

11.17.02

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
teleconference

February 8, 2006

Agenda

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, AK 99501-2340 • 907 278 8012 • fax 907 276 7178



AGENDA
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL
Teleconference
February 8, 2006 10:00 a.m.
Anchorage, Alaska

DRAFT 2/6/06

DRAFT

Trustee Council Members:

DAVID W. MÁRQUEZ
Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law

JAMES BALSIGER
Administrator, Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service

KURT FREDRIKSSON
Commissioner
Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation

DRUE PEARCE
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
for Alaskan Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

McKIE CAMPBELL
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish
and Game

JOE MEADE
Forest Supervisor
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Teleconference meeting in Anchorage, Trustee Council Office, 441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Teleconference number: 800.315.6338, code 8020

_____ Federal Chair

1. Call to Order – 10:00 a.m.
2. Consent Agenda
- Approval of Agenda*

Federal Trustees
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

State Trustees
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Department of Law

- Approval of Trustee Council meeting notes*
December 2, 2005

3. Public Advisory Committee comments

4. Public comment – 10:10 a.m.

5. Executive Director's Report

- Symposium
- FY 2007 Invitation
- Project Tracking
- Office Staffing

6. Project Amendments*

proposed amendments for FY 07:

- Batten-040624—Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska
- Cokelet-040699—Biophysical Observation Aboard Alaska Marine Highway Systems Ferries
- Okkonen-040614—A Monitoring Program for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program
- Weingartner-040340—Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem

proposed amendment for FY 06:

- Bodkin-040620-2—Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of exposure and recovery status

7. FY 06 Annual Program Development and Implementation Budget*

Executive Session if necessary

8. Adjourn

* Indicates action items

Dec 2, 2005 TC
meeting notes

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178



TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Anchorage, Alaska

December 2, 2005

Continued to December 15, 2005

DRAFT - 12/15/05 1:50 pm

DRAFT

Chaired by: Kurt Fredriksson
Trustee Council Member

Trustee Council Members Present:

Joe Meade, USFS
Drue Pearce, DOI
Craig O'Connor, NMFS *

McKie Campbell, ADF&G
•Kurt Fredriksson, ADEC
Scott Nordstrand, ADOA

- Chair
- * Craig O'Connor alternate for James Balsiger

Meeting convened at 8:10 a.m., December 2, 2005 in Anchorage at the EVOS Conference Room.

1. Approval of the Agenda

APPROVED MOTION: Approval of the December 2, 2005 agenda
Motion by Pearce, second by Nordstrand

2. Approval of November 10, 2005 meeting notes

APPROVED MOTION: Approval of November 10, 2005 meeting notes
Motion by Nordstrand, second by Pearce

Public comment period began at 8:10 a.m.

Three individuals offered public comment.

Public comment period closed at 8:25 a.m.

Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and Trustee Council dialogue began at 8:25 a.m.

Federal Trustees
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

State Trustees
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Department of Law

Comments were offered by three PAC members: Dr. John Gerster, Co-chair; Stacy Studebaker, Co-chair; and Jason Brune

PAC dialogue closed at 8:40 a.m.

3. Request for Amendment to Ballachey and Bodkin Project 040620-2

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to amend Project 040620-2 for additional field work and analysis with additional funding of \$87,200

Motion by O'Connor, second by Meade

Off the record: 9:30 a.m.

On the record: 9:40 a.m.

4. Executive Session

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues

Motion by Nordstrand, second by O'Connor

Off the record: 9:55 a.m.

On the record: 10:50 a.m.

5. Annual Budget

APPROVED MOTION: The Trustee Council retains all hiring, termination and classification authority of EVOS personnel including placement on State of Alaska pay chart

Motion by Nordstrand, second by O'Connor

APPROVED MOTION: All changes to the budget categories and subcategories in the continuing budget resolutions passed by the Trustee Council for FY '06 must be reviewed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner or Commissioner's designee subject to override by the EVOS Trustee Council itself

Motion by Nordstrand, second by O'Connor

6. Executive Session

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The Trustees will recess from the Executive Session without returning to a public forum.

Motion by Nordstrand, second by Meade

Off the record: 11:25 a.m.

Meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m.

NOTE: The Council came out of executive session, having no further business.

Motion by Pearce, second by O'Connor

December 15, 2005

Teleconference reconvened on the record: 11:35 a.m.

7. Annual Budget

APPROVED MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution 06-06 *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council regarding the FY 2006 Work Plan – Project 060100 Interim EVOS Administrative Budget for January and February 2006

Motion by O'Connor, second by Nordstrand

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Motion by Campbell, second by O'Connor

**Jan 26, 2006 PAC
meeting summary**

Meeting Summary

A. GROUP: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

B. DATE/TIME: January 26, 2006

C. LOCATION: Anchorage, Alaska

D. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Torie Baker	Commercial Fishing
Jason Brune	Public-at-Large
Kurt Eilo	Sport Hunting/Fishing
Larry Evanoff	Native Landowners
Gary Fandrei	Aquaculture/Mariculture
John Gerster	Science/Technical
Randy Hagenstein	Recreation Users
RJ Kopchak	Commercial Fishing
Pat Lavin	Conservation/Environmental
Vern McCorkle	Public-at-Large
Ron Peck	Commercial Tourism
Martin Robards	Conservation/Environmental
Stacy Studebaker	Recreation Users
Ed Zeine	Local Government

E. NOT REPRESENTED:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Principal Interest</u>
Lisa Ka'aihue	Regional Monitoring
Brenda Norcross	Science/Technical and STAC
Pat Norman	Tribal Government
Ed Page	Marine Transportation
Mead Treadwell	Science/Technical
Andrew Teuber	Subsistence

F. OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Doug Mutter	Designated Federal Officer, Dept. of the Interior
Michael Baffrey	Interim Executive Director, Trustee Council
Cherri Womac	Trustee Council Staff
Carolyn Rosner	Trustee Council Staff
Rob Bochenek	Trustee Council Staff
Tom Royer	EVOS Science and Technology Advisory Committee
Steve Zemke	U.S. Forest Service
Jennifer Kohout	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Barat LaPorte	Patton Boggs

Vince Patrick	Cordova, PWSFRAP
Ken Adams	Cordova, PWSFRAP
Steve Moffitt	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Carol Fries	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Dede Bohn	U.S. Geological Survey
Jacqui Michele	Research Planning, Inc.
Rita Hoffmann	Alaska Department of Law
Larry Dietrick	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Pete Hagen	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Lucinda Jacobs	Integral Consulting
Jeff Short	NOAA
Bob Spies	EVOS contractor
Steve Moffitt	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Craig O'Connor	NOAA
Vicki Fagerness	Integral

G. SUMMARY:

Stacy Studebaker, PAC Vice-Chairperson, opened the meeting on January 26 at 10:05 a.m. Doug Mutter took the roll. A quorum was present.

Gary Fandrei moved (second by Torie Baker) that the June PAC meeting summary be accepted. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Ken Adams voiced concerns over the process for awarding the Integral contract when other project proposals had to go through a more rigorous process. He questioned who the experts were that were being consulted in the synthesis project—people need to know who is involved. PAH needs to be examined in herring from oiled sites. Local herring experts should be in the peer review of the synthesis project.

Pete Hagen said that a herring synthesis project funded in FY 05 included many local herring experts and the results were due in April.

Baker and Studebaker said they wanted to obtain information on the herring project.

Public Comment: Vince Patrick complimented the PAC for keeping the public involved in Trustee Council actions. He said that more information was needed as projects progressed, not just final reports. He said the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) project developed by fisherman was a good model to follow in establishing oversight of projects, like the synthesis effort.

Kurt Eilo asked what the process was for a final report. Dede Bohn replied that a project was completed when the Trustee Council accepted a final report. Studebaker asked when the PAC could comment on a draft report. Bohn said that the PAC can provide comments to the Trustee Council after a report is issued. She noted the STAC normally reviews proposals and helps set the scope of the invitation and the annual work plan, and that peer reviews go to the STAC.

The process for reviewing the Integral proposal and final reports was discussed. Tom Royer noted that the STAC did not review the Integral proposal. Bohn said that the Lingering Oil

Committee reviewed it. Studebaker suggested the PAC meet when the Integral report becomes available. Michael Baffrey stated that the Integral Synthesis Report is due April 1. And then the PAC can review it and a Trustee Council meeting will follow. He suggested May or June for a PAC meeting. The PAC will also want to review the updates to the Injured Resources List and the draft Invitation for Proposals for FY 2007.

Baffrey gave the Interim Executive Director's report. He introduced the two new PAC members: Vern McCorkle and Kurt Eilo. He provided a history of the EVOS Investment Funds, noting the account presently totaled \$185,272,821; which is a \$12 million increase over last year. The restoration fund totals \$109.5 million, the habitat fund has two parts: the small parcel fund totals \$34.1 million, and the Koniag fund totals \$41.2 million.

Carol Fries explained the purpose of the Koniag fund is to be able to purchase the Karluk large parcels on Kodiak Island if the Koniag Corporation decides to sell the lands. The corporation has between 2012 and 2022 to decide. In the meantime, EVOS pays annually for a conservation easement to protect the lands from development.

Hagenstein asked how changes in fund allocations could occur, and whether making changes required legislative action. Baffrey said he would find out.

Jason Brune noted that the fund was not an endowment and that the Trustee Council could spend all of the fund if they desired.

