

EVERYDAY Auto Loan Rate
5.75% APR* Want a lower rate on your car loan?
 You got it. **CREDIT UNION 1**



The Iditarod
 Past and present coverage of Alaska's famous race.
[photos](#) | [pick a winner](#)



29° 34° | 29°
 forecast | statewide
 Daylight : 7:50 a.m. - 6:33 p.m.

Anchorage Daily News
ELECTRONIC EDITION
 THE COMPLETE PAPER ONLINE!
 Try the Print Edition Online!

Subscribe | manage subscription | E-Edition

adn.com Web search powered by **YAHOO! SEARCH**

Last Update: 2:32 PM

- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Money](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [Classifieds](#)

[Home](#) | [Alaska Newsreader](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Archives](#)

[Movies](#) | [Music](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Submit an Event](#)

[Deals](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Homes](#) | [Cars](#) | [Rentals](#)

[Sell it today](#) ▶ [Place an ad](#) | [Find an ad](#)

'Shame pole' points at Exxon

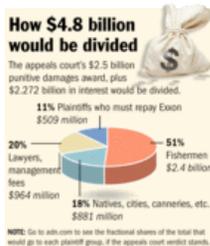
FINAL APPEAL: Court will hear oil giant's last arguments today.

By ERIKA BOLSTAD
 ebolstad@adn.com | ebolstad@adn.com
 Published: February 27th, 2008 12:29 AM
 Last Modified: February 27th, 2008 10:30 AM

WASHINGTON -- For the Alaskans who came to hear the Supreme Court consider the final arguments in the Exxon Valdez case, Mike Webber might have put the 18-year legal fight best.



more
 J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / The Associated Press
 Steve Smith, a fisherman from Cordova, and Gov. Sarah Palin take part in a news conference Feb. 26, 2008, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., held by The Whole Truth Campaign in support of victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.



Webber, a fisherman and Native artist from Cordova, was explaining the details in his hand-carved "shame pole" on display Tuesday at a press conference.

"As you can see there's a hole in their heart," said Webber, as he described the image of a Native carved into the ridicule totem pole, a traditional means of shaming someone to meet or recognize an obligation. "Exxon did not make us

whole. They pretty much put a hole in our hearts."

Dozens of Alaskans -- many of whom are plaintiffs in the Exxon case -- attended the event to discuss the lingering effects of the 1989 spill. Many hope to get a seat at today's hearing, where the Supreme Court will consider the oil giant's appeal of a \$2.5 billion punitive damages award for the company's role in the 1989 spill from its tanker in Prince William Sound.

Exxon has long maintained that it was punished enough following the spill, and that punitive damages are unwarranted. The

Related Stories

- [\\$5,000,000 jury sets oil spill damages \(9/17/1994\)](#)
- [5 years after the spill time dulls the pain, urgency \(3/24/1994\)](#)
- [Cleanup ends, but spill damage still not known\(7/23/1991\)](#)
- [Judge rejects Exxon deal - Criminal fine called too low \(4/25/1991\)](#)
- [Most of oil remains untouched spill's size still outstrips the efforts to deal with it \(4/14/1989\)](#)
- [Valdez spill oil officials react slowly to disaster \(3/29/1989\)](#)
- [Valdez spill crude oil fouls sound tanker - spill is largest ever in u.s. \(3/25/1989\)](#)
- [Valdez spill biologists debate ways to save fragile marine life \(3/25/1989\)](#)
- [Exxon Valdez spill by the numbers](#)
- [Where they are now?](#)
- [Exxon Valdez case timeline](#)
- [Cordova braces for court ruling](#)
- [Exxon Valdez: Long voyage to justice](#)

Related Links

- [Archived photos: Exxon Valdez spill](#)
- [PDF: How much different groups of fishermen could get](#)
- [More on the Exxon Valdez spill](#)

Related Audio Content

Capt. Hazelwood call, 03/24/1989
 Capt. Joe Hazelwood radioed the Coast Guard to report the Exxon Valdez had "fetched up hard aground" and was "evidently leaking some oil."

More Money stories »

- [Today's oil, gas, gold and zinc prices](#)
- [Ms. Fix-it may have come on too strong](#)
- [Making money](#)
- [Alaska's assets in Sudan targeted](#)

07 Audi S4
 purchase now
\$43,998

Stock: A73366
 Dealer: 71074
 MSRP \$52,820



THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR



Top Jobs

all 91 top jobs

- Nursing
CMA/LPN
Southcentral Foundation
- Health Care Services
Corporate Compliance Officer
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
- Management/Professional
Public Works Director
City of Cordova, Alaska
- Accounting/Banking/Finance
Project Analyst
Alutiq, LLC
- Accounting/Banking/Finance
Billing & Costing Supervisor
Hope Community Resources

[Advanced search](#) » | [Place an employment ad](#)

Homes By Prudential

more

18320 Potter Bluff Circle
 \$599,000, 5BR, 4BA, 3-car garage, 3555sf living space, 11680sf lot. Soaring ceilings, lots of windows for light and view to the west of the inlet.



6 of 8



[Search ADN Real Estate](#) | [Place a homes ad](#)
[Realtor Market Place](#) | [Homebook](#)

Top Rentals

more

The Club at Eagle Point
 South Anchorage: Minutes away from UAA, APU, Providence Hospital and the Alaska Native Medical Center.



company said it paid \$3.5 billion in clean-up payments, settlements, compensation and fines, a sum spokesman Tony Cudmore has described as "more than enough to deter anyone for anything."

