Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Mike Castellini, Ph.D.
UAF/IMS
P.O. Box 757140
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7140

RE: Project 01341-CLO / Harbor Seal Recovery: Controlled Studies of Health and Diet

Dear Dr. Castellini:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $82,200 for Project 01341-CLO/Harbor Seal Recovery: Controlled Studies of Health and Diet. This includes $76,800 in direct project funds and $5,400 in agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01341-CLO	Harbor Seal Recovery: Controlled Studies of Health and Diet	M. Castellini/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$82.2	$0.0	$0.0	$82.2

Project Abstract

This project will fund the last year of data analysis for a long-term study underway at the Alaska SeaLife Center quantifying the impact of feeding differing fish diets on the health and body condition of harbor seals. Even though health status biomarkers for marine mammals in Prince William Sound were established during field trials (Project /001), this Alaska SeaLife Center component is the critical test of how each marker varies in a seal depending on diet and season. The project will also establish whether specific diets are nutritionally adequate to maintain seal health by monitoring health parameters and measuring assimilation efficiency during feeding trials. While this project focuses on the issue of harbor seal health, the approach is potentially applicable to any of the injured top predators.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

A potential reason for population changes in marine mammals in the North Pacific is long-term climate change. This study should provide some very unique and interesting information in this regard. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund revised proposal, which provides for project closeout in FY 01. This project is investigating the effect of diet on the health and body condition of harbor seals under controlled conditions at the Alaska SeaLife Center. The results of the study will enable scientists to test the validity of results from field tests. [NOTE: No work will be conducted at the Alaska SeaLife Center in FY 01.]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 7, 2000

Chris Elfring, Ph.D.
Polar Research Board (HA 454)
2101 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20418

RE: Project 01360-BAA / The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: Guidance for Future Research Activities

Dear Dr. Elfring:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved an additional $241,600 for Project 01360-BAA/The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: Guidance for Future Research Activities. This includes $225,800 in contractual funds for you, and $15,800 for NOAA's administrative costs. The $225,800 will add to the approximately $90,000 in FY 00 funds that are being carried forward to conduct the FY 01 scope of work. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. In addition, NOAA must extend its contract with you. For more information, please contact the NOAA representative:

Bruce Wright
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
11305 Glacier Highway, Auke Bay, Alaska 99821
Phone 907-789-6601/Fax 907-789-6608

Projects approved for FY 01 are approved in the expectation that they will be funded to their completion. However, the Trustee Council will annually evaluate a project's future funding needs based on its progress or results to date, overall restoration needs, and restoration funding constraints. The future year's funding projection for your project is $90,000 (including agency administrative costs) in FY 02; this will be reviewed again next year.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01360-BAA	The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: Guidance for Future Research Activities	C. Elfring/Polar Research Board, NRC	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 3 yr. project	$241.6	$0.0	$90.0	$331.6

Project Abstract

The National Research Council's Polar Research Board and Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology have appointed a special committee to review the scope, content, and structure of the Trustee Council's two GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring) documents, the draft Science Program and the draft Research and Monitoring Plan. To provide context for their review, the committee will become familiar with the relevant body of scientific knowledge, including that developed by activities sponsored by the Trustee Council. The committee will prepare an interim report on the Science Program, which will help the Trustee Council in development of the Research and Monitoring Plan. The committee will then prepare a final report analyzing whether the Research and Monitoring Plan is complete, scientifically sound, and is likely to meet the expectations of the Trustee Council. Both reports will contain conclusions and recommendations intended to give guidance on the nature and scope of future research and monitoring activities in the northern Gulf of Alaska.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Evaluation by the National Research Council (NRC) is critical to development of the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring program. NRC reports will contain conclusions and recommendations intended to give guidance on the nature and scope of future research and monitoring activities in the northern Gulf of Alaska. The National Research Council committee will receive Trustee Council staff support as needed to ensure timely delivery of useful products. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund. This project, which will provide important external review of the Trustee Council's long-term research and monitoring program (GEM, Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring), began in FY 00. The National Research Council (NRC) is currently reviewing the draft GEM Science Program. FY 01 activities will include an interim report on the Science Program and review of the draft GEM Research and Monitoring Plan. The NRC's final report, which will contain conclusions and recommendations on the Science Program and the Research and Monitoring Plan, will be submitted to the Trustee Council early in FY 02.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Edward O. Otis
ADFG
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 01366-CLO / Improved Salmon Escapement Enumeration Using Remote Video and Time-Lapse Recording Technology

Dear Mr. Otis:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $11,300 for Project 01366-CLO/Improved Salmon Escapement Enumeration Using Remote Video and Time-Lapse Recording Technology. This includes $10,200 in direct project funds and $1,100 in agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01366-CLO	Improved Salmon Escapement Enumeration Using Remote Video and Time-Lapse Recording Technology	E. Otis/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$11.3	$0.0	$0.0	$11.3

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. Funding in FY 01 is for preparation of a final report and possibly a publication.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project has demonstrated a cost-effective technology to make escapement data available at a reduced cost, potentially greatly enhancing in-season management of salmon. A small amount of funding is needed for FY 01 to produce a publication from this innovative project. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund closeout of this project (final report and manuscript preparation). This project is developing a new technique for estimating spawner abundance that could potentially advance salmon management. The remote video technique was tested on Delight Creek (sockeye escapement in a small stream) in FY 99 and is being tested on Port Dick Creek (pink and chum escapement in a tidally influenced stream) in FY 00.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Donald Schell, Ph.D.
UAF/IMS
P.O. Box 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: Project 01371-CLO / Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers

Dear Dr. Schell:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $92,900 for Project 01371-CLO/Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers. This includes $69,400 in direct project funds, $17,400 in University overhead, and $6,100 in ADF&G administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 will be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Alaska Department of Law

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01371-CLO	Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers	D. Schell/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$92.9	$0.0	$0.0	$92.9

Project Abstract

A major concern when using stable isotope tracers in ecosystem studies is the fidelity with which isotope ratios are transferred up food chains. Use of specific habitats or prey cannot be assessed because geographic gradients in isotope ratios confound trophic effects and/or prey switching. To remove these problems, this project developed complex analytical protocols to isolate amino acids from harbor seals which were pulse-labeled with ^{15}N-amino acids. Subsequent samples of blood plasma and red blood cells over time allowed for estimation of nitrogen incorporation rates. The goals of the final year are to identify pathways of rapid versus slower turnover and to investigate determination of habitat biomarkers. [NOTE: The principal investigator has indicated that additional closeout funds (no amount specified) may be requested for FY 02.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

FY 01 is to be the closeout year for this project, although the principal investigator has proposed an additional year of funding in FY 02. The total closeout budget over the two years should remain the same as originally proposed for FY 01. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund closeout of this project, including completion of final report. No FY 02 funding for this project will be provided. This study will shed light on the effect of nutrition on the recovery of harbor seals. [NOTE: No work will be conducted at the Alaska SeaLife Center in FY 01.]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 7, 2000

Bob Henrichs, President
Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574-1000

RE: Project 01333 / Sea Otter Monitoring
Project 01372 / Steller Sea Lion Monitoring
Project 01503 / Orca Inlet Restoration
Project 01507 / Nuchek Subsistence Camp
Project 01508 / Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure

Dear Mr. ~~Henrichs~~ Bob:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan, for which only $6 million in funding is available. Therefore, it was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund the projects listed above. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your projects for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

The Trustee Council is very committed to ensuring local Alaska Native participation in future monitoring efforts under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term research and monitoring program). I know that you and the other community facilitators, together with Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Henry Huntington, and Sarah Ward, will be closely involved in this effort. In addition, I have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep me apprised of the results of their additional surveys of sea otters in Orca Inlet. I will be sure to pass that information on to you and the Council.

I appreciate your continued interest in the restoration program. If you would like to discuss the Trustee Council's decision, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, DOI-USFWS Liaison

Good to see you at the GEM and TC meeting, Bob.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01333	Sea Otter Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The sea otters in Orca Inlet have been dying and washing up on the beaches in the past few years. The problem is getting worse. Since January 2000, over 100 sea otters have been picked up between Hartney Bay and Nelson Bay. Necropsies show the cause of death to be parasites and bone impaction. These are picked up by sea otters feeding on cannery waste. This project calls for a study to find a way to prevent these needless deaths. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $100,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not a result of the oil spill. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Information collected through other Trustee Council-funded projects indicates that sea otters have recovered from the spill throughout Prince William Sound, except in the area of Knight Island. Any observed sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not related to the oil spill, and this project's link to the Council's restoration objectives is weak.

TRUSTEE (INCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAI

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01372	Steller Sea Lion Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Steller sea lions are on the decline and have been placed on the endangered list by the National Marine Fisheries Service. If this trend continues, subsistence fishing for salmon, herring, and other marine life will be curtailed. Some traditional areas may be closed to all fishing and hunting. This project will monitor the interaction between Steller sea lions and the fishing fleets. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $250,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea lions were studied in 1989 following the spill, but no evidence of injury was obtained. This project's link to the restoration program is weak. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. There are no established injuries from the oil spill to sea lions and this project's link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives is weak.

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01503	Orca Inlet Restoration	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract	Chief Scientist's Recommendation	Trustee Council Action
Orca Inlet has become barren over the years. While it used to supply many of the subsistence resources to the residents of Eyak/Cordova, in recent years it has supplied very little. As a result of the processors dumping their fish waste and the 1964 earthquake, the inlet is dying. This project will develop a plan to restore Orca Inlet to what it was when we were children. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $150,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]	This proposal is an abstract focused upon restoration of lost subsistence resources in Orca Inlet. There are many reasons for the observed changes, including the 1964 earthquake and discharge of fish waste from canneries, but the oil spill probably had little or no role in these changes. To the extent the changes stem from such events as the earthquake, they are likely irreversible, although discharge of fish waste should be regulated under the Clean Water Act. No explanation is provided for the $750,000 budget (over five years), nor is there a description of how the project would be carried out. Do not fund.	Do not fund. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has surveyed sea otters in Orca Inlet. This summer, partly in response to concerns of local residents, USFWS will conduct more intensive aerial surveys in the area using non-EVOS funds. Long-term monitoring of sea otters in Orca Inlet may be considered as part of GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program).

