# 13.08.01 – Reading File

November 2003



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

## MEMORANDUM

- TO: Dede Bohn, DOI-USGS Tony DeGange, DOI-USFWS Carol Fries, ADNR Pete Hagen, NOAA Kevin Buckland, ADF&G
- FROM: Gail Phillips Executive Director

RE: Authorization to Spend: FY 04 Work Plan

DATE: November 13, 2003

At its November 10, 2003 meeting, the Trustee Council approved a total of \$3,187,402 for 31 projects for the FY 04 Work Plan. A number of steps need to be completed before these funds can be made available.

As in past years, a letter of authorization from the Executive Director will be required on each project before spending can occur. The Trustee Council's project approval was subject to the following conditions: timely completion of late reports and manuscripts, NEPA compliance, submittal by each PI of a signed form indicating their agreement to abide by the Council's new data and report requirements, and any additional conditions specified in the individual project recommendations. As soon as these conditions are satisfied, I will authorize projects to proceed.

Letters are being prepared under my signature to each PI who submitted a proposal for FY 04, notifying them of the Trustee Council's recent action. The letters, which explain the conditions for Executive Director authorization, will be mailed out over the next several days, with a copy going to the appropriate agency project manager. I expect the PIs to work through the project managers if they have questions about late reports, NEPA, the signature form, special conditions, or any other aspect of the project approval process.

## Late Reports and Manuscripts

The Trustee Council's motion directed the Executive Director to withhold authorizations to spend FY 04 project funds until late reports and manuscripts have been submitted. The motion reads:

If a PI has an overdue report or manuscript from a previous year, no funds maybe expended on a project involving the PI unless the report/manuscript is submitted or a schedule for submission is approved by the Executive Director. A list of late reports is attached.

### NEPA Compliance

The Trustee Council's motion directed the Executive Director to withhold authorizations to spend FY 04 project funds until NEPA compliance is documented. The motion reads:

A project's lead agency must demonstrate to the Executive Director that requirements of NEPA are met before any project funds may be expended (with the exception of funds spent to prepare NEPA documentation.)

A draft list of projects requiring NEPA documentation is attached. Because many of the FY 04 projects are continuing projects, a CE or EA is on file here at the Trustee Council Office for FY 03. In these cases, the lead NEPA agency needs to simply confirm that the CE or EA already on file applies as well to the project activity that will be conducted in FY 04. For new projects, the attached list identifies a NEPA lead agency based on past practice. If you have questions or changes to any of the information on the list, please contact Brenda Hall.

### Signature Form

The Trustee Council's motion directed the Executive Director to withhold authorizations to spend FY 04 project funds until a signature form is submitted by each project's PI. The motion reads:

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.

Signature forms have been received from nearly all proposers. The form is available on the Trustee Council's web page for those who need it.

### **Special Conditions**

Seven projects have special conditions or contingencies that must be met before FY 04 work can proceed. These conditions are spelled out in the Trustee Council's action, the pertinent pages of which are attached.

Please let me know if you envision any problems with the above items.

Attachments: NEPA compliance spreadsheet TC Action spreadsheet

## **NEPA Compliance Spreadsheet**

Project number	First Name	Last Name	Project title	Amount funded	New or Continuing Project	NEPA lead agency	NEPA	TC action	BAA
040636	Kenneth	Adams	Fisheries Management Applications	\$46,760	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030636	Fund	Yes
040624	Sonia	Batten	Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska	\$135,200	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030624	Fund	Yes
040635	Mary Anne	Bishop	Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft-Sediment Communities: Interaction between Top-down and Bottom-up Processes	\$149,529	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030635	Fund	Yes
040687	James	Bodkin	Monitoring in the Nearshore: A Process for Making Reasoned Decisions	\$10,000	Continuing	USGS/Dede Bohn	NA – Memo on file for 030687	Fund Contingent	
040620- 2	James	Bodkin	Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery Status	\$134,300	Continuing	USGS/Dede Bohn	CE on file for 030620 - Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status	Fund Contingent	
040210	Richard	DeLorenzo	Youth Area Watch	\$121,100	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on for 030210	Fund	
040471	James	Fall	Update of the Status of Subsistence Uses in Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area Communities	\$298,700	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	NA – Memo on file for 99471	Fund	-
040159	David	Irons	Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound during Winter and Summer 2004	\$175,518	Continuing	USGS/Dede Bohn	NA – Memo on file for 02159	Fund	
040666	Brenda	Konar	Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 or a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project	\$248,729	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030666	Fund	-
040290	Bonita	Nelson	The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service	\$22,200	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030290	Fund Contingent	-
040614	Steve	Okkonen	A Monitoring Program for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program	\$27,289	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030614	Fund	

# NEPA Compliance Spreadsheet

040620- 1	Stanley	Rice	Lingering Oil: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status (ABL)	\$60,000	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030620 – Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status	Fund Contingent	
040407	Dan	Rosenberg	Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics in Price William Sound: Measuring Recovery	\$37,100	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 02407	Fund	
040647	Jennifer	Ruesink	Investigating the Relative Roles of Natural Factors & Shoreline Harvest in Altering the Community Structure, Dynamics & Diversity of the Kenai Peninsula	\$81,600	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030647	Fund	Yes
040610	Teri	Schneider	Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch	\$63,000	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030610	Fund	
040600	Robert	Spies	A Synthesis of the Ecological findings from the EVOS Damage Assessment and Restoration Programs, 1989–2001	\$201,700	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hager	NA	Fund Contingent	
040340	Thomas	Weingartner	Long-Term Monitoring of the Alaska Coastal Current	\$75,482	Continuing	NOAA/Pete Hagen	CE on file for 030340	Fund	
040699	Edward	Cokelet	Biophysical Observation aboard Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries	\$171,500		NOAA/Pete Hagen		Fund	
040702	Ginney	Eckert	A Synthesis of Natural Variability in the Nearshore: Can we Detect Change?	\$36,300		NOAA/Pete Hagen		Fund	
040703	Bruce	Finney	Marine-terrestrial Linkages in northern GOA Watersheds; Towards Monitoring the effects of Anadrmous Marine-derived Nutrients on Biological Production	\$79,197		NOAA/Pete Hagen		Fund	
040706	Ronald	Heintz	The Influence of Adult Salmon Carcasses on Energy Allocation in Juvenile Salmonids	\$48,400		NOAA/Pete Hagen		Fund Contingent	
040707	Steve	Honnold	Monitoring the Effects of Anadromous Marine- derived Nutrients on Sockeye Salmon	\$83,200		NOAA/Pete Hagen		Fund	
040708	Gail	Irvine	Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska	\$71,700		USGS/Dede Bohn		Fund Contingent	
040710	Dale	Kiefer	Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology: An ABIS Information System	\$80,900		NOAA/Pete Hagen		Fund	Yes
040712	Eric	Knudsen	Research for Nutrient-based Resource Management in Watersheds and Estuaries	\$173,216		USGS/Dede Bohn	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Fund	



## NEPA Compliance Spreadsheet

040716	Allen	Macklin	A Comprehensive, Web-accessible, Geo- referenced Metadatabase of Marine-related Physical and Biological Databases of the northern Gulf of Alaska	\$100,600	NOAA/Pete Hagen	Fund	
040012	Craig	Matkin	Monitoring Killer Whales in Prince William Sound/Kenai Fjords in 2004	\$19,502	NOAA/Pete Hagen	Fund	'es
040721	Susan	Saupe	Alaska Coastal Habitat Web Site	\$21,100	NOAA/Pete Hagen	Fund	
040724	Jeff	Short	Development of a Strategy for Monitoring Exxon Valdez Oil and other Contamination in PWS	\$45,900	NOAA/Pete Hagen	Fund Contingent	
040725	Richard	Thorne	Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orca Inlet, PWS	\$72,680	NOAA/Pete Hagen	Fund Y	<b>′e</b> s
040726	Coowe	Walker	Presence and Effects of Marine Derived Nutrients (MDN) in Stream, Riparian and Nearshore Ecosystems on Southern Kenai Peninsula, Alaska	\$150,200	NOAA/Pete Hagen	Fund	

Project number	First Name	Last Name	Project title	Amount funded	Project Manager	Sharon Kent/if BAA	TC Action	NOTES
040687	James	Bodkin	Monitoring in the Nearshore: A Process for Making Reasoned Decisions	\$10,000	Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager	6	Fund Contingent	
040620-2	James	Bodkin	Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery Status	\$134,300	Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manger		Fund Contingent	Overdue report
040706	Ronald	Heintz	The Influence of Adult Salmon Carcasses on Energy Allocation in Juvenile Salmonids	\$48,400	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger		Fund Contingent	
040708	Gail	Irvine	Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder- Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska	\$60,600	Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager		Fund Contingent	Overdue report
040620-1	Stanley	Rice	Lingering Oil: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status (ABL)	\$60,000	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger		Fund Contingent	Overdue report
040724	Jeff	Short	Development of a Strategy for Monitoring Exxon Valdez Oil and other Contamination in PWS	\$45,900	Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manager		Fund Contingent	
040600	Robert	Spies	A Synthesis of the Ecological findings from the EVOS Damage Assessment and Restoration Programs, 1989–2001	201,700	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager C. Trues DNR		Fund Contingent	TC approval of contract.
040636	Kenneth	Adams	Fisheries Management Applications	46,760	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Fund	
040624	Sonia	Batten	Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska	135,200	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/ NOAA Contractor	Fund	
040635	Mary Anne	Bishop	Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft– Sediment Communities: Interaction between Top–down and Bottom–up Processes	149,529	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Fund	
040699	Edward	Cokelet	Biophysical Observation aboard Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries	171,500	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager		Fund	

040210	Richard	DeLorenzo	Youth Area Watch	\$121,100	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040702	Ginney	Eckert	A Synthesis of Natural Variability in the Nearshore: Can we Detect Change?	36,300	Kevin Buckland/NOAA Project Manager		Fund	
040471	James	Fall	Update of the Status of Subsistence Uses in Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area Communities	298,700	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040703	Bruce	Finney	Marine-terrestrial Linkages in northern GOA Watersheds; Towards Monitoring the effects of Anadrmous Marine- derived Nutrients on Biological Production	79,197	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040707	Steve	Honnold	Monitoring the Effects of Anadromous Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockeye Salmon	83,200	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040159	David	Irons	Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound during Winter and Summer 2004	175,518	Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager		Fund	
040710	Dale	Kiefer	Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology: An ABIS Information System	80,900	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Fund	
040712	Eric	Knudsen	Research for Nutrient-based Resource Management in Watersheds and Estuaries	\$173,216	Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager		Fund	
040666	Brenda	Konar	Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 or a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project	248,729	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	

040716	Allen	Macklin	A Comprehensive, Web-accessible, Geo-referenced Metadatabase of Marine-related Physical and Biological Databases of the northern Gulf of Alaska	100,600	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager		Fund	
040012	Craig	Matkin	Monitoring Killer Whales in Prince William Sound/Kenai Fjords in 2004	\$19,502	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/BAA Contracting	Fund	
040290	Bonita	Nelson	The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service	22,200	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager		Fund Contingent	
040614	Steve	Okkonen	A Monitoring Program for Near- Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program	27,289	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040407	Dan	Rosenberg	Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics in Price William Sound: Measuring Recovery	37,100	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040647	Jennifer	Ruesink	Investigating the Relative Roles of Natural Factors & Shoreline Harvest in Altering the Community Structure, Dynamics & Diversity of the Kenai Peninsula	81,600	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Fund	
040721	Susan	Saupe	Alaska Coastal Habitat Web Site	21,100	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager		Fund	
040610	Teri	Schneider	Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch	63,000	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040725	Richard	Thorne	Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orca Inlet, PWS	72,680	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Fund	

040726	Coowe	Walker	Presence and Effects of Marine Derived Nutrients (MDN) in Stream, Riparian and Nearshore Ecosystems on Southern Kenai Peninsula, Alaska	150,200	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040340	Thomas	Weingartner	Long-Term Monitoring of the Alaska Coastal Current	75,482	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Fund	
040704	Rick	Foster	Community Science Dialogues		Kevin Buckland/Acting ADFG Project Manger		Do not fund	
040713	Robert	Kopchak	Cordova Community Resource Mapping		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040717-1	Lyn	McNutt	Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program (GEM)		Kevin Buckland/Acting Project Manager		Do not fund	
040717-2	James	Schumacher	Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040694	Merav	Ben-David	Forecasting Climatic Effects on the Transfer of Nutrients from Sea to Land by Coastal River Otter		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040695	C.A.	Bernestein	Community Assessment and Implementation Planning Regarding the SEA Model for Pink Salmon Fry Survival		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040696	Nancy	Bird	Alaska Marine Highway System Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040705	Christopher	Guay	Assessing Watershed Source of Metals to Coastal Environments in the Vicinity of Kachemak Bay		Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manger		Do not fund	
040709	Lianna	Jack	Unalaska, Ouzinkie, Kamishak Bay and Kachemak Bay Local Sea Otter Abundance Trend Survey Project		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	

040714	Ravi	Kulkarni	A Design for a Data Management and Information Portal for GEM	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040715	Michael	Lilly	Intertidal Contaminant Fate and Transport Modeling	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Do not fund	
040719	Scott	Pegau	Studying the ACC within Cook Inlet using Volunteer Observing Ships	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Do not fund	
040720	Martin	Renner	Population Modeling of Kittlitz's Murrelet	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manger		Do not fund	
040722	Carl	Schoch	Linking Oceanographic and Ecological Process in Nearshore Environments	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Do not fund	
040727	Jia	Wang	Building the Infrastructure Necessary to Create, Develop and Maintain the GEM Model	Kevin Buckalnd/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Do not fund	
040692	Steve	Baird	Connecting with Coastwalk: Linking Shoreline Habitat Mapping with Community-based Nearshore Monitoring in Kachemak Bay	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Defer	
040693	William	Bechtol	Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern Gulf of Alaska	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Defer	
040697	Nancy	Bird	Alaska Vessels of Opportunity Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network	Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manger	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Defer	
040698	Patty	Brown– Schwalenberg	Subsistence and Stewardship Gathering: Fifteen Years After the Spill	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger		Defer	

040052	Patty	Brown-	Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship		Pete Hagen/NOAA		Defer	Outcome of community
		Schwalenberg	and Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program		Project Manager			involvement workshop, date of workshop to be determined
040700	Joel	Cooper	Community-based Sampling of Watershed-based and Marine-derived Nutrients	102,512	Pete Hage/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/BAA Contracting	Defer	Outcome of community involvement workshop, date of workshop to be determined
040701	Amy	Couvillion	Coordinated Coastal Mapping		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Defer	
040623	John	Devens	PWSRCAC - EVOS Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program		Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Defer	
040711	Thomas	Kline	Detecting the Exchange between Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound		Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manger	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Defer	
040730	Daniel	Mann	Reconstructing Sockeye Populations in the Gulf of Alaska over the last Several Thousand Years: The Natural Background to Future Changes		Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Defer	
040684	Asit	Mazumder	Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Kenai and Adjacent Watersheds: Methods for Detecting Change		ADF&G	Kevin Buckland/Actin g Project Manager	Defer	
040718	Margaret	Merritt	GEM Watershed Synthesis for Evaluation, Planning and Prioritization of Options		Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Defer	
040654	Phyllis	Stabeno	Surface Nutrients over the Shelf and Basin in Summer – Bottom-up Control of Ecosystem Diversity	49,500	Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager		Defer	

040552	Shari	Vaughan	Monitoring the Exchange between Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska at Hinchinbrook Entrance		Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manager	Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting	Defer	
040670	Mark	Willette	Monitoring Dynamics of the Alaska Coastal Current and Development of Applications for Management	89,800	Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager		Defer	

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November 11, 2003

Richard DeLorenzo Chugach Shchool District 9312 Vanguard Dr., #100 Anchorage, AK 99507

## RE: 040210/Youth Area Watch

Dear Richard:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$121,100 for Project 040210/Youth Area Watch. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips

Enclosure

Auchard - Would you please call our office and set up a time for you to meet with this and iscuss

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

### Project: DeLorenzo-FY04-Youth Area Watch

Project Title:	Youth Area Watch	-	
Location:	PWS, Kenai Peninsu	la	
Proposer:	Richard DeLorenzo	Proposer Affiliation:	Local Government
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Fiscal Year 2	004 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$12	1,100.00	FY05: \$126,400.00	FY06: \$133,200.00

#### Abstract:

This project links students in the oil spill impacted area with research and monitoring projects funded by the Trustee Council and outside agencies. Youth conduct research identified and delegated by principal investigators who have indicated interest in working with students. The project involves students in the acquisition and monitoring of oceanographic and meteorological data over time. Students also develop a local restoration project, which provides them the skills to participate in community-based science. Youth Area Watch fosters long-term commitment to the goals set out in the restoration plan and is a positive community investment in that process. Participating communities in FY 04-06 will be Chenega Bay, Cordova, Seward, Tatilek, Valdez and Whittier.

#### STAC Recommendation:

The proposal is not responsive to the invitation even though it does seek community involvement. The proposal is weak in providing any linkages to GEM long-term-monitoring program. This past restoration projects may or may not be appropriate for GEM monitoring. The proposal seems to contain a large amount of text from the previous restoration-oriented youth area watch proposals with occasional insertions of "GEM." In part, the program is dependent on principal investigators who are interested in working with students rather than focused on GEM goals. Furthermore, there is no indication of whether the student developed projects will relate to GEM. In fact, the proposal states that "students also develop a local restoration project,..." It may be time to rework this Youth Area Watch project to make it more responsive to GEM goals and objectives. Recommendation: Do Not Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The report on approaches to community involvement commissioned by the Trustee Council in FY 2003 will not be available until the end of September 2003. The report is expected to provide the basis for a thorough examination of the role of community involvement in the GEM program to be conducted by the Executive Director during FY 2004. Until that examination is complete funding of community involvement projects will be based on responsiveness to the criteria in the FY 04 Invitation and past and future utility for implementing the GEM program. Unlike the Kodiak Youth Area Watch proposal, the PWS YAW proposal is not well grounded in the principles of the GEM program and shows a lack of understanding of the concepts of the need for community involvement in long-term monitoring programs. Based on the lack of connection to the GEM Science Plan, and the recommendations of the STAC, I cannot support this project. Following a recommendation of the PAC, the PI is invited to join the Executive Director during FY 2004 in exploring ways to re-constitute the PWS YAW program to be responsive to the GEM program, consistent with emerging community involvement guidelines. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Fund.

### **GEM / YAW Synthesis**

<u>GEM mission</u>—sustain healthy, diverse ecosystem via greater understanding of marine resources and influence by human and natural changes

- Sustain infrastructure
- o Sponsor applicable projects
- Encourage efficiency & integration of agencies
- Promote local stewardship

### **GEM Goals**:

- Detect long term changes in ecosystem
- Understand causes of change
- Inform concerned parties w/ organized info to respond to changes
- Solve by developing tools to address problems of human activities
- Predict natural resource trends

Due to large scope, additional implementation goals include:

- Lead use BOB to interpret/convey "big picture" of Gulf ecosystem
- Track & Coordinate ? (w/ GEM) other entities' efforts
  - o YAW interactive website; post data
- Leverage funds to support monitoring projects w/ outside funding
  - Native Ed grant \$\$ til 2007
  - EPA 5K teacher training w/ CACS
- **Involve** other agencies in collaborative process:
  - o ADFG Dan Rosenberg harlequins, Jim Fall subsistence, Fritz Kraus salmon ed
  - CACS teacher training, inter-tidal inverts
  - Cook Inlet Keepers water quality monitoring
  - No Gulf Coast Society whale id & obs
  - o GW Scientific weather data loggers
  - o 5 school districts (CSD, Vdz, Cdv, Seward, KPBSD)
- Increase community involvement/ TEK to enhance long term stewardship
  - TEK: stdts w/ elders (Wisdom Keepers Tatitlek, Pt Graham)
- Facilitate application of results to benefit conservation and management

### Central hypothesis -

- Natural forces and complex human activities alter ecosystem
  - Sharing info determines future of system, human & animal activities dependent upon it
  - Detect environmental change; determine between human impacts & natural forces

Geographic focus on 4 habitats:

watersheds,

inter- and sub-tidal, ACC, offshore

Develop Science Plan to implement long-term monitoring for GOA ecosystem: regional (yet considers influence by Arctic ocean to west coast waters) cooperate, coordinate, integrate w/ existing marine sci programs (CACS, ADFG, No Gulf Coast Oceanic Society, GWSci, Brenda Konar-Census Marine

Life NAGSI, Jennifer Rusein-Bidarkie TEK))

\* BLUE font = key components that YAW can address

## YOUTH AREA WATCH SCIENCE STAGES

May 04 – Site visits for recruitment

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June 04 - Student applications/teacher evaluations due

July 04 - Student participants selected

August 04 - Teacher training 2 days at CACS, Homer

September 04 – Stages 1,2,3 student training begins (long term monitoring projects)

<u>YAW Stage 1 "Water Wings" -- Throughout school year; Phase NB/1; Sci Level 3/4</u> Participates in and completes 3 day training for water quality monitoring (Cook Inlet Keepers; Wisdom Keepers) / meteorlogic weather data gathering (GW Scientific). Ends session water sampling at H2Oasis

SC 3/4.9 Structure of earth's system

PSH3.9-Group interaction, 4.1 attendance & timeliness, 4.3 respect for authority SL 3.4 Interviews community member for service project

YAW Stage 2 "Tidepool" - Fall; Phase 1/2; Sci Level 4/5

Alaska CoastWatch Curriculum w/ Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

SC 3/4.7 & .11 Populations and ecosystems; Earth in Solar System (tides)

SC 5/6.2 Behavior of organisms

SC A15 Knowledge of local environment (Local knowledge)

SL 4/5.3- 4/5.4 Volunteers for and participates in, reflects upon community events

SL 6.5 Completes "needs" assessment to determine community issues

CA 3/4.1 Understand cultural heritage and practices; interviews/involves elders

P 5.3 Commitment to learning; SH5.7 Identifies healthy comm. attributes

YAW Stage Pre-3 "Smolt" - Fall, winter, spring; Phase 2; Sci Level 5/6

Assists in fall egg take for South Central schools, with ADFG biologist Fritz Kraus and traveling salmon lab-mobile; monitors incubating salmon (curriculum)

SC 5/6.10 – Interdependence of organisms

SC 5/6.11 - Energy & organization in living systems

SL 7.1 - 7.5 Creates, coordinates, evaluates community service project

PSH 6.1-3 Identifies leadership qualities; Makes and meets deadlines; adapts

PSH 6.9 Assumes specific role to accomplish cooperative project

<u>YAW Stage 3 "King Salmon" – Spring, summer, fall; Phase 3; Sci Level 6/7</u> NPS Internship (rural summer program w/ Mary McBurney) ADFG surveys aboard FV Solstice (PWS) or FV Pandalus (Cook Inlet)

SEA w/ Ken Adams?

SCI 5/6/7.10 – Interdependence of organisms

SC 7A Conducts investigation of local scientific issue

PSH 7.1, 7.7 Finds community& continuing ed resources; Maintains healthy professional relationships

SL 8.1 Performs leadership tasks in service setting

<u>YAW Stage 4</u> "Whale Researcher"– Spring, summer; Phase 3/4; Sci Level 6/7/8 Participates in whale research w/ biologists Craig Matkin & Eva Salutis; locate, track, and obtain DNA tissue samples from killer whales in Resurrection Bay, PWS and the Aleutian Islands. Process DNA samples in conjunction w/ Lawrence Livermore Lab.

SC 6.8 - Molecular basis of heredity

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PSH 8.4 Strives for personal growth thru commitment to life-long learning

<u>YAW Stage 5 "Science Laureate/Grant Writer" – Throughout year; Sci Level 6/7/8</u> Attends college class at UAA/APU/UAF Geophysical Institute Aligns/Designs/Implements research projects of choice

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## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Sharon Kent NOAA Procurement

FROM: aldez Oil Spill Trustee Council

- RE: FY 04 Broad Agency Announcement #52ABNF200037 Trustee Council Action
- DATE: November 12, 2003

The Trustee Council acted on the FY 04 Work Plan on November 10, 2002. Please find enclosed

- A summary spreadsheet listing the Trustee Council's action on each proposal submitted under the BAA.
- Copies of letters from the Executive Director informing BAA proposers of the Trustee Council's action. Attached to each letter is the text of the Council's action.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

Enclosures

# Trustee Council Action on FY 2004 Work Plan - BAA's

Project No	PI Name	Title	FY04 Req	FY05 Req	FY06 Req	Trustee
040552	Shari	Monitoring the Exchange between Prince William Sound and the	\$81,799.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Defer Funding
	Vaughan	northern Gulf of Alaska at Hinchinbrook Entrance, submitted under				
		the BAA				
040623	John	PWSRCAC - EVOS Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program	\$141,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Defer Funding
	Devens	Submitted under BAA				
040701	Amalie	Coordinated Coastal Mapping	\$98,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Defer Funding
	Couvillion					
040700	Joel Cooper	Community-Based Sampling of Watershed-Based and Marine-	\$102,512.00	\$85,958.00	\$96,942.00	Defer Funding
		Derived Nutrients, Submitted under the BAA				
040697	Nancy Bird	Alaska Vessels of Opportunity Marine Weather and Conditions	\$140,900.00	\$129,200.00	\$130,700.00	Defer Funding
		Mobile Data Network				
040711	Thomas	Detecting the Exchange between Gulf of Alaska and Prince William	\$142,800.00	\$189,300.00	\$193,500.00	Defer Funding
	Kline	Sound, Submitted under the BAA				
040694	Merav Ben-	Forecasting Climatic Effects on the Transfer of Nutrients from Sea	\$90,500.00	\$65,300.00	\$0.00	Do not Fund
	David	to Land by Coastal River Otter				
040713	Robert	Cordova Community Resource Mapping	\$21,800.00	\$21,900.00	\$22,100.00	Do not Fund
	Kopchak					
040696	Nancy Bird	Alaska Marine Highway System Marine Weather and Conditions	\$108,700.00	\$108,900.00	\$108,300.00	Do not Fund
·	1	Mobile Data Network				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
040715	Michael Lilly	Intertidal Contaminant Fate and Transport Modeling	\$45,200.00	\$43,800.00	\$0.00	Do not Fund
040695	C.A.	Community Assessment and Implementation Planning Regarding	\$94,310.00	\$39,740.00	\$0.00	Do <b>n</b> ot Fund
	Berenstein	the SEA Model for Pink Salmon Fry Survival				
040714	Ravi	A Design for a Data Management and Information Portal for GEM -	\$38,848.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Do <b>n</b> ot Fund
	Kulkarni	Submitted under the BAA				
040717-2	James	Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM)	\$22,067.00	\$23,645.00	\$22,067.00	Do not Fund
	Schumache	Program - Submitted Under the BAA				
040624	Sonia	Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska -	\$135,200.00	\$135,200.00	\$135,200.00	Fund
	Batten	Submitted under the BAA				
040636	Kenneth	Fisheries Management Applications - Submitted under the BAA	\$46,760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fund
	Adams					
040012	Craig	Monitoring of Killer Whales in Prince William Sound/Kenai Fjords in	\$19,502.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fund
L	Matkin	2004 - Submitted under the BAA				
040710	Dale Kiefer	Alaskan Groundfish feeding Ecology: An OBIS Information System	\$80,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fund
040647	Jennifer	Investigating the Relative Roles of Natural Factors & Shoreline	\$81,600.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	Fund
	Ruesink	Harvest in Altering the Community Structure, Dynamics & Diversity				
		of the Kenai Peninsu		1		

# Trustee Council Action on FY 2004 Work Plan - BAA's

040635	Mary Anne	Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft-Sediment Communities:	\$149,529.00	\$164,030.00	\$151,390.00	Fund
	Bishop	Interaction between Top-down and Bottom-up Processes (Renewal,				
		Submitted under the BAA)				
040725	Richard	Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orca Inlet, Prince William	\$72,680.00	\$111,692.00	\$108,943.00	Fund
	Thorne	Sound				

441 W. 5th Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 13, 2003



Joel Cooper Cook Inlet Keeper PO Box 3269 Homer, AK 99603

Dale Banks Cook Inlet Keeper 3734 Ben Walters Lane Homer, AK 99603

Sue Mauger Cook Inlet Keeper PO Box 3269 Homer, AK 99603

> RE: 040700/Community-based Sampling of Watershed-based and Marinederived Nutrients

> > Goel, Wale and Sue -

Dear Joel, Dale, Sue:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040700/Community-based Sampling of Watershed-based and Marine-derived Nutrients.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips

Enclosure

lease note the TC's recommendation for a workshop to re-evaluate the. involuement pasted as we o together

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/BAA Contracting

### *Project: Cooper-FY04-Community-Based Sampling*

Project Title:	Community-Based S the BAA	ampling of Watershed-Based and Marin	e-Derived Nutrients. Submitted under		
Location:	Kachemak Bay and Anchor, Kasilof and Kenai River watersheds				
Proposer:	Joel Cooper	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO		
Lead Agency:	NOAA				
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:				
<i>FY04:</i> \$0.00		<i>FY05:</i> \$0.00	FY06: \$0.00		

#### Abstract:

In Southcentral Alaska, healthy watersheds support the region's economic, social and cultural well-being. Cook Inlet Keeper's community-based water quality monitoring program has proved to be an efficient and cost-effective way to collect important baseline data and increase public involvement in natural resource management. Keeper will coordinate with other groups conducting nutrient sampling throughout Southcentral Alaska and expand its community-based monitoring program to include watershed-based and marine-derived nutrient sampling to test the following hypotheses:

1) Certain nutrients, like ammonium, are useful proxies for determining levels of marine-derived nutrients in coastal watersheds; 2) Marine-derived nutrient levels in aquatic and riparian food webs vary seasonally related to salmon influx; 3) Community-based sampling of watershed-based and marine-derived nutrients is an efficient and cost-effective way to meet GEM research goals, increase public understanding of public resources, and promote sound resource management.

