

Riki Ott, PhD

Author • Public Speaker • Marine Toxicologist

P.O. Box 1271 • Cordova, Alaska 99574 • 907.424.5084

www.soundtruth.info • info@soundtruth.info

Since 1987, Dr. Ott has dedicated her academic training to helping the general public understand the effects of oil and other contaminants on water quality and aquatic ecosystems. She has co-founded three nonprofit organizations to improve the general quality of life through environmental protection, social justice, and economic stability. Dr. Ott has served on several state-appointed advisory or working groups, testified before Congress and the Alaska State Legislature, and received state and national recognition for her work. She is the author of the award-winning *Sound Truth and Corporate Myths: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* (Dragonfly Sisters Press, 2005), *Alaska's Copper River Delta* (University of Washington Press, 1998), and numerous white papers.

Academic Training

- Doctorate of Philosophy (1985) from University of Washington, WA, School of Fisheries with emphasis on effects of heavy metals on benthic invertebrates
- Masters of Science (1980) from University of South Carolina, SC, Baruch Institute in marine biology with emphasis on effects of oil on zooplankton
- Bachelor of Science (1976) from Colby College, Waterville, Maine

Positions

- Daniel Pennock Democracy School certified trainer to teach how to reframe single environmental issues into human rights-based campaigns (www.celdf.org)
- Founder, owner of Dragonfly Sisters Press publishing house (2004–)
- Expert witness in the State of Alaska on certain issues relating to effects, fate and transportation of marine oil spills, and environmentally sensitive areas in the Copper River Delta
- Co-founder, vice chair of Oiled Regions of Alaska Foundation (2001–) to help *Exxon Valdez* oil spill claimants with financial management and charitable giving to rebuild oiled communities
- Founding executive director (1997–1999) and volunteer outreach director (1999–) of Copper River Watershed Project, dedicated to value-based economic development in Alaska
- Co-founder (1994), board member (1996–) of Alaska Forum for Environmental Responsibility to hold the Alaska oil industry and government accountable to laws designed to protect public and worker health and the environment (successor of Oil Reform Alliance)
- Board member (1987–1999) of United Fishermen of Alaska; chair (1988-1997) of Habitat Committee
- Member (1990–1996) of Technical Advisory Group to USEPA and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for federal (NPDES) ballast water discharge permit for Alyeska Pipeline Services Company
- Fishing industry representative on Governor's Task Force on Water Quality (1992–1996)
- Co-founding board member (1993–1995) of Alaska Clean Water Alliance and staff (1995–1997) as manager of Copper River Delta Project
- Co-founder of, volunteer lobbyist with, Oil Reform Alliance (1989–1992) to strengthen oil spill prevention and response laws in wake of *Exxon Valdez* spill
- Fishing industry representative on Forestry Fishery Cooperative Research Group (1995–1997)
- Fishing industry representative on Board of Forestry's Science & Technical Advisory Committee (1996–1997)
- Managing partner and designer for Hot Yotts, a commercial fiber art company (1990–)

- Co-founder of, commercial fisherm'am with, Ott and Carpenter, Inc., a commercial fishing business in Prince William Sound, Alaska (1986–1993)

Awards and Recognition

- *Sound Truth and Corporate Myths* finalist for:
 - √ 2005 Benjamin Franklin Book Awards in Science and Environment
 - √ USA Book News Best Books 2005 Award in Science
 - √ DIY (Do It Yourself) Book Award for non-fiction
- "E-chievement" award from E-Town, a National Public Radio program (1997)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Award (1997) for "recognition and appreciation of continued contributions to the ballast water treatment working group and technical advisory group"
- Alaska Conservation Foundation's Celia Hunter Award (1994) for exemplary volunteer service to the environmental movement in Alaska
- National Wildlife Federation's "People Who Are Making a Difference" (October 1993 issue of *International Wildlife*)
- Thomas Watson Fellowship from Colby College (1976) for study of marine oil pollution fates and effects in Bermuda and Europe

Books

- 2005 *Sound Truth and Corporate Myth\$: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill*, Dragonfly Sisters Press (Cordova, Alaska)
- 1998 *Alaska's Copper River Delta*, University of Washington Press (Seattle, Washington)

Key Media Interviews including Documentaries

- 2006 *The Day the Water Died*. Produced by Brave New Films in association with Sierra Club Productions. www.sierraclub.org/tv/episode-exxon.asp
- 2006 *Endless Fallout*. Produced by Robert Cornellier with Macumba International Films. www.macumbainternational.com/english/ (posting on April 24, 2006)
- 2005 "Oil on Troubled Waters." Andy Rowell, *The Independent*, 1/31/05.
- 2005 Riki-Tiki-Savvy, Grist InterActivist, *Grist Magazine*. 14 March 2005. www.grist.org/comments/interactivist/2005/03/14/ott/index.html
- 2005 Riki Ott on the Paula Gordon Show: Conversations with People at the Leading Edge. Atlanta, GA, 14 May 2005. www.paulagordon.com/shows/ott/index.html
- 2004 *Oil on Ice*. Documentary DVD. A Dale Djerassi / Bo Boudart Production in association with Lobitos Creek Ranch. www.oilonice.org
- 2004 *Extreme Oil: The Wilderness*. Documentary broadcast by PBS and BBC, aired on WNET in New York. Paladine Invision Productions, London