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01507	Nuchek Subsistence Camp	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract	Chief Scientist's Recommendation	Trustee Council Action
As a result of the oil spill, the availability of subsistence foods has changed. The residents of the spill region are spending more time gathering traditional subsistence foods. A subsistence camp at Nuchek would allow the youth and elders to address these changes. Many of the people in the region trace their ancestry back to Nuchek. As Chugach Alaska Corporation has built a facility at Nuchek and holds annual spirit camps, this would be an appropriate location for this subsistence camp. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared.]	This proposal does not elaborate on the benefit of youth and elders addressing changes in subsistence as a result of the oil spill and it does not establish how such benefits relate to recovery goals. An agenda for how the camp could achieve these goals is not presented. Methods for achieving the purposes intended are not presented. No budget information is presented. Do not fund.	Do not fund. The value and importance of subsistence camps and other activities that teach traditional methods of harvesting and other subsistence skills to youth is clear. However, proposals submitted to the Trustee Council in the past for subsistence camps were found not to be legally permissible. The Nuchek Spirit Camp was funded in 1995 and 1996 with EVOS criminal funds with the expectation that funding in future years would be provided by Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01508	Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will protect and enhance the salmon runs on the Copper River to replace the lost subsistence resources in Prince William Sound. The project will install modern automated run monitoring and data collection equipment on all significant Copper River tributaries and will develop a baseline data index to existing data systems over a five-year period (a test year with a five-year full data set over a full run cycle). The Copper River fishery is at risk because of a shift in resource use patterns. Harvest of salmon on or near spawning tributaries is increasing rapidly. This project will provide salmon count data systems on the Copper River that can distinguish between species, provide genetic separation, monitor tributaries, and transmit data in real time. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested funds for FY 03 ($893,100), FY 04 ($937,800), FY 05 ($984,700), and FY 06 ($1,033,900).]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project proposes to utilize sonar technology to count chinook salmon in the Copper River basin, but provides no evidence of understanding the complexities involved in effectively applying sonar technologies in such environments. The long history of difficulties in using this technology to enumerate chinook salmon on the Kenai River is not considered in the proposal. Moreover, the project contains no link to restoration objectives and would address an issue outside the spill area. Trustee Council funding is inappropriate because state law already provides for priority for subsistence use of resources, and proposers thus have recourse through other means to address the problem. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This proposal would address the allocation of Copper River salmon. Allocation issues are under the purview of various resource management agencies and are not appropriate for the Trustee Council to address.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Glenn A. Seaman
ADFG, Kachemak Bay NEER
202 West Pioneer Ave., Suite B
Homer, AK 99603

Rick Foster, Ph.D.
Kachemak Bay NERR
202 W Pioneer Ave., Suite B
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 01384 / Kachemak Bay Citizen Researcher: Development of a Community-Based Marine Monitoring Program

Dear Mr. Seaman and Dr. Foster:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01384/Kachemak Bay Citizen Researcher: Development of a Community-Based Marine Monitoring Program. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01384	Kachemak Bay Citizen Researcher: Development of a Community-Based Marine Monitoring Program	G. Seaman, R. Foster/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will develop a prototype community-based citizen-monitoring program. The reserve will partner with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies to pilot and evaluate two monitoring projects and disseminate the multi-level Citizen Researcher protocol and additional research education strategies to the EVOS region. Products will include (a) a *Tools Manual for Research Education*, providing low and moderate cost strategies designed to link research and monitoring and their results with the community (intended for researchers and educators) and (b) a Train-the-Trainers manual and training for community educators within the spill region.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Although this proposal responded to the *FY 01 Invitation* with a new approach that may have some utility, it does not offer specifics about how sampling protocols would be designed, marketed among potential participants, and translated into data that can be used by scientists. It is not clear how this work might overlap with the existing community involvement program (Project /052). Community-based goals are identified but the proposal lacks clarity on the means to achieve the goals, which are correctly identified. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project responds to the *FY 01 Invitation*, which invited proposals to develop a conceptual prototype for a community monitoring program under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program). The proposal includes development of a tools manual on how to design a community based monitoring program and pilot testing of a program in Kachemak Bay, but does not include development of a prototype program for the spill area, which is what the Council is looking for.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Glenn A. Seaman
ADFG, Kachemak Bay NEER
202 West Pioneer Ave., Suite B
Homer, AK 99603

Rick Foster, Ph.D.
Kachemak Bay NERR
202 W Pioneer Ave., Suite B
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 01384 / Kachemak Bay Citizen Researcher: Development of a Community-Based Marine Monitoring Program

Dear Mr. Seaman and Dr. Foster:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01384/Kachemak Bay Citizen Researcher: Development of a Community-Based Marine Monitoring Program. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01384	Kachemak Bay Citizen Researcher: Development of a Community-Based Marine Monitoring Program	G. Seaman, R. Foster/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will develop a prototype community-based citizen-monitoring program. The reserve will partner with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies to pilot and evaluate two monitoring projects and disseminate the multi-level Citizen Researcher protocol and additional research education strategies to the EVOS region. Products will include (a) a *Tools Manual for Research Education,* providing low and moderate cost strategies designed to link research and monitoring and their results with the community (intended for researchers and educators) and (b) a Train-the-Trainers manual and training for community educators within the spill region.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Although this proposal responded to the *FY 01 Invitation* with a new approach that may have some utility, it does not offer specifics about how sampling protocols would be designed, marketed among potential participants, and translated into data that can be used by scientists. It is not clear how this work might overlap with the existing community involvement program (Project /052). Community-based goals are identified but the proposal lacks clarity on the means to achieve the goals, which are correctly identified. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project responds to the *FY 01 Invitation*, which invited proposals to develop a conceptual prototype for a community monitoring program under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program). The proposal includes development of a tools manual on how to design a community based monitoring program and pilot testing of a program in Kachemak Bay, but does not include development of a prototype program for the spill area, which is what the Council is looking for.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Carl Schoch
Kachemak Bay Estuarine Research Reserve
202 West Pioneer Ave., Suite B
Homer, AK 99603

RE: Project 01385 / Partnering with NOAA to Quantify and Monitor Environmental Attributes of Kachemak Bay

Dear Mr. Schoch:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $11,000 for Project 01385/Partnering with NOAA to Quantify and Monitor Environmental Attributes of Kachemak Bay. This includes $9,600 in direct project funds and $1,400 in ADF&G administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the only year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01385	Partnering with NOAA to Quantify and Monitor Environmental Attributes of Kachemak Bay	C. Schoch/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$11.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.0

Project Abstract

The increasing number of stresses on marine and estuarine ecosystems has challenged scientists and resource managers to find methods for determining temporal rates and spatial extents of ecological responses to changes in environmental conditions. This project will provide the necessary matching funds for the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to establish a monitoring program of oceanographic environmental attributes in Kachemak Bay. Results of ongoing studies will then be able to link patterns of oceanographic changes to patterns of biodiversity in the marine and estuarine intertidal and subtidal habitats of Kachemak Bay.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The concept embodied in this proposal has substantial scientific merit and could be appropriate for tracking long-term environmental change. The proposal does not show clearly how the data collected would be the basis for a long-term monitoring plan. It does not distinguish among important alternative hypotheses for causation of ecological community change, and does not distinguish among measures that can be collected on simple standard protocols and data that would have to be collected by professionals in support of citizen based programs. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund revised proposal, which reduces the project's scope to providing matching funds for the purchase of oceanographic instruments that will enable the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) to begin a long-term monitoring program. Seventy percent of the funds for this purpose are being provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Trustee Council's contribution represents the required 30 percent match. The KBNERR will be responsible for maintaining these instruments with non-EVOS funds. Trustee Council contribution to this effort does not indicate the Council's intent to include these sites under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term research and monitoring program).

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9 ,2000

Jia Wang, Ph.D.
IARC/IMS UAF
P.O. Box 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: Project 01389 / 3-D Ocean State Simulations for Ecosystem Applications from 1995-98 in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Wang:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $142,500 for Project 01389/3-D Ocean State Simulations for Ecosystem Applications from 1995-98 in Prince William Sound. This includes $110,900 in direct project funds, $22,300 in University indirect, and $9,300 in ADF&G administrative costs. However, the portion of these funds that is for the new objective ($79,800) is contingent on completion, by the proposer of this component (Jennifer Allen), of her previously funded work (Project 99361 video and Project 00414 web presentation).

A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

In addition to satisfying the conditions specified above, before a project may begin the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. For most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in satisfying the conditions or documenting NEPA compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your lead agency.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Jennifer Allen, Alaska Digital Graphics
Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01389	3-D Ocean State Simulations for Ecosystem Applications from 1995-98 in Prince William Sound	J. Wang/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$142.5	$0.0	$0.0	$142.5

Project Abstract

Using the observed data collected from 1995-98 in Prince William Sound and the forcing of tide, coastal current inflow/outflow, freshwater discharge, and wind stress, a 3-D Prince William Sound model developed under the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA, Project /320) will be used to produce a continuous four year, 3-D fields of velocity, temperature, salinity and mixing coefficients for resource managers, fishing industry and biological applications (in SEA, only 1996 physical forcing has been provided). In addition, the interannual variability of Prince William Sound ocean circulation, temperature, and salinity due to interannually variable atmospheric forcing will be studied. This will allow identification of the key environmental parameters to be included in a long-term monitoring program to assist resource managers. In addition, FY 01 funding will rescue the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA, Project/320) database and install it on a new server at the Institute of Marine Science, International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The new server will serve future modeling studies for the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) program.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will refine and apply the Prince William Sound physical model to questions about causes and consequences of physical and biological variability. To accomplish this goal, a large quantity of electronic information needs to be copied from the Prince William Sound Science Center computer system and delivered to the International Arctic Research Center, and this will also provide additional back-up of the SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320) data archive. The cost of this transfer seems large, and there are questions regarding overdue deliverables from some team members. Nonetheless, investigators are uniquely qualified and their objectives are of the highest priority. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund, including new objective which will purchase a server for the University of Alaska Fairbanks International Arctic Research Center and install on it the SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320) database. Funding for the new objective ($79,800) is contingent on completion by the proposer (J. Allen) of previously funded work: Project 99361 video and Project 00414 web presentation. This project is designed to improve understanding of larval herring transport, which is essential for predicting productivity in Prince William Sound and which has been in demand by commercial fishers as well as fisheries managers.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Kelly Zeiner
ADNR
550 W 7th Ave, Ste 706
Anchorage, AK 99501

Jeff Hock
ADEC
410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 105
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

RE: Project 01391 / Cook Inlet Information Management & Monitoring System

Dear Ms. Zeiner and Mr. Hock:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $239,000 for Project 01391/Cook Inlet Information Management & Monitoring System. This includes $216,500 in direct project funds and $22,500 in agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 will be the Council's final contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Carol Fries, ADNR Liaison
Marianne See, ADEC Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01391	Cook Inlet Information Management/Monitoring System (CIIMMS)	K. Zeiner/ADNR, J. Hock/ADEC	ADNR	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$239.0	$0.0	$0.0	$239.0

Project Abstract

The Cook Inlet Information Management/Monitoring System (CIIMMS) will provide a wide range of users the opportunity to share and access valuable information and data about the Cook Inlet watershed and Cook Inlet-related activities. CIIMMS potential users include educators, scientists, students, researchers, resource managers, private organizations, and individual citizens. CIIMMS will provide an interactive website for the Cook Inlet community to efficiently and effectively contribute, identify, and access relevant information from a distributed network of providers. The CIIMMS website is at *http://www.dec.state.ak.us/ciimms*.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Protecting the Trustee Council's substantial investment in CIIMMS requires continuation of the web site beyond the end of this project. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have committed to this, but have not clearly identified resources for operation and maintenance now and in the future. This project has been thoughtfully executed, with careful attention being paid to the comments of peer reviewers and potential users, and a web site has been developed with great potential for providing access to information about Cook Inlet. This site also could be integrated into the data and information system that will need to be in place for GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program). The true test of the site will be the continued use it gets, which will be a function of people finding the site dependable and up-to-date. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund. This project aims to improve management of injured and other marine natural resources by facilitating data sharing, resource management, and planning within the Cook Inlet watershed. FY 01 will be the Trustee Council's final contribution to this effort.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Thomas C. Kline, Jr., Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574

RE: Project 01393-BAA / Prince William Sound Food Webs: Structure and Change

Dear Dr. Kline:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01393-BAA/Prince William Sound Food Webs: Structure and Change. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in December following review by the Chief Scientist of the project's FY 00 results (see Chief Scientist's recommendation, attached, for specifics). In anticipation of your project being considered at that time, please submit preliminary results from your FY 00 field season to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1, 2000. Also please submit by November 1 a reduced budget for roughly $120,000 that eliminates the ECOPATH validation objective and makes the other adjustments outlined in my June letter to you (copy attached).