#### **STAC Recommendation:**

This proposal is highly responsive to the Invitation. It proposes to expand a well established volunteer, communitybased monitoring program (dating from 1996) to include watershed-based and marine-derived nutrient sampling to test three important but simple hypotheses. The proposal is well coordinated with other watershed projects and GEM proposals in the area (Mazumder, Walker-Heintz, EPA/DEC Citizens Environmental Monitoring Program). The program is nearly one-half funded from other sources. The program incorporates an ongoing community-based monitoring program that presumably reduces costs and strives to collect data toward GEM program hypotheses and questions. STAC recommends that authors submit a letter agreeing to implement recommendations of peer reviewers regarding sampling. The proposers should add a no-cost objective (in the letter) that expands the role of this project in coordinating other watershed projects. A watershed workshop will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting. At that time the PIs on all watershed projects will present an up-to-date report and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Under the added role of coordinator, the PI will organize and facilitate the workshop. Expenses for the workshop, except PI's salary, will be paid separately by the GEM program. Fund contingent upon receipt of letter accepting these conditions.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project is a good beginning for establishing a watershed sampling program for GEM that should be highly cost effective. It is community-based and well organized as a network of volunteers backed by scientists and a well equipped laboratory. Author provided letter addressing STAC recommendations. Fund.

*Trustee Council Action:* Defer until after the Community Involvement workshop to restructure and reevaluate the Community Involvement portion of GEM.

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November 13, 2003

Bonita Nelson NOAA 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

Jeff Short NMFS/Auke Bay Laboratory 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

RE: 040290/The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service

leff-Dear Bonita and Short:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$22,200 for Project 040290/The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service contingent on submittal of co-PI's overdue reports, reports listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.



Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely, ul 25 an

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

### **Project:** Nelson-FY04-Hydrocarbon Database

Project Title: The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service

Location:	entire spill area		
Proposer:	Bonita Nelson	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$22,200	.00	FY05: \$22,200.00	FY06: \$22,200.00

#### Abstract:

This project is an on-going service project providing data and sample archiving services for all samples collected for hydrocarbon analysis in support of Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council projects. These data represent samples collected since the oil spill in 1989 to the present and include environmental and laboratory Response (National Resource Damage Assessment - NRDA) and Restoration data. Additionally, we provide interpretive services for the hydrocarbon analysis provide public releases of the database (including FOIA requests) and maintain the hydrocarbon sample archives.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal would extend the management of the data base that is used to track samples for hydrocarbon analyses and continue to make available interpretive services related to origin of oil and its composition, including the likelihood of toxicity. This project is modest in cost and is needed if the Trustee Council is to continue to investigate possible links between oil remaining in the environment and species that apparently have not recovered from the spill. Recommendation: Fund

### Executive Director's Recommendation:

Proposal provides an essential service required while the possibility of litigation exists. Fund.

### Trustee Council Action: Fund contingent on submittal of overdue reports

- J. Short/J. Rice 03585/ Lingering Oil: Bioavailability and Effects to Prey and Predators
- J. Short 00598/ Publication: Resolution of Mixtures Containing Exxon Valdez Oil and Regional Background Hydrocarbons in Subtidal Sediments
- J. Short 01599/ Evaluation of Yakataga Oil Seeps as Regional Background Hydrocarbon Sources in Benthic Sediments of the Spill Area
- J. Short 02195/ Pristane Monitoring in Mussels

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November 13, 2003

Jia Wang IARC/IMS/UAF PO Box 757340 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7335

Dave Musgrave SFOS/UAF PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220 develope

# RE: 040727/Building the Infrastructure Necessary to Create, Develop, and Maintain the GEM Model

Dear Jia and Dave:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040727/Building the Infrastructure Necessary to Create, Develop and Maintain the GEM Model. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gall Phillips

Enclosure

cc: Kevin BuckaInd/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

Project Title: Building the Infrastructure Necessary to Create. Develop and Maintain the GEM Model

Location:	GOA including PWS and Cook Inlet					
Proposer:	Jia Wang	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University			
Lead Agency:	ADFG					
Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:						

FY04: \$0.00

*FY05:* \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

We propose to build the modeling infrastructure of GEM by developing high resolution circulation and lower trophic level ecosystem models for the northern Gulf of Alaska (Kayak Island to Shumagin Islands) with boundary conditions provided by an existing set of spatially nested models which span the entire North Pacific (grid resolutions range from 3 – 40 km). We propose to use the extant ROMS (s-coordinate) and MITgcm (MOM3-based, z-coordinate) with a resolution of 1 km, which resolves the eddy field (radius of deformation = 8-10 km) and small-scale embayment and topographic features. Both models will accommodate tidal and subtidal dynamics (and their interactions. Hindcasts of circulation, temperature, salinity, velocity, vertical diffusivity and particle tracks from these models will be made available through the web. Furthermore, hindcast fields can drive passive float tracking models, contaminant models, ecosystem models, and individual-based models of threatened species to aid focused studies by EVOS/GEM researchers. Such model results can serve to diagnose observations from moorings, CTD surveys, and drogued drifters, and those data serve to calibrate/verify the models themselves. A large body of data, gathered by colleagues under support from related programs (e.g. GLOBEC, SSLI, SEBSCC) presently exists for the Gulf of Alaska. We will extend our ability of the modeling effort to bring together data from ongoing programs observational programs. Following the development of the circulation models and model-data validation, model intercomparison and sensitivity studies will be conducted.

#### STAC Recommendation:

The state-of-the-art modeling effort described in the proposal is eventually certain to be useful to GEM, however the proposal is not responsive to the invitation call for developing an infrastructure supportive of developing the GEM model. There is little in this proposal that addresses infrastructure. Rather this is a proposal for basic science to nest a high-spatial resolution model inside existing circulation models for the North Pacific, which is well ahead of the current GEM needs. What exactly is to be learned from the progression of nested physical models in an ecosystem context is not well specified. Further the proposal does not address the need for "interdisciplinary cooperation and partnerships...etc." as the proposed team is not well balanced from an interdisciplinary stand point, as it is heavily physical and only lightly biological. Do not fund.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The proposal did not provide a compelling response to the need to establish a process for building the GEM Model as identified in the Invitation for Proposals. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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November 11, 2003

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg Chugach Regional Resources Commission 4201 Tudor Centre Dr., Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99508

> RE: 040052/Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Tribal Involvement in the GEM Progam

Dear Patty:

On November 10, 2003 the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040052/Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Tribal Involvement in the GEM Progam.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

See note on other fetter - Thanks, Stail

CC: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Project Title: Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program

Location:	N. Gulf of Alaska. including PWS, Cook Inlet. Kodiak Island, and the Alaska Peninsula			
Proposer: Lead Agency:	Patty Brown-Schwalenberg NOAA	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO	
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:			
<i>FY04:</i> \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00	

#### Abstruct:

In FY 04, this project will focus on three objectives: (a) continuing coordination between the GEM program and tribal communities, ensuring that scientific goals and traditional/local knowledge is shared, (b) conducting a WisdomKeeper Series for discussing and sharing research and monitoring issues with selected biologists, scientists, elders, and traditional knowledge experts, and (c) providing training opportunities for resource specialists in oil spill communities through development of a training curriculum and providing travel to GEM workshops and scientific symposiums.

#### STAC Recommendation:

EVOSTC has funded this program for seven years and the proposal is seeking FY04 funds. The solicitation indicated "no new specific community involvement projects are being solicited with the exception noted below." Exceptions: Small-scale science symposiums for smaller communities and coastal mapping. This proposal seems non- responsive to the solicitation (unless continuing projects are exempt) as it is neither a small-scale science symposium nor a coastal mapping project training curriculum to build technical capabilities of tribal specialists, and joins a larger capacity building grant. At one level, this proposal is responsive and provides assurances that its community involvement recipe is working well. On another level, the proposal does not provide any details on how it relates to long-term monitoring of specific variables associated with GEM. What have we learned from the ongoing tribal natural resource programs that can be used in GEM? What has been produced from the WisdomKeeper Series that can be applied to long-term monitoring? The community involvement represented in this proposal is not focused on developing long-term monitoring, but is centered on coordination, communication, and training. This may be very appropriate, but it should not be confused with community involvement with specific GEM monitoring projects. There was no formula in the proposal on how this project would work toward identifying community-based monitoring projects that respond to community concerns and work to implement long-term GEM monitoring. However, one-third of the budget (\$60,000) is for a Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner who oversees the EVOS Natural Resource Management and Stewardship Capacity Building Project and works with "tribes to develop means by which western science and TK can be jointly utilized in conducting research and monitoring activities and increase tribal involvement in all aspects of GEM." \$180,000 represents over 7% of annual funding capacity for FY04 (based on \$2.5 M funding) Recommendation: Do Not Fund with suggestion that any future proposals need to be more specific toward GEM long-term monitoring goals. **Executive Director's Recommendation:** 

The report on approaches to community involvement commissioned by the Trustee Council in FY 2003 will not be available until the end of September 2003. The report is expected to provide the basis for a thorough examination of the role of community involvement in the GEM program to be conducted by the Executive Director during FY 2004. Until that examination is complete, funding of community involvement projects will be based on responsiveness to the criteria in the FY 04 Invitation and past and future utility for implementing the GEM program. Based on an evaluation of the Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans produced under past years funding of this project, the lack of community-originated GEM projects resulting from past efforts of this project, the lack of connection to the GEM Science Plan, and the recommendations of the STAC, I cannot support this project. Do not fund.

*Trustee Council Action:* Defer until after the Community Involvement workshop to restructure and reevaluate the Community Involvement portion of GEM.

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November 11, 2003

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg Chugach Regional Resources Commission 4201 Tudor Centre Dr., Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99508

RE: 040698/Subsistence and Stewardship Gathering: Fifteen Years After the Spill

Dear Patty:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040698/Subsistence and Stewardship Gathering: Fifteen Years After the Spill.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger

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

### Project: Brown-Schwalenberg-FY04-Subsistence & Stewardship Gathering

Project Title:	e: Subsistence and Stewardship Gathering: Fifteen Years After the Spill					
Location:	Village participants from PWS and Lower Cook Inlet will gather in Anchorage for GEM					
Proposer:	Patty Brown-Schwalenberg	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO			
Lead Agency:	NOAA					
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:					
FY04: \$0.00		<i>FY05:</i> \$0.00	FY06: \$0.00			

#### Abstract:

This project will support a GEM science symposium in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The symposium will be held in Anchorage during the annual Gathering of Chugach region Tribes but it will include participants from all communities in the oil spill area. The goal of the symposium is to share information and improve communication between holders of traditional and scientific knowledge.

#### STAC Recommendation:

The proposal is weak in providing any specifics of which scientists will attend, and how they are related to what projects or issues and how the symposium relates to GEM (other than community residents sharing information and communicating with scientists). The proposal does provide for a planning committee that will identify a "well-defined topic (related to subsistence use, TK, and GEM science projects)" as the focus of the agenda. The proposal is weak in its explanation of linkages between the gathering and "GEM studies" (long-term monitoring and ecosystem-based research). PAC should be involved in setting the topic for the symposium, which should not be the 15th anniversary of the oil spill. Proposal should be revised to provide more specifics of how the symposium will be related to GEM. Recommendation: Revised proposal providing more specific focus on GEM is needed. Fund contingent on receipt of revised proposal addressing reviewers concerns.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The extent to which the Trustee Council may want to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the oil spill has not been determined. Proposal cannot move forward without this determination and a revision that focuses the content more clearly on the GEM program. Defer.

*Trustee Council Action:* Defer until after the Community Involvement workshop to restructure and reevaluate the Community Involvement portion of GEM.

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November 11, 2003

Nancy Bird Prince William Sound Science Center PO Box 1185 Cordova, AK 99574

ancy-

RE: 040697/Alaska Vessles of Opportunity Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network

Dear Nancy.

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040697/Alaska Vessles of Opportunity Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

- You, Fuil and I need to discuss these proposals in the future. Hope all is well with you!
- cc: Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manger Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

Project Title: Alaska Vessels of Opportunity Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network

Location:	Prince William Sound	ł		
Proposer:	Nancy Bird		Proposer Affiliation:	NGO
Lead Agency:	NOAA			
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

We are bringing together communities, stakeholders, agencies, and technology specialists to expand an existing weather network in Prince William Sound (PWS) by incorporating Vessels of Opportunity (VOO). Marine weather and sea conditions are identified as important elements for GEM, marine-traveler safety, resource agencies, marine-resource industries, and emergency spill-response activities. VOO provide a means for contributing data to GEM and PWSSC programs, local communities, and industry. We will integrate data-collection systems on three types of vessels working in PWS; they include small day-cruise vessels in North PWS, a SERVS escort vessel, and a charter vessel operating throughout PWS. These vessels represent different types of operations, travel patterns and user groups. Telemetry methods will be employed to provide near-real-time weather and water-conditions data reporting. System design is focused on providing valued information to vessel operations and end-users and will be coordinated with equivalent efforts on Alaska Marine Highway Vessels.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal parallels and supplements Bird's Alaska Marine Highway (AMH) proposal. It is proposed to use ~\$110 per year in each project year to prepare four boats operating locally in PWS with mobile weather stations reporting by automated radio. As was the case with the AMHS proposal, this proposal fails to say specifically what will be done with this data although the proposal does indicate that the data will be used somehow to improve both short term weather knowledge around PWS and to generate a long-term data set for the variables measured. No explicit details of data archiving are offered. Since in reasonably short order gigabytes of data will be accumulating, some serious plan is in order. No meteorologist or oceanographer is associated with the project. For GEM's purposes, careful archival work with products of the present PWS weather network would be more valuable than records from wandering ships. Do not fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Collecting oceanographic data from vessels of opportunity from a base of operations within Prince William Sound is expected to be a highly cost effective means of detecting changes in the environment that change populations of birds, fish and mammals impacted by the oil spill. A partnership with OSRI/PWSSC appears to offer a promising means of pursuing this low cost data collection method. A number of substantial technical issues identified during peer review need to be resolved before the proposal can proceed. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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November 11, 2003

William Bechtol ADF&G 3298 Douglas Place Homer, AK 99603

RE: 040693/Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern Gulf of Alaska Dear William: Bill –

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040693/Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern Gulf of Alaska.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

Project Title: Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern Gulf of Alaska

Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:				
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Proposer:	William Bechtol	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG	
Location:	Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet			

*FY04:* \$0.00 *FY05:* \$0.00 *FY06:* \$0.00

#### Abstract:

This project will refine long-term monitoring of forage species populations in Cook Inlet, an area representative of ecosystem conditions and changes in the northern Gulf of Alaska. Finfish and shellfish will be sampled annually in May with a small-mesh, bottom trawl to determine whether competitive and predatory interactions or different responses to the environment may be favoring the abundance of one species over another. Project funding includes mounting a thermosalinograph on the survey platform to collect surface temperature and salinity data during all fieldwork conducted by the survey vessel throughout the calendar year. Products will include annual reports, presentations at scientific meetings, and a manuscript submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Project data will be also made available to other researchers to facilitate broader ecosystem modeling for the Gulf of Alaska. The study will incorporate community outreach and education involving local science classes in the collection of field data.

#### STAC Recommendation:

GEM has an actual monitoring project here to support. There's an old and excellent time series to continue and upgrade. It concerns once commercially important animals (pink shrimp, bottom fish) in a coastal inlet (Kachemak Bay) with well populated (by Alaska standards) shores. The time series shows interannual or, just as likely, interdecadal change in the bottom fauna. Probably the once per year schedule is enough to show interannual changes. The trawling involved does no more habitat harm than a) has long since been done and b) possibly is sustained by current fishing activity, although these points deserve informed review. Station numbers are large enough to generate some statistics and stations are well enough distributed to show aerial variability. The agency that originated the survey cannot justify the resources to sustain it solely as a normal management agency function since stocks of the initial target species, pink shrimp, has declined well below the point of commercial interest. However, providing coastal fishing communities and scientists at management agencies with an early warning of the return of pink shrimp (the possible "crustacean mode" of the ecosystem) would be of considerable value, value that can accrue to GEM's credit. Agency should be encouraged to do anything practical with the samples to generate better insight as to what drives the shrimp-fish switching. Replace the thermosalinograph with station profiling by means of a SeaCat or similar device, such as a simple, self-contained CTD (e.g., the Seabird model is ca. \$8K) lowered at each of the many stations before the trawl is shot. If a weight (30# downrigger ball) is suspended 2 m below the CTD, it can be lowered until the weight hits, giving data from very close to the bottom. Over the station grid as a whole this would give a strong characterization of the system hydrography, much better than any number of surface values. Fund contingent on receipt of revised proposal implementing above recommendations.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The project meets GEM needs for data that can be used to detect changes in natural resources in the Gulf of Alaska and to develop an understanding of the factors responsible for that change. It also responds to a GEM mandate to leverage funding through partnerships with existing programs and projects, and represents a reasonable division of financial responsibilities between EVOSTC and ADF&G. It will add value to a long-term trawl survey by providing oceanographic data that can be used to understand changes in the trawl catches due to natural forcing. Revised proposal incorporated peer review comments to substantially improve the value and quality of the oceanographic data to be collected. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: This project is not pertinent at this time, will reevaluate if funds become available. Defer.
441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178

November 11, 2003

Steve Baird Kachemak Bay Reserach Reserve 2181 Kachemak Dr. Homer, AK 99603

Marliyn Sigman Center for Alaska Coastal Studies PO Box 2225 Homer, AK 99603

Carl Schoch PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

RE: 040692/Connecting with Coastwalk: Linking Shoreline Habitate Mapping with Community-based Nearshore Monitoring in Kachemak Bay

Dear Steve Martin Carl: Steve, Marilyn and Carl -

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040692/Connecting with Coastwalk: Linking Shoreline Habitate Mapping with Community-based Nearshore Monitoring in Kachemak Bay.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Please see the note under TC action.

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager



Project Title:	Connecting with Nearshore Monitor	Coastwalk: Linking ing in Kachemak Bay	Shoreline	Habitat	Mapping	with	Community-based
Location:	Kachemak Bay						
Proposer:	Steve Baird	Prop	ooser Affilia	tion:	ADFG		
Lead Agency:	ADFG						
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Fundin	g:					
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00				FY06	5: \$0.00

## Abstract:

The project will merge high-resolution mapping of the physical structure of the nearshore environment in Kachemak Bay with a citizen-generated biological and human impact data collected over 18 years of an annual Kachemak Bay Coastwalk shoreline survey into a GIS. The integration of data, refinement of data collection protocols, and piloting of revised protocols will occur during Year 1. During Year 2, the potential for use of the combined methodology for long-term GEM community-based nearshore monitoring will be assessed. The project will culminate in a Kachemak Bay community/scientist workshop to integrate and synthesize information and apply the GIS results to the selection of nearshore monitoring sites for community-based monitoring. This project will advance the development of a community-based nearshore monitoring for the GEM program.

### STAC Recommendation:

The proposal is responsive to the invitation (nearshore, community involvement) and is consistent with GEM strategies (incorporate community involvement and local knowledge) and goals (detect change, provide information to facilitate understanding of causes of change). KBRR is completing EVOS project 030556 mapping project (to be used to overlay biological or human impact data). The project concludes with a Kachemak Bay community/scientist workshop to present results, introduce GEM monitoring strategies, and develop opportunities for community involvement in nearshore monitoring. The project provides a link between nearshore community-based information and long-term monitoring applicable to GEM. In short, the project will build on an existing (18 year) citizen-based, volunteer monitoring program (that is presumably responsive to community concerns) and combine it with a GEM-funded GIS mapping project to assess the utility of this method for future GEM monitoring. There needs to be more discussion of the compatibility of the 18-year data set with the more recent mapping project (030556), and how the two will be linked. The proposal needs to provide the missing CV for Sigman and a definition of role of Schoch. Methods need elaboration and more rigor in the explanations. Revision needs to provide an example of a problem that can be addressed using the data set and particularly the utility of the data set to the long-term monitoring activities in GEM. Recommendation: Fund contingent on receipt of revised proposal responsive to peer reviewer concerns.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal presents an excellent opportunity to build two-way communication between GEM and the public regarding nearshore monitoring needs. Deficiencies identified by the staff and the peer reviewers have been addressed in the revised proposal. Fund.

*Trustee Council Action:* Defer until after the Community Involvement workshop to restructure and reevaluate the Community Involvement portion of GEM.



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November 11, 2003

**Amy Couvillion** The Nature Conservancy 421 W First Avenue, Suite 500 Anchorage, AK 99501

#### RE: 040701/Coordinated Coastal Mapping

Dear Amy:

On November 10, 2003 the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040701/Coordinated Coastal Mapping.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips

**Executive Director** 

Enclosure

CC:

Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

## Project: Couvillion-FY04-Coordinated Coastal Mapping

er Affiliation: NGO
Ş,

## Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:

FY04: \$0.00

FY05: \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

## Abstract:

Interest in shoreline mapping within the oil spill area has increased in recent years, with the result that several shoreline mapping projects have been developed as pilot projects. In March, 2003, the EVOS Trustee Council convened a workshop with over twenty groups involved in shoreline mapping. The groups agreed to coordinate mapping efforts. This proposal evolved from the recommendations of that workshop. It solicits support for coordination in coastal mapping, rather than for collecting and ground-truthing new information (those specific work tasks will be developed and submitted by others). The key expected result from a well coordinated coastal mapping effort is a unified, scamless, ShoreZone map covering the entire GEM study area that will be electronically available to researchers, local governments, industry, and the general public.

## **STAC Recommendation:**

This project proposes to hire a Coordinator for Coastal Mapping that would be housed at The Nature Conservancy. The proposal is extremely well written and clearly spells out what the coordinator would do. This proposal is in direct response to a strong recommendation from the EVOS-sponsored Shoreline Mapping Workshop that was held in Anchorage in March 2003. I facilitated that workshop as a representative of EVOS. This proposal is not to do any shoreline mapping or to collect data, but rather it is to have one person who will coordinate all the projects that are collecting data. The problems and gaps that were discovered in the current process include the need for compatibility among projects, need for standard sampling protocol, need for development of strategy to fill physical gaps in coverage, plan for data management, and produce a unified ShoreZone map of the GEM area. The workshop strongly recommended that a Coordinator be hired to oversee these vital components. There was much discussion and concern that several projects are using a form of shoreline mapping, but that the results would not be compatible. The Shoreline Workshop specifically recommended that the coordinator position be housed in TNC. This position and proposal were not the idea or suggestion of TNC, but rather of the other workshop components. However, I am impressed with the PIs credentials and she would oversee the project and the Coordinator.

This project specifically addresses the Invitation Part A2 – Nearshore Synthesis and B – Data Management and IT. The technical merits of this proposal are excellent as it specifically addresses the needs, objectives and methods. The position would not be totally funded by EVOS, but rather TNC identifies matching funds for part of the salary for each of three years. Of course, the Workshop recommendation was that EVOS help support this project for the first year and other funding to pay for it in the remaining years. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

In March, 2003, the EVOS Trustee Council convened a workshop with over twenty groups involved in shoreline mapping. The groups agreed to coordinate mapping efforts. While this proposal is responsive to the recommendations of that workshop, more matching funding from other participants was expected. Even though it is important to GEM objectives to move forward on this project fiscal constraints not foreseen at the time of the earlier fund recommendation have changed the recommendation on this project to deferral. Defer for FY 04 and invite a proposal next year for FY 05 and FY 06 that increases the financial contributions of other participants.

Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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November 11, 2003

John Devens PWSRCAC 3709 Spenard Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: 040623/PWSRCAC - EVOS Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program

Dear John: Ni John -

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040623/PWSRCAC - EVOS Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

an

Gail/Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

rea

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

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

## *Project:* Devens-FY04-PWSRCAC-EVOS long term program

Project Title: PWSRCAC - EVOS Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program - Submitted under BAA

Location:	Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Kenai Peninsula				
Proposer: Lead Agency:	John Devens NOAA	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO		
Fiscal Year 2004	4 Approved Funding:				
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00	

### Abstract:

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council/Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program provides essential long term baseline measurements of hydrocarbon levels and sources at program sites within areas of the Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, and Gulf of Alaska. The program objective is to provide a program for the collection of baseline data in mussel tissue and subtidal sediments that can be used to determine impacts of oil sources on the ecosystem. This program will provide an improved link to recovery status and greater efficiency in hydrocarbon sampling and analysis that has been on going since 1993 under the auspices of PWSRCAC.

