

DEPARTMENT NEWS & VIEWS

FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

JULY 1989

THIRTY-SIX YEARS AT HARD LABOR

By
Lenora Bond

It was a dark and stormy night. Oops, sorry. That is another long story. There I was in 1947 with a brand new sheepskin in Guidance and Counseling in my hand when Professor Dimick approached me about setting up a new job in the Department of Fish and Game. He anticipated a greatly increased enrollment and wanted his "boys" (female fish and gamers in 1947 were pretty scarce) to have all the help he could give them in order to find jobs in the field.

The program called for contacting all educational institutions which might offer a program in fish and/or game to obtain curricula and other inside information. All state and

federal fish and game departments, divisions, etc. were to receive letters with a request for information concerning types of positions in their organizations, job requirements, outlook for vacancies and anything else we could find out. Ditto private companies and organizations. To further assist the graduates in placement, student records were kept for recommendations and to

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help the advisers in channeling the student effort in the direction necessary for completion of the degree. Once the information had been obtained, it was available for students and staff in directing a job search.

In early 1948, when the Bond children began arriving, the

hours in the office dwindled to only eight a week but more time was spent at home. Finally, in 1952 I was once again able to spend more hours in closer



"No, I wasn't there when it was OAC!"

contact in the office; and believe me, sharing an office with Lee Kuhn's pipe, muskox skeleton and rotten deer legs was "close contact." Even the Bond marriage survived sharing an office with each other at one time.

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Hard Labor *(continued)*

Over the years the job evolved into much more employment direction, made easier by our graduates throughout the U.S. who were most cooperative in placing other grads in their offices. More contact hours were spent in various aspects of student advising, and finally included screening graduate applicants and extending much more assistance regarding resumes, job applications, and general advice and help. In fact, I sometimes felt like the departmental wastebasket, ending up with anything needing to be done which no one else wanted to do! Of course, my hours were full-time plus by then.

**"I sometimes
felt like the
departmental
wastebasket."**

The curricula changed over the years, the department expanded greatly and the enrollment increased and decreased - nothing static about the situation. In fact, I was there when the Department of Fish and Game became the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (so often confused with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), and when Oregon State College became Oregon State University (no, I wasn't there when it was OAC!), and during moves from the Ag Engineering building to Snell (later Extension) Hall to Nash Hall; I was also there through the expansion

from a staff consisting of Prof. Dimick, Jay Long and Lee Kuhn to a "cast of thousands."

What was it like working in student personnel in Fisheries and Wildlife for so long? I loved the contact with the men and women students - the friendly ones, the shy ones, the passive ones, the wild ones, the intellectuals, the slower ones (who often tried harder), the staff, the diversity and the challenges. Would I do it again? No - not now. But if I were 25 again, I would jump at the chance.

WEBFOOT TAKES POLITICAL BAPTISM IN STRIDE

By
Joseph Cone

It was a pivotal moment in a Congressional hearing about one of the hot environmental issues of 1988. In a loud, agitated voice, the witness was telling the Congressional committee to "Get real, get real!" It was totally unacceptable to ban the dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste into the ocean, he said.

The man testifying was the congressman whose district was responsible for nearly half of all such dumping in U.S. waters. Nevertheless, the committee "must know," the congressman said, that such a ban was unnecessary, too costly, and simply "preposterous."

Most of the venom in the witness' words was directed at the author of the bill to ban ocean dumping, New Jersey Congressman Jim Saxton. The testimony was not swaying Saxton, but it seemed to be scoring points with other influential members of the committee; momentum seemed to be gathering against the bill. Sensing his opportunity, the testifying congressman began reading aloud from a government report which suggested that offshore dumping of sludge might not be a significant problem. Some committee members began nodding their heads in assent.

Next to Congressman Saxton, an aide leaned over with a copy of the same report and underlined a sentence above the damaging words that had just been read. Saxton smiled, nodded, and then began to address the witness.

"You'll note that the paragraph you just read begins by stating that it pertains only to 'uncontaminated' sludge," Saxton said.

**"making a
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national policy"**

"Is it your contention that the sludge we're talking about—which contains hazardous levels of PCBs, mercury, arsenic, and heavy metals, and a host of other pollutants—might legitimately fall into the category of 'uncontaminated'?"

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Back on the OSU campus after his year in D.C., Dennis Lassuy talks about his work with Professor Hiram Li.

Webfoot *(continued)*

Exposed, unarmed, the witness was unable to reply. The tide of the argument had turned. For a new legislative aide from Oregon, on the job only a couple of weeks and advising Saxton in an actual hearing for the first time, the shift in the wind in the tight-packed Capitol room was especially pleasant. He was making a difference, a small difference, in the conduct of national policy.

Such a role was a new experience for Dennis Lassuy, a fisheries and wildlife doctoral candidate at OSU. Just a few years ago it's a role he would scarcely have desired.