At the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your lead agency.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01393-BAA	Prince William Sound Food Webs: Structure and Change	T. Kline/PWSSC	NOAA	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$0.0	$120.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Recent research has shown that the oceanographic conditions connecting the northern Gulf of Alaska with Prince William Sound may affect recruitment and nutritional processes in fishes. Accordingly, food webs are subject to changes in carbon flow occurring between the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound. This project seeks to (a) conduct retrospective analyses of Gulf of Alaska production shifts since the oil spill and (b) address ECOPATH model validation data gaps. These analyses will enable a better understanding of the ecological role of regime shift processes conjectured to be impeding the natural restoration of populations in Prince William Sound affected by the oil spill.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the third year of a three-year project to develop a retrospective assessment of carbon sources in the Prince William Sound food web by analyzing stable isotopes in layers of mussel shells. Data was also to be applied to continue validation of the Prince William Sound ECOPATH model (Project /330). The development of the ECOPATH model is complete, so this objective should not be funded for FY 01. Given that a significant amount of the shell data analysis is complete, the proposer should present his preliminary analysis to provide proof of concept. Defer pending further evaluation of progress.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project until preliminary results are submitted and reviewed. If funded, funding will be contingent on submittal and approval of a reduced budget that eliminates the ECOPATH validation objective and makes several other small reductions. This project is using carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios to confirm the relative trophic status of species within the Prince William Sound ecosystem. This method could be a valuable tool for the Trustee Council's long-term research and monitoring program (GEM, or Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring). [NOTE: Recommended cost is target only.]

01393

ITEMS CONSIDERED IN REVIEW OF FY 01 BUDGETS

1. Level of funding authorized in FY 00 and projection, at that time, of FY 01 budget. Items budgeted for FY 00 but not implemented should not be funded again in FY 01 unless the proposer can verify that he/she will lapse the "unused" FY 00 funds.

2. Direction given by Trustee Council and/or Chief Scientist in FY 00 Final Work Plan or in subsequent review sessions (e.g., transition to agency funding, 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 00.

4. Personal Services: Note if number of months has increased significantly over FY 00 or if number of months appears excessive, e.g. 12 mos. for a closeout and no justification provided. Also note if salary appears excessive relative to scope of work and salaries typically paid agency or 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 01250.

6. Travel: Note if travel has increased significantly over FY 00 and no justification is provided. Rental car calculation looks to be in error

7. Annual Workshop: For PI and co-PI only, travel and per diem for up to 3 days -- and only if PI/co-PI not located in Anchorage.

8. Other EVOS Reviews/Workshops: No technical review sessions are scheduled for FY 01.

9. Professional Conferences: One each per PI (and co-PI if appropriate) if the PI will be presenting results of his or her EVOS work or 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 01 (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 01 (or rolled into a non-severable contract in FY 01).

12. Equipment: Note purchases of major new equipment.

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 25% of all direct costs except subcontract costs in excess of $25,000 (see p. 61 of *FY 01 Invitation* for more detail).

14. Community Involvement and TEK: Note funds budgeted.

15. Future Years: Note significant changes (from what was projected in the FY 00 Final Work Plan) in FY 2002. No funding decisions for FY 03 and beyond are being made at this time.

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

- Increased costs for photocopying, phone, presentation materials, office supplies, etc. not justified.
- Per Chief Scientist's recommendation, delete costs associated with ECOPATH objective.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

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

RE: Project 01395 / Planning for Long-Term Monitoring in the Nearshore: Designing Studies to Detect Change and Assess Cause

Dear Dr. Dean:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01395/Planning for Long-Term Monitoring in the Nearshore: Designing Studies to Detect Change and Assess Cause. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn, DOI-USGS Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01395	Planning for Long-Term Monitoring in the Nearshore: Designing Studies to Detect Change and Assess Cause	T. Dean/Coastal Resources Associates, et al	DOI	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will produce a draft nearshore monitoring plan that provides a framework for future monitoring under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term research and monitoring program). The process to be used in creating this plan will be to formulate hypotheses with respect to potential changes to the nearshore environment, identify questions that must be answered before a design can be developed to address these hypotheses, answer design questions by analyzing existing data or conducting directed field studies, and conduct cost-benefit analyses to identify the most powerful design within funding constraints. Workshops will be held during the course of plan development to seek input from the Council's stakeholders.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Implementation of a long-term monitoring plan for the nearshore environment will require development of specific hypotheses about causes of change in shoreline communities and strategies for their evaluation. This excellent proposal considers this issue with a strong interdisciplinary team of investigators, and includes benthic/intertidal communities as well as linked vertebrate consumers, namely sea otters and harlequin ducks. The work would evaluate power to detect change and distinguish among competing explanations for change. Wide involvement of the public and various knowledgeable people is incorporated. However, prior to developing the specific plan for a monitoring program for the nearshore environment, it is essential to develop consensus regarding the priority scientific questions that must be addressed and how measurements in the nearshore environment will be linked to the rest of the ecosystem. There is a process presently underway to build a consensus, which involves scientific planning and political coalition building. Once this process is complete, the sophisticated and well justified techniques described in this proposal can be used to design the specifics of the nearshore element of this overall program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This proposal, which would develop a nearshore monitoring component for GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program), is a well thought-out proposal by an excellent team of researchers. However, it is premature given the current stage of GEM's development.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Lee Hulbert
NMFS Auke Bay Lab
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Project 01396 / Alaska Salmon Shark Assessment

Dear Mr. Hulbert:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01396 / Alaska Salmon Shark Assessment. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in December following a review by the Chief Scientist of the project's FY 00 results. In anticipation of your project being considered at that time, please submit preliminary results from your FY 00 field season to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1, 2000.

At the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your lead agency.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01396	Alaska Salmon Shark Assessment	L. Hulbert/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$85.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will perform an unbiased estimate of salmon shark abundance and consumption in Prince William Sound. FY 01 will focus on continued field sampling and analyses of salmon shark abundance and consumption from data collected in FY 00 with an emphasis on data collected from directed stratified random line transect sampling and from aerial survey counts from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Geological Survey. Satellite tags and data archival tags will be employed to describe salmon shark movements and migrations, and critical feeding areas and depths. This research will assess the role of a predominant shark species as an indicator of change in the dynamic ocean climate and trophic structures in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. [NOTE: This project was originally proposed as a two-year project; a third year of funding (FY 02) is also now proposed.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

When this project was funded in FY 00, it was focused on a limited set of objectives for one year. The funding decision for FY 01 was to be based on evaluation of FY 00 results, which are not yet available. While the work in FY 00 was funded to provide an index of relative population abundance, FY 01 proposes a population estimate based on extrapolation of results from an aerial survey of shallow water habitat, complemented by a hydroacoustic-based approach for offshore habitat. The reviewers find this methodology questionable and unlikely to succeed. Also, in expanding the objectives, the project appears to be too scattered and suggests that the relationships between shark ecology, conservation, and management have not been thought through with regard to priorities. While the FY 00 data are not available, the reviewers found the FY 01 proposal weak and that other work should have higher priority. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending review of FY 00 results. If FY 01 funding is approved, it should be at a level comparable to that provided in FY 00. Sharks appear to be of growing ecological importance in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. Funding was approved in FY 00 for a one-year study on salmon shark abundance relative to ocean warming, with possible consideration of an additional year of funding pending review of FY 00 results. It is premature to consider any long-term study of sharks until a decision is made on which top-level predators will be a part of GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term research and monitoring program).

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Thomas Okey
University of BC, Fisheries Centre
2204 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4
CANADA

RE: Project 01397 / Developing Mass-Balance Simulation Models as Fisheries Management Tools in Alaska

Dear ~~Mr. Okey~~ Tom:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for Fiscal Year 2001. Unfortunately, it was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council defer a decision on funding your project until December, pending availability of funds and satisfactory response to the Chief Scientist's concerns. However, prior to the Council's August meeting, I changed my recommendation on your project to "do not fund". The Council set a cap of $6 million for the FY 01 Work Plan. My final recommendation to the Council, which they adopted at their August 3 meeting, was to fund projects totaling $4.7 million and to defer projects totaling $1.7 million. In order to stay within the $6 million cap, $400,000 of projects on the defer-to-December list will not be funded. Because the peer reviewers believe that other modeling approaches need development in the long term to answer the needs of fisheries managers and the fishing community, it seemed very unlikely that Project 01397 would be funded in December. My no funding recommendation more accurately reflects the project's true status.

I know that your revised proposal focuses on herring. A synthesis of our current understanding of Pacific herring in Prince William Sound, including recommendations on future herring work, is under preparation and due the end of September. Following review of the synthesis and recommendations, the Trustee Council will likely sponsor a workshop to discuss the state of our current knowledge and to set research and monitoring priorities. You are encouraged to participate in that workshop, and I will keep you informed when planning for it begins.

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I appreciate your continued interest in the restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on Project 01397 is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01397	Developing Mass-Balance Simulation Models as Fisheries Management Tools in Alaska	T. Okey/UBC	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will develop a mass-balance simulation model to be used to better understand and manage important fisheries resources within Prince William Sound and adjacent marine areas. A mass-balance model of trophic flows in the sound was developed under Project /330. Although analyses using this model indicate intriguing effects of fisheries, the current model was not specifically structured to evaluate harvest strategies or policies that fisheries managers are currently considering. This project will (a) obtain and incorporate more detailed information on selected species and species groups from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other sources; (b) modify the existing model to provide output useful for fisheries management; (c) include environmental forcing components in the model to allow simulation of possible environmental, as well as anthropogenic, effects on species of interest; and (d) make the model and data available in the public domain on the Internet.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Past contributions by this proposer to restoration objectives have been substantial (Project /330), but this proposal is not specific enough about what fishery management issues it would address. The proposal aims to create a "useful tool" for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game without identifying the problem to which the tool will be applied and who will apply it. The proposal lacks an indication of endorsement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and from other agencies and user groups in the Prince William Sound area, despite a significant amount of effort in Project /330 to develop this interest. It is vitally important that any modeling efforts the Trustee Council undertakes eventually lead to solving specific problems, and that the end users, managers, harvesters, and environmental groups be identified and engaged. The existing model is a powerful teaching tool with potential research applications, but it does not offer output that can presently be used for management decision-making. In addition, the peer reviewers have challenged the outcomes of mass balance simulation models used previously, and other approaches may be more appropriate. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project proposes to revise the Prince William Sound mass-balance model developed under Project /330 to make it a useful tool for fisheries managers. However, the Chief Scientist finds that the proposal lacks specificity and fails to demonstrate the necessary interest from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other agencies and user groups at which the proposal is aimed. The Chief Scientist also raises a general concern about mass balance models.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Lowell H. Suring
Chugach National Forest
3301 C St., Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Project 01339 / Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model
Project 01399 / Eastern Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model

Dear Mr. Suring:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01339/Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in December pending submittal to the Chief Scientist and peer review of the model and recommendations currently being prepared.

