Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Grant Baker, Ph.D.
School of Engineering
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

Hubert P. Schroeder, Ph.D.
School of Engineering
University of Alaska Anchorage
3211 Providence Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99508

Re: Project 99474 / Endowment of the Environmental Restoration Center at the University y of Alaska Anchorage

Dear Drs. Baker and Schroeder:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99474/Endowment of the Environmental Restoration Center at the University y of Alaska Anchorage. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I recommend that the possibility of establishing an endowment at the University of Alaska be addressed in the Restoration Reserve planning process currently underway, rather than through the FY 99 work plan.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99474	Endowment of the Environmental Restoration Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage	G. Baker, H. Schroeder/UAA	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$2,256.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will establish an endowed environmental restoration center for research and community education at the University of Alaska Anchorage, within the School of Engineering. Establishing the center will achieve two goals. First, it will provide a mechanism for funding continuing recovery work and community education long after 2002 when funds are no longer received from Exxon Corporation. Such activities will help Alaska develop local expertise and permanent solutions for the protection and restoration of areas affected by the oil spill. Establishment of the center will also serve as a test program that will allow the Trustee Council to resolve existing questions for endowment of research centers and chairs.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would establish an endowed environmental research center within the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Engineering. The legal and policy issues related to endowments are ones for the Trustee Council to address. However, the substantive content of the proposed research center is oriented toward oil-spill response technologies. This proposal is not closely linked to EVOS recovery objectives. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Trustee Council anticipates making a decision on the use of the Restoration Reserve, and hence the future of the restoration program, in Fall 1998. The results of an extensive public process undertaken by the Restoration Office in March/April 1998 are currently under consideration by the Council. An endowment for the University of Alaska is among the suggestions received for use of the Reserve. Questions about the legal permissibility of an endowment under the current settlement agreement have been raised.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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June 17, 1998

John F. Piatt, Ph.D.
14722 NE 169th Street
Woodinville, WA 98072

Alexander S. Kitaysky, Ph.D.
Zoology Department
University of Washington
24 Kincaid Hall
POB 351800
Seattle, WA 98195-0005

Re: Project 99479 / Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds

Dear Drs. Piatt and Kitaysky:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99479/Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised significant technical concerns about this project.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99479	Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds	J. Piatt/USGS-BRD, A. Kitaysky/Univ. of Washington	DOI	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project	$100.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will measure the rise in blood levels of stress hormones such as corticosterone in response to a standardized stressor: capture, handling and restraint. This well-known response (found throughout vertebrates from fish to mammals) provides a strong assessment of whether or not a free-living population is chronically stressed or, if baseline levels of corticosterone appear normal, the stress-induced increase in corticosterone indicates potential for stress. This "field endocrinology" approach provides exact information on current stress status and the potential for stress in relating to quality and abundance of food. The project will investigate seabirds breeding in lower Cook Inlet and also use captive birds for controlled experiments at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a proposal of significant academic merit by qualified principal investigators, but they do not adequately address the nonspecificity of cortical steroids as indicators of stress. These hormones elevate in response to factors besides reduced food availability, including the handling that occurs in order to take samples. While the proposers will standardize handling stress this may introduce a great deal of variability into the results. It is not clear that investigators will be able to separate the effects of handling from those of other factors in producing elevated corticosteroids. It is also not clear that monitoring corticosteroids, based on a mechanistic understanding of induction, offers advantages over more traditional ways (e.g., food supply estimates) of assessing indicators of population health. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would explore the use of corticosteroids, a biochemical indicator of stress, as a tool to monitor seabird populations. This is a sophisticated proposal, but the Chief Scientist raises significant technical concerns.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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June 17, 1998

James Seeb, Ph.D.
CFMD
ADF&G
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

Lisa W. Seeb, Ph.D.
CFMD
ADF&G
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

Re: Project 99252 / Investigations of Genetically Important Conservation Units of Rockfish and Walleye Pollock

Dear Drs. Seeb and Seeb:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99252/Investigations of Genetically Important Conservation Units of Rockfish and Walleye Pollock contingent on approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and reduced budget that address the concerns raised by the Chief Scientist. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. Because of the detailed nature of the issues raised in the technical review, I have enclosed a summary of the review comments as additional guidance for the preparation of a revised Detailed Project Description.

The Chief Scientist states that a revised Detailed Project Description should be accompanied by a reduced budget, and we are using $200,000 as a placeholder figure. Please submit a revised Detailed Project Description and budget in standard formats to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** Do not at this time include bench fees for the Alaska SeaLife Center; these will be added by Restoration Office staff at a later date. (Please provide an electronic copy of the DPD. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99252	Investigations of Genetically Important Conservation Units of Rockfish and Walleye Pollock	J. Seeb, L. Seeb/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 5 yr. project	$263.7	$200.0			$200.0

Project Abstract

This project will consolidate an array of requests from the commercial fisheries industry for discrete stock research into a single proposal for work that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will conduct at its Anchorage genetics laboratory. Also, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposes to develop experimental fish runs at the Alaska SeaLife Center; these are essential for study of genetics, physiology, or diseases of anadromous fish proposed by University of Montana, University of Alaska, or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other principal investigators seeking to conduct research at the Seward facility.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project was funded in FY 98 recognizing that measures of possible genetic differences within fish stocks is an important starting point for a better understanding of population genetics and, eventually, how to best manage the fishery to protect genetic diversity. In the present proposal, it is not clear how "genetic importance" will be determined or how the relationship between "genetic importance" and production, productivity, and population viability will be established. The current scientific literature is not adequately reviewed, and the proposed sample size of 100 individuals may be twice the necessary amount given the results of recent research. Other genetic work on pollock appears to be ongoing in the region, but the potential for collaboration with these other scientists is not explored. Finally, the laboratory work for determining heredity of null alleles is not well justified, and is unlikely to contribute to restoration objectives. A revised proposal addressing these critiques, including appropriate reductions to the budget, should be submitted prior to FY 99 funding being approved. Fund contingent on revised proposal and reduced budget.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that address the Chief Scientist's concerns. This project is just getting underway in FY 98 at the Alaska SeaLife Center, and it will explore genetic stock structures of rockfish and pollock in the Gulf of Alaska. Rockfish were injured by the oil spill, and a pollock fishery has developed in Prince William Sound to replace other lost fishing opportunities. The Chief Scientist has raised a number of technical issues, which must be addressed before this project can be continued. [NOTE: Funds for Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees (approximately $14,800) need to be added to this project.]

FY 1999 PEER REVIEWER EVALUATION FORM AND TECHNICAL CRITERIA

Project No. 99252

Project Title: Investigations of genetically important conservation units of rockfish and walleye pollock

[The following are scored 1-5, with 5 being the highest rating (e.g., excellent)]

1. The overall scientific merits of the proposal as demonstrated through (a) understanding of the problem, (b) soundness of the technical approach, (c) innovation and uniqueness of the project, and (d) feasibility (i.e., prospects for the project's success).

Score 1.5-3 Comments?

-objective of determining stock structure of these species is valuable for high quality management. However, exactly what will be done with the genetic heterogeneity that is likely to be measured is not clear. What will they do if the heterogeneity does not fall into a cohesive spatial pattern? Often, such data do not provide such a pattern.

-current literature is not reviewed, which raises doubt regarding how well the proposers understand the drawbacks and pitfalls genetic techniques. sample size of 100 individuals seems to be twice the necessary amount given recent pubs in CJFAS (Dan Ruzzante, from Dalhousie University).

-employing genetic markers to estimate effective population size or to assess historical changes in fisheries, not to mention use of genetic maps to identify traits of interest, is fast replacing the "stock-structure" approach, but none of this is considered in this proposal.

-other work on pollock appears to be going on in the region, but the potential for collaboration with these other scientists is not explored (NOAA FOCI geneticists already have developed PCR primers for microsatellites)

-how will "genetic importance" be determined? What is the relation between "genetic importance" and production, productivity, and population viability

-PIs have correct technical approach, but may not have preliminary data needed to guarantee for success (need to demonstrate that microsatellites amplify and provide sufficient variability for at least some if not all of the taxa under study).

-feasibility is not completely established. Sampling, allozyme and mtDNA aspects appear in hand; microsatellite analyses are not. PIs are attempting to use primers developed for other taxa. They have not indicated that these will work, nor the relatedness of some of these other taxa to the ones under study. Why start w/cod primers?

2. The potential contribution of the proposal to the identified recovery objectives. In other words, the extent to which the proposal will help achieve the restoration objectives identified for a given resource.

Score 1-4 Comments?

-PIs haven't established a need other than the obvious, which is that knowing stock structure is critical to fisheries management; no attempt to match a conservation priority with these species.
-laboratory work for determining heredity of null alleles is not well justified, and is unlikely to contribute to restoration objectives
-sebastes are so long lived that effective populations size is the important information
-normal agency management function? Is this not required by statute?
-if there are genetic differences between GOA and PWS regions (for pollock?), that will have important management implications

3. The organization's (a) capabilities and experience and (b) record of past performance (including in the EVOS program). The (c) experience and qualifications of key personnel, and (d) whether facilities or other factors integral to the proposal success are available to support the project.

Score 3.5-5 Comments?

-they have the experience and facilities to carry out the study.
-publication record relative to funds received over the last several years seems poor, but overall production of papers is good, with publication in appropriate journals
-less experience with micrsatellite analyses than with the allozyme and mtDNA aspects, which are largely under control
-facilities seem fine; especially use of automated sequencers for microsatellite analyses

4. The cost effectiveness of the project proposal.

Score 1-4 Comments?

-the cost is way too high. for example, cost of primers seems very high compared to cost for guaranteed primers available from commercial sources
-hard to judge, given lack of detail on the duties of the positions requested; budget for travel and supplies seem appropriate.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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June 17, 1998

John F. Piatt, Ph.D.
14722 NE 169th Street
Woodinville, WA 98072

Glenn Ford, Ph.D.
Ecological Consulting, Inc.
2735 NE Weidler Street
Portland, OR 97232-1746

Re: Project 99488 / A Computerized Colony, Environment and Seabirds-at-Sea Database (ACCESS)

Dear Drs. Piatt and Ford:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99488/Computerized Colony, Environment and Seabirds-at-Sea Database (ACCESS). I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the timeliness of this project because the potential EVOS long-term monitoring program has not yet been developed. In addition, much of the work described appears to be a normal agency management function.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Lisa Thomas with USGS-BRD.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Lisa Thomas, USGS-BRD Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99488	A Computerized Colony, Environment and Seabirds-at-Sea Database (ACCESS)	J. Piatt/USGS-BRD, G. Ford/Ecological Consulting, Inc.	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$119.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

A number of large databases, yet to be synthesized, contain detailed information on the pelagic distribution of seabirds in Alaska. If compiled into A Computerized Colony, Environment, and Seabirds-at-Sea database (ACCESS), this information could be used to monitor recovery of seabirds from oil spills, assess impacts of commercial fisheries on marine birds, monitor long-term changes in marine ecosystems, plan and manage marine reserves, model and predict the impact of future oil spills on seabird colony populations, and estimate population sizes of rare or threatened species. A directed effort is required to complete a database archive and retrieval system that can be easily accessed by specialists or non-expert user groups.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

I am persuaded that this proposal identifies an important problem, and properly archiving data would improve management of some injured species. However, the proposal is quite expensive, and seems to fall under normal agency management. It may be appropriate to consider in the context of the potential EVOS long-term monitoring program, but this proposal is premature in such a context. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would establish an easily accessible computerized database on seabirds. While there may be need for such a system, it would be most relevant to EVOS restoration in the context of the potential EVOS long-term monitoring program, on which a decision is not expected until Fall 1998. This is also a normal agency management function, and the proposal would be strengthened with substantial cost sharing.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Jeffrey W. Short
Auke Bay Laboratory
NMFS
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

Patricia M. Harris
Auke Bay Laboratory
NMFS
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 99195 / Pristane Monitoring in Mussels

Dear Mr. Short and Ms. Harris:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99195/Pristane Monitoring in Mussels contingent on (a) approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that expand the FY 99 effort to include analysis of the relationship between salmon production and the pristane level in mussels and (b) submittal of the FY 97 annual report on this project. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As additional guidance in the preparation of a revised Detailed Project Description, I have enclosed a summary of comments from the peer reviewers.

The revised Detailed Project Description should be prepared in the standard format and submitted with a revised budget, as needed, to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** I am recommending a total of $100,000 for this project in FY 99, including the addition of the objective noted above. (Please provide an electronic copy of the revised DPD. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99195	Pristane Monitoring in Mussels	J. Short, P. Harris/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$96.7	$100.0			$100.0

Project Abstract

This project will monitor pristane in mussels through the spring production cycle as an indirect index of predation by juvenile salmon, herring, and nearshore forage fish on *Neocalanus spp.* zooplankton. This index may provide a forecast of poor recruitment for pink salmon or herring caused by poor feeding conditions during the early marine residence portions of their life-cycles.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Tracking pristane concentrations in mussels may be a useful tool for monitoring the transfer of energy from copepods to juvenile salmon, and this approach may have a place in a long-term monitoring program. However, the potential of this tool has not been fully established and it is now timely to address the strength of the correlations with salmon production, which can be done through cross-correlations with SEA (Project /320) and hatchery data. I recommend funding this project in FY 99, but the scope of work should be expanded to analyze these correlations. Presumably this will require a slightly increased budget. Fund contingent on receipt of revised proposal and budget.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on (a) approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that expand the FY 99 effort to include analysis of the relationship between salmon production and the pristane level in mussels and (b) submittal of FY 97 annual report (97195). If successful, this project could provide a relatively inexpensive measure of marine productivity, thus allowing predictions about future fisheries production and harvest levels.

FY 1999 PEER REVIEWER EVALUATION FORM
AND TECHNICAL CRITERIA

Project No. 195 **Reviewer Name** _____

Project Title: Pristane Monitoring

[The following are scored 1-5, with 5 being the highest rating (e.g., excellent)]

1. The overall scientific merits of the proposal as demonstrated through (a) understanding of the problem, (b) soundness of the technical approach, (c) innovation and uniqueness of the project, and (d) feasibility (i.e., prospects for the project's success).

Score 4.0 Comments?

-monitoring of pristane and mussels appears to be a useful tool for monitoring transfer of energy from copepods to juvenile fish
-pristane index has been increasing since '94, which may mean increase in secondary productivity in recent years
-good involvement from Youth Area Watch
-now proposes funding in FY 01 and 02
-revised objectives (increase fall/winter and decrease spring/summer) seem okay
-sampling and lab analytic procedures are fine
-now is time to cross correlate data w/SEA results to see what the pristane project really tells us
-this should be possible in FY 99, since SEA field work is now complete
-the strength of the correlation with ecosystem production is reason for doing this; need to assess now

2. The potential contribution of the proposal to the identified recovery objectives. In other words, the extent to which the proposal will help achieve the restoration objectives identified for a given resource.

Score 3.5 Comments?

-pristane monitoring may be part of a long-term monitoring program, but its worth has not been entirely established
-potential is there, but it is time to make hard scientific judgment about whether that potential can be realized
-what is relationship between pristane index and some index of pink salmon year-class strength or zooplankton abundance
-absent such linkage, it is hard to interpret pristane index nor know its importance

3. The organization's (a) capabilities and experience and (b) record of past performance (including in the EVOS program). The (c) experience and qualifications of key personnel, and (d) whether facilities or other factors integral to the proposal success are available to support the project.

Score 4_ Comments?

-the PI is superb at data collection and analysis, and hydrocarbon interpretation
-in terms of the ecosystem cross-correlation, some collaboration would be advantageous (e.g., Kline or Willette)

4. The cost effectiveness of the project proposal.

Score 4.5 Comments?

-cost is reasonable
-may need to be increased to tackle question of ecological cross-correlation

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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June 17, 1998

Fred W. Allendorf, Ph.D.
Division of Biological Sciences
University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812

RE: Project 99190 / Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome

Dear Dr. Allendorf:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99190/Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome contingent on approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that focus on the quantitative traits of adaptive significance and their applications to fisheries management. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. In addition, because of the detailed and technical nature of the issues raised by the peer reviewers, I have enclosed copies of the original reviews on the project. If you have questions or comments about what is to be addressed in the revised Detailed Project Description, please contact the Chief Scientist directly.

The revised Detailed Project Description should be prepared in standard format, with revised budget forms as needed, and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** Do not at this time include bench fees for the Alaska SeaLife Center; these will be added by Restoration Office staff at a later date. (Please provide an electronic copy of the Detailed Project Description. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will

make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Jim Seeb, ADF&G
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99190	Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome	F. Allendorf/Univ. Montana	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$187.3	$187.3	$187.3	$0.0	$374.6

Project Abstract

This project will complete a genetic linkage map for pink salmon in FY 98. In FY 99, experiments will be continued at the Alaska SeaLife Center that use the linkage map to test for organismal effects of molecular markers on phenotypes that are likely to affect fitness in pink salmon (e.g., survival, growth, and disease resistance). These studies will aid recovery efforts with pink salmon, including estimation of straying rates, description of stock structure, and testing if marine survival has a genetic basis. The tests for natural selection on molecular markers have broad significance for the use of molecular genetic markers to estimate gene flow in pink salmon and other marine species.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a scientifically sophisticated project by a talented principal investigator that was the subject of a special review session in FY 98. This continuing project now appears to be giving more emphasis to the objective of demonstrating the extent to which allozymes are under natural selection. This is an extraordinarily challenging objective due to the difficulty of carrying out unambiguous experiments. The contribution of such work toward restoration goals seems a lower priority than the other objectives of the project. The project should focus upon quantitative traits of adaptive significance (e.g., run timing, temperature tolerance) that will have direct applications to enhancing management of fisheries in Alaska. Fund contingent on submittal of a revised proposal focusing on traits of adaptive significance.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that focus on the quantitative traits of adaptive significance and their applications to fisheries management. This project, which is being conducted in part at the Alaska SeaLife Center, is designed to improve understanding of genetic variation in pink salmon and how such variation relates to marine survival, run timing, size, and other traits that are important from the standpoint of salmon restoration, management, and harvest. [NOTE: Funds for Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees (approximately $16,400) need to be added to this project.]

FY 1999 PEER REVIEWER EVALUATION FORM AND TECHNICAL CRITERIA

Project No. 99190

Project Title: Construction of Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon genome

[The following are scored 1-5, with 5 being the highest rating (e.g., excellent)]

1. The overall scientific merits of the proposal as demonstrated through (a) understanding of the problem, (b) soundness of the technical approach, (c) innovation and uniqueness of the project, and (d) feasibility (i.e., prospects for the project's success).

Score 2.5 Comments?

-score is average of 5 and 0. The 5 is for the objectives of furthering the map in terms of adding additional markers, consolidating the linkage groups, and generating additional "anchor" loci. The 0 is for the objective of proving allozymes are under natural selection--this topic was an active area of research 15-20 years ago, but has proved so intractable due to designing unambiguous experiments that it not considered useful by many (This flaw would prevent NSF funding).

-even if Drosophila, where the genome is so well described, this is a problem.

-the 5 is because the map could be used to come after more valuable endpoints, such as run timing, marine survival, etc..

-there should be more focus on developing anchor loci, consolidating the map, finding more markers.

2. The potential contribution of the proposal to the identified recovery objectives. In other words, the extent to which the proposal will help achieve the restoration objectives identified for a given resource.

Score 2.5 Comments?

