



Division of Water

EVOS Lingerin Oil Project

Improvin and Protectin Alaska's Water Quality

Background

In 1990, DEC classified several beaches in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) impact zone as impaired (polluted) by petroleum hydrocarbons.

During the last 30 years, much of the unrecovered oil has disappeared due to natural processes, but some of the oil from the spill still lingers in patches beneath Prince William Sound beaches, typically in areas sheltered from wave action or in fine-grained sediments covered by cobble.

This is called lingering oil and is the focus of a 3-year grant DEC has initiated with funds from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.



DEC's Division of Water has initiated a three-year grant with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) to reevaluate the condition of beaches impacted by the 1989 spill.

This project will review existing literature, update GIS maps, and develop a methodology to evaluate lingering oil within the framework of the Clean Water Act. This methodology will allow a re-evaluation of impacted beaches and on other beaches not yet identified. This will be a data-driven process using contractor assistance on different project pieces.

The draft listing methodology will be available for public comment, as will any resulting impairment/attainment determinations as the project progresses. This project will run until spring 2026.

For more information or to join the project email list, please contact Terri Lomax: Terri.Lomax@alaska.gov

Scan the QR code for our EVOS Lingerin Oil project website and progress updates!