At the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

In regard to Project 01399/Eastern Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model, the Trustee Council accepted my recommendation that this project not be funded in FY 01. The Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million; it was not possible to fund all proposals that were submitted.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your lead agency.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Ken Holbrook, USFS Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01339	Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	L. Suring/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$0.0	$23.1	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will fund two manuscripts for publication in professional journals. One manuscript will describe the use of GIS techniques to describe current human-use patterns in western Prince William Sound and to model potential changes in those use patterns as a result of additional development. A second manuscript will document use of the GIS generated maps of present and projected human-use patterns and their incorporation with GIS maps of the distribution of injured resources, as a basis for identifying areas where there may be conflicts between human use and wildlife. Identification of potential areas of conflict has allowed development of recommended management practices that may eliminate or minimize the negative effects of increasing human use. All injured species are being addressed in a general approach but specific management recommendations will be provided for harbor seal, pigeon guillemot, and cutthroat trout.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal, which will publish the results of this project as two journal papers, is in keeping with Trustee Council policy and will inform a broad community about the work. In addition to journal publications, the principal investigators should make a concerted effort to have their model applied by natural resource managers in western Prince William Sound. Defer pending completion, acceptance, and evaluation of the final report, which should include specific targeted recommendations for managers.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project until model and recommendations, which were due December 31, 1999, are submitted and reviewed. This project is developing and testing in western Prince William Sound a model for projecting future impacts of human use on resources injured by the oil spill. The FY 01 proposal is for preparation of two manuscripts for publication, which is consistent with the Trustee Council's commitment to seeing study results published in the peer reviewed literature.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01399	Eastern Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	L. Suring/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project is an expansion of the human-use and wildlife disturbance model developed for western Prince William Sound (Project /339). The project will use GIS techniques to describe human-use patterns in eastern Prince William Sound and to model potential changes in those patterns as a result of additional development. GIS generated maps of present and projected human-use patterns will be incorporated with GIS maps of the distribution of resources injured as a result of the oil spill in order to identify areas where there may be conflicts between human use and wildlife. Identification of potential areas of conflict will allow development of recommended management practices that may eliminate or minimize the negative effects of increasing human use. All injured wildlife resources and wildlife subsistence species will be addressed with specific management recommendations. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($60,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is to conduct a study in eastern Prince William Sound, similar to a project nearing completion in western Prince William Sound (Project /339), that develops a model predicting spatially explicit growth in human uses, and to contrast these uses to maps of environmental sensitivity to identify potential conflicts. This work can provide valuable information for recreation and land-use management decisions. However, the original work is not yet complete for western Prince William Sound, and that project should be completed and evaluated prior to initiating this new effort. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project would expand to eastern Prince William Sound the human use and wildlife disturbance model being developed for western Prince William Sound (Project /339). Because the model is not yet completed, and once completed will require peer review and evaluation, it would be premature to fund the expansion of the model at this time.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Charlie Hughey, EVOS CIF
Valdez Native Tribe
P.O. Box 1108
Valdez, AK 99686

Charles E. O'Clair, Ph.D.
Auke Bay Wildlife Laboratory
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 01401 / Assessment of Spot Shrimp Abundance in Prince William Sound

Dear Mr. Hughey and Dr. O'Clair:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $94,400 for Project 01401/Assessment of Spot Shrimp Abundance in Prince William Sound. This includes $85,600 in direct project funds and $8,800 in NOAA administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Projects approved for FY 01 are approved in the expectation that they will be funded to their completion. However, the Trustee Council will annually evaluate a project's future funding needs based on its progress or results to date, overall restoration needs, and restoration funding constraints. The future years' funding projection for your project (including agency administrative costs) is $33,000 in FY 02; this will be reviewed again next year.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01401	Assessment of Spot Shrimp Abundance in Prince William Sound	C. Hughey/ Valdez Native Tribe, C. O'Clair/ NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 3rd yr. 4 yr. project	$94.4	$0.0	$33.0	$127.4

Project Abstract

This project will determine whether the spot shrimp population in Prince William Sound is recovering from depletion. FY 00 results (October 1999) are consistent with those of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game annual survey and indicate a cessation in the apparent decline of spot shrimp abundance in western Prince William Sound that had taken place from 1992 to 1998. Evidence of the beginning of recovery of the spot shrimp population, though encouraging, is inconclusive. In FY 01, the project will provide a second estimate of the abundance of spot shrimp, and continue the studies of spot shrimp population structure and reproductive potential, to determine whether the indications of population recovery are real. An added objective in FY 01 is an estimate of recruitment potential through assessment of the relative abundance of juveniles. Project closeout in FY 02 will include providing input into the development of a shrimp management plan with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the third year of a four-year project. The original justification for the project was based upon a downward population trend for spot shrimp. FY 00 survey results (October 1999) suggest no downward trend; this result is consistent with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game annual survey. A second survey (FY 01, October 2000) will provide additional data to determine if the downward population trend has ceased. The new objective to model growth for spot shrimp is not a priority and should not be funded. Fund revised proposal, which deletes the modeling objective.

Trustee Council Action

Fund revised proposal, which deletes the new objective related to growth modeling. This project is studying the abundance of spot shrimp in Prince William Sound to determine whether the population can sustain seasonal openings for subsistence, personal use, and commercial fishing. Shrimp are not on the injured resources 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 will benefit the services of subsistence and commercial fishing. The project is a joint effort of the Valdez Native Tribe and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Auke Bay Lab.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Jennifer L. Nielsen, Ph.D.
USGS Biological Resources Division
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Project 01404 / Archival Tags for Tracking King Salmon at Sea: Migrations, Biology, and Oceanographic Preferences in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Nielsen:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01404/Archival Tags for Tracking King Salmon at Sea: Migrations, Biology, and Oceanographic Preferences in Prince William Sound. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in mid-December pending (a) submittal, and review by the Chief Scientist, of results from Project 00478/Testing Satellite Tags and (b) availability of funds.

In order to allow adequate time for review by the Chief Scientist prior to the December meeting, **please submit a summary of Project 00478 results to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1, 2000**. Your revised Project 01404 proposal, which reduces the scope of the project to a pilot only as recommended by the peer reviewers, has been received and forwarded to the Chief Scientist for review.

At the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your lead agency.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn, DOI-USGS Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01404	Archival Tags for Tracking King Salmon at Sea: Migrations, Biology, and Oceanographic Preferences in Prince William Sound	J. Nielsen/USGS-BRD	DOI	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$100.0		$0.0

Project Abstract

Archive tags with temperature and light-geolocation sensors will be monitored for post-smolt king salmon in Prince William Sound. Light/location relationships specific to the Gulf of Alaska developed under Project 00478 will be applied in this study of movement and migration paths for king salmon during maturation in ocean environments in the sound. Tagging chinook reared in the hatchery environment to the required size (150-300mm) will allow the efficiency and accuracy of this technology to be tested. FY 01 will include pilot studies of tag retention, behavior, and growth for chinook in captivity. These studies will take place at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's chinook hatchery outside of Anchorage (Elmendorf Air Force Base). A release experiment in FY 02 will be contingent on the success of the retention study and incorporate timed release of chinook. Archive tagged fish will be used to document king salmon use of marine habitats, migration routes, contribution to the sport fishery, and hatchery/wild interactions for chinook.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is an innovative and timely proposal that could contribute to identification of ecologically sensitive areas in Prince William Sound. The goals are well specified and the data could provide a unique perspective on productivity in the sound. Furthermore, the technology, as applied to salmon, has great potential. However, Project 00478/Testing Satellite Tags should be completed before this project is implemented. A revised proposal, which provides for a pilot tag retention, behavior, and growth study in FY 01 (e.g., hatchery) and a release experiment in FY 02 contingent on the success of the retention study, has been submitted. Defer pending Project 00478 results on development of geolocation algorithms based on day length, as well as availability of funding.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending (a) Project 00478/Testing Satellite Tags results on development of geolocation algorithms based on day length and (b) availability of funds. A revised proposal, which reduces the project's scope to a pilot only as recommended by the Chief Scientist, has been submitted. This project is designed to further test the development and application of archive tag technology, which has great promise for a variety of species. If the pilot study is funded and successfully carried out in FY 01, funding for a release experiment may be considered in FY 02.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Dan Rosenberg
ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

RE: Project 01273-CLO / Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource
Project 01407 / Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics
Project 01477 / Where Do Prince William Sound Harlequin Ducks Breed? A Satellite Telemetry Approach

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting August 3, 2000. The Council's action on your projects was as follows.

- Project 01273-CLO/Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource - I am pleased to inform you that the Trustee Council approved funding in the amount of $50,100 for this project contingent on submitting to the Chief Scientist the report on Project 99273. Funding includes $44,200 in direct project funds and $5,900 in ADF&G administrative costs. FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

- Project 01407 / Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics - The Trustee Council voted to defer action on this project. It will be reconsidered in December, pending integration of your FY 00 data into an assessment of the significance of population trends and power analysis to assess appropriate sampling frequency. In order to allow adequate time for this information to be peer reviewed, please submit your revised Detailed Project Description to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1, 2000. A reduced budget, for the expected amount of $71,000, also needs to be submitted by that date.

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You should also be aware that, at the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

- Project 01477 / Where Do Prince William Sound Harlequin Ducks Breed? A Satellite Telemetry Approach - The Trustee Council accepted my recommendation to not fund this project. We received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a FY 01 Work Plan of $6 million and it was not possible to fund all proposals that were submitted.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01273-CLO	Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$50.1	$0.0	$0.0	$50.1

Project Abstract

This project will provide closeout funding for the scoter satellite telemetry and traditional ecological knowledge project. A final report and manuscripts will be prepared, reporting on the findings of this three-year effort.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will close out a multi-year effort to improve our understanding of the life history and ecology of surf scoters. In FY 01, funds will provide for a final report and manuscripts. Of the manuscripts proposed, #1-identifying links between winter, breeding, and molting areas and #2-effects and performance of implantable satellite transmitters, should be the priority. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund contingent on submittal of the Project 99273 report (now expected September 1, 2000). This project is studying the life history and ecology of surf scoters in Prince William Sound 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 resources 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 is designed to benefit the service of subsistence.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01407	Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 3 yr. project	$0.0	$71.0	$71.0	$71.0

