

# The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database

## A Successful Long-term Data Management System

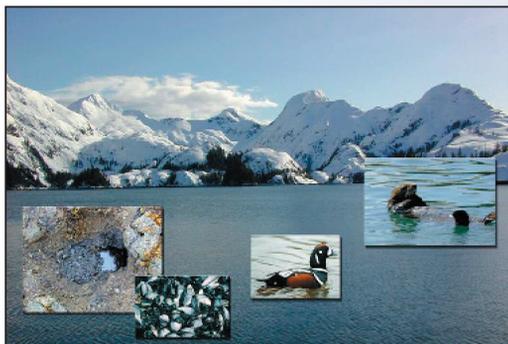
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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE - NOAA FISHERIES

### This Dataset Contains:

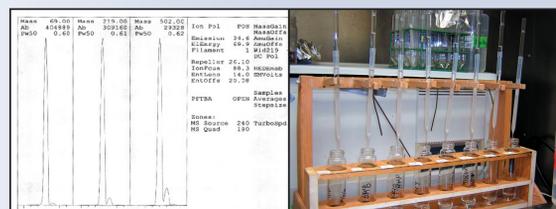
50,000  
Samples Collected



50 Projects



18,000 Samples  
Analyzed for  
63 Hydrocarbons



19  
Sampling Seasons



500 Locations



100 PIs From  
Trustee Agencies  
& Contractors

### Long-term Dataset Dilemma

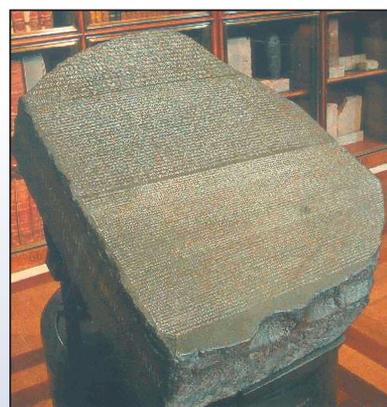
#### Staying the same as the times change

This database is the complete record of samples collected for hydrocarbon analysis for Trustee funded projects. It was initiated within days of the spill and is updated annually.

The structure is based on an inflexible core system of data collection and tracking consisting of a paper chain of custody documentation process.

This has allowed us to easily access and maintain data throughout the past 19 years despite changes in: software, storage media, database managers, PIs, project terminations and in Trustee focus from Response to NRDA to Restoration, GEM and beyond.

### Core Rules Are Not Flexible



A simple paper trail is analogous to the Rosetta Stone for future interpretation

1. There must be an independent method for auditing data quality besides the electronic database which is provided by independently filled out custody sheets and analysis machine paper outputs.

2. Basic data structure must be simple and fields limited to those common to entire data set. PIs keep more detailed and specific information.

3. Basic metadata printed handbook for easy reference for data coding.