In earning his master's degree, Lassuy spent much of his time in the water with snorkel and flippers, studying the behavior of damselfish off the island of Guam. In his training as a fish biologist, Lassuy at first only concentrated on individual fish.

But then, he says, "I realized that I couldn't understand an individual fish without understanding the ecology of the community that it is in."

From that realization, the OSU graduate student came to appreciate the need to "understand the larger system that that biological community was in."

So when the opportunity came for a National Sea Grant fellowship in the halls of power along

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The newsletter is coming out a bit late because our past editor, Dan Guthrie, is leaving the University. Dan set high standards for the *NEWS AND VIEWS*, and his ability as a writer and a leader will be missed. We will try to apply what he taught us about the fine art of communication, and let you know what is going on with Alumni, students, and faculty members over the world.

Graduation day of 1989 was more than a new beginning for our students, it marked a real turning point in the job market. After more than a decade of government agencies telling us that there were too many fish and wildlife students, the agencies have started scheduling job interview trips to the Department. Each year's graduating class faces a more difficult task of restoring, managing and preserving our fish and wildlife

resource. Our faculty have done an outstanding job of preparing students to take on these challenges. They will need all we have been able to teach them and much more to manage our renewable natural resources well into the next century. As Emerson said "what schools and colleges teach is not an education, but the means of an education."

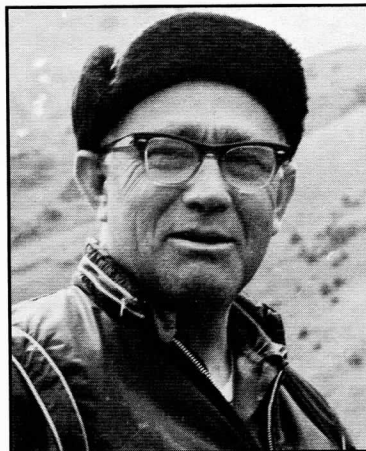
The controversy over the northern spotted owl and old growth timber was on the national television shows and in the courts this spring. When Howard Wight and Eric Foresman started their study on the spotted owl in 1972, few realized the significance of their research, and only a handful of people had seen a spotted owl. It could have been just another of those fuzzy headed academic research projects. We are quite proud that their work, and the successive

work of Charles Meslow and his students, have stood the test of time, and a number of reviews by the timber industry. The foresight of these researchers combined with care and patience in designing the study and in conducting the field work, have contributed to the basic understanding of the habitat needs of the spotted owl. Their research has produced much of the database for making decisions regarding the future of spotted owls. It is amazing how many of these fuzzy headed research projects at universities are directly applicable to management of our natural resources. I wonder how many people will remember that it all started with an inquisitive graduate student and a capable graduate advisor.

Dick Tubb

HENRY MASTIN SCHOLARSHIPS IN FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Henry "Hank" Mastin passed away on May 17, 1988, in Lakeview, Oregon. As part of his legacy, he willed that \$81,000 of his estate go to the OSU Foundation to help students continue their studies in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Department has chosen to use the earnings from this fund to



Henry "Hank" Mastin -- a quiet person with strong convictions

establish scholarships for incoming freshmen who major in fisheries or wildlife science.

Hank received his B.S. in Fish and Game Management in 1942. After three years in the Army, where he served as a Health Officer in Panama, he became a pioneer Fish Biologist for the Oregon Game Commission in Gold Beach. In 1957, he transferred to Lakeview where he initiated a reservoir management program. His projects on Lofton and Anna Springs reservoirs did

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Mastin Scholarships *(continued)*

much to improve the sport fisheries in Eastern Oregon. Hank was a quiet person with strong convictions about using the best scientific knowledge available to manage our natural resources. His generous contribution will help to ensure that his beliefs are passed on through future generations of fisheries and wildlife students. We are grateful for his remembrance.

Editor

A NEW DAY FOR OMAN

**By
Dick Tubb**

Looking out on the Gulf of Oman from the new Oman Marine Science and Fisheries Center, I feel good about the way our faculty are helping the Oman Government develop a marine fishery research program.

Much has been accomplished over the past 3 years to help Oman manage its remarkable marine resources. Lobster, abalone and shrimp are found in

**"The country must
depend on an educated
people."**

the southern part of the country. Sardines and other small pelagic species are abundant along the entire coast. Tuna and kingfish are also common in the market along with a large number of demersal fish taken by South Korean trawlers.

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FROM THE MAILBAG

**By LEE KUHN
Professor Emeritus**

One of the problems of a Department Newsletter is keeping the mailing list current. Bill Wick once described moles as "mobile weeds," a term that could easily be applied to Fisheries & Wildlife graduates. So . . . when you turn in those change of address cards at the post office, please don't forget one for your old department.

◆ ◆ ◆
Thanks to **Andy Landforce** ('42) for a bit of detective work that produced a current address for **Edward L. Hansen** (MS '55). Ed is now Director, Division of FW, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indianapolis.