Project Abstract

Harlequin duck populations have not recovered from the effects of the oil spill. Populations are declining in oiled areas of Prince William Sound while increasing in unoiled areas. This project will conduct late-winter boat surveys to assess the recovery of ducks inhabiting oiled areas. Population structure, abundance, and recruitment will be compared between oiled and unoiled areas in Prince William Sound to assess trends, population dynamics, and the progress of recovery. As part of the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring program (GEM, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program), this project would help identify changes to the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem and improve our ability to differentiate between natural and man-caused population changes. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($75,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is a valuable part of documenting injury and recovery in harlequin ducks. Harlequins appear to be susceptible to oil in nearshore environments and may be good indicators of the lingering effects of the spill, but the request for funding into FY 03 is premature. The proposal does not use power analysis techniques to assess the frequency of sampling necessary to detect meaningful changes over time, which is unfortunate as the assumption of annual sampling makes the project costly. Defer pending integration of FY 00 data into an assessment of the significance of population trends and power analysis to assess appropriate sampling frequency.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project until the Chief Scientist's concerns (integration of FY 00 data and power analysis) are addressed. If funded, funding will be contingent on (a) submittal and approval of a revised budget for the expected amount ($71,000) and (b) submittal of Project 99273 report (now expected September 1, 2000). Trustee Council funding is expected in FY 01 and FY 02 only; the proposer's request for funds in FY 03 is premature pending completion of the Council's long-term research and monitoring plan (GEM, Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring). This project is intended to assess the recovery of harlequin duck populations inhabiting oiled areas. The harlequin duck is one of the species that is still not showing signs of recovery from the oil spill.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01477	Where Do Prince William Sound Harlequin Ducks Breed? A Satellite Telemetry Approach	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Harlequin ducks have not recovered from the effects of the oil spill. Populations in oiled areas are continuing to decline. Conditions on the breeding grounds may contribute to the decline or impede recovery. However, the location of breeding areas for the majority of Prince William Sound harlequin ducks is unknown. This project will use satellite telemetry to gain information on pre- and post-breeding movements within the sound, dispersal, migration routes, and location of breeding areas. This critical life-history information which is lacking for Prince William Sound harlequin ducks will aid in understanding the causes of population change and assessing recovery. Identification of breeding areas and migration routes will allow for improved habitat protection via acquisition, recreational and land-use planning, permitting, and pollution control. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($110,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Harlequin ducks were an injured resource and have not recovered from the oil spill. This project would provide more information about the breeding habitat of harlequin ducks that winter in Prince William Sound. Damage to reproduction due to oiling would not be addressed. In addition, this project would need to be carried on through FY 03 (with a final report in FY 04) to obtain final results. Conditions in western Prince William Sound, not distant breeding habitat, is indicated to be the recovery problem. Experience with application of this technology to scoters has not been promising. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Other harlequin duck work recommended for funding in FY 01 (e.g., Project 01423) is a higher priority for funding. Oil exposure, not breeding habitat, is the likely inhibitor of recovery for harlequin ducks.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

A.J. Paul, Ph.D.
UAF/IMS Seward Marine Center
P.O. Box 730
Seward, AK 99664-1197

Robert J. Foy
UAF/IMS/SFOS
P.O. Box 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: Project 01412 / Overlap of Offshore and Neritic Zooplankton Assemblages: Implications for Juvenile Herring

Dear Dr. Paul and Mr. Foy:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01412/Overlap of Offshore and Neritic Zooplankton Assemblages: Implications for Juvenile Herring. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01412	Overlap of Offshore and Neritic Zooplankton Assemblages: Implications for Juvenile Herring	A. J. Paul, R. Foy/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Pacific herring population crashes in the past decade have been linked to mortality due to disease. Young-of-the-year herring metamorphose in July, well after the spring zooplankton bloom, and have to forage in a stratified water column low in nutrients. Prey availability and nutrition affect herring condition which dictates vulnerability to disease and overwintering survival. Studies have found that Gulf of Alaska derived carbon may be transported into Prince William Sound neritic environments, influencing food webs. This project will analyze the importance of central Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska zooplankton to juvenile herring diets from archived samples collected in neritic and central Prince William Sound from the spring of 1996 and 1997.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is a follow-up to the SEA herring work (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320), and with Project 01523 (Herring Distribution) proposes to provide a better understanding of factors that influence herring juvenile survival. A better proposal that incorporates results of SEA syntheses could conceivably be convincing. As is, the proposal is not justified well enough in concept or in analyses or syntheses of past data to justify funding. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist advises that this project, which would use data collected under SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320) to assess the importance of transport of Gulf of Alaska carbon into herring nursery areas, does not adequately incorporate results of SEA syntheses and is not adequately justified.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Jim Bodkin
USGS-BRD
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6119

Dan Esler
USGS-BRD, AK Science Ctr
1011 E Tudor Rd
Anchorage, AK 99503-6119

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

RE: Project 01423 / Patterns and Processes of Population Change in Selected Nearshore Vertebrate Predators

Dear Mr. Bodkin, Mr. Esler and Dr. Dean:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $505,400 for Project 01423/Patterns and Processes of Population Change in Selected Nearshore Vertebrate Predators. This includes $328,900 in direct project funds, $133,900 in Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees, and $42,600 in agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

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Projects approved for FY 01 are approved in the expectation that they will be funded to their completion. The Trustee Council will annually evaluate a project's future funding needs based on its progress or results to date, overall restoration needs, and restoration funding constraints. The future years' funding projection for your project is unspecified. However, no funding for FY 03 is being considered for any project at this time.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn, DOI-USGS Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01423	Patterns and Processes of Population Change in Selected Nearshore Vertebrate Predators	J. Bodkin, D. Esler/USGS-BRD, T. Dean/CRA, Inc.	DOI	Cont'd 3rd yr. 4 yr. project	$505.4	$0.0		$505.4

Project Abstract

Sea otters and harlequin ducks have not fully recovered from the oil spill. This project will explore links between oil exposure and the lack of population recovery, with the intent of understanding constraints to recovery of these species and the nearshore environment. In FY 01, sea otter work will include estimation of age-specific survival rates and monitoring of CYP1A expression. Harlequin duck field studies will examine the relationship between survival and CYP1A. Captive experiments on harlequin ducks will examine the relationships between oil exposure and CYP1A induction, and metabolic and behavioral consequences of exposure. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($250,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal includes some ongoing components and some new components for FY 01. The continuation of the vital harlequin duck work, including both the field and Alaska Sealife Center components, is justified. The increase in the harlequin principal investigator's time is also well justified. Given the important work on population dynamics derived from collection of sea otter carcasses, the shoreline carcass survey is well justified. Since the sea otter population is unlikely to show a large change in FY 01, the aerial population surveys are a lower priority and should not be funded in FY 01. The measurement of biomarkers of oil exposure in sea otter field surveys needs to be carried out as this is the primary indicator of continuing oil exposure. Experimental dosing of sea otters with oil does not appear justified at this point in the restoration program. A report on the sea urchin component should be prepared as planned in FY 01. Fund revised proposal, which incorporates the above recommendations.

Trustee Council Action

Fund revised proposal, which deletes the captive sea otter component and the sea otter aerial survey component. Funding for sea otter aerial surveys may be considered for FY 02. No funding for FY 03 is being considered at this time. This project is an important extension of the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator (Project /025) work on two still-injured species, sea otters and harlequin ducks. In FY 01, an objective related to sea otter survival/ CYP1A induction is added and the sea urchin component will conclude with preparation of a final report. [NOTE: Funding includes Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees of $133,900 (plus $9,400 in GA for a total of $141,300).]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Kelly Wolf
P.O. Box 2416
Kenai, AK 99611

RE: Project 01430 / Youth Restoration Corps

Dear ~~Mr. Wolf~~ Kelly:

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01430/Youth Restoration Corps as part of the FY 2001 Work Plan. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation at their meeting on August 3. As I indicated in my June letter, I intend to pursue reprogramming funds to the Youth Restoration Corps from the Council's larger Kenai River restoration project (Project /180), if funds are available at the completion of that project. The U.S. Forest Service is supportive of this effort. Information on the status of those funds should be available next month, and I will be back in touch with you then.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Give me a call and we can talk.
M.

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Ken Holbrook, USFS

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01430	Youth Restoration Corps	K. Wolf/Youth Restoration Corps	USFS	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide funding support to the Youth Restoration Corps to continue its streambank restoration activities along the Kenai and other rivers in the spill area. The corps provides 16-19 year-old youth hands-on training in riparian ecosystems, and work experience using a variety of bio-restoration techniques. The program emphasizes the use of low cost, locally available, natural materials and implements a variety of techniques that can be used on sites that are accessible only by foot. By the conclusion of this project, 1,600 lineal feet of riverbank along the sanctuary of the Kenai and Russian rivers and along the Kenai River at the Kenai River Center will have been restored and monitored to ensure stability.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Involving young people in restoration is very desirable, and the hands-on aspect of this work is appealing. This is a positive project involving youth in repairing riparian habitat, and involves modest salaries. As drafted, however, this proposal is only weakly linked to the Trustee Council's recovery objectives, and it fails to present sufficient detail for the stream watch objective. This does not seem like a high priority. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund with FY 01 funds. Consider reprogramming some unspent capital funds from earlier Kenai River restoration appropriations (Project /180) to this effort. Through Project /180, the Trustee Council has contributed roughly $1.8 million to habitat restoration efforts along the banks of the Kenai River and its tributaries. In FY 98, Project 98180 included $20,000 for a contract with the Youth Restoration Corps to perform bank rehabilitation on the Russian River. Additional funding is now being requested by the Youth Restoration Corps to perform similar work. The Council also has provided over $12 million to purchase small parcels adjacent to or near the Kenai River.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Alex Wertheimer
NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 01440 / Pink Salmon Hatcheries in Prince William Sound: Enhancement or Replacement of Natural Production?
Project 01450-BAA / Summary of the Status of Pacific Salmon Populations in the Region Affected by the Oil Spill

Dear Mr. Wertheimer:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund projects 01440/Pink Salmon Hatcheries in Prince William Sound: Enhancement or Replacement of Natural Production? and 01450-BAA/Summary of the Status of Pacific Salmon Populations in the Region Affected by the Oil Spill. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your projects for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01440	Pink Salmon Hatcheries in Prince William Sound: Enhancement or Replacement of Natural Production?	A. Wertheimer/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will examine pink salmon production models to determine if hatchery production in Prince William Sound enhances or replaces wild production. Pink salmon catches in the sound are at historical highs, with most of the catch produced by hatcheries. A recently published study supported in part by Exxon asserts that more than 90 percent of the current production would have been attained by wild stocks in the absence of hatchery production and implies that hatcheries are the cause of the decline and lack of recovery of wild pink salmon. This project will critically examine these assertions, determining if historical patterns of abundance or population dynamic models indicate replacement rather than enhancement of Prince William Sound pink salmon and consider alternate models.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal from qualified investigators addresses an important question in fisheries management. The proposal has substantial scientific merit as a correlative approach based on intensive analysis of available data. This general approach has been attempted in other regions, such as the Columbia River basin, and has been frustrated by the imprecision of the data on wild salmon survival and our inability to identify the mechanisms of interaction between wild and hatchery fish. Despite the skill of the investigators, these limitations are inherent in the available data. New experimental approaches will be required to address these limitations in order to provide convincing advice to managers on how to manage hatchery production in relation to wild salmon populations. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project would critique the recent analysis (Hilborn and Eggers) that asserts that 90 percent or more of the current pink salmon production in Prince William Sound would have been attained by wild stocks in the absence of hatchery production and implies that hatcheries are the cause of the decline and lack of recovery of wild pink salmon. The Chief Scientist advises that the proposed approach is not feasible due to the imprecision of existing data on wild salmon survival and the inability to identify the mechanisms of interaction between wild and hatchery fish. The Trustee Council sponsored a workshop in July 2000 to further discuss this issue and a white paper is currently being prepared.