-researching whether allozymes are under natural selection will not contribute to recovery objectives
-contining the mapping effort and rigorously attacking the QTL situation will contribute to restoration objectives
-why spend considerable time and effort in developing hypervariable markers to further test stock structure when the "conclusion" of 96196 already is that the fishery is finely subdivided and should be managed this way?
-if natural selection acts on allozymes, then much of ADF&G's genetic work on stock structure may have a fundamental flaw.

-The priority applications in the proposal do not seem to be toward endpoints of management significance; yet the facilities of the ASLC and the PI's experience allow the possibility of performing genetic experiments of management significance (development of assays to search for QTLs, using a more up-to-date experimental design, and continuation of mapping effort)

3. The organization's (a) capabilities and experience and (b) record of past performance (including in the EVOS program). The (c) experience and qualifications of key personnel, and (d) whether facilities or other factors integral to the proposal success are available to support the project.

Score 5 Comments?

-PI is a world-class scientist
-facilities are first rate
-high score assumes that PI "gets back 'on track'" relative to carrying out research in line w/EVOS objectives

4. The cost effectiveness of the project proposal.

Score 3.5 Comments?

-this project has been cost-effectively run, but is over-budgeted given the objectives for FY99; a budget of $110-120k seems more reasonable

FY 1999 PEER REVIEWER EVALUATION FORM AND TECHNICAL CRITERIA

Project No. 99190

Primary Reviewer
Secondary Reviewer

Project Title **Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome**

[The following are scored 1-5, with 5 being the highest rating (e.g., excellent)]

1. The overall scientific merits of the proposal as demonstrated through (a) understanding of the problem, (b) soundness of the technical approach, (c) innovation and uniqueness of the project, and (d) feasibility (i.e., prospects for the project' success).

Score 2.5 Comments?

This is not an easy proposal to evaluate. On the one hand, generation of a genetic map of the pink salmon genome is (in my opinion) one of the best endeavors supported by *EVOS* restoration funds in the general area of genetics. I have supported this project in several reviews, and I have nothing but the highest professional and personal regard for the PI. Had this proposal been targeted strictly towards furthering the map in terms of adding additional markers, consolidating the linkage groups, generating additional "anchor" loci, and even beginning a physical map, I would have given a score of 5.0 for overall scientific merit and for fulfilling important restoration goals. In addition, had the proposal targeted the beginnings of identification of quantitative trait loci (QTLs) affecting traits important or critical to recovery and using current procedures, I also would have given a score of 5.0. However, the proposal is focused primarily towards using the hypervariable markers developed to "prove" that allelic variation at allozyme loci are under the influence of natural selection. The rationale for this in relation to objectives of the *EVOS* recovery program is that all the *EVOS*-supported work done previously on allozymes in pink salmon, not to mention the work proposed for walleye pollack and rockfish species, may be bogus because allozyme variation may be under mild selective pressures. The development of additional hypervariable markers also is touted as a means to further test population structure in pink salmon in finer detail. In this reviewer's opinion, this is a lot of bunk! First, the issue of whether electrophoretic variants at allozyme loci are influenced by natural selection is straight out of the late 1970s and early to mid-1980s. In 1998, this is an issue only with those folks who have been trying so valiantly all these years to "prove" that allozyme variants are under selective forces. Even ardent "selectionists" such as Denny Powers have given up, realizing that the best one can obtain from "experiments" such as those proposed here are correlations or non-random distributions of allozyme genotypes and character states in traits of interest. Such experiments don't really "prove" natural selection, and even if they did, the question has become "So what?" In truth, I don't blame the PI for trying it out in this proposal, as it's very unlikely that any governmental, science agency (e.g., NSF) would entertain such a proposal seriously. Second, the concept that "proving" natural selection acts on allozyme loci is important to restoration of the pink salmon resource simply cannot be justified. Suppose for example that the "experiments" indicate a non-random distribution of allozyme variants with variation in a trait of importance, leading to the supposition that "selection" is occurring. Does this negate findings of Project 99196? Should ADF&G be requested to return *EVOS*-Trustee funds because they failed to employ the right genetic markers? Should the recommendations of Project 99196, that pink salmon are not "one big happy stock," be invalidated? Should Proposal 99252 on walleye pollack and rockfish be put on hold until it can be examined once again whether allozymes are useful

markers for subpopulation (stock) identification? Another issue along these lines is the notion that additional hypervariable markers will further the study of whether pink salmon are subdivided. The "conclusions" of Project 99196 appear to be that the pink salmon fishery should be managed on as fine a scale as possible. This "conclusion" was reached even though the data were that genetic heterogeneity simply exists here and there, with no consistent spatial or temporal pattern within or between year classes. Use of several hypervariable markers would likely pinpoint individuals minimally to the full-sib level. The fishery could then be seriously subdivided, reinforcing the conclusion that management should occur on a very fine scale. Without dwelling on the obvious issues of how management could proceed at this level or whether knowing that every individual or full-sib family differs is really important from a management perspective, the simple question is why spend considerable time and effort in developing hypervariable markers to further test stock structure when the "conclusion" already is that the fishery is finely subdivided and should be managed that way? To finish, assessment of whether selection acts on allozyme loci (i) avoids recovery issues, (ii) cannot really be proven, and (iii) is neither innovative nor unique.

On the other hand, I fully support continuing the mapping effort and the development of assays to search for QTLs. Unfortunately, the experimental design for the QTL effort isn't (much of a design). The plan is to search for non-random association of hypervariable genotypes with phenotypes of interest. Not only are no statistical tests mentioned, any reading of the current QTL literature would quickly indicate the inappropriateness of this approach. Given the facilities at the Alaska SeaLife Center, not to mention the ability to generate inbred lines through gynogenesis, the opportunity to "do the experiments right" should not be missed. While I'm quite sure that the PI has the experience to design and carry out the appropriate experiments, perhaps he should be encouraged to involve Dr. Russ Lande (University of Oregon), a bona fide quantitative geneticists and a colleague of the PI. I won't belabor the point further except to note my puzzlement over why the focus of the proposal is the trivial (and historically non-productive) search to prove that natural election acts on allozymes when so much could be done to rigorously study traits of importance to the restoration of the resource.

2. The potential contribution of the proposal to the identified recovery objectives. In other words, the extent to which the proposal will help achieve restoration objectives identified for a given resource.

Score 2.5 Comments?

As outlined, researching whether allozymes are under natural selection will not, in my opinion, contribute at all the recovery objectives. Continuing the mapping effort and rigorously attacking the QTL situation with a "modern" approach could definitely contribute to recovery objectives.

3. The organization's (a) capabilities and experience and (b) record of past performance (including the EVOS program). The (c) experience and qualifications of key personnel, and (d) whether facilities or other factors integral to the proposal success are available to support the project.

Score 5.0 Comments?

Everything's in place for continuing a strong project. The PI is a world-class scientist and the facilities are first rate. This assumes the PI gets back "on track" relative to carrying out research in lines with *EVOS*-Trustee objectives.

4. The cost effectiveness of the project proposal.

Score 3.5 Comments?

For what's proposed, the project is overpriced and could be carried out for something in the neighborhood of $110 - 120K per year.

Overall assessment of this project and its relationship to the cluster and overall program

I do not recommend funding the project as outlined. The PI appears to be dredging up an historical interest on his part, and one which bears little relevance to restoration of the pink salmon resource. The mapping effort should continue and the PI should be requested to draft an up-to-date plan for uncovering QTLs. This would mean consulting a lot of literature not referenced in this proposal. It also would mean something more than a vague search for genotypes at hypervariable loci that are non-randomly associated with character states of traits on interest. In short, if it's going to be done, it should be done correctly.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Stephen M. Murphy
ABR, Inc.
POB 80410
Fairbanks, AK 99708-0410

RE: Project 99289-BAA / Status of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council defer a decision on funding project 99289/Status of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound until preliminary results from the current year's work (98289) has been evaluated. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a summary of the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the projects' technical merits. Please note that the Trustee Council typically takes action on deferred projects in December. Submittal of the 98289 results to the Chief Scientist prior to December 1998 would better suit the Council's decision-making schedule.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on all but deferred projects is scheduled for August 13. As mentioned, Council action on deferred projects is expected in December.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation or the project review process, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99289-BAA	Status of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound	S. Murphy/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr.	$232.6	$232.6	$0.0	$0.0	$232.6

Project Abstract

This study will assess the status of the breeding population of black oystercatchers in Prince William Sound nine (1998) and ten (1999) years after the oil spill. Year 1 studies for this project are scheduled for summer 1998, but preliminary results from that initial monitoring effort will not be available until later in FY 98. Because the extent and focus of the Year 2 effort are contingent upon the findings of Year 1, this proposal primarily represents an estimate of the level of effort that will be required to more thoroughly examine persistent impacts to the breeding population of oystercatchers in Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Defer pending evaluation of at least preliminary results from current work on black oystercatchers (Project 98289).

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision pending review of FY 98 effort. This project was funded in FY 98 as a one-year effort to assess the injury status of the black oystercatcher, with the scope of possible future work dependent on the results of the injury assessment. If additional work is deemed necessary following the review, this proposer and the proposer of the competing proposal 99480 will be provided the opportunity to submit Detailed Project Descriptions for specific further work. The 98289 Detailed Project Description calls for results to be written up in January 1999; an earlier date would better suit the Trustee Council's scheduled December 1998 decision meeting on deferred projects.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Dan Esler
Alaska Science Center
USFS-BRD
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6119

RE: Project 99466 / Recovery Status of Barrow's Goldeneyes

Dear Mr. Esler:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council defer a decision on funding Project 99466/Recovery Status of Barrow's Goldeneyes until the Trustee Council has reconsidered the status of injury to the Barrow's goldeneye, which is expected Winter 1998. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a summary of the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the projects' technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on all but deferred projects is scheduled for August 13. Council action on deferred projects is expected in December.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation or the project review process, please call me or Lisa Thomas, the USGS-BRD liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Lisa Thomas, USGS-BRD Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99466	Recovery Status of Barrow's Goldeneyes	D. Esler/USGS-BRD	DOI	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$12.2	$12.1			$12.1

Project Abstract

Although Barrow's goldeneyes are not on the list of resources injured by the oil spill, some recently collected evidence suggests that goldeneyes may have been injured and populations may not be fully recovered. Due to these concerns, this proposal will critically assess the status of recovery of Barrow's goldeneye populations from the oil spill through assemblage and analysis of all existent, relevant data. This will be accomplished through analyses of data collected for other objectives within the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project (/025) and compilation of existing information from other sources. This work will lead to the definition of recovery status, identification of any data gaps limiting our understanding of recovery status or impediments to recovery, and, if warranted, proposal of directed research to fill those gaps during FY 2000 and beyond.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The Barrow's goldeneye is not considered an injured species, although the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project has found fresh evidence of injury to this species. The Trustee Council will reconsider its status, but the work proposed here is probably more substantial than is needed to provide such information. This work might be most appropriate as a follow up to a decision on the Barrow's goldeneye injury status, and might provide a basis for identifying subsequent restoration and research priorities. Defer.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision until the Trustee Council has reconsidered the status of injury to the Barrow's goldeneye, expected Winter 1998. This species is currently not on the Trustee Council's injured resources list, but the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project (/025) has found new evidence of injury.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Dr. Donald Schell, Ph.D.
IMS
University of Alaska Fairbanks
POB 757220
Fairbanks, Ak 99775-7220

Re: Project 99371 / Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers

Dear Dr. Schell:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99371/Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers contingent on approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

Please revise the Detailed Project Description and budget to include the expertise recommended by the Chief Scientist: biochemistry, metabolism and nutrition. Both the revised Detailed Project Description and the revised budget should be submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (Please also provide an electronic copy of the revised Detailed Project Description. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADFG Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total, FY99-02
99371	Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers	D. Schell/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$105.9	$105.9	$101.7	$101.7	$309.3

Project Abstract

A major concern with the use of stable isotope tracers in ecosystem studies is the fidelity with which ratios are transferred up food chains. Use of specific habitats or prey cannot be assessed if geographic gradients in isotope ratios are laid on top of trophic effects and/or prey switching. To remove these problems we will seek specific conservative biomarkers such as essential amino acids or fatty acids that carry isotope ratios unmodified by metabolism. Amino acids labeled with 15N and 13C will be used to follow transamination and carbon relocation during metabolic processes in the seals at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Specific fatty acid isolation and determination of suitability as habitat biomarkers will follow in years two and three of the project.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would provide detailed information at the level of specific amino and fatty acids about isotope effects in trophic transfer and provide insight into which compounds are synthesized and which can be acquired in the diet. The results of this project will improve the trophic tracer methodology. The principal investigator should add additional expertise in biochemistry, metabolism, and nutrition. Fund contingent on receiving a revised proposal that includes this additional expertise.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that include the expertise recommended by the Chief Scientist. The results of this project will enable researchers to better understand the effects of diet on the recovery of harbor seals. [NOTE: Funds for Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees (approximately $4,000) need to be added to this project.]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

John Alden, Ph.D.
Department of Plant, Animal & Soil Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks
POB 757200
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7200

Re: Project 99437 / Selecting and Propagating Local Spruce Resistant to the Tree Killing Spruce Beetle

Dear Dr. Alden:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99437/Selecting and Propagating Local Spruce Resistant to the Tree Killing Spruce Beetle . I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the cost effectiveness of this project given the limited effect of spruce bark beetle infestation on species injured by the oil spill.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADFG Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99437	Selecting and Propagating Local Spruce Resistant to the Tree Killing Spruce Beetle	J. Alden/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$63.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will select and propagate spruce beetle resistant trees in an effort to secure and maintain a long term stable balance in the Picea - spruce beetle relationship. [NOTE: The proposal was not submitted in final form; the cost and duration estimates are rough.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Although most bark beetle impacts are not in coastal forests of prime concern from an EVOS standpoint, the current infestation has had an effect on some injured species (e.g., marbled murrelets). This project aims to breed beetle resistant spruce trees, which can be used to reforest infested areas. Any benefit to EVOS resources would be very long-term (many years), and I question the likelihood that results from this project will lead to a cost effective program that would result in reforestation on the very large, landscape scale affected by the beetles. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the cost-effectiveness of the proposal given the limited effect of spruce bark beetle infestation on species injured by the oil spill.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Gary Thomas, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
POB 705
Cordova, AK 99574

Jay Kirsch
PWS Science Center
POB 705
Cordova, AK 99574

Re: Project 99438-BAA / Post-El Nino Changes in the Pacific Herring and Walleye Pollock Biomass in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Thomas and Mr. Kirsch:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99438/Post-El Nino Changes in the Pacific Herring and Walleye Pollock Biomass in Prince William Sound. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised concerns about the timeliness of this project because the potential long-term EVOS research and monitoring program is not yet developed.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99438-BAA	Post-El Nino Changes in the Pacific Herring and Walleye Pollock Biomass in Prince William Sound	G. Thomas, J. Kirsch/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$211.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will conduct post-El Nino surveys of prespawning herring and pollock in their winter refuges in FY 99. These surveys will aid the assessment of recruitment anomalies that occur after 1997. Estimates of herring and pollock abundances will be provided to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and local fish processors. We will work with these management agencies to evaluate changes occurring to the populations since El Nino.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is worth considering in the broader context of a monitoring program, but, since the dimensions of the potential long-term EVOS research and monitoring program are not yet known, this proposal is premature. Also, prespawning surveys of pollock and Pacific herring are, or certainly are close to, a normal agency management function. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project appears to be premature in that the potential long-term EVOS research and monitoring program is not yet developed.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Jennifer Moss Burns, Ph.D.
Institute of Marine Sciences EMS A316
University of California
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Re: Project 99464 / Physiological Condition of Juvenile Harbor Seals: Impacts of Age and Morphology

Dear Dr. Burns:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99464/Physiological Condition of Juvenile Harbor Seals: Impacts of Age and Morphology. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the proposed methodology of this project and its potential contribution to understanding factors limiting the recovery of harbor seals.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADFG Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99464	Physiological Condition of Juvenile Harbor Seals: Impacts of Age and Morphology	J. Burns/UC Santa Cruz	ADFG	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project	$51.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will characterize the morphological and physiological factors that limit the diving behavior and foraging efficiency of harbor seal pups. The size, body composition, oxygen stores and metabolic rates of healthy wild pups captured within Prince William Sound will be measured, and compared to values determined for animals that enter the Alaska SeaLife Center in need of rehabilitation. These comparisons will allow us to determine when and why harbor seal pups are most vulnerable to ecological disturbances, and to identify factors which have a high probability of impacting successful recruitment. Data collected in this study will be augmented by that collected in Prince William Sound in FY 98, and in California as part of a separate project.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

While this proposal is of academic interest and presented by a well-qualified proposer, I am not convinced that the project will provide useful data regarding the factors controlling harbor seal populations. Previous research does not suggest that diving capability will be compromised in juvenile seals. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the proposed methodology of this project. Furthermore, it is unclear how the results of this study would contribute to an understanding of factors limiting the recovery of harbor seals.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

John A. Musick, Ph.D.
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
POB 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Kenneth J. Goldman, Ph.D.
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
POB 1346
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Re: Project 99408-BAA / Aspects of Salmon Shark Ecology in Alaska Waters

Dear Drs. Musick and Goldman:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99408/Aspects of Salmon Shark Ecology in Alaska Waters. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I recommend against funding the project because gathering information for purposes of population management is more appropriately a normal agency management function.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADFG Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist
Sharon Kent, NOAA

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99408-BAA	Aspects of Salmon Shark Ecology in Alaska Waters	J. Musick, K. Goldman/Virginia Institute of Marine Science	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$283.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Salmon sharks are the apex pelagic fish predator in Gulf of Alaska waters and Prince William Sound, yet their ecological role is largely unknown due to lack of information on their biology and life history. In an effort to define the ecological role of salmon sharks, a cooperative program between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was established in 1997. Results from this study will make a substantial contribution towards better understanding ecosystem function in the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound, and will also foster responsible population management.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a potentially good study, although there are some questions about the methods, including sample design. The salmon shark is not an EVOS-injured species, although work on this species is of importance in an ecological context. Much of the information required ideally should be obtained as a matter of normal agency management. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would study the ecological role of salmon sharks in the Prince William Sound ecosystem. Salmon sharks are not on the Trustee Council's injured resources list. Although they are of ecological interest and there is need to gather basic information in relation to growing fishing pressure, this is an expensive project and gathering basic information for purposes of population management is most appropriately a normal agency management function.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Marda Mayo
Technical & Legal Info Systems
4340 East West Highway, Suite 1120
Bethesda, MD 20814

Re: Project 99515 / Lower Kenai Peninsula Regional Chronic Marine Oil Pollution Project

Dear Ms. Mayo:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99515/Lower Kenai Peninsula Regional Chronic Marine Oil Pollution Project. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I recommend against funding the project because there is no evidence that the proposal has been well coordinated with affected communities and budget detail is lacking.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Alex Viteri with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Alex Viteri, ADEC Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99515	Lower Kenai Peninsula Regional Chronic Marine Oil Pollution Project	M. Mayo/TLI Systems, Inc.	ADEC	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$200.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This two-year community pilot planning and implementation project will reduce, control, and prevent chronic marine oil pollution, such as discharges of oily bilge water or pollution from other oil uses discharging into the coastal areas. Focus areas include Seward, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Seldovia, with participation by Homer and Kenai. Control options include collection facilities including a collection boat, separators, filters, and oil burners. The purpose is to ensure that marine areas of the lower Kenai Peninsula affected by the oil spill are not further weakened by continuing oil contamination, and to improve and protect the marine environment of the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would apply proven waste management planning efforts to the lower Kenai Peninsula area. This proposal does not appear to have been extensively coordinated with the local communities (significant overlap with Project 99514 is noted). Budget detail is lacking. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Although the concepts presented in the proposal may have merit, there is no evidence that the proposal has been well coordinated with affected communities and budget detail is lacking.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Audra Brase
NMFS Auke Bay Lab
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