### STAC Recommendation:

Project was funded in FY 03 to evaluate potential of incorporation of existing PWS RCAC monitoring sites into the GEM program. Partnership with RCAC for nearshore sampling is highly desirable and advantageous to both organizations. Future funding is based on evaluation of FY 03 results in terms of the number and location of sites relevant to the GEM program. Do not fund.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

An evaluation of the work conducted during FY 03 is needed in order to fully define how PWSRCAC and GEM can best collaborate on developing a long term nearshore monitoring program. PWSRCAC staff is invited to join with EVOSTC staff and subcommittees to develop this relation during FY 2004. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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November 11, 2003

Thomas Kline PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

RE: 040711/Detecting the Exchange between Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound

Dear Thomas: Jom -

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040711/Detecting the Exchange between Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manger Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

## Project: Kline-FY04-Exchange between GOA and PWS

*Project Title:* Detecting the Exchange between Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound, Submitted under the BAA

Location:	Prince William Sound			
Proposer:	Thomas Kline	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO	
Lead Agency:	NOAA			
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:			

FY04: \$0.00

*FY05:* \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

## Abstract:

This project will use stable isotope analysis to understand how exchange between the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and Prince William Sound (PWS) via the Alaska Coastal Current affects the biology of PWS through assessment of the influx of diapausing Neocalanus copepods, the keystone zooplankton taxon of the subarctic Pacific, from the GOA in the Black Hole of PWS. The project will first resolve the hypothesized summer timing of the Neocalanus inflow using MOCNESS samples from the P.I.'s GLOBEC project during cruises in 2001 to 2004. During the fall-winter of 2004-2005 the project will determine how best to assess net inflow with the minimal number of sampling stations. During the fall-winter 2005-2006 the project will begin to assess stage timing and population dynamics of diapausing and reproducing Neocalanus so as to lead to monitoring and predictive modeling. The project will recommend a sampling strategy for long-term sampling to monitor changes in the nature of the GOA inflow through impacts on this key taxon.

## STAC Recommendation:

Understanding exchanges between PWS and the Gulf of Alaska is surely important to GEM, however the proposal does not clearly explain Neocalanus life histories and the theory of stocking of the PWS "Black Hole" with diapausing individuals from the GOA. The text is not clearly written. The sampling methods are not the best for the species in question. Zooplankton sampling in the Black Hole is ideally suited to the simplest sorts of messenger activated vertical nets. A cast to 800 m can be made in half and hour or less, a complete vertical series in 2 to 3 hours. Therefore the proposal to acquire and use a HydroBios Multnet is wasteful and likely to reduce the overall reliability of the sampling scheme. For purposes of knowing how many diapause stage Neocalanus are in the Black Hole on a given date, no closing nets are needed, but rather a vertical haul from just over the bottom to the surface and report the result as number m-2. It will take a modest boat with a davit or A-frame, and a powered winch with 1000 m of wire rope, as opposed to the more expensive platform proposed here. It is not explained why GEM should bear the cost of working up GLOBEC samples, although this may be justified under certain circumstances. Do not fund.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal identifies a very important area of information for the GEM program. Correspondence with the author indicates that methodological problems identified in the peer review may be resolved during the current funding cycle. Defer.

## Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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November 11, 2003

Daniel Mann UAF Institute of Arctic Biology PO Box 757000 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7000

Bruce Finney UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

# RE: 040730/Reconstructing Sockeye Populations in the Gulf of Alaska over the last Several Thoursand Years: The Natural Background to Future Changes

Dear Daniel and Bruce:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040730/Reconstructing Sockeye Populations in the Gulf of Alaska over the last Several Thoursand Years: The Natural Background to Future Changes.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gaîl Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

## Project: Mann-FY04-Reconstructing Sockeye Populations

Project Title:	Reconstructing Sockeye Populations in the Gulf of Alaska over the Last Several Thousand Years: The Natural Background to Future Changes				
Location:	Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Ken	ai Peninsula			
Proposer:	Daniel Mann	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University		
Lead Agency:	ADFG				
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:				

*FY04:* \$0.00 *FY05:* \$0.00 *FY06:* \$0.00

## Abstract:

We are reconstructing changes in sockeye salmon abundance over the last 10,000 years using the 15N record left by salmon carcasses in the sediments of spawning lakes. Our research question is: What is the normal variability in sockeye salmon populations in the Gulf of Alaska and how does it relate to climatic changes in the Gulf of Alaska region? Our results provide a much-needed background to monitoring studies within the GEM program and to fisheries managers who are working to preserve and restore natural salmon runs. Results from 2002 and 2003 include two, new and unexpectedly complete records of salmon abundance in lakes on the Kenai Peninsula. Both records extend back to the time of regional deglaciation around 10,000 years ago. These new cores provide records of changing 15N that are five times longer than any previous record of salmon-run history. The unexpected length and richness of these new lake-core records have motivated us to request additional funds from EVOS to cover an additional year of full funding followed by a final year of analysis and synthesis.

## STAC Recommendation:

Mann and Finney propose to continue their studies of 15N in sediments in the spawning lakes. They are able to extend the record back 10,000 years. A goal is to establish what is normal salmon abundance and its variability. They propose to compare these sediments with other climate records in an attempt to explain causes of this variability. However, their assumption that the 15N post 1900 reflect the population size is incorrect. Since commercial fishing harvests began, it only reflects changes in salmon escapement. There is concern that because of limited other types of data, the investigators might develop simplified ideas regarding population changes. Since the sediments will remain viable for future analysis it was felt that this work did not require immediate funding.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Although this proposal is in an area of work that was not invited, it would provide comparative historical data on salmon abundance or salmon escapement levels of use in planning GEM watershed and nearshore studies. Based on the strength of the peer reviews, and the recommendation of the Public Advisory Committee, this study should be done if funds can be found. Issues remain with respect to the budget. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Defer.



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November 11, 2003

Asit Mazumder University of Victoria, Deptartment of Biology PO Box 3020 STN CSC Victoria, B.C. V8W 3N5

Jim Edmundson ADF&G 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B Soldotna, AK 99669

Bob Clark ADF&G 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, AK 99518

Mark Willette ADF&G/CFMD 43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B Soldotna, AK 99669

> RE: 040684/Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Kenai and Adjacent Watersheds: Methods for Detecting Change

Dear Asit, Jim, Bob and Mark:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040684/Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Kenai and Adjacent Watersheds: Methods for Detecting Change.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

1 ul Gail Phillips

Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: ADF&G Kevin Buckland/Acting Project Manager Project Title: Marine-Derived Nutrients in the Kenai and Adjacent Watersheds: Methods for Detecting Change

*Location:* Cook Inlet drainage basin, Kenai Peninsula, Kenai River watershed

Proposer: Asit Mazumder Proposer Affiliation: Alaskan University

Lead Agency: ADFG

Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:

FY04: \$0.00

FY05: \$0.00

*FY06:* \$0.00

## Abstract:

Kenai River Watershed (KenaiRW) is recognized for its abundant fish, wildlife and diversity of landscapes. Extensive consultation among stakeholders, communities and agencies has led to this proposal on the role of marinederived nutrients (MDN) in sustaining the productivity of Kenai RW. We propose to develop robust methods and monitoring protocols to detect, understand and predict changes in MDN and its linkage to productivity and resources. We will test the robustness of several indicators (nutrients, stable isotopes, fatty acids, contaminants, foodwebs) of MDN in different ecosystem components of KenaiRW and seven other watersheds around Cook Inlet. In the 3rd year, we will begin testing the validity of these indicators to quantify the fate/transport of MDN linking various components of the watershed and their implications for the productivity of KenaiRW. We will also develop a platform for networking and communication among various research groups looking at watershed level changes in MDN and resource productivity.

#### **STAC Recommendation:**

The proposal is well beyond the scope of the Invitation with regard to annual cost and the types of activities that are appropriate to GEM watersheds at this time. The proposal addresses the fundamental measurement questions posed in the Science Plan and the Invitation in objectives 1-3 and 8. Objectives 1-3 require thoroughly sampling one relatively large and complex watershed, when basic questions of how to measure marine influences in watersheds may best be answered at lower cost by sampling smaller, less complex watersheds that provide more geographic contrast. Objective 8 effects coordination among cooperating parties. Objectives 4 - 7 presume to make choices regarding modeling and selection of MDN measures and indicator species that are not envisioned in GEM planning until late FY 06 to early FY 07 when the results of the current phase of GEM watershed work becomes available. The GEM modeling program that will link the habitat types and guide investment in research is not prepared to handle the output from this ambitious sampling program. It is also not clear present knowledge of the variability in proposed measures of MDN and proxies is sufficient to design sampling of the scale of the proposal. Addition of matching funds would take the three year cost of this project to US\$ 1.2M which is well beyond the level of funding justified by the current state of knowledge of marine-terrestrial linkages in GEM watersheds. Recommend that proposal be revised to eliminate sampling sites outside the Kenai River watershed, and reduced within the watershed to a representative of each habitat type, and to focus on achieving objectives 1, 2, 3, and 8 over a three year period. Fund reduced.

### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal provides needed measures of marine linkages in a watershed that is at high risk of degradation due to human activities; however its scope is far broader than envisioned in the Invitation for Proposals. The PI's provided a revised proposal incorporating the recommendations of the STAC and a letter agreeing to participate in a watershed workshop will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Revised proposal relies on \$100K in matching funds that have not been secured. The budget submitted in the revised proposal co-mingled matching and EVOSTC funds so that it was unclear what objectives could be accomplished in the absence of the matching funds, which have not been committed. Defer dependent on confirmation from matching fund sources and clarification of division of funding of objectives among funding sources.

## Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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November 11, 2003

Margaret Merritt UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775

# RE: 040718/GEM Watershed Synthesis for Evalution, Planning and Prioritization of Options

Dear Margaret:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040718/GEM Watershed Synthesis for Evalution, Planning and Prioritization of Options.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips *V* Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

## Project: Merritt-FY04-GEM Watershed Synthesis

Project Title:GEM Watershed Synthesis for Evaluation, Planning and Prioritization of OptionsLocation:Watersheds of the GEM Area. Majority of synthesis will occur in Fairbanks.Proposer:Margaret MerrittProposer Affiliation:Alaskan UniversityLead Agency:ADFGFiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:Contemport

FY05: \$0.00

FY04: \$0.00

## Abstract:

There is a need to synthesize relevant information into a published reference to guide policy makers and resource managers in implementing the watershed component of the GEM Program through identification of goals, objectives and issues, as well as the evaluation and prioritization of options. This project will evaluate aspects of the GEM Program's conceptual foundation, hypotheses and ideas relative to the state of current knowledge of watershedmarine linkages in the GEM area. In addition to scientific information, relationships between resource management and socioeconomic and political issues will be identified. A systems approach using accompanying software will be used to assist in structuring the problem. The resulting synthesis of information will be framed into a clear and easily communicable tool that can serve as a teaching aid.

FY06: \$0.00

## **STAC Recommendation:**

This proposal for watershed synthesis focuses on the pathway to the decision making framework, without clearly describing how the literature synthesis would be built from the foundation of GEM's primary source documents, as specified in the Invitation. On the positive side, the proposal provides a reasonable approach for identifying and selecting options for projects that might be implemented in the GEM watershed habitat type in FY 06, and a further positive is that it would do so by incorporating information and opinions of people from multiple watershed-related communities, including managers and scientists. On the negative side it does not clearly articulate as a top priority the primary need to fully develop the introduction of the watershed habitat type in the GEM Science Plan. The Invitation calls for "... a synthesis of scientific literature and existing data gathering programs ..." In addition, the proposed schedule is partly out of synchrony with the annual funding cycle. For example, in order to contribute to the development of the FY 06 Invitation, an additional milestone of a draft literature synthesis accompanied by ProCite bibliography by Sept. 30, 2004 would have been necessary. Do not fund.

## Executive Director's Recommendation:

Agreement with the author to identify the literature survey and supporting staff necessary to the synthesis, and to address reporting requirements should be attainable within the present funding cycle. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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November 11, 2003

Phyllis Stabeno NMFS 7600 Sand Point Way, NE Seattle, WA 98115

Calvin Mordy JISAO/NOAA/PMEL 7600 Sand Point Way, NE Seattle, WA 998115

## RE: 040654/Surface Nutrients over the Shelf and Basin in Summer - Bottom-up Control of Ecosystem Diversity

Dear Phyllis and Calvin:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040654/Surface Nutrients over the Shelf and Basin in Summer - Bottom-up Control of Ecosystem Diversity.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips / Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

Project Title: Surface Nutrients over the Shelf and Basin in Summer - Bottom up Control of Ecosystem Diversity

Location:	Yakutat to Kodiak Island/Shelikof of Strait				
Proposer:	Phyllis Stabeno	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA		
Lead Agency:	NOAA				
Fiscal Year 200	94 Approved Funding:				

FY04: \$0.00

FY05: \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

## Abstract:

This proposal is for continuation of Project 030654 funded in FY03. Our goal is to better understand the extraordinary variability of nutrients (spatial, interannual and decadal), and factors controlling nearshore communities and zooplankton and juvenile salmon distributions in the northern GOA. We propose monitoring nitrate over the shelf and basin. Underway samples will be collected as part of the NMFS-OCC/GLOBEC salmon survey in July/August of 2004. This survey includes a transit across the central GOA and 10 cross-shelf oceanographic and juvenile salmon transects from Yakutat to Kodiak Island. This will be the broadest nutrient survey of the northern GOA. Nutrient maps will be used to support NPZ models and satellite-derived models of nitrate and new production, to examine mechanisms of nutrient supply such as mixing over banks and transport up submarine canyons, and to assist resource management of salmon and other commercially important species.

## STAC Recommendation:

Stabeno and Mordy propose to carry out another surface mapping of nutrients in the Gulf of Alaska in July/August 2004. This will add another seasonal snapshot of nitrate over the central Gulf of Alaska and shelf that will be combined with other fisheries and plankton sampling that we be gathered underway during the annual NMFS/OCC/GLOBEC cruise. This will be the second year of these cruises. It is a relatively inexpensive add-on. I am not as optimistic as the proposers as to the usefulness of these data on determining decadal and interannual nutrient variability. These annual snapshots are aliased and could easily lead to erroneous results and conclusions. Their proposed work to determine seasonal and interannual variability of nutrients here needs to have a finer temporal resolution. This is a highly leveraged program and the investigators are very productive. Fund.

## Executive Director's Recommendation:

The proposal offers to continue a highly cost effective partnership with GLOBEC to investigate the transfer of fertilizer (nitrate) from deep ocean areas to nearshore areas where it can drive production of birds, fish and mammals. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: Not pertinent at this time. Defer.

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November 11, 2003

Shari Vaughan PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

# RE: 040552/Monitoring the Exchange between Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska at Hinchinbrook Enterance

Dear Shari:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040552/Monitoring the Exchange between Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska at Hinchinbrook Enterance.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

'ai

Gail Phillips / Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

## **Project:** Vaughan-FY04-Hinchinbrook Entrance

*Project Title:* Monitoring the Exchange between Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska at Hinchinbrook Entrance, submitted under the BAA

Location:	Prince William Sound, AK		
Proposer:	Shari Vaughan	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	

#### Abstract:

One of the least understood physical processes that influences the biological components of Prince William Sound (PWS) is the exchange between PWS and the northern Gulf of Alaska (NGOA). The main objective of this proposal is to document seasonal and interannual changes in the flow patterns at Hinchinbrook Entrance, and to identify and understand the processes responsible for these changes. Support is requested for continued deployment of an upward-looking ADCP mooring in Hinchinbrook Entrance to create a time series of currents from October 2003 to July 2004. The mooring will be equipped with a CTD to create a time series of deep temperature (T) and salinity (S). To identify the dominant factors that govern the PWS/NGOA exchange, the mooring velocity and deep T/S time series will be combined with meteorological time series, numerical circulation model simulations, and physical data collect under previous and existing research programs in PWS and the NGOA.

FY06: \$0.00

## STAC Recommendation:

Vaughan proposes to continue the installation of an upward looking Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler in Hinchinbrook Entrance to measure the exchange of water between the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound. Since Prince William Sound might be an important nursery for much of the Northeast Pacific, this is an important problem in addition to being vital for understanding PWS and the impact of EVOS. This plan is seriously flawed. There is no explanation as to why she continues to not sample from July to October other than she needs to turn the instrument around. This could be done in a couple of days and since she is using a short term charter vessel, the ship time should not be a problem. Increasing the sampling interval to 3 hours from 2 should provide enough reserve power to last for the year. Why is there no plan to continue the observations beyond one year? No prior data were presented but only mentioned in passing. Are they doing repeated ADCP transects across the entrance over the tide cycles rather than just at two stages of the tide? How did they measure the Ekman transports? She really needs an ADCP in the upper layers to get both the baroclinic and Ekman transports. The PI acknowledged the previous critiques of the EVOS/STAC but discounted them and did not include them in this proposal. On the plus side, it is relatively cheap and well leveraged. There is not a great deal of published work coming out of this group and they have not had a very good record of cooperating with other regional researchers. Do not fund.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The project addresses the important objective of measuring how much water is exchanged between Price William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska, however the methods do not offer the best available solution to the problem. The project is needed but it can only move forward in the context of partnership with other parties, including UAF, PWSRCAC and OSRI/PWSSC, who can help resolve the technical problems identified. Defer.

## Trustee Council Action: Defer.

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



November 11, 2003

Mark Willette ADF&G 73961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Suite B Soldotna, AK 99669

## RE: 040670/Monitoring Dynamics of the Alaska Coastal Current and Development of Applications for Mangement

Dear Mark:

On November 10, 2003 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on 040670/Monitoring Dynamics of the Alaska Coastal Current and Development of Applications for Mangement.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the EVOS project manager.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

## *Project:* Willette-FY04-Monitoring ACC Dynamics

Project Title: Monitoring Dynamics of the Alaska Coastal Current and Development of Applications for Management of Cook Inlet Salmon

FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	<b>FY06:</b> \$0.00
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Proposer:	Mark Willette	<b>Proposer Affiliation:</b>	ADFG
Location:	Cook Infet		

## Abstract:

This project will use a vessel of opportunity to collect physical oceanographic and fisheries data along a transect, across lower Cook Inlet from Anchor Point to the Red River delta. Logistical support for the field sampling will be provided in part by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game which has chartered a vessel annually to fish along this transect each day during July providing in season projections of the size of salmon runs returning to the inlet. The work proposed here is for long-term monitoring of oceanographic conditions in Cook Inlet as part of these ongoing fisheries surveys. Investigators will also use physical oceanographic data collected by the project to improve management of Cook Inlet salmon through improved in season salmon run projections. Several hypotheses regarding effects of changing oceanographic conditions on salmon migratory behavior will be tested. The oceanographic data collected by the project will also provide for valuable validation of remote sensing products, improved understanding of ocean dynamics in lower Cook Inlet, and a highly powerful statistical evaluation of the oil spill risk analysis models.

### STAC Recommendation:

Contributions to the central GEM goal, recurring ecosystem status evaluations, will be continuation of the salmon stock data series for Cook Inlet. ADCP results will be collected on a schedule that is not necessarily coordinated with the tidal periodicities of flow in the Inlet. No scheme for "de-tiding" the data is proposed, but even if one is found, the weak, low-frequency signals of ACC flow may be difficult to extract from the transect series. CTD data may help to define water sources, however an explicit scheme for doing that needs to be laid out. Coordination with inlet CODAR (shore-based radars measuring nearsurface currents) programs is proposed, but availability of CODAR systems in '04-'06 is stated to be quite uncertain. Willette, a fisheries biologist for ADFG, and Pegau, a physical oceanographer at Kachemak Reserve, are competent and will get what can be gotten from the data. A proposal to run more transects for just physical data in some other months (October, January, April?) would give the data set some comparisons, a basis for writing up the results.

The important component of this proposal is testing hypotheses of the effect of the physical oceanography on the salmon fisheries of Cook Inlet. It remains to be established if the Anchor Point July transect is where long-term monitoring for GEM is desired. However, while this evaluation is occurring, the project should provide some short-term payoff by directly relating real-time physical oceanographic conditions and movement of fish for management purposes. Continuous fixed-point measurements of physical data are needed to go with the observations proposed to be collected in this proposal. These continuous physical data should assist with de-tiding data. Funding half of the vessel charter is a significant funding policy question. Is this a normal agency expense that should be paid for as part of this project? Fund contingent on addressing STAC technical concerns and resolution of policy issue on funding transect.

### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal builds physical data collection into a long established (1979) fishing transect at Anchor Point in Cook Inlet. Anchor Point is at the biologically critical juncture of Gulf marine waters and glacially silted freshwater runoff. Proposal also provides an important link between salmon fishery management and physical oceanography that is expected to provide substantial benefits to economic development and enhanced recreational fishing opportunities in the oil spill affected areas of Cook Inlet. Funding a portion of the transect expenses is a fair distribution of responsibilities in our partnership with ADF&G which changes the uses and configuration of the vessel from a fishing charter to a joint fishing and oceanography charter. A revised proposal addressing STAC technical concerns was received. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: Not pertinent at this time. Defer.

November 10, 2003 Trustee Council Action on FY 2004 Draft Work Plan

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November 13, 2003



Robert Kopchak Ecotrust Cooper River Program PO Box 1126 Cordova, AK 99574

Edward Backus Ecotrust PO Box 5015 Charleston, OR 97420

## RE: 040713/Cordova Community Resource Mapping

Dear Robert and Edward:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040713/Cordova Community Resource Mapping. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

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

Proiect:	Kopchak-	FY04-	Resource	Map	ping

Project Title:	Cordova Community Resource Mapping					
Location:	Prince William Sound a	nd the Copper River Drainage				
Proposer:	Robert Kopchak	<b>Proposer</b> Affiliation:	NGO			
Lead Agency:	NOAA					
Fiscal Year 200	)4 Approved Funding:					
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00		

## Abstract:

This project would utilize an integrated GIS database and produce maps of resources that the people of Cordova and the surrounding area are dependent on. The effort would build upon existing projects either completed or under development by: Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., US Forest Service, NMFS, Alaska Departments of Fish and Game, Environmental Conservation, and Dept. of Natural Resources, BLM, PWSRCAC, Ecotrust, and others. The effort would be an integral part of, and a complement to a three-year Copper River drainage resource assessment, currently being undertaken by Ecotrust. The GIS maps would be made available to institutional users and the general public through web site access (PWS Science Center, Ecotrust, and GEM/EVOS) for research and educational purposes.

## **STAC Recommendation:**

This is an interesting project that proposes to synthesize data for the Cordova Resources Area in an integrated GIS database however, there are still some major questions that need to be addressed before the project could be recommended for funding. First, the "Cordova Resource Area" is not defined in the proposal. There is no map and at times it refers to the Copper River and other times refers to the Cordova area and then in FY06 to "integrate where possible PWS data into GIS system". Additionally it is difficult to determine exactly what is proposed. The proposed objectives (II A) are vague. What exactly is going to be produced? How are "all sensitive areas" defined? Why are only critical salmon habitats to be profiled and not habitats for other species like herring? The methods (II B) are the same as the milestones. Furthermore (II C) "GEM QA/QC requirements" need to be specifically defined. The qualifications of the PI need to be established by providing a CV. The proposal was not coordinated with the other projects in the GEM region that are using some kind of mapping. Do not fund.

## Executive Director's Recommendation:

Methodological problems identified in the peer review process are not surmountable during the present funding cycle. Do not fund.

## Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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November 13, 2003

Rick Foster Kachemak Bay NERR 2181 Kachemak Dr. Homer, AK 99603

## RE: 040704/Community Science Dialogues

Dear Rick:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040704/Community Science Dialogues. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADFG Project Manger

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## **Project:** Foster-FY04-Community Science Dialogues

Project Title:	Community Science Dialogues			
Location:	Lower Cook Inlet and Kachemak Ba	ц		
Proposer:	Rick Foster	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:				

FY05: \$0.00

### Abstract:

FY04: \$0.00

Effective stewardship of resources requires access to reliable information. The communities of Port Graham and Seldovia have demonstrated a desire to learn more about research occurring in their region. Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) will partner with these villages to provide Community Science Dialogues (Dialogues). The Dialogues will be based on interests of the Villages and work of scientists researching various aspects of the oceanic, benthic, atmospheric, and watersheds of Kachemak Bay, Lower Cook Inlet, and Gulf of Alaska. Dialogues will build-on the successful KBRR Science Seminar Series. Dialogues will feature a scientist and a local holder of traditional ecological knowledge on the subject, will introduce Port Graham's Community Research Protocols & Guidelines, and include opportunity for proposing and planning related community-based research projects. Three different formats will be evaluated with design and presentation protocols developed to aid scientists "inform and involve" communities in dialogue and project planning.

FY06: \$0.00

## STAC Recommendation:

Although the proposal is responsive to the invitation (small-scale science symposium/community involvement) and is consistent with one of the GEM strategies (incorporate community involvement and local knowledge), it falls short in a number of key areas. Methods are too narrow, and would need to be revised to expand the independent variable(s) beyond the process by which the scientists are chosen and prepared, to evaluate how variation in the dialogue process itself. Although the "Community Science Dialogues" method has been ongoing for a decade, the revision needs to present information on what has or what has not been effective. Recommendation: Do not fund.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal did not establish the need for its activities in a compelling way, and the methodological difficulties identified by the peer review are substantial. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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Merav Ben-David Dept. of Zoology & Physiology, Bio Sci Bldg. PO Box 3166 Laramie, WY 87021

Nathan Nibbelink University of Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center Laramie, WY 82071

#### 040694/Forecasting Climatic Effects on the Transfer of Nutrients from Sea RE: to Land by Coastal River Otter

Dear Meray and Nathan:

As in past years, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040694/Forecasting Climatic Effects on the Transfer of Nutrients from Sea to Land by Coastal River Otter. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips **Executive Director** 

Enclosure

Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

CC:

## Project: Ben-David-FY04-Transfer of Nutrients from Sea

 Project Title:
 Forecasting Climatic Effects on the Transfer of Nutrients from Sea to Land by Coastal River Otter

 Location:
 Prince William Sound (no field work)

 Proposer:
 Merav Ben-David
 Proposer Affiliation: Non-Alaskan University

 Lead Agency:
 NOAA

Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:

*FY04:* \$0.00 *FY05:* \$0.00 *FY06:* \$0.00

## Abstract:

Gradual (climatic) or catastrophic (oil spills) events that could change the abundance and distribution of spawning pelagic fishes in the nearshore environment of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) will likely affect the abundance and behavior of coastal river otters. These changes will reduce transfer of nutrients by otters from sea to land and change landscape heterogeneity and biodiversity of the terrestrial ecosystem. Using the relation between abundance and distribution of fishes and otter abundance and behavior, we propose to develop a model that will forecast changes in landscape heterogeneity of coastal forests along the GOA with projected climate change. Input data will be based on output from climate-ocean-fish interaction models developed through GEM. Output data will be in the form of digital maps describing deposition of N and P along the coast based on the relations between fish and river otters.