Baffrey reported on current plans for EVOS office staffing. The Science Director position is still open. Interviews are in progress. The Science Coordinator position has been abolished. One Information Technology person is leaving. All the staff positions have been State exempt, but are undergoing a review to become State classified positions. Position descriptions are being prepared. This will mean incumbents will need to complete for their jobs. The EVOS office positions are:

- Executive Director
- Science Director
- Librarian (at ARLIS)
- Administrative Officer
- Administrative Assistant
- Research Analyst
- Data Systems Manager
- Budget Officer

Hagenstein thanked Baffrey for stepping in and helping to keep the program going.

Martin Robards asked if there was enough IT support to maintain adequate data management. Baffrey said yes.

John Gerster asked why so much was being spent on agency liaisons. Fries explained in part that the EVOS budget was allocated to various agencies since EVOS had no standing as an agency. For example, EVOS staff are Alaska Department of Fish and Game employees and most of the administrative budget lies with that department. McCorkle asked about the overhead agencies can charge. Fries said that agencies can charge a 9% overhead cost, which is lower than the

Federally-approved overhead rate.

Baffrey went over the proposed FY 2006 budget. He noted that the office had been operating on three continuing resolutions until the budget could be revamped. The office operates on the Federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30). The budget includes monies already spent this year. Ron Peck asked if NOS funds could be spent on other items, or what happened to the money if it was not spent. Pete Hagen explained that the National Ocean Service (NOS) funds were earmarked from a grant that ends this year. The money is for development of ocean observing system prototypes, and is used to support science management work at EVOS. If the money is not spent, it will go back to NOS.

Brune stated that it may not be possible to retain good, experienced staff if they are not "grandfathered" into their positions. Gerster suggested using interns as a source of staff support. Royer asked what happened to the \$25K provided by the Yukon Delta group for data management. Bohn replied that it was used by the funding group to purchase equipment, so was not in the EVOS budget.

Studebaker said she thought it was important to keep Rob Bochenek on the staff to support the data management efforts. Baker said that travel may be necessary for data management. Baffrey said if travel is required, they will find the money. Royer noted that metadata was getting under control, but that actual data and field collections were problematic. Bochenek said they needed to clearly define data management. Baker stated that this should be a priority. RJ Kopchak called for a white paper on the subject. Baffrey said they were developing a strategy and will discuss mutual data management issues with other organizations.

Eilo noted that there was a lot of information available and that it would be helpful to PAC members to be able to contact EVOS staff for assistance in finding information. Baffrey said they would be glad to make information available and that all such requests should go through him.

Baker inquired about the community involvement budget. Robards said it seemed low and he wondered if there was still a commitment to community involvement. Studebaker said that the EVOS staff came to Kodiak every 2-3 years for public meetings and that she thought this was useful for keeping the community informed.

Bob Spies briefed the group on the update of the injured resources list. Study results are reviewed and experts consulted in determining the status of the recovery of a resource. A draft update will be peer reviewed and then submitted to the Executive Director and PAC, and posted on the web for comments. Then a final update will be presented.

Lucinda Jacobs gave a presentation on the Integral synthesis project. The first phase of the synthesis examined recovering or recovered injured resources. The second phase looked at the status of all injured resources and services. They examined residual impacts from the original spill, current exposure, and other causes of effects. She said they evaluated the lingering oil project results and found them credible. Baker asked if they could convert the acres of residual oil to miles of shoreline. Jacobs said they did include that in the report. Kopchak asked if there would be a map. Jacobs said they used a probabilistic assessment to arrive at a map. Jeff Short discussed oil mass balance and transport.

Jacqui Michele gave a presentation on the lingering oil restoration evaluation project. She said there appeared to be about 30% more oil in the lower intertidal zone at residual oil sites. Most oil lies under armored "beaches." They estimated nearly \$50 million would be required to clean all the residual oiled areas in Prince William Sound. She suggested it may be more cost-effective to only restore highly oiled areas that are also good habitat.

Baffrey discussed the status of the FY 2007 Invitation for Proposals. Normally this would go out in February, but they are awaiting the synthesis results this year. It was determined that four projects totaling about \$400k should continue in order to maintain data continuity and that proposals would be sought from the Principal Investigators for these four:

- continuous plankton recorder project
- ferry box data collection
- GAK line ocean survey
- vessels of opportunity fluorometry

Baffrey estimated the total available for FY 2007 projects at about \$4.6 million. The invitation is expected to be released around June.

Eilo moved (second by Hagenstein) that **the PAC recommends the Trustee Council approve the FY 2006 proposed budget and encourages the Executive Director to reevaluate funding in the FY 06 budget and the developing FY 07 budget to address increased needs in the coming months in the following areas: 1) community outreach; 2) staff support for increased information requests from PAC members and others; 3) staff retention; and 4) data management.** Passed unanimously.

Kopchak put forward a resolution related to unforeseen and unanticipated injuries (see attached). Mutter clarified that the PAC could not address the settlement "re-opener" clause since it is not under the jurisdiction of the Trustee Council, but that they could address funding for restoration of unforeseen and unanticipated injuries. The group discussed the merits and text of the draft resolution. Peck said he just got the draft and needed more time to make a decision. Brune and McCorkle concurred. The group decided to put off further action and asked that this draft resolution should be the topic of a conference call meeting on March 6. Baffrey noted that the deadline for submission of any "re-opener" claims by the State and/or Federal governments is June 1, 2006.

Baffrey discussed the long-term direction for the restoration program. It is not clear yet where the Trustee Council is going, but a significant change in direction will take a unanimous vote of all six Trustee Council members, a lot of public input, and legal actions.

PAC members closing comments: Brune said he was happy with the way the PAC was moving forward with providing advice to the Trustee Council. Baker concurred. Fandrei said he appreciated the EVOS staff work on the budget document. Pat Lavin said in this time of transition it was good to be involved. Peck said the meeting was informative and that a larger room and name tags were needed, and it would help to have handout pages numbered. Robards concurred. Hagenstein said we have a responsibility to ensure a positive legacy from the spill and that continuity in data was important to be able to identify trends, that reduced transparency yields angst and mistrust, we should have pride in the restoration program, the PAC should keep nudging the EVOS Trustee Council and staff forward, and he hopes we can keep up the good

work. Evanoff said the meeting was very informative and the budget was easy to follow. Eilo said the PAC will have a good influence on the Trustee Council. Kopchak thanked Baffrey for his candor, and herring, herring, herring! McCorkle said he is encouraged to see an energetic PAC and appreciated Kopchak's work on the draft resolution on unknown injuries. Studebaker advised PAC members to stay involved and if possible attend or listen in on the Trustee Council meetings.

Cherri Womac asked PAC members to turn in their original receipts for hotel and taxi from hotel to /from airport. Call her if there are any questions on travel reimbursement.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

H. FOLLOW-UP:

1. Baffrey will provide the PAC with herring synthesis project proposal and information.
2. Baffrey will provide the PAC with more detailed information on the Koniag parcel, including how much the annual easement payments are.
3. Baffrey will provide the PAC information on legislative requirements for changing investment fund allocations.
4. Baffrey will find out if it is possible to move the NOS money within the EVOS budget.
5. Baffrey will provide the PAC with progress reports on the data management strategy.
6. Gerster will give a report on the PAC meeting at the upcoming Trustee Council meeting.

I. NEXT MEETINGS:

- PAC conference call on March 6, at 10:00 a.m.
- Trustee Council meeting February 8 at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage
- Possible May PAC meeting in Anchorage

J. ATTACHMENTS: (Handouts, for those not present)

1. June 11, 2005 PAC Meeting Summary
2. July 19, 2005, PAC Briefing Summary
3. Bios for McCorkle and Eilo
4. EVOS FY 2006 Budget
5. Small Parcel Acquisition Program
6. *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill—Civil Settlement "Reopener" (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fact Sheet)
7. Draft resolution on unforeseen and unanticipated injuries.

K. CERTIFICATION:

PAC Chairperson

Date

**Proposed FY 07
Amended Projects**

Agenda Item #6 – Proposed Amendments for FY07

“1-Year Extension” Amendments

BACKGROUND:

Batten-040624-CPR-Based Plankton Survey

Acquisition and Application of Continuous Plankton Recorder data in the Gulf of Alaska
Sonia Batten

Agency: NOAA

Previous Funding – FY04-06: \$135.2 annually

Funding Requested for FY07 (including 9% G&A): \$139,912

Abstract: Plankton is a critical link in the marine food chain that responds rapidly to climate change and forms the link between the atmosphere and upper trophic levels. Many important marine resources in the Gulf of Alaska are strongly influenced by changes in ocean climate. This project collects biological data from ships-of-opportunity on transect from Cook Inlet across the Gulf of Alaska to Puget Sound. The Continuous Plankton Recorder has been deployed from ships-of-opportunity in the North Pacific on a routine basis since March 2000. Originally implemented to fulfill the requirements of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) to collect seasonal plankton data from the North Pacific, the survey also demonstrated its relevance to the EVOS Trustee council restoration program receiving funding annually from FY02-FY06. Funding was also obtained from the North Pacific Research Board to fund collection of data on a complementary transect that crosses the Gulf of Alaska--data analysis often combines data from the two projects to address wider scale issues.

