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International Bird Rescue Research Center

News, views and photos from IBRRC's worldwide work with oiled and injured birds

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2008

The long road: Exxon suit finally comes to high court

Nearly 14 years after Exxon was ordered to pay \$5 billion dollars because of the damages done to people and their livelihood during the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the nation's top court is scheduled to hear the final appeal this week.

The U.S. Supreme Court will listen to arguments this coming Wednesday from the 1994 judgment that awarded residents and fishermen the huge award. The award has been reviewed three times by a district judge and twice by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, based in San Francisco. In December 2006, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued its final ruling, setting the punitive damages award at \$2.5 billion.

In the meantime, 20% of the more than 30,000 fishermen, Native Alaskans, cannery workers and others who triumphed in the Anchorage, Alaska court that day in 1994 are now dead.



Following the 1989 oil spill, more than 11 million gallons spilled. An estimated 300 bald eagles died and another 200,000 common murrelets perished. Scores of other whales, otters, salmon and invertebrates also died in the aftermath of the spill that hit Prince William Sound and the surrounding areas.

Members of IBRRC's response team spent nearly six months in Alaska helping care for oiled birds in the spill. [See IBRRC report](#)

[Read more on the MSNBC website](#)

Also read, [plaintiff's law firm discussion of the case](#)

Posted by Russ Curtis @ IBRRC at 4:59 PM

Labels: [Alaska](#), [appeal](#), [award](#), [Exxon Mobil](#), [Exxon Valdez](#), [high court](#), [lawsuit](#), [oil spill](#), [plaintiff](#), [review](#), [supreme court](#)

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Cosco Busan Oil Spill numbers

Birds arrived live: 1,084
Died/euthanized: 653
Released: 421
Found dead: 1,858

Updated: 1/15/08 @ 10:00 AM

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