Re: Project 99409 / Investigations of Salmon Shark Diet and Predation on Injured Resources in Prince William Sound
Project 99425 / Description of Rockfish Distribution and Habitat Preference Based on Underwater Video From Prince William Sound and Surrounding Areas

Dear Ms. Brase:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund projects 99409/Investigations of Salmon Shark Diet and Predation on Injured Resources in Prince William Sound and 99425/Description of Rockfish Distribution and Habitat Preference Based on Underwater Video From Prince William Sound and Surrounding Areas. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendations on the projects' technical merits. As you can see, Project 99409 does not sufficiently justify the possible impacts of salmon shark predation and Project 99425 does not present sufficient detail on the content and quality of the videotape to evaluate its usefulness.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your projects, Bruce Wright with NOAA.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99409	Investigations of Salmon Shark Diet and Predation on Injured Resources in Prince William Sound	A. Brase/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$91.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The salmon shark is the predominant large predatory fish species in Prince William Sound. Anecdotal evidence suggests a dramatic increase in salmon shark biomass within the oil spill region in recent years. In areas of high abundance, salmon sharks have the potential to significantly impact a number of spill-injured species in the region. Salmon sharks are known predators of pink salmon, rockfish, and Pacific herring, and are potential predators of marine birds and harbor seals. This study of the spatial and temporal variation in the diets of Prince William Sound salmon sharks will help fill a void in our understanding of the trophic interactions of these sharks with spill injured resources.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Although it is true that we do not understand the feeding habits of salmon sharks in Prince William Sound, this proposal would have been more compelling if existing information on this family of sharks was used to develop a quantitative justification for the importance of these species as apex predators. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would study the diets of salmon sharks. The possible effects of predation by salmon sharks on fish and wildlife injured by the oil spill is of potential interest, but the proposal does not sufficiently justify the possible impacts of this predation based on existing information. As with Project 99408, there also is the issue of the degree to which the needed information is a normal agency management function, especially in view of growing fishing pressure on this species.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99425	Description of Rockfish Distribution and Habitat Preference Based on Underwater Video From Prince William Sound and Surrounding Areas	A. Brase/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$36.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Rockfish are one of the least understood commercially important species in Prince William Sound due to the inaccessibility of their habitat. Submersible videotape exists from a 1989 oil spill damage assessment study and may be a valuable resource for understanding the ecology of rockfish and other demersal species. The videotape from the 1989 study has never been analyzed for the ecological information it may provide. This project will analyze the archived video tapes and accompanying data-sheets and produce a report on rockfish and other demersal species and their association and utilization of both substrate and epifauna.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is potentially worthwhile because of the information it might provide on rockfish habitats. However, without a preliminary characterization of the content and quality of the videotape, there simply is not sufficient information to judge whether this investment is worthwhile. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would provide for the analysis of previously gathered videotape which could aid understanding of rockfish. While this project could improve understanding of rockfish habitat preferences, which would be useful (see Project 99354), there is need for a preliminary characterization of the content and quality of the videotape. This is an investment that should come from the responsible management agencies.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Stephen Bonebrake
City of Soldotna
177 North Birch Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dick Bower, Ph.D.
City of Soldotna
177 North Birch Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Re: Project 99495 / Soldotna Swiftwater Park Recreational Access and Habitat Restoration
Project 99496 / Soldotna Centennial Park Uplands Access Trail

Dear Mr. Bonebrake and Dr. Bower:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99495/Soldotna Swiftwater Park Recreational Access and Habitat Restoration and Project 99496/Soldotna Centennial Park Uplands Access Trail. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendations on the projects' technical merits. As you can see, I recommend against funding Project 99495 because its primary purpose is to accommodate additional users of the Kenai River and therefore would contribute little to restoration of injury from the oil spill. Project 99496 duplicates funding the Trustee Council provided through Project 98180.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your projects, Carol Fries with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

Stan Stamm

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Carol Fries, ADNR Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99495	Soldotna Swiftwater Park Recreational Access and Habitat Restoration	S. Bonebrake, D. Bower/City of Soldotna	ADNR	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$252.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will renovate and expand the existing "volunteer" boardwalk which was installed in 1995 to provide additional protected pedestrian access to designated fishing and viewing stations along the Kenai River. It will also provide a multi-use platform at the boat launch for boat staging and other uses. Finally, foot traffic will be controlled and previously damaged bank areas will be stabilized, restored and protected using a variety of methods intended to provide a naturally functioning riparian zone.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a well thought out and well presented proposal that is consistent with the type of work funded elsewhere in the Kenai watershed by the Trustee Council. While the proposers indicate that closure of the fishery is not feasible and other opportunities for mitigation are limited, this fails to address the larger questions of how far one goes to accommodate more and more users of the Kenai River. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Although this project has the potential to protect habitat from further damage, its primary purpose is to accommodate additional users of the Kenai River and therefore would contribute little to restoration of injury from the spill.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99496	Soldotna Centennial Park Uplands Access Trail	S. Bonebrake, D. Bower/City of Soldotna	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$83.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The Centennial Park Upland Trail project was first proposed as part of the habitat and access improvements project completed in 1997 (Project /180). That project provided habitat restoration, elevated light penetrating walkway at the top of the park's upstream cutbank area, and the three sets of stairs accessing the river bed for angler use. The Upland Trail Project will provide a safe, durable path for campers and day use visitors to reach the bank-top walkway, reducing trampling of the surrounding area and allowing natural revegetation of the disturbed areas.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a well thought out and well presented proposal that is consistent with the type of work funded previously in the Kenai watershed by the Trustee Council. While the proposers indicate that closure of the fishery is not feasible and other opportunities for mitigation are limited, this fails to address the larger questions of how far one goes to accommodate more and more users of the Kenai River. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This request duplicates funding ($45,000) that the Trustee Council provided for the Centennial Park Uplands Trail through Project 98180. Construction is scheduled for late summer/early fall 1998.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Frank Irick
Kueuit Foundation, Inc.
4109 Lynn Drive #109
Anchorage, AK 99508

Re: Project 99517 / Prince William Sound Regional Cultural and Eco-Tourism Center

Dear Mr. Irick:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99517/Prince William Sound Regional Cultural and Eco-Tourism Center. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the proposal has a weak link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives and does not demonstrate collaboration with Native communities in the spill area.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Ken Holbrook with the U. S. Forest Service.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Ken Holbrook, USFS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99517	Prince William Sound Regional Cultural and Eco-Tourism Center	F. Irick/Kueuit Foundation, Inc.	USFS	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$687.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will outline an approach to restore recreation and tourism usage of the wilderness and traditional Native culture in the Prince William Sound region. This will be done by encouraging visitors to come see and appreciate (1) the remaining pristine beauty of the sound and the Native cultures of the area, (2) the history of the oil spill and initial assessment and cleanup activity as well as longer-term resource restoration efforts and the impact of these on all the resources of the area, including the people and traditional lifestyles, and (3) the importance of continuing good stewardship of the natural resources of the area under the planning and control of its residents.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal, which would attempt to restore recreation and tourism through the promotion of tourism and traditional Alaska Native culture, has a weak link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives. In addition, it is difficult to assess how the project would be carried out as it lacks concrete objectives. The necessary collaboration with Native communities and groups is not demonstrated in the proposal. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project has a weak link to restoration objectives for recreation and tourism. Furthermore, the necessary collaboration with Native communities in the spill area is not demonstrated in the proposal.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Kevin D.E. Stokesbury, Ph.D.
UAF-IMS
POB 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775

A.J. Paul, Ph.D.
UAF-IMS
POB 730
Seward, AK 99664-1197

Re: Project 99411 / Juvenile Herring and Walleye Pollock Overwintering During an El Nino Event

Dear Drs. Stokesbury and Paul:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99411/Juvenile Herring and Walleye Pollock Overwintering During an El Nino Event. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, it is unclear how the results of this study would contribute to the restoration of herring.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADFG Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99411	Juvenile Herring and Walleye Pollock Overwintering During an El Nino Event	K. Stokesbury, A.J. Paul/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$199.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

El Nino events are sources of thermal perturbations that marine organisms must adapt to. Year class strength of herring and pollock are strongly influenced by physical and biological conditions occurring during the juvenile phase; overwintering conditions appear to be critical. This project's hypothesis is that the 1998 El Nino event could bring about herring and pollock prey availability fluctuations and shifts in metabolic rates, thus altering nutritional status and survival. This hypothesis will be tested by comparing relative abundance, distribution, whole body energy, and feeding ecology of juvenile herring and pollock in nursery areas before, during, and after the El Nino event.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

While this proposal has significant academic merit and is likely to detect El Nino effects, what this will contribute to our understanding of the variability of year-class strength in herring and pollock is unclear. While preliminary data suggest that overwintering survival is important for herring recruitment, this proposal is unlikely to elucidate mechanisms that will improve our ability to predict year-class strength, except perhaps in the extreme conditions of an El Nino year. The proposal also contains inadequate evidence of coordination with Project 99436/Oceanography of Prince William Sound Bays and Fjords. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. It is unclear how the results of this study would contribute to the restoration of herring.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Kara Merrell
PWSEDC
POB 2353
Valdez, AK 99686

Kevin Hartwell
Wild North Productions
POB 22773
Juneau, AK 99802

Re: Project 99415 / Prince William Sound & Kodiak Waste Management Community Awareness Training Video and Manual

Dear Ms. Merrell and Mr. Hartwell:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99415/Prince William Sound & Kodiak Waste Management Community Awareness Training Video and Manual. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I recommend against funding this project because public information about regional waste management programs should be a routine function for which the program operators (i.e., the participating cities and villages) are responsible.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Alex Viteri with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Alex Viteri, ADEC Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99415	Prince William Sound/Kodiak Waste Management Community Awareness Training Video and Manual	K. Merrell/PWSEDC, K. Hartwell/Wild North Productions	ADEC	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$81.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will develop a community awareness video to facilitate implementation of the Prince William Sound Waste Management Plan (Project /115) and the Kodiak Island Borough Master Waste Management Plan (Project /304). The need for an awareness and training program to help villagers make use of new waste management procedures and the new drop-off sites is a logical extension of the waste management plans. Affected villages include Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Chiniak, Chenega Bay, and Tatitlek.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Training facility operators and encouraging use of waste management facilities are essential if restoration objectives are to be advanced. However, it is not clear that a video and manual are the most effective means of providing needed training and encouragement. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Public information about the Sound Waste Management Plan (Project /115) should be a routine operations cost. The cities and villages in Prince William Sound have committed themselves to operate and maintain the EVOS stations and used oil equipment funded by the Trustee Council. With regard to the Kodiak Island Waste Management Plan (Project /304), this proposal is premature as the plan has not yet been implemented.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Wes Bucher
CFMD
ADF&G
3298 Douglas Street
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 99139A2 / Port Dick Creek Tributary Restoration and Development

Dear Mr. Bucher:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99139A2/Port Dick Creek Tributary Restoration and Development. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. Please note that both the Chief Scientist and I are encouraging you to prepare and submit a manuscript to a peer reviewed journal in FY 99.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99139A2	Port Dick Creek Tributary Restoration and Development	W. Bucher/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 6 yr. project	$85.8	$85.8	$47.0	$10.0	$147.8

Project Abstract

This project will restore the native Port Dick Creek salmon stocks which were exposed to moderate to heavy oiling. Actual restoration of the spawning habitat took place in June 1996. Natural colonization rates were adequate to fully seed the newly restored spawning habitat. Water temperature, water level, salinity, and stream velocity will be monitored as these parameters are well correlated in the literature with spawning success and egg-to-fry survival. Additional sedimentologic parameters (bedload transport, accumulated sediments, and gravel/cobble transport rates) will also be analyzed. These activities as well as evaluation studies will be conducted annually from FY 96 to FY 2000, with possible extension of minor monitoring through FY 02 for streambed stability research.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a solid example of a practical fisheries restoration and enhancement project. It has successfully created salmon habitat which had previously been destroyed. The basic observations of geomorphology and hydrology, and particularly the stability of the streambed, is something that has not been well addressed in the scientific literature on salmon restoration. Also, the partioning of effects between fresh and marine survival helps determine the effectiveness of stream restoration. The additional season of monitoring is appropriate. However, I encourage the investigators to include in their FY 99 work preparation and submission of a manuscript to a peer reviewed journal. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project will continue to evaluate the effects of improvements on Port Dick Creek, which are designed to increase available spawning habitat and thus provide additional pink and chum salmon for harvest as a replacement for salmon lost in the oil spill. In the spring of 1997, the first year the number of fry produced by the project was measured, field staff enumerated a combined total of 324,889 pink and chum fry from the creek, which resulted in an estimated egg-to-fry survival rate of 42%. In FY 99, monitoring of spawning success, and monitoring of streambed stability to ensure optimal spawning habitat over the long term, will continue in order to evaluate project success. Also in FY 99, the principal investigator is encouraged to prepare and submit a manuscript to a peer reviewed journal.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Kathryn Frost
Division of Wildlife Conservation
ADF&G
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1559

Re: Project 99064 / Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor Seals in Prince William Sound

Dear Ms. Frost:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99064/Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor Seals in Prince William Sound contingent on approval of a reduced budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office has received a revised budget for this project that makes most of the changes indicated in my preliminary recommendation, that is, deleting one trip to Anchorage for a technical review session and reducing the FY 2000 cost to the level projected in the FY 98 Work Plan ($130,000). The revised budget describes the FY 01 budget as "unknown" whereas the FY 98 Work Plan projected that no further funding would be required after FY 00. I will take the revised budget into account when formulating my final recommendation on this project. Thank you for your prompt response to my concerns.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Stamm

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99064	Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor Seals in Prince William Sound	K. Frost/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 6 yr. project	$264.8	$264.3	$130.0	$0.0	$394.3

Project Abstract

This project will monitor the status of harbor seals in Prince William Sound and investigate the hypothesis that food limitation to pups and juveniles is causing the ongoing decline. Aerial surveys will be conducted during molting to determine whether the population continues to decline, stabilizes, or increases. Seal pups will be satellite-tagged to describe and compare their movements, hauling out, and diving behavior to older seals and seals in other areas. Deuterium oxide will be used to examine annual variations in the nutritional status of pups and yearlings, as indicated by body fat content. Fatty acids analysis will be conducted on recent and archived blubber samples and mathematical models developed to estimate seal diets and whether they have changed since the 1970s.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This continuing project is providing valuable information to assess the recovery of harbor seals. The fatty acid research has begun to elucidate trophic trends, but needs more groundtruthing with laboratory experiments using captive animals (see Project 99371). If juvenile mortality is the key factor influencing recruitment, past experience from other areas suggest it will be difficult to measure directly. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of a revised budget that (a) slightly reduces the FY 99 budget to delete one trip to Anchorage for a technical review session and (b) reduces estimated costs for FY 00 and FY 01 to those projected in the FY 98 Work Plan. This project will help explain the long-term decline in harbor seals in Prince William Sound. The results of the study will enable resource managers, subsistence users, and others to focus their efforts and concern on the most probable causes of harbor seal population decline.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Brad A. Andres, Ph.D.
Nongame Migratory Bird Management
USFWS
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6119

RE: Project 99480 / Abundance and Reproductive Success of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Andres:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council defer a decision on funding project 99480/Abundance and Reproductive Success of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound until preliminary results from the work currently underway on black oystercatchers (Project 98289) is reviewed. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a summary of the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the projects' technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on all but deferred projects is scheduled for August 13. Council action on deferred projects is expected in December.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation or the project review process, please call me or Catherine Berg, the USFWS liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, USFWS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99480	Abundance and Reproductive Success of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound	B. Andres/USFWS	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$36.1		$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The black oystercatcher was determined to be injured by the oil spill and the status of its recovery is unknown. This project will survey shorelines on Knight, Green, and Montague islands to determine breeding pair occupancy and productivity. This information will be compared with data gathered from 1991 to 1993 along the same shorelines. Additional information will be collected on predator densities and invertebrate prey densities to determine the influence of these factors on occupancy and productivity. Data collected in 1999 will demonstrate recovery of black oystercatchers if (1) more pairs are occupying Knight Island in 1999 than in 1993, (2) the population on Green Island is increasing or stable, and (3) productivity is similar, when accounting for predation pressure and food availability, between Green and Knight islands.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Defer pending evaluation of at least preliminary results from current work on black oystercatchers (Project 98289).

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer pending review of Project 98289 results, which was funded in FY 98 as a one-year effort to assess the injury status of the black oystercatcher. If additional work is deemed necessary following the review, this proposer and the proposer of the competing proposal 99289 will be provided the opportunity to submit Detailed Project Descriptions for specific further work. The 98289 Detailed Project Description calls for results to be written up in January 1999; an earlier date would better suit the Trustee Council's scheduled December 1998 decision meeting on deferred projects.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Daniel Pauly, Ph.D.
Fisheries Centre
University of BC
2204 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC V6G 1Z4 CANADA

Stuart L. Pimm, Ph.D.
University of Tennessee
569 Dabney Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996-1610

RE: Project 99330-BAA / Mass-Balance Models of Trophic Fluxes in EVOS-Impacted Areas

Dear Drs. Pauly and Pimm:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99330/Mass-Balance Models of Trophic Fluxes in EVOS-Impacted Areas contingent on approval of a revised budget that addresses the Prince William Sound model only. I am recommending that a decision on funding the Cook Inlet/Shelikoff Strait model be deferred until results of the Prince William Sound model are presented this fall. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office has not developed a cost estimate for the Prince William Sound component alone. Our estimate of the overall budget for work on both models in FY 99 (Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet/Shelikoff Strait) is $165,500, including agency general administration. You should work from this number in developing your revised budget. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.) Enclosed is a list of items considered in the review of your budget which may help you prepare a revised budget.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13. The Council will consider funding of deferred projects in December 1998.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

mm/raw

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99330-BAA	Mass-Balance Models of Trophic Fluxes in EVOS-Impacted Areas	D. Pauly/UBC, S. Pimm/U. Tenn	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$185.6	$165.2	$0.0	$0.0	$165.2

Project Abstract

This project will construct, validate, and disseminate whole food-web models of Prince William Sound and adjacent marine areas affected by the oil spill. These mass-balance models of flows among trophic levels and among ecosystem components are ideally suited to synthesize the extensive information gathered by various research groups since the spill. The second year of this project will consist of three main components: (1) the production of a CD-ROM for the public domain, incorporating an interactive graphic version of the Prince William Sound trophic model developed during year 1 as well as user-friendly databases on the biology and local/traditional knowledge of the marine organisms of Prince William Sound and beyond; (2) the option of a two-day workshop in late January 1999 devoted to constructing an Ecopath model of the Kenai shelf and outer Cook Inlet, attended by researchers from the Gulf of Alaska region, and (3) extended study and shelf model development by project staff.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is off to a successful start, and it should prove to be a very useful tool for integrating a great deal of data generated by EVOS studies. Application of this tool should allow very worthwhile exploration of possible natural/anthropogenic perturbations that will aid restoration and long-term management. Extension of the project to lower Cook Inlet and Shelikoff Strait is premature, given that there is not yet a first-generation model from Prince William Sound. Fund completion of Prince William Sound component, but defer decision on funds for Cook Inlet/Shelikoff Strait component pending the results of an October 1998 workshop at which results from the Prince William Sound exercise will be presented.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund completion of Prince William Sound model contingent on submittal of budget for only this component; defer decision on initiation of Cook Inlet/Shelikoff Strait model until results of the Prince William Sound model are presented in October 1998. Total budget for both components should not exceed $165,200. This project, through the use of food web modeling techniques, will make an important contribution to the Trustee Council's effort to synthesize research and monitoring results from other Council-funded projects.