◆ ◆ ◆
Stan Smith ('43) and wife have certainly been "mobile" recently. Last March Stan wrote "...following retirement from various federal fishery agencies we have spent most of the time traveling in a motor home. After seeing North America several times it was off to Australia in '85 and New Zealand until late '87...lots of animals and birds and open spaces and ocean ranging from tropic to temperate with many interesting fish. We spent most of '88 in Europe traveling in Scandinavia and the British Isles. We are back in the U.S. this

winter but will be back to see the rest of Europe in a few weeks." Sure hope this News/Views catches up with you Stan.

◆ ◆ ◆
Chris Wille ('71) is another beaver with "itchy feet". Chris resigned last May from the National Audubon Society where he was Editor of their publication "Activist." He and brand new wife Diane are now in Costa Rica where they are establishing a Tropical Forest News Bureau...with a line still open to Audubon.

◆ ◆ ◆
A note on my office door in February informed me that **Jack Inman** ('59) had stopped by but found no one home. Sorry Jack but hope you are enjoying your retirement after 31 years as a Wildlife Biologist with the US Forest Service.

◆ ◆ ◆
Morrie Naggiar ('48) was in Oregon this summer to visit his son in Astoria and of course to set a few mole traps. Morrie edited "Florida Wildlife" for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission until retiring a few years ago. Though Tallahassee is still home, Morrie can't give up his first love... fur trapping. Wherever he goes, he manages to keep his hand in.

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MAILBAG *(continued)*

◆ ◆ ◆
Bob Personius ('48) has left the golden state of California and migrated back north. Bob now lists P.O. Box 1215, Anacortes, WA as home. How come you bypassed Oregon, Bob?

◆ ◆ ◆
Bill Wilson (MS '74) one of our Oak Creek Alums, enjoyed the articles on the old lab in the December '88 issue. Bill says "I spent quite a bit of time out there 'picking bugs' and helping with the Kraft mill effluent ecology studies. It was fun to remember those good old days." Bill is now a Fishery Biologist and Plan Coordinator at the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. "...quite a change from 14 years as a Research Biologist with the University of Alaska. For me the "real world" of billion dollar fishery management is where it's at in Alaska and I'm enjoying the challenge."

◆ ◆ ◆
Al Guenther ('64) reported in from Gila Bend, AZ where he is stationed as Wildlife Manager with the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Al says, "I have a district of about 2 million acres and only one stop light in my whole district...at Ajo. Even that doesn't operate 24 hours a day, and is sometimes shut off late at night." Al sends us still another mole control technique he picked up on the radio while enroute to Alamo Lake. A half stick of Juicy Fruit gum rolled into a ball...the mole presumably gets it stuck in his teeth or dies of constipation. At least Al has a good radio for Arizona is one heck of a long ways from any mole habitat.

◆ ◆ ◆
Thanks to **Dick Pedersen** (MS '63, PhD '86 Idaho), **Francis Ives** ('49), and **Jack Dietrich** ('54) for their generous donation of journals and books for our R. E. Dimick Scholarship fund. We're happy to say that Prof's fund continues to grow as we sell these donated items and from direct gifts from alums. The most recent award from the fund was \$400 to Robert Bradley, fisheries major from Eugene.

◆ ◆ ◆
Better stay clear of **Merle Wischnofske** ('58) unless you need some insurance. "Whisky" writes that he has been in the insurance business since '82 and is licensed in both Oregon and Washington. He is an agent for life, major medical, custodial health care, dental and vision insurance. In addition, he writes "...after retiring from the US Forest Service in '86, I've taken on seasonal employment with the Colville Confederated Tribes, as Farm Manager of their Chief Joseph Farm, with headquarters just above Chief Joseph Dam on the south bank of the Columbia River. Irrigation, equipment maintenance, noxious weed control and fence repair are some of the activities. The pay is good and I catch an 18-inch rainbow occasionally." Home is 1366 Terrace Ct., E., Wenatchee, WA 98802.

◆ ◆ ◆
Some interesting notes from **Professor John Crawford** on former graduate students: **Robin Hunter Long** (MS '87) and husband **Barry** are the proud parents of a baby girl, **Kristin**, born 18 March 1989. Robin works for a private consulting

firm in Phoenix. Results of her MS work were recently published in the JWM and in Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Management and Recovery.

◆ ◆ ◆
Russell Oates (MS '80) recently left his position as Biologist for the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge to return as a Research Biologist to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Russ received his second commendation in as many years from USFWS. Recognition of his outstanding work included certificates and monetary awards.

◆ ◆ ◆
Kamal Islam (MS '85) is completing his PhD in the department and recently received a financial award from the Smithsonian Institution to help support his research on the taxonomic relationships of tragopans, pheasants found primarily in the Himalayan regions of India and Asia.

