

The 'Exxon Valdez' fills up in the Firth of Forth (Monday 22nd February 1999)

When the *SeaRiver Mediterranean* _____ up
 the Firth of Forth last week, she looked much
 like any other supertanker coming in to take
 on a huge load of _____ Sea crude oil. But the
 5 1,000ft- long _____ once sailed under a different
 name, the most notorious in environmental
 history—the *Exxon Valdez*.



The *Exxon Valdez*

When she ran aground in an Alaskan bay in March 1989 the 215,000 tonne
 tanker caused the world's _____ oil pollution disaster. The ship, owned by a
 10 subsidiary of the Exxon oil company (known as *Esso* in Britain), docked at
 Hound Point in the Scottish _____ last week. Its 26-strong crew completed
 two hours of safety procedures and checks before it began to take on board a
 cargo of one million barrels of _____.

Once the tanks were _____, the *SeaRiver*
 15 _____ sailed out of the Forth where it was
 heading for Savona, Italy. The ship is now
 _____ black and red and bears none of the
 scars of the grounding which resulted in the
 _____ of 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska's
 20 Prince William Sound. In the cold, still waters the oil failed to evaporate and
 spread, eventually slicking 1,500 miles of coastline.



Clean-up operation

Scientists estimated that 100,000 seabirds, 16 whales, 147 bald _____, and
 thousands of otters and fish died in the months and _____ after the spill.

Today the ship is still barred from _____ William Sound. Caroline Hoffman,
 25 a spokeswoman for the Scottish Green _____, said: "They may have changed
 its name, but the *Exxon Valdez* could still be capable of another _____ oil
 spill... the government must act now to _____ these single-hulled oil tankers
 from our _____."

(17 blanks)

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When the *SeaRiver Mediterranean* **sailed** up the Firth of Forth last week, she looked much like any other supertanker coming in to take on a huge load of **North** Sea crude oil. But the
 5 1,000ft- long **ship** once sailed under a different name, the most notorious in environmental history—the *Exxon Valdez*.



The *Exxon Valdez*

When she ran aground in an Alaskan bay in March 1989 the 215,000 tonne tanker caused the world’s **worst** oil pollution disaster. The ship, owned by a
 10 subsidiary of the Exxon oil company (known as *Esso* in Britain), docked at Hound Point in the Scottish **estuary** last week. Its 26-strong crew completed two hours of safety procedures and checks before it began to take on board a cargo of one million barrels of **oil**.

Once the tanks were **filled**, the *SeaRiver Mediterranean* sailed out of the Forth where it was heading for Savona, Italy. The ship is now
 15 **painted** black and red and bears none of the scars of the grounding which resulted in the **spillage** of 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska’s Prince William Sound. In the cold, still waters the oil failed to evaporate and spread, eventually slicking 1,500 miles of coastline.



Clean-up operation

Scientists estimated that 100,000 seabirds, 16 whales, 147 bald **eagles**, and thousands of otters and fish died in the months and **years** after the spill.

Today the ship is still barred from **Prince** William Sound. Caroline Hoffman,
 25 a spokeswoman for the Scottish Green **Party**, said: “They may have changed its name, but the *Exxon Valdez* could still be capable of another **massive** oil spill... the government must act now to **bar** these single-hulled oil tankers from our **waters**.”

(17 blanks)