99330-BAA

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN REVIEW OF FY 99 BUDGETS

1. Level of funding authorized in FY 98 and projection, at that time, of FY 99 budget. Items budgeted for FY 98 but not implemented should not be funded again in FY 99 unless the proposer can verify that he/she will lapse the "unused" FY 98 funds. Review and note relevant FY 97 audit results.

2. Change in project's scope/direction per Trustee Council and/or Chief Scientist in FY 98 Final Work Plan or subsequent review sessions (e.g., transition to agency funding, duration, close out certain components).

3. Change in project's scope per the Chief Scientist's recommendation (i.e., elimination, revision, or addition of objectives). If a pilot project is seeking expansion, note whether there is adequate information to evaluate the pilot's success. Decisions on some projects will need to be deferred pending fall review or completion of work underway in FY 98.

4. Personal Services: Note if number of months has increased significantly over FY 98 or if number of months appears excessive, e.g. 12 mos. for a close-out and no justification provided. Also note if salary appears excessive relative to scope of work and salaries typically paid agency and university employees for the type of work. Monthly wages for Pauly, Pinn, modeler, ecologist exceed FY 98 levels.

5. Project Management: No funds should be budgeted in the individual project budgets. Project management costs will be addressed in Project 99250.

6. Travel: Note if travel has increased significantly over FY 98 and no justification provided. Includes funding for Alaska PIs, deleted in FY 98.

7. Annual Workshop: For PI and co-PI only, travel and per diem for up to 5 days -- and only if PI/co-PI not located in Anchorage.

8. Other EVOS Reviews/Workshops: Travel and per diem for two days for only those PIs (and co-PIs if appropriate) whose projects will be the subject of a fall review session: SEA (/320), APEX (/163), NVP (/025), clam restoration (/131), seabirds (/144, /159, /289, /338), and the projects underway at the Alaska SeaLife Center (/190, /252, /327, /341, /348). The review session on the SeaLife Center projects will likely be held in Seward; the other review sessions will likely be held in Anchorage.

9. Professional Conferences: One each per PI (and co-PI if appropriate), and with the understanding that the PI will be presenting results of his or her EVOS work or that attendance at the workshop is integral to the project -- and only if the DPD identifies the conference and the reason for attending.

10. Manuscript Preparation: Maximum $1,000 in page costs per project and maximum 1.5 months personnel time per publication -- and only if the DPD indicates that a manuscript will be published (i.e., appear in print) in FY 99 (DPD must also include subject/title of manuscript, name of peer reviewed journal to which will be submitted, and when it will be submitted). Note number of manuscripts for which funding support is requested.

11. Report Writing: No funding on new projects unless the DPD indicates the report will be completed in FY 99 (or rolled into a non-severable contract in FY 99).

12. Equipment: Note purchases of major new equipment for which no justification is provided.

13. Indirect Costs: Office supplies, copying, phones, equipment maintenance and repair, vehicle leasing, software, and training are typically indirect costs. Such costs should be budgeted for separately only if they are incurred because of a specific project and documentation of the expense is maintained. The documentation must demonstrate to a financial auditor that the expense was directly attributable to the project, and was necessary and reasonable. Maintenance and operation of space (i.e., lease costs) are always an indirect cost. Includes secretarial support deleted in FY 98. Also, computer supplies & communications should be covered by indirect. By agreement, University of Alaska indirect rate is limited to 25%.

14. Community Involvement and TEK: Note funds budgeted.

15. Future Years: Note significant changes (from what was projected in the FY 98 Final Work Plan) in FY 2000 and other out-year costs.

16. Other: Note additional, project-specific budget issues that may need to be addressed.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Julie Michaelson
Alaska Natural Heritage Program
University of Alaska Anchorage
707 A Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Keith Boggs
Alaska Natural Heritage Program
University of Alaska Anchorage
707 A Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Project 99394 / Development of Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound

Dear Ms. Michaelson and Mr. Boggs:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99394/Development of Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Trustee Council received several proposals addressing environmentally sensitive area maps, and another proposal (99368) was found to be more directly responsive to the Council's needs.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist,' I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99394	Development of Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound	J. Michaelson, K. Boggs/UAA	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$116.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will develop a database that identifies areas environmentally sensitive to potential oil spills within Prince William Sound. It will provide a tool for use by oil response teams and planners who need detailed information in regard to species rarity and seasonal use of critical habitat areas. The spatial database will be constructed using Arc/Info software and contain approximately 66 data layers. Access to this information will be made available to a broad-based user audience through its distribution over the Internet on the EVOS home page. A series of four seasonal maps (winter, spring, summer, and fall) will be developed, each presenting a broad, regional overview of environmentally sensitive resources. These will be primarily for display purposes and oriented to the general user, similar to seasonal maps produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1988.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is responsive to the *FY 99 Invitation*, and would aid the synthesis and application of these data for restoration and response purposes. The proposers are experienced with building and maintaining computer databases, though they are not directly experienced with environmentally sensitive area maps and standards. This proposal is expensive relative to Project 99368, and it is not clear what the additional funds will produce. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. Although the *FY 99 Invitation* requested proposals for environmentally sensitive area maps, Project 99368 more directly responds to the Trustee Council's need to synthesize and integrate information generated through the EVOS damage assessment and restoration programs.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Edward O. Otis
ADF&G
POB 1402
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 99366 / Improved Salmon Escapement Enumeration Using Remote Video and Time-Lapse Recording Technology

Dear Mr. Otis:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99366/Improved Salmon Escapement Enumeration Using Remote Video and Time-Lapse Recording Technology. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised concerns about the scientific design of this project, as well as its cost effectiveness.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with ADFG.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99366	Improved Salmon Escapement Enumeration Using Remote Video and Time-Lapse Recording Technology	E. Otis/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$60.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Salmon resources and services within the spill area, and particularly within Prince William Sound, were injured by the oil spill and have not fully recovered. To monitor the recovery of salmon stocks in the spill area and improve escapement information used to set spawning escapement goals, this project will develop remote video and time-lapse recording technology for enumerating salmon escapement. Remote video has the potential to provide accurate, archivable documentation of salmon escapements well beyond the capacity of aerial survey indices, and well below the cost of weir and sonar projects. Videotapes can be retrieved and reviewed weekly to facilitate in-season management of commercial fisheries.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The goal of this project, which is to improve the accuracy of estimates of spawner abundance as a management tool, is worthy. However, the proposal lacks a design that includes an independent check on video counts with another method. Such data should be available through direct counting at the weir where this work is proposed. The proposal also would be more cost effective if the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were to continue to support the operation of the weir and request from the Trustee Council only support of the video-based portion of the work. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. This project would establish new techniques for estimating spawner abundance that could potentially advance salmon management. However, the proposal lacks important measures of effectiveness.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Deborah Rudis
USFWS
3000 Vintage Blvd, #201
Juneau, AK 99801-7100

RE: Project 99362 / Intertidal Invertebrate and Vegetation Communities Associated with NOAA Environmental Sensitive Index Mapping Types in Southeast Alaska

Dear Ms. Rudis:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99362/Intertidal Invertebrate and Vegetation Communities Associated with NOAA Environmental Sensitive Index Mapping Types in Southeast Alaska. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the scientific design of this project.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Catherine Berg with the USFWS.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, USFWS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99362	Intertidal Invertebrate and Vegetation Communities Associated with NOAA Environmental Sensitive Index (ESI) Mapping Types in Southeast Alaska	D. Rudis/USFWS	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$20.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Sensitive Index (ESI) maps used during the oil spill were found to commonly have inaccurate shoreline typing and minimal intertidal zone biological data. Preparation of ESI maps for Southeast Alaska in 1990 included a ground-truthing effort by Department of Interior and Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists. Data were collected from 167 sites and 488 plots for the ten ESI types in this region. These data have not been collated or analyzed. This project will put these data into a usable format and statistically determine if there are discreet intertidal communities for each ESI type. An appendix including tables of intertidal community species assemblages will be developed; an additional appendix with subsistence/traditional use information will be developed by a Southeast tribal biologist. These appendices will be available electronically and as hard copy.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal raises significant technical questions related to sampling and statistics. The geographic focus of the project is completely outside the spill area. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. Although the *FY 99 Invitation* requested proposals for environmentally sensitive area maps, Project 99368 more directly responds to the Trustee Council's need to synthesize and integrate information generated through the EVOS damage assessment and restoration programs. In addition, although this project could improve the intertidal classifications on the environmentally sensitive area maps, for this information to be useful to Project 99368 it would need to be available prior to FY 99, not by the end of FY 99 as proposed in the Detailed Project Description.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Jennifer Allen
PWS Science Center
POB 705
Cordova, AK 99574

R. Ted Cooney
UAF/IMS
POB 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: Project 99361-BAA / Dynamic Graphical Techniques for Ecosystem Synthesis, Communication and Product Delivery

Dear Ms. Allen and Dr. Cooney:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99361/Dynamic Graphical Techniques for Ecosystem Synthesis, Communication and Product Delivery. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I am recommending that some of the project objectives be reconsidered in future years.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with NOAA.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99361-BAA	Dynamic Graphical Techniques for Ecosystem Synthesis, Communication and Product Delivery	J. Allen/PWSSC, T. Cooney/UAF	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$95.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

As the tenth anniversary of the oil spill approaches, there is an increasing need for information synthesis, translation, and communication. Transfer of ecosystem-level research results to the public, resource managers, policy makers and the wider scientific community remains a critical challenge. A number of techniques developed within the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA, Project /320) have proven useful in this context. This project will extend selected SEA technologies to support the broader synthesis tasks of the Trustee Council's research program. The proposed work will complement existing synthesis efforts by focusing on graphical approaches, including advanced computer imaging and presentation technology.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

In general, this project has the potential to address important synthesis objectives and link multiple elements of the restoration program. The principal investigators are very strong, and the presentation of SEA (Project /320) results at the 1998 Restoration Workshop was an example of how sophisticated scientific information can be conveyed to the public in an exciting fashion. The specific aspects of this proposal, however, are not particularly compelling at this time. Some components seem unnecessary (e.g., providing additional funds for a SEA presentation at the 10th Anniversary Symposium), while other aspects are premature (e.g., extension of SEA techniques to the potential long-term EVOS research and monitoring program, which is not yet defined). Cost is rather high over a three-year period. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The potential for this type of graphical presentation was effectively demonstrated by the proposer at the 1998 Annual Restoration Workshop. However, this project's primary objective in FY 99, development of a presentation on SEA (Project /320) for the 10th Anniversary Symposium, should be funded out of the existing 99320 budget. Some of the other objectives, particularly the application of graphical and web techniques to the Trustee Council's overall synthesis goals, might be reconsidered in future years.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Paul McCollum
POB 2016
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 99335 / Construction and Operation of a Sockeye Hatchery in Nanwalek
Project 99521 / Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Ecology Pilot Study

Dear Mr. McCollum:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund projects 99335/Construction and Operation of a Sockeye Hatchery in Nanwalek and 99521/Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Ecology Pilot Study. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendations on the projects' technical merits. As you can see, Project 99335 was found to have little link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives, as the existing arrangement between Nanwalek and the Port Graham hatchery has achieved reestablishment of the sockeye return to Nanwalek. The Chief Scientist has raised concerns about the scientific design of Project 99521.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99335	Construction and Operation of a Sockeye Hatchery in Nanwalek	P. McCollum/Nanwalek	ADFG	New		$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will construct a sockeye hatchery in Nanwalek. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and detailed budget will need to be prepared.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Even if the proposal were to be fully developed, the link to the restoration program is likely to be weak. In addition there are major technical hurdles that need to be overcome, as sockeye are prone to a virulent and fatal contagious disease (IHN) that makes them very difficult to culture in a hatchery environment. Such hatcheries have serious and expensive problems, so I recommend against this project. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would provide funds to develop a sockeye salmon hatchery in the Alaska Native village of Nanwalek. The project is intended to replace subsistence and commercial fishery resources lost due to the oil spill by increasing sockeye salmon production in lower Cook Inlet. However, the existing arrangement between Nanwalek and the Port Graham hatchery has achieved reestablishment of the sockeye return to Nanwalek. Construction of a hatchery in Nanwalek at this point has little link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99521	Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Ecology Pilot Study	P. McCollum/Nanwalek	ADFG	New	$112.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Improving existing knowledge of the survival mechanism of pink and sockeye salmon in southeastern lower Cook Inlet is the main goal of this project. The pilot study will sample outmigrating salmon smolts for growth, marks (coded wire tags), stomach contents (for prey species identification) and timing (days since release or outmigration). By sampling these variables the study will document the growth rate and outmigration timing of these two important salmon species in the spring of 1998. Opportunistic sampling of smolts will occur when feasible with hopes of learning important staging areas and preferred beach habitat for both species. Plankton and sea surface temperature records will be collected for possible future correlation with observed growth. Both pink and sockeye salmon are essential components of the subsistence and commercial fisheries in the Port Graham and English Bay drainage.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The goals of this proposal include a literature review of ecological factors that control marine survival in pink and sockeye salmon in Alaska and Canada, a characterization of preferred marine habitat, and documentation of growth rates of the two species in portions of lower Cook Inlet. The proposal does not identify the principal investigator and their qualifications. A sampling plan for the field work is not provided, nor is there any detail on how the very large literature on Pacific salmon will be analyzed and synthesized. The Trustee Council has invested substantially in studies of juvenile salmon marine survival through the SEA project (/320). This proposal does not show a link to SEA and other related projects. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Lisa M. Rotterman, Ph.D.
Enhydra Research
44140 Mui Pl, Apt 8
Kaneohoe HI 99503

RE: Project 99223-BAA / Evaluation of Sea Otter Population Structure, Population Condition, and Habitat Use in Prince William Sound and Adjacent Areas

Dear Dr. Rotterman:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99223/Evaluation of Sea Otter Population Structure, Population Condition, and Habitat Use in Prince William Sound and Adjacent Areas. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I am recommending that this project be reconsidered in FY 2000 once the four manuscripts funded in FY 97 are completed, peer reviewed, and submitted for publication.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with NOAA.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99223-BAA	Evaluation of Sea Otter Population Structure, Population Condition, and Habitat Use in Prince William Sound and Adjacent Areas	L. Rotterman/Enhydra Research	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$87.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide information about the population structure, movements, age- and sex-specific survival, habitat use, rehabilitation, distribution and abundance, and carcass persistence of sea otters in Prince William Sound and adjacent areas. Findings from this project will be used to (1) evaluate past, current and future monitoring and assessment study techniques and design; (2) establish benchmarks against which to gauge current status relative to recovery; (3) formulate future spill response; (4) interpret monitoring and damage assessment results and modeling of sea otter recovery; (5) evaluate the impacts of restoration activities on sea otter recovery; and (6) elucidate processes (e.g., immigration or emigration) impacting the course of recovery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would analyze valuable data that have the potential to make a contribution to restoration objectives. However, in FY 97 the proposers were funded to write four scientific papers and should focus their efforts on completing that previous project (97223). Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The manuscripts proposed under this project could make a valuable contribution to our understanding of the injury and recovery of sea otters. However, the manuscripts funded under this proposer's Project 97223 are still in progress. This proposal may be reconsidered in FY 2000 once the four manuscripts funded in FY 97 are completed, peer reviewed, and submitted for publication.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Ernest L. Brannon, Ph.D.
University of Idaho
Aquaculture Research Institute
Moscow, ID 83843

RE: Project 99491-BAA / Effects of Natural Oil Seeps on Pink Salmon Incubation Success and Condition

Dear Dr. Brannon:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99491/Effects of Natural Oil Seeps on Pink Salmon Incubation Success and Condition. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the proposal has a weak link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99491-BAA	Effects of Natural Oil Seeps on Pink Salmon Incubation Success and Condition	E. Brannon/Univ. Idaho	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$206.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Two principle differences of opinion exist about the effects oil had on incubating pink salmon embryos in Prince William Sound streams. Significant progress can be made toward understanding the effects of oil on pink salmon by examining incubating and adult pink salmon in streams that have a history of exposure to oil from natural oil seeps. Research examining the effects of natural oil seeps on pink salmon is designed to assess its effect on egg viability, embryo survival, and molecular aberrations under conditions of persistent exposure of previous generations. It is anticipated that this study will serve to help in understanding the immediate and long-term effects of oil on pink salmon subject to oil spills.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This well written proposal demonstrates a good understanding of the problem. However, studying salmon in western Alaska that may be evolutionarily adapted to oil exposure under different exposure regimes will not necessarily provide data relevant to the crude oil exposures that occurred during the oil spill. There are also questions about the feasibility of the project as proposed, including how the PAH doses will be determined. Restoration objectives will be better served by examining the results of laboratory exposures or hatchery experiments simulating natural stream environments. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. This proposal, which would study streams on the Alaska Peninsula with natural oil seeps, would not provide data relevant to the crude oil exposures that pink salmon embryos faced during the oil spill.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Sven O. Ebbesson, Ph.D.
SFOS
University of Alaska Fairbanks
POB 703
Seward, AK 99664

RE: Project 99489 / Crude Oil Exposure Effects on Salmon Smolts

Dear Dr. Ebbesson:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99489/Crude Oil Exposure Effects on Salmon Smolts. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist found that the project would have limited applicability to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Claudia Slater with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

mm/raw

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99489	Crude Oil Exposure Effects on Salmon Smolts	S. Ebbesson/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project	$105.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Crude oil exposure has previously been shown to alter thyroid hormone levels differently in fish, depending on the species and developmental stage. This project will determine to what extent exposure to crude oil affects neural and endocrine systems during and after smoltification. The normal changes in these systems are vital for survival in the sea and return to natal stream. These studies will provide information regarding the impact, if any, of crude oil exposure on salmon during this critical period of development, which may explain survival and return-rate problems following the oil spill.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This study proposes to examine the effects of crude oil on brain development and smoltification in salmon. The investigators are well qualified neuroendocrinologists. However, the ecotoxicological relevance of the approach is not well established in the proposal. In particular, dosages are not justified and it is not evident that the literature of oil toxicology has been integrated into this proposal. Thus, there is limited applicability to the EVOS restoration program. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. This project has little relation to the restoration objectives adopted by the Trustee Council.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Gary Thomas, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
POB 705
Cordova, AK 99574

Vince Patrick, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
POB 705
Cordova, AK 99574

Kenric E. Osgood, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
POB 705
Cordova, AK 99574

RE: Project 99467-BAA / Assessment of the Interannual Variability of Pelagic Production in Prince William Sound

Dear Drs. Thomas, Patrick and Osgood:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99467/Assessment of the Interannual Variability of Pelagic Production in Prince William Sound. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist states that the project is premature until the modeling products currently being developed under Project /320 (SEA) are available and have been reviewed.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with NOAA.