◆ ◆ ◆
Daniel Edwards (MS '79) recently left his position as Assistant Research Biologist with the ODFW to become Assistant District Biologist with the ODFW in Corvallis.

◆ ◆ ◆
Thomas Haensly (MS '85) recently completed an internship with a law firm in Seattle, WA and returned to Stanford University for his last term of law school. Tom plans to be married this summer and he and his wife hope to honeymoon in Scotland.

◆ ◆ ◆
Scott Lutz (PhD '88) is completing a one year appointment in
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MAILBAG^(continued)

the Wildlife Department at Iowa State University and will leave this summer to become an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Management at Texas Tech University where he will concentrate his efforts on the biology and habitat management of upland game birds and teach several courses in the Department of Range and Wildlife Management.



Marcia Wilson (MS '78, PhD '84) is Program Leader for the recovery of the Puerto Rican parrot and is employed by the Endangered Species Office of the USFWS. Her duties include research, management, administration, and public education about this very rare species of bird.



Howard Horton (MS '55, PhD '63) and a faculty member since 1958, will be retiring December 31, 1989. There is a retirement dinner and reception honoring Howard planned for Friday, December 1, 1989 on the OSU campus. Please circle this date and look forward to receiving additional details this fall.



Harry Wagner (MS '59, PhD '71) is officially retiring December 1, 1989 but will actually be leaving his job as Assistant Director/Fish in the ODFW on July 31 to work for the Northwest Power Planning Council. A party is planned for July 31 at the HQ Bldg., in the Commission Room, that will be over before you read it in News/Views. Harry will be included in

the ODFW December retirement party so you can shake his hand at that one.



Sorry to report that we've recently lost another "old timer." **Ivan Donaldson** ('40), a retired Fisheries Research Biologist, died July 3, 1989 at his home in Stevenson, WA. Ivan was one of the 37 enrollees in Prof. Dimick's first fish and wildlife class. He was the first Fish Biologist hired by the Army Corps of Engineers
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A NEW DAY FOR OMAN

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The research program is providing the first evaluation of the effect of fishing on the marine resources, and establishing a database that can be used to estimate populations and

"A new era that has been called the 'resource crunch'."

establish quotas that will protect the renewable marine resource base. An outstanding public aquarium has been established, and a computerized library is now supporting the research efforts. A seafood research program is helping to establish a smoked fish industry. In addition, Richard Dudley, Don Johnson, John Dorr, Ken Hilderbrand, Jonathan Mee, John Hoover and Steven Hare are training their Omani counterparts to assume many of the

scientific responsibilities for the research program and for operation of the Center.

Our team of research scientists is housed in a beautiful new building and the nearby city of Muscat has been entirely rebuilt since 1969. It looks like establishing a research program here would be an easy job, but nothing could be further from the truth. Oman did not have a public education system until 1970, and the first class at the Sultan Qaboos University completed their junior year in June of this year. Training persons with educational backgrounds outside of biology to become fishery professionals is a difficult teaching task. To conduct a marine fishery program without exploratory fishing and adequate sampling equipment has been almost impossible, but our research team has accomplished that task.

It will be some time before the Omanis can assume the entire responsibility for the research program, but an outstanding start has been made toward accomplishing that goal.

Oman's drive to manage their marine resources for greater benefit to their people can be understood by looking at a bit of history. The navigators of Oman helped the Portuguese find the way to Indonesia and China in the 16th century. Oman became a key to Portugal's control of the trade routes to the East Indies and Japan, and the Portuguese established forts in Oman. However, the Portuguese could never control the interior of Oman, and by 1649 the Omanis were in full control of their country. Even with the conquest of Zanzibar in East Africa,

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Oman *(continued)*

natural resources, other than fish, have always been scarce. With a trade background, and a knowledge of several languages, the Omani's might have survived economically had they fostered an educational system. Instead Oman turned inward. The more advanced countries established shipping lanes bypassing Oman and the country had no agricultural base to sustain it. In the 19th century, Oman chose to isolate itself, and for 150 years the country was essentially closed to outsiders. Only the fishery resource base provided a means of trading with other countries.

"educating wildlife and fishery scientists and managers becomes more critical each year"

Fortune smiled on Oman when oil was discovered in 1968. When Sultan Qaboos assumed the throne in 1970, he promised a new day for Oman that included education and new opportunities for the citizens. It is amazing what has been accomplished in the country. Roads, schools, hospitals, ports, and buildings of all types have been constructed, but the oil supply will not last for more than another 25 years. The country must depend upon an educated people that will utilize their small resource base wisely, and become an industrious country on the order of Japan. An essential part of this effort is to educate the best students available to become renewable resource managers. It won't be easy, but I am proud to be a part of this effort.

