

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED OIL  
TRANSPORT BETWEEN VALDEZ AND CHERRY POINT REFINERY

The hazard to the marine and coastal environments associated with tanker transport may be considered to occur in two related, but distinct, ways. One is the continuing leak of oil to the environment resulting from the myriad of routine operations associated with the oil industry, both intentional and accidental, which contributes the major but less spectacular contribution to marine oil pollution. The other is the spill arising from mishap (grounding, collision, structural failure or fire) in which all or a significant fraction of the cargo is released to the environment over a short period.

There is considerable evidence that, through good "housekeeping" practices, and spurred by appropriate legislation, the amount in the first category, i.e. the continuous spillage may be so reduced as to render this hazard acceptably small. This reasoning could be made to apply to future legislation in the Strait of Georgia region." However, there is also considerable evidence to suggest that there is no way in which the consequences of a massive spill in an enclosed seaway can be limited. Unfortunately, experience supports the view that such a spill is indeed, inevitable. From such reasoning, the conclusion was reached that, from an environmental point of view, the location of a major terminal