Cokelet-040699-Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries

Biophysical Observation Abroad Alaska Marine Highway Systems Ferries
Ned Cokelet

Agency: NOAA

Previous Funding – FY04-FY06: \$171.5, \$185.9, \$145.9, respectively

Funding Requested for FY07 (including 9% G&A): \$156,306

Abstract: The Alaska Coastal Current (ACC) flows counterclockwise along the edge of the Gulf of Alaska carrying the river runoff, nutrients and plankton that fuel the productive coastal-marine ecosystem. As seen in satellite images, a strong “chlorophyll front” develops in summer between the nutrient-poor region to seaward and a productive region around Kodiak Island that extends northward to the Kenai Peninsula. Conventional wisdom predicts that the Gulf ecosystem should not be productive because the average wind pattern favors downwelling oceanic conditions that fail to restore nutrients to the sunlit upper layers. The chlorophyll front is a natural study area over which low- and high-productivity regions lie in close proximity. The Alaska Marine Highway System ferry M/V Tustumena crosses this front over 280 times each year. This study provided sampling instrumentation to the Tustumena for measuring physical and biological oceanographic parameters across the ACC and in Prince William Sound. This

oceanographic monitoring study continues the understanding of nutrient replenishment and ecosystem trends.

Okkonen-040614-Monitoring Program in the NE Pacific Ocean

Monitoring Program for Near-surface Temperature, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the North Pacific Ocean

Steve Okkonen

Agency: UAF through ADF&G

Previous Funding – FY04-FY06: \$27.3, \$30.4, \$31.5, respectively

Funding Requested for FY07 (including 9% G&A): \$34,880

Abstract: This study maintains and operates the thermosalinograph (TSG) that was installed on the tanker vessel Polar Alaska in July 2002 and analyzes of the collected data. The TSG has been measuring near-surface temperature and salinity along the shipping corridor between Valdez and west coast (California and Washington) refineries since October 2002. The data improves the understanding of the spatial and temporal (seasonal and year-to-year) variability of freshwater influences on frontal features and circulation in the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound. The data are also a record of changes in the physical oceanic environment that provides a context for investigating and interpreting changes in the biotic environment of the Sound. Injured resources and their recovery rates can only be fully understood in the context of how they also respond to changing environmental conditions. A relevant application for the data is to provide observational data against which the performance of numerical circulation models (e.g. oil spill trajectory models) can be compared.

Weingartner-040340-Alaska Coastal Current

Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem

Thomas Weingartner

Previous Funding – FY04-FY06: \$80.4, \$81.7, \$65.0, respectively

Funding Requested for FY07 (including 9% G&A): \$75,210

Abstract: This monitoring study is a continuation of an effort begun in 1970 to monitor temperatures, salinities, and spring bloom characteristics on the northern Gulf of Alaska shelf at hydrographic station GAK 1. GAK 1 is the only station in the Gulf of Alaska that measures salinity and it is the *only* station measuring these variables throughout the water column. GAK 1 is located at the mouth of Resurrection Bay in the Alaska Coastal Current (ACC). The ACC is an important ocean pathway by which climate signals, dissolved and suspended materials, contaminants, and organisms are carried along coastal Alaska. The ACC was the principal pathway by which oil spilled from *T/V Exxon Valdez* was transported from Prince William Sound along the south coast of Alaska and into Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. The Trustee Council has supported the GAK 1 monitoring since 1997 when it recognized that variability in the marine environment must be quantified and understood to comprehend and predict the response of the Gulf of Alaska marine ecosystem to natural or human related causes. GAK 1 is the only long term oceanographic data set in the spill area. Logistics costs are shared with the NSF-NOAA funded GLOBEC program.

Agenda Item #6 – Proposed Amendments for FY07

“1-Year Extension” Amendments

MOTION:

“I move that we approve the proposed one-year extension amendments for these four FY07 projects:

**\$139,912 for Batten-040624-CPR-Based Plankton Survey,
\$156,306 for Cokelet-040699-Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries,
\$34,880 for Okkonen-040614-Monitoring Program in the NE Pacific Ocean, and
\$75,210 for Weingartner-040340-Alaska Coastal Current**

The funding for these projects are to be made available Oct 1, 2006 and are contingent upon submission of an updated statements of work, detailed budgets, and the submission and acceptance of an annual report due September 1, 2006.”

RESOLUTION 06-10
OF THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL
REGARDING THE FY 07 WORK PLAN – AMENDED PROJECTS: 040624 (Batten),
040699 (Cokelet), 040614 (Okkonen) and 040340 (Weingartner)

We, the undersigned, duly authorized members of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council do hereby certify that, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered as settlement of United States of America v. State of Alaska, No. A91-081 Civil, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, and after a public meeting, unanimous agreement has been reached to expend funds received in settlement of State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al., No. A91-083 CIV, and United States of America v. Exxon Corporation, et al., No. A91-082 CIV, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, for necessary natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities for fiscal year 2007, as described below:

- \$139,912 for Batten-040624—Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska
- \$156,306 for Cokelet-040699—Biophysical Observation Aboard Alaska Marine Highway Systems Ferries
- \$34,880 for Okkonen-040614—A Monitoring Program for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program
- \$75,210 for Weingartner-040340—Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem

The monies are to be distributed according to the following schedule:

FY 2007 Fund Distribution

Alaska Department of Fish and Game	\$110,090
Alaska Department of Law	\$ 0
SUBTOTAL TO STATE OF ALASKA	\$110,090
U.S. Department of the Interior	\$ 0
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	\$296,218
SUBTOTAL TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	\$296,218
TOTAL APPROVED	\$406,308

Funds must be spent in accordance with the following conditions: (1) If a Principal Investigator (PI) has an overdue report or manuscript from a previous year, no funds may be expended on a project involving the PI unless the report is submitted or a schedule for submission is approved by the Executive Director; (2) a project's lead agency must demonstrate to the Executive Director that requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are met before any project funds may be expended (with the exception of funds spent to prepare NEPA documentation); and (3) a PI for each project must submit a signed form to the Executive Director indicating their agreement to abide by the Trustee Council's data and report requirements before any project funds may be expended.

By unanimous consent, we hereby request the Alaska Department of Law and the Assistant Attorney General of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice to take such steps as may be necessary to make available for the Fiscal Year 2007 Work Plan, the amount of \$406,308 from the appropriate account designated by the Executive Director.

Approved by the Council at its teleconference meeting of February 8, 2006 as affirmed by our signatures affixed below.

JOE L. MEADE
Forest Supervisor
Forest Service Alaska Region
U.S. Department of Agriculture

DAVID W. MÁRQUEZ
Attorney General
State of Alaska

DRUE PEARCE
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
for Alaska Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

CRAIG R. O'CONNOR
Special Counsel
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

McKIE CAMPBELL
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

KURT FREDRIKSSON
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
ALASKA BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE CENTER
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

January 30, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Trustee Council

Through: Executive Director

From: Dede Bohn, USGS Liaison

Subject: Request for additional \$6K for FY06 project 040620-2

Project 040620-2: Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of exposure and recovery status

The boat vessel that we have used previously and on which we based our estimated costs for the FY06 March surveys and biochemical samplings of sea otters near Knight Island is undergoing extensive overhaul this winter and will not be available. We subsequently have located vessels that could be suitable substitutes and are available. However, the cost of the substitute vessels run \$400 higher per day than what we budgeted. To complete our 15-day charter will cost an additional \$6000. It is not possible to conduct and complete the work by reducing the number of days in the charter. The project, originally authorized at \$87,200, is designed to answer the question of whether there is a seasonal effect (winter) on the induction of the CYP1A biomarker in sea otters. Physiological stresses on the otters potentially are elevated during the winter months, due to relatively poor body condition, greater caloric needs requiring more foraging time, and higher levels of oil exposure due to increased storm activity disturbing the contaminated sediments. Consequently, sea otters may be more vulnerable to effects of lingering oil during the winter, but we presently have biomarker, health or condition data collected on sea otters only in summer months. We are requesting that the Trustee Council consider authorizing an additional \$6000 to allow us to complete the project as proposed.

Agenda Item #6 – Proposed Amendment for FY06

“Additional \$6,000 for Project 040620-2” Amendment

MOTION:

“I move that we approve a \$6,000 increase in the FY06 funding for Project 040620-2, Lingering Oil and Sea Otters—pathways of exposure and recovery status.”

**RESOLUTION 06-09 OF THE
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL
REGARDING THE FY 2006 WORK PLAN
PROJECT 040620-2 (Ballachey/Bodkin)**

We, the undersigned, duly authorized members of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council do hereby certify that, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered as settlement of United States of America v. State of Alaska, No. A91-081 Civil, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, and after public meetings, unanimous agreement has been reached to expend funds received in settlement of State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al., No. A91-083 CIV, and United States of America v. Exxon Corporation, et al., No. A91-082 CIV, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, for necessary natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities for fiscal year 2006. The monies are to be distributed according to the following schedule:

FY 2006 Fund Distribution

SUBTOTAL TO STATE OF ALASKA	\$ 0
U.S. Department of the Interior	\$ 6,000
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	\$ 0
SUBTOTAL TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	\$ 6,000

Funds must be spent in accordance with the following conditions: (1) If a Principal Investigator (PI) has an overdue report or manuscript from a previous year, no funds may be expended on a project involving the PI unless the report is submitted or a schedule for submission is approved by the Executive Director; (2) a project's lead agency must demonstrate to the Executive Director that requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are met before any project funds may be expended (with the exception of funds spent to prepare NEPA documentation); and (3) a PI for each project must submit a signed form to the Executive Director indicating his or her

agreement to abide by the Trustee Council's data and report requirements before any project funds may be expended.