Sincerely,

Stanley E. Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99467-BAA	Assessment of the Interannual Variability of Pelagic Production in Prince William Sound	G. Thomas, V. Patrick, K. Osgood/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$272.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The Sound Ecosystem Assessment (Project /320) has developed the first generation of models to predict pink salmon population changes as a result of natural causes so that they can be separated from anthropogenic causes, such as oil spills. The two models developed are a physical-biological model (circulation and plankton) and a nekton model. This project will initiate a program that will systematically measure weather conditions, physical conditions and plankton for input to the physical-biological model, and will measure macrozooplankton and pelagic nekton as input to the nekton model. These data will be collected with remote sensors and on a vessel of opportunity to make the model-based monitoring very cost-effective. These data are essential for the development of second generation models that can be used by management to now-cast population changes of key resources in Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project proposes to build upon the first generation of models developed under SEA (Project /320) to predict pink salmon population changes, but these models have yet to be produced by SEA. I find it difficult to invest in development of second-generation models until the results of developing first-generation models are available. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. This proposal is premature given that the results of the first generation of SEA (Project /320) models are not yet available.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 17, 1998

Richard D. Ewing, Ph.D.
Biotech Research & Consulting
2340 SE Ryan Street
Corvallis, OR 97333

RE: Project 99402-BAA / Weathered Oil Effects on Sediment Microorganisms

Dear Dr. Ewing:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99402/Weathered Oil Effects on Sediment Microorganisms. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the proposal has a weak link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee

Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99402-BAA	Weathered Oil Effects on Sediment Microorganisms	R. Ewing/Biotech, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$106.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will examine the biomass and composition of microorganisms in beach sediments polluted with weathered oil and compare these results with control areas with similar sediments but with no residual oil. Biomass and composition will be determined with a series of microbiological, biochemical and chemical measurements, including most probable number analysis of bacteria, oxygen consumption, chlorophyll content, ATP determinations, adenylate charge measurements, and electron transport system measurements of sediments. Analyses will be correlated with the amount of oil present, water temperature, substrate type, and season.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would assess microbial biomass, composition, and biological activity in relation to concentration of oil in beach sediments. Although the principal investigator is well qualified, this proposal does not take into account prior microbial studies funded by the Trustee Council, nor does it contribute to any important restoration objectives. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. This proposal has little link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Leslie Holland-Bartels, Ph.D.
USGS BRD
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6119

RE: Project 99025 / Mechanisms of Impact and Potential Recovery of Nearshore Vertebrate Predators (NVP)

Dear Dr. Holland-Bartels:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99025/NVP contingent on approval of a reduced budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Chief Scientist estimates a budget of $500,000 in FY 99 should be adequate to properly close out this project. This funding level represents an increase over the expected funding of $450,000 but a substantial reduction from your request. One suggestion is to reduce the number of manuscripts (and the related personnel time) proposed for FY 99. The attached budget review sheet identifies some small reductions that should also be considered.

The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Lisa Thomas, the USGS-BRD liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Lisa Thomas, USGS-BRD Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99025-CLO	Mechanisms of Impact and Potential Recovery of Nearshore Vertebrate Predators (NVP)	L. Holland-Bartels, et al/USGS-BRD	DOI	Cont'd 5th yr. 5 yr. project	$706.2	$500.0	$0.0	$0.0	$500.0

Project Abstract

FY 99 is the close-out year for the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project. Funds for this year are for data analysis, final report writing, manuscript preparation, poster preparation, and presentation of results at professional meetings. The Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project makes an integrated assessment of trophic, health, and demographic factors across a suite of apex predators injured by the spill to determine mechanisms constraining recovery and to improve knowledge of the status of recovery. Primary hypotheses are: (1) Recovery of nearshore resources injured by EVOS is limited by recruitment processes; (2) Initial and/or residual oil in benthic habitats and in or on benthic prey organisms has had a limiting effect on the recovery of benthic foraging predators; and (3) EVOS-induced changes in populations of benthic prey species have influenced the recovery of benthic foraging predators.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Proper closeout of this project, which is fundamental to evaluation of progress toward EVOS recovery objectives, is essential. The project has potential to synthesize important questions that will be very timely for the 10th anniversary. The budget increase of $250,000 over the expected $450,000 is not well justified in the proposal. Absent additional justification, I recommend funding of $500,000.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout of this project contingent on budget reduction. This project will provide funds for data analysis and report/manuscript writing to close out the four-year field effort undertaken to determine whether sea otters, river otters, harlequin ducks, and pigeon guillemots are recovering from the oil spill and whether recruitment processes, continuing exposure to oil, or food availability are limiting recovery. One way to reduce the budget would be to priority rank the 61 manuscripts called for in the Detailed Project Description, and limit the number of manuscripts prepared in FY 99; the Trustee Council may consider funding additional manuscripts in FY 2000.

99025 / NVP
BUDGET REVIEW SHEET

1. Salary Increases from FY 98 -- please verify
   Jewett's pay has increased $1.0/mo. (from $7.7 to $8.7; result is $6.0 add'l cost)
   Holland-Bartel's data manager's pay has increased $.8/mo. (so $9.6 add'l cost)
   Bowyer's pay has increased $.9/mo. (so $2.0 add'l cost)
   L. Duffy's pay has increased $3.5/mo. (so $3.5 add'l cost)

2. Salary Discrepancies

Ballachey	99025	$5.5/mo.
	99423	$5.3/mo.
Esler	99025	$5.6/mo.
	99466	$5.3/mo.
Jewett	99025	$8.7/mo.
	99379	$8.5/mo.
Duffy	99025	$10.6/mo.
	99348	$11.2/mo.
Dean	99025	$7.6/mo.
	99325	$8.0/mo.

3. Conference/Workshop Attendance (and other travel)
   • Budget instructions say DPD must include name and sponsor of conference, when and where conference will be held, and PI's anticipated role in conference. The most TC will pay for is one conference per PI (and co-PI if appropriate).
   • Per DPD, 2-3 meetings of all PIs may be required for synthesis. The draft final report will be submitted for peer review 9/30/99.

Sea otter	$3.0 / 2 trips	Unspecified - Ballachey/Bodkin
Harlequin	$2.1 / 1 trip	Unspecified - Esler
Clams	$3.6 / 4 trips	Unspecified - Jewett
Mussels	$1.8 / 2 trips	Fall NVP meeting, 10th Anniv. - O'Clair
River otter	$15.0/11 trips	Unspecified, other than 2 "professional meetings" each for Bowyer, Duffy, and 2 fellows. Per diem rate not specified (total $6.7).
?(U.W.)	$4.5 / 4 trips	2 conferences unspecified; also 2 people to workshop - Fukuyama, who is not listed as a PI in the DPD
Sea urchins	$2.1 / 3 trips	Unspecified - Dean
Proj.Leader	$4.2	3 trips Wisconsin-Anchorage - Holland-Bartels

4. Manuscript Publication Costs

Budget instructions say $1.0 in page costs per project (or subproject, in this case) for manuscripts that will appear in print in FY 99.

Sea otter	$1.0 (Bodkin/Ballachey)
Harlequin	$1.0 (Esler)
Intertidal	$1.0 (O'Clair)
River otter	$3.0 (Bowyer/Duffy) (also $1.9 presentation supplies and $2.9 duplication/ computer fees)
Clams	$1.0 (Fukuyama)

5. Other

- Bowyer's budget (UAF contract with USGS-BRD): indirect is less than the agreed-to 25% for the University (25% would be $19.7; only $11.8 is requested).
- Fukuyama's budget (UW contract with USGS-BRD): no indirect is included (FY 98 rate was 15%).
- Jewett's budget shows GA where should show indirect; unclear whether GA is included in total.
- Fukuyama's budget: $2.0 for phone/fax/photocopy should be covered by indirect rate.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Robert Spangler
USFS
POB 129
Girdwood, AK 99587

Re: Project 99383 / Distribution Study of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden in Prince William Sound

Dear Mr. Spangler:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99383/Distribution Study of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden in Prince William Sound. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I recommend that the current work on cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden (Project \145) be completed and evaluated before additional work on these species is considered.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Ken Holbrook with the USFS.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Ken Holbrook, USFS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99383	Distribution Study of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden in Prince William Sound	R. Spangler/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$25.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Significant gaps in knowledge exist regarding the distribution of cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden, particularly in western Prince William Sound. Without such basic information, determining the effect of the spill or implementing prudent management techniques for recovery is very difficult. This project will investigate watersheds that have a high likelihood of containing these species to further describe the population distributions. The results of this study, when combined with these other findings, will provide a more complete picture of these species in Prince William Sound and will greatly assist managers in future restoration and conservation efforts.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project identifies an important issue of additional fishing pressure on cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden in western Prince William Sound, and proposes a cost-effective assessment of populations. However, the sampling is likely to be informed by Project /145, and so this project should not go forward until the final results of Project /145 are available. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would identify additional streams with cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden in Prince William Sound. However, the current work on these species in Project \145 must be closed out and evaluated before there is consideration of any additional work.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

David Cameron Duffy, Ph.D.
Pacific Coop, Dept of Botany
University of Hawaii
3190 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Project 99163 / APEX: Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska

Dear Dr. Duffy:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99163/APEX. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Catherine Berg, USFWS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99163	APEX: Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska	D. Duffy/Paumanok Solutions	NOAA	Cont'd 6th yr. 7 yr. project	$1,986.1	$1,986.1	$900.1	$0.0	$2,886.2

Project Abstract

This project uses seabirds as probes of the trophic (foraging) environment of Prince William Sound and compare their reproductive and foraging biologies, including diet, with similar measurements from Cook Inlet, an area with apparently a more suitable food environment. These measurements will be compared with hydroacoustic, aerial, and net sampling of fish to calibrate seabird performance with fish distribution and abundance. This will allow a determination of the extent to which food limits the recovery of seabirds from the oil spill. Historical data from a variety of sources will be used to detect shifts in forage fish abundance and to test hypotheses explaining such shifts.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is producing important results that can have immediate application to management and restoration of injured species. This project was recently the subject of a detailed scientific review. Key technical issues raised in the review include (1) adequate groundtruthing of aerial surveys and (2) refocusing the acoustic program on the key issues of multi-species assessment and herring target strength determination. Delays in supplying properly scaled hydroacoustic estimates of fish abundance are a major concern for principal investigators in making their conclusions about fish-bird relationships. These issues should be addressed in FY 99. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. The APEX project is investigating the regulation of seabird populations in relation to the availability and quality of forage fish, such as herring and sand lance. This ecosystem-scale project has important implications for the recovery of several seabird species injured by the oil spill, and it already has yielded insights about long-term changes in the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem. The project leadership has made good use of adaptive management in FY 98, although there continue to be some technical concerns, particularly in regard to the analysis and application of hydroacoustic data on fish abundance. The APEX project leaders also must plan now for the orderly closeout of this work in FY 00, not in FY 01 as is indicated by some of the subproject principal investigators.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Robert H. Day, Ph.D.
ABR, Inc.
POB 80410
Fairbanks, AK 99708-0410

Re: Project 99287-BAA / Seabird-Oceanographic Relationships in the Northern Gulf of Alaska: Integration with NSF Study "GLOBEC"
Project 99442-BAA / Population Trends and Productivity of Kittlitz's Murrelet in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Day:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund projects 99287-BAA/Seabird-Oceanographic Relationships in the Northern Gulf of Alaska: Integration with NSF Study "GLOBEC" and 99442-BAA/Project 99442-BAA / Population Trends and Productivity of Kittlitz's Murrelet in Prince William Sound. I have enclosed copies of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendations on the projects' technical merits. As you can see, Project 99287-BAA is not directly related to current recovery objectives. With regard to Project 99442-BAA, I recommend that the current work on Kittlitz's murrelets (Project \142) be completed and evaluated before additional work is undertaken on this species.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bruce Wright with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99287-BAA	Seabird-Oceanographic Relationships in the Northern Gulf of Alaska: Integration with NSF Study "GLOBEC"	R. Day/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$222.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will conduct a two-year study of seabirds in the Northern Gulf of Alaska (Aialik Bay to Montague Island) by using a ship-of-opportunity sampling platform that is being used by the National Science Foundation project "GLOBEC" (Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics), which also will provide access to an extensive series of oceanographic data. The project will identify ecological processes affecting temporal (seasonal and interannual) and geographic variation in the distribution and abundance of seabirds, including species that were injured by the oil spill. It also will be useful to the restoration program by providing data on the year-round status of seabird populations and the processes that influence variation in their numbers.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would take advantage of a "ship of opportunity" to assess numbers, composition, and distribution of seabirds in relation to oceanographic factors along the "Seward line." The principal investigator is very good and the opportunity for additional collaboration with a GLOBEC project (they are funding the ship) is attractive. The proposed work, however, would fit most appropriately in the context of a long-term monitoring and research program, and it makes relatively little contribution in the near-term to the understanding of recovery of seabirds injured by the oil spill. Notwithstanding significant cost sharing by the proposers and GLOBEC, this is an expensive project. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would survey seabirds at sea in relation to oceanographic features in the northern Gulf of Alaska. While this is an excellent opportunity for collaboration with GLOBEC and there is good cost sharing, this project is not directly related to current EVOS recovery objectives. This type of work may be most appropriate in the context of the potential EVOS long-term research and monitoring program and is premature at this time.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99442-BAA	Population Trends and Productivity of Kittlitz's Murrelet in Prince William Sound	R. Day/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$231.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will conduct a fourth and fifth year of investigations on the status and ecology of Kittlitz's murrelet, a rare seabird breeding in glaciated fjords of Prince William Sound. The project will emphasize evaluating population trends and productivity and will continue efforts from our previous project (/142) to evaluate the distribution and abundance, habitat use, and trophic position of this little-known seabird in northwestern Prince William Sound. Given uncertainty about population trends and productivity of this species, additional sampling is required to ensure its long-term conservation.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The proposal would extend current work on Kittlitz's murrelets for another two years. To date, the work on this species has been excellent and is providing useful information on an injured species about which very little is known. The apparent lack of murrelet production in the first two years of this study is of concern. However, the work is very expensive, particularly considering the benefit to only a single species, and I would like to see the current work fully concluded and evaluated. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would add two years to the work in Prince William Sound on Kittlitz's murrelet (Project /142, which is closing out in FY 98). The Kittlitz's murrelet is a small, rare, little-known seabird that was injured by the oil spill. The current project has been very good. However, the current work should be fully closed out and the recovery status of and objectives for this species reevaluated before more work is considered.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

David G. Roseneau
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
2355 Kachemak Drive, Suite 101
Homer, AK 99603-8021

Re: Project 99144A / Common Murre Population Monitoring

Dear Mr. Roseneau:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99144A/Common Murre Population Monitoring. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Catherine Berg, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, USFWS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99144A	Common Murre Population Monitoring	D. Roseneau/USFWS	DOI	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$72.6	$72.6	$72.6	$0.0	$145.2

Project Abstract

This project will recensus the Barren Islands murre colonies in FY 99. The recensus had been scheduled for FY 00 or FY 01. However, returning 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-year-old birds from the strong 1993-96 chick cohorts will provide an excellent opportunity to determine whether population increases documented in FY 97 are continuing, and if they are, to obtain the information needed to satisfy the remaining recovery goal for this injured species in the spill area (a potential finding appropriate for the 10th anniversary of the spill).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Common murres experienced significant mortality at the time of the oil spill, and the Trustee Council has funded a series of studies that have closely monitored the Barren Island colonies to document their recovery status. Previously, the plan had been to conclude Barren Island censuses in FY 97 and to census the Chiswells in FY 98. However, there now is concern about the effects of the current observed mortality of murres in the Gulf of Alaska, especially at a time when young murres born since 1993 (when productivity returned to normal) should now be returning to the colony and being recruited into the breeding population. This is an important time in the recovery of this species, and continued monitoring at the Barren Islands is necessary. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. Murres were severely injured by the oil spill, and this project extends population monitoring of the Barren Islands colonies. Productivity first returned to normal at the Barren Islands in 1993, and there now is concern about the effects of a murre die-off at a time when the young produced since 1993 should be recruited into the breeding population. Thus, this project is important to follow through on the entire sequence of post-spill injury and recovery.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Richard Kocan, Ph.D.
University of Washington
POB 355100
Seattle, WA 98195

Re: Project 99162A, Investigation of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound: Manuscripts/Conference Attendance (Part A)

Dear Dr. Kocan:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99162A/Investigation of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound: Manuscripts & Conference Attendance (Part A). I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99162A	Investigation of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations: Manuscripts/Conference Attendance (Part A)	R. Kocan/Univ. Washington	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 5 yr. project	$58.6	$58.6	$0.0	$0.0	$58.6

Project Abstract

This project will prepare at least five manuscripts dealing with the research activities funded by the Trustee Council under Project /162. At least five additional subjects are covered by the existing data: 1) survival of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus in sea water, 2) the natural history of VHS in wild herring, 3) serologic conversion and immunity in wild herring following an epizootic of VHS, and 4) age-related immunity demonstrated in laboratory-reared herring. Additional publications on the effect of net pens on VHS transmission and the presence of VHS-RNA in wild herring tissues as demonstrated by PCR are anticipated, depending on results of FY 98 studies.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

In many instances, research results gathered in a multiyear project are not properly synthesized. This has been an excellent project and the principal investigators have very good records of achievement in EVOS studies. This material has important implications for herring management and it should be published. This project will accomplish that end. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project , which is closing out in FY 98 (final data analysis and preparation of a final report), has investigated the potential link between oil exposure and disease in herring, and between disease and the herring population decline in Prince William Sound. FY 99 funding will produce a minimum of five manuscripts based on study results related to disease transmission.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Christopher J. Kennedy, Ph.D.
Dept of Bio Sciences
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 CANADA

Re: Project 99162B / Investigation of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound: Manuscripts & Conference Attendance (Part B)

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99162B/Investigation of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound: Manuscripts & Conference Attendance (Part B). I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99162B	Investigations of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations: Manuscripts/Conference Attendance (Part B)	J. Kennedy/Simon Fraser Univ.	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 5 yr. project	$13.4	$13.4	$0.0	$0.0	$13.4

Project Abstract

This project will publish and present manuscripts of the results of Project /162 as they relate to effects of environmental contamination and disease on herring fitness. The effects of viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHS), *Ichthyophonus hoferi*, and hydrocarbon exposure were examined to determine their role in population declines experienced by Pacific herring populations in Prince William Sound in 1993 and 1994. Both adult and juvenile herring were used to determine the effects of biochemistry, immunocompetence, performance and reproduction.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

In many instances, research results gathered in a multiyear project are not properly synthesized and this proposal will accomplish that goal for the several years of work on herring disease. This has been an excellent project and the principal investigators have excellent track records in EVOS studies. This material has important implications for herring management and it should be published so it can be widely available. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project, which is closing out in FY 98 (final data analysis and preparation of a final report), has investigated the potential link between oil exposure and disease in herring, and between disease and the herring population decline in Prince William Sound. FY 99 funding will produce four manuscripts based on study results related to the effect of oil on herring swimming physiology.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Patty Brown-Schwanlenberg
Executive Director
Chugach Regional Resources Commission
4201 Tudor Centre Drive, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508

RE: Project 99131 / Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration

Dear Ms. Brown-Schwalenberg:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council defer a decision on funding Project 99131/Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration until a hatchery site visit and technical review session, tentatively scheduled for Fall 1998, have been conducted. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with a summary of the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on all but deferred projects is scheduled for August 13. Council action on deferred projects is expected in December.

If funds are needed to carry Project 99131 from the end of the current fiscal year (September 30, 1998) to the time when funds are received for deferred projects approved by the Trustee Council (probably January or February 1999), please submit for approval an "interim budget" detailing the projected expenses during this period. I will make recommendations to the Trustee Council on interim budgets in August, with a decision on the balance of project funds being deferred until December. The interim budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert by **July 8, 1997.** (An electronic copy of the interim budget is not needed.)