As I have worked on the Oman project, I have become even more aware of our marvelous resources in Oregon and the U.S.A., and the increasing need to educate the public about our fragile renewable resource base. It requires the best efforts of all of us to manage and sustain these resources. Our resource base is much bigger than Oman's, but our goal must be the same. To find the best students available, and to help them become the most competent managers and scientists in the world, while educating the public about the need to manage and sustain our renewable natural resources.

On a per capita basis, our natural ecosystem base is declining rapidly and Oregon, along with the rest of the world, has entered a new era that has been called the "resource crunch." Spotted owls and timber conflicts are the most visible part of this conflict in Oregon, but global warming, acid rain, and the loss of tropical rainforests appear daily in the news. Our Department's job of educating wildlife and fishery scientists and managers becomes more critical each year and we appreciate your contributions and words of encouragement.

MAILBAG

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on the Columbia River where he served from 1941 to 1973. Ivan was 77.



Thanks again to Dale Becker (MS '55, PhD '64 U/WA) for his

continued support of News/Views. Dales still finds it "...a little strange that I retain, after 35 years, much greater attachment and better memories from my time at OSU than from the time I spent at UW working for my doctorate. On second thought, maybe not so strange. Classes at OSU were smaller, you were treated as an individual, and the instructors took a personal interest in you. Generally, the opposite was true at the UW." Dale also included a detailed report on how he removed a somewhat irritated live skunk from their recently drained swimming pool...without incident or accident! Due to lack of space we'll save that story for the next issue of News/Views.

55th YEAR REUNION??

One of the most frequently heard comments at the Department's 50th anniversary celebration went—"This reunion is such fun that we should repeat it every five years or so." Others wrote that they regretted missing the 50th and hoped we'd have another reunion, soon.

Well, it's been four years since we gathered in Corvallis to celebrate the 50th, and we're seeking your views on a possible 55th year reunion. Drop us a line soon and let us know what you think of the idea. Pro or con comments to the Editor will be appreciated. A suggestion and comment sheet is provided on page 15 for your convenience.

The Teachable Moment

LESSONS OF THE EXXON-VALDEZ

By RICK STEINER,
MS '79

Marine Advisory Program
P.O. Box 830
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Catastrophes like the Prince William Sound oil spill are what educators refer to as the "Teachable moment." And, what can be learned here reaches far beyond the immediacy of tanker safety and oil cleanup. Perhaps now we are ready to hold a long overdue conversation with ourselves about the way we do business in the world.



Rick's MS research involved tagging lingcod and rockfish off Depoe Bay, Oregon.

The Impact

The lessons are many—some obvious, some not so obvious. And, to understand these lessons, we don't really need to know much more about the impact of the spill other than the simple fact that its impact was serious and unacceptable.

"we have all 'lost' yet another precious corner of wilderness"

Briefly though, ecosystem impacts center primarily on the intertidal zone and seabird and marine mammal populations. Long-term impacts remain speculative. Impacts on commercial species encompass herring spawn mortality, contamination of salmon spawning habitat, and lethal and sub-lethal effects on outmigrant wild and hatchery salmon fry such as inhibition of olfactory imprinting, metabolic and behavioral effects, fry mortality, effects on eggs deposited in oiled substrate this summer, etc.

Our \$15 million herring fishery in Prince William Sound was closed completely in 1989, as were the blackcod longline and pot shrimp fisheries. Our \$120 million commercial salmon season is still in question, and certainly a major portion of our traditional ground—the Southwest District—will have to remain closed due to oil this year.

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Lessons of the Exxon-Valdez *(continued)*

The impact that such a spill might have on the market for Alaska seafood is probably the most difficult to predict and is causing a great deal of concern. Also, many local businesses and tourist operations have felt the effect of the spill.

There has been an overwhelming sense that we have all "lost" yet another precious corner of wilderness. The emotional impact on local residents, whose identity is so drawn from the Sound, has been extraordinary. We will all long remember what happened here. In short, we know the impacts of such an incident are of sufficient magnitude to warrant every effort humanly possible to prevent it and/or respond to it when it occurs.

The Solutions

Accepting that we don't live in a risk-free world, we now have to focus attention on how best to prevent spills, prepare for them, and pay for them. The precise scenario that led to this incident is only one in a million sequences of events that could end in disaster. We are, indeed, playing a deadly game of Russian roulette. If we fix just the circumstances leading to the "Exxon-Valdez," we've probably done very little to prevent the other 999,999. The point here is that now is the time to think as carefully as possible about all the things that could possibly go wrong and to "fix" them before

they do. We need to involve the experts—master mariners, port directors, naval architects, psychologists, electronics engineers—in "fixing" the situation that led to this disaster.

And, without professing to be one of these experts myself, I'd like to suggest a few ideas for consideration.

Vessel Traffic Systems

We need to initiate a complete, external audit/review of every vessel traffic control system in the nation. This analysis should include such things as adequacy of radar coverage, navigational aids, communication protocol, navigation equipment maintenance policies, tug escort necessities, day/night transit restric-

"it is our nature to become complacent about things we get used to"

tions, vessel speed limitations, etc.

