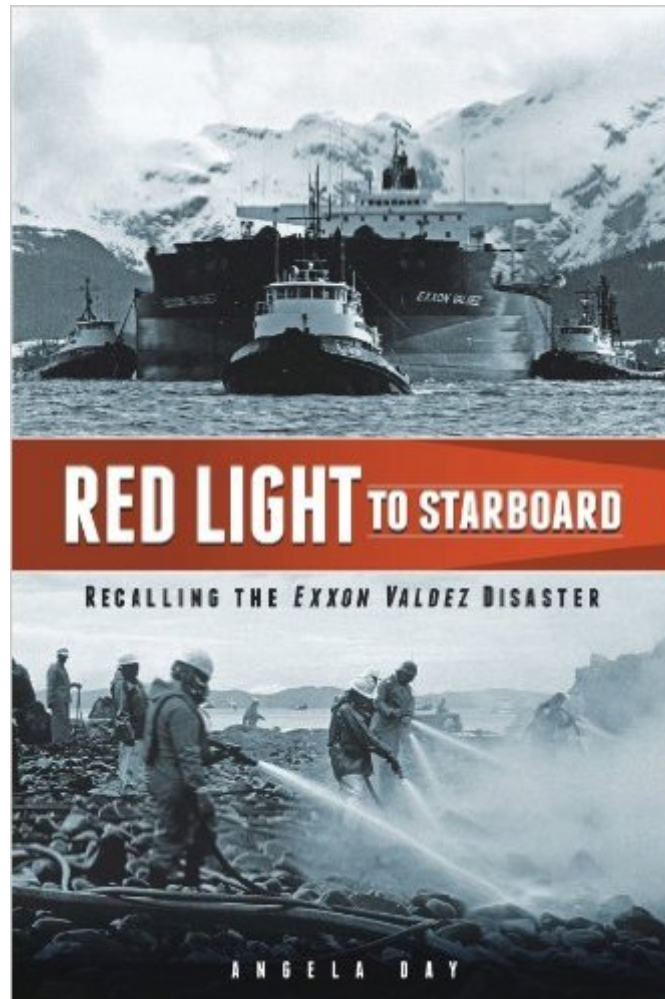


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# Red Light To Starboard: Recalling The Exxon Valdez Disaster



## Synopsis

2015 Western Writers of America Spur Award Winner in Contemporary Nonfiction  
2015 Finalist in the annual Foreword Reviews; INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards  
Minutes before supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef, before rocks ripped a huge hole in her hull and a geyser of crude oil darkened the pristine waters of Prince William Sound, the ship's lookout burst through the chart room door. "That light, sir, it's still on the starboard side. It should be to port, sir." Her frantic words were merely the last in a litany of futile warnings. A parade of promises began the next day. Exxon Shipping Company president Frank Iarossi declared, "If it is a claim that is associated with the spill, we've assumed full financial responsibility." A week later, Alaska Governor Steve Cowper spoke at the Valdez Civic Center. "We don't want anybody to think that they have to hire a lawyer and go into federal court and sue the largest corporation in America...The state of Alaska represents you. And we want to be sure that...people who are damaged by this, get compensated fairly and quickly." He also indicated that the state would see to it Prince William Sound was cleaned up, regardless of the cost. Eight days after the disaster, Valdez native Bobby Day flew over the spill and knew his life as a herring fisherman--a population that would be decimated by the spill--was shattered. He also struggled with feelings of betrayal and guilt and later, a divided community. His intimate portrayal lends a local perspective and provides an insider's look at commercial fishing. Lengthy investigations revealed cover ups, covert operations, reckless corporate management, numerous safety violations, and a broken regulatory process. At the time of the spill, oil flowed through the Alyeska pipeline at a profit of \$400,000 per hour, yet in the end, the ten thousand fishermen affected by the spill spent nearly twenty years in litigation and received little compensation for their losses. Despite a massive cleanup effort, oil remains on the beaches and continues to impact marine life. *Red Light to Starboard* documents a story that stunned the world, recounting regional and national events. The compelling narrative explains how an industry often seen as greedy came to be entrusted with a spectacular, fragile ecosystem, and discusses the governmental and public policy decisions that contributed to the disaster, as well as personal and environmental consequences. It also follows policy steps taken since the spill and through opportunities for citizen input and oversight, offers hope for preventing future disasters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a terrific book, a fact-filled story told from the perspective of individual loss and the strength of spirit of an amazing family in the face of the catastrophic environmental horror that was the Exxon Valdez disaster. The original damage from the oil spill, unchecked for days after the original accident, was magnified by the erosion of environmental laws through corporate greed and governmental ineptitude. Anyone with concerns about the Keystone Pipeline or the fracking activity going on across the country should read this book. Red Light to Starboard should be required reading for the EPA, the Senate and the House in Washington and every state house across the western United States. Hats off the Dr. Day for her excellent work in revealing the facts about a disaster that will haunt this country for decades to come.

I read Red Light to Starboard (twice), before going to Alaska which I had always wanted to do. It was the trip of a lifetime, - made so meaningful because through the book I felt a personal connection with the Day family history as pioneers, fishermen, and all the people who lived there and still do. I truly felt the spirits of the people I had read about in the book as I came to realize the impact the oil disaster had on their lives. I had heard and read reports about the spill, but Red Light to Starboard gave me an understanding of the follow up years later, and how it had affected the many lives of the area. I loved the courage of the Day family in very tough times. What a great story! So well written -- hard to put down. I love to give the book as gifts to my friends and family. Everyone has told me how they really enjoyed the book.

Great job Angela! I always wondered what really happened to the Exxon Valdez and the

environmental impact this disaster had on the community in Alaska and the rest of us in the United States. It was not only informative but also had a personal story that made it more real to the everyday person who just wants the truth. I feel very well informed and have more of an understanding in regards to the way money and politics work when this kind of situation happens. There should Always be a plan B that works and is in place with those that benefit and for those that it impacts. Thanks for a wonderful book. Cheryl D.

When a book can take the reader on a journey through personal, historical and regional highs and lows, complete with tears and laughs along the way, it is one to treasure. The rich family history and personal stories shine a new light on the facts related to this disaster, and make this book a compelling read. The detailed writing brings the Alaska landscape to life. Its captivating beauty is shared throughout the pages and I long to take my family there to experience it in person one day. This book is a great gift for anyone who enjoys a good read.

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