TRUST[illegible] COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK F[illegible]N

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01450-BAA	Summary of the Status of Pacific Salmon Populations in the Region Affected by the Oil Spill	A. Wertheimer/AFS	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide a comprehensive survey of the current status of salmon populations in the region affected by the oil spill. Status will be evaluated using a hierarchical approach, proceeding from large-scale geographic resolution to the fine scale of analysis of escapement data for specific spawning aggregates. The evaluation will use both catch and escapement data. Results will be georeferenced so that summary maps can be produced with a GIS program, and the status review will be published in the peer reviewed journal *Fisheries*. The status review will provide an important benchmark by which to measure the effectiveness of management policies to sustain and conserve salmon as environmental and anthropogenic changes occur.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is very feasible, very needed, and has a high likelihood of success. However, the objectives are consistent with normal agency management. Although it is recognized that responsible agencies rarely have funding for these types of activities, the Trustee Council has not funded resource inventory activities, instead funding data collection in relation to the effects of oiling and mechanisms of natural change necessary to interpret effects of oiling. GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term monitoring program) has the need to understand mechanisms of change in populations of birds, fish, mammals,and shellfish in relation to human and natural factors. It is not clear at this time which species will be the focus of GEM investigations, nor how the costs of assessing change will be shared with resource management agencies, so it is premature to select projects to produce baseline data. Cost sharing with other concerned agencies would benefit this proposal's likelihood of success if it is submitted for future consideration. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Although this project, which would extend the American Fisheries Society's 1996 status evaluation of salmon in Southeast Alaska to the spill area, is highly needed, it is consistent with normal agency management and is not a priority for Trustee Council support.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Randall Davis, Ph.D.
TX A&M University at Galveston, Marine Biology
5007 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77553

RE: Project 01441-CLO / Harbor Seal Recovery: Effects of Diet on Lipid Metabolism and Health

Dear Dr. Davis:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $93,500 for Project 01441/Harbor Seal Recovery: Effects of Diet on Lipid Metabolism and Health, and deferred a decision on an additional $38,600 until December, pending availability of funds. The funding approved includes $69,900 in direct project funds, $17,500 in Texas A&M indirect, and $6,100 in ADF&G administrative costs. The Texas A&M indirect rate is calculated at the agreed to rate of 25 percent; I appreciate your efforts in attaining this reduced rate for the Council.

A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Trustee Council support for this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

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Alaska Department of Law

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01441-CLO	Harbor Seal Recovery: Effects of Diet on Lipid Metabolism and Health	R. Davis/Texas A&M Univ.	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$93.5	$38.6	$0.0	$93.5

Project Abstract

Ecosystem-wide changes in food availability could be affecting harbor seal population recovery. To better understand the results from field studies of harbor seal health, body condition, and feeding ecology, data is needed for seals on diets that vary in nutritional composition. Working with the Alaska SeaLife Center, this project will determine how fatty acid profiles in the blubber of captive harbor seals change over time during controlled diets of herring and pollock. In addition, the project will assess the aerobic capacity and lipid metabolism of skeletal muscle in harbor seals fed controlled diets and in wild harbor seals in Prince William Sound. The results will enhance understanding of the nutritional role and assessment of dietary fat for harbor seals.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would close out this multi-year project, which is ground-truthing a promising monitoring technique that could be used to understand long-term trends in food availability to marine carnivores. The closeout costs of the original project have been reduced and now seem appropriate for funding. A decision on funding analysis of additional samples not included in the original project should be deferred pending availability of funds.

Trustee Council Action

Fund original closeout costs of this project ($93,500); defer a decision on funding analysis of additional samples ($38,600) pending availability of funds. This study is investigating the effect of diet on lipid metabolism and health in harbor seals. [NOTE: No work will be conducted at the Alaska SeaLife Center in FY 01.]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Alex Wertheimer
NMFS Auke Bay Laboratory
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 01440 / Pink Salmon Hatcheries in Prince William Sound: Enhancement or Replacement of Natural Production?
Project 01450-BAA / Summary of the Status of Pacific Salmon Populations in the Region Affected by the Oil Spill

Dear Mr. Wertheimer:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund projects 01440/Pink Salmon Hatcheries in Prince William Sound: Enhancement or Replacement of Natural Production? and 01450-BAA/Summary of the Status of Pacific Salmon Populations in the Region Affected by the Oil Spill. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your projects for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for
Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01440	Pink Salmon Hatcheries in Prince William Sound: Enhancement or Replacement of Natural Production?	A. Wertheimer/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will examine pink salmon production models to determine if hatchery production in Prince William Sound enhances or replaces wild production. Pink salmon catches in the sound are at historical highs, with most of the catch produced by hatcheries. A recently published study supported in part by Exxon asserts that more than 90 percent of the current production would have been attained by wild stocks in the absence of hatchery production and implies that hatcheries are the cause of the decline and lack of recovery of wild pink salmon. This project will critically examine these assertions, determining if historical patterns of abundance or population dynamic models indicate replacement rather than enhancement of Prince William Sound pink salmon and consider alternate models.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal from qualified investigators addresses an important question in fisheries management. The proposal has substantial scientific merit as a correlative approach based on intensive analysis of available data. This general approach has been attempted in other regions, such as the Columbia River basin, and has been frustrated by the imprecision of the data on wild salmon survival and our inability to identify the mechanisms of interaction between wild and hatchery fish. Despite the skill of the investigators, these limitations are inherent in the available data. New experimental approaches will be required to address these limitations in order to provide convincing advice to managers on how to manage hatchery production in relation to wild salmon populations. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project would critique the recent analysis (Hilborn and Eggers) that asserts that 90 percent or more of the current pink salmon production in Prince William Sound would have been attained by wild stocks in the absence of hatchery production and implies that hatcheries are the cause of the decline and lack of recovery of wild pink salmon. The Chief Scientist advises that the proposed approach is not feasible due to the imprecision of existing data on wild salmon survival and the inability to identify the mechanisms of interaction between wild and hatchery fish. The Trustee Council sponsored a workshop in July 2000 to further discuss this issue and a white paper is currently being prepared.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01450-BAA	Summary of the Status of Pacific Salmon Populations in the Region Affected by the Oil Spill	A. Wertheimer/AFS	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide a comprehensive survey of the current status of salmon populations in the region affected by the oil spill. Status will be evaluated using a hierarchical approach, proceeding from large-scale geographic resolution to the fine scale of analysis of escapement data for specific spawning aggregates. The evaluation will use both catch and escapement data. Results will be gecreferenced so that summary maps can be produced with a GIS program, and the status review will be published in the peer reviewed journal *Fisheries*. The status review will provide an important benchmark by which to measure the effectiveness of management policies to sustain and conserve salmon as environmental and anthropogenic changes occur.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is very feasible, very needed, and has a high likelihood of success. However, the objectives are consistent with normal agency management. Although it is recognized that responsible agencies rarely have funding for these types of activities, the Trustee Council has not funded resource inventory activities, instead funding data collection in relation to the effects of oiling and mechanisms of natural change necessary to interpret effects of oiling. GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term monitoring program) has the need to understand mechanisms of change in populations of birds, fish, mammals,and shellfish in relation to human and natural factors. It is not clear at this time which species will be the focus of GEM investigations, nor how the costs of assessing change will be shared with resource management agencies, so it is premature to select projects to produce baseline data. Cost sharing with other concerned agencies would benefit this proposal's likelihood of success if it is submitted for future consideration. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Although this project, which would extend the American Fisheries Society's 1996 status evaluation of salmon in Southeast Alaska to the spill area, is highly needed, it is consistent with normal agency management and is not a priority for Trustee Council support.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Richard E. Thorne, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574-0705

Gary Thomas, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574-0705

RE: Project 01452-BAA / Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton
Project 01457-BAA / Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques
Project 01460-BAA / Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring

Dear Dr. Thorne and Dr. Thomas:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01452-BAA/Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton. Thank you for the additional information you provided on this project. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in mid-December following submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget (for roughly $50,000) that addresses the concerns raised by the peer reviewers, including modification of the objectives and methods to provide for coordination and integration with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring.

Please submit your revised DPD and budget to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1. You should be aware that, at its August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

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In regard to projects 01457-BAA/Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques and 01460-BAA/Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring, in June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund these projects. The Council accepted my recommendation for these two projects and did not fund them. However, additional herring work may be solicited following receipt and review of Brenda Norcross' herring synthesis paper (expected September 30, 2000).

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01452-BAA	Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$50.0		$0.0

Project Abstract

Residents of Prince William Sound have repeatedly voiced the complaint that pink salmon populations in the spill-area suffered long-term impacts from the oil spill. Estimates of spring macrozooplankton prey and pollock predators are the primary biological data input to the pink salmon fry models developed by researchers over the past decade. This project will expand the current spring predator-prey surveys that are supported by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Sound Emergency Response Vehicle System, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase survey coverage, conduct more data analysis, and add new optical sampling devices to further reduce the dependence of the surveys on expensive and less-representative discrete net sampling.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal contains a valuable concept for monitoring. The long-term benefits of developing this line of research would be substantial. Unfortunately, the proposal does not include an adequate description of the project design (objectives with deliverables, schedules and benchmarks to be used to measure progress, survey locations, information on where and when sampling would be conducted, descriptions and references for models in which the data would be used, and personnel who would perform modeling). A revised proposal that addresses the above concerns and that is well integrated with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring would be considered. Defer.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that addresses the concerns raised by the peer reviewers, including modification of the objectives and methods to provide for coordination and integration with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring. [NOTE: Recommended cost is target only.]

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01457-BAA	Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Using a combination of echointegration, optical, and purse seining techniques, highly precise estimates of age 3+ Pacific herring and predators in overwintering areas of Prince William Sound have been made. These techniques have been applied to measure the abundance and distribution of juvenile herring in the fall, which is required input to forecast with the juvenile overwintering survival model. The spring 2000 survey shows the herring population at its lowest abundance since the fall of 1993. With matching support from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, this project will continue the overwinter survey and add a fall survey of juveniles as an early indicator of future recovery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Additional surveys of herring may be useful in developing a greater understanding of herring biology in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. However, the proposal does not adequately incorporate the results from previous acoustical surveys of herring in Prince William Sound carried out by SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320). The proposal is poorly documented and does not contain sufficient detail on how the surveys would be done, or what is innovative about them, to judge the science or the potential contribution of this proposal to the overall restoration program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's recommendation. Although additional surveys could provide useful information on the role of herring in the ecosystem, the proposal does not incorporate the results from related SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320) surveys and lacks sufficient detail.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01460-BAA	Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will expand the current winter surveys of prespawning pollock that are supported by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase coverage, conduct more data analysis, and add a fall survey of juvenile pollock as an early indicator of future recruitment. Walleye pollock is the most abundant predator of and competitor with juvenile salmon and herring in the sound, and surveys between 1995 and 2000 show its distribution and abundance to fluctuate with the recruitment of large year classes. Thus, annual surveys to estimate its abundance are crucial to track changing inter-annual trends in survival of pink salmon and Pacific herring stocks in the sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Additional surveys of pollock are likely to be useful in the developing understanding of the fisheries ecology of Prince William Sound. However, the proposal is poorly documented and does not contain sufficient detail on how the surveys would be done, or what is innovative about them, to judge the science or the potential contribution to the overall program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project requests funds to expand the observational program of the winter pollock biomass in Prince William Sound to include a fall survey of age-0 juveniles for abundance and condition. Additional surveys of pollock would likely contribute to the understanding of fisheries ecology in the sound. However, the reviewers found the proposal to be technically insufficient.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

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

RE: Project 01454-CLO / Evidence and Consequences of Persistent Oil Contamination in Pink Salmon Natal Habitats

