



monday, march 3

login | register | video | newsletters | about us | RSS

HOME > NEWS > NEWS ARTICLES

news

today's most popular

get the daily green newsletter

5 Proven Ways to Preserve Open Space



Mnemonic For 11 Planets (Yes, 11)



Why the Polluted Bird Sings



"Doomsday" Seed Vault Photos



2.26.2008 8:33 am

Exxon Back in Court Over Valdez Oil Spill

How Much Should the Largest and Most Profitable Company in the World Pay?

e-mail print rss widget

share: digg reddit more

By Dan Shapley

submit to reddit

Digg submit

The question is whether or not the largest and most profitable company on earth should have to pay \$2.5 billion to fishermen, landowners, businesses, communities and Native Alaskans

harmful by the 1989 Valdez oil spill.

The answer will determine not only that, but also how much companies have to pay in punitive damages for pollution in cases as yet undreamed of.

That's because the Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case, and the verdict will set precedent.

Even a huge sum like \$2.5 billion looks wan considering that Exxon-Mobil made more than \$9 billion in profits – a record – in the first quarter of 2008 alone.

related articles

- ▶ [National Guard MIA For Storm Response](#)
- ▶ [FEMA: We're Ready For Hurricanes](#)
- ▶ [Global Warming and War: 6 Flash Points](#)
- ▶ [San Francisco Oil Spill: Has Terrorism Cost the Environment?](#)
- ▶ [Who's Who on Inhofe's List of 400 Global Warming Deniers](#)

more news

NO COMMENTS

e-mail print rss widget

share: digg reddit more

sell your house!

For Sale

35+ green ideas

submit your photos to weird weather watch

sign up for the free

30 days



Copyright 2008 Gannett Company, Inc.
All Rights Reserved

USA TODAY

February 26, 2008 Tuesday
FIRST EDITION

NEWS; Pg. 2A

695 words

**Exxon spill revisited at high court;
Justices to decide whether \$2.5 billion awarded after Alaska disaster will stand**

Joan Biskupic

WASHINGTON -- The Exxon Valdez crash that dumped 11 million gallons of crude oil in Prince William Sound has been vividly re-created after nearly 19 years in filings to the Supreme Court.

The two sides that will face each other Wednesday are arguing over whether an unprecedented \$2.5 billion punitive damages award should stand. Punitive damages are assessed on top of actual damages to punish and deter misconduct.

In court filings, the two sides dramatically recount, from their dueling vantage points, the events that led to the grounding on Bligh Reef on March 24, 1989, one of the nation's largest environmental disasters. The Alaskans who won the award have filed a DVD of pictures of the oil-thick waters and stained seals and the voice of Valdez Capt. Joseph Hazelwood reporting the spill.

This latest chapter in the Exxon Valdez saga is likely to have broad consequences for the shipping industry, for people who make their living on the water, for environmentalists and for governments at all levels. The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations notes that dangerous substances are routinely hauled today. "The days when ships were primarily loaded with simple cargo of cotton and flour are gone," it says in a "friend of the court" brief.

Most significantly, the case of Exxon Shipping Co. v. Baker comes as justices have limited juries' latitude in recent cases to impose punitive damages. Key questions test when punitive damages can be imposed against a shipowner for the captain's conduct and whether maritime precedent and the federal Clean Water Act limit such jury awards.

Exxon has paid off claims by the Alaskan and the federal government, including under the Clean

[more debates](#)

- ▶ [Get The Daily Green Newsletter](#)
- ▶ [Be a Green Citizen Journalist-Send Us Your News](#)
- ▶ [Green Your Vote 2008: Candidate Profiles and Analysis](#)
- ▶ [Calculate Your Impact](#)

Search for a location:

Enter your city or zip code to get your local temperature and air quality and find local green food and recycling resources near you.

[climate](#) [food](#) [recycling](#)

ecopedia

[more](#)

a to z of everything green

- ▶ [Carbon Tax](#)
- ▶ [Sustainability](#)
- ▶ [Freecycling](#)
- ▶ [Green Roof](#)
- ▶ [Green Home Labels](#)
- ▶ [Free Range Foods](#)
- ▶ [Cancer Cluster](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[Find out which Olay Botanical Fusion Body Wash fits your personality](#)

[Eye on the World: Morning Commutes Around the World](#)

LOG-IN TO POST A COMMENT

username:

password:

[sign in](#)

[Haven't Signed Up Yet?](#)
[Forgot your Password?](#)

[home](#) | [free newsletters](#) | [privacy policy](#) | [community guidelines](#) | [sitemap](#) | [advertise online](#) | [about us](#) | [contact us](#)

hearst women's sites: [cosmopolitan](#) | [country living](#) | [good housekeeping](#) | [harper's bazaar](#) | [house beautiful](#) | [marie claire](#) | [quick & simple](#) | [redbook](#) | [town & country](#) | [town & country travel](#) | [veranda](#)

hearst men's network: [popular mechanics](#) | [esquire](#)

Copyright © 2008 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Being Green

