomorrow. [Minerals Management Service, U.S. Dept. of Interior]

All it Takes is One Oil Spill: Exxon Valdez oil spill

WHAT HAPPENED: The Exxon Valdez departed from the Trans Alaska Pipeline terminal at 9:12 pm March 23, 1989. William Murphy, an expert ship's pilot hired to maneuver the 986-foot vessel through the Valdez Narrows, was in control of the wheelhouse. At his side was the captain of the vessel, Joe Hazelwood. Helmsman Harry Claar was steering. After passing through Valdez Narrows, pilot Murphy left the vessel and Captain Hazelwood took over the wheelhouse. The Exxon Valdez encountered icebergs in the shipping lanes and Captain Hazelwood ordered Claar to take the Exxon Valdez out of the shipping lanes to go around the icebergs. He then handed over control of the wheelhouse to Third Mate Gregory Cousins with precise instructions to turn back into the shipping lanes when the tanker reached a certain point. At that time, Claar was replaced by Helmsman Robert Kagan. For reasons that remain unclear, Cousins and Kagan failed to make the turn back into the shipping lanes and the ship ran aground on Bligh Reef at 12:04 am March 24, 1989. Captain Hazelwood was in his quarters at the time. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

AMOUNT OF OIL SPILLED: Approximately 11 million gallons or 257,000 barrels or 38,800 metric tonnes. Picture the swimming pool at your school or in your community. The amount of spilled oil is roughly equivalent to 125 olympic-sized swimming pools. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

AMOUNT OF OIL BOAT WAS CARRYING: The Exxon Valdez was carrying 53,094,510 gallons or 1,264,155 barrels [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

EXXON VALDEZ SPILL COMPARED TO OTHER SPILLS: The Exxon Valdez spill, though still one of the largest ever in the United States, has dropped from the top 50 internationally. It is widely considered the number one spill worldwide in terms of damage to the environment, however. The timing of the spill, the remote and spectacular location, the thousands of miles of rugged and wild shoreline, and the abundance of wildlife in the region combined to make it an environmental disaster well beyond the scope of other spills. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

THE IMPACT

MILES OF SHORELINE IMPACTED BY OIL: Approximately 1,300 miles. 200 miles were heavily or moderately oiled (meaning the impact was obvious); 1,100 miles were lightly or very lightly oiled (meaning light sheen or occasional tarballs). By comparison, there is more than 9,000 miles of shoreline in the spill region. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

AREA COVERED BY THE SPILL: From Bligh Reef the spill stretched 460 miles to the tiny village of Chignik on the Alaska Peninsula. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

THE CLEANUP

SPILL CLEANUP: Complicated question. It took more than four summers of cleanup efforts before the effort was called off. Not all beaches were cleaned and some beaches remain oiled today. At its peak the cleanup effort included 10,000 workers, about 1,000 boats and roughly 100 airplanes and helicopters, known as Exxon's army, navy, and air force. It is widely believed, however, that wave action from winter storms did more to clean the beaches than all the human effort involved. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

