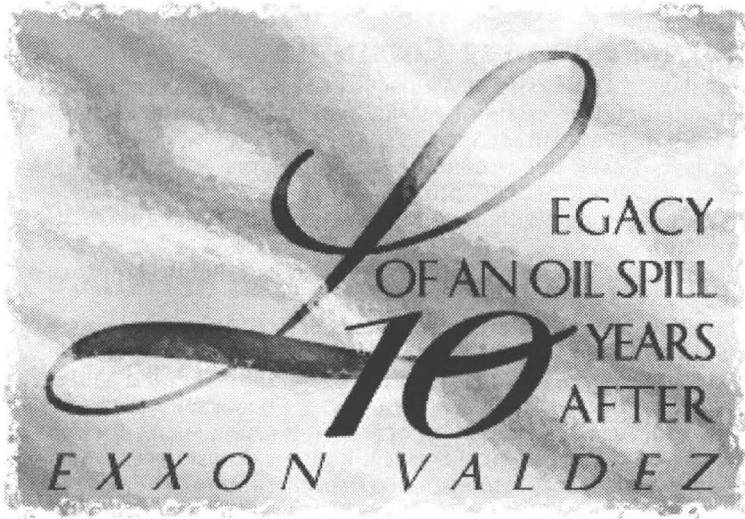


## **Surf Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Telemetry with Traditional Ecological Knowledge**

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This project is studying the life history and ecology of surf scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*) that winter in or migrate through Prince William Sound (PWS) and lower Cook Inlet (LCI). This information will be integrated with the traditional ecological knowledge of residents of PWS and LCI, where scoters are known as "black ducks." Scoter populations in Alaska are declining. Communities in PWS and LCI harvest scoters for subsistence purposes. Scoters are among the least studied of North American waterfowl and little is known of their life history, ecology, and distribution. In May 1998 we surgically implanted satellite transmitters in eight male and two female surf scoters. Satellite telemetry will allow us to define breeding, molting, and wintering areas. Blood samples were taken from birds to test for contaminants. Local students are participating through the Youth Area Watch programs and information will be conveyed to local residents.



## *Abstracts*

Legacy of an Oil Spill—  
10 Years After *Exxon Valdez*

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