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation or the project review process, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Stephens

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99131	Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration	P. Brown- Schwalenberg/ CRRC	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 5 yr. project	$285.4	$285.4	$0.0	$0.0	$285.4

Project Abstract

Cost effective procedures for establishing easily accessible subsistence clam populations near Native villages in the oil spill region will be established. In FY 99 the scope of work will be confined to developing effective, standardized techniques for producing littleneck clam seed at the Qutekcak Hatchery and analyzing growth and mortality of this seed placed on the beaches in FY 96, FY 97 and FY 98. Total seeded area during the project will not exceed five hectares. Follow-up research on success of seeding will be conducted. Growout development work will be confined to areas near the Native villages of Tatitlek, Nanwalek and Port Graham.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Defer decision pending site visit and project reivew in Fall 1998.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision pending hatchery site visit and technical review session scheduled for Fall 1998. If funded, FY 99 will be final year of Trustee Council contribution to this project, which is an effort to reestablish local clam populations as replacements for subsistence resources injured by the oil spill. In FY 99, in response to earlier direction from the Trustee Council and the peer reviewers, the emphasis would be on the development of standardized techniques for the hatchery production of littleneck clams and analyzing growth and mortality of the seed planted on beaches in prior years. Additional clam seed would be planted on project beaches (Port Graham, Nanwalek, Tatitlek) in FY 99 in order to maintain the development schedule for reestablishing local populations.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Dan Gillikin
Glacier Ranger District
USFS
POB 129
Girdwood, AK 99587

Re: Project 99043B-CLO, Monitoring of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden Habitat Improvement Structures

Dear Mr. Gillikin:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99043B-CLO contingent on approval of a reduced budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $8,000. This is the FY 99 cost estimated in the FY 98 Work Plan. Neither the Detailed Project Description nor the budget explained the need for additional funding. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Ken Holbrook, the USFS liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Ken Holbrook, USFS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99043B-CLO	Monitoring of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden Habitat Improvement Structures	D. Gillikin/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 6th yr. 6 yr. project	$9.5	$8.0	$0.0	$0.0	$8.0

Project Abstract

This project will prepare the final report and analysis of data collected from 1995 to 1998. Sixty-three habitat improvement structures were installed in 1995 under Project 95043B. At that time there were concerns raised that habitat structures may inadvertently increase coho salmon populations, thereby increasing competitive stress on Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout populations. The final report will address the five working null hypotheses presented in previous proposals to determine if the improvements were a benefit to cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Monitoring the success of the previously installed habitat improvements is necessary to evaluate success. Fund this final year of monitoring.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout of this project contingent on submittal of a reduced budget in the expected amount ($8,000). This project has monitored the effectiveness of habitat improvement structures that were installed in FY 95 to restore and enhance populations of cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden. This information will aid fisheries management in gauging the success of this project and in applying the results to other situations.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Jon Isaacs
Dames & Moore
5600 B Street, Stuie 100
Anchorage, AK 99518

Re: Project 99230 / Valdez Duck Flats Conceptual Management Plan

Dear Mr. Isaacs:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99230/Valdez Duck Flats Conceptual Management Plan. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, I recommend that further work on the Valdez Duck Flats restoration project be considered only after the small parcels on the Flats have been acquired and the City of Valdez has endorsed the concept plan and submitted a comprehensive package that shows cost-sharing and plans for long-term operation and maintenance.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Carol Fries with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR).

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Carol Fries, ADNR Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99230	Valdez Duck Flats Conceptual Management Plan	J. Isaacs/PWSEDC	ADNR	Cont'd 2nd yr. 1 yr. project	$69.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The Valdez Duck Flats Conceptual Management Plan is being completed in FY 98 (Project 97230). Project continuation in FY 99 is dependent on successful acquisition of parcels of property from the University of Alaska and a private owner. However, it is appropriate to initiate design of a monitoring and public information program related to the Duck Flats, sensitivity to impact, and relationship to resources injured in the oil spill. The Prince William Sound Economic Development Council will work with the cooperating agency group, the City of Valdez, the Valdez School district and the Prince William Sound Community College in developing a suitable monitoring and education program.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would explore development of a baseline monitoring project on the Valdez Duck Flats and also further develop concepts related to public education about the value of the Duck Flats as sensitive habitat for EVOS-injured fish and wildlife. The proposal contains some good and worthwhile ideas, but the substance of the proposal is not compelling. In addition, acquisition of key parcels on the Duck Flats has not been brought to closure. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Trustee Council may consider proposals to implement the concept plan for the Valdez Duck Flats (Project 97230) when and if the small parcels on the Duck Flats have been acquired and the City of Valdez has endorsed the plan and submitted a comprehensive package that shows cost-sharing and plans for long-term operation and maintenance.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Glenn A. Seaman
Habitat & Restoration Division
ADF&G
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

RE: Project 99278 / Development of an Ecological Characterization and Site Profile for Kachemak Bay & Lower Cook Inlet

Dear Mr. Seaman:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99278/Development of an Ecological Characterization and Site Profile for Kachemak Bay & Lower Cook Inlet contingent on approval of a revised budget that limits the Trustee Council contribution to objectives 2 and 3, the GIS-based spatial data set and the annotated bibliography. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $60,000. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99278	Development of an Ecological Characterization and Site Profile for Kachemak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet	G. Seaman/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$105.2	$60.0	$35.0	$0.0	$95.0

Project Abstract

This project will develop an ecological characterization and site profile to collect, synthesize, analyze, and document available physical, biological, and human or socioeconomic information on the Kachemak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet area. The project will result in the development of a database management system with products produced in electronic format and on paper. Project components include (1) an ecosystem narrative description; (2) a spatial data component using a Geographic Information System (GIS); and (3) an annotated bibliography and research summary/tracking system. The products will be used to (1) identify future restoration opportunities, (2) assist in the use and protection of land, (3) plan for a possible long-term ecological monitoring and research program in the Northern Gulf of Alaska, and (4) assist in agency management and planning for the Lower Cook Inlet area.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is a significant improvement over the version submitted last year, and the principal investigators have worked hard to address the concerns previously raised. The project will be most useful to make local resource management decisions, and the value of the digital products, aside from of the GIS, is not established well in the proposal. It does seem likely that a watershed management program for Kachemak Bay will improve our ability to sustain fisheries and wildlife in the region, and thus enhance resources and services injured by the spill. The proposal demonstrates excellent cost sharing with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is appropriate given the objectives of the project. Objectives 2 (establishing a GIS-based spatial data set) and 3 (production of an annotated bibliography) appear to be most valuable and should be funded. Fund contingent on receipt and review of a reduced budget focusing on objectives 2 and 3.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund, contingent on submittal and review of a revised budget that limits the Trustee Council contribution to objectives 2 and 3, the GIS-based spatial data set and the annotated bibliography. The Kachemak Bay watershed management program being developed through the National Estuarine Research Reserve process, of which these products are a part, will improve the ability to sustain fish and wildlife resources in the region, and thus enhance resources and services injured by the oil spill.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Michael R. Yarborough
3504 East 67th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99507

Re: Project 99298-BAA / Public Brochure on Archaeology at the Alaska SeaLife Center

Dear Mr. Yarborough:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99298-BAA/Public Brochure on Archaeology at the Alaska SeaLife Center. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the Chief Scientist states that a brochure on the archaeology at the site of the Alaska SeaLife Center is not a priority for restoration. I encourage you to work directly with the Alaska SeaLife Center, the City of Seward or the Chugach Heritage Center on this project idea.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have

questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Bud Rice with the National Park Service (NPS).

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bud Rice, NPS Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99298	Public Brochure on Archaeology at the Alaska SeaLife Center	M. Yarborough/Cultural Resource Consultants	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$6.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will produce a public brochure describing archaeological research undertaken during construction of the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. The brochure will contain both historic photographs and maps of the Seward waterfront, and photographs and drawings from the archaeological investigations. It will focus on research at the Lowell Homestead, the earliest American settlement in Seward. This publication will give the general public a sense of what has been learned from archaeology at the SeaLife Center, and an understanding of the richness and importance of heritage resources in the oil spill area. The proposal includes production of the manuscript for the brochure and 2,000 copies.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

A brochure on the archaeology at the site of the Alaska SeaLife Center is not a priority. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The proposer is encouraged to work directly with the Alaska SeaLife Center, the City of Seward or the Chugach Heritage Center on this project idea.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

John F. Piatt, Ph.D.
14722 NE 169th Street
Woodinville, WA 98072

Re: Project 99306 / Ecology and Demographics of Pacific Sand Lance in Lower Cook Inlet
Project 99338 / Survival of Adult Murres and Kittiwakes in Relation to Forage Fish Abundance

Dear Dr. Piatt:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund projects 99306/Ecology and Demographics of Pacific Sand Lance in Lower Cook Inlet and 99338/Survival of Adult Murres and Kittiwakes in Relation to Forage Fish Abundance. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendations on the projects' technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about these preliminary recommendations, please call me or Lisa Thomas, the USGS-BRD liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Lisa Thomas, USGS-BRD Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99306	Ecology and Demographics of Pacific Sand Lance in Lower Cook Inlet	J. Piatt/USGS-BRD	DOI	Cont'd 3rd yr. 4 yr. project	$30.0	$30.0	$20.0	$0.0	$50.0

Project Abstract

This project will characterize the basic ecology, distribution, and demographics of sand lance in lower Cook Inlet. Recent declines of upper trophic level species in the Northern Gulf of Alaska have been linked to decreasing availability of forage fishes. Sand lance is the most important forage fish in most nearshore areas of the northern gulf. Despite its importance to commercial fish, seabirds, and marine mammals, little is known or published on the basic biology of this key prey species.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is producing valuable information on sand lance, which is a forage fish of fundamental importance to many species of seabirds and other predators. The student and his advisors are excellent, and the cost is low relative to the amount of work being performed. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project is yielding valuable information about sand lance, a small forage fish that is of great ecological importance, especially to seabirds and marine mammals injured by the oil spill. The work is very cost effective, and the results will be very helpful to researchers in APEX (Project /163) and other projects.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99338	Survival of Adult Murres and Kittiwakes in Relation to Forage Fish Abundance	J. Piatt/USGS-BRD	DOI	Cont'd 2nd yr. 3 yr. project	$57.9	$57.9	$45.0	$0.0	$102.9

Project Abstract

Some seabird populations damaged by the oil spill continue to decline or are not recovering. In order to understand the ultimate cause of seabird population fluctuations, productivity, recruitment, and adult survival must be measured. Current APEX (Project /163) studies are focused on measuring productivity only. Recruitment measurement demands an unrealistic study duration. This project will augment current studies in lower Cook Inlet that relate breeding success and foraging effort to fluctuations in forage fish density by using banding and resighting to quantify the survival of adult common murres and black-legged kittiwakes.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The proposal is for a second year of support to relate the survival of adult murres and kittiwakes in lower Cook Inlet to the abundance of forage fish. This project complements on-going APEX (Project /163) work, and, indeed, the results of this project are very important for full interpretation of the APEX data. The project is relatively inexpensive and the principal investigator is excellent. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project will provide information on whether the availability and quality of forage fish influences the survival of adult seabirds. The results will complement and be very important to the on-going work in APEX (Project /163), which focuses on the influence of forage fish on annual reproductive success and productivity. In combination, this project and APEX will contribute to understanding of seabird recovery (or lack of recovery) following the oil spill.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Mary Anne Bishop, Ph.D.
PNW Research
US Forest Service
POB 1430
Cordova, AK 99574-1460

Re: Project 99381 / Status of Seabird Colonies in Northeastern Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Bishop:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council not fund Project 99381/Status of Seabird Colonies in Northeastern Prince William Sound. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits. As you can see, the project appears to be largely a matter of normal agency management.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. I appreciate your proposal and hope your interest in the restoration process will continue. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or the Trustee Council liaison for your project, Ken Holbrook with the USFS.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Ken Holbrook, USFS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99381	Status of Seabird Colonies in Northeastern Prince William Sound	M. Bishop/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$13.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

With the most recent colony data from 6-24 years old, current documentation on seabird colonies in northeastern Prince William Sound may not reflect recent changes in size, species composition, and location that may have occurred since the oil spill. Areas around northeastern Prince William Sound (Port Gravina to Orca Inlet) are pending purchase by the Trustee Council to aid in the restoration of injured species. These lands may be subject to increased human pressure that may increase human/wildlife interactions. This project will establish current population data for the seven known colonies in these areas and survey the coastline for suspected and unknown seabird colonies. Acquisition of this information is necessary to minimize human disturbance of injured species.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This inexpensive project would collect information about the size and composition of several small seabird colonies on lands in western Prince William Sound currently owned by Eyak Corporation that are expected to be transferred into public ownership, subject to shareholder vote. This information would be useful as the agencies develop management plans for these lands. However, project goals seem largely a normal agency management function. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would collect information on several small seabird colonies located on lands in eastern Prince William Sound that will be transferred into public ownership (subject to Eyak shareholder vote). Although the project is inexpensive and the information would benefit development of appropriate management plans, this work is largely a matter of normal agency management.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Gail Irvine, Ph.D.
USGS BRD
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dan H. Mann
Project Co-Leader
Alaska Quaternary Center
University of Alaska
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Jeffrey W. Short
NMFS/Auke Bay Laboratory
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 99459 / Residual Oiling of Armored Beaches and Mussel Beds in the Gulf of Alaska

Dear Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Mann and Short:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99459/Residual Oiling of Armored Beaches and Mussel Beds in the Gulf of Alaska contingent on approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that focus on documenting persisting oil through the use of qualitative techniques. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Chief Scientist estimates that a budget of approximately $125,000 should be adequate to carry out the overall objectives of the project. Please submit a revised budget and a revised Detailed Project Description to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (Please include an electronic copy of the DPD. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Lisa Thomas, the USGS-BRD liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Lisa Thomas, USGS-BRD Liaison
Claudia Slater, ADFG Liaison
Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99459	Residual Oiling of Armored Beaches and Mussel Beds in the Gulf of Alaska	G. Irvine/USGS-BRD, D. Mann/UAF, J. Short/NOAA	DOI	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$195.5	$125.0		$0.0	$125.0

Project Abstract

For at least five years after the spill, oil mousse persisted on the exposed rocky shores of the Alaska and Kenai peninsulas in a remarkably unweathered state. This project will resample these boulder-armored beach sites that were last studied in 1994. In addition, the results of previous work will be used to predict, on the basis of geomorphology and oiling history, other locations in the spill area where oil is likely to be persisting in a relatively unweathered state. These sites will then be visited and sampled. In addition, we will resample several oiled mussel beds in the Gulf of Alaska that had relatively high levels of oiling in 1993, to compare residual oiling of these with oiled mussel beds in Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The possible continued presence of oil on what many consider one of the greatest wilderness coasts in the National Park System may represent continuing injury from the oil spill. However, the proposal seems overly elaborate for purposes of documenting continued injury to wilderness. A much less costly proposal to document continued oiling with qualitative techniques would be more compelling. Fund contingent on receipt of a revised proposal and substantially reduced budget.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of revised Detailed Project Description and budget that focus on documenting persisting oil through the use of qualitative techniques. This project will monitor the persistence of oil at sites previously monitored in FY 94 along the coasts of Kenai Fjords and Katmai national parks, which will provide important status information ten years after the spill. However, it is not critical that this work be performed in FY 99. In the Kodiak region, the final round of shoreline monitoring took place in FY 95. In Prince William Sound, shoreline sites cleaned in FY 97 near the community of Chenega Bay will be revisited in FY 98 (Project /291). It may be appropriate to conduct another, more comprehensive round of shoreline monitoring in Prince William Sound in two to three years.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Thomas Dean, Ph.D.
Coastal Resources Assoc.
1185 Park Center Drive Suite A
Vista, CA 92083-8304

RE: Project 99325 / Assessment of Injury to Intertidal and Nearshore Subtidal Communities Following EVOS: Preparation of Manuscripts for Publication

Dear Dr. Dean:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99325/Assessment of Injury to Intertidal and Nearshore Subtidal Communities Following EVOS: Preparation of Manuscripts for Publication contingent on approval of a slightly reduced budget and submittal of the 95086C final report (M. Stekoll, due June 15, 1998). I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $40,900. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.) Enclosed is a list of items considered in the review of project budgets, which may help you prepare a revised budget.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99325-BAA	Assessment of Injury to Intertidal and Nearshore Subtidal Communities Following EVOS: Preparation of Manuscripts for Publication	T. Dean/Coastal Resources Associates, Inc.	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$44.0	$40.9	$0.0	$0.0	$40.9

Project Abstract

This project will prepare manuscripts for publication in scientific journals based on previous Trustee Council funded evaluations of injury to, and restoration of, coastal habitats (intertidal and subtidal communities).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Considering the severe impact of EVOS on intertidal communities and the tremendous investment in intertidal studies during the damage assessment and early years of the restoration program, it is highly desirable and essential that these results get published in the peer reviewed literature. These principal investigators are excellent and undoubtedly will produce what they propose. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of (a) slightly reduced budget and (b) 95086C report (Stekoll, due June 15, 1998). This project will prepare two additional manuscripts in FY 99 on results of intertidal studies previously funded by the Trustee Council (projects CH1, /086C, /106, and others). Preparation of six manuscripts was funded in FY 98 (Project 98325), and although only one has been submitted to the peer reviewed literature, reasonable progress is being made on the others.

99325

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN REVIEW OF FY 99 BUDGETS

1. Level of funding authorized in FY 98 and projection, at that time, of FY 99 budget. Items budgeted for FY 98 but not implemented should not be funded again in FY 99 unless the proposer can verify that he/she will lapse the "unused" FY 98 funds. Review and note relevant FY 97 audit results.

2. Change in project's scope/direction per Trustee Council and/or Chief Scientist in FY 98 Final Work Plan or subsequent review sessions (e.g., transition to agency funding, duration, close out certain components).

3. Change in project's scope per the Chief Scientist's recommendation (i.e., elimination, revision, or addition of objectives). If a pilot project is seeking expansion, note whether there is adequate information to evaluate the pilot's success. Decisions on some projects will need to be deferred pending fall review or completion of work underway in FY 98.

4. Personal Services: Note if number of months has increased significantly over FY 98 or if number of months appears excessive, e.g. 12 mos. for a close-out and no justification provided. Also note if salary appears excessive relative to scope of work and salaries typically paid agency and university employees for the type of work. Salaries inconsistent with what requested in 99025.

5. Project Management: No funds should be budgeted in the individual project budgets. Project management costs will be addressed in Project 99250.

6. Travel: Note if travel has increased significantly over FY 98 and no justification provided. Duplicate 99025?

7. Annual Workshop: For PI and co-PI only, travel and per diem for up to 5 days -- and only if PI/co-PI not located in Anchorage.

8. Other EVOS Reviews/Workshops: Travel and per diem for two days for only those PIs (and co-PIs if appropriate) whose projects will be the subject of a fall review session: SEA (/320), APEX (/163), NVP (/025), clam restoration (/131), seabirds (/144, /159, /289, /338), and the projects underway at the Alaska SeaLife Center (/190, /252, /327, /341, /348). The review session on the SeaLife Center projects will likely be held in Seward; the other review sessions will likely be held in Anchorage.

9. Professional Conferences: One each per PI (and co-PI if appropriate), and with the understanding that the PI will be presenting results of his or her EVOS work or that attendance at the workshop is integral to the project -- and only if the DPD identifies the conference and the reason for attending.

10. Manuscript Preparation: Maximum $1,000 in page costs per project and maximum 1.5 months personnel time per publication -- and only if the DPD indicates that a manuscript will be published (i.e., appear in print) in FY 99 (DPD must also include subject/title of manuscript, name of peer reviewed journal to which will be submitted, and when it will be submitted). Note number of manuscripts for which funding support is requested.