Dear Dr. Rice:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $103,200 for Project 01454-CLO/Evidence and Consequences of Persistent Oil Contamination in Pink Salmon Natal Habitats. This includes $91,700 in direct project funds and $11,500 for NOAA's administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council support for this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

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TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01454-CLO	Evidence and Consequences of Persistent Oil Contamination in Pink Salmon Natal Habitats	S. Rice/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$103.2	$0.0	$0.0	$103.2

Project Abstract

Reports of persistent oil contamination in natal pink salmon streams in Prince William Sound and adverse biological effects at parts per billion oil concentrations stimulated this study in FY 00. Preliminary results demonstrate evidence of continued hydrocarbon contamination in some previously oiled streams. Fry from Prince William Sound and experimentally dosed fish have been collected for examination of a biomarker, cytochrome P4501A. When analyses are complete, data will be inspected for correlation between the biomarker, growth, predator avoidance, and marine survival. These results will be integrated with past research to reexamine the recovery status of pink salmon and their spawning habitat.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This ongoing project will provide valuable information regarding the continued exposure of pink salmon fry to hydrocarbons in the environment by using established biomarkers in a well-designed investigation with field and laboratory components. This is the closeout year for the project. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund project closeout. This project will provide the Trustee Council with the basis for evaluating the recovery status of pink salmon at the stream level, rather than depending on population levels that include hatchery production and many streams with little or no oil-exposure history.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Richard E. Thorne, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574-0705

Gary Thomas, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574-0705

RE: Project 01452-BAA / Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton
Project 01457-BAA / Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques
Project 01460-BAA / Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring

Dear Dr. Thorne and Dr. Thomas:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01452-BAA/Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton. Thank you for the additional information you provided on this project. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in mid-December following submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget (for roughly $50,000) that addresses the concerns raised by the peer reviewers, including modification of the objectives and methods to provide for coordination and integration with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring.

Please submit your revised DPD and budget to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1. You should be aware that, at its August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

Federal Trustees
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In regard to projects 01457-BAA/Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques and 01460-BAA/Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring, in June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund these projects. The Council accepted my recommendation for these two projects and did not fund them. However, additional herring work may be solicited following receipt and review of Brenda Norcross' herring synthesis paper (expected September 30, 2000).

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01452-BAA	Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$50.0		$0.0

Project Abstract

Residents of Prince William Sound have repeatedly voiced the complaint that pink salmon populations in the spill-area suffered long-term impacts from the oil spill. Estimates of spring macrozooplankton prey and pollock predators are the primary biological data input to the pink salmon fry models developed by researchers over the past decade. This project will expand the current spring predator-prey surveys that are supported by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Sound Emergency Response Vehicle System, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase survey coverage, conduct more data analysis, and add new optical sampling devices to further reduce the dependence of the surveys on expensive and less-representative discrete net sampling.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal contains a valuable concept for monitoring. The long-term benefits of developing this line of research would be substantial. Unfortunately, the proposal does not include an adequate description of the project design (objectives with deliverables, schedules and benchmarks to be used to measure progress, survey locations, information on where and when sampling would be conducted, descriptions and references for models in which the data would be used, and personnel who would perform modeling). A revised proposal that addresses the above concerns and that is well integrated with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring would be considered. Defer.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that addresses the concerns raised by the peer reviewers, including modification of the objectives and methods to provide for coordination and integration with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring. [NOTE: Recommended cost is target only.]

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01457-BAA	Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Using a combination of echointegration, optical, and purse seining techniques, highly precise estimates of age 3+ Pacific herring and predators in overwintering areas of Prince William Sound have been made. These techniques have been applied to measure the abundance and distribution of juvenile herring in the fall, which is required input to forecast with the juvenile overwintering survival model. The spring 2000 survey shows the herring population at its lowest abundance since the fall of 1993. With matching support from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, this project will continue the overwinter survey and add a fall survey of juveniles as an early indicator of future recovery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Additional surveys of herring may be useful in developing a greater understanding of herring biology in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. However, the proposal does not adequately incorporate the results from previous acoustical surveys of herring in Prince William Sound carried out by SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320). The proposal is poorly documented and does not contain sufficient detail on how the surveys would be done, or what is innovative about them, to judge the science or the potential contribution of this proposal to the overall restoration program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's recommendation. Although additional surveys could provide useful information on the role of herring in the ecosystem, the proposal does not incorporate the results from related SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320) surveys and lacks sufficient detail.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01460-BAA	Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will expand the current winter surveys of prespawning pollock that are supported by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase coverage, conduct more data analysis, and add a fall survey of juvenile pollock as an early indicator of future recruitment. Walleye pollock is the most abundant predator of and competitor with juvenile salmon and herring in the sound, and surveys between 1995 and 2000 show its distribution and abundance to fluctuate with the recruitment of large year classes. Thus, annual surveys to estimate its abundance are crucial to track changing inter-annual trends in survival of pink salmon and Pacific herring stocks in the sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Additional surveys of pollock are likely to be useful in the developing understanding of the fisheries ecology of Prince William Sound. However, the proposal is poorly documented and does not contain sufficient detail on how the surveys would be done, or what is innovative about them, to judge the science or the potential contribution to the overall program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project requests funds to expand the observational program of the winter pollock biomass in Prince William Sound to include a fall survey of age-0 juveniles for abundance and condition. Additional surveys of pollock would likely contribute to the understanding of fisheries ecology in the sound. However, the reviewers found the proposal to be technically insufficient.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Richard E. Thorne, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574-0705

Gary Thomas, Ph.D.
PWS Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574-0705

RE: Project 01452-BAA / Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton
Project 01457-BAA / Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques
Project 01460-BAA / Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring

Dear Dr. Thorne and Dr. Thomas:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01452-BAA/Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton. Thank you for the additional information you provided on this project. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in mid-December following submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget (for roughly $50,000) that addresses the concerns raised by the peer reviewers, including modification of the objectives and methods to provide for coordination and integration with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring.

Please submit your revised DPD and budget to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1. You should be aware that, at its August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

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

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Alaska Department of Law

In regard to projects 01457-BAA/Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques and 01460-BAA/Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring, in June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund these projects. The Council accepted my recommendation for these two projects and did not fund them. However, additional herring work may be solicited following receipt and review of Brenda Norcross' herring synthesis paper (expected September 30, 2000).

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01452-BAA	Hydroacoustic Assessment of Juvenile Pink Salmon and Plankton	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$50.0		$0.0

Project Abstract

Residents of Prince William Sound have repeatedly voiced the complaint that pink salmon populations in the spill-area suffered long-term impacts from the oil spill. Estimates of spring macrozooplankton prey and pollock predators are the primary biological data input to the pink salmon fry models developed by researchers over the past decade. This project will expand the current spring predator-prey surveys that are supported by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Sound Emergency Response Vehicle System, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase survey coverage, conduct more data analysis, and add new optical sampling devices to further reduce the dependence of the surveys on expensive and less-representative discrete net sampling.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal contains a valuable concept for monitoring. The long-term benefits of developing this line of research would be substantial. Unfortunately, the proposal does not include an adequate description of the project design (objectives with deliverables, schedules and benchmarks to be used to measure progress, survey locations, information on where and when sampling would be conducted, descriptions and references for models in which the data would be used, and personnel who would perform modeling). A revised proposal that addresses the above concerns and that is well integrated with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring would be considered. Defer.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending submittal and review of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that addresses the concerns raised by the peer reviewers, including modification of the objectives and methods to provide for coordination and integration with Project 01195/Pristane Monitoring. [NOTE: Recommended cost is target only.]

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01457-BAA	Assessing the Pacific Herring Stock Using Echointegration, Optical, and Purse Seine Techniques	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Using a combination of echointegration, optical, and purse seining techniques, highly precise estimates of age 3+ Pacific herring and predators in overwintering areas of Prince William Sound have been made. These techniques have been applied to measure the abundance and distribution of juvenile herring in the fall, which is required input to forecast with the juvenile overwintering survival model. The spring 2000 survey shows the herring population at its lowest abundance since the fall of 1993. With matching support from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, this project will continue the overwinter survey and add a fall survey of juveniles as an early indicator of future recovery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Additional surveys of herring may be useful in developing a greater understanding of herring biology in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. However, the proposal does not adequately incorporate the results from previous acoustical surveys of herring in Prince William Sound carried out by SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320). The proposal is poorly documented and does not contain sufficient detail on how the surveys would be done, or what is innovative about them, to judge the science or the potential contribution of this proposal to the overall restoration program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's recommendation. Although additional surveys could provide useful information on the role of herring in the ecosystem, the proposal does not incorporate the results from related SEA (Sound Ecosystem Assessment, Project /320) surveys and lacks sufficient detail.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01460-BAA	Assessing the Number of Walleye Pollock as Predators of Juvenile Salmon and Herring	R. Thorne, G. Thomas/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will expand the current winter surveys of prespawning pollock that are supported by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase coverage, conduct more data analysis, and add a fall survey of juvenile pollock as an early indicator of future recruitment. Walleye pollock is the most abundant predator of and competitor with juvenile salmon and herring in the sound, and surveys between 1995 and 2000 show its distribution and abundance to fluctuate with the recruitment of large year classes. Thus, annual surveys to estimate its abundance are crucial to track changing inter-annual trends in survival of pink salmon and Pacific herring stocks in the sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Additional surveys of pollock are likely to be useful in the developing understanding of the fisheries ecology of Prince William Sound. However, the proposal is poorly documented and does not contain sufficient detail on how the surveys would be done, or what is innovative about them, to judge the science or the potential contribution to the overall program. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project requests funds to expand the observational program of the winter pollock biomass in Prince William Sound to include a fall survey of age-0 juveniles for abundance and condition. Additional surveys of pollock would likely contribute to the understanding of fisheries ecology in the sound. However, the reviewers found the proposal to be technically insufficient.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Gary D. Marty, Ph.D.
University of CA, Anatomy Phys Cell Bio
1 Shields Ave.
Davis, CA 95616-8732

RE: Project 01462-CLO / Effect of Disease on Pacific Herring Population Recovery in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Marty:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $86,000 for Project 01462-CLO/Effect of Disease on Pacific Herring Population Recovery in Prince William Sound. This includes $80,000 in direct project funds and $6,000 for ADF&G's administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandia Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01462-CLO	Effect of Disease on Pacific Herring Population Recovery in Prince William Sound	G. Marty/Univ. of California Davis	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$86.0	$0.0	$0.0	$86.0

Project Abstract

The Pacific herring population of Prince William Sound has not recovered from severe population decline in 1993. The two most important diseases in these fish are associated with viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus and the fungus-like organism *Ichthyophonus hoferi*. Prevalence of *Ichthyophonus* has been fairly constant since 1994, but virus prevalence has been highly variable. High prevalence of virus and associated ulcers in 1998 was related to decreased biomass and closure of most fisheries in 1999. All Pacific herring fisheries are closed in 2000. To determine if disease is limiting recovery, this project will continue to monitor the two major diseases in Pacific herring in Prince William Sound through spring 2001.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This continues to be a very unique and interesting study that is already the most comprehensive study ever conducted on the pathogen prevalence and potential impact of disease in a wild fish population. Support for FY 01 is indicated, but support beyond FY 01 will depend on the outcome of the herring synthesis being conducted under Project 00374. In the future, each individual herring project is to be evaluated on the level of integration with other herring work on spawning, recruitment, distribution, and population dynamics that is required to fully address the questions of herring productivity (or lack of it) and stock rebuilding. Fund closeout.