By unanimous consent, we hereby request the Alaska Department of Law and the Assistant Attorney General of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice to take such steps as may be necessary to make funds available for this project for a total of \$6,000 from the appropriate account as designated by the Executive Director.

Approved by the Council at its teleconference meeting of February 8, 2006 held in Anchorage, Alaska as affirmed by our signatures affixed below.

JOE L. MEADE
Forest Supervisor
Forest Service Alaska Region
U.S. Department of Agriculture

DAVID W. MÁRQUEZ
Attorney General
State of Alaska

DRUE PEARCE
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
for Alaskan Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

CRAIG R. O'CONNOR
Special Counsel
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

McKIE CAMPBELL
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

KURT FREDRIKSSON
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation

060100 Admin
Budget

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
FY 2006 Annual Program Development and Implementation Budget
October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

The Council has adopted a new budget structure for FY 2006 in order to more clearly identify the allocation of funds supporting Trustee Council activities. The Annual Program Development and Implementation Budget reflects the estimated costs associated with a variety of Trustee Council activities designed to support community involvement, independent peer review, high levels of public, scientific, and technical involvement in the development of Trustee Council funded programs with an emphasis in 2006, on lingering oil, injured resources and services, continuation of the Small Parcel Program, a synthesis of restoration actions previously taken, and identification of future actions that will further the restoration goals of the Trustee Council.

The Program Development and Implementation Budget includes the following components:

- *Administration Management*
- Data Management
- *Science Management*
- Community Involvement
- Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
- *Small Parcel Program*
- *Trustee Council Member Direct Expenses*
- *Program Support by Agencies*

Various aspects of the italicized components are undertaken by trustee agencies providing program development and administrative support. The Restoration Office is administratively located within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Allocation of funds by agency is detailed in Attachment A.

This budget has been developed over a six month period and takes into account the FY 2006 budget authorizations adopted by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council at the meetings held in September, November, and December of 2005:

- Resolution 06-03 for the months of October and November, 2005.
- Resolution 06-04 for the month of December, 2005.
- Resolution 06-06 for the months of January and February 2006.

As indicated in Attachment A, the line item allocations appearing herein supersede the line item allocations appearing in Trustee Council Resolutions 06-03, 06-04, and 06-06, to the extent that they are inconsistent.

Note: Any unexpended funds, whether resulting from unfilled personnel vacancies or from canceled or modified activities, lapse and are available for use in funding other Trustee Council-authorized activities.

BUDGET SUMMARY INFORMATION

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Annual Program Development and Implementation Budget for 2006 will be funded through two funding sources. The majority of funds will come from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Investment Fund managed by the Alaska Department of Revenue. A grant to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game by the National Ocean Service (NOS) of the US Department of Commerce provides \$234,000 in FFY 06. This budget document presents the total budget for FY 2006. The following summary tables show budget allocations by component, line item, and funding source. The remainder of the document specifies the uses to which the monies for each component of the budget will be put and the funding sources for each item.

Budget Summary Information by Component

Component	EVOS Funds	NOS Grant	Total Budget
Administration Management	\$773,215	\$62,800	\$836,015
Data Management	\$151,214	\$54,000	\$205,214
Science Management	\$406,185	\$66,000	\$472,185
Community Involvement	\$19,947	\$0	\$19,947
Public Advisory Committee (PAC)	\$28,286	\$0	\$28,286
Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)	\$0	\$51,600	\$51,600
Small Parcel Program	\$98,100	\$0	\$98,100
Trustee Council Member Direct Expenses	\$34,880	\$0	\$34,880
Program Support by Agencies	\$354,130	\$0	\$354,130
Total	\$1,865,957	\$234,400	\$2,100,357

Budget Summary Information by Line Item:

Line Item	EVOS Funds	NOS Grant	Total Budget
Personnel	\$1,034,402	\$164,700	\$1,199,102
Travel	\$81,730	\$23,300	\$105,030
Contractual	\$562,755	\$40,000	\$602,755
Commodities	\$18,000	\$6,400	\$24,400
Equipment	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
G&A	\$154,070	\$0	\$154,070
Total	\$1,865,957	\$234,400	\$2,100,357

- **Annual parking fees for office staff.** **\$4,300**
- **Audit Contract** **\$17,500**
Funds to support a contract with Elgee, Rehfeld Mertz, LLC (accounting firm) to conduct financial audit of the FY05 records of the EVOS Restoration Office and all agencies receiving EVOS funds at a cost of \$17,500.
- **Publication Development** **\$4,000**
These funds are to support the cost to develop and publish the EVOS annual report.
- **Telephone Service** **\$26,400**
These funds are to cover telephone, teleconferencing meetings, long distance, and cell phone services at an estimated cost of \$2,200.00 per month.
- **Trustee Council Meetings** **\$1,500**
These funds are to cover expenses for five Trustee Council meetings, at an estimated cost of \$300.00 per meeting.
- **Public Notices** **\$7,100**
These funds are to cover the cost of advertising public meetings and workshops in newspapers in the spill affected area newspapers.
- **Postage** **\$3,000**
These funds are to cover cost of US Postal Service mailings.
- **Courier Services** **\$1,200**
These funds are to cover the cost of express mailings and courier services, at an estimated cost of \$100 per month.
- **Equipment Maintenance and agreements** **\$5,850**
These funds are to cover the cost of the maintenance agreement for the Savin Printer/copier (\$4500.00), and any unforeseen maintenance expenses on other office equipment (\$1000.00), as well as postage meter usage fees etc. (\$350.00).
- **ADA Compliance** **\$1,225**
These funds are required by State agency regulations to cover the expense of any ADA needs necessary to accommodate access to EVOS sponsored meetings.
- **Transcription** **\$6,000**
These funds are to cover a contract with Computer Matrix for transcription services.
- **Computer Service and EPR Telecommunications** **\$14,580**
These funds are to cover the Restoration Office share of the EPR Telecommunications and computer services paid by all ADF&G divisions. These costs are based on the number of full time positions divided by the total cost. The estimated cost per position (nine full time positions) per year per person is \$1,620.00.

DATA MANAGEMENT - \$205,241

	Total Budget	EVOS Funds	NOS Grant
Personnel	\$182,728	\$128,728	\$54,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Commodities	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
Equipment	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$12,486	\$12,486	\$0
Total Data Mgmt.	\$205,214	\$151,214	\$54,000

PERSONNEL - \$182,728

Position	Range/Step	Months	Monthly Cost	Annual Costs
Data Systems Manager	22E	12.0	\$8,751.43	\$105,017.16
Analyst/Programmer III*	18C	12.0	\$6,475.92	\$77,711.04
Total Personnel			\$15,227	\$182,728

*The NOS Grant covers a portion of the salary (\$54,000) for the Analyst Programmer.

TRAVEL - \$0

CONTRACTUAL - \$4,000

- Data Management Training** **\$4,000**

These funds are to cover the cost of training for data management staff and other restoration office staff in the use and/or management of computer software, hardware, or networks.

COMMODITIES - \$6,000

- Computer Software and Hardware** **\$6,000**

These funds are to cover any software licenses and/or maintenance for the entire office. Software purchases include Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat license upgrades for the restoration office at approximately \$250 and \$100 respectively per user. Additional purchases are needed for 2 Macromedia Dreamweaver Licenses (\$400 each) as well as upgrades to 2 existing licenses (\$125 each). Some software and hardware needs are unforeseen and include equipment failure and the acquisition of software to assist in performing certain duties.

SCIENCE MANAGEMENT - \$472,185

	Total Budget	EVOS Funds	NOS Grant
Personnel	\$218,347	\$158,947	\$59,400
Travel	\$15,800	\$9,200	\$6,600
Contractual	\$204,500	\$204,500	\$0
Commodities	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$33,538	\$33,538	\$0
Total	\$472,185	\$406,185	\$66,000

PERSONNEL - \$218,347

Position	Range/Step	Months	Monthly Cost	Annual Costs
Science Director	26E	9.0	\$10,931.77	\$98,385.93
Science Coordinator*	22L	12.0	\$9,996.77	\$119,961.24
Total Personnel			\$20,929	\$218,347

*The NOS Grant covers a portion of the salary (\$59,400) for the Science Coordinator.

TRAVEL - \$15,800

- **Annual Marine Science Symposium** **\$2,000**

Travel support for keynote speaker, to include airfare, ground transportation, *per diem* and lodging.

- **IGD - Injured Species Review Team** **\$4,000**

Travel support for the Injured Species Review team (Outside of Agency Staff) to attend meetings in Anchorage. Expenses will include airfare, ground transportation, *per diem* and lodging as necessary.

- **National Conferences and Meetings** **\$9,800**

Travel support for Science Director to attend national conferences/meetings, estimated to cost \$1,600.00 per trip, to include airfare, ground transportation, *per diem* and lodging. (The NOS Grant covers a portion of Science staff travel to national conferences/meetings.)

CONTRACTUAL - \$204,500

- **Science Director Conference Registration** **\$1,000**

These funds are to pay of the cost of conference registration or training for the Science Director.