## STAC Recommendation:

This is a well crafted and thoroughly professional proposal that is unfortunately well ahead of the developmental path established in the Science Plan. In contrast to the Science Plan, the proposal assumes that measures of marine linkages in coastal watersheds are well established and can be used to model the role of MDN in shaping species diversity coastal forests. Although the authors presented a strong case for control of species composition and productivity by the input of marine nutrients to coastal Alaskan watersheds, it assumes that the measures necessary are well establish (C and N) and it does not fully address the fundamental sampling variability issues for measures of marine influences identified in the Invitation. The proposal shows promise of eventually being successful in the area of modeling within the GEM program; however that program area is just being initiated in FY 04 and is not ready to receive this proposal. Do not fund.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal is promising but premature with respect to GEM modeling needs. The authors are encouraged to get in touch with the GEM Model group in order to understand when such a proposal would be needed in the future. Do not fund.

## Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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November 11, 2003

C.A. Bernestein Advanced Visual Lab University of Maryland Computer & Space Science Bldg., Rm 4402 College Park, MD 20742

Vince Patrick

Advanced Visual Lab University of Maryland Computer & Space Sceince Bldg., Rm 4402 College Park, MD 20742

Ted Cooney UAF, retired PO Box 486 Chateau, MT 59422

Ravi Kulkarni E-Sci Corporation 5406 Roosevelt St. Bethesda, MD 20817

RE: 040695/Community Assessment and Implementation Planning Regarding the SEA Model for Pink Salmon Fry Survival

Dear C.A., Vince, Ted and Ravi:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040695/Community Assessment and Implementation Planning Regarding the SEA Model for Pink Salmon Fry Survival. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

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Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

## Project: Berenstein-FY04-Pink Salmon Fry Survival

Project Title: Community Assessment and Implementation Planning Regarding the SEA Model for Pink Salmon Fry Survival

Location:	Prince William Sound, Ala	ska	
Proposer:	C.A. Berenstein	Proposer Affiliation: N	on-Alaskan University
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	FY06: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

Early implementation of research has been used by Alaskan \_fishing communities to turn troubled times into ones of renewal and growth. For Prince William Sound, one counts the revitalization of optimum escapement management at statehood, the engineering development of Bams' experiments with Turfgrass in incubators, and the use of technology and a systems perspective in the SEA Science Plan. In each case, the resource at the center was pink salmon. Ten years ago, diverse communities focused on pinks: the resource looked to be in trouble. Today, the resource and the communities are in trouble if reduced to indistinguishable commodities. This project responds to the call for an implementation plan for research that protects the resource. The approach draws upon the community resources and traditions that produced past successes. The goal is a plan that will produce a broadly based distinguishing contribution.

## STAC Recommendation:

Berenstein et al. propose to establish an infrastructure to address the survival of pink salmon in Prince William Sound. The sampling tool is coded wire tags and it will depend on concurrent physical measurements. Much of the proposal is based on yet to be published results and findings so the veracity of this proposal is questionable. For example, on page 3, it is stated that the connection between fry survival is water temperature for fish and advection for zooplankton but there is no reference for this statement. They will need zooplankton densities and physical parameters but will not be gathering them themselves. High resolution data would be required especially in the spring to address the effects of the fry releases. Their assumption that oceanographers and meteorologists are gaining an understanding of the system and making useable forecasts is not justified. They also ignore the ocean conditions and carrying capacities. The proposal does not contain certain required elements such as bios of the investigators. The budget was not well justified. The Gantt chart is not sufficient. Roles of the PIs are poorly delineated. Funding of this proposal is not recommended.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

A model of pink salmon fry survival that meets the information needs of the fishing and aquaculture industries in Prince William Sound is in the interest of understanding recovery from the oil spill, and for supporting economic development activities. Unfortunately the proposal did not meet the needs and standards established in the Invitation for Proposals for this modeling activity. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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November 11, 2003

Nancy Bird Prince William Sound Science Center PO Box 1185 Cordova, AK 99574

## RE: 040696/Alaska Marine Highway System Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network

Dear Nancy:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040696/Alaska Marine Highway System Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

an

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

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

## *Project:* Bird-FY04-Mobile Data Network-Marine Hwy

Project Title: Alaska Marine Highway System Marine Weather and Conditions Mobile Data Network

Location:	Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska				
Proposer:	Nancy Bird	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO		
Lead Agency:	NOAA				
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:				
<i>FY04:</i> \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00	

#### Abstract:

Marine weather and sea conditions have been identified as important elements in the GEM program for processes controlling ecosystem interactions, marine-traveler safety, resource agencies, marine-resource industries, and emergency spill-response activities. This project brings together communities, stakeholders, agencies, and technology specialists to expand an existing data and telemetry network in Prince William Sound and the Northern Gulf of Alaska. The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) provides a platform for contributing data to the GEM program, local communities, and industry. We will integrate data-collection systems on AMHS vessels working in Prince William Sound and North Gulf of Alaska, incorporating one vessel each year over a three-year period. We will use varied telemetry methods to maximize data access to AMHS vessels and public in near-real-time reporting systems. The system design has been structured to provide valued information to AMHS operations and end-users through a group effort aimed at building a sustainable network.

### STAC Recommendation:

It is proposed to instrument one Alaska Marine Highway ferry in each of three project years to gather weather data on a continuous basis. The proposal fails to say specifically what will be done with this data although the proposal does indicate that the data will be used somehow to improve both short term weather knowledge around PWS and to generate a long-term data set for the variables measured. The short-term products will be made available on the internet. No explicit details of data archiving are offered. Since in reasonably short order gigabytes of data will be accumulating, some serious plan is in order. No meteorologist or oceanographer is associated with the project. For GEM's purposes, careful archival work with products of the present PWS weather network would be more valuable than records from wandering ships. Do not fund.

### Executive Director's Recommendation:

See the Executive Director's recommendation on the other proposal from this author. A partnership with OSRI/PWSSC serving the same purposes proposed will be explored through the deferral of the other Bird proposal. The number of substantial technical issues identified during peer review prevent pursuing this proposal at this time. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

441 W. 5" Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



Christopher Guay Earth Science Division/ Lawrence Berkeley National Lab One Cyclotron Rd., M/S 90-1116 Berkeley, CA 94720

Carl Schoch PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

> RE: 040705/Assessing Watershed Source of Metals to Coastal Environments in the Vicinity of Kachemak Bay

Dear Christopher and Carl:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040705/Assessing Watershed Source of Metals to Coastal Environments in the Vicinity of Kachemak Bay. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manger

Project Title: Assessing Watershed Source of Metals to Coastal Environments in the vicinity of Kachemak Bay

Location:	Kachemak Bay, southern Kenai Peninsula				
Proposer:	Christopher Guay	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG		
Lead Agency:	ADFG				
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:				
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00		<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00	

## Abstract:

Samples of water, suspended particulates, surface sediments, and benthic organisms will be collected from watershed/estuary systems on the southern Kenai Peninsula in the vicinity of Kachemak Bay. Samples will be collected over a two-year period starting in December 2003. Much of the sampling will be conducted by residents of Seldovia, Port Graham, and Nanwalek after training at the beginning of the project in October 2003. The samples will be analyzed for a suite of metals (As, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Zn) by ICPMS, and the data will be used to address the following hypotheses related to the cycling of metals in these environments:

- 1. The watersheds are a significant source of metals to adjacent coastal areas.
- 2. Contributions of metals by marine source waters are small relative to inputs of metals from the watersheds.
- 3. Metals accumulate in sediments and biota in the coastal areas adjacent to the watersheds.

## STAC Recommendation:

This proposes to sample for naturally occurring metals in water and sediments in Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Peninsula. There are indications that metals may be accumulating in seafood consumed in this region. This is a wellwritten proposal that has methods clearly laid out and has a good field sampling plan covering time and space. Additionally, this proposal directly involves local communities with collecting the samples and would work closely with other separately funded programs. The measurement of terrestrial-marine linkages is ultimately of interest to the GEM program because of the need to understand the basis for changes in production of birds, fish and mammals in the oil spill affected areas. The proposal does not address terrestrial marine linkages that in the long-term shed light on production or productivity in the GEM area. As such the proposal is not responsive to the Invitation for FY04. The Invitation (pp. 11-12) specifically asked for programs to identify, evaluate and implement sampling strategies for marine signals. This proposal is for a specific sampling strategy for specific freshwater signals (metals) that have not yet been identified as something that needs to be monitored. While the sample design of the project is good, it makes the project extremely expensive. The proposed project is further ahead than GEM is at this moment and GEM is not yet prepared to fund a full-scale sample plan without more investigation into the design of the plan on a GEM region-wide scale. This is not something that would lead to a long-term monitoring project for GEM. This aspect makes the proposal unfundable at this time. Do not fund.

## Executive Director's Recommendation:

Although the topic of heavy metal contamination in coastal sea foods is of interest to coastal communities, the proposal did not establish a compelling need for this investigation in relation to the Invitation for Proposals. Do not fund.

## Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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



November 11, 2003

Lianna Jack Alaska Sea Otter & Steller Sea Lion Commission 6239 B St., Suite 204 Anchorage, AK 99518

## RE: 040709/Unalaska, Ouzinkie, Kamishak Bay and Kachemak Bay Local Sea Otter Abundance Trend Survey Project

Dear Lianna:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040709/Unalaska, Ouzinkie, Kamishak Bay and Kachemak Bay Local Sea Otter Abundance Trend Survey Project. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

 Federal Trustees
 State Trustees

 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 Alaska Department of Law

*Project Title:* Unalaska, Ouzinkie, Kamishak Bay and Kachemak Bay Local Sea Otter Abundance Trend Survey Project

Location:

Proposer:	Lianna Jack	<b>Proposer</b> Affiliation:	NGO
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$0.00		<b>FY05:</b> \$0.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00

## Abstract:

Sea otters (Enhydra lutis) west of Cook Inlet, including the Barren Islands, have been designated as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. This determination is based on a limited number of aerial surveys. This limited data provides no indication of current sea otter population trend, whether sea otter populations have stabilized, are increasing or are decreasing. The Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission (TASSC) proposes annual sea otter trend surveys for three years to be conducted in four areas within Southwest Alaska. Specifically, we propose to work with the Tribal Governments of Unalaska and Ouzinkie, and to monitor Kamishak and Kachemak Bays to determine sea otter population trend.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal seeks funding to conduct annual sea otter trend surveys for three years in four areas within southwest Alaska: Unalaska, Ouzinkie, Kamishak Bay, and Kachemak Bay. Sea otters west of Cook Inlet, including the Barren Islands, have been designated as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act. The determination was based on a limited number of aerial surveys by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The project is a collaboration of Alaska Native communities under the direction of the Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission. The proposed monitoring will utilize local expertise through implementation of skiff surveys in four areas. The proposal is not clear on how the monitoring work will complement ongoing and future surveys conducted by the USFWS. The proposal needs to be enhanced to reflect cooperation with the federal management agency. Also, the proposal needs to reflect what, if any, cost sharing the USFWS may provide to help complete the project. The project is non-responsive to the Invitation, is largely out of the GEM area and does not coordinate with the federal agencies. Do not fund.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal calls for work in areas well outside the oil spill affected area, and on an injured species, the sea otter, in areas that are well outside the locales now demonstrating lingering oil effects. Such a survey in the oil spill affected areas may be indicated once long-term monitoring objectives have been established for the nearshore habitat type, however it is not responsive to our needs at this time. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.


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

November 11, 2003

Ravi Kulkarni E-Sci Corporation 5406 Roosevelt St. Bethesda, MD 20817

Vince Patrick Advanced Visual Lab, University of Maryland Computer & Space Science Bldg., Rm 4402 College Park, MD 20742

R. T. Cooney UAF, retired PO Box 486 Chateau, MT 59422

RE: 040714/A Design for a Data Management and Information Portal for GEM

Dear Ravi, Vince and R. T. :

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040714/A Design for a Data Management and Information Portal for GEM. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

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Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting Project Title: A Design for a Data Management and Information Portal for GEM - Submitted under the BAA

Location:	Data & Information Management Proposal on Site			
Proposer:	Ravi Kulkarni	Proposer Affiliation: Non Alaskan University		
Lead Agency:	NOAA			
Fiscal Year 200	iscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:			

FY04: \$0.00

FY05: \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

The GEM program relies on data collection from a wide variety of sources, including insitu, remote sensing, modeling and simulation, and derived datasets. In addition multiple disciplines of biology, oceanography, meteorology, and others are needed to provide a truly synoptic view of the data and their interpretation. This proposal seeks to design an infrastructure that can be used as an extensible framework for the tasks of data analysis and submission to a repository, peer review and "publication" of datasets, and collaborative data analysis and visualization for the purposes of internet based virtual data analysis workshops (CDAW). The idea of representing data preparation and peer review as "business processes" has been adopted from NASA/Planetary Data System.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal provides an analysis of a set of tools which can be used to provide data access, processing, and visualization to distributed oceanographic data sets. What this proposal seriously lacks is any type of implementation scheme or plan to provide a deliverable data product. The author, Kulkarni, was involved in a successful NASA project to provide data access to planetary orbiting data. In this proposal Kulkarni attempts to adapt the model for planetary data to data which is of the oceanographic type. Many of diagrams and figures included in this proposal reference orbiting or planetary information, these figures should be referencing oceanographic variables, looks as if most of this proposal contains recycled content. The proposal references various open source technologies to accomplish its goals such as Java, OpenDX, and OpenMap. These technologies make up the correct toolset for the creation of a data management solution for GEM but the proposal provides no implementation scheme. Many of the deliverables listed in the proposal are analogous to solutions already created by the OPeNDAP community using the same open source tools. In addition, this proposals response to the FY04 invitation is very poor and does not adequately address any of the issues listed in the data management section. Do not fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal was not responsive to the Invitation for Proposals, and as a consequence it addresses products not needed at this time. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

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



November 11, 2003

Michael Lilly GW Scientific PO Box 81538 Fairbanks, AK 99708

### RE: 040715/Intertidal Contaminant Fate and Transport Modeling

Dear Michael:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040715/Intertidal Contaminant Fate and Transport Modeling. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

Project Title:	Intertidal	Contaminant	Fate and	Transport	Modeling
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Location:	Prince William Sound		
Proposer:	Michael Lilly	Proposer Affiliation:	Private Enterprise
Fiscal Year 200	14 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00

#### Abstract:

The fate and transport of oil and dissolved hydrocarbons in the beach environment is a critical process to characterize for development of monitoring programs under the GEM plan. The intertidal zone is the boundary zone between highly productive ecosystems and the flux of hydrocarbons in beach ground-water systems. The amount and duration of hydrocarbon loading across the intertidal zone is important for understanding how biological systems respond to hydrocarbons acting as long-term sources. We will synthesize existing data on beaches containing hydrocarbons, and identify the biogeochemical processes and nearshore ground-water dynamics of typical beaches still bearing impacts of the oil spill. Numerical modeling will be used to understand and demonstrate how these processes work. This effort will help GEM program planners evaluate what data-collection needs exist for long-term monitoring of hydrocarbons and what information is needed to better understand and model fate and transport processes in impacted beach environments.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal will produce a literature summary and conceptual model of the fate and transport of oil in intertidal habitats in Prince William Sound. There is no link between the proposed study plan and the ability to assess the impacts of lingering oil in intertidal habitats. The proposal did not specify any time-period for which contaminant transport would be modeled. There was no discussion or apparent understanding of the extent of oil loading or degree of weathering of oil residues as of 2003. It seems as though the proposers have little knowledge of the composition of crude oil as a complex mixture, the weathering processes that affect water-soluble components over 13 years, which compounds have ecological significance, etc. Their example figures had little application to the actual intertidal settings or oil distributions. They propose to create conceptual and contaminant transport models for "index" or "type-beaches" in PWS without any effort to validate the results. I would have at least expected to have some field data to validate the simplest of model outputs, such as ground-water salinity. Recommendation: Do not fund

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal is not responsive to the needs of the program at this time. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

441 W. 5" Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



Scott Pegau Kachemak Bay Estuarine Research Reserve 2181 Kachemak Drive Homer, AK 99603

Carl Schoch PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

# RE: 040719/Studying the ACC within Cook Inlet using Volunteer Observing Ships

Dear Scott and Carl:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040719/Studying the ACC within Cook Inlet using Volunteer Observing Ships. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

Project Title: Studying the ACC within Cook Inlet using Volunteer Observing Ships

Location:	Lower Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay			
Proposer:	Scott Pegau	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:				

#### Abstract:

FY04: \$0.00

This project is designed to monitor changes in the coastal oceans using instruments on vessels of opportunity. The scientific goal is to observe the variations in the flow of the Alaska Coastal Current (ACC) in order to better understand the natural and anthropogenic influences on lower Cook Inlet. In particular, we are interested in understanding how the flow of the ACC interacts with Kachemak Bay. If the ACC enters Kachemak Bay it can carry larvae that can replenish fish and intertidal organisms. The project will produce a basic instrument suite appropriate for installing on all sizes of vessels that regularly operate in the coastal waters of the Gulf of Alaska. The measurements will include temperature, salinity, chlorophyll and CDOM fluorescence, and turbidity. The work will be done in Homer, Alaska at the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, but techniques will be transferable to other regions in the Gulf and Prince William Sound.

FY05: \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

#### STAC Recommendation:

Although the goal of quantifying ACC penetration into lower Cook Inlet and, particularly, into Kachemak Bay is important to understanding lower Cook Inlet, the applications of the proposed data and the intervals over which it will be of value to monitor them have not been fully thought out. They need to resolve the sampling problem and the tidal model necessary to de-tide the data. The ferry monitoring would cover a significant part of this area. Do not fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal correctly identifies sampling opportunities that could be important in understanding changes in populations of birds, fish and mammals in the northern Gulf of Alaska, however substantial issues were identified in the peer review process. Technical issues are not resolvable within the current funding cycle. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

441 W. 5" Ave., State 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907 278-6012 • fax 907/276-7178



November 11, 2003

Martin Renner Memorial University of Newfoundland PO Box 3578 St. John, NF A1B 3X9

Falk Huettmann University of Calgary Department of Geography Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4

### RE: 040720/Population Modeling of Kittlitz's Murrelet

Dear Martin and Falk:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040720/Population Modeling of Kittlitz's Murrelet. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

**Project Title:** Population Modeling of Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*)

Location:	PWS, Kachemak Bay, Adak		
Proposer:	Martin Renner	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
<i>FY04:</i> \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00

#### Abstract:

Kittlitz's Murrelet were seriously impacted by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and have not recovered but continued to decline alarmingly (listing under Endangered Species Act has been petitioned). We propose to catch and radio tag Kittlitz's Murrelet to find nests, monitor habitat use and estimate survival by mark-recapture. Field work will be conducted at three sites (Prince William Sound, Kachemak Bay, Adak) over three years. Sites are selected to reflect a gradient from heavily glaciated to near glacier, to no glacier. All data will be gathered to build a comprehensive population model used for a Population Viability Analysis. All data will be made openly available on the web.

#### STAC Recommendation:

A large number of marbled murrelets, the predominant murrelet in PWS, were killed by the spill, and it is not known for sure how many Kittzllitz's murrelets may have been included in the "unidentified murrelet" category among the carcasses recovered after the spill. This species is found predominantly in glacial fjords and none of these environments were oiled significantly. None-the-less, this species is in danger of extirpation and PWS is a major population center for this species. A large number of marbled murrelets, the predominant murrelet in PWS, were killed by the spill, and it is not known for sure how many Kittlitz's Murrelets may have been included in the "unidentified murrelet" category among the carcasses recovered after the spill. This species is found predominantly in glacial fjords and none of these environments were oiled significantly. None-the-less, this species is in danger of extirpation and PWS is a major population center for this species. The methods of achieving the project goals are appropriate and the personnel are experienced in this sort of work. However, the budget is too modest to support the kind of effort needed to locate and verify nests and marked individuals. The connection between lingering oil and populations of this species in the spill area are weakly made, as in fact they are weak. From the standpoint of concern for ongoing spill effects, this project is weakly justified, but it may have value for what the population indicates for the shrinking habitat of the tidewater glacial fjord, if this a concern in the GEM program. Do not fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project is not well justified in terms of the Restoration objective of understanding the status of an injured species in relation to the past and present effects of oiling. Developing the background for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act is not an appropriate task for this funding source. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.



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November 11, 2003

Carl Schoch PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

Guy Gelfenbaum USGS 345 Middlefield Rd. MS-999 Menlo Park, CA 94025

Scott Pegau Kachemak Bay Research Research 2181 Kachemak Bay Dr. Homer, AK 99603

Peter Ruggiero USGS 345 Middlefield Rd. MS-999 Menlo Park, CA 94025

> RE: 040722/Linking Oceanographic and Ecological Process in Nearshore Environments

Dear Carl, Guy, Scott and Peter:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

In September I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 040722/Linking Oceanographic and Ecological Process in Nearshore Environments. The Council acted on the FY 2004 Work Plan on November 10, 2003. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 04. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

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Gail Phillips *V* Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

#### Project: Schoch-FY04-Oceanographic & Ecological Process

Project Title: Linking Oceanographic and Ecological Process in Nearshore Environments

Location:	Lower Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay			
Proposer:	Carl Schoch	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:				

FY05: \$0.00

FY04: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

Our goal is to investigate the processes that generate conspicuous patterns of diversity and species composition in the nearshore of Kachemak Bay and how ecological communities respond to variation or modification of these processes. We hypothesize that there are two principal physical forces driving community structure and spatial distribution of kelp forests in Kachemak Bay: 1) the behavior of tidal and density driven coastal currents including the ACC, and 2) the nearshore wave and sediment dynamics. We will: 1) Evaluate the effects of seasonal to interannual variability of the ACC in Kachemak Bay; 2) Quantify habitat change as a function of wave energy and sediment transport and how these are modified by anthropogenic processes such as coastal development and human use; and 3) investigate the role of coastal currents and habitat change on kelp forests, and the spatial and temporal variability of selected populations of fishes, invertebrates, and plants.

FY06: \$0.00

#### STAC Recommendation:

This is a promising proposal, but nearshore monitoring proposals were not invited. The opportunity to invite nearshore proposals awaits the analysis of the Bodkin and Dean report, and results of other nearshore projects funded in FY 03. This proposal focuses on the influence of hydrodynamics on kelp communities. An interesting set of questions, but, if that were all it did, it would be very expensive. Tidal corrections need to be considered when proposal is resubmitted in the future. However, it has good matching funds and talent commitment from federal sources and it establishes an interface between long-term physical and biological monitoring that has great promise. Do not fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Although the proposal addresses needs established in the GEM Science Plan for the nearshore, it is premature with respect to the GEM process, which does not envision establishing projects like this one until the information on nearshore monitoring gathered in FY 2002 – FY 2004 can be assimilated into a nearshore synthesis. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action: Do not fund.

441 W. 5" Avel, Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 12, 2003



Eric Knudsen 5000 Whispering Spruce Dr. Anchorage, AK 99516

Thomas Kline, Jr. PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

> RE: 040712/Research for Nutrient-based Resource Management in Watersheds and Estuaries

Dear Eric and Thomas:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$173,216 for Project 040712/Research for Nutrient-based Resource Management in Watersheds and Estuaries. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips

Enclosure

CC:

Congratulations!

Dede Bohn/USGS Project Managers 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 Project Title: Research for Nutrient-Based Resource Management in Watersheds and Estuaries

Location:	Prince William Sound		
Proposer:	Eric Knudsen	Proposer Affiliation:	DOI
Lead Agency:	DOI		
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:		

*FY04:* \$173,216.00 *FY05:* \$177,002.00 *FY06:* \$152,632.00

#### Abstract:

Proposal offers a strategy for developing a monitoring program for watersheds that would form the basis for a comprehensive understanding of water quality and biological production in relation to natural and human induced variability. Sampling strategy effectively leverages existing funding from Oil Spill Recovery Institute and North Pacific Research Board to minimize costs. Data derived on isotopic signatures of C, N, and S will be invaluable in designing monitoring throughout the GEM area. Important new information would be produced on effects of watersheds on productivities of nearshore environments, the feasibility of using sulfur as indicator of marine related effects, and the relation of MDN to freshwater residence time in juvenile salmon.

#### STAC Recommendation:

Proposal offers a clear strategy for developing a monitoring program for watersheds that would form the basis for a comprehensive understanding of water quality and biological production in relation to natural and human induced variability. Sampling strategy effectively leverages existing funding from Oil Spill Recovery Institute and North Pacific Research Board to minimize costs. Data derived on isotopic signatures of C, N, and S will be invaluable in designing monitoring throughout the GEM area. Important new information would be produced on effects of watersheds on productivities of nearshore environments, the feasibility of using sulfur as indicator of marine related effects, and the relation of MDN to freshwater residence time in juvenile salmon. Proposal makes good case that the management implications of information for salmon and salmon-dependent economies and wildlife are very strong for ADF&G, NMFS, and USFWS. On the negative side the proposal has some serious shortcomings in the presentation of hypotheses and methods. Hypotheses need to be re-written to remove tautalogies, maps of sampling localities need to be provided, and field methods for sampling and estimation of abundance need to be clearly explained. Fund contingent on receipt of revised proposal addressing peer reviewer concerns.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project provides information on terrestrial-marine linkages in the nearshore and riverine environments that is essential to planning watershed monitoring. Revised proposal addressed peer reviewer concerns. The Principal Investigators agreed to participate in a watershed workshop will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Fund.

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

November 11, 2003

Kenneth Adams PWSFRAP PO Box 1855 Cordova, AK 99574-1855

Ross Mullins PWSFRAP PO Box 436 Cordova, AK 99574-0436

### RE: 040636/Fisheries Management Applications

Dear Kenneth and Ross:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$46,760 for Project 040636/Fisheries Management Applications. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

/al/Ull

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!