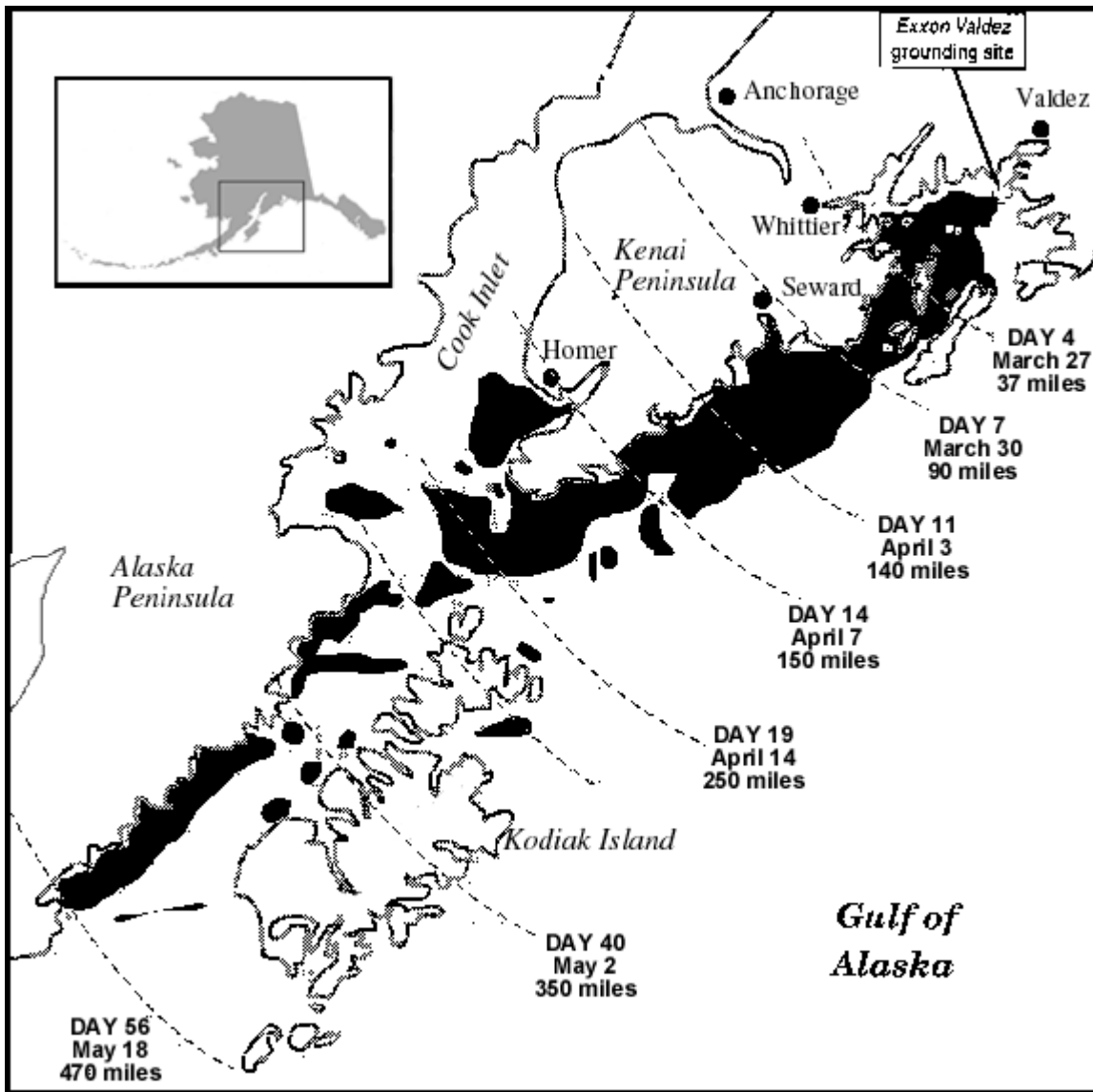
COST OF CLEANUP: Exxon says it spent about \$2.1 billion on the cleanup effort. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

THE AFTERMATH

ANIMALS KILLED OUTRIGHT FROM THE OIL SPILL: No one knows. The carcasses of more than 35,000 birds and 1,000 sea otters were found after the spill, but since most carcasses sink, this is considered to be a small fraction of the actual death toll. The best estimates are: 250,000 seabirds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbor seals, 250 bald eagles, up to 22 killer whales, and billions of salmon and herring eggs. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

LINGERING INJURIES FROM THE SPILL: Lingering injuries continue to plague some injured species while others are fully recovered. The oil gets on the fur and feathers and destroys the insulation value. Birds and mammals then die of hypothermia (they get too cold). They eat the oil, either while trying to clean the oil off their fur and feathers or while scavenging on dead animals. The oil is a poison that causes death. The oil impacts them in ways that does not lead to a quick death, such as damaging the liver or causing blindness. An impaired animal cannot compete for food and avoid predators. Oil also affects animals in non-lethal ways such as impairing reproduction. [Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]

Map of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill



[Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council]