- **Annual Marine Science Symposium** **\$25,000**

These funds to support the Annual Marine Science Symposium include meeting space and equipment rental. The symposium's total estimated cost is \$60,000.00; costs will be offset by other funding sources.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - \$19,947

	EVOS Funds
Personnel	\$0
Travel	\$16,300
Contractual	\$2,000
Commodities	\$0
Equipment	\$0
G&A	\$1,647
Total	\$19,947.00

TRAVEL - \$16,300

- **Spill Area Community Meetings/Conferences** **\$4,200**

Travel support for three staff persons to attend and or participate in minimum of two community sponsored meetings in the spill effected area at an estimated cost of \$700.00 per trip, to include airfare, ground transportation, *per diem* and lodging.

- **Injured Species Workshops** **\$12,100**

Travel support for a series of one day workshops in the spill affected areas to assist Science Staff in the development of an update to the Injured Resources and Services list, to include airfare, ground transportation, *per diem* and lodging for 2 EVOS staff plus one Trustee.

CONTRACTUAL - \$2,000

- **Spill Area Community Meetings/Contract Costs** **\$2,000**

Meeting expenses.

AGENCY DISTRIBUTION

	ADF&G
Personnel	\$0
Travel	\$16,300
Contractual	\$2,000
Commodities	\$0
Equipment	\$0
G&A	\$1,647.00
Total	\$19,947.00

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) – \$51,600

	EVOS Funds	NOS Grant
Personnel	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$11,600
Contractual	\$0	\$40,000
Commodities	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$51,600

TRAVEL - \$11,600

Travel support funds are provided for up to three STAC members to attend approximately two meetings in Anchorage to review and develop recommendations relative to the draft work plan and proposals, attend the annual symposium and PAC meetings as requested by the Executive Director.

CONTRACTUAL - \$40,000

The STAC meets to evaluate proposals received under the FY07 Invitation. The STAC reviews, synthesizes, and makes funding and programmatic recommendations based on the scientific and technical peer review comments obtained for each proposal. Contractual funds are required to compensate non-governmental STAC members for participation in STAC committee meetings, coordinate voluntary peer review of project proposals, and develop recommendations relative to the annual work plan as requested by the Executive Director.

AGENCY DISTRIBUTION

	ADF&G*
Personnel	\$0
Travel	\$0
Contractual	\$0
Commodities	\$0
Equipment	\$0
G&A	\$0
Total	\$0

*All Funds are provided by the NOS Grant

SMALL PARCEL PROGRAM - \$98,100

	EVOS Funds
Personnel	\$0
Travel	\$0
Contractual	\$90,000
Commodities	\$0
Equipment	\$0
G&A	\$8,100
Total	\$98,100

CONTRACTUAL - \$90,000

Funds are provided in support of agency efforts to bring viable small parcel proposals to the Council for consideration. Expenses such as title review, hazmat review and survey review and similar expenses are appropriate due diligence efforts which may be undertaken by sponsoring agencies under this program. Expenditures are listed under the Contractual line item but due diligence may be accomplished through the use of contractors or in-house staff as determined by the agency to be most efficient and/or cost effective. No capital obligations may be incurred without further Council approval.

AGENCY DISTRIBUTION

	ADNR	DOI	USFS
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$45,000	\$22,500	\$22,500
Commodities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$4,050	\$2,025	\$2,025
Total	\$49,050	\$24,525	\$24,525

ATTACHMENT A: ALLOCATION OF EVOS FUNDS BY AGENCY

ADF&G	Total Budget*	Resolution 06-03	Resolution 06-04	Resolution 06-06	Resolution 06-08
Personnel	\$775,012	\$162,698.83	\$81,591.68	\$163,183.36	\$367,538
Travel	\$54,730	\$0	\$4,300.00	\$13,425	\$37,005
Contractual	\$138,755	\$17,483	\$6,592.00	\$41,484	\$73,196
Commodities	\$18,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$16,000
Equipment	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0.0	\$15,000
G&A	\$90,135	\$16,216.36	\$8,323.53	\$19,808.31	\$45,787
Total	\$1,091,632	\$196,398.19	\$100,807.21	\$239,900.67	\$554,526

*The figures for ADF&G **EXCLUDE** previously allocated **NOS Funds** in the following line items:
 \$164,700 in personnel, \$23,300 in travel, \$40,000 in contractual, \$6,400 in commodities

ADEC	Total Budget	Resolution 06-03	Resolution 06-04	Resolution 06-06	Resolution 06-08
Personnel	\$78,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$78,000
Travel	\$5,000	\$0	\$500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commodities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$7,470	\$ 0	\$ 45	\$ 180	\$7,245
Total	\$90,470	\$ 0	\$ 545	\$2,180	\$87,745

ADNR	Total Budget	Resolution 06-03	Resolution 06-04	Resolution 06-06	Resolution 06-08
Personnel	\$25,000	\$1,400	\$700	\$1,400	\$21,500
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$235,000	\$15,833	\$60,916	\$37,833	\$120,417
Commodities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$23,400	\$1,551	\$5,545	\$3,531	\$12,773
Total	\$283,400	\$18,784	\$67,162	\$42,764	\$154,690

ADOL	Total Budget	Resolution 06-03	Resolution 06-04	Resolution 06-06	Resolution 06-08
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commodities	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
G&A	\$ 450	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 225	\$ 225
Total	\$5,450	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$2,725	\$2,725

Agenda Item #7 – FY06 Annual Program Development and Implementation Budget

MOTION:

“I move that we adopt Resolution 06-08 of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council regarding the FY06 Work plan – Project 060100 FY06 Annual Program Development and Implementation Budget from March 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006 in the amount of \$1,045,070.”

**RESOLUTION 06-08 OF THE
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL
REGARDING THE FY 2006 WORK PLAN – PROJECT 060100
FY 2006 ANNUAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET
MARCH 1, 2006 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2006**

We, the undersigned, duly authorized members of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council do hereby certify that, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered as settlement of United States of America v. State of Alaska, No. A91-081 Civil, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, and after public meetings, unanimous agreement has been reached to expend funds received in settlement of State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al., No. A91-083 CIV, and United States of America v. Exxon Corporation, et al., No. A91-082 CIV, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, for necessary natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities for fiscal year 2006, as described in Attachment A. This portion of the Work Plan is funded at \$1,045,070. The monies are to be distributed according to the following schedule:

Alaska Department of Fish & Game	\$554,526
Alaska Department of Law	2,725
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	154,690
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	<u>87,745</u>
SUBTOTAL TO STATE OF ALASKA	\$799,686
U.S. Department of the Interior	\$172,899
U.S. Forest Service	49,050
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	<u>23,435</u>
SUBTOTAL TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	\$245,384
TOTAL APPROVED	\$1,045,070

By unanimous consent, we hereby request the Alaska Department of Law and the Assistant Attorney General of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice to take such steps as may be necessary to make

available for the Fiscal Year 2006 Work Plan, the amount of \$1,045,070 from the appropriate accounts designated by the Executive Director.

Approved by the Council at its teleconference meeting of February 8, 2006 as affirmed by our signatures affixed below.

JOE L. MEADE
Forest Supervisor
Forest Service Alaska Region
U.S. Department of Agriculture

DAVID W. MÁRQUEZ
Attorney General
State of Alaska

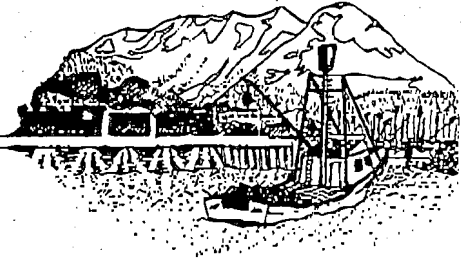
DRUE PEARCE
Senior Advisor to the Secretary
for Alaska Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

CRAIG R. O'CONNOR
Special Counsel
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

McKIE CAMPBELL
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

KURT FREDRIKSSON
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation

CITY OF CORDOVA



February 7, 2006

EVOS Trustee Council
Attn: Michael Baffrey, Interim Executive Director
441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501-2340

Dear Mr. Baffrey:

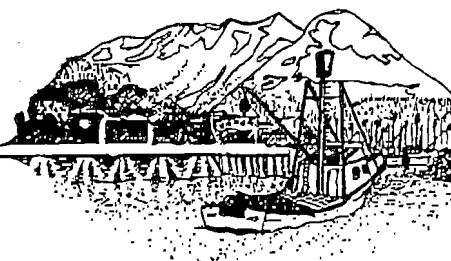
Attached please find City of Cordova Mayor Tim Joyce's comments for the February 8, 2006 teleconference. Mayor Joyce will provide public testimony at the beginning of the meeting via teleconference. Please submit his comments to the Trustee Council members so they will be able to follow along during the testimony.

Respectfully,

Lila J. Koplin, CMC
City Clerk

Encl.

CITY OF CORDOVA



February 7, 2006

Scott Nordstrand
PO Box 110208
Juneau, AK 99811

James Balsiger
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801

Kurt Fredriksson
410 Willoughby Ave, Suite 303
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

Drue Pearce
1849 C. St. NW (MS6020MIB)
Washington, D.C. 20240

McKie Campbell
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

Joe Meade
3301 C. St., Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503

Comments to the EVOS TC Feb. 8

Good morning members of the Trustee Council, staff and others in attendance. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on what I consider an important issue that has been waiting to be addressed for quite some time.

