

Fishing vessel related pollution can harm the marine environment

Near-shore waters are vital habitat for juvenile fish and wildlife. These waters are frequently exposed to pollution from vessel activity. When toxic fuels (gasoline, diesel, and engine oil) are spilled they float, spreading into a thin sheen that reduces light penetration and oxygen exchange, and contaminates fish and wildlife.

Physical contact with fuel sheens destroys the insulation value of fur and feathers, and can cause birds and fur-bearing mammals to die of hypothermia. In efforts to clean themselves, birds and sea otters ingest and inhale oil. Ingestion can kill animals immediately, but more often results in lung, liver, and kidney damage and subsequent death.

When fish are exposed to fuel and oil, gill function is impaired. Ingesting oil or oiled prey contaminates both fish and the animals that feed on them.

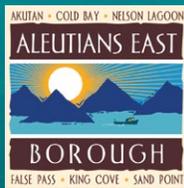
Fishing: Our Way of Life

The Aleutian's rich and productive waters support salmon, herring, cod, pollock, halibut, and crab and thriving commercial and subsistence fisheries. Unfortunately pollution, caused by the every-day activities associated with fishing, could threaten our way of life.

Pollution sources which endanger our fisheries:

- Vessel fueling
- Disposal of oily bilge water
- Use of detergents on spills
- Dumping plastics

Help maintain the productivity of our fisheries by taking measures to reduce pollution associated with your vessel activity

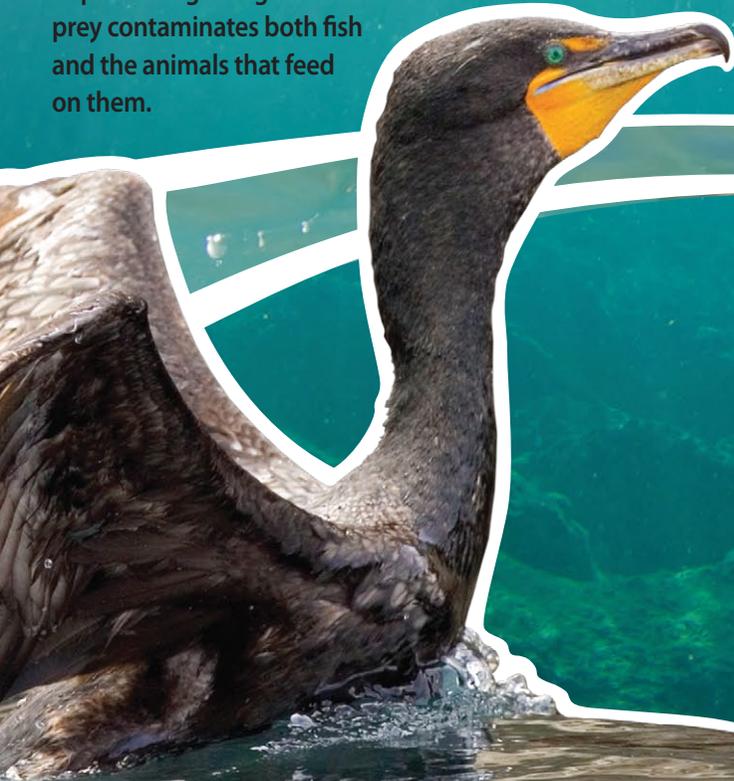


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Help Protect Your Fisheries

Prevent Pollution from Fuel, Oil, and Debris

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When oil sticks to a bird's feathers, it causes them to mat and separate, impairing waterproofing. The overriding need to preen makes oiled birds vulnerable to predators and interrupts feeding, which can lead to severe weight loss, anemia and dehydration. Many oil-soaked birds lose buoyancy and beach themselves to escape the cold water.

Seals and sea lions may be exposed to oil while breathing or resting at the water's surface or through feeding on contaminated fish and shellfish.

Plastic debris—such as old nets, bottles, and six pack rings—entangles fish, birds, and marine mammals. Plastics slowly break down into particles that can be mistaken for food. Ingested plastic accumulates and can reduce swimming ability and block digestion, leading to death.

Over time, harmful compounds in fuels and plastics become concentrated in the food web, contaminating subsistence and commercial fisheries and reducing the overall productivity of the ecosystem.



Prevent Pollution from Fuel, Oil, and Debris

LITTLE IMPACTS ADD UP

It doesn't take a big spill to have devastating effects. In cold waters, a drop of oil just an inch in diameter can kill a bird. Combined, a fleet's little spills can add up to significant pollution.

What can you do?

Remember to...

- Tune and maintain your engine to increase efficiency and decrease leaks
- Keep your vessel clean so it's easier to find and repair leaks
- Keep absorbent materials that will soak up oil and fuel, but not water, onboard

During engine work...

- Keep collection pads beneath the engine to absorb oil and fluid leaks
- Wipe up spills to keep them out of the bilge water
- Wrap the oil filter in a plastic bag before removing it to catch drips

While fueling...

- Use fuel collars and pump slowly to avoid backsplash
- Don't top off your tanks (leave room for expansion)
- Ensure fuel system fittings are tight and in good shape
- Never leave a hose unattended while filling
- Fill portable tanks on shore where spills are less likely to occur (and easier to clean up)

For bilge pumping...

- Don't discharge contaminated bilge water—it is **ILLEGAL**
- Inspect bilge water for contamination before pumping
- Routinely check the bilge for signs of fuel and oil, and fix all leaks immediately
- Install an inline bilge water filter
- Don't add detergent to bilge water prior to discharge
- Clean the bilge when the boat is out of the water

When throwing away plastics...

- Never toss plastic overboard—it is **ILLEGAL**
- Contain plastic so that it can't accidentally blow away
- Properly dispose of plastic (and other garbage) when you return to port