*Project: \_\_\_\_\_Adams-FY04-Fisheries Management* 

Project Title: Fisheries Manag	ement Applications	- Submitted under the	BAA
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Location:	Prince	William	Sound
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Proposer: Kenneth Adams Proposer Affiliation: Priv

om: Private Enterprise

Lead Agency: NOAA

Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:

*FY04*: \$46,760.00 *FY05*: \$0.00 *FY06*: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

The proposal is submitted under the category of Community Involvement. The project, begun in March of FY-02, will continue to build bridges between the scientific community and resource managers, enhancement programs, subsistence and other stakeholder user groups. The scientific community is describing and attempting to predict variation in biological production whereas, the commercial fishing community desires application for this new information. We will develop a Mini-Symposium of the annual GEM workshop for presentation in small communities. We will also continue the successful series of workshops created in Cordova for identification of PWS fishery community issues and needs and will seek resolution of the identified issues and needs by application of EVOSTC supported research. The results contained in the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) program are especially valuable to this process. This project provides clear and positive opportunities for the resource dependent community to become involved in GEM and can also help identify how products of GEM can be made meaningful to the community.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal is for three additional years of funding for Prince William Sound Fisheries Research Applications and Planning (PWSFRAP). This was originally funded as a pilot project for 1.5 years. It has been highly successful in that the proposers have used this venue to inform and involve the Cordova community in issues of fisheries, especially those that were examined as part of SEA research. The PIs have been extremely involved in GEM; Adams has attended all the public components of the GEM process and has relayed the knowledge to an interested Cordova community. These PIs made a presentation to the GEM PAC in Cordova in June. Their project was very well received by the PAC. The proposal is well written and includes lots of objectives to get scientific information to the public and to get information back from them. Unfortunately, the proposal is rather weak on the methods of how these objectives will be accomplished. This proposal specifically fulfills the invitation in that it proposes to conduct "mini-symposia" that are synopsis of the annual EVOS meeting. It is disconcerting that the proposal does not give any details about how the mini-symposia are expected to be done. Past community workshops have

been highly successful and these should be continued. Objective to bring symposium events to villages is important, but it is not clear that current technology is adequate. The budget is well above the \$10-20 K limit suggested in the Invitation. The STAC recommends the proposal be revised to provide some specific methods for extending the successful workshop approach employed in Cordova to other communities in the spill area for an amount not to exceed \$20K. Fund reduced for one year, amount contingent upon receipt of revised proposal.

### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The project has proven effective in working with the fishing community in Cordova to identify projects for GEM that are important to the long-term economic development of Prince William Sound. It has also been effective in communicating the potential benefits of the GEM program to the Cordova fishing community. The revised proposal identifies how the project is expected to continue its excellent record of success in building community involvement by extending its work to other communities in the spill region. Fund.

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

November 11, 2003

Sonia Batten 4737 Vista View Crescent Nanaimo, BC V9V 1N8

David Welch Department of Fisheries & Ocean Canada Pacific Biological Station Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N7

### RE: 040624/Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska

Dear Sonia and David:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$135,200 for Project 040624/Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips / Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/ NOAA Contracting

### Project: Batten-FY04-CPR data

Project Title: Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska - Submitted under the BAA

Location:	Alaskan shelf and Gulf of A	laska	
Proposer: Lead Agency:	Sonia Batten NOAA	Proposer Affiliation:	Non Alaskan University
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$135,200	0.00	FY05: \$135,200.00	FY06: \$135,200.00

#### Abstract:

Plankton are a critical link in the marine food chain that respond rapidly to climate change and form the link between the atmosphere and upper trophic levels. Many important marine resources in the GoA are strongly influenced by changes in ocean climate. Recent CPR data have shown significant changes occurring in all plankton communities in the GoA, associated with the recent climate shift. We will continue the acquisition of CPR data in the Gulf of Alaska on the current transect that crosses the ACC and add an additional transect in FY05 that will sample the ACC further 'downstream' and provide baseline, seasonal plankton data for the lower Cook Inlet and it's transition to the Gulf of Alaska. We also propose analysis of data already collected to investigate the links between plankton and juvenile salmon migrations, and the larval distribution of commercially important decapods sampled by the CPR.

#### STAC Recommendation:

Batten and Welch, using resources of the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS), GEM and NPRB, have been conducting continuous plankton recorder (CPR) studies in the Gulf of Alaska since 1998. Those were initially exploratory, but have been run consistently in a time-series monitoring mode since March 2000. Roughly monthly transects are run through the spring each year from Hinchinbrook Entrance to Long Beach by CPRs towed by oil tankers. In addition, a transect has been run several times in recent years from Vancouver, B. C. to Yokohama. Among other things, the results show (1) the north-south seasonality gradient of the large, particle grazing copepods of the GOA (earlier south, later north), (2) evidence of transport into oceanic waters of coastal zooplankton by recurring (or persistent) eddies along the BC coast, and (3) clear evidence correlating with more coast-bound studies of faunal changes occurring at the apparent pelagic regime shift at the end of the 1990's. Three strong publications have resulted from the work so far, covering those results, and Dr. Batten also has been active in studies and publications on the statistical validity of CPR work generally. Community involvement includes the volunteer observing ship activity itself, and preparation and loading of CPRs by community college personnel in Valdez. The proposal emphasizes the value of zooplankton time series for early identification of regime shifts and other responses of the pelagic ecosystem to climate change. Present funds available to GEM do not justify committing to the expanded transects in FY 05 and 06 in light of need to establish other vessels of opportunity programs. Fund project as written for FY 04 through FY 06 at funding level of FY 04.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Past performance of investigators has been exemplary in all respects, and the project is producing information on long-term changes in conditions that affect production of birds, fish and mammals in the Gulf. Responsiveness of investigators to requests for information and reporting deadlines is very good. Present funds available to GEM do not justify committing to the expanded transects in FY 05 and 06 in light of need to establish other vessels of opportunity programs. Possibility is recognized that changes in vessels may occur, and that some changes in routing may be expected as a result. Project is to be conducted with FY 04 objectives and funding levels from FY 04 through FY 06. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Mary Anne Bishop PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574-0705

Sean Powers University of South Alabama Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Rm 11 Dauphin Island, AL 36528

> RE: 040635/Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft-Sediment Communities: Interaction between Top-down and Bottom-up Processes

Dear Mary Anne and Sean:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$149,529 for Project 040635/Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft-Sediment Communities: Interaction between Top-down and Bottom-up Processes. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

1au C

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Congratulations !

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

### *Project:* Bishop-FY04-Top-down and Bottom-up Processes

Project Title:	Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft-Sediment Communities: Interaction between Top-down and Bottom-up Processes (Renewal, Submitted under the BAA)			
Location:	Southeast Prince William Sound (Orca Inlet) and the Copper River Delta			
Proposer:	Mary Anne Bishop	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO	
Lead Agency:	NOAA			
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$149,529	9.00	FY05: \$164,030.00	FY06: \$151.390.00	

#### Abstract:

Vast expanses of intertidal sand/mudflats serve as a critical link in the food web of nearshore communities along the southcentral Alaska coastline. The rich abundance of benthic invertebrates residing within the sediments of intertidal flats and the large network of subtidal channels that bisect these flats provide a significant prey resource for numerous species of fish, crabs, birds, and marine mammals. One of the largest expanses of intertidal mud/sand flats occurs in the Copper River Delta and southeastern Prince William Sound (Orca Inlet). Here we propose a large-scale field study that examines the physical/chemical and biological factors that limit and/or regulate invertebrate community dynamics. The largely "bottom-up" approach we propose (physical/chemical parameters – phytoplantkon/epibenthic production – invertebrate production) is balanced by the largely "top-down" focus of a companion project funded by the Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute that examines predator dynamics and assesses their role in invertebrate community dynamics. At the completion of this project (FY 06), the results of both projects will be synthesized and a subset of key physical/chemical parameters will be identified for long- term monitoring.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal takes advantage of the PWSSC location and complementary funding to develop the 'bottom-up' sampling program to match a 'top-down" project already in place. The proposed sampling is intensive and reasonably extensive in space and time, and it is therefore comparatively expensive. The concept of understanding trophic dynamics from both ends is certainly attractive, if, in fact, they meet in the middle. The project will establish a baseline of biodiversity in the habitat. Long-term the project will need to address the sustainability of a monitoring program built around helicopter sampling. Fund.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The proposal meets an essential GEM objective by continuing research into understanding how to monitor soft sediment nearshore habitats nearby the oil spill affected areas. It is highly leveraged with outside funding and helps develop a desirable partnership with a regional marine lab, PWSSC. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

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

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

Scott Pegau Kachemak Bay Estuarine Reserach Reserve 2181 Kachemak Dr. Homer, AK 99603

RE: 040699/Biophysical Observation aboard Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries

Dear Edward, Calvin and Scott:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$171,500 for Project 040699/Biophysical Observation aboard Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Congratulations!

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

**Project:** Cokelet-FY04-AK Marine Highway System Ferries

Project Title: Biophysical Observation aboard Alaska Marine Highway Systems Ferries

Location:	Alaska Coastal Current, Prince William Sound			
Proposer:	Edward Cokelet	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA	
Lead Agency: Fiscal Year 2004	NOAA D4 Approved Funding:			

*FY04*: \$171,500.00 *FY05*: \$185,900.00

#### Abstract:

The Alaska Coastal Current 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 presents a natural study area over which low- and high-productivity regions lie in close proximity. The Alaska Marine Highway System ferry M/V *Tustamena* crosses this front over 280 times each year. We propose to instrument the *Tustamena* to measure physical and biological oceanographic parameters across the Alaska Coastal Current and in Prince William Sound. This will begin a GEM oceanographic monitoring program in the Gulf that will lead to understanding nutrient replenishment and document ecosystem trends for years to come.

FY06: \$145,900.00

#### STAC Recommendation:

This is an excellent response to the GEM request for proposals to use State of Alaska ferries as platforms for collecting environmental observations. It requests a major commitment of funds; however the returns are commensurate with the costs. It should generate a working, robust system and a suite of data from tracks of maximum interest in the GEM target region, the oil spill trajectory. The M/V Tustamena is selected because it makes the maximum number of crossings each year of the ACC. The routes (mostly Kodiak-Homer and Kodiak-Seward) will cross the coastal to oceanic chlorophyll front and salinity gradient. It is proposed to follow, by and large, the recommendations of the PICES 2002 report on engine room instrumentation for VOS. A rather full installation is proposed for the ship's April yard period in 2004. A thermosalinograph to sample at the ship's sea chest is to be purchased and installed and backed up by hull conductance thermometry. Cokelet et al. propose to loan the project fluorometry, transmissometery, colored dissolved matter spectrometry (CDOM) and automated nitrate analysis facilities in the first year, replacing them with project-purchased sensors in later years. Cokelet et al. give evidence of experience dealing with ship operators concerning such installations, a key aspect of such projects worldwide. The STAC recommends that the investigators must accommodate the needs of the AMHS regarding inship communication. The proposers need to investigate the status of the meteorologic observations collected by the vessel. A wireless remote system is needed to collect these data. Two revisions are required; the real-time communication and costs should be eliminated from the proposal. The ADCP should be eliminated from this proposal because the information received is not proportional to the cost required. Fund contingent upon revised proposal with reduced instrumentation described above.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

Agreement in principle has been reached with the AMHS engineering and operations staff concerned and a memorandum of agreement on the specifics of the project is in process. This agreement and project are historic milestones that provide for highly cost effective monitoring of the coastal environment of Alaska. Revised proposal addressed STAC recommendations. Fund.

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Ginney Eckert University of Alaska 11120 Glacier Highway Juneau, AK 99801

RE: 040702/A Synthesis of Natural Variability in the Nearshore: Can we Detect Change?

Dear Ginney:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$36,300 for Project 040702/A Synthesis of Natural Variability in the Nearshore: Can we Detect Change?. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips // Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Kevin Buckland/NOAA Project Manager

### *Project: Eckert-FY04-Natural Variability in the Nearshore*

*Project Title:* A Synthesis of Natural Variability in the Nearshore: Can We Detect Change?

Location:	Alaska (Synthesis)		
Proposer:	Ginney Eckert	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University
Leaa Agency: Fiscal Year 200	ADFG 04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$36,300	.00	FY05: \$17,500.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00

#### Abstract:

One of the primary goals of the GEM program is to detect anthropogenic changes within the four focal habitats in the Gulf of Alaska; however natural variability in these systems can be so high that it prevents detection of humaninduced effects. The goal of this proposal is to synthesize existing data to identify, within the nearshore habitat, environments and species that have less natural variability so that these variables can be included in the GEM monitoring plan. Data will be synthesized from the Gulf of Alaska and across a broad range of geographic areas to identify general characteristics that predict lower levels of natural variability in nearshore marine populations. The principal investigator is well suited to conduct this analysis because she was a coauthor of the current GEM nearshore monitoring plan, and she has conducted extensive analyses of natural population variability in nearshore organisms.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal provides a badly needed integrative service. The right person doing the right thing. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project provides synthesis in an important habitat type, the nearshore, at a critical time. The nearshore is closer to establishing a comprehensive monitoring program than other habitat types, so synthesis is particularly important in the nearshore habitat type. Fund.

441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



James Fall ADF&G 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

Robert Walker ADF&G 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, AK 99515-1565

### RE: 040471/Update of the Status of Subsistence Uses in Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area Communites

Dear James and Robert:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$298,700 for Project 040471/Update of the Status of Subsistence Uses in Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area Communites. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

Project Title: Update of the Status of Subsistence Uses in Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area Communities

Location:	Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Kenai Peninsula, and Alaska Peninsula		
Proposer:	James Fall	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:		

*FY04*: \$298,700.00 *FY05*: \$25,600.00 *FY06*: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

The project will provide information for an update of the status of subsistence uses in the Exxon Valdez oil spill area. Subsistence uses are a vital natural resource service that was injured by the spill and has not recovered. The project will be a partnership between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Chugach Regional Resources Commission, the Kodiak Area Native Association, and the Bristol Bay Native Association. In early 2004 local research assistants and department researchers will interview face-to-face approximately 760 households in 14 communities about their subsistence activities in 2003. The questionnaire will be similar to that used in previous rounds of interviews. A planning workshop and data review workshop will be held involving study community representatives. A database with study findings and a final report will be produced. Training of local researchers and capacity building are key goals of the project.

#### **STAC Recommendation:**

The last subsistence survey in spill affected communities was 1998. The project proposes to survey 760 HH in 15 communities related to 2003 subsistence activities. The project would be a collaborative effort between ADF&G, Division of Subsistence, CRRC, KANA, BBNA, and the communities. A key project goal is training local researchers in survey administration and data entry and review. The project design, including goals, sampling and survey methods, data analysis and statistical methods, are sound. The proposal incorporates community involvement in most stages of the project (except data analysis). The schedule is reasonable and the qualifications of the ADF&G Division of Subsistence are high. The proposal is responsive to the invitation (community involvement) and specifically responds to invited proposals under Lingering Oil Effects (collect, analyze and report information about current subsistence uses in a subset of oil spill area communities using methodology that is comparable with previous research results). Fall (ADF&G Division of Subsistence) was the PI for most of the previous research. The proposal is consistent with GEM strategies (incorporate community involvement and local knowledge) and goals (detect change, provide information to facilitate understanding of causes of change). The proposed project is part of a long-term monitoring of subsistence activities in the communities affected by the oil spill and includes both restoration and monitoring goals. Fund

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

In the last survey of subsistence uses in 1998 it was found that this injured service had not recovered to pre-spill levels. A follow-up survey to assess the status of recovery is needed. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Bruce Finney UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775

Terry Whitledge UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775

Dean Stockwell UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775

> RE: 040703/Marine-terestrial Linkages in northern GOA Watersheds; Towards Monitoring the effects of Anadrmous Marine-derived Nutrients on Biological Production

Dear Bruce, Terry and Dean:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$79,197 for Project 040703/Marine-terestrial Linkages in northern GOA Watersheds; Towards Monitoring the effects of Anadrmous Marine-derived Nutrients on Biological Production. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

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Gail Phillips <sup>4</sup> Executive Director

Congratulations !

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

### Project: Finney-FY04-Marine-terrestrial Linkages

Project Title:	Marine-terrestrial Linkages in northern GOA Watersheds: Towards Monitoring the effects of Anadromous Marine-derived Nutrients on Biological Production			
Location:	Karluk Lake. Spiridon Lake. Kodiak. Alaska			
Proposer:	Bruce Finney	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:			

FY06: \$81.117.00

FY05: \$80,154.00

FY04: \$79,197.00

#### Abstract:

The proposed project is a comprehensive study examining the role of marine-derived nutrients (MDNs) in the productivity of a sockeye nursery lake ecosystem. The research plan integrates studies of nutrient cycling, primary productivity, zooplankton dynamics, and juvenile sockeye abundance and growth, within a framework of stable isotope natural abundance. The study sites are an ideal pair, very similar in characteristics except for access by spawning salmon (anadromous Karluk Lake and control Spiridon Lake). The project will take advantage of the wealth of previous research including relatively long-term limnological data for both sites. Based on previous work, signals from MDNs are anticipated to be relatively strong, which will help elucidate nutrient pathways. The research design is the first to utilize detailed vertical and temporal sampling of the water column, coupled with measurements of rates of primary productivity, and fully integrated stable isotope analyses, with contemporaneous sampling in a well-matched pair of salmon and control lakes. The overall goal of this project is to provide the framework for designing monitoring projects to detect changes in marine terrestrial linkages in Gulf of Alaska sockeye

#### STAC Recommendation:

This is a proposal to partner with a resource management agency (see Honnold) to understand the influence of marine derived nutrients in a comparison of two watersheds. This proposal covers project design, stable isotope measures and nitrate chemistry, and the partner proposal covers limnology, logistics, and sampling personnel. The proposals together evaluate several indicators of marine linkages across species and two distinct watersheds in close cooperation with a natural resource management agency. The proposal has several unique advantages; 1) a pair of similar lakes with and without apparent marine connections, 2) one lake has very long time series of data on fish abundance and stable isotope levels, 3) both lakes have good baseline data on limnological properties such as nutrients, primary productivity and euphotic volume, and 4) one lake has authoritative peer reviewed publications by one of the PI's that support the basic concepts of the proposal. The proposal would develop a strong partnership between university based researchers and a state agency (ADF&G) that would provide information useful to natural resource managers. State agency has close links to the local community and other government agencies. Prospects are good for learning how to measure and interpret linkages of coastal (oligotrophic) lake systems to the marine environment in the Gulf of Alaska in ways that will have practical applications of very large potential significance. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Proposal provides an important comparison between salmon and non-salmon bearing lakes in the oil spill affected area that is important to establishing GEM watershed monitoring. PI's submitted an e-mail agreeing to participate in a watershed workshop will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

David Irons USFWS 1011 E. Tudor Rd. Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: 040159/Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound during Winter and Summer 2004

Dear David:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$175,518 for Project 040159/Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound during Winter and Summer 2004. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips *V* Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager

Federal Tru:	stees
U.S. Department of the Ir	nterior
U.S. Department of Agric	ulture
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administ	ration

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

### Project: Irons-FY 04-Bird Abundance in PWS

 Project Title:
 Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound during Winter and Summer 2004

 Location:
 Prince William Sound, Alaska

 Proposer:
 David Irons
 Proposer Affiliation:
 DOI

 Lead Agency:
 DOI

 Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:

FY04: \$175,518.00

FY05: \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

We propose to conduct small boat surveys to monitor abundance of marine birds and sea otters (Enhydra lutris) in Prince William Sound, Alaska during March and July 2004. Seven previous surveys have monitored population trends for >65 bird and 8 marine mammal species in Prince William Sound after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. We will use data collected in 2004 to examine trends from summer 1989-2004 and from winter 1990-2004 by determining whether populations in the oiled zone changed at the same rate as those in the unoiled zone. We will also examine overall population trends for the Sound from 1989-2004. Due to the lack of data prior to the Exxon Valdez oil spill, continued monitoring of marine birds and sea otters is needed to determine whether populations injured by the spill are recovering. Data collected in 2000 indicated that bald eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) are increasing in winter and summer throughout Prince William Sound, harlequin ducks (Histrionicus histrionicus) are increasing in the oiled area in winter, and black oystercatchers are increasing throughout Prince William Sound in summer. Numbers of all other injured species are either not changing or are declining in the oiled area. Common loons (Gavia immer), cormorants (Phalacrocorax spp.), and common murres (Uria aalgae) are showing no trend in the oiled area; pigeon guillemots (Cepphus columba) and marbled murrelets (Brachyramphus marmoratus) are declining in the oiled areas of Prince William Sound and Kittlitz's Murrelet (Brachyramphus brevirostris) is declining throughout Prince William Sound. Results of these surveys up through 1998 have been published by Irons et al. (2000) and Lance et al. 2001). Analyses of these survey data are the only ongoing means to evaluate the recovery of most of these injured species. A Final Report will be written upon completion of the project that will address population status of species observed during the survey.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal would continue a systematic survey by boat of birds and sea otters in PWS. There is an established standard methodology for these surveys. These surveys go back to the mid-1970s and provide some of the few quantitative data sets for animal populations from before the spill. Starting in the mid-1990s these surveys were carried out every 3 years and the present proposal is for continuation of this series. Aside from their value in understanding whether post-spill populations of sea birds in PWS are attaining pre-spill levels, the survey results now constitute one of the few long-term data sets for sea birds in the northern GOA. It also includes many species that are not otherwise measured in other censuses of sea birds. The proposed work therefore constitutes a valuable addition to the FY04 work plan both as follow up on the spill injury to birds, which was extensive, but also as a valuable data set for addressing GEM goals relative to shifting animal populations. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project adds another point in an increasingly valuable time series of sea bird population abundance in the areas of the spill. The need to survey bird populations to asses recovery status is well justified, as several injured bird species have not shown signs of recovery since the spill. Fund.

441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



Dale Kiefer System Science Applications, Inc. 121 Via Pasqual Renondo Beach, CA 90277

Vardis Tsontos University of Southern California Dept of Biological Sciences, AHF232 Los Angeles, CA 90089

### RE: 040710/Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology: An ABIS Information System

Dear Dale and Vardis:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$80,900 for Project 040710/Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology: An ABIS Information System. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

### Project: Kiefer-FY04-Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology

Project Title: Alaskan Groundfish feeding Feology: An OBIS Information System

Location:	GOA, Aleutian Islands, Bering	Sea	
Proposer:	Dale Kiefer	Proposer Affiliation:	Private Enterprise
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$80,900.00 FY05:		FY05: \$0.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00

#### Abstract:

We propose to develop an OBIS data server node containing information characterizing the distribution and feeding ecology of Alaskan groundfish in relation to environmental parameters. Capitalizing upon our experience as participants in several OBIS projects and using established OBIS tools and protocols for Web-based access to biogeographic datasets, this information system will archive, analyze, and provide a means to distribute via the Internet information on the spatial and temporal distribution of a large number of groundfish and associated prey species sampled in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Island waters, and the Bering Sea by NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC). This biogeographic information system will include data on the gut contents of specimens as well as environmental information characterizing the habitats of the species. These datasets provide a biogeographic description of groundfish distribution and dynamics in relation to habitat structure and environmental variability. They also provide a detailed account of interspecific and environmental interactions that are integral to ecosystem-based fisheries assessment and management approaches. Biological databases used in this project will derive from AFSC, while environmental information will come from databases at the Pacific Marine Ecological Laboratory, AFSC and other sources such as the Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Datasets employed are diverse in nature, and will include satellite imagery, hydrographic and fishery surveys data. The information system will address the problem of integrating multivariate data that has been collected on differing spatial and temporal scales. It will also provide GIS tools to analyze, visualize, and disseminate information according to OBIS technical protocols. Our goal is to develop a pilot system that will not only augment OBIS, but also characterize the habitat and behavior of Alaskan groundfish, and provide a model of how the integration of environmental information can aid in the assessment of marine resources.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal provides a structured proven approach to the implementation of an OBIS (Oceanographic Biological Information System) node in the Alaskan region in addition to addressing the invitation very well. Kiefer has chosen the Alaska Fisheries Science Center Groundfish Databases as a candidate series of datasets to be upscaled into the Census of Marine Life's (CoML) bio-geographic database schema known as OBIS. Four dimensional (x,y,z,t) visualization tools will be accessible through the web or client connection using EASy WEB Server or EASy client respectively. EASy is a product which has been developed by Kiefer and has been integrated with many regional observing systems such as the Gulf of Maine Biological Information System (GIMBIS) and has been ported to the DODS server (a product of the OPeNDAP Group). In addition to providing GEM with a regional OBIS node, this proposal will also assist in the initialization of the Alaskan Oceanographic Observing System (AOOS) by providing a data node which will pipe information to the national level (IOOS). Focus the demonstration on the geographic region of the GEM Program. The Alaska Groundfish data set is only a starting point for implementation, and the extension to more GEM-relevant data sets such as SEA, APEX, NVP, is recommended for the future. Interactions with potential users, such as the GEM modeling group, the authors of GEM synthesis sections, and interested members of the public. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal takes a big step toward meeting GEM needs for database standards, and for improving access of scientists and the public to GEM data, as well as to GEM related data. The use of the groundfish database is justified because it saves development costs by providing a well known standard against which results may be judged. Once the proof of concept is established, the products from the project are extensible to many different types of data at small marginal cost. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: Fund.

November 10, 2003 Trustee Council Action on FY 2004 Draft Work Plan

441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



Brenda Konar UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

Katrin Iken UAF/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775

### RE: 040666/Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 or a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project

Dear Brenda and Katrin:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$248,729 for Project 040666/Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 or a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G, Project Manageristees

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Department of Law
# *Project:* Konar-FY04-Natural Geography in Shore Areas

Project Title:	Alaska Natural Geography in Shore Areas: Year 2 of a Census of Marine Life Initial Field Project			
Location:	Kodiak Island, PWS and Kachemak Bay			
Proposer: Lead Agency:	Brenda Konar ADFG	<b>Proposer</b> Affiliation:	Alaskan University	
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$248,729	9.00	FY05: \$0.00	FY06: \$0.00	

# Abstract:

This proposal seeks funding to complete the initial nearshore biodiversity surveys that were started in the summer of 2003 in Kodiak Island, Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay. These surveys are part of a pole-to-pole latitudinal gradient in macroalgal rocky bottom and seagrass soft bottom habitats that is applying standardized protocols developed under the Census of Marine Life program. In our second year of funding we will resurvey all sites that were sampled in 2003 for temporal resolution and will retrieve the temperature data loggers that were deployed at all sites in 2003 so that physical data can be incorporated for each study site. The project is heavily based on local community involvement for sampling. Expected outcomes are establishment of a biodiversity database for current regional and global comparisons and future long-term monitoring programs, capacity building, and a broad outreach to the public.

### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal seeks funds to complete the initial nearshore biodiversity surveys started in the summer of 2003 in Kodiak Island, Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay. The surveys were funded using EVOS funds. The surveys are part of a pole-to-pole latitudinal gradient in macroalgal rocky bottom and seagrass soft bottom habitats that is applying standardized protocols developed under the Census of Marine Life Program. Funding in second year will allow resurvey of all sites sampled in 2003 and incorporate physical data for each study site. The sampling aspects of the surveys have strong lock community involvement. The results of this projects will establish a biodiversity database for current regional and global comparisons and future long-term monitoring programs, capacity building, and a broad outreach to the public. Fund at level requested originally.

# **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal continues a process started in FY 03 for exploring possibilities for nearshore monitoring sites that are conducive to community involvement in terms of the questions addressed and the data collected. Sites were explored and samples collected in FY 03 and analysis and recommendations are expected during FY 04. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Craig Matkin North Gulf Oceanic Society 60920 Mary Allen Ave. Homer, AK 99603

> RE: 040012/Monitoring Killer Whales in Prince William Sound/Kenai Fjords in 2004

Dear Craig:

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$19,502 for Project 040012/Monitoring Killer Whales in Prince William Sound/Kenai Fjords in 2004. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely.

Gall Phillips **Executive Director** 

Enclosure

ongratulations!

Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager CC: Sharon Kent/BAA Contracting

# Project: Matkin-FY04-Killer Whales in PWS/Kenai Fjords

Project Title:Monitoring of Killer Whales in Prince William Sound Kenai Fjords in 2004 - Submitted under the<br/>BAALocation:PWS. Kenai Fjords AlaskaProposer:Craig MatkinProposer:NGOLead Agency:NOAA

Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:

FY04: \$19,502.00

FY05: \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

## Abstract:

This project transitions monitoring of the damaged resident AB pod and other resident pods and the petitioned as depleted AT1 transient population into a cooperative program with additional collaborative support from the Alaska Sea Life Center, NMFS and various foundations. Monitoring has occurred on a yearly basis since 1984 and was crucial in evaluating the continuing effects from the oil spill. In addition, the role of killer whales in the nearshore ecosystem and possible effects on sea otters will be examined. Community based initiatives such as Youth Area Watch and tour operator educational programs will be integrated. The proposed work will augment current research directed at transient killer whales(ASLC) and provide for annual monitoring of AB pod and other resident pods and includes analysis and reporting of results. In future years the project will be integrated with oceanographic monitoring.

# STAC Recommendation:

This proposal is by a hard-working, dedicated researcher who has followed these whales in Prince William Sound over many years. It is clear that killer whales in general are enjoying good growth of their populations. Some of the pods, such as AB and AT 1 have experienced problems and in the case of the AT 1 pod may be headed for extinction. The paradigms of killer whale social structure and what we wish to see happen are open to challenge, as for example "members" of AB pod are usually seen with another pod when they are sighted. It is clear that if AB pod was injured by the spill that it is on its way to recovery. There is little or no evidence that the problems of AT 1 pod, if they are as the investigator asserts related to the oil spill, as beaching of individual animals in 2000 and 2001 are eleven and twelve years after the spill. If the Trustee Council wishes to follow killer whale pod AB to recovery of pre-spill numbers, which is projected to occur in 2015, then monitoring need only be occasional. Recommendation: Do not fund

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Although the proposal does not provide a compelling case that the information gathered is essential for determining the status of an injured species, and the STAC raises serious concerns regarding the link to the presumed effects on killer whales to oiling, this is a very cost effective and highly leveraged proposal to extend a long time series of interest to many in the GEM region. As a highly leveraged project with multiple partners it has potential as a monitoring project in the GEM program, however fiscal constraints preclude a fund recommendation on this project. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Appropriate at this time, final year of project. Fund.

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Bonita Nelson NOAA 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau, AK 99801

Jeff Short NMFS/Auke Bay Laboratory 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau, AK 99801

# RE: 040290/The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service

Dear Bonita and Jeff:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$22,200 for Project 040290/The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

# Project: Nelson-FY04-Hydrocarbon Database

Project Title: The Exxon Valdez Trustee Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service

Location:	entire spill area		
Proposer:	Bonita Nelson	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$22,200	.00	FY05: \$22,200.00	FY06: \$22,200.00

## Abstract:

This project is an on-going service project providing data and sample archiving services for all samples collected for hydrocarbon analysis in support of Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council projects. These data represent samples collected since the oil spill in 1989 to the present and include environmental and laboratory Response (National Resource Damage Assessment - NRDA) and Restoration data. Additionally, we provide interpretive services for the hydrocarbon analysis provide public releases of the database (including FOIA requests) and maintain the hydrocarbon sample archives.

## STAC Recommendation:

This proposal would extend the management of the data base that is used to track samples for hydrocarbon analyses and continue to make available interpretive services related to origin of oil and its composition, including the likelihood of toxicity. This project is modest in cost and is needed if the Trustee Council is to continue to investigate possible links between oil remaining in the environment and species that apparently have not recovered from the spill. Recommendation: Fund

### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Proposal provides an essential service required while the possibility of litigation exists. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Steve Okkonen UAF PO Box 1025 Kasilof, AK 99610

> RE: 040614/A Monitoring Program for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program

Dear Steve:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$27,289 for Project 040614/A Monitoring Program for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely

Gail Phillips 6 Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

#### Okkonen-FY04-Monitoring Program in the NE Pacific Ocean Project:

#### A Monitoring Program for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence Fields in the northeast Project Title: Pacific Ocean: Transition to an Operational Program

Location:	N. Gulf of Alaska		
Proposer:	Stephen Okkonen	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Fiscal Year 20	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$27.289	.00	FY05: \$30,366.00	FY06: \$31,455.00

#### Abstract:

This proposed project responds to the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Program invitation category F.2. (Alaska Coastal Current / Collecting physical and biological observations from non-AMHS ships-of-opportunity). Funds are requested to continue (1) the maintenance and operation of a thermosalinograph (TSG) that was installed on the tanker vessel Polar Alaska in July 2002 and (2) the analyses of the collected data. The TSG was originally funded as a pilot project by the EVOS Trustee Council in FY02.

### STAC Recommendation:

Dr. Okkonen and subcontractor Dave Cutchin of Scripps maintain and collect data from a thermosalinograph operating continuously during sea runs on the tanker T/V Polar Alaska transiting from Valdez to alternately San Francisco and Long Beach. Cutchin meets the ships at the south end, consults with the chief and second engineers about concerns regarding the system, copies the data from the hard drive of the dedicated computer and services the system (6 times per year). Okkonen reviews, quality checks and archives the data, updating it on a public web site each operation cycle. Okkonen is also using the data to identify the locations on each passage of specific current features (ACC is discerned as drops in S and T; the shelf-break jet or Alaska stream similarly, and oceanic eddies as extended drops in just salinity). He is comparing these features to sea surface topography from TOPEX-POSEIDON altimetry. Data are transferred to the Batten-Welch CPR project that also operates from the Polar Alaska. An initial fluorometer installation failed, but fluorometry should be available by mid-summer 2003. Sustaining fluorometry is antipated. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Past performance of the investigators and the results to date, have established this project as a low cost means of collecting basic physical data in the nearshore and offshore areas that should be of use to the GEM Model when it is operational. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Dan Rosenberg ADF&G 333 Raspberry Rd. Anchorage, AK 99518

> RE: 040407/Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics in Price William Sound: Measuring Recovery

Dear Dan:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$37,100 for Project 040407/Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics in Price William Sound: Measuring Recovery. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

# Project: Rosenberg-FY04-Harlequin Duck Population

Project Title: Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics in Prince William Sound: Measuring Recovery

Location:	Prince William Sound			
Proposer:	Dan Rosenberg	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$37,100	.00	FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00

## Abstract:

This project will address the effects of lingering oil in nearshore habitats of Prince William Sound on populations of harlequin ducks. We will conduct winter boat surveys to test if harlequin ducks have recovered from the effects of the EVOS by comparing population structure and trends between oiled and unoiled treatments in four areas (2 oiled, 2 unoiled) of PWS. Similar structure and trends between oiled and unoiled areas will indicate populations have recovered or are in a position to recover. Work will be complimentary to studies addressing cytochrome P450 induction and over winter survival of female harlequin ducks to give a complete picture of the effects of lingering oil. We will also test for geographic differences in population structure and trend for oiled and unoiled treatments. This is a continuation of surveys begun in 1997. Up to 3 years of surveys are proposed with the results of each year determining the need for continuation.

## STAC Recommendation:

The proposal was well reviewed and is relevant to the Trustee Council's strategy for investigating the links between oil and the recovery of affected populations. Fund contingent on resolution of outstanding reports 00273 and 02407.

# **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

This is a reasonably priced survey to estimate the abundance of a species, the harlequin duck, which is known to have continuing exposure to Exxon Valdez in the oil spill affected areas of Prince William Sound. Unfortunately there are overdue reports associated with project personnel, so the proposal cannot move forward until conclusion of matter of outstanding reports on scoters. Fund Contingent.

Trustee Council Action: Contingency met. Fund

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November 11, 2003

Jennifer Ruesink Deptartment of Zoology, University of Washington PO Box 351800 Seattle, WA 98195-1800

> RE: 040647/Investingating the Relative Roles of Natural Factors & Shoreline Harvest in Altering the Community Structure, Dynamics & Diversity of the Kenai Peninsula

Dear Jennifer:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$81,600 for Project 040647/Investingating the Relative Roles of Natural Factors & Shoreline Harvest in Altering the Community Structure, Dynamics & Diversity of the Kenai Peninsula. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips *U* Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

CC: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting 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

# *Project:* Ruesink-FY04-Altering the Community Structure

Project Title:	Investigating the Relative Community Structure, Dyna	Roles of Natural Factors & mics & Diversity of the Kenai Pe	Shoreline Harvest in Altering the minsula
Location:	Kenai Peninsula		
Proposer:	Jennifer Ruesink	Proposer Affiliation:	Non Alaskan University
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$81,600.	.00	FY05: \$0.00	FY06: \$0.00

# Abstract:

The surf swept rocky shores of the outer Kenai Peninsula are the home of three Sugpiaq native villages where the black chiton, Katharina tunicata, remains an important traditional subsistence food source. This benthic invertebrate is also a competitively dominant herbivore known to have dramatic impacts on the structure, dynamics and diversity of the rocky intertidal. In collaboration with tribal members, we will evaluate the relative roles of natural factors (predation/grazing & natural variability) and anthropogenic impacts (Katharina harvest) in altering intertidal community structure. The project addresses the core GEM hypothesis of human versus natural impacts on the structure and productivity of coastal ecosystems. It will also provide an additional field season (2004) of valuable baseline monitoring in the intertidal zone that could be continued in the future as part of a long-term time series. Local tribes will be involved in both developing and carrying out research which will match the GEM commitment to community based science.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal has strong community involvement. It is probably as well designed as it can be in this context, although it is not absolutely certain it can resolve the fundamental questions asked. It does have long term monitoring potential and is probably good value in terms of baseline information, even if the scientific question remains unresolved. Fund at level originally requested in FY 2003.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal has a strong community involvement component, having been originated by the village of Port Graham as an investigation targeting an important subsistence resource (the black chiton also known as the Bidarki or black gumboot) that is not studied by other agencies. It is also likely to make a substantial contribution to the development of the nearshore monitoring program. Fund.

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Susan Saupe Cook Inlet RCAC 910 Highland Ave. Kenai, AK 99611

John Harper Coastal & Ocean Resources Inc. 214-9865 W. Saanich Rd. Sidney, B.C. V8L 5Y8

# RE: 040721/Alaska Coastal Habitat Web Site

Dear Susan and John:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$21,100 for Project 040721/Alaska Coastal Habitat Web Site. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:				
Lead Agency:	NOAA				
Proposer:	Susan Saupe	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO		
Location:	Kenai Peninsula including Kachemak Bay and outer coast				
Project Title:	Alaska Coastal Habitat Web Site				

*FY04:* \$21,100.00 *FY05:* \$0.00

# Abstract:

This proposal is to develop an Alaska Coastal Habitat Web Site based on several products currently being produced using ShoreZone Mapping techniques. This proposal will tie together several components in a user-friendly, web-accessible format. In a recent workshop hosted by EVOS and attended by personnel from local, state, and federal agencies, universities, and not-for profit organizations, participants strongly endorsed a coordinated process for continuing coastal mapping and the wide-spread distribution of data through web accessibility. The group also emphasized that the data should be provided in a user-friendly way that will facilitate use by the general public.

FY06: \$0.00

This proposal outlines a plan to (a) make recently collected ShoreZone data immediately web-accessible, (b) combine ShoreZone mapping data with the existing Gulf of Alaska Coastal Imagery web site, and (c) combine ShoreZone mapping data with detailed site-specific data for various habitats and descriptions of biological assemblages and species.

The project will be coordinated by the Cook Inlet RCAC through a subcontract to Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc. (CORI) who developed the ShoreZone techniques and who is currently conducting various ShoreZone mapping projects in the GEM area. CORI is located in Sidney, British Columbia, where much of the work will be conducted. The Public Outreach development portion will be conducted in Kenai at the Cook Inlet RCAC offices and community visits will take place at various places on the Kenai Peninsula as well as to resources agencies in Anchorage.

# STAC Recommendation:

This proposal provides a mechanism for the dissemination of biological coastal information through the web which is cost efficient and practical. Drawing upon methodologies previously implemented in past years, Saupe and Harper plan to expand their coastal web site technology to include more Alaskan coastline in addition to more specific site data (e.g., "data for various habitats and descriptions of biological assemblages and species"). Saupe and Harper will use an ArcIMS mapping engine to facilitate their electronic mapping which is a robust solution but has it's drawback due to it being proprietary to ESRI. The project will need to be vigilant in identifying clients using MAPInfo who have a difficult time downloading data from the website and using it on their systems. Overall, this proposal delivers a high degree of data visualization for the small amount requested. Fund.

# Executive Director's Recommendation:

The project provides and adds value to coastal habitat mapping information collected by GEM and other agencies by making the information more readily available. The information is expected to have a high potential for use in planning research and to local governments in understanding and managing coastal development. Fund

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November 11, 2003

Teri Schneider KIBSD Central Office 722 Mill Bay Rd. Kodiak, AK 99615

# RE: 040610/Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch

Dear Teri:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$63,000 for Project 040610/Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips 6 Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

# Project: Schneider-FY04-Kodiak Archipelago

Project Title:	Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch			
Location:	Kodiak Archipelago			
Proposer:	Teri Schneider	Proposer Affiliation:	Local Government	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$63,000.0	00	FY05: \$63,000.00	FY06: \$63,000.00	

# Abstract:

The Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch is an ongoing community involvement project designed to engage students in projects with goals aligned with the general restoration efforts of the Trustee Council. Students and site coordinators will conduct interviews with local experts and document TEK, publishing it in a District oral history magazine. Participation of KAYAW adults and students in the annual Academy of Elders/Science Camp will be strongly encouraged. Participants will share their research during annual gatherings. Such participation will serve as another avenue for more tribal members to learn about restoration efforts, scientific monitoring techniques, and occupations related to such work. Students will explore local knowledge as it relates to marine mammal populations, inter-tidal environment, impact of humans on the coastal environment, human use overtime and intergenerational changes and cultural beliefs and practices that may provide insight in scientific studies. The value and implications of TEK will be strongly emphasized throughout the implementation of the KAYAW project.

# STAC Recommendation:

This is a very competent proposal that creates its own activities based on addressing local interests and concerns as they relate to GEM. The types of activities described in the proposal (resource inventory, habitat mapping, ecology, human effects on resources (page 1) are consistent with information needed to be able to design a local monitoring program. The KAYAW has expanded slowly and the proposed work areas (continuing harbor seal data gathering; continuing focus archaeological and natural resources, and working with the nearshore monitoring project conducted by UAF [Dr. Robert Foy]) are a form of monitoring. Furthermore, the project design has monitoring objectives and study procedures. The proposal is responsive to the invitation (continuing community involvement project), is consistent with one of two GEM strategies (incorporate community involvement), and is proactive in moving toward a GEM-style monitoring youth area watch program. Fund.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The report on approaches to community involvement commissioned by the Trustee Council in FY 2003 will not be available until the end of September 2003. The report is expected to provide the basis for a thorough examination of the role of community involvement in the GEM program to be conducted by the Executive Director during FY 2004. Until that examination is complete, funding of community involvement projects will be based on responsiveness to the criteria in the FY 04 Invitation and past and future utility for implementing the GEM program. The Kodiak Youth Area Watch proposal is well grounded in the principles of the GEM program and shows a keen understanding of the concepts of the roles and needs for community involvement in long-term monitoring programs. The connection to the GEM Science Plan is clear, and the recommendations of the STAC are very positive. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Coowe Walker Kachemak Bay Research Reserve 2181 Kachemak Drive Homer, AK 99603

Mark Wipfli Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA 1133 North Western Ave. Wenatchee, WA 988801

Craig Stricker USGS PO Box 25046, Bldg. 21 (MS 963) Denver, CO 80225

> RE: 040726/Presence and Effects of Marine Derived Nutrients (MDN) in Stream, Riparian and Nearshore Ecosystems on Southern Keani Peninsula, Alaska

Dear Coowe, Mark and Craig:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$150,200 for Project 040726/Presence and Effects of Marine Derived Nutrients (MDN) in Stream, Riparian and Nearshore Ecosystems on Southern Keani Peninsula, Alaska. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely, a us

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Congratulations!

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

Project Title:

Presence and Effects of Marine Derived Nutrients (MDN) in Stream, Riparian and Nearshore Ecosystems on Southern Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

Location:

Proposer:	Coowe Walker	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:		

FY04: \$150,200.00

FY05: \$153,400.00

FY06: \$149,700.00

### Abstract:

Marine derived nutrients and carbon (MDN) delivered by salmon and other anadromous fishes are considered important drivers in riverine ecosystems, providing nutrients and food to these land-based food webs. However, we know little about the relative value of MDN compared to other nutrient and carbon sources (e.g., watershed-derived) in the Gulf of Alaska region. The objectives of this study are to develop a water chemistry proxy for monitoring salmon returns, and to track and measure MDN effects in stream, riparian and nearshore environments, on the southern Kenai Peninsula. We will accomplish this by linking stream chemistry, marine isotope signatures, marine terrestrail fatty acid ratios, and key animal and plant community density, growth, and lipid measures along a gradient from river mouth to headwaters in key watersheds. This study will be integrated with related studies proposed in other areas of southcentral Alaska to develop a broader retinal understanding and widely-applicable long-term monitoring program for the GEM region.

### STAC Recommendation:

The proposal provides clear and workable approaches to collecting the data necessary to meet the needs identified for watersheds in the Invitation. It would provide geographic and physical contrasts between two (anadromous and non-anadromous) peat wetlands watersheds on the southern Kenai Peninsula, and it would establish a partnership with a resource management agency (ADFG) for operation of a salmon counting weir. Measures C, N, and S stable isotopes, and evaluates full suite of water quality measures containing N, P, C in resident fish, invertebrates and plants. Incorporates direct and re-mineralization routes of C and N through food webs. The proposal would have the ability to compare streams with and without salmon, and to look at production of salmon in a system where escapements are counted (Anchor River tributary). Measures of longitudinal distributions of MDN from headwaters to mouth would provide an important contrast. Measures of proxies cover water chemistry parameters and fatty acid levels and ratio of omega-3 fatty acids to total fatty acids in animals. Excellent ties to local community through Citizens Environmental Monitoring Program, (CEMP is EPA/ADEC funded). Prospects are good for learning how to measure and interpret linkages of coastal peat wetland stream systems to the marine environment in the Gulf of Alaska in ways that will have practical applications of very large potential significance. Fund contingent on a letter from the Principal Investigators agreeing to participate in a w watershed workshop will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendations:**

Proposal provides a resident stream fish dimension to the watershed habitat type. PI has agreed to participate in a watershed workshop which will be held a the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Fund.

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November 12, 2003

James Schumacher Two Crow Environmental Inc. PO Box 2174 Friday Harbor, WA 98250

RE: 040717-2/Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program

Dear James:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

At its November 10, 2003 meeting, the Trustee Council was not ready to begin the modeling process and decided not to fund Project 040717-2/Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

# Project: Schumacher-FY04-GEM Infrastructure

Project Title:	Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program - Submitted Und the BAA			
Location:	GEM Monitoring Region-northern Gulf of Alaska			
Proposer:	James Schumacher	Proposer Affiliation:	Private Enterprise	
Lead Agency:	NOAA			
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$0.00		FY05: \$0.00	FY06: \$0.00	

# Abstract:

This proposal addresses modeling within the GEM Program, and the infrastructure necessary to implement and maintain a monitoring and data dissemination system for the northern Gulf of Alaska (NGOA). Agreement on an interdisciplinary strategy is critical to effective resource management and problem solving in the NGOA. Use of the GEM infrastructure in support of models and observations will identify and refine measures to describe, manage and predict the status and health of the ecosystem, provide data as information to managers and coastal communities, and communicate publicly the current state of the ecosystem.

Our goal is to provide consensus recommendations to EVOS on:

1. Creation of an integrated ecosystem model for the NGOA;

2. Understanding spatial and temporal scales for implementing an ecosystem monitoring program, and;

3. Implementing the GEM infrastructure, including identification of strategies for cooperation, coordination, integration, and cost efficiency.

# STAC Recommendation:

This is part of two separate proposals (McNutt's and Schumacher's) because budgets are from two separate institutions. The proposals must be considered together. This is an effective proposal to establish a framework and infrastructure for a modeling base for GEM. This proposal directly addresses the Invitation Part C. Modeling, and in particular it is in direct response to example #1. (p. 6) "Building the Infrastructure Necessary to Create, Develop and Maintain the GEM Model." The proposal will do three things essential to the success of GEM: (1) create an integrated ecosystem model for the NGOA, (2) understand spatial and temporal scales for implementing a biophysical monitoring program, and (3) implement the GEM infrastructure, including identification of strategies for cooperation, coordination, integration and cost efficiency. This would provide GEM with an overall structure for modeling. STAC recommends that an objective be added for resource users to actively participate in the workshop along with the scientists. In addition, STAC questions the role of the student in the proposed work and asks that it be clarified. Finally STAC recommends that activities be focused from the start on the crux of the modeling problem, which is how to provide information of use to managers from the GEM monitoring program. Fund contingent on receipt of revised proposals addressing STAC recommendations and question.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

This proposal is an essential part of building the GEM Model. The GEM Model is the primary means of organizing GEM information so that it can be used in understanding the status of injured species, allowing natural resource dependent communities to anticipate change, and helping managers anticipate changes in populations of birds, fish and manimals. Proposal provides a comprehensive solution to the need to bring together a team of professionals who can guide the development of the GEM Model. Revised proposal was submitted that incorporated the recommendations of the STAC. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: Not ready to begin the modeling process. Do not fund.



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November 12, 2003

Lyn McNutt UAF 903 Koyukuk Drive Fairbanks, AK 99775

> RE: 040717-1/Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Moniroting Program (GEM)

Dear Lyn:

As in past years, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 than it was able to fund.

At its November 10, 2003 meeting, the Trustee Council was not ready to begin the modeling process and decided not to fund Project 040717-1/Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Moniroting Program (GEM).

I appreciate your interest in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips V Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting Project Manager

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# Project: McNutt-FY04-GEM Infrastructure - Lyn McNutt

*Project Title:* Building the Infrastructure for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program

Location:	GEM Monitoring Region		
Proposer:	Lyn McNutt	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University
Lead Agency:	ADFG		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		

FY04: \$0.00

*FY05:* \$80,713.00

FY06: \$83,271.00

# Abstract:

This proposal addresses modeling within the GEM Program, and the infrastructure necessary to implement and maintain a monitoring and data dissemination system for the northern Gulf of Alaska (GOA). Agreement on an interdisciplinary strategy is critical to effective resource management and problem solving in the northern GOA. Use of the GEM infrastructure in support of models and observations will identify and refine measures to describe, manage and predict the status and health of the ecosystem, provide data as information to managers and coastal communities, and communicate publicly the current state of the ecosystem.

Our goal is to provide consensus recommendations to EVOS on:

1. Creation of an integrated ecosystem model for the northern GOA;

2. Understanding spatial and temporal scales for implementing a biophysical monitoring program, and;

3. Implementing the GEM infrastructure, including identification of strategies for cooperation, coordination, integration, and cost efficiency.

# STAC Recommendation:

This is part of two separate proposals (McNutt's and Schumacher's) because budgets are from two separate institutions. The proposals are must be considered together. This is an effective proposal to establish a framework and infrastructure for a modeling base for GEM. This proposal directly address the Invitation part C. Modeling, and in particular it is in direct response to example #1. (p. 6) "Building the Infrastructure Necessary to Create, Develop and Maintain the GEM Model." The proposal will do three things essential to the success of GEM: (1) create an integrated ecosystem model for the NGOA, (2) understand spatial and temporal scales for implementing a biophysical monitoring program, and (3) implement the GEM infrastructure, including identification of strategies for cooperation, coordination, integration and cost efficiency. This would provide GEM with an overall structure for modeling. STAC recommends that an objective be added for resource users to actively participate in the workshop along with the scientists. In addition, STAC questions role of the student in the proposed work and asks that it be clarified. Finally STAC recommends that activities be focused from the start on the crux of the modeling problem, which is how to provide information of use to managers from the GEM monitoring program. Fund both proposals contingent on receipt of revised proposals addressing STAC recommendations and question.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

This proposal is an essential part of building the GEM Model. The GEM Model is the primary means of organizing the GEM information so that it can be used in understanding the status of injured species, allowing natural resource dependent communities to anticipate change and helping managers anticipate changes in populations of birds, fish and mammals. Proposal provides comprehensive solutions to the need to bring together a team of professionals who can guide the development of the GEM Model. Revised proposal was submitted that incorporated the recommendations of the STAC. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: Not ready to begin the modeling process. Do not fund.

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November 11, 2003

Thomas Weingartner UAF/IMS/SFOS PO Box 757220 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

# RE: 040340/Long-Term Monitoring of the Alaska Coastal Current

Dear Thomas:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$75,482 for Project 040340/Long-Term Monitoring of the Alaska Coastal Current. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely.

Gail Phillips // Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations!

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

Project: Weingartner-FY04-Alaska Coastal Current

Project Title: Long-Term Monitoring of the Alaska Coastal Current

Location:	Gulf of Alaska Shelf offshore of Resurrection Bay				
Proposer: Lead Agency:	Thomas Weingartner ADFG	Proposer Affiliation:	Alaskan University		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:				
FY04: \$75,482.	.00	FY05: \$75.482.00	FY06: \$75,482.00		

# Abstract:

This proposal is for monitoring temperatures, salinities, and spring bloom characteristics of the Alaska Coastal Current (ACC) from a mooring and monthly sampling at station GAK 1 near Seward. The project builds upon the 33-year record at this station. These data can predict ACC (baroclinic) transport anomalies so this variable is obtained indirectly. The results will be examined with respect to variations in terrestrial runoff and atmospheric heat fluxes. We will provide daily maps of satellite scatterometer-derived winds, make theses available to the public via a website, and archive them for future analyses. All variables affect biological production at higher trophic levels. The results have value for: interpreting continuous plankton recorder data to be obtained from ferries under GEM sponsorship, evaluating performance of numerical ocean circulation models, and conducting retrospective analyses of biological productivity. Logistics costs are shared with the NSF-NOAA funded GLOBEC program.

# STAC Recommendation:

Weingartner proposes to continue the 33 year hydrographic time series, maintain a mooring and provide daily wind estimates for the northern Gulf of Alaska. He will also measure fluorescence and light transmission to estimate the primary production. He suggests that it will only be the spring bloom estimates rather than the entire year due to potential biological fouling of the instruments. The GAK1 measurements are vital for the determination of ocean climate conditions. The proposal is well written and Weingartner is productive. The basic work should be funded. The inclusion of the daily wind field processing is questionable. Why would mariners be interested in today's (prior) winds rather than the predictions that are provided by the NWS? Providing real time winds is not a primary function of this program or an academic institution. Also, why are nitrate sensors not included in the mooring? These should prove to be more valuable than quasi-real-time winds. The leverage provided for this project is excellent and the requested costs are modest. Why isn't the request for multiple years rather than just one year? Recommend continued funding this project. This project has repeatedly proved its value to the scientific community in the Northern Gulf of Alaska. Recommend funding at this level for FY04, FY05 and FY06.