As you recall, I spoke to you in June when you were in Cordova on the fact that our community was gravely damaged by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Cordova and her residents haven't recovered from this damage nor has restoration of this damage been addressed yet by the Trustees. I also reminded the Council of our lingering injuries in a letter that I sent to you in November of last year. In that letter, I quoted the language of then Senator Frank Murkowski, which was included in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee report. It specifically authorized, "restoration, other than habitat acquisition, which may include **community and economic restoration projects and facilities.**"

I was encouraged by the recent letter to me from Interim Executive Director of the Council, Michael Baffrey, dated January 19, 2006. In his response to me, Mr. Baffrey agreed with Cordova's contention that, "the reduction or

loss of services as a result of continued injury to natural resources should be fully considered." He goes on to say that, "although many resources appear to be recovering naturally, investments may be needed to accelerate natural recovery of the resources *and give full consideration to those services that have been impacted by the oil spill.*

Cordova supports the synthesizing of all relevant information to date and also supports the 2006 Resource Status Update work that is underway. We hope the Trustees can agree that the best use of funds should also include restoration of **effected services** in the oil spill communities and we look forward to collaborating with the TC to evaluate those appropriate restoration measures.

I would like to point out to the Trustees, that Alaska State Senator Hollis French has recently introduced legislation (SJR 17 and HJR 29) requesting the state proceed in its attempt to receive the full \$100 million available through the Reopener for Unknown Injury clause. The Cordova City Council unanimously supports that legislation and the Reopener since the resources and services of our community still have not been restored or even addressed at this date - almost 17 years after the oil spill disaster.

Finally, I invite the Trustees to return to Cordova again this summer for a Council meeting as they did last year. It was an honor and a pleasure to have you conduct business in our town and it provided a wonderful opportunity for the Alaskans most impacted by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill to speak with you directly.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter of utmost importance to our community.

Most sincerely,



Timothy L. Joyce, Mayor
City of Cordova

TLJ:lk



3500 Years of Stewardship in the Delta

Eyak Preservation Council

A special group of people committed to protecting the ecosystem & Indigenous culture of the Copper River watershed

MEMO

February 7, 2006

TO: Michael Baffrey
Interim Executive Director
EVOS Trustee

FROM: Jennifer Gibbins
Director

RE: Comment to the EVOS TC, February 8, 2006

On behalf of the Eyak Preservation Council, our neighbors, friends and colleagues across Prince William Sound, I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the Trustee Council.

I would like to briefly touch on two points as follows:

- 1) The recent dialogue with Integral was a wonderful opportunity for the public to engage these consultants in a discussion regarding Integral's work on behalf of the Trustee Council. This was a very positive step. Open dialogue and information sharing is vitally important to the process – and to ensuring the best possible outcome from this work. There are many opportunities for follow up. Integral indicated at the symposium that their first step will be to provide the public with a list of the people they have been interviewing and consulting with. We greatly appreciate this and look forward to hearing back from Integral in the next several days.
- 2) Having made this first important step, I would like to suggest that the Trustee Council take another step in this direction and formally engage public participation in this work through financial support. We currently have in place a diverse group of area stakeholders working on the re-opener issue. Team members include fisherman, scientists, conservationists, Native and non-Native concerned citizens – as well as liaisons to national conservation and commercial fishing organizations. Among other activities, we engage spill zone residents, stakeholders and fishery experts in the identification of issues and the development of restoration project plans.

Our team members and associates have a wealth of experience, expertise, inherent and traditional knowledge regarding Prince William Sound. Our spill-zone members have an intimate knowledge of this region that is uniquely valuable and uniquely relevant to the re-opener process and outcome.

In order to continue this work in the manner necessary to address an issue of this magnitude, we seek your financial support to continue our work and, specifically, to engage with your consultants at Integral. Your financial support will help ensure continuation of the interactive approach you so wisely initiated at the symposium and to ensure the proper pace and scope of effort required to prepare the most appropriate re-opener restoration plan – one that reflects the highest level of outside expertise as well as the authentic participation of spill zone residents and concerned Alaskans.

Thank you.

TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA

A Nonprofit Public Interest Law Firm Providing Counsel to Protect and Sustain Alaska's Environment

1026 W. 4th Ave., Suite 201 Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 276-4244 (907) 276-7110 Fax Email: ecolaw@trustees.org
Web address: www.trustees.org

February 8, 2006

Trustees
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501

[SENT VIA E-MAIL]

Re: *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Reopener Restoration Planning Process

Dear Trustees:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Alaska Center for the Environment, Cook Inlet Keeper, Cascadia Wildlands Project, and the National Wildlife Federation. These organizations request that the Trustees promptly initiate a process to engage the public in identifying unanticipated injury to populations, habitats, and species, and in generating restoration projects that qualify for funds under the "Reopener for Unknown Injury" in the Agreement and Consent Decree that settled natural resource damage claims brought by the State of Alaska and the United States against Exxon Corporation for the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS or Spill).

Under the Clean Water Act and the Agreement and Consent Decree, you are Trustees on behalf of the public to recover the costs of restoring, rehabilitating, or acquiring the equivalent of the natural resources damaged by the Spill. 33 U.S.C. § 1321(f)(5); *Agreement and Consent Decree* at 3, *United States et al. v. Exxon Corporation et al.*, Nos. A91-082 CIV & A91-083 CIV (Oct. 9, 1991). Consistent with this mandate, the process of restoring, rehabilitating, or acquiring the equivalent of these resources requires "meaningful public participation" in every phase, including "the planning, evaluation, and conduct of injury assessments, the planning, evaluation and conduct of restoration activities, and the coordination thereof." *Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree* at § V, *United States v. State*, No. A91-081 CV (Aug. 29, 1991). As Trustees, in other words, you are the point of contact for public communication with the State and federal governments regarding EVOS injury assessment and restoration. In your capacity as State and federal government officials, furthermore, you will help decide whether to invoke the Reopener. You are thus the appropriate officials to engage the public in identifying unanticipated injury and generating restoration projects under the Reopener.

A process to solicit restoration projects from the public is timely in light of work the Trustee Council has undertaken to identify the nature and extent of lingering oil, the present-day resource injuries resulting from lingering oil, the status of injured resources and services, and potential restoration projects. Full and robust public discussion of available and pending reports by Integral Consulting, Jacqui Michel, and other researchers – outside the context of Trustee

EVOS Reopener Restoration Planning Process

Page 1 of 2

Council meetings in which general business is conducted – will ensure meaningful public participation in the injury assessment and restoration process, and will inform your ultimate decision regarding the Reopener. This process should begin with wide dissemination of the facts of the Spill and the Reopener, feature public meetings in Spill-affected communities, and conclude with timely submission of a restoration plan and demand for payment to Exxon by June 1, 2006 under the terms of the Reopener. If the governments decide not to invoke the Reopener, the process should conclude with a written public explanation as to why the Reopener does not compel Exxon to fund the additional restoration projects it agreed to fund when it effected the Agreement and Consent Decree on September 25, 1991.

Thank you for the work you and your staffs have done to restore the magnificent natural resources damaged by the Spill and to hold Exxon accountable for the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill. As you know best, much work remains to be done by June 1, 2006, and we await your response.

Yours truly,

/s/

Justin Massey
Staff Attorney

Cc: Jim Balsiger, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Joe Meade, Chugach National Forest
Drue Pearce, U.S. Department of the Interior

Cherri Womac

From: Justin Massey [jmassey@trustees.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2006 9:39 AM
To: Cherri Womac; McKie Campbell; Craig O'Connor; David W. Marquez; Drue Pearce; Jim Balsiger; Joe Meade; Kurt Fredriksson; Tim Obst; Craig Tillery; Gina Belt; Maria Lisowski; Rita Hoffmann; Steve Zemke; Carol Fries; Dede Bohn; Heather Brandon; Jenifer Kohout; Jennifer Thomson; Larry Dietrick; Michael Baffrey; Peter Hagen
Cc: Vern McCorkle; Andy Teuber; Brenda L. Norcross; Douglas L. (Doug) Mutter; Ed Zeine; Edward Page; Gary Fandrei; Jason Brune; John Gerster; Kurt Eilo; Larry Evanoff; Lisa Ka'aihue; Martin Robards; Mead Treadwell; Pat Norman; Patrick Lavin; Randy Hagenstein; Robert J. (RJ) Kopchak; Ron Peck; Stacy Studebaker; Torie Baker; Thomas C. Royer; Leslie Holland-Bartels PhD; Ronald O'Dor; Stephen R Braund; Valerie Robinson; Aly Miner; Claire Fishwick-Leonard; Ginny Kalbach; Kathryn Hughes; Keeley Rohrbach; Molly Hicks; Robyn Holloway; Sherry Hernandez
Subject: EVOS Reopener Restoration Planning Process



EVOS Reop
t Pub Proc Ltr E

Dear EVOS Trustees et al.:

Please find the attached letter requesting a public process for identifying unanticipated injury and generating restoration projects under the Reopener for Unknown Injury. This letter is addressed to the EVOS Trustees identified in the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree of August 28, 1991 and copied to the federal designees on the Trustee Council.

A copy of this letter will also be submitted to the Executive Director of the Trustee Council for transmission by mail.

