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IMPACT OF OIL SPILLS OCCURRING ALONG THE VALDEZ ALASKA -
STATE OF WASHINGTON, SUPER TANKER ROUTE ON PROPERTY, PARKS
AND RECREATION

The Strait of Georgia, an inland sea, is continually affected by the ever varying currents on wind, tidal phase and river discharge. Its waters have a slow rate of turnover, approximately one month for surface waters and one year for bottom waters. The water circulation pattern is counter-clockwise. Because of all these factors the Strait is very vulnerable to any type of pollution, and as a result of the water circulation pattern, oil spills would spread all over the Strait. In areas where spills have already occurred, it has now been recognized that oil conglomerates persist after a clean up. The slow water exchange rate of the Strait of Georgia would exaggerate the effects of these oil conglomerates and enable them to remain indefinitely within the Strait. However, not only would the Strait be affected by oil spills within its confines, but also by oil spills from the south through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and, to a lesser extent, from the north through Johnstone Strait. Much of this water into the Strait of Georgia is carried in the form of tides travelling from four to eight knots in the southern channels and as high as 14 knots in the northern channels. The enormous difficulties faced in containing and cleaning up