Trustee Council Action

Fund closeout (including preparation of final report and manuscripts) of this project. This project is designed to determine whether disease continues to limit recovery of the Prince William Sound herring population. The results of the study so far have provided insight on management of the herring pound fishery. A substantial grant from the National Science Foundation has enabled the researchers to perform complementary analyses and population modeling.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Margaret M. Krahn, Ph.D.
NOAA/NMFS/NWFSC/ECD
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112

RE: Project 01465 / Environmental Contaminant Levels in Eastern North Pacific Killer Whales

Dear Dr. Krahn:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01465/Environmental Contaminant Levels in Eastern North Pacific Killer Whales. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert
for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

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TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01465	Environmental Contaminant Levels in Eastern North Pacific Killer Whales	M. Krahn/NMFS	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Certain groups of killer whales that are found in waters of Prince William Sound declined following the oil spill and have failed to recover. Although the deaths of these whales are most likely linked to the effects of the spill, the potential role of other factors, such as toxic levels of other anthropogenic contaminants (e.g., organochlorines, toxic elements), in the lack of recovery should be considered. This project will analyze archived blubber samples, obtained from killer whales ranging from California to Alaska, to determine concentrations of selected organochlorines and will compare the samples to those of previously analyzed Prince William Sound killer whales. Having a broad baseline on levels of organochlorines in killer whales from North Pacific populations is needed to assess the possible contribution of organochlorines as factors affecting low reproduction (AT1 pod) and population decline (AB pod).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal acknowledges that contaminants probably are not responsible for missing individuals and lower reproductive rates within the killer whale pods using Prince William Sound, and consequently the relevance of this project to recovery objectives is questionable. The investigators are very well qualified, but the focus of the project outside of the spill area makes it a low priority. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project has a weak link to the Trustee Council's restoration objective for killer whales. In addition, its focus would be outside of 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

August 9, 2000

Ronald A Heintz
NMFS Auke Bay Lab
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 01476 / Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Pink Salmon Reproduction

Dear Mr. Heintz:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $94,200 for Project 01476/Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Pink Salmon Reproduction contingent on submitting to the Chief Scientist the final report/manuscripts for Project 00347. Funding includes $86,600 in direct project funds and $7,600 in NOAA administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

In addition to satisfying the condition specified above, before a project may begin the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. For most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in satisfying the condition or documenting NEPA compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your lead agency.

Projects approved for FY 01 are approved in the expectation that they will be funded to their completion. However, the Trustee Council will annually evaluate a project's future funding needs based on its progress or results to date, overall restoration needs, and restoration funding constraints. The future years' funding projection for your project (including agency administrative costs) is $39,000 in FY 02 and $36,000 in FY 03; this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Federal Trustees
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Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Department of Law

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01476	Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Pink Salmon Reproduction	R. Heintz/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$94.2	$0.0	$39.0	$133.2

Project Abstract

Populations are maintained through successful reproduction; this project is designed to determine if exposure to oil impairs pink salmon reproduction. Under Part A, the ability of the parental generation (P1) to produce offspring (F1) will be measured. The P1 was exposed when they incubated in 1998; the F1 will incubate in clean water beginning in FY 01. Part B extends Part A by measuring the ability of the F1 to produce viable offspring (F2) in 2002. A diminished ability to produce the F2 generation represents a genetic effect transmitted to unexposed generations. Corroborating evidence for parental and genetic effects of oil is increasing. This project will demonstrate the extent of these grave and unanticipated effects of oil pollution. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($36,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the third year of what was to be a three-year project. An extension has been requested based on recent results from a University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) study indicating reductions in survival-to-adult for pink salmon whose grandparents had been exposed to oil. The extension would allow replication of the UAF study results with greater statistical power to distinguish between survival of oiled and unoiled groups. Given the substantial prior investment by the Trustee Council in this line of research and the critical nature of the results for interpretation of oil damage, the expansion of this study is justified. The expansion will require funding in FY 02 and FY 03 if the full payoff (genetic effects) is to be realized. Possibility of multi-generational effects is important to clarifying the meaning of recovery in the overall program. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund, including new objectives in Part B related to measuring the ability of the first generation of offspring to itself produce viable offspring, contingent on submittal of the final report/manuscripts for Project 00347 (due September 30, 2000). This project is validating the effects of oil contamination on pink salmon, thus contributing to our understanding of the injury and recovery status of this injured species. [NOTE: Funding of the new objectives will require $36,000 in Trustee Council support in FY 03.]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Dan Rosenberg
ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

RE: Project 01273-CLO / Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource
Project 01407 / Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics
Project 01477 / Where Do Prince William Sound Harlequin Ducks Breed? A Satellite Telemetry Approach

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting August 3, 2000. The Council's action on your projects was as follows.

- Project 01273-CLO/Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource - I am pleased to inform you that the Trustee Council approved funding in the amount of $50,100 for this project contingent on submitting to the Chief Scientist the report on Project 99273. Funding includes $44,200 in direct project funds and $5,900 in ADF&G administrative costs. FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

- Project 01407 / Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics - The Trustee Council voted to defer action on this project. It will be reconsidered in December, pending integration of your FY 00 data into an assessment of the significance of population trends and power analysis to assess appropriate sampling frequency. In order to allow adequate time for this information to be peer reviewed, please submit your revised Detailed Project Description to the Restoration Office, ATTN: Sandra Schubert, no later than November 1, 2000. A reduced budget, for the expected amount of $71,000, also needs to be submitted by that date.

You should also be aware that, at the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

- Project 01477 / Where Do Prince William Sound Harlequin Ducks Breed? A Satellite Telemetry Approach - The Trustee Council accepted my recommendation to not fund this project. We received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a FY 01 Work Plan of $6 million and it was not possible to fund all proposals that were submitted.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01273-CLO	Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$50.1	$0.0	$0.0	$50.1

Project Abstract

This project will provide closeout funding for the scoter satellite telemetry and traditional ecological knowledge project. A final report and manuscripts will be prepared, reporting on the findings of this three-year effort.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will close out a multi-year effort to improve our understanding of the life history and ecology of surf scoters. In FY 01, funds will provide for a final report and manuscripts. Of the manuscripts proposed, #1-identifying links between winter, breeding, and molting areas and #2-effects and performance of implantable satellite transmitters, should be the priority. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund contingent on submittal of the Project 99273 report (now expected September 1, 2000). This project is studying the life history and ecology of surf scoters in Prince William Sound 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 resources 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 is designed to benefit the service of subsistence.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01407	Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 3 yr. project	$0.0	$71.0	$71.0	$71.0

Project Abstract	Chief Scientist's Recommendation	Trustee Council Action
Harlequin duck populations have not recovered from the effects of the oil spill. Populations are declining in oiled areas of Prince William Sound while increasing in unoiled areas. This project will conduct late-winter boat surveys to assess the recovery of ducks inhabiting oiled areas. Population structure, abundance, and recruitment will be compared between oiled and unoiled areas in Prince William Sound to assess trends, population dynamics, and the progress of recovery. As part of the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring program (GEM, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program), this project would help identify changes to the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem and improve our ability to differentiate between natural and man-caused population changes. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($75,000) for FY 03.]	This project is a valuable part of documenting injury and recovery in harlequin ducks. Harlequins appear to be susceptible to oil in nearshore environments and may be good indicators of the lingering effects of the spill, but the request for funding into FY 03 is premature. The proposal does not use power analysis techniques to assess the frequency of sampling necessary to detect meaningful changes over time, which is unfortunate as the assumption of annual sampling makes the project costly. Defer pending integration of FY 00 data into an assessment of the significance of population trends and power analysis to assess appropriate sampling frequency.	Defer decision on funding this project until the Chief Scientist's concerns (integration of FY 00 data and power analysis) are addressed. If funded, funding will be contingent on (a) submittal and approval of a revised budget for the expected amount ($71,000) and (b) submittal of Project 99273 report (now expected September 1, 2000). Trustee Council funding is expected in FY 01 and FY 02 only; the proposer's request for funds in FY 03 is premature pending completion of the Council's long-term research and monitoring plan (GEM, Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring). This project is intended to assess the recovery of harlequin duck populations inhabiting oiled areas. The harlequin duck is one of the species that is still not showing signs of recovery from the oil spill.

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01477	Where Do Prince William Sound Harlequin Ducks Breed? A Satellite Telemetry Approach	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Harlequin ducks have not recovered from the effects of the oil spill. Populations in oiled areas are continuing to decline. Conditions on the breeding grounds may contribute to the decline or impede recovery. However, the location of breeding areas for the majority of Prince William Sound harlequin ducks is unknown. This project will use satellite telemetry to gain information on pre- and post-breeding movements within the sound, dispersal, migration routes, and location of breeding areas. This critical life-history information which is lacking for Prince William Sound harlequin ducks will aid in understanding the causes of population change and assessing recovery. Identification of breeding areas and migration routes will allow for improved habitat protection via acquisition, recreational and land-use planning, permitting, and pollution control. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($110,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Harlequin ducks were an injured resource and have not recovered from the oil spill. This project would provide more information about the breeding habitat of harlequin ducks that winter in Prince William Sound. Damage to reproduction due to oiling would not be addressed. In addition, this project would need to be carried on through FY 03 (with a final report in FY 04) to obtain final results. Conditions in western Prince William Sound, not distant breeding habitat, is indicated to be the recovery problem. Experience with application of this technology to scoters has not been promising. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Other harlequin duck work recommended for funding in FY 01 (e.g., Project 01423) is a higher priority for funding. Oil exposure, not breeding habitat, is the likely inhibitor of recovery for harlequin ducks.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Jennifer L. Nielsen, Ph.D.
USGS Biological Resources Division
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Project 01478 / Testing Satellite Tags as a Tool for Identifying Critical Habitat

Dear Dr. Nielsen:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $26,800 for Project 01478/Testing Satellite Tags as a Tool for Identifying Critical Habitat. This includes $6,000 in direct project funds, $18,600 in Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees, and $2,200 in agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn, DOI-USGS Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01478	Testing Satellite Tags as a Tool for Identifying Critical Habitat	J. Nielsen/USGS-BRD	DOI	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$26.8	$0.0	$0.0	$26.8

Project Abstract

This small amount of funding will allow for completion of this project, which is assessing and testing the application of satellite archive, pop-up tags on marine fishes of the Gulf of Alaska. Software and tag technology will be adapted and developed for geolocation tracking using light, depth, and bathometry data from satellite pop-up tags. Tag application and light-geolocation relationships will be tested on live halibut brought into husbandry at the Alaska SeaLife Center and kept under an accelerated solar-shift regime mimicking standard conditions in the gulf. These data will be compared to light and depth readings taken from tags placed on live fish released into their natural habitat and to an array of tags attached to a stationary buoy in the gulf. The effectiveness of light sensors for geolocation, duration of light measurements, and data sequence design will be determined. These developments will assist in applications of this new tag technology in fisheries-independent habitat assessments for the nearshore and pelagic marine environments in the gulf.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This was funded as a one-year project in FY 00. However, due to delays in project implementation largely beyond the principal investigator's control, the project will extend into FY 