Speaking Engagements, Research Reports & Articles

- 2005 "Beyond March 24, 1989. The Legacy of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill." Lecture tour: Anitoch College, Bates College, Brandeis Univ, Brown Univ School of Public Health, California State Univ Chico, Colby College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ, Lewis and Clark College, Middlebury College, Mississippi State Univ, Oberlin College, PACE Environmental Law Clinic, Pacific Univ, Portland State Univ, Prescott College, Quinnipiac Univ, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Rutgers Univ, Saint Mary's College, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Southern New England School of Law, Stanford Univ, Suffolk Univ Law

- School, Tulane Law School, Univ of Alaska Anchorage, Univ of Alaska Fairbanks, Univ of California Santa Barbara, Univ of Florida (Gainesville and Miami), Univ of Miami, Univ of Nevada Reno, Univ of North Carolina, Univ of Oregon School of Law, Univ of Portland Oregon, Univ of South Alabama, Univ of South Carolina, Univ of Vermont, Univ of Washington Schools of Law and Fisheries, Univ of Wisconsin Madison, Western New England College, Yale Univ, Yavapai College. Also presented at 20 nongovernmental organizations, and one federal agency.
- 2005 "Dangerous Cleanup: Lessons Learned from the *Exxon Valdez* Spill." *HazMat Management* 17(3): 20–22
- 2005 "The Legacy of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill." Keynote speaker at the 10th anniversary international symposium on the *Sea Prince* Oil Spill, sponsored by Korean Federation of the Environmental Movement. University of South Korea, Yeosu, ROK, July 22, 2005
- 2005 "Our Toxic Legacy—The *Exxon Valdez* Spill and Beyond." *Ocean* 2(7): 20–29
- 2004 "The Legacy of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill." Presented at the National Press Club, Washington DC. 24 March 2004
- 2003 "The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill and the \$100 Million Reopener Clause." Presentation to the EVOS Trustee Council, Anchorage, AK. 14 August 2003
- 2002 "*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Legacy: Natural Resources." Keynote speaker at the 20th annual international symposium on Man and his Environment in Health and Disease sponsored by the American Environmental Health Foundation and the American Academy of Environment and Medicine. Dallas, Texas, 6–9 June 2002
- 2002 "*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Legacy: Cleanup Workers." Keynote speaker at the 20th annual international symposium on Man and his Environment in Health and Disease sponsored by the American Environmental Health Foundation and the American Academy of Environment and Medicine. Dallas, Texas, 6–9 June 2002
- 2001 "*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Legacy: Shifting Paradigms in Oil Ecotoxicology." Briefing paper prepared by Ott, C. Peterson (Univ. NC), and S. Rice (NOAA Auke Bay Lab, AK)
- 1999 "Cultivating Conservation in Our Communities and Our Conscious: Reflections from the Field." Keynote address at Wisconsin Academy for Sciences, Arts and Letters conference, Building on Leopold's Legacy: A New Century for Conservation. Madison, WI, 6 October 1999
- 1999 "Land Ethics, Private Property Owners, ANCSA and Economics: Shaping Alaska's Forests of the Future Now." Invited paper and presentation for Alaska Conservation Alliance's conference on A Sustainable Economy for Alaska. Anchorage, AK, 22 July 1999
- 1999 "*Exxon Valdez* Aftermath." *Defenders*, Spring 1999, 16–24
- 1993 "Lessons from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill." Keynote speaker at the 1st anniversary international symposium on the Aegean Sea Oil Spill. Corunna, Spain, December 1993
- 1993 *Status Report on Alaska's Oil Industry: A Blueprint for Improving Performance*. Distributed to Clinton Administration officials on behalf of the Oil Reform Alliance. March 1993
- 1989 "The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: Accidental or Symptomatic?" Co-author Jeannine Buller. Presented on the East Coast Lecture Tour to 16 academic institutions (Boston College, Colby College, Harvard, Univ. South Carolina, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, others). 9 November–8 December 1989
- 1989 "Spilled Oil and the Alaska Fishing Industry: Looking Beyond Fouled Nets and Lost Fishing Time." Keynote presentaton at the International Oil Spill Conference on the Open Ocean and Coastal Spill Panel. San Antonio, TX, 12–15 February 1989