11. Report Writing: No funding on new projects unless the DPD indicates the report will be completed in FY 99 (or rolled into a non-severable contract in FY 99).

12. Equipment: Note purchases of major new equipment for which no justification is provided.

13. Indirect Costs: Office supplies, copying, phones, equipment maintenance and repair, vehicle leasing, software, and training are typically indirect costs. Such costs should be budgeted for separately only if they are incurred because of a specific project and documentation of the expense is maintained. The documentation must demonstrate to a financial auditor that the expense was directly attributable to the project, and was necessary and reasonable. Maintenance and operation of space (i.e., lease costs) are always an indirect cost.

    By agreement, University of Alaska indirect rate is limited to 25%.

14. Community Involvement and TEK: Note funds budgeted.

15. Future Years: Note significant changes (from what was projected in the FY 98 Final Work Plan) in FY 2000 and other out-year costs.

16. Other: Note additional, project-specific budget issues that may need to be addressed.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Stanley Rice, Ph.D.
NOAA NMFS Auke Bay Lab
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Project 99329-CLO / Synthesis of the Toxicological Impacts on Pink Salmon

Dear Dr. Rice:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99329/Synthesis of the Toxicological Impacts on Pink Salmon contingent on (a) submittal of manuscript titles, proposed journals, and conceptual outlines of papers, (b) outstanding reports by participating principal investigators (FS1/B. Bue, 97195/J. Short, 97196/J. Seeb) and (c) approval of a slightly reduced budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $51,300. The budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.) Enclosed is a list of items considered in the staff review of project budgets, which may help you prepare a revised budget.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99329-CLO	Synthesis of the Toxicological Impacts on Pink Salmon	S. Rice/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$52.5	$51.3	$0.0	$0.0	$51.3

Project Abstract

This project will synthesize results of all Trustee Council sponsored studies related to the toxicological damage to pink salmon. Since 1989, five separate Council-sponsored projects have individually advanced understanding of the effects of the oil spill on pink salmon: past and present potential for oil exposure (Project /194), effects on egg/embryo survival (Project /191A&B), juvenile feeding and growth (Project FS4B), marine survival and straying of returning adults (Project /076). Data from these studies will be drawn upon in order to construct synthetic conclusions regarding the injury to and subsequent recovery of pink salmon. The results of contracted studies by Exxon Corporation will be compared with the Trustee Council studies.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will provide a valuable contribution to the efforts to synthesize Natural Resource Damage Assessment work. Fund contingent upon receipt of manuscript titles, proposed journals for submission, and conceptual outlines of papers as described in milestones for FY 98.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of (a) manuscript titles, proposed journals for submission, and conceptual outlines of papers as described in milestones for FY 98, (b) late reports (FS1, 97195, 97196) and (c) a slightly reduced budget. In FY 99, this project will complete the synthesis of five separate studies funded by the Trustee Council (FS4B, /076, /191A, /191B, /194) to examine the possible long-term damage to pink salmon of the toxic effects of crude oil. The synthesis will consider additional studies sponsored by Exxon Corporation. Products will be a monograph for publication in a peer reviewed journal and a presentation at the 10th Anniversary Symposium.

99329

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN REVIEW OF FY 99 BUDGETS

1. Level of funding authorized in FY 98 and projection, at that time, of FY 99 budget. Items budgeted for FY 98 but not implemented should not be funded again in FY 99 unless the proposer can verify that he/she will lapse the "unused" FY 98 funds. Review and note relevant FY 97 audit results.

2. Change in project's scope/direction per Trustee Council and/or Chief Scientist in FY 98 Final Work Plan or subsequent review sessions (e.g., transition to agency funding, duration, close out certain components).

3. Change in project's scope per the Chief Scientist's recommendation (i.e., elimination, revision, or addition of objectives). If a pilot project is seeking expansion, note whether there is adequate information to evaluate the pilot's success. Decisions on some projects will need to be deferred pending fall review or completion of work underway in FY 98.

4. Personal Services: Note if number of months has increased significantly over FY 98 or if number of months appears excessive, e.g. 12 mos. for a close-out and no justification provided. Also note if salary appears excessive relative to scope of work and salaries typically paid agency and university employees for the type of work.

5. Project Management: No funds should be budgeted in the individual project budgets. Project management costs will be addressed in Project 99250.

6. Travel: Note if travel has increased significantly over FY 98 and no justification provided.

7. Annual Workshop: For PI and co-PI only, travel and per diem for up to 5 days -- and only if PI/co-PI not located in Anchorage.

8. Other EVOS Reviews/Workshops: Travel and per diem for two days for only those PIs (and co-PIs if appropriate) whose projects will be the subject of a fall review session: SEA (/320), APEX (/163), NVP (/025), clam restoration (/131), seabirds (/144, /159, /289, /338), and the projects underway at the Alaska SeaLife Center (/190, /252, /327, /341, /348). The review session on the SeaLife Center projects will likely be held in Seward; the other review sessions will likely be held in Anchorage.

9. Professional Conferences: One each per PI (and co-PI if appropriate), and with the understanding that the PI will be presenting results of his or her EVOS work or that attendance at the workshop is integral to the project -- and only if the DPD identifies the conference and the reason for attending.

10. Manuscript Preparation: Maximum $1,000 in page costs per project and maximum 1.5 months personnel time per publication -- and only if the DPD indicates that a manuscript will be published (i.e., appear in print) in FY 99 (DPD must also include subject/title of manuscript, name of peer reviewed journal to which will be submitted, and when it will be submitted). Note number of manuscripts for which funding support is requested.

11. Report Writing: No funding on new projects unless the DPD indicates the report will be completed in FY 99 (or rolled into a non-severable contract in FY 99).

12. Equipment: Note purchases of major new equipment for which no justification is provided.

13. Indirect Costs: Office supplies, copying, phones, equipment maintenance and repair, vehicle leasing, software, and training are typically indirect costs. Such costs should be budgeted for separately only if they are incurred because of a specific project and documentation of the expense is maintained. The documentation must demonstrate to a financial auditor that the expense was directly attributable to the project, and was necessary and reasonable. Maintenance and operation of space (i.e., lease costs) are always an indirect cost.

    By agreement, University of Alaska indirect rate is limited to 25%.

14. Community Involvement and TEK: Note funds budgeted.

15. Future Years: Note significant changes (from what was projected in the FY 98 Final Work Plan) in FY 2000 and other out-year costs.

16. Other: Note additional, project-specific budget issues that may need to be addressed.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Douglas Reger
Office of History & Archaeology
ADNR
3601 C Street, Suite 1278
Anchorage, AK 99503-6921

Re: Project 99007A, Archaeological Index Site Monitoring
Project 99149-CLO, Archaeological Site Stewardship

Dear Mr. Reger:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund projects 99007A and 99149. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendations on the projects' technical merits.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have any questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Carol Fries, the ADNR liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Carol Fries, ADNR Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99007A	Archaeological Index Site Monitoring	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	Cont'd 5th yr. 8 yr. project	$151.5	$151.5			$151.5

Project Abstract

Monitoring of archaeological sites on public land injured by vandalism and oiling will concentrate on a sample of index sites in the three regions of the spill area. Oiled sites will be tested for reintroduced oil. A total of 11 sites will be visited in FY 99. Scattered instances of vandalism continue and monitoring will continue with return to sites initially identified but not recently monitored.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project has been conducting ongoing evaluation of damage to archaeological sites from oil or vandalism. There has been no evidence showing that oil has migrated onto any of these sites, and after nine years it is justified to ask if vandalism can still be considered a by-product of the oil spill. I recommend that this project by carefully evaluated in FY 99 prior to continued funding in FY 00. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project monitors archaeological sites injured by vandalism and oiling. However, because nine years have elapsed since the spill, the injury that is being detected may have little relevance to the spill. Funding beyond FY 99 should be based on a careful evaluation of the restoration value of this project.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99149-CLO	Archaeological Site Stewardship	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$15.2	$15.2	$0.0	$0.0	$15.2

Project Abstract

The archaeological site stewardship program has been aimed at providing training and coordination for a cadre of volunteers to monitor vandalized sites in the oil spill area beyond the ability of agency monitoring. Volunteer site stewards monitored damaged sites on the Kenai Peninsula, Kachemak Bay, Uganik Bay, Uyak Bay, and the Chignik area of the Alaska Peninsula. Closeout of the project will summarize accomplishments of the past three years of activity, outline conclusions about usefulness and structure of the program and identify future directions for similar programs.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the closeout for the project. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout (report writing) of this project. This pilot project has trained and coordinated volunteers to monitor vandalized archaeological sites in the spill area.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Merav Ben-David, Ph.D.
UAF/Institute of Arctic Biology
211 Irving Building
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Terry R. Bowyer, Ph.D.
UAF/Institute of Arctic Biology
311 Irving Building
Fairbanks, AK 99775

Lawrence Duffy, Ph.D.
UAF/Dept of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Box 756160
Fairbanks, AK 99775

RE: Project 99348 / Responses of River Otters to Oil Contamination: A Controlled Study of Biological Stress Markers
Project 99448 / Evaluating Recovery of Coastal River Otters: Gender-Specific Response to the Oil Spill

Dear Drs. Ben-David, Bowyer and Duffy:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99348/Responses of River Otters to Oil Contamination: A Controlled Study of Biological Stress Markers contingent on approval of a reduced budget. I am recommending that the Council not fund Project 99448/ Evaluating Recovery of Coastal River Otters: Gender-Specific Response to the Oil Spill. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendations on these projects, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the projects' technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget for Project 99348, including general administration, will be $207,100. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not

needed.) Enclosed is a list of items considered in the review of project budgets, which may help you prepare a revised budget.

In regard to Project 99448, the Chief Scientist has raised concerns about the scientific design of this project. In addition, there is an interest in completing and evaluating the ongoing work on river otters before additional work on river otters is considered.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

mm/raw

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-Q2
99348	Responses of River Otters to Oil Contamination: A Controlled Study of Biological Stress Markers	M. Ben-David, T. Bowyer, L. Duffy/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$222.9	$207.1	$0.0	$0.0	$207.1

Project Abstract

This project will explore the effects of oil contamination on physiological and behavioral responses in river otters experimentally. Fifteen captive otters will be exposed to two levels of oil contamination under controlled conditions in captivity. Samples of blood, tissues, and feces will be collected for analysis of biomarkers and immunological examinations.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the second year of a two-year project to experimentally determine the biochemical and physiological responses of river otters to oil contamination. This project is needed in order to determine if measurements of potential markers in field-captured animals are consistent with oil exposure. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of a reduced budget. This project is using facilities at the Alaska SeaLife Center to validate the effects of oil contamination on river otters, thus contributing to our understanding of the injury to and recovery status of this injured species. [NOTE: Funds for Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees (approximately $30,600) need to be added to this project.]

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99448	Evaluating Recovery of Coastal River Otters: Gender-Specific Response to the Oil Spill	M. Ben-David, T. Bowyer/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$90.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will investigate diets of male and female river otters inhabiting oiled and unoiled areas of Prince William Sound. It will ascertain diet composition using archived fecal samples from immediately post spill to the present, and determine gender classification of the feces by DNA analysis. Direct observations in previous studies suggested that male and female river otters may differ in their foraging strategies, with solitary females concentrating more on sedentary intertidal fish, whereas groups of males rely more on pelagic fish. Therefore, females may have increased susceptibility to disturbance of the intertidal zone leading to significant effects on population recovery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The proposers have a great deal of experience with river otters, and they have put together an interesting proposal. The reviewers, however, had a number of questions about the specific experimental design, such as the apparent lack of linkage between the telemetry work and the analysis of archived scat samples. The Nearshore Vertebrate Predator work (Project \025) on river otters is being completed and there is related work underway at the Alaska Sealife Center (Project \348). Present work needs to be completed and evaluated before considering additional work on river otters. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on technical review. The ongoing work on river otters (projects /025 and /348) should be completed and evaluated before additional work on river otters is considered.

99348

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN REVIEW OF FY 99 BUDGETS

1. Level of funding authorized in FY 98 and projection, at that time, of FY 99 budget. Items budgeted for FY 98 but not implemented should not be funded again in FY 99 unless the proposer can verify that he/she will lapse the "unused" FY 98 funds. Review and note relevant FY 97 audit results.

2. Change in project's scope/direction per Trustee Council and/or Chief Scientist in FY 98 Final Work Plan or subsequent review sessions (e.g., transition to agency funding, duration, close out certain components).

3. Change in project's scope per the Chief Scientist's recommendation (i.e., elimination, revision, or addition of objectives). If a pilot project is seeking expansion, note whether there is adequate information to evaluate the pilot's success. Decisions on some projects will need to be deferred pending fall review or completion of work underway in FY 98.

4. Personal Services: Note if number of months has increased significantly over FY 98 or if number of months appears excessive, e.g. 12 mos. for a close-out and no justification provided. Also note if salary appears excessive relative to scope of work and salaries typically paid agency and university employees for the type of work. Duffy salary ($11.2/mo) inconsistent with 99025 request ($10.6/mo).

5. Project Management: No funds should be budgeted in the individual project budgets. Project management costs will be addressed in Project 99250.

6. Travel: Note if travel has increased significantly over FY 98 and no justification provided.

7. Annual Workshop: For PI and co-PI only, travel and per diem for up to 5 days -- and only if PI/co-PI not located in Anchorage.

8. Other EVOS Reviews/Workshops: Travel and per diem for two days for only those PIs (and co-PIs if appropriate) whose projects will be the subject of a fall review session: SEA (/320), APEX (/163), NVP (/025), clam restoration (/131), seabirds (/144, /159, /289, /338), and the projects underway at the Alaska SeaLife Center (/190, /252, /327, /341, /348). The review session on the SeaLife Center projects will likely be held in Seward; the other review sessions will likely be held in Anchorage.

9. Professional Conferences: One each per PI (and co-PI if appropriate), and with the understanding that the PI will be presenting results of his or her EVOS work or that attendance at the workshop is integral to the project -- and only if the DPD identifies the conference and the reason for attending.

10. Manuscript Preparation: Maximum $1,000 in page costs per project and maximum 1.5 months personnel time per publication -- and only if the DPD indicates that a manuscript will be published (i.e., appear in print) in FY 99 (DPD must also include subject/title of manuscript, name of peer reviewed journal to which will be submitted, and when it will be submitted). Note number of manuscripts for which funding support is requested.

11. Report Writing: No funding on new projects unless the DPD indicates the report will be completed in FY 99 (or rolled into a non-severable contract in FY 99).

12. Equipment: Note purchases of major new equipment for which no justification is provided.

13. Indirect Costs: Office supplies, copying, phones, equipment maintenance and repair, vehicle leasing, software, and training are typically indirect costs. Such costs should be budgeted for separately only if they are incurred because of a specific project and documentation of the expense is maintained. The documentation must demonstrate to a financial auditor that the expense was directly attributable to the project, and was necessary and reasonable. Maintenance and operation of space (i.e., lease costs) are always an indirect cost. Some costs should be charged to indirect. In addition, though, looks like indirect may have been miscalculated (possibly too low) - please double check with your budget files. By agreement, University of Alaska indirect rate is limited to 25%.

14. Community Involvement and TEK: Note funds budgeted.

15. Future Years: Note significant changes (from what was projected in the FY 98 Final Work Plan) in FY 2000 and other out-year costs.

16. Other: Note additional, project-specific budget issues that may need to be addressed.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

James Seeb
ADF&G/CFMD
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

RE: Project 99367 / Synthesis and Publication of Fisheries Research

Dear Mr. Seeb:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99367/Synthesis and Publication of Fisheries Research contingent on approval of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that focus on preparation of two to three manuscripts on straying of tagged hatchery-produced fry into Prince William Sound pink salmon streams. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be approximately $20,000. The revised Detailed Project Description and budget should be submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (Please also submit an electronic copy of the revised DPD. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the ADFG liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99367	Synthesis and Publication of Fisheries Research	J. Seeb, et al/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project	$53.2	$20.0			$20.0

Project Abstract

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has agreed to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to synthesize, edit, and publish the legacy of research conducted on fisheries resources in the Gulf of Alaska spill zone. Many EVOS reports written by Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff provide key information on injured resources. However, some do not form stand-alone publications, and some contain information suitable for more than one article or are too bulky for publication in their current form. Additional synthesis and editing are needed to move these from report status to publication in the peer-reviewed literature. In this project, American Fisheries Society editorial staff will work with Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff to synthesize research reports into manuscripts that will then undergo peer review for consideration in the leading fisheries journals in North America.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

It is important to publish the results of earlier EVOS studies conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that document straying of tagged hatchery-produced fry into Prince William Sound pink salmon streams. I would support such an effort with the inclusion of the principal investigators who performed the earlier studies. Fund contingent on review of revised proposal focused on producing two to three manuscripts on pink salmon straying with appropriately reduced budget.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund FY 99 only contingent on submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that focus on preparation of two to three manuscripts on pink salmon straying. The Detailed Project Description should list manuscript titles, authors, expected journals, and expected dates of submission. Publication of EVOS work is a priority of the Trustee Council, but the proposal as written is vague and expensive.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

John Whitney
NOAA, HAZMAT
570 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Project 99368 / Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound (Summary Seasonal Maps Only)
Project 99369 / Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound (Summary Seasonal and Detailed Maps)

Dear Mr. Whitney:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99368, which would prepare summary seasonal ESI maps but not detailed ESI maps, contingent on approval of (a) a revised Detailed Project Description that clarifies how the maps will benefit restoration and what type of digital information will be produced and (b) a reduced budget that reflects funding contributions from other sources. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on both projects 99368 and 99369, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the projects' technical merits.

I am recommending $38,000 in funding for Project 99368 ($35,200 in project costs plus agency general administration), based on the table in your Detailed Project Description that identifies other funding sources. I am aware that some of these other funds have not yet been secured, but would ask that you prepare a reduced budget at this time. If other funds are not forthcoming by the time the Trustee Council meets to approve the FY 99 work plan (probably August 13, 1998), I may recommend increasing the Council's contribution to the project. We need to bear in mind, however, that the *FY 99 Invitation*, in inviting a proposal to update the ESI maps, stated that "cost sharing by partners from agencies, industry, or other organizations will be essential."

Please submit your revised Detailed Project Description and budget to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** Please also submit an electronic copy of the revised Detailed Project Description. An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.

I should also point out that the Restoration Work Force, in discussing Project 99368, noted that the participation of the other resource agencies is critical to the project's success, but involves time consuming tasks. Therefore, my recommendation urges NOAA to work directly with the principal investigators of the three ecosystem projects (SEA/320, NVP/025, APEX/163), rather than relying solely on the resource agencies for information, and to structure the project so as to provide the maximum opportunity for agency review of the draft maps.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99368	Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound (Summary Seasonal Maps Only)	J. Whitney/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$58.7	$38.0	$0.0	$0.0	$38.0

Project Abstract

A series of seasonal maps depicting environmentally sensitive areas in Prince William Sound will be produced in both hardcopy and digital formats. A previous series was produced in paper format in 1988. However, these maps need to be updated with new information on the distribution, abundance, life history, and sensitivity of the natural resources in Prince William Sound. NOAA proposes to integrate and depict the most current information onto an updated series of maps, produced at a scale of 1:250,000 (previous maps were at 1:333,300). The maps will be produced as posters, folded maps, and a digital product.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal to update summary-level "environmental sensitivity index" maps for Prince William Sound responds directly to a request in the *FY 99 Invitation*. These maps were prepared in 1988, before the oil spill, and preparing an updated version will allow integration of a wealth of EVOS data, which will aid synthesis and application of these data for restoration and management. The agency and principal investigator are experienced with preparation of maps of this type, and the proposal anticipates cooperation with most of the relevant agencies and sources of data. Fund at $38,000.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of (a) a revised Detailed Project Description that more clearly articulates how the maps will benefit restoration and clarifies what type of digital information will be produced and (b) a budget not to exceed $38,000 that reflects funding contributions from other sources. Consideration should be given to putting the digital information on a disk suitable for use by boat operators. This project, which will integrate and depict information generated through the EVOS damage assessment and restoration programs on a new series of seasonal maps identifying "environmentally sensitive areas" in Prince William Sound, will aid synthesis and application of this information for restoration and spill response purposes. In developing the maps, NOAA should work directly with the principal investigators of the three ecosystem projects (SEA/320, NVP/025, APEX/163) and should structure the review phase of the project to provide the maximum opportunity for agency review of the maps. Prince William Sound communities will also be invited to participate in the review phase of the project.

PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99369	Maps Depicting Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Prince William Sound (Summary Seasonal and Detailed Maps)	J. Whitney/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$165.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

A series of summary seasonal and detailed maps depicting environmentally sensitive areas in Prince William Sound will be produced in both hardcopy and digital formats. A previous summary series was produced in paper format only in 1988 and 1983, respectively. However, these maps need to be updated with new information on the distribution, abundance, life history, and sensitivity of the natural resources in Prince William Sound. This project will integrate and depict the most current information onto an updated series of maps, produced at a scale of 1:250,000 (previous maps were at 1:333,300) for the summary maps, and 1:63,360 (previous maps at this same scale) for the detailed maps. The summary maps will be produced as posters and folded maps. The 42 detailed maps will be bound in atlas format. Both will be rendered as a digital product. These two scales of maps will allow for a much broader range of use than just one scale alone, and preparing them together will be very cost effective.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

While preparation of maps depicting environmentally sensitive areas in Prince William Sound is valuable (see recommendation for Project 99368), I would not recommend going forward with the additional expense of preparing the detailed maps proposed in this project. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Although the *FY 99 Invitation* requested proposals for environmentally sensitive area maps, the summary seasonal maps proposed in Project 99368 will more cost-effectively meet the Trustee Council's need to synthesize and integrate information generated through the EVOS damage assessment and restoration programs.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Craig Matkin
North Gulf Oceanic Society
POB 15244
Homer, AK 99603-6244

Re: Project 99012A-BAA, Comprehensive Killer Whale Investigation in Prince William Sound

Dear Mr. Matkin:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99012A-BAA contingent on submittal of a status report on the five manuscripts promised in FY 98. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

Please submit a written update of the status of the five manuscripts to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.**

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99012A-BAA	Comprehensive Killer Whale Investigation in Prince William Sound	C. Matkin/North Gulf Oceanic Society	NOAA	Cont'd 7th yr. 9 yr. project	$85.4	$85.4			$85.4

Project Abstract

This project will continue the monitoring of the damaged AB pod and other Prince William Sound/Kenai Fjords killer whales that has occurred on a yearly basis since 1984. Methods include the photo identification of individual whales and acoustic monitoring with remote and vessel-based hydrophone systems. The project will finalize interpretation and provide for publication of the results of a multi-year examination of killer whale population biology, genetics, acoustics, trophic interactions, spatial and temporal distribution patterns, and contaminant accumulation.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a good project that has produced consistently high-quality data on killer whales, which continues to be a species of concern. The principal investigator is excellent, and it is hard to imagine a way to carry out this work for less money. Fund contingent on an update on the status of the five manuscripts promised in FY 98.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a status report on the five manuscripts promised in FY 98. This project is providing valuable information about the long-term effects of the oil spill on resident and transient pods of killer whales in Prince William Sound.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax:907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Thomas J. Weingartner, Ph.D.
UAA Institute of Marine Science
211 Irving Building
Fairbanks, AK 99775

RE: Project 99340 / Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem

Dear Dr. Weingartner:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99340/Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem contingent on approval of a revised budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $91,400. This is based on (a) reducing vessel use and the marine technician's time to FY 98 levels to reflect GLOBEC's FY 99 contribution to the project and (b) recalculation of the MicroCat calibration cost (the notation reads "6 at $500", but the total reads only $300).

The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99340	Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem	T. Weingartner/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 4 yr. project	$92.0	$91.4	$57.5	$67.2	$216.1

Project Abstract

The 28-year time series of temperature and salinity data from hydrographic station GAK1 near Seward shows substantial interannual and interdecadal variability that could influence the Gulf of Alaska shelf ecosystem. This project will continue this time series and quantify the interannual and interdecadal variability of this shelf. A related goal is to better resolve the time and vertical structure of this variability at periods ranging from the tidal to the interannual. This information will aid in assessing progress in the recovery and restoration of resources and services affected by the oil spill, and will aid in designing a long-term, cost-effective ecosystem monitoring program for this shelf.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

I support the continuation of this project, although it will be important to evaluate how completely the physical oceanographic data being collected will suppport an understanding of all the factors forcing biological production in the Alaska Coastal Current. Despite the fact that the potential EVOS long-term monitoring program is not yet explicitly developed, the continuation of the GAK1 data set is very useful, and the joint development of this data set with GLOBEC is valuable for coordination of their work with the Trustee Council.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised budget. This project will continue the existing 28-year time series of conductivity-temperature versus depth (CTD) data collected at hydrographic station GAK1 on the northcentral Gulf of Alaska shelf. The GAK1 data set is useful to our evaluation of changes in the ecosystem (projects SEA/320, APEX/163, and NVP/025) and will be useful to the potential EVOS long-term monitoring program. The GLOBEC program also contributes funding to this project.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Jeffrey W. Short
NMFS/Auke Bay Laboratory
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

Bonita Nelson
NOAA IMS
11305 Glacier Highway
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Project 99290 / Hydrocarbon Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Database Maintenance

Dear Mr. Short and Ms. Nelson:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99290/Hydrocarbon Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Database Maintenance contingent on satisfactory response to the concerns raised by the Chief Scientist, as described in the enclosed copy of the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

Please prepare a memorandum addressing the issues raised by the Chief Scientist; that is, confirming that the data archive will include all fatty acid data developed in Trustee Council projects and describing the expected workload for Project /290 in the future. If possible, please submit the memo to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** In addition, funding in FY 2000 will be contingent on developing a recommendation on the long-term management of the environmental samples in the archive.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Bruce Wright, the NOAA liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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SPREADSHEET B: PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99290	Hydrocarbon Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Database Maintenance	J. Short, B. Nelson/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 8th yr. 11 yr. project	$58.9	$58.9			$58.9

Project Abstract

This project is a continuation of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and restoration database management, sample storage, and interpretive service. New data will continue to be incorporated into the Trustee Council hydrocarbon database. Updated summary reports for investigators and managers will be produced along with an electronic copy of the data for all data queries. A database for pristane sample collection and analysis information will be maintained and a database will be initialed for fatty acid/lipid class composition sample collection and analysis for Auke Bay Lab projects funded by the Trustee Council.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This ongoing project proposes to expand the database to include pristane monitoring data and fatty acid analyses. I recommend the project be funded provided (1) all fatty acid data developed in Trustee Council projects be included in the data archive, (2) a recommendation be developed during FY 99 for the Chief Scientist regarding the long-term management (including potential disposal) of the environmental samples in the archive, and (3) a brief review be provided to the Chief Scientist prior to the end of FY 98 regarding the expected workload for this project in the future. Fund contingent on addressing the above issues.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on satisfactory response to the concerns raised by the Chief Scientist. In FY 99, maintenance of a pristane data base (relative to Project /195) and initiation of a fatty acid/lipid data base will be added objectives. In addition, a recommendation should be developed during FY 99 regarding the long-term management (including potential disposal) of the environmental samples in the archive. In FY 2000 and beyond, the level of funding will be determined following a review of the expected workload in future years. This project is the ongoing analysis and interpretation of hydrocarbon data for other Trustee Council funded studies.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178

June 15, 1998

Art Weiner, Ph.D.
ADNR
3601 C Street, Suite 980
Anchorage, AK 99503

Karen Cromery
USFS, Seward Ranger District
POB 390
Seward, AK 99664

RE: Project 99180-CLO / Kenai Habitat Restoration and Recreation Enhancement

Dear Dr. Weiner and Ms. Cromery:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99180-CLO/Kenai Habitat Restoration and Recreation Enhancement contingent on approval of a reduced budget and satisfactory completion of the FY 98 project. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

Please submit a revised budget at the level projected for this year, less $7,000 to reflect the U.S. Forest Service's reduced request (new total $299,600). The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

In addition, the Detailed Project Description fails to mention the final report on this project. Because FY 99 is the final year of project funding, a comprehensive report that addresses all the years of project activity is required.

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will

make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or your agency's liaison to the Trustee Council (Carol Fries at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources or Ken Holbrook at the U.S. Forest Service).

Sincerely,

Stan Senner

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Carol Fries, ADNR
Ken Holbrook, USFS
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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SPREADSHEET B: PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99180-CLO	Kenai Habitat Restoration and Recreation Enhancement	A. Weiner/ADNR, K. Cromery/USFS	ADNR	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$330.1	$299.6	$0.0	$0.0	$299.6

Project Abstract

Adverse impacts to the banks of the Kenai River total approximately 19 miles of the river's 166-mile shoreline, including 5.4 river miles of public land. Riparian habitats have been impacted by trampling, vegetation loss and structural development. The project's objectives are to restore injured fish habitat, protect fish and wildlife habitat, enhance and direct recreation, and preserve the values and biophysical functions that the riparian habitat contributes to the watershed. Restoration/enhancement techniques will include revegetation, streambank restoration, elevated boardwalks, floating docks, access stairs, fencing, signs, and educational interpretive displays.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would complete the fourth and final year of habitat restoration on public lands along the Kenai River. If funded, the Trustee Council will have invested nearly $2 million in Kenai River restoration, which, in combination with the millions spent on habitat acquisitions and sockeye salmon research and management, represent a major contribution to Kenai River commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries. I support funding this final year of work in FY 99 and look forward to seeing the results of monitoring efforts over the longer term. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund at expected level (less $7,000 to reflect US Forest Service's reduced request), contingent on submittal and review of a revised budget and satisfactory completion of FY 98 work. This project will complete the Trustee Council's contribution to habitat restoration along the Kenai River by providing funds to finish the Slikok Creek and Russian River projects, which received partial funding from the Council in FY 98. Spending of the FY 98 funds on the Russian River project has not yet been authorized, however, pending compliance with three contingencies outlined by the Council in the FY 98 Work Plan (endorsement of the project design by the Kenai River Advisory Board, submittal of a detailed budget, and affirmation by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that the project will improve fish habitat). In general, the habitat restoration efforts along the Kenai River will benefit sockeye salmon and other fish species of commercial and recreational importance.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Dan Rosenberg
Division of Conservation
ADF&G
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

RE: Project 99273 / Surf Scoter and Goldeneye Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99273/Surf Scoter and Goldeneye Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource contingent on submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that eliminate objectives related to the Barrow's goldeneye. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $185,000. In addition to eliminating the radio transmitters and the personnel and other related costs associated with the work on goldeneyes, we would ask that you review your estimates of travel and warehousing costs for possible reductions. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.)

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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PRELIMINARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION/FY 99 DRAFT WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99273	Surf Scoter and Goldeneye Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 3 yr. project	$237.6	$185.0		$0.0	$185.0

Project Abstract

This project will study the life history and ecology of surf scoters and Barrow's goldeneyes that over-winter in Prince William Sound and lower Cook Inlet. This information will be integrated with traditional ecological knowledge. Scoter and goldeneye populations in Alaska are declining. Communities in Prince William Sound and lower Cook Inlet harvest scoters and goldeneyes for subsistence purposes. Scoters are among the least studied of North American waterfowl and little is known of their life history, ecology, and distribution. The nesting and molting distribution of Barrow's goldeneyes wintering in Prince William Sound is unknown. Scoters and Barrow's goldeneyes will be marked with surgically implanted satellite transmitters to define the breeding areas, molting areas, and wintering areas. Local participation will be solicited and information will be conveyed to local residents through the Chugach School District and Youth Area Watch project (\210).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the second year of a three-year project to document nesting and breeding areas of Prince William Sound scoters, which are important to subsistence users. In FY 98, the principal investigator has outfitted a sample of scoters with transmitters. He also has worked hard and closely with community residents, which is to be commended. In FY 99, addition of Barrow's goldeneye to the study is proposed. I cannot recommend the addition of Barrow's goldeneye at this stage of the project, especially since the status of this species is under review by the Trustee Council in 1998. Fund at reduced level based on revised proposal deleting work on Barrow's goldeneyes.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal and review of revised Detailed Project Description and budget that eliminate objectives related to the Barrow's goldeneye. The principal investigator is to be commended for working closely with community residents on this project. For FY 99, the investigator should pursue hiring local residents to fill the project's field technician positions. This project is studying the life history and ecology of surf scoters (in Prince William Sound in FY 98; sites in lower Cook Inlet will be added in FY 99) as the first step in determining the cause of their suspected population decline and developing conservation and management strategies to ensure the long-term health of the population. Surf scoters are not on the injured species list. However, the Trustee Council's Restoration Plan allows restoration actions to address resources not on the list if the action will benefit an injured resource or service; this project would benefit the service of subsistence.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

645 G Street, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 907/278-8012 fax: 907/276-7178

June 16, 1998

Ted Cooney, Ph.D.
IMS
University of Alaska Fairbanks
POB 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: Project 99320-CLO / Sound Ecosystem Assessment

Dear Dr. Cooney:

I am writing to inform you of my preliminary recommendation that the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council fund Project 99320/Sound Ecosystem Assessment contingent on (a) addressing the Chief Scientist's concern about maintenance of SEA's computer network during project closeout and (b) approval of a slightly reduced budget. I have enclosed a copy of my preliminary recommendation on this project, along with the Chief Scientist's recommendation on the project's technical merits.

The Restoration Office estimates the revised budget, including general administration, will be $727,100. The revised budget should be prepared on the standard detailed budget forms and submitted to the Restoration Office, Attn: Sandra Schubert, by **July 8, 1998.** (An electronic copy of the revised budget is not needed.) Enclosed is a list of items identified in the review of 99320, which may help you prepare a revised budget. Also please provide by **July 8** a memorandum to me regarding how SEA's computer network will be maintained during project closeout.

One additional item I would like to ask you to provide is a matrix showing, for each SEA subproject, which objectives will be covered in the form of manuscripts and which will be covered in regular report format. It is my understanding that you and Stan Senner, the Trustee Council's Science Coordinator, have discussed the matrix concept. I believe it will be quite useful for all of us to agree up front on the closeout products from this important project. The matrix need not be submitted by July 8. However, I would like to review it prior to the beginning of the FY 99 fiscal year (October 1, 1999).

My preliminary recommendations on all proposals for funding in FY 99 have been incorporated into the Draft Work Plan, which will be distributed for public comment on June 17. The Restoration Office will accept public comments through July 27. Following a review of the public comments, as well as comments from the Trustee

Council's Public Advisory Group and further consideration by the Chief Scientist, I will make a final recommendation to the Trustee Council. Trustee Council action on the Work Plan is scheduled for August 13.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the *Exxon Valdez* restoration program. If you have questions about this preliminary recommendation, please call me or Claudia Slater, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game liaison to the Trustee Council.

Sincerely,

for Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison
Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Ken Holbrook, USFS Liaison
Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY99 Request	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01 Recom.	Total FY99-02
99320-CLO	Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA)	T. Cooney, et al/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 6th yr. 6 yr. project	$744.4	$727.1	$16.1	$0.0	$743.2

Project Abstract

This project is an integrated, multi-component study of processes influencing the annual survival of juvenile pink salmon and herring rearing in Prince William Sound. Support in FY 99 provides the means to close out the program. Program closeout includes the submittal of a single, integrated final report and a synthesis volume written as a single journal volume for the journal *Fisheries Oceanography*. Project support will also provide the means for individual principal investigators to address revisions to reports and manuscripts in FY 99. A nominal amount is signaled to the Trustee Council for clean up of revisions and page charges that hang over into FY 00. These tasks will be supervised by an in-house editor and the SEA lead scientist.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The science in this project is top quality and the plan for production of journal manuscripts appears feasible. The FY 97 annual report was not available at the time of reviewing this proposal, and there are significant concerns with SEA final products. These include the delay in providing acoustic data, the slow progress of integrating modeling and field measurements, and the need to integrate freshwater input to make the results of the circulation model more realistic. The final documents produced by this project must integrate all of the data collected so that scientists and managers can judge whether or not measuring synoptic properties of the coastal ocean can really improve fisheries management. The synthesis should also reach out to other data sets (e.g., jellyfish predation data from APEX, Project /163) as necessary. I note that $20,000 in "network/connectivity" costs are included in Project 99431, which is not recommended for funding. I believe that maintaining SEA's computer network in FY 99 is important for principal investigator communication and data sharing and synthesis. The lead investigator, Dr. Cooney, should advise the Executive Director regarding how the computer network will be maintained during closeout. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on addressing the concerns raised in the Chief Scientist's recommendation and resolving budget questions. This project will close out the five-year Sound Ecosystem Assessment study, which is formulating interacting numerical models designed to simulate the dynamic processes influencing the survival of juvenile pink salmon and herring rearing in Prince William Sound each year. These models will assist fisheries managers in understanding how environmental factors affect production from year to year, and should enable appropriate levels of harvest to be applied to allow stock response in the face of continually changing natural conditions. In FY 99, a final report and a synthesis volume for the journal *Fisheries Oceanography* will be prepared. In FY 2000, a small amount of additional funding may be requested to cover costs of final revisions and edits to the final report and manuscript.

Enclosure
99320/SEA Budget Review

1. The following budgets include items that the budget instructions say should be covered by the indirect rate. These are small amounts (total $12.0), which could easily be covered by what each entity will be receiving in indirect/GA in FY 99 from this project: ADFG will receive $49.8 in GA, UAF will receive $108.0 in indirect, USFS will receive $2.0 in GA, NOAA will receive $3.6 in GA, and PWSSC will receive $8.3 in indirect.

E (Willette)	ADFG	Office/computer supplies ($0.2)
G (McRoy)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($0.2) and supplies ($0.8)
H (Cooney)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($0.4)
R (Eslinger)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($0.5) and supplies ($1.5)
T (Norcross)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($1.0), supplies ($2.3), copying ($1.0)
T-sup (Seitz)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($0.2) and supplies ($0.1)
U (Paul)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($0.4) and supplies ($0.2)
Y (Scheel)	NOA/PWSSC	Communications ($0.2)
Z1 (Cooney)	UAF/ADFG	Communications ($1.1), copying ($0.6)
Z2 (Allen)	NOA/PWSSC	Communication ($1.0), supplies ($0.1), copying($0.2)

2. Publication costs -- DPD doesn't describe what these are for, as required by the budget instructions.

E (Willette)	1.0
G (McRoy)	1.0
H (Cooney)	1.0
R (Eslinger)	1.0
T (Norcross)	1.0 (also includes $2.0 for reprint charges for published manuscripts)
T-Supp (Seitz)	.3

3. 99320T-Supp (Herring TEK) includes $6.0 in contractual funds for Henry Huntington to provide technical assistance on data analysis and report preparation. This duplicates funds already included for this purpose in Project 99052B/TEK. Although the exact details of 99052B funding are not yet resolved, the $6.0 should be removed from the 99320 budget at this time.