# **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project has proven to be a cost effective partnership to enhance the value of one of the oldest time series of marine environmental data in the North Pacific. Proposal is to be funded at this level with these objectives for three years, FY 2004 - 2006. Fund.

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November 11, 2003

Richard Thorne PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

Mary Anne Bishop PWS Science Center PO Box 705 Cordova, AK 99574

# RE: 040725/Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orca Inlet, PWS

Dear Richard and Mary Anne:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$72,680 for Project 040725/Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orca Inlet, PWS. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips V Executive Director

Enclosure

congratulations !

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager Sharon Kent/NOAA Contracting

#### Project: Thorne-FY04-Seafood Waste Discharge

Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orea Inlet. Prince William Sound **Project Title:** 

Location:	Orca Inlet. Prince William	Sound	
Proposer:	Richard Thorne	Proposer Affiliation:	NGO
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$72,680	.00	F <b>Y05:</b> \$111,692.00	FY06: \$108.

### Abstract:

This proposal brings together several entities with concerns over the impacts of seafood waste discharge into Cordova Harbor (Orca Inlet). The Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) is acting as the facilitator of this effort because of its strategic location and long-term interest in the problem. Primary collaborators are DEC, ADF&G and Cordova seafood processors. Anticipated collaborators include the Native Village of EYAK and the City of Cordova. The proposed research will investigate possible impacts seafood waste discharge through a series of experiments that will evaluate the nearshore community response to alternate techniques of seafood waste discharge, including different grind sizes and whole carcasses, as well as a pile remediation study. These experiments will not only aid our understanding of the historic impacts, but will form the basis for a more healthy and productive approach to seafood waste recycling. A three-year project is proposed, with the first year devoted to baseline observations and experimental design.

FY06: \$108,943.00

### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal brings together several entities such as the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Cordova seafood processors, the Native Village of EYAK, and the City of Cordova with concerns over the impacts of seafood waste discharge into Cordova Harbor (Orca Inlet). The research would investigate possible impacts of seafood waste discharge through a series of experiments by evaluating the nearshore community response to alternate techniques of seafood waste discharge. The results of the research would aid the understanding of historic impacts and form the basis for a more healthy and productive approach to seafood waste recycling. The first year of the proposed 3-year project will be devoted to baseline observations and experimental design. This collaborative project addresses two invitation categories: Community involvement and nearshore. The study would also provide information for similar concerns in southeastern Alaska and complement ongoing ADEC studies in Ketchikan. The PI should consider application of these findings to the wider GEM area. Fund.

# **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal would add the dimension of human effects to the development of the nearshore monitoring program, and it is a good match of GEM objectives to the management of an important pollution concern for coastal communities throughout the oil spill affected area. Fund.

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Allen Macklin NOAA/ERL 7600 Sand Point Way, NE Seattle, WA 98115

Bernard Megrey NMFS/NOAA 7600 Sand Point Way, NE Seattle, WA 98115

> RE: 040716/A Comprehensive, Web-accessible, Geo-referenced Metadatabase of Marine-related Physical and Biological Databases of the norhtern Gulf of Alaska

Dear Allen and Bernard:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$100,600 for Project 040716/A Comprehensive, Web-accessible, Geo-referenced Metadatabase of Marine-related Physical and Biological Databases of the norhtern Gulf of Alaska. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips *V* Executive Director

Enclosure

ongratulations !

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

# Project: Macklin-FY04-NGOA Metadatabase

Project Title:	A Comprehensive. Web-accessible, Geo-referenced Metadatabase of Marine-related Physical and
	Biological Databases of the Northern Gulf of Alaska

Location:	Seattle, WA				
Proposer:	S. Allen Macklin	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA		
Lead Agency:	NOAA				
Fiscal Year 2004 Approved Funding:					

FY04: \$100,600.00

*FY05:* \$0.00

FY06: \$0.00

# Abstract:

This project will adapt for GEM purposes the North Pacific Ecosystem Metadatabase (NPEM, http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/np/mdb/) that has served information via the World-Wide Web since 1998. The adaptation will be a web-accessible metadatabase of marine science databases of the northern Gulf of Alaska. Appropriate records from the NPEM will be transferred to the GEM metadatabase, and additional records pertaining to GEM, PICES, NPRB, UAF/IMS, GLOBEC, FOCI, and similar research efforts will be added. Metadata will be coded to the FGDC standard using the 26 elements specified by MetaLite. As possible, metadata will include thematic, semantic and syntactic descriptors. This utility will include filtering capabilities to extract from existing metadata records those specific to the regions, habitat types, and subject areas defined by the working concepts of the GEM Science Plan. Compound searches of the metadatabase will allow selection of records by time, space, keyword, text string, etc., and results will be ranked according to their agreement with the search criteria. Work will be accomplished over a three-year period in Seattle, Washington.

## STAC Recommendation:

This proposal responds to data management needs identified in the invitation, however it goes beyond the needs identified and needs to be modified and reduced in order to be useful to the GEM program. Reduce the amount of effort outside the GEM program, apply additional effort to build expertise inside the GEM program. Scale down proposal to exclude Objective 2. Change proposal to focus on Objectives 1, 4 and 5, with emphasis on the GEM region and the nearshore areas in Objective 5. Remove the first part of Objective 3 which is to establish a web site as FGDC node, which is a NOAA responsibility. Clarify the need for remaining part of Objective 3 with respect the FGDC NSDI and include in Objective 1 if possible. Fund the project for two years at amount not to exceed \$90K total over two years contingent on receipt of revised proposal addressing points above.

## Executive Director's Recommendation:

The proposal provides a workable solution to the metadatabase requirements of the GEM program, however its scope is well beyond that envisioned in the Invitation for Proposals. The proposal has been re-written and the budgets formulated to accommodate the recommendations of the STAC. Fund.

441 W. 5" Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



Steve Honnold ADF&G/CFMD 211 Mission Road Kodiak, AK 99615

Nicholas Sagalkin ADF&G 211 Mission Rd. Kodiak, AK 99615

> RE: 040707/Monitoring the Effects of Anadromous Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockey Salmon

Dear Steve and Nicholas:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting on November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$83,200 for Project 040707/Monitoring the Effects of Anadromous Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockey Salmon. This includes project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple weeks. For more information, please contact the project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research and Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips 6 Executive Director

Enclosure

Congratulations !

cc: Kevin Buckland/Acting ADF&G Project Manager

# **Project:** Honnold-FY04-Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockeye Salmon

Project Title:	Monitoring the Effects of Anadromous Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockeye Salmon			
Location:	Kodiak Island, Alaska			
Proposer:	Steve Honnold	Proposer Affiliation:	ADFG	
Lead Agency:	ADFG			
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:			

FY04: \$83,200.00	FY05: \$82,400.00	FY06: \$86,800.00

## Abstract:

We propose to comprehensively examine the role of MDN in sockeye salmon nursery lake ecosystem productivity by integrating studies of nutrient cycling, primary productivity, zooplankton dynamics, and juvenile sockeye abundance and growth, within a framework of stable isotope natural abundance. The project will take advantage of previous research including relatively long-term limnological data for Karluk Lake on Kodiak Island. We will utilize detailed vertical and temporal sampling of the water column, coupled with measurements of rates of primary productivity, and fully integrated stable isotope analyses, with contemporaneous sampling in a well matched pair of salmon (Karluk) and control (Spiridon) lakes. We propose to determine the extent to which the functioning and productivity of watersheds depends on marine-nutrient inputs and how this marine-terrestrial linkage can be better detected and understood. The overall goal of this project is to provide the framework for designing monitoring projects to detect changes in marine terrestrial linkages in Gulf of Alaska sockeye watersheds.

# **STAC Recommendation:**

This proposal is from a state agency to partner with university based expertise (see Finney) to understand the influence of marine derived nutrients in a comparison of two watersheds. This proposal covers limnology, logistics, and sampling personnel and the university proposal covers overall project design, stable isotope measures and nitrate chemistry. The proposals together evaluate several indicators of marine linkages across species and two distinct watersheds in close cooperation with a natural resource management agency. The proposal has several unique advantages; 1) a pair of similar lakes with and without apparent marine connections, 2) one lake has very long time series of data on fish abundance and stable isotope levels, 3) both lakes have good baseline data on limnological properties such as nutrients, primary productivity and euphotic volume, and 4) one lake has authoritative peer reviewed publications by one of the PI's that support the basic concepts of the proposal. The proposal would develop a strong partnership between university based researchers and a state agency (ADF&G) that would provide information useful to natural resource managers. State agency has close links to the local community and other government agencies. Prospects are good for learning how to measure and interpret linkages of coastal (oligotrophic) lake systems to the marine environment in the Gulf of Alaska in ways that will have practical applications of very large potential significance. Fund.

## Executive Director's Recommendation:

Proposal provides an important comparison between salmon and non-salmon bearing lakes in the oil spill affected area that is important to establishing GEM watershed monitoring. PI agreed to participate in a watershed workshop, which will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Fund.

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November 12, 2003

Robert Spies Applied Marine Sciences 4749 Bennett Dr.,Suite L Livermore CA 94550

RE: 040600/A Synthesis of the Ecological findings from the EVOS Damage Assessment and Restoration Prgrams, 1989-2001

Dear Robert: Dob -

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$201,700 for Project 040600/A Synthesis of the Ecological findings from the EVOS Damage Assessment and Restoration Programs, 1989-2001 contingent on the Trustee Council's reevaluation of the contract agreement. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Bob - when you receive this, please give me a call of ran discuss the Trustee's Concerns with you relaarden the contrad prod antes

cc: DNR/Carol Fries Project Manager

# Project: Spies-FY04-EVOS Damage Assessment & Restoration

Project Title:	A synthesis of the ecological Programs, 1989-2001	findings from the EVOS	Damage Ass	essment and	Restoration
Location:	No field work				
Proposer:	Robert Spies	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA		
Lead Agency:	DNR				
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:				
FY04: \$201,700	0.00	FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00	)

# Abstract:

This project is synthesizing the results from 12 years of post-spill study in the EVOS damage assessment and restoration programs in the context of anthropogenic and natural factors causing change in the northern Gulf of Alaska ecosystem. The results of the work will be an integrated synthesis book. The book will consist of three major sections: 1. The basic structure and function of the ecosystem, 2. How does it change over time and in respond to disturbances? and, 3. The effect of the spill; a summary of the spill effects and recovery as well as how our understanding of the ecosystem has matured and what future path will help us better understand this valuable marine ecosystem? The book will be a major product of the EVOS restoration program and help set the foundation for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

# STAC Recommendation:

This proposal is to continue funding to write a book of "Synthesis of the ecological findings from EVOS". This project proposes to do more than just summarize work that has been done. It actually proposes to produce synthetic results from EVOS-funded and other relevant research. Specifically they propose to have four sections in the book: (1) Structure and function of the ecosystem, (2) Ecosystem changes, (3) Effect of the spill, and (4) Implications. This synthesis directly answers the invitation Part A. Synthesis. As structured the Invitation asks for individual syntheses for each of the habitats, however, this overall ecosystem synthesis is definitely needed. The writing has been divided among a core writing teams, members of which have been contracted to write and oversee specific components of the book. All of the members of the team are well-respected scientists. In addition to Bob Spies, the rest of the team consists of Gordon Kruse, Ted Cooney, Tom Weingartner, Alan Springer, Jeep Rice, and Jennifer Allen. Unfortunately, this proposal seems to have fallen under the list of proposal submitted last year for multiple years, but that still need to submit a proposal this year. As such, the proposal as submitted is basically the same one from last year. It does not represent the progress that has been accomplished. The proposal does not even include a current version of the book outline with assignments among team members. There is no budget, just one large number. Fund contingent upon receipt and approval of detailed proposal including milestones, time line and budget.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The project is to complete an ongoing synthesis of past work from the Restoration program which is expected to be an important tool for GEM program planning. The proposal has been revised to incorporate milestones, timeline and detailed budgets, and a current outline of the manuscript. Fund contingent on receipt of the most recent draft of the manuscript.

Trustee Council Action: Fund contingent on reevaluation of contract agreement.

441 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 500 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 • 907/278-8012 • fax 907/276-7178 November 11, 2003



Jeff Short NMFS/Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy Juneau AK 99801

Roger Green 6212 Spruce Meadow Dr. Anchorage AK 99507

RE: 040724/Development of a Strategy for Monitoring Exxon Valdez Oil and other Contamination in PWS

Dear Jeff and Green:

leff and Koger -

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$45,900 for Project 040724/Development of a Strategy for Monitoring Exxon Valdez Oil and other Contamination in PWS contingent on submittal of overdue reports, reports are listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Peter Hagen/NOAA Project Manager

Project Title: Development of a Strategy for Monitoring Exxon Valdez Oil and other Contamination in PWS

Location:	Prince William Sound			
Proposer:	Jeff Short	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA	
Lead Agency:	NOAA			
Fiscal Year 200	94 Approved Funding:			
FY04: \$45,900.00		FY05: \$0.00		FY06: \$0.00

# Abstract:

This project will evaluate alternative sampling designs and strategies for monitoring oil from the T/V Exxon Valdez remaining on beaches in Prince William Sound, along with other hydrocarbon contaminants from anthropogenic and natural sources, and will make recommendations regarding overall sampling design, duration and frequency. The recommended strategy will be optimized for statistical power based on existing knowledge of the distributions of hydrocarbons from known sources, and will include a means of increasing power as more knowledge is gained through sampling as monitoring proceeds. The recommended strategy will incorporate results from the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee's Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program, and will explicitly recommend how the results from this program may be efficiently augmented. This project proposed here will directly address a core concern of the GEM program, by determining the persistence of Exxon Valdez oil placed in the context of other hydrocarbons in the region

# STAC Recommendation:

This project will evaluate alternative sampling designs and strategies for monitoring oil from the T/V Exxon Valdez remaining on beaches in Prince William Sound, along with other hydrocarbon contaminants from anthropogenic and natural sources, and will make recommendations regarding overall sampling design, duration and frequency. The recommended strategy will be optimized for statistical power based on existing knowledge of the distributions of hydrocarbons from known sources, and will include a means of increasing power as more knowledge is gained through sampling as monitoring proceeds. A distinct advantage of this project is that two top scientists, Roger Green and Jeff Short, will provide a very solid basis for future monitoring for hydrocarbons of all sources. Optimizing sampling for maximum power to detect change is particularly beneficial for programs that the TC has chosen to support, e.g., the Regional Citizen's Advisory Committee mussel watch type program in PWS. The technical merits are good. The proposal is responsive to the invitation with relevance to management and community involvement. The qualifications of the PIs are outstanding. Fund contingent upon receipt of outstanding reports 00195, 01195, 02195, 00290, 01290, 00598, 01599, and 02543.

## **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

Proposal would provide very useful information on how to incorporate the study of lingering oil effects into the GEM monitoring program, however the PI has eight overdue reports. Funding is contingent on receipt of acceptable drafts of overdue reports. Fund contingent.

Trustee Council Action: Fund contingent on submittal of overdue reports;

- J. Short/J. Rice 03585/ Lingering Oil: Bioavailability and Effects to Prey and Predators
- J. Short 00598/ Publication: Resolution of Mixtures Containing Exxon Valdez Oil and Regional Background Hydrocarbons in Subtidal Sediments
- J. Short 01599/ Evaluation of Yakataga Oil Seeps as Regional Background Hydrocarbon Sources in Benthic Sediments of the Spill Area
- J. Short 02195/ Pristane Monitoring in Mussels

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November 11, 2003

Stanley Rice NMFS/Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

Jeff Short NMFS/Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

Mandy Lindeberg NMFS Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

RE: 040620-1/Lingering Oil: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status (ABL)

leff and Mandy -Dear Stanley Short and Mandy: Han,

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$60,000 for Project 040620-1/Lingering Oil: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status (ABL) contingent on submittal of overdue reports, reports are listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

lijs ul ai Gail Phillips

Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger
#### **Project:** Rice-FY04-Lingering Population Status

Project Title: Lingering Oil: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status (ABL)

Location:	Prince William Sound		
Proposer:	Stanley Rice	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 200	94 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$60,000	.00	FY05: \$61,000.00	FY06: \$29,100.00

#### Abstract:

Lingering oil from the Exxon Valdez oil spill remains throughout Western Prince William Sound and appears to have chronic effects on sea otter and sea duck populations in these areas. Studies conducted in 2001-02 have documented the extent of oiling throughout the sound, and as of this writing, we have determined that oil is bioavailable to predators. Bioavailability defines potential for exposure, but is not equal to exposure or significance. In 2003 and 2004, we are determining the significance of lingering oil by quantifying the probability of oil encounters in areas where sea otters and sea ducks have not recovered. Prey and passive samplers collected in 2003 will be analyzed in 2004, and will be supplemented with additional samples in 2004 to meet the needs of the ongoing tagging studies of otters and ducks by USGS. With the mechanism of exposure from lower intertidal oil deposits determined, the research theme will move toward the goal of determining the extent and probability of oil exposure in three restricted areas: Herring Bay, Lower Passage, and Bay of Isles. Information gained in this project could aid in the decision process regarding future mitigation, litigation, or clean-up actions.

#### STAC Recommendation:

Lingering oil from the Exxon Valdez oil spill remains throughout Western Prince William Sound and may be having chronic effects on sea otter and sea duck populations in these areas. Studies conducted in 2001-02 have documented the extent of oiling throughout the sound, and the subsurface oil is bioavailable to predators. Bioavailability defines potential for exposure, but the extent to which oil exposure is occurring and whether such exposure may be deleterious is uncertain. In 2003 and 2004, this project will determine the significance of lingering oil by quantifying the probability of oil encounters in areas where sea otters and sea ducks have not recovered. Prey and passive samplers collected in 2003 will be analyzed in 2004, and will be supplemented with additional samples in 2004 to meet the needs of the on- going tagging studies of otters and ducks by USGS. With the mechanism of exposure from lower intertidal oil deposits determined, the research theme will move toward the goal of determining the extent and probability of oil exposure in three restricted areas: Herring Bay, Lower Passage, and Bay of Isles. Information gained in this project could aid in the decision process regarding future mitigation, litigation, or clean-up actions. This project is well designed and complementary to the sea otter/sea duck project by Bodkin et al. It is a key component of the strategy the Trustee Council undertook in FY2002 to determine if remaining oil is a significant factor in lack of recovery of some species such as sea otter and sea ducks. The technical merits are high. The proposal is responsive to the invitation with relevance to management and community involvement. The management application is moderate. The qualifications of the PIs are excellent as is their past performance on other EVOS funded projects. Defer funding decision pending outcome of November workshop and disposition of the matter of reports for projects 00396 and 00454.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The specific requirements for further work on lingering oil need to be further developed during a workshop to be conducted in November 2003. As identified by the STAC, it is important for the preliminary results of the FY 2003 field season to be considered by legal counsel, EVOS staff, advising scientists and the Trustee Council before decisions on funding are made. The exchange between legal, policy and science people will be reported to the Trustee Council before making decisions on what to do in the summer of 2004, which is the last full field season of data that could be fully analyzed before deciding the path to the re-opener. Defer funding decisions pending the outcome of the November workshop.

Trustee Council Action: Fund contingent on submittal of overdue reports:

- J. Short/J. Rice 03585<sup>7</sup> Lingering Oil: Bioavailability and Effects to Prey and Predators
- J. Rice 00454/ Evidence and Consequences of Persistent Oil Contamination in Pink Salmon Natal Habitats
- J. Short 00598/ Publication: Resolution of Mixtures Containing Exxon Valdez Oil and Regional Background Hydrocarbons in Subtidal Sediments
- J. Short 01599/ Evaluation of Yakataga Oil Seeps as Regional Background Hydrocarbon Sources in Benthic Sediments of the Spill Area
- J. Short 02195/ Pristane Monitoring in Mussels



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Gail Irvine USGS 1011 E Tudor Rd. Anchorage AK 99503

Jeff Short NMFS/Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

RE: 040708/Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska

Tail and feff -Dear Gail and Short:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$71,700 for Project 040708/Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska contingent on submittal of overdue reports, reports are listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail/Phillips <sup>V</sup> Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager

Federal Trustees U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Department of Agriculture col Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration State Trustees Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Department of Law

### Project: Irvine-FY04-Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches

Project Title: Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska

Location:	Kenai Peninsula, Alaska Peninsula		
Proposer:	Gail Irvine	Proposer Affiliation:	DOI
Lead Agency:	DOI		
Fiscal Year 200	4 Approved Funding:		

FY04: \$71,700.00	<b><i>FY05:</i></b> \$17,200.00	<i>FY06:</i> \$0.00

#### Abstract:

We propose to continue monitoring the persistence and degradation of oil at boulder-armored Gulf of Alaska beaches that have been studied since 1992 and investigate how stability of the boulder armors affects both persistence and weathering. These sites were re-sampled in 1994 and 1999; 2004 would be the next targeted study date. The continued contamination of these sites, arrayed along the Katmai and Kenai Fjords National Park coasts, compromises the aesthetics and wilderness values of some of the most pristine wilderness-coast parklands in the world. The lack of weathering of much of the oil means that the oil, if released, could pose a risk to biota. Subsurface oil persisted at these sites in 1999 with little change in extent or chemical weathering since 1994. Data also suggests that the boulder armors are largely stable. We propose to assess changes in surface and subsurface oiling, chemical weathering of the oil, and stability of the boulder armors. Results will be published.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This proposal directly addresses the question of the persistence of oil on armored gravel beaches outside of PWS 15 years after the spill. This survey has been carried out several times at various intervals after the spill. It is important to extend this study one more time to understand the larger geographic picture of oil persistence subsurface in beaches long after the floating oil and oil on beaches has disappeared from view, The extent and degree of oil weathering are both addressed. The reviewer had some suggestions for changes in the proposed work, particularly in the area of geomorphology, which should be addressed before the work is carried out in FY 04. The work also needs to be coordinated with and made consistent with shoreline mapping efforts. Defer contingent on publication of results of past studies and receipt of revised proposal addressing peer reviewer concerns and the recommendation of the November 2003 work shop on lingering oil.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

The specific requirements for further work on lingering oil need to be further developed during a workshop to be conducted in November 2003, and publication of results of past work in this area are needed before this project can proceed. Defer.

Trustee Council Action: Fund contingent on submittal of overdue report

- G. Irvine 030656/ Retrospective Analysis of Nearshore Marine Communities Based on Analysis of Archaeological Material and Isotopes.
- J. Short/J. Rice 03585/ Lingering Oil: Bioavailability and Effects to Prey and Predators
- J. Short 00598/ Publication: Resolution of Mixtures Containing Exxon Valdez Oil and Regional Background Hydrocarbons in Subtidal Sediments
- J. Short 01599/ Evaluation of Yakataga Oil Seeps as Regional Background Hydrocarbon Sources in Benthic Sediments of the Spill Area
- J. Short 02195/ Pristane Monitoring in Mussels

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James Bodkin USGS-Alaska Science Center 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 701 Anchorage AK 99503-6119

Thomas Dean Coastal Resources Association 5674 El Camino Real, Suite M Carlsbad CA 92008

RE: 040687/Monitoring in the Nearshore: A Process for Making Resoned Decisions

Dear James and Dean:

him and Tom -

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$10,000 for Project 040687/Monitoring in the Nearshore: A Process for Making Resoned Decisions contingent on submittal of overdue reports, reports are listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gall Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manager

#### **Bodkin-FY04-Nearshore Monitoring Decision Process** Project:

**Project Title:** Monitoring in the Nearshore: A Process for Making Reasoned Decisions (close-out of Project 030687)

Location:				
Proposer:	James Bodkin	Proposer Affiliation:	DOI	
Lead Agency:	DOI			
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:			

FY04: \$10,000.00 FY05: \$0.00 FY06: \$0.00

#### Abstract:

Over the past several years, a conceptual framework for the GEM nearshore monitoring program has been developed through a series of workshops. However, details of the proposed monitoring program, e.g. what to sample, where to sample, when to sample and at how many sites, have yet to be determined. In FY 03 we were funded under Project 03687 to outline a process whereby specific alternatives to monitoring are developed and presented to the EVOS Trustee Council for consideration. As part of this process, two key elements are required before reasoned decisions can be made. These are: 1) a comprehensive historical perspective of locations and types of past studies conducted in the nearshore marine communities within Gulf of Alaska, and 2) estimates of costs for each element of a proposed monitoring program. We have developed a GIS database that details available information from past studies of selected nearshore habitats and species in the Gulf of Alaska and provide a visual means of selecting sites based (in part) on the locations for which historical data of interest are available. We also provide cost estimates for specific monitoring plan alternatives and outline several alternative plans that can be accomplished within reasonable budgetary constraints. The products that we will provide are: 1) A GIS database and maps showing the location and types of information available from the nearshore in the Gulf of Alaska; 2) A list of several specific monitoring alternatives that can be conducted within reasonable budgetary constraints; and 3) Cost estimates for proposed tasks to be conducted as part of the nearshore program. Because data compilation and management will not be completed until late in FY03 we are requesting support for close-out of this project in FY 04.

#### STAC Recommendation:

The proposal completes the process of understanding the data available to guide planning for nearshore monitoring under GEM by providing a report on the activities concluded in FY 03. Fund.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The proposal provides funding for close-out and reporting of project begun in FY 03. Fund.

Trustee Council Action: Fund contingent on submittal of overdue report 030585/ Lingering Oil: Bioavailability and Effects to Prey and Predators.

411 W. 5" Ave., Suite 500 + Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2340 + 907 278-8012 + fax 907 276-7178 November 11, 2003



James Bodkin USGS - Alaska Science Center 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 701 Anchorage AK 99503

Brenda Ballachey USGS - BRD 6 Varbay PI NW Calgary Alberta T2A 0C8

> RE: 040620-2/Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery Status

Dear James and Battachey: Jim & Brenda -

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$134,300 for Project 040620-2/Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery Status contingent on submittal of overdue reports, reports are listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely. Phillips

Executive Director

Enclosure

Dede Bohn/USGS Project Manger Federal Trustees -CC:

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

### Project: Bodkin-FY04-Lingering Oil and Sea Otters

*Project Title:* Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery Status (continuation of project 030620)

Location:	Prince William Sound		
Proposer:	James Bodkin	Proposer Affiliation:	DOI
Lead Agency:	DOI		
Fiscal Year 200	04 Approved Funding:		
FY04: \$134,30	0.00	FY05: \$26,200.00	FY06: \$6,500.00

#### Abstract:

Some of the strongest evidence of continuing effects of lingering oil from the Exxon Valdez oil spill comes from long term monitoring of sea otter populations and their exposure to hydrocarbons. Population recovery remained incomplete as of 2002, and individual sea otters continue to exhibit elevated levels of the Cytochrome P450 1A biomarker in areas where lingering oil deposits are most prominent. Work in progress is quantifying home ranges of sea otters at northern Knight Island relative to known intertidal lingering oil deposits, but relocation sampling limits our ability to link foraging behaviors to oiled shorelines. To address the question of where individuals are foraging relative to lingering oil requires data on foraging depths. In 2003 USGS will be instrumenting 20 of the radio-instrumented sea otters at Knight Island with time-depth-recorders. These instruments will provide accurate information on the proportion of each individuals foraging that occurs in intertidal habitats, the area where known oil deposits remain, for one full year. Surveys of population size and individual P450 measures will provide continuing information on population trend and individual exposure to lingering oil.