Justin Massey
Staff Attorney
Trustees for Alaska
1026 West 4th Avenue, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-4244 x114
(907) 276-7110 fax

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11.17.02

Cherri Womac

From: Michael Baffrey

Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2006 6:44 PM

To: McKie Campbell (mckie_campbell@fishgame.state.ak.us); Craig O'Connor (Craig.R.O'Connor@noaa.gov); David W. Marquez (david_marquez@law.state.ak.us); Drue Pearce (drue_pearce@ios.doi.gov); Jim Balsiger (jim.balsiger@noaa.gov); Joe Meade (jmeade@fs.fed.us); Kurt Fredriksson (kurt_fredriksson@dec.state.ak.us)

Cc: Steve Zemke (szemke@fs.fed.us); Carol Fries (carol_fries@dnr.state.ak.us); Dede Bohn (Dede_Bohn@usgs.gov); Heather Brandon (heather_brandon@fishgame.state.ak.us); Jenifer Kohout (Jenifer_Kohout@fws.gov); Jennifer Thomson (jennifer_thomson@ios.doi.gov); Larry Dietrick (larry_dietrick@dec.state.ak.us); Michael Baffrey (michael_baffrey@ios.doi.gov); Peter Hagen (Peter.Hagen@Noaa.gov); Valerie Robinson (valerie_robinson@law.state.ak.us); Aly Miner (aminer@fs.fed.us); Claire Fishwick-Leonard (claire_fishwick@dec.state.ak.us); Ginny Kalbach (Ginny_Kalbach@ios.doi.gov); Kathryn Hughes (kathy_hughes@fishgame.state.ak.us); Keeley Rohrbach (keeley_rohrbach@law.state.ak.us); Molly Hicks (Molly_Hicks@dec.state.ak.us); Robyn Holloway (robyn.holloway@noaa.gov); Sherry Hernandez (sherry_hernandez@fishgame.state.ak.us); Tim Obst (Tim.Obst@usda.gov); Craig Tillery (craig_tillery@law.state.ak.us); Gina Belt (regina.belt@usdoj.gov); Maria Lisowski (mlisowski@fs.fed.us); 'Rita Hoffmann'

Subject: Issues and Concerns regarding the Monitoring Projects on the February 8 TC Meeting Agenda

Hello Trustees,

It was a good meeting this morning. One procedural change I would suggest is limiting individual testimony to three minutes. Another would be an opening statement by the chair on the Trustees' position with regards to the Reopener Clause--followed by an additional statement that testimony will be stopped if this topic is broached. This would have allowed us to better manage meeting time.

Specific to the four attached projects requesting one-year extensions, I remind you to submit your issues, concerns, and requests for additional information. Please do this while the dialogue of our meeting today is fresh in your thoughts.

Regarding when to schedule our next Trustees' meeting, 45-60 days places the meeting date sometime between the last week in March and the first week in April. I will be in Copenhagen the first week in April, so I suggest our meeting be within the March 27-30 or the April 11-13 periods. I need you to tell me out of these 6 days which will absolutely not work for you. Thanks

Michael

2/9/2006

11.17.02

Cherri Womac

From: Peter Hagen [peter.hagen@noaa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2006 1:00 PM
To: McKie Campbell; Craig O'Connor; David W. Marquez; Drue Pearce; Jim Balsiger; Joe Meade; Kurt Fredriksson
Cc: Cherri Womac; Tim Obst; Craig Tillery; Gina Belt; Maria Lisowski; Rita Hoffmann; Steve Zemke; Carol Fries; Dede Bohn; Heather Brandon; Jenifer Kohout; Jennifer Thomson; Larry Dietrick; Michael Baffrey; Vern McCorkle; Andy Teuber; Brenda L. Norcross; Douglas L. (Doug) Mutter; Ed Zeine; Edward Page; Gary Fandrei; Jason Brune; John Gerster; Kurt Eilo; Larry Evanoff; Lisa Ka'aihue; Martin Robards; Mead Treadwell; Pat Norman; Patrick Lavin; Randy Hagenstein; Robert J. (RJ) Kopchak; Ron Peck; Stacy Studebaker; Torie Baker; Thomas C. Royer; Leslie Holland-Bartels PhD; Ronald O'Dor; Stephen R Braund; Valerie Robinson; Aly Miner; Claire Fishwick-Leonard; Ginny Kalbach; Kathryn Hughes; Keeley Rohrbach; Molly Hicks; Robyn Holloway; Sherry Hernandez
Subject: Additional Background on Agenda 6 extensions of 4 projects



Cokelet - Weingartner - Batten - Okkonen -
Project summary FY Project summary FY Project summary FY Project summary FY

All

I'm attaching some background information on the four monitoring projects that are on tomorrow's agenda for consideration for one year of bridge funding. Earlier Michael Baffrey had asked me to contact each PI to get a cost estimate from them as well as provide to us a summary of their work to date. The summary was to be only 1 to 2 pages and include background, rationale for using EVOS funds, and current funding request. Due in part to my delay in getting a hold of all the PI's, as well as delays that resulting from trying to clarify the request (e.g. reduce the summaries down to size) I received the final summary sheet too late to reformat them for inclusion in the meeting packet that Cherri and Michael put together. What you do have in your packets though, as 'Item 6a - Background', is material from the same PI's, but just extracted and condensed down in a simpler form. These additional sheets provide a bit more background and after talking it over with Michael, we figured they might be of interest to some of you as well. They are not part of the packet however.

Regards
-Pete

--
Peter Hagen, Ph.D.
NOAA - Fisheries
Program manager
11305 GLACIER HWY
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-8626
PHONE: 907-789-6096
FAX: 907-789-6608

Project 040699 summary FY07

Biophysical Observations Aboard Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries

Edward D. Cokelet¹, Calvin W. Mordy² and W. Scott Pegau³

¹NOAA/PMEL, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

²University of Washington/JISAO, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

³ADFG/Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, 95 Sterling Hwy, Suite 2, Homer, AK 99603

Background: The Alaska Coastal Current (ACC) flows counterclockwise around the rim of the Gulf of Alaska carrying the river runoff, nutrients and plankton that fuel the productive coastal marine ecosystem. The ACC transported spilled oil from the *Exxon Valdez* in Prince William Sound to the lower Kenai Peninsula, the Kodiak Archipelago and portions of the Alaska Peninsula. Therefore it is both an important marine habitat and a vector for spilled oil transport. Regular oceanographic measurements can provide valuable information about the ACC's location and basic environmental parameters.

In FY04 the EVOS Trustee council sponsored our program to design and build an oceanographic monitoring system to measure the biophysical properties of the ACC aboard a volunteer observing ship, the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry *Tustumena*. The measurements began in September 2004 and are continuing. Two advantages stem from using the *Tustumena*:

(1) The ship crosses the crucial Alaska Coastal Current over 200 times each year sailing with varying frequency between Homer, Kodiak, Seward, Prince William Sound and Dutch Harbor. (2) Ship time is free to the project as the ship plies the waters on her scheduled ferry route.

On the *Tustumena*, water is pumped from the ship's sea chest, 4 m below the waterline, through a series of instruments to measure:

1. water temperature,
2. salinity, an indicator of the ACC's location and a measure of density stratification,
3. dissolved nitrate, an essential nutrient for phytoplankton,
4. chlorophyll fluorescence, an indicator of phytoplankton concentration,
5. colored dissolved organic matter fluorescence, an indicator of terrestrial runoff,
6. optical beam transmittance, an indicator of the total suspended particle concentration.

Measurements are made every 30 seconds (every 10 minutes for nitrate), recorded along with the ship's GPS position, and transmitted back to the laboratory hourly via Iridium satellite telephone. A public display terminal aboard the ship showing the water temperature along the ship track is updated every few minutes. A website (http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/foci/GEM/alaska_ferry) summarizes the project and shows typical results. In FY06 we plan to make frequently updated graphs and data available on the website. (This is beyond the scope of our FY04 proposal, but a worthwhile evolutionary step.)

Rationale: This project was conceived as a low-cost method for acquiring seasonal and interannual measures of water conditions across the spill area. These measures are important as indicators of broad-scale changes in climate, determinates of metabolic activity in higher trophic species, and indices of local and regional conditions that may help determine the carrying capacity of bird, mammal and fish populations. Species that have been and could still be affected by the oil spill, such as herring, harbor seals and sea ducks, are known to respond to environmental changes. The ability to determine the impact of the spill on these natural resources has been hampered by the lack of knowledge as to the mechanism of natural changes and uncertainty as to how a species may recover from the spill when other factors are also important. This project will collect baseline data that adds to a body of work looking at these changes over time. Through tools such as modeling, retrospective analyses and process studies, this work may eventually help contribute to a better understanding of how environmental changes interacted with the catastrophic effects of the 1989 oil spill to affect the recovery of the injured species. This work will also provide us a better foundation for addressing the impact of any future spills in the unfortunate event that one occurs.

Current request: The funding request in FY06 is for \$133,855 (excluding agency GA). The FY07 request is for \$143,400. It reflects a slight increase to account for increases in travel and personnel costs as well as unanticipated expenses that arose last year for transmitting the data from remote locations. Our plans for FY07 include continuing our oceanographic monitoring on the *Tustumena*. We will use the same instruments as before. Funds will be spent on maintaining and troubleshooting the system, weekly instrument cleaning, four roundtrips between Homer and Kodiak to take water samples for instrument calibration, analysis of the water samples, Iridium satellite telephone charges, and worldwide web data display and access.

Future Work: Some high priorities in continuing this base level monitoring in FY08 and beyond, are to maintain the collection of measurements from the *Tustumena* and to add a similar system to the *Aurora* (or its replacement) which the Alaska Marine Highway System has moved onto the Prince William Sound route. In our original FY03 proposal we wanted to add a vessel-mounted acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) to the *Tustumena* to measure the speed of the Alaska Coastal Current on the routine ferry crossings. This was not funded for FY04-06, but it would provide measurements of its intensity, width and transport on a nearly daily basis to an extent unequalled by current meter moorings.