All shoreside vessel traffic surveillance systems should be controlled by certificated mariners/pilots. Also, a computerized history of every vessel calling at the port should be maintained and updated with Lloyd's of London's registry to apprise the port of previous pollution incidents and inspection history, in order to give port controllers adequate basis with which to admit or refuse the vessel.

Port control radar systems should incorporate best available

technology, such as Automatic Radar Positioning Aid (ARPA), that is capable of sounding an alarm when the target vessel exits its assigned lane. Radar signals should be videotaped and held for a day or so. The system should incorporate equipment redundancy and subscribe to rigorous, routine maintenance schedules.

Most importantly, and often overlooked, is that all vessel traffic control systems should be well-staffed with a more than sufficient number of alert, highly-trained, highly-motivated professionals.

Shipping Standards

All vessels transporting hazardous substances, including oil, should submit to a rigorous environmental safety audit/inspection of such things as their structural integrity, age, piping and pumping systems, deck arrangements, tank cleaning and inerting systems, venting, gauging systems and alarms, electrical safety systems, maintenance logs, and checklists. We need to review these standards in general. This should include an analysis of whether double hulls, double bottoms, or reduced tanker's length hold any promise for reducing the risk of spills from tanker groundings or collisions.

Review of Manning Requirements

All personnel standards should be thoroughly reviewed with accident prevention in mind. Things such as watchstanding

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Lessons of the Exxon-Valdez *(continued)*

protocol, pilotage training, certification and recertification, and manning requirements during hazardous navigational circumstances all need thorough review. We possibly need to increase trained personnel on the bridge during redundant watches under certain circumstances. We also need a systematic study of human performance under stressful and/or boring conditions, and the effect of sleep deprivation/fatigue.

On each tanker carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of hazardous cargo entering your port, is a helmsman distracted by thinking of his pension plan, the girl next door, the Super Bowl, fixing the bathroom sink, his position in the company, etc. We can't change that. But, we can anticipate the psychological component of disaster and lend our systematic sciences to the task of intervening in the process.

Contingency Planning

We need to throw out whatever feeble contingency plans we have adopted to date and try again. All deserve reconsideration. We have to seriously anticipate the worst and prepare for it as if we know that it is going to happen. Plans have to identify the right players in responding to spills, pre-establish a command structure, empower them, give them immediate unlimited financial capability, and think very carefully about logistics and communications ahead of an incident.

All response personnel should be trained and retrained periodically. Surprise drills should be used periodically and an international computer inventory of equipment and personnel should be maintained.

Liability and Compensation

We need to consider the possibility of having no limit on strict liability for claims arising out of a spill. If we decide to keep a liability limit, then it should be raised to at least \$1 billion.

All vessels, including third-party

"when making policy decisions, we should carefully assess the consequences of being wrong"

owned or chartered vessels, should be covered by at least a \$1 billion bond to cover potential spills. And, claims processes should be thought through to some extent before an incident.

Public Oversight

I suppose it is our nature to become complacent about things we get used to. After 8,700 loads of oil hauled out of Valdez, who would have ever thought that the next one would be "the big one?" The "Exxon-Valdez" incident points to the complete and utter failure of the public

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Webfoot Takes Political Baptism in Stride

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the Potomac, Lassuy set out to leave the valley of the Willamette. The one-year fellowship during 1988 appears to have been as valuable an education for Lassuy as it provided valuable assistance for Representative Saxton.

Lassuy initially thought he'd be working on issues directly relating to his background in fish biology. But the first week on the job quickly disabused him of that comfortable notion.

Saxton had no legislative aide dedicated to environmental issues, but he needed one. He was preparing to make an issue of ocean dumping off the New Jersey shore, an item of keen interest to the residents of his district. Because Lassuy had more environmental training than anyone else in the office, and because he was interested in the ocean, he got the assignment of assisting on oceanic and all other environmental legislation.

"They started piling it on," he says with a grin. "I started responding, and it kind of snowballed." Pretty soon he had a business card calling him the congressman's "legislative assistant for fisheries and environmental affairs."

Lassuy's role as personal staff to a congressman was not typical among the Sea Grant fellows in 1988, who generally worked as staff for Congressional committees. It was also not one that he had imagined for himself; in fact,

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Webfoot *(continued)*

Saxton's office had not even been on his list of choices.

"No matter," says Lassuy. The fellowship with Saxton turned out to be a "wonderful" experience.

Despite their political differences—Lassuy says he "usually fits the liberal label," and Saxton, a Republican, "is pretty conservative,"—the two established a personal rapport at one of their first meetings.

"I was not used to the coat-and-tie brigade," Lassuy explains. "It was driving me nuts; I was pulling on my collar all the time."

