

IMPACT OF OIL SPILLS OCCURRING ALONG THE VALDEZ ALASKA -
STATE OF WASHINGTON, SUPER TANKER ROUTE ON INDUSTRY

Of the 5.9 billion feet of lumber cut annually on the west coast of British Columbia about 0.9 billion feet is transported by land, 1.5 billion feet by barge and 3.5 billion by boom. The barged wood is dumped into the salt water for handling once it reaches its destination. Considering only the 3.5 billion feet of boomed logs, this represents a value of about 200 million dollars.

Not all of these logs would be in the water at one time and be affected by an oil spillage, and it is difficult, if not impossible, to estimate such a number. Just one per cent of the total of the annual traffic would represent 2,000,000 dollars. Contaminated logs would affect the logging industry in numerous ways. If they were usable, and one factor may be the depth to which the oil had entered into the log, extra costs and time would result in handling such logs, and in modifying the conveyor systems, especially the waste system for bark and sawdust. To certain lumber oil penetration may not be detrimental, i.e., to construction grade, but to pulp mills the oil penetration may affect the chemical balance in the mash and thus be detrimental to the production of paper. Research in this area is necessary and answers to other innumerable questions