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### An Oil Spill Trajectory Model

Scientists used computer [models](#) to [predict](#) how spilled oil from the *Exxon Valdez* would travel across Prince William Sound, Alaska, during the first week after the spill in March 1989. Predicting the direction in which oil will spread from a spill is an important part of the response strategy. [Trajectory models](#) help guide [recovery](#) efforts by showing which locations are most likely to need resources, such as lengths of [boom](#), to protect the shoreline. (Photo credit: OR&R, NOAA)

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