

6497-6354

Exxon Valdez Ship, March 24, 1989

Tasking:

Move to the optimum position/location and describe the event as it unfolds.



Exxon Valdez spilling oil

Additional feedback:

Exxon Valdez was the original name of an oil tanker owned by the former Exxon Corporation. It was renamed *Sea River Mediterranean* after the March 24, 1989 oil spill in which the tanker hit Prince William Sound's Bligh Reef and spilled 11 million U.S. gallons (50,000 m³) of crude oil: the Exxon Valdez oil spill, or the EVOS. As a result of the spill thousands of animals perished immediately. The best estimates are: 250,000 sea birds, 2,800 sea otters, 300 harbor seals, 250 bald eagles, up to 22 orcas, and billions of salmon and herring eggs. In addition, the oil killed off a majority of the plankton supply in the sound. Many centers were set up to clean animals but they were too late in many cases. The captain of the Exxon Valdez, Joseph Hazelwood, was then found guilty of negligence, and in 1991 a federal judge rejected a \$1.1 billion settlement reached by Exxon, the federal government, and Alaska.

The vessel has an all steel construction, built by National Steel and Shipbuilding Company in San Diego. It was delivered to Exxon in December, 1986. The tanker is 300 m long, 50 m wide, and 27 m in depth (987 ft by 166 ft by 88 ft), weighing 30,000 tons empty and powered by a 31,650 shp (23.60 MW) diesel engine. The vessel could transport a maximum of 1.48 million barrels (200,000 t) at a sustained speed of 16.25 knots (30 km/h) and was employed to transport crude oil from the Alyeska consortium's pipeline terminal in Valdez, Alaska to the lower 48 states of the United States. The vessel was carrying about 1.26 million barrels, or about 53 million gallons. The *Sea River Mediterranean* remains in service under the Marshall Island flag but is prohibited by law from entering Prince William Sound. It makes a cameo appearance in the film *Waterworld*.