

The Ecological Society of America

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RESOLUTION REGARDING ANTHROPOGENIC ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS

The Ecological Society of America (ESA) is concerned about the inadequate nature of the federal response to the oil spill in Prince William Sound this past winter. Although there are federal regulations intended to assess damage of such ecological disasters, the intent of these regulations and the cumbersome way in which they are enforced have prevented the initiation of any comprehensive long-term studies of the consequences of the Alaskan oil spill and subsequent clean-up.

The ESA expresses its concern at the lack of appropriate mechanisms to rapidly initiate long-term ecological studies following major anthropogenic catastrophes and calls for an examination of existing federal regulations with the aim of recommending a more effective mechanism for rapid initiation of long-term studies following major ecological disasters.

Adopted by the membership of the Ecological Society of America at the Business Meeting, 9 August 1989.