

**Trustee Responses to Public Comments on the  
Draft Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan for the M/V *Selendang Ayu* Oil Spill**

Comment: Which subsistence resources pertaining to the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska have been injured?

Response: The Trustees conducted a preliminary analysis of the impacts of the M/V *Selendang Ayu* oil spill on natural resources with subsistence values and of subsistence uses of natural resources impacted by the spill. Copies of these study reports can be obtained from the online Administrative Record ([http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa\\_record.htm](http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa_record.htm)).

Comment: New information about subsistence uses of natural resources in the vicinity of the oil spill will be publicly available in 2016, when the final report is published for a recent study conducted by an Aleutian anthropologist from the Idaho State University.

Response: The Trustees will evaluate this new information after it becomes available, as part of the process of finalizing the injury assessments and developing the Restoration Plan.

Comment: Have bairdi crab stocks been affected?

Response: The Trustees did not assess injuries to bairdi crab stocks specifically, though surveys of marine resources, including intertidal and subtidal habitats, were conducted. The results are available in the online Administrative Record ([http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa\\_record.htm](http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa_record.htm)). Existing information available for bairdi stocks in the area impacted by the spill will be reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, into the injury assessment results contained in the Restoration Plan.

Comment: Have any property owners been compensated for damages?

Response: The Trustees are not aware of any compensation that may have been provided to any landowners for adverse effects caused by the M/V *Selendang Ayu* oil spill. However, the Trustees would not have been involved in such proceedings and are not an appropriate source of information on this issue.

Comment: A survey of the vegetation in the upland areas near the site of the wreck should be conducted to determine if non-native vegetation, particularly “northern thistle,” was introduced by the incident.

Response: The Trustees conducted an evaluation of shoreline vegetation in the spill area in July 2005, comparing oiled areas and non-oiled areas in nine areas from Makushin Bay to Kashega Bay. No species of thistle or any other non-native plant species was observed in any study plot. A copy of the study report can be obtained from the online Administrative Record ([http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa\\_record.htm](http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/contaminants/spill/sa_record.htm)). The Trustees are unaware of any plant monitoring in the spill area that may have occurred between 2005 and the present, data from which would be necessary in order to determine whether the presence of non-native plant species in these areas, if any are present today, was

caused by the *Selendang* incident.

Comment: The Trustees received a number of comments identifying potential restoration options or approaches. Those suggestions included:

1. Restoration funds should be provided for first responder training for the local population in the Unalaska area.
2. Restoration funds should be provided for upgrading the local oil spill response equipment and supply inventory.
3. The uncontrolled grazing of livestock in western Unalaska Island is causing erosion of cultural sites. Restoration funds could be used to remedy the overpopulation of livestock in the area and to stabilize the eroding sites.
4. Archeological sites at Volcano Bay are eroding from wind and rain. Restoration funds could be used to evaluate the erosion problem at these sites and to develop an action plan that would preserve the sites.
5. Restoration funds could be provided to Ounalashka Corporation to compile land attribute data generated by the Trustees' assessment of natural resource injuries and to incorporate these data into the Corporation's GIS Lands Data Base.
6. Restoration funds could be used for salmon habitat improvements in Unalaska Bay, particularly at Unalaska Lake.
7. Restoration funds should be spent on Unalaska Island.

Response: In accordance with the Oil Pollution Act natural resource damage assessment regulations (15 C.F.R. Part 990), restoration funds are to be used to implement projects that provide benefits to the natural resources that were harmed by the oil spill or to the human uses of those natural resources. The Trustees will consider implementing restoration projects on Unalaska Island; however, it is possible that restoration implementation in areas outside of the spill area proper may be appropriate to achieve the most benefit for the impacted natural resources. Once the Trustees receive funding for restoration planning from the NPFC, the Trustees will evaluate a reasonable range of restoration alternatives, including the suggestions above, and will consider input from the public, during the process of identifying preferred restoration projects.