#### STAC Recommendation:

This is a well thought out proposal for further work on the sea otters around northern Knight Island, Prince William Sound, which are clearly not recovering to their pre-spill numbers. The research plan maps out a clear strategy that will attempt to link biomarker of contaminant exposure, P4501A, with individual behavior, particularly foraging, in contaminated areas of Northern Knight Island. Of particular interest will be the outcome of attempts to link biomarker response in individual animals to their foraging in patches of contaminated prey. This proposal conforms to the strategy of determining if there is a close link between remaining deposits of oil in PWS and population problems of species in the area. While this is a challenging undertaking the investigators have a proven track record with this sort of approach and have shown that they can take the measurements necessary to test the hypotheses. The results are to be prepared for publication in a peer reviewed journal before attendance at the meeting in FY 06. I. The proposed work is highly relevant to further work on species not recovered from the spill. Therefore, it is responsive to the invitation for FY 04. 2. Technical merit: high. 3. Relevance to management and community involvement is moderate. 4. Qualifications and past performance are both excellent. 5. Recommendation: Defer pending outcome of November workshop.

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation:**

The specific requirements for further work on lingering oil need to be further developed during a workshop to be conducted in November 2003. As identified by the STAC, it is important for the preliminary results of the FY 2003 field season to be considered by legal counsel, EVOS staff, advising scientists and the Trustee Council before decisions on funding are made. The exchange between legal, policy and science people will be reported to the Trustee Council before making decisions on what to do in the summer of 2004, which is the last full field season of data that could be fully analyzed before deciding the path to the re-opener. Defer funding decisions pending the outcome of the November workshop.

*Trustee Council Action:* Fund contingent on submittal of overdue report 030585/ Lingering Oil: Bioavailability and Effects to Prey and Predators.

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Ronald Heintz NMFS Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy. Juneau AK 99801

Lawrence Schaufler NMFS Auke Bay Lab 11305 Glacier Hwy Juneau AK 99801

RE: 040706/The Influence of Adult Salmon Carcasses on Energy Allocation in Juvenile Salmonids

Dear Ronald and Schaufler: Non and harry -

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan at its meeting November 10, 2003. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of \$48,400 for Project 040706/The Influence of Adult Salmon Carcasses on Energy Allocation in Juvenile Salmonids contingent on submittal of overdue reports, reports are listed on the attached document. Funding includes direct project funds and agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, in addition to satisfying the condition specified above, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will be completed within the next couple of weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the EVOS project manager for your lead agency.

Thank you for your participation in the Trustee Council's Gulf Ecosystem Research Monitoring (GEM) program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips

Enclosure

cc: Pete Hagen/NOAA Project Manger

### Project: Heintz-FY04-Energy Allocation

Project Title: The Influence of Adult Salmon Carcasses on Energy Allocation in Juvenile Salmonids

FY05: \$42,300.00

Location:	Kenai Peninsula		
Proposer:	Ron Heintz	Proposer Affiliation:	NOAA
Lead Agency:	NOAA		
Fiscal Year 2004	4 Approved Funding:		

## Abstract:

FY04: \$48,400.00

This proposal seeks to examine the effect of adult salmon carcasses on the energy allocation in juvenile salmon. Juvenile salmon allocate energy between the competing demands of growth and energy storage to minimize exposure to predation while forestalling starvation over winter. This proposal will contrast annual energy dynamics in age-0 Dolly Varden from Kenai Peninsula streams with and without salmon carcasses present. Fatty acid analysis will be used to identify marine signal strength and persistence in the lipids of the juveniles. The investigators will combine proximate and lipid class analyses to determine the proportions of their total energy allocated to storage versus structure, and examine how seasonal variation in allocation differs among streams and carcass densities. They also will examine the influence of carcasses on growth rate and the relation between growth and energy allocation.

FY06: \$14,100.00

#### STAC Recommendation:

Responds to watershed invitation. Provides novel approach to measuring the effects of MDN on resident freshwater species and juvenile salmon in partnership with other proposal (Walker). The GEM program identifies a need for indicators that show how and when to measure marine-related biological production in watersheds. Results from this study will provide additional information about the efficacy of changes in the intensity of the marine signal and lipid reserves between fall and spring as a tool for monitoring the impacts of marine nutrients on the production and survival of juvenile. Potential direct application to fishery management through understanding of factors contributing to year class strength in resident species (growth and over winter survival). Such a tool would have wide application for management of salmon and salmon spawning habitat in the state. Fund contingent.

#### Executive Director's Recommendation:

Proposal provides a desirable resource management dimension to the watershed study of Walker, however outstanding reports from the PI need to be submitted. PI agreed to participate in a watershed workshop will be held at the January 2005 GEM meeting, and to present an up-to-date report on progress and participate in comparison and evaluation of methods. Fund contingent on receipt of review drafts of all outstanding reports.

*Trustee Council Action:* Fund contingent on submittal of overdue report 030476/ Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Pink Salmon Reproduction.

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Craig Tillery, Alaska Department of Law Regina Belt, U.S. Department of Justice

FROM: Paula Banks Jaula Banks Administrative Assistant

DATE: November 24, 2003

RE: Court Notice – Second Joint Notice from the Investment Fund for FY 04.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request that the Alaska Department of Law and the United States Department of Justice notify the United States District Court of our intent to expend \$ 3,187,402 from the EVOS Investment Fund, as follows: \$ 3,187,402 from the Research Investment Sub-Account.

Descriptio	n	From Research Sub- Account
FY 04 Work Plan		\$3,187,402
Subtotal United States	\$ 1,682,955	
Subtotal State of Alaska	<u>\$ 1,504,447</u>	
Total	\$ 3,187,402	
TOTAL	¢ 2 497 400	6 2 407 402
TOTAL	\$ 3,187,402	\$ 3,187,402
		To be disbursed as
Subtotal United States	\$ 1,682,955	follows:
Subtotal State of Alaska	\$ 1,504,447	United States \$ 1,682,955 State of Alaska \$ 1,504,447

There have been three Trustee Council meetings (April 23, July 24-25, and September 3, 2003) since the last court notice September 22, 2003.

The following documents are attached:

 Draft meeting notes for November 10, 2003, with the following attachments: Page 1

- Approved November 10, 2003 meeting agenda
- Approved meeting notes for September 3, 2003
  Resolution 04-01 including spreadsheet A

If you have any questions or need additional materials, please let me know.

Paula/court notice/FY04/court notice FY 04 Work plan.doc

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## TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Anchorage, Alaska November 10, 2003

By Gregg Renkes Trustee Council Member

Trustee Council Members Present:



rs Present: Kevin Duffy, ADF&G Ernesta Ballard, ADEC \*Gregg Renkes, ADOL

\*Chair

DRAF

Meeting convened at 10:05 a.m., November 10, 2003 in Anchorage at the EVOS Conference Room.

1. Approval of the Agenda

APPROVED MOTION: A

Approved the agenda for the November 10, 2003 meeting. (Attachment A)

Motion by Duffy, second by Ballard

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

Public comment received from 16 individuals in Anchorage, Cordova, Kodiak, Fairbanks, Valdez, and Virginia.

Public comment period closed at 11:45 a.m.

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the September 3, 2003 meeting notes. (Attachment B)

Motion by Ballard, second by Duffy

3. <u>Trustee Council and EVOS staff Investment Training</u> On September 26, 2003 Michael O'Leary, Executive Vice President, Callan Associates presented investment training to the EVOS staff and

Investment Working Group (IWG). The Trustee Council was also invited to attend. Mr. Callan's presentation was designed to give the EVOS staff and IWG as custodians of the Investment Fund a better understanding of investment strategies. He touched on capital market theory, asset allocation concepts, historical perspectives, endowment and foundation spending policies, market projections, and alternative asset allocation policies. Even though EVOS has money managers to manage the fund it is important that the staff and the Council have an understanding of its function and through continued education, keep up with the current market trends. Paula Banks recently attended an Asset Allocation Summit in San Francisco the message again was echoed, to understand what your money managers are doing and keep up with the current market trends.

### 4. Approval of FY 04 Work Plan

APPROVED MOTION:	Approve for funding FY 04 Watershed projects by: Finney, Honnold, Walker, Heintz and Knudsen. (Knudsen met fund contingency criteria by responding to STAC recommendations in revised proposal submitted to EVOS office.)
	Motion by Duffy, second by Balsiger
APPROVED MOTION:	Approve for funding FY 04 Alaska Coastal Current projects by: Batten, Cokelet, Okkonen, Weingartner and Matkin.
	Motion by Balsiger, second by Pearce
APPROVED MOTION:	Approved for funding FY 04 Community Involvement projects by: Adams, Schneider and DeLorenza.
	Motion by Pearce, second by Meade
APPROVED MOTION:	Approve for funding FY 04 Lingering Oil projects by: Fall, Irons, Nelson and Rosenberg. Fund contingent on providing final reports to EVOS office projects by: Rice, Irvine and Bodkin.
	Motion by Balsiger, second by Ballard
APPROVED MOTION:	Approve for funding FY 04 Data Management projects by: Keifer, Macklin and Saupe.

Motion by Balsiger, second by Meade

FAILED MOTION: Funding for FY 04 Modeling projects.

APPROVED MOTION: Approve for funding FY 04 Nearshore projects by: Bishop, Bodkin, Konar, Ruesink and Thorne.

Motion by Balsiger, second by Ballard

APPROVED MOTION: Approved for funding FY 04 Synthesis projects by: Eckert. Fund contingent upon meeting the following criteria: publish in Alaska, copyright to the Trustee Council and under Trustee Council's guidance project by: Spies.

Motion by Duffy, second by Meade

## 5. Adopt Resolution

APPROVED MOTION: Adopted Resolution 04-01 of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council regarding the FY 04 Work Plan.

Motion by Ballard, second by Balsiger

## 6. Memorandum of Agreement

APPROVED MOTION: Approved accepting the Memorandum of Agreement between the Alaska Marine Highway System, Department of Transportation and the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council.

Motion by Ballard, second by Pearce

## 7. <u>Science-related organizations in State</u>

APPROVED MOTION: Approved EVOS staff preparing a report identifying various science-related organizations in the State; their sponsors, their funding sources and their area of scientific expertise.

Motion by Ballard, second by Duffy

8. Executive Session

. .

APPROVED MOTION: Approved moving to executive session to discuss litigation issues.

Motion by Duffy, second by Meade

EXECUTIVE SESSION Off the record: 6:00 p.m. On the record: 6:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. Motion by Ballard, second by Balsiger

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AGENDA EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING November 10, 2003 10:00 a.m. 441 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 500, Anchorage

DRAFT

Trustee Council Members:

JAMES BALSIGER Administrator, Alaska Region National Marine Fisheries Service

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

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

Meeting in Anchorage, Trustee Council Office, 441 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 500 State Chair

1. Call to Order - 10:00 a.m.

**GREGG RENKES** 

Attorney General State of Alaska

Commissioner

**KEVIN DUFFY** 

Commissioner

and Game

**ERNESTA BALLARD** 

Alaska Department of

**Environmental Conservation** 

Alaska Department of Fish

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Notes September 3, 2003
- 2. Public comment - 10:05 a.m.
- 3. Executive Director comments - Gail Phillips
  - Investment Training Seminar
  - Investment Update
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (March 2004)
  - ARLIS contribution percentages
  - Report on overdue projects
  - PAC comments re FY 04 Work Plan Brett Huber, PAC Chair

State Trustees

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska Decartment of Environmental



- Lease paragraph for FY 05 Invitation Phil Mundy
- Trustee Council Chair rotation

Working lunch (provided)

- 4. Introduction of proposed FY 2004 Work Plan Phil Mundy
- 5. Discussion and approval of FY 2004 Work Plan\*
- 6. Lapsed FY 2003 funds\*
- 7. Memorandum of Agreement between Alaska Marine Highway System, Alaska Department of Transportation and the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council\*
- 8. Report identifying various science-related organizations in the State, who they are sponsored by, where they get their funding and what their area of scientific work entails\*
- 9. Executive Session

Adjourn

\* Indicates action items.

ATTACHMENT B

# Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

TRUSTEE COUNCIL MEETING NOTES Anchorage, Alaska September 3, 2003

> By Jim Balsiger Trustee Council Member

Trustee Council Members Present:

Joe Meade, USFS Drue Pearce, DOI \*James Balsiger, NMFS Kevin Duffy, ADF&G Ernesta Ballard, ADEC Gregg Renkes, ADOL

\*Chair By teleconference: Pearce, Ballard, Renkes

Meeting convened at 11:05 a.m., September 3, 2003 in Anchorage at the EVOS Conference Room.

## 1. Approval of the Agenda

APPROVED MOTION:

Approved the amended agenda for the September 3, 2003 meeting adding discussion of Chair rotation if time permits. (Attachment A)

Motion by Duffy, second by Ballard

Public comment period began at 11:12 a.m.

## Public comment received by one individual in Anchorage.

Public comment period closed at 11:23 a.m.

2. Approval of the Meeting Notes

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the July 24-25, 2003 meeting notes. (Attachment B)

Motion by Duffy, second by Ballard



3. Approval of NOAA/NOS Grant

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the motion to accept the NOAA/NOS grant totaling \$745,125 over the next three years (\$248,375 each year).

Motion by Meade, second by Duffy

4. Approval of Science Management Budget 040630/040630A

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the Science Management Budget 040630/040630A for \$391,600.

Motion by Meade, second by Pearce

5. Approval of Administrative Budget 040100

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the Administrative Budget 040100 for \$863,300.

Motion by Duffy, second by Renkes

6. Approval of ARLIS Budget 040550

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the Alaska Resouces Library and Information Services' (ARLIS) Budget 040550 for \$160,900.

- Motion by Duffy, second by Meade
- 6. Approval of Data Management Budget 040455

APPROVED MOTION: Approved the Data Management Budget 040455 for \$156,800.

Motion by Duffy, second by Meade

7. Executive Session

APPROVED MOTION: Approved moving to executive session to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

Motion by Duffy, second by Ballard

EXECUTIVE SESSION Off the record: 2:07 p.m. On the record: 2:59 p.m.

• •

8. FY 04 Administrative Budgets 040100, 040455, 040550 and 040630/040630A

ADOPTED RESOLUTION: Adopted Resolution 03-05 of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council regarding FY 04 Work Plan totaling \$1,572,600. (Attachment C)

Motion by Meade, second by Duffy

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m. Motion by Ballard, second by Duffy.

## RESOLUTION 04-01 OF THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL REGARDING THE FY 04 WORK PLAN

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 <u>United States of America v.</u> <u>State of Alaska</u>, 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 <u>State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, et al.</u>, No. A91-083 CIV, and <u>United States of America v. Exxon Corporation, et al.</u>, No. A91-083 CIV, and <u>United</u> <u>States of America v. Exxon Corporation, et al.</u>, No. A91-082 CIV, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, for necessary natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities for fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006 as described in Attachment A. The Fiscal Year 2004 Work Plan is funded at \$3,187,402 as described in Attachment A.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game Alaska Department of Natural Resources	1,292,847 211,600
SUBTOTAL TO STATE OF ALASKA	\$1,504,447
U.S. Department of the Interior National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	581,534 1,101,421
SUBTOTAL TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	\$1,682,955
TOTAL APPROVED	\$3,187,402

Funds must be spent in accordance with Attachments A, with the following conditions: (1) If a Principal Investigator (PI) has an overdue report or manuscript from

1

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 2004 Work Plan, the amount of \$3,187,402 from the appropriate account designated by the Executive Director.

2

Approved by the Council at its meeting of November 10, 2003 held in Anchorage, Alaska as affirmed by our signatures affixed below.

Forest Supervisor Forest Service Alaska Region U.S. Department of Agriculture

DRUE PEARCE <sup>1</sup> Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Alaskan Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior

**KEVIN DUFFY** 

Commissioner Alaska Department of Fish and Game

GREGG RENKES

Attorney General State of Alaska

JAMES W/BALSIGER

Administrator, Alaska Region National Marine Fisheries Service U.S. Department of Commerce

ERNESTA BALLARD Commissioner Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Attachments: A Funding Distribution

#### FY 04-FY06 Attachment A Numbers Spreadsheet Court Notice FY 04

NOAA	1,101,421	DNR Total	211,600
DOI	581,534	ADFG	1,292,847
Total to United States to NRDA	1,682,955	Total to State to GeFONSI	1,504,447

			Project	-						_
Agency	Cooperating Agency	Listing	Number	F Y U4	'	F Y05	FY	06	Decision	Comments
ADFG		DeLorenzo-FYD4-Youth Area Watch	40210	<b>š</b> 121,1	00 \$	126,400	\$	133,200	Fund	
ADFG		Eckert-FY04-Natural Variability in the Nearshore	40702	\$ 36,3	00 \$	17,500	\$		Fund	
ADFG		Fall-FY04-Status of Subsistence Uses	40471	\$ 298,7	'00 s	\$ 25,600	\$	-	Fund	
ADFG		Finney-FY04-Marine-terrestrial Linkages	40703	\$ 79,1	97 \$	80,154	\$	81,117	Fund	
ADFG		Honnold-FY04-Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockeye Salmon	040703-A	\$ 83,2	00 \$	82,400	\$	86,800	Fund	
ADFG		Konar-FY04-Natural Geography in Shore Areas	40666	\$ 248,7	29 1	\$	\$		Fund	
ADFG		Okkonen-FY04-Monitoring Program in the NE Pacific Ocean	40614	\$ 27.2	89 \$	30,366	5	31,455	Fund	······································
ADFG		Rosenberg-FY04-Harlequin Duck Population	40407	<b>\$</b> 37,1	00 1	\$	\$	•	Fund	
ADFG		Schneider-FY04-Kodiak Archipelago	40610	\$ 63,0	00 \$	63,000	\$	63,000	Fund	
ADFG		Walker-FY04-Marine Derived Nutrients	40726	\$ 150,2	00 \$	5 153,400	s	149,700	Fund	
ADFG	NOAA	Cokelet-FY04-AK Marine Highway System Ferries	40699	\$ 15,3	00 \$	22,700	s	23,200	·	
ADFG		Weingartner-FY04-Alaska Coastal Current	40340	\$ 75,4	82 \$	5,482	\$	75,482	Fund	
ADFG	DNR, DOI, NOAA	Project Management	40250	<b>\$</b> 57,2	50 9	5 -	\$		Fund	
		Total ADFG Funding for FY04-06		\$ 1,292,84	17 5	\$ 677,002	\$	643,954		
ADNR		Spies-FY04-EVOS Damage Assessment & Restoration	40600	\$ 201,7	00 3	5	\$		Fund Contingent	TC re-evaluation of contract
ADNR	ADFG, DOI, NOAA	Project Management	40250	\$ 9,9	00 9	5 -	\$	-	Fund	
		Total DNR Funding for FY 04-06		\$ 211,60	00 1	ş <u>.</u>	\$			
DOI		Bodkin-FY04-Lingering Oil and Sea Otters	040620-2	\$ 134,3	00 \$	26,200	5	6,500	Fund Contingent	Submittal of overdue reports
DOI		Bodkin-FY04-Nearshore Monitoring Decision Process	40687	\$ 10,0	00 1	s	5	•	Fund	
DOI		Irons-FY04-Bird Abundance in PWS	40159	\$ 175,5	18 1	\$	\$		Fund	
DOI	NOAA	Irvine-FY04-Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches	40708	\$ 60,6	00 5	5 14,400	5		Fund Contingent	Submittal of overdue reports
DOI		Knudsen-FYD4-Nutrient-Based Resource Management	40712	\$ 173,2	16 \$	177,002	\$	152,632	Fund	
DOI	ADNR, NOAA, ADFG	Project Management	40250	\$ 27,9	00 \$	\$	\$		Fund	
		Total DOI Funding for FY 04-06		\$ 581,53	34 5	\$ 217,602	\$	159,132		
NOAA	DOI	Irvine-FY04-Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches	40708	s 11,1	00 s	2,800	\$	-	Fund Contingent	Submittal of overdue reports

#### FY 04-FY06 Attachment A Numbers Spreadsheet Court Notice FY 04

Ageney	Connecting Agency	Listing	Project Number	EV04		EV05		EVO	-	Decision	Comments
Agency	Cooperating Agency		Indiniber	1.1.04		1 105		1100	,	Decision	Comments
NOAA		Adams-FY04-Fisheries Management	40636	5	46,760	<b>\$</b> .	-	\$	-	Fund	
NOAA		Batten-FY04-CPR data	40624	\$	135,200	\$	135,200	\$	135,200	Fund	
NOAA		Bishop-FY04-Top-down and Bottom-up Processes	40635	s	149,529	\$	164,030	\$	151,390	Fund	
NOAA	ADFG	Cokelet-FY04-AK Marine Highway System Farries	40699	\$	156,200	\$	163,200	\$	122,700	Fund	
NOAA		Heintz-FY04-Energy Allocation	40706	\$	48,400	\$	42,300	s	14,100	Fund Contingent	Submittal of overdue reports
NOAA		Kiefer-FY04-Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology	40710	\$	80,900	\$	-	s	-	Fund	
NOAA		Macklin-FY04-NGOA Metadatabase	40716	s	100,600	\$	-	\$	-	Fund	
NOAA		Matkin-FY04-Killer Whales in PWS/Kenai Fjords	40012	\$	19,502	\$	-	\$		Fund	·
NOAA		Nelson-FY04-Hydrocarbon Database	40290	\$	22,200	\$	22,200	\$	22,200	Fund	
NOAA		Rice-FY04-Lingering Population Status	40620-1	\$	60,000	\$	61,000	\$	29,100	Fund Contingent	Submittal of overdue reports
NOAA		Ruesink-FY04-Altering the Community Structure	40647	s	81,600	s	-	\$	-	Fund	
NOAA		Saupe-FY04-Habitat Web Site	40721	\$	21,100	5	-	\$		Fund	
INOAA		Short-FY04-Monitoring Exxon Valdez Oil & PWS	40724	\$	45,900	\$	-	\$		Fund Contingent	Submittal of overdue reports
NOAA		Thome-FY04-Seafood Waste Discharge	40725	s	72,680	\$	111,692	\$	108,943	Fund	
NOAA	DNR, DOI, ADFG	Project Management	40250	\$	49,750	\$	-	\$	-	Fund	
		Total NOAA Funding for FY 04-06		\$	1,101,421	\$6	99,622	\$	583,633	· .	

Total Funding for FY 04 - FY 06		FY04		FY 05		FY 06	
		\$	3,187,402	\$	1,594,226	\$	2,211,458
FY 04 EVOS FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS	Total Funding by Agency						
NOAA	1,101,421						
DNR Total	211,600						
ADFG	1,292,847						
DOI	581,534				-		
Total	3,187,402						

\*Trustee Council Approved EVOS Admin Funds at the October Trustee Council Meeting

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November 13, 2003

George A. Capacci General Manager Alaska Marine Highway System Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 3231 Channel Drive Juneau, Alaska 99801-7978

Dear Mr. Capacot: Hi Steorge -

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council at its November 10, 2003 meeting approved entering into the Memorandum of Agreement between the Alaska Marine Highway System, Department of Transportation and the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council for installing oceanographic instruments on the vessel, Tustumena.

Please sign the enclosed Memorandum of Agreement and return the original to the Trustee Council office at the address indicated above.

Sincerely,

Gail Phillips Executive Director

Enclosure

Thanks, George - It'll be nice doing business with

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

## Memorandum of Agreement

between the Alaska Marine Highway System, Department of Transportation and the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council for installing Oceanographic Instruments on the vessel, *Tustumena* 

**Background:** Monitoring and research of the oceanographic environment along the coasts of Alaska is important to the mission of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) and Research Program, *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC). GEM serves state and national interests by providing long-term environmental baseline data for natural resource management and other governmental environmental regulatory purposes through research and monitoring. Cost effective approaches to marine monitoring and research include placing oceanographic instruments on board vessels of opportunity, including those of the Alaska Marine Highway System.

**Purpose**: To establish terms governing the relationship between AMHS and EVOSTC during design, installation and removal of oceanographic instruments on the vessel *Tustumena*.

**Duration**: November 1, 2003 to September 30, 2005, renewable by AMHS for an additional year, October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006.

**Termination**: Either party may terminate the agreement under the following terms. EVOSTC may terminate the agreement after September 2004 by notifying AMHS sixty days prior to the date of dry docking of its intention to remove the oceanographic instruments and supporting structures to the satisfaction of AMHS. AMHS may terminate the agreement at any time for cause of risk to public safety, ABS classification, or other serious cause by so stating in writing to the Executive Director, EVOSTC. AMHS may terminate the agreement by giving notice prior to February 15 2005, of its intention to terminate as of September 30, 2005. In any event, AMHS shall notify EVOSTC prior to February 15, 2005, of its intention with respect to sustaining the agreement for the third year of operation (October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006).

Agreements: (1) GEM assumes all financial obligations for installing, operating and removing the oceanographic instruments. Any oceanographic instruments placed on board the *Tustumena* would need to be completely financially self-sustaining from the design phase to de-commissioning. (2) AMHS will provide space and electrical power for the instruments. (3) Design of plans for installation of instruments must be done under the independent review of a qualified naval architect or marine engineer (PE) to standards of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) applicable to the *Tustumena*. (4) All oceanographic instruments will be designed to "maintain class" of the vessel with ABS. (5) Applicable hazardous waste handling and disposal requirements will be observed. (6) Design work and approval from AMHS is to be completed before

## AMHS-EVOSTC Memorandum of Agreement Page 2 of 2

installation during dry dock. (7) George Poor is the technical representative for AMHS. (8) Ned Cokelet is the designated technical representative for EVOSTC, however Phil Mundy or his designated representative will be party to all correspondence between AMHS and EVOSTC technical representatives. (9) George Poor will be in charge of all work and funds associated with the installation of instruments during dry dock. (10) Funds will be made available for this purpose from GEM via a reciprocal service agreement between state agencies (ADOT and ADF&G).

Agreed to this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003 by:

George A. Capacci General Manager Alaska Marine Highway System Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 3231 Channel Drive Juneau 99801-7978

Gail Phillips (/ Executive Director Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council 441 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 500 Anchorage, AK 99501

11-12-03

Date

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



TO: Aaron Gelston

FROM:

Gail Phillips **Executive Director** 

SUBJECT: Reclassification of EVOS PCN

DATE: November 10, 2003

Please reclassify the EVOS Analyst Programmer III position, PCN 11-7701, to Analyst Programmer II. This position is totally exempt.

The position has been vacant since the promotion of Rob Bochenek to Data Systems Manager. On November 3, 2003 Michael Schlei was hired to fill the position at a 16B.