Project 040340 summary FY07

Project Title: Long-term oceanographic monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem

PI Name: Thomas Weingartner. University of Alaska Fairbanks

Background

This EVOS monitoring program is a continuation of an effort begun in 1970 to monitor oceanographic conditions on the northern Gulf of Alaska shelf at hydrographic station GAK 1. GAK 1 is located at the mouth of Resurrection Bay in the Alaska Coastal Current (ACC). The ACC is a narrow (within ~40 km of the coast), swift, year-round flow maintained by the integrated forcing of winds and terrestrial freshwater discharge. It is an important ocean pathway by which climate signals, dissolved and suspended materials, contaminants, and organisms are advected along coastal Alaska. A portion of the ACC flow through Prince William Sound and it regulates exchange between the outer shelf and the fjords and bays along the coast. Indeed, the ACC was the principal pathway by which oil spilled from *T/V Exxon Valdez* was transported from Prince William Sound along the south coast of Alaska and into Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. The current is also an important habitat and migratory corridor for many marine organisms, including both endemic species and potential invasive species.

The GAK 1 sampling includes monthly conductivity-temperature versus depth (CTD) measurements (begun in 1970) and hourly temperature and salinity measurements made at 7 depths that span the water column from a subsurface mooring at GAK1. This station is the only station in the Gulf of Alaska that measures salinity and it is the *only* station measuring these variables throughout the water column.

Rationale

The EVOSTC has supported the GAK 1 monitoring since 1997 when it recognized that variability in the marine environment must be quantified and understood to comprehend and predict the response of the Gulf of Alaska marine ecosystem to natural or human related causes (such as the 1989 oil spill). GAK 1 monitors ocean temperatures, salinities, and phytoplankton blooms all of which are fundamental properties of the marine ecosystem that affect upper trophic level production and abundance. To date our measurements have allowed us to 1) document long term temperature variations, which affects organismal metabolic rates, 2) monitor the volume transport in the ACC which affects the dispersal of contaminants and organisms, and 3) quantify changes in stratification, which affects biological production throughout the trophic system. Weingartner (2005), Weingartner et al. (2005), and Royer (2005) give a more complete description and analysis of the data collected thus far.

GAK 1 is the only long term oceanographic data set in the spill area. Though limited to a single location, the data set is critical for retrospective examinations of environmental changes that may have influenced recovery of resources from the spill. When combined with additional studies, continuation of the data collection may eventually help to tease apart the components of variation

that can be attributed to long term natural changes as opposed to changes that may have directly or indirectly resulted from the spill itself.

Current request

Then FY06 funding request was for \$ 60,000 (excluding GA)

This funding request in FY07 is for \$ 69,000 to cover a increase in personnel costs, travel and fuel expenses and the replacement of aging flotation equipment for the mooring.

Literature

Royer, T. C. 2005. Hydrographic responses at a coastal site in the northern Gulf of Alaska to seasonal and interannual forcing, *Deep-Sea Research Pt. II*, 52: 267 - 288.

Weingartner, T. 2005. Toward long-term oceanographic monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem, *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Project Annual Report* (Restoration Project 98340), Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division, Anchorage, Alaska.

Weingartner, T., S. Danielson, and T. Royer. 2005. Freshwater Variability and Predictability in the Alaska Coastal Current, *Deep-Sea Research Pt. II*, 52: 169 - 192.

Project 040624 summary FY07

Acquisition and Application of Continuous Plankton Recorder data in the Gulf of Alaska *Sonia D. Batten*

Background

This project collects biological data from ships-of-opportunity on a transect from Cook Inlet across the Gulf of Alaska to Puget Sound. The Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) has been deployed from ships-of-opportunity in the North Pacific on a routine basis since March 2000. Originally implemented to fulfill the requirements of the North Pacific Marine Science Organisation (PICES) to collect seasonal plankton data from the North Pacific, the survey also demonstrated its relevance to the EVOS program and received support in FY02 and then FY03 to FY06. Funding was also obtained from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) to fund collection of data on a complementary transect that crosses the Gulf of Alaska from west to east (2003 to 2007), passing through Unimak Pass into the southern Bering Sea. Data analysis often combines data from the two projects to address wider scale issues, though each transect is supported separately. Servicing of the EVOS funded CPRs has been carried out at the Prince William Sound Community College in Valdez.

Rationale

Ecosystem regimes have a typical duration on the order of a decade and shifts in regimes may occur very rapidly – within a year. A notable regime shift occurred in the late 1970s in the eastern North Pacific but was not recognized as such for about another decade. Early warning of regime shifts could improve the management and study of commercial species and there is increasing evidence to suggest that plankton are good indicators of ecosystem change. Furthermore, our ability to assess the impact of a major event such as an oil-spill is dependent on our ability to distinguish between natural variability, climate forcing and the anthropogenic effects. It is only by collecting this data over a long period and through the use of tools such as modeling will we be able to evaluate the indirect impacts the Exxon Valdez oil spill may have on injured resources against a background of changing conditions.

The CPR transect samples the Alaskan shelf and crosses the slope into the open Gulf of Alaska. Many important species forage in the offshore areas for at least some of their life history (salmon, birds and marine mammals for example) so an understanding of the productivity of these offshore areas is important to understanding and predicting fluctuations in resource abundance. Additionally, we are now realizing the importance of mesoscale eddies which occur all around the southern Alaskan shelf and exchange shelf and offshore water (and organisms), inextricably linking these two regions.

Research to date

The time series of CPR data is short compared to studies in the North Atlantic yet we have already been able to publish research on the co-varying of the plankton populations with climate effects (Batten and Welch, 2004; Mackas et al., 2006).

We have also published one paper on the role of eddies (Batten and Crawford, 2005) and two more manuscripts are in preparation; i) the role of eddies in larval decapod dispersal around the rim of the Gulf of Alaska, and ii) the fall/winter distribution of euphausiids in the western Gulf of Alaska may be determined by eddies.

Single species investigations can also be made from CPR data, as an example the data have been used to extend the known distribution of a Euphausiid species (Lindley et al., 2004).

Additional information about the Pacific CPR projects can be found at http://192.171.163.165/pacific_project.htm

Current request

We have asked for funding for an additional year of sampling, sample processing and data analysis at the same level as in 2004-2006. After two years of working with Horizon Shipping the sample collection is now routine and reliable. Servicing of CPRs is still being carried out at the Prince William Sound Community College and we would expect this to continue in 2007. Our request for funding shows a modest rise of ~3.5% owing to inflation and increased fuel costs.

Publications resulting wholly or in part from EVOS funding

Mackas, D.L., Batten, S.D., and Trudel, M., (submission in Feb 06) Effects on zooplankton of a warming ocean: recent evidence from the Northeast Pacific. *Progress in Oceanography*.

Batten, S.D and Crawford, W.R. (2005). The influence of coastal origin eddies on oceanic plankton distributions in the eastern Gulf of Alaska. *Deep Sea Research II*, **52**, 991-1009.

Lindley, J.A., Batten, S.D., Coyle, K.O and Pinchuk, A.I. (2004). Regular occurrence of *Thysanoessa inspinata* (Crustacea: Euphausiacea) in the Gulf of Alaska. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK*, **84**, 1033-1037.

Batten, S.D. and Welch, D.W. (2004). Changes in oceanic zooplankton populations in the North-east Pacific associated with the possible climatic regime shift of 1998/1999. *Deep Sea Research II*, **51**, 863-873.

Project 040614 summary FY07

Monitoring Program for Near-surface Temperature, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the North Pacific Ocean

PI: Steve Okkonen, UAF

Background

This project uses Tanker vessels as a cost effective means to monitor ocean conditions. Since October 2002, a Seabird thermosalinograph (TSG), installed on the tanker vessel (T/V) Polar Alaska, has been measuring near-surface temperature and salinity along the shipping corridor between Valdez and west coast (California and Washington) refineries. Although there have been some data gaps due to the ship going into dry dock for repairs and due to equipment failures, the TSG is presently adding to its growing data record.

Rationale

In a general sense, the value of the data collected through this project contributes to improving our understanding of the spatial and temporal (seasonal and year-to-year) variability of freshwater influences on frontal features and circulation in the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound (PWS). Freshwater also plays an important role in the estuarine-like character of the PWS ecosystem. The TSG data are a record of changes in the physical oceanic environment that provides a context for investigating and interpreting changes in the biotic environment of PWS.

A very specific and relevant application for the data acquired through this project is providing observational data against which the performance of numerical circulation models (e.g oil spill trajectory models) can be compared.

Finally, the data from this monitoring project (and other monitoring projects) become more valuable as the data record becomes longer. A multi-year data record permits investigation of interannual changes in oceanic conditions. In the context of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, it is these changes that strongly influence ocean productivity and directly effect metabolic conditions of marine dependent species. Injuries to resources affected by the spill and their recovery rates can only be fully understood in the context of how they also respond to changing environmental conditions.

Current request

The FY06 funding request was \$28858.

Estimated funding request for FY07 is \$32000 to account for slight increase in travel and personnel costs.

Peer-reviewed, published results from this project:

Okkonen, S.R., D.L. Cutchin, and T.C. Royer. 2005. Seasonal variability of near-surface hydrography and frontal features in the northern Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* vol. 32, L11611, doi:10.1029/2005GL023195.