

# Twenty Years of Improvement:

## Changes in the Wake of the EXXON VALDEZ Grounding



Coast Guard  
Marine Safety Unit Valdez

# Learning From Catastrophe

- Changes in the way business is done
  - VTS Prince William Sound
  - Petroleum Shipping Industry
  - Federal Regulation
  - Prince William Sound Community



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# Vessel Traffic Service Prince William Sound

- Overhauls in:
  - Organization
  - Procedures
  - Technology



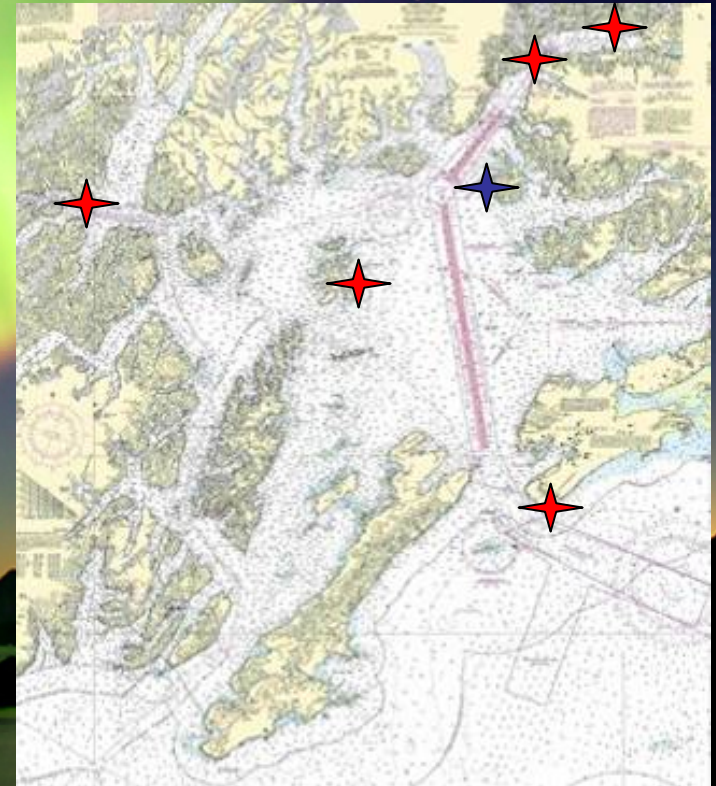
# VTS Prince William Sound: Organization

- Establishment of Chief of VTS billet
- Additional watch station:  
Watch Supervisor



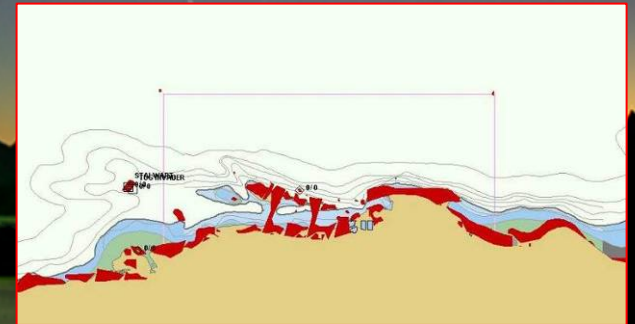
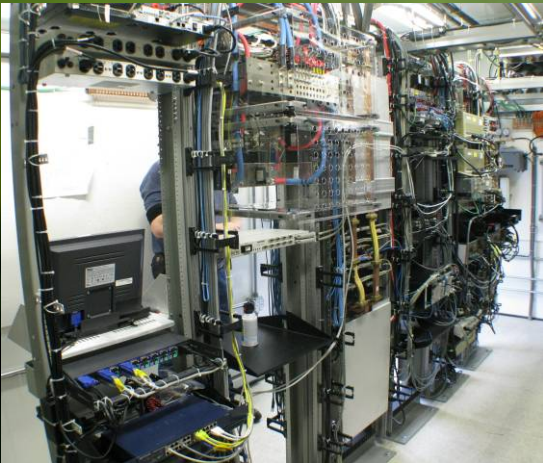
# VTS Prince William Sound: Procedures

- Shipping monitored throughout PWS
- Ice reports obtained from and passed to all users
- Protocols for traffic routing in presence of ice



# VTS Prince William Sound: Technology

- High quality radar coverage
- Closed circuit video surveillance
- Automated Identification System
- Integrated information display
- Automatic data capture and storage



# Petroleum Shipping

- Improvements in management of
  - Vessels
  - Crews
  - Preparedness



# Petroleum Shipping: Vessel Management

- Double hulls and redundant systems
- More stringent structural inspections
- Speed limits
- Weather restrictions
- Authorization required to depart the TSS
- Tug escort from berth to the Gulf of Alaska



# Petroleum Shipping: Crew Management

- Pilotage to Bligh Reef
- Alcohol testing for crews
- Rest standards



# Petroleum Shipping: Preparedness

- Detailed contingency plans required for all facilities and vessels
  - Personnel designated
  - Equipment maintained
  - Regular drills
- Planning for large spills: SERVS



Photographs courtesy of J. Saylor



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# Industry Regulation

- Federal oversight
- State oversight



# Industry Regulation: Federal Oversight

- Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- Increased Coast Guard oversight
- Involvement by other agencies
  - Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Joint Pipeline Office



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# Industry Regulation: Cooperation with Alaska

- Cooperation for oversight between CG and ADEC



# The Prince William Sound Community

- Improvements in
  - Citizen involvement
  - Environmental science and stewardship



# Prince William Sound: Citizen Involvement

- Regional Citizens' Advisory Councils
  - Comprised of citizens who live near or are affected by petroleum operations
  - Provide advice and recommendations to the oil industry
  - Promote safe operation of tankers



# Prince William Sound: Science and Stewardship

- Renewed focus on the Sound:
  - Ice studies
  - Environmental monitoring
  - Ballast water treatment
  - Vapor control
  - Non-indigenous species monitoring



# Further Reading

- *The Oil Pollution Act of 1990*. United States Congress.
- *Then and Now – Changes in Oil Transportation Since the EXXON VALDEZ Spill*. 1999. Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council.
- *Out of the Channel: The EXXON VALDEZ Spill in Prince William Sound*. 1999. John Keeble.