[Alaska's assets in Sudan targeted](#)
[Blood lead levels in Alaska raise concern](#)

The court will be considering whether the company can be punished under maritime law for the actions of its ship captain, Joseph Hazelwood. It also will consider whether punitive damages should be allowed when the company already has been punished under provisions of the federal Clean Water Act. Finally, the court will consider whether the verdict's size is allowable under the limits of maritime law.

Exxon has been appealing the verdict since 1994, when an Anchorage jury returned a \$5 billion punitive damages award. In 2006, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals cut the award to \$2.5 billion. Exxon appealed to the Supreme Court.

Tuesday's event was organized by The Whole Truth Campaign, an organization whose goal is to "unveil the truth about the Exxon Valdez oil spill, generate public awareness and support, and to end Exxon's crusade to escape responsibility."

"Exxon was getting control of the message; we're here to tell the truth," said Jennifer Gibbons, executive director of Prince William Soundkeeper. "The truth is, the Exxon corporation has not lived up to the privilege that it was granted by the people of Alaska. They haven't lived up to the promises or commitments that they made, and the responsibility they accepted when seeking an opportunity to develop our resources."

The event also featured Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who fielded a question about the conflicting feelings many Alaskans have about the role the oil and gas industry plays in the state: Was she confident that Alaskans, who are so dependent on the oil industry for jobs and growth, support the lawsuit against the country's biggest oil company?

ADVERTISEMENT

"Absolutely," Palin said.
"Deterrence here is the operative word. We do not want this to ever happen again to any other community, state, individual."

Countrywide® Home Loans

No Closing Cost Refi.
No Points. No Credit Report or
www.Countrywide.com

16 Hot Dividend Stocks

Discover 16 Sizzling Stock Picks Earning Annual Yields Up to
MoneyAndMarkets.com

Try Forex Currency Trading at

Free \$50,000 practice account with real-time charts,
www.forex.com

[Ads by Yahoo!](#)

Comments

Please [log in](#) to post comments.

9 Thursday, February 28, 2008 - 8:12pm | [tjmlfeznp](#)

[How many fishermen would be paid??](#)

5 of 13 ▶

[apartments.com](#)
Advanced Search | Place a rentals ad

Top Autos all autos

Anchorage Chrysler Center



2004 Ford F150
\$22,900
Anchorage Chrysler Center

2 of 2 ▶

Powered by [cars.com](#)
Search for a New or Used Car | Place an auto ad

I believe that Exxon has been dragging their feet for too long!! Justice needs to be served, however how many fishermen are going to seek compensation from this settlement? If 2,400 (about the population of Cordova) fishermen split up the 2.4 billion, that's 1 million per fisherman. That's a nice pay check, and worth the wait, but it is time to bring Exxon to justice!

8 Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 1:02pm | mariaandskip

Exxon spill

If Exxon refuses to pay up, is there any way they can be excluded from obtaining any of our oil?

7 Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 8:37am | iikeneews

BLAH Blah BIAh...

Give us our money.....we deserve it.

6 Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 8:14am | este

Contempt

They are in contempt of court orders, in contempt of the Alaskan people, and in contempt of social responsibility, and in contempt of ecological responsibility. Their fines should be increased because they refuse to accept responsibility.

5 Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 7:47am | Achievement

two faced Sarah

She bashes Exxon, at the same time Alaska has a massive holding in Exxon stocks -- a quarter of a billion dollars worth.

4 Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 7:30am | cupellaq

Mostly unheard...

groups of plaintiffs are silently waiting for a favorable Supreme Court blessing. Those whose income was mostly from commercial salmon throughout Alaska, not just in Prince William Sound. I'm positive there's many misunderstandings around this whole mess, but I'm also positive that the "silent" groups have a valid claim against Exxon. Hoping for a long awaited award to those claimants or their hei ...

[read more](#)

3 Wednesday, February 27, 2008 - 5:18am |

Removed

This post was deleted for being off topic or violating the ADN user agreement. We encourage readers to "flag" offensive or off-topic comments for review by ADN staff.

[See all 9 comments](#)

Top stories »	Most read	Most e-mailed	Most-viewed galleries
Sen. Cowdery returns to Juneau after illness	Art with legs	Lake Lucille Inn drops restaurant operations	Ceremonial Start
Stevens pet project on shaky ground	Elderly woman found curled in snow, alive	IRS sending out millions of alerts	Iditarod reader-submitted gallery
Energy assistance debated as Bush Alaska shivers	Record 96 teams kick off Iditarod	Target's mascot checks out Iditarod	Art with legs
	Alaska Ear	Voluntary deployment a way of life at Kulis	Alaska Skies
		Elderly woman found curled in snow, alive	Record 96 teams kick off Iditarod

 Important warning about e-mails purporting to be from the adn.com staff.

© Copyright 2008, The Anchorage Daily News, a subsidiary of The McClatchy Company

[Contact Us](#) | [Newsroom Contacts](#) | [Communication Forms](#) | [Subscriptions](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

[Daily News Jobs](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [ADN Store](#) | [Newspapers in Education](#) | [Privacy Agreement](#)

A member of the Real Cities Network