The congressman noticed the behavior and Lassuy offered an explanation. "I'm a hell of a lot more comfortable in waders with a fly rod in my hand," he recalls telling Saxton, "than I am in a three-piece suit with a pen in my hand."

Saxton "got a kick out of that," says Lassuy, and immediately relaxed around his new frontiersman from the West. What Lassuy didn't know at the initial meeting was that the congressman was also an avid hunter, sailor and fisherman.

As soon as they realized they could also trust each other on political and environmental instincts, says Lassuy, the graduate student would be asked in to talk with the congressman daily throughout the Congressional session to give advice "on a wide range of issues."

"I talked one-on-one with Saxton as the advisor on environmental and merchant marine affairs. "It was scary stuff at first," he recalls. "I didn't want to cause Saxton to vote for or against something he or his constituency would later regret."

As a newcomer to Washington, Lassuy says that he made valuable personal contacts and they

"You have to go in expecting to win everything you have on your agenda."

get you in contact with the right people."

From his experiences, Lassuy took away several chestnuts of political wisdom.

Before he left Oregon for the Capitol, the graduate student was warned to "lighten up."

"Go in there with the idea that your goal is to compromise," he remembers being told.

But his experience told him "that's the worst thing you can do!" he says. "Especially on personal staff, you have to go in expecting to win everything you have on your agenda. Otherwise it shouldn't be on your agenda."

"Of course, you recognize that your own understanding of an issue may change or you may not be able to get all of what you want, so you have to back up and compromise at that point. You've got to know what you're willing to back up to."

"But first you fight for your—or more correctly, the congressman's—agenda."

He says he also "learned early that it wasn't good enough to only be an analyst of the environmental implications of legislation."

"You really have to also be able to think about what the impression is going to be back in the congressman's district . . . What effect is it going to have on other members of the committee . . . You must think of the political consequences."

On a day in July 1988, when raw sewage, syringes, blood bags and other wastes washed up on the beaches in the New York area, Lassuy saw that lesson borne out clearly. The very next day the congressman who had called an ocean dumping ban "preposterous" became a cosponsor of Jim Saxton's bill.

The bill eventually passed both House and Senate without a single dissenting vote and was signed into law. "Now, in Washington D.C., that," says Lassuy, ironically echoing the congressman who had first been opposed, "is 'getting real'."

Lessons of the Exxon-Valdez *(continued from page 11)*

process. The State, the Coast Guard, the EPA, the oil industry and we, the people, let this happen, and we all have to share the blame.

One possible solution for such complacency on the part of regulatory agencies and industry is to
(continued next page)

Lessons of the Exxon-Valdez (continued)

actively engage the public in overseeing the entire operation.

Because of its size and potential environmental impact, the oil industry has to make an extraordinary effort to involve the public in its management. This has not been done in the United States. And, in order to truly solve a problem like this, we have to change the institutions that precipitated it.

Also, legislatures have to take their share of the blame here by not providing environmental regulatory agencies with adequate funding to accomplish the job which the public has entrusted to them. These agencies also deserve some degree of protection from traditional political pressures.

Oil Spill Research

To my mind, we don't need to go to too much more expense and effort to document precisely how oil affects the marine environment. I think we know that it does and that this impact should be avoided at all cost. We should consider the possibility, therefore, that further research should be directed at spill prevention and mitigation.

National Energy Policy

After all is said and done with this spill, the nagging issue that will remain is that we all use a lot of oil and as long as we use it, we will spill it. Oil has been a tremendous boon to Homo sapiens, no doubt, but it also has its costs. In its production, we

lose wilderness; in its transportation, we spill it; and in its burning, we dangerously alter the chemistry of our atmosphere. We need a mammoth, concerted effort to reduce oil consumption and develop alternatives. We should raise the average fuel economy of new cars from the present 26 mpg to at least 50 mpg, invest in convenient public transportation, and encourage the installation of more efficient lighting and heating in homes and offices. We have avoided this issue quite conveniently, and we need to tackle it now, or forever hold our peace.

Corporate Responsibility

At the heart of this and other such issues is how large corporations might be motivated to be as environmentally responsible as is humanly possible. We should initiate a systematic assessment of how to encourage and improve corporate America's commitment to the health of our environment. Restructuring, fines, criminal penalties, tax incentives, appointing internal ombudsmen, and administrative probationary periods should be looked at, together with other more novel approaches.

Caution in Policy Decisions

Eighteen years ago, a few prophetic congressmen, led by Mo Udall, argued that Alaska North Slope crude oil should be transported via pipeline across Canada rather than a marine terminal in Alaska. Their fears concerning a major oil spill in Prince William Sound were deemed reactionary by the oil
(continued page 14)

F&W NEWSLETTER WINS AWARD FOR COMMUNICATION

By
Tom Gentle

The second winner of the Agricultural Communications Award for Creative Communication is the OSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife for their departmental newsletter, *News and Views*. Its purpose is "to nurture the Fisheries and Wildlife family of alumni and friends," and it's mailed to 2,300 readers, according to editor Dan Guthrie.

The December 1988 issue, which garnered the award, does indeed deliver news and views of, by, and about the department. There's a story about rabid bats in Linn County, a series of articles by four faculty members about the Oak Creek Laboratory of Biology, and a feature piece on the history of mole control in Tillamook County. The writing is colorful, lively, and packed with names of faculty and graduates. Dan makes effective use of old photos as well as ones taken more recently. "From the Mailbag," by Lee Kuhn, professor emeritus, is filled with reminiscences and updates on alumni.

After editing the newsletter, Dan uses a Macintosh desktop computer to prepare the camera-ready copy. We could nitpick some of his design decisions, but we'd rather commend him for wisely choosing a ragged-right typestyle rather than justified type, which can be more difficult to read. After reading *News and Views*, we came away with the feeling that Fisheries and Wildlife is a happy family.

industry and thus brushed aside by Congress. The oil industry and the federal government assured fishermen, environmentalists and the Udalls of the world that a major tanker disaster just would not happen and, if it did, it could easily be contained and cleaned up.

The lesson here is that when making policy decisions, we should carefully assess the consequences of being wrong. In addition to being thrifty, we have to be careful. Udall tried.

Note: Condensed by the editor; full text available from Rick Steiner

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FISH SPILL HEX HITS EXXON

(The following release is reprinted from the June, 1989 issue of Pacific Fishing)

Valdez, AK - (ALASKA PRESS INTERNATIONAL) - In a tragic accident at the Exxon corporate headquarters, the fish truck Prince William Express slammed into the side of the main building of the new corporate headquarters, spilling more than 20 tons of dead herring, salmon, sea otters and various other wildlife onto the pristine lawn of the Exxon complex.

Skipper Joe Woodhead was passed out in the sleeper compartment of the state-of-the art fish truck when the truck struck the clearly marked building. "Bobo," the skipper's dog had the wheel at the time of the accident. Bobo, whose certification does not permit him to drive on planet Earth, was unavailable for comment, and confirmed sources suggest he has a history of drug abuse.

The skipper contends he was not drunk at the time of the accident, but when he realized the seriousness of the spill he ran out to a local tavern and pounded down a half-dozen beers. Woodhead also contends that he told Bobo to give him a "Bud Light," not a "hard right."

The President of Prince William Express Co., said that they would assume full responsibility for the spill and would submit a plan in about a month on the proposed clean-up procedure. He also stated that they ship over a million tons of seafood a year and that this is the price we have to pay to eat fish.

When asked about clean-up equipment for such a spill, company officials commented that a small pickup with a shovel in it was in Gopher Spits, Iowa, but had a flat tire and would be unable to be dispatched to the scene.

On the market side of things, fish prices will increase 20% for all species.

Vice President Dan Quayle flew to the Texaco headquarters today and reported that there appeared to be no damage, and was returning to Washington.

*"The laws locks up both
man and woman
Who steals the goose off the
common,
But lets the greater felon
loose*

*Who steals the common
from the Goose."*

Edwards Potts Cheney

55th REUNION A Questionnaire

Dear Alumni and Friends;

We would appreciate your responding to the following questions, and then returning this page to the News & Views Editor:

	<u>Good Idea</u>	<u>Bad Idea</u>
1. A 55th Reunion for F&W alumni and friends is a:	—	—
2. The Country Store & Message Center was a:	—	—
3. The beer wagon was a (one vote only, please):	—	—
4. The informal activities (volleyball, softball, horseshoes, kid's games, _____) were a:	—	—
5. The hamburger and hot dog barbecue was a:	—	—
6. The showing of alumni slides was a:	—	—
7. The campfire was a:	—	—
8. The jog-a-thon with predicted times was a:	—	—
9. The Department F&W open house was a:	—	—
10. The Symposium on the Past and Future of Fish and Wildlife Management was a:	—	—
11. The group photographs by 10-year classes was a:	—	—
12. The chicken barbecue was a:	—	—
13. The silent auction of alumni gifts was a:	—	—
14. The oral auction of alumni gifts was a:	—	—
15. The dance with live bands was a:	—	—
16. The 50 Years in Review presentations were a:	—	—
17. The Certificates of Appreciation for outstanding service to the Department were a:	—	—
18. The planting of a commemorative tree was a:	—	—
19. The free time to visit friends was a:	—	—
20. The clean-up crew was a:	—	—
21. COMMENTS: _____		

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

We enjoy hearing from alumni and Department friends. Send your autobiographical notes to Lee Kuhn and your opinions to the editor, and we will share them with "News & Views" readers.

Please make any needed address corrections below. You might also send us a buck or so to help cover costs of your newsletter, which is appearing twice yearly.

Name _____

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Class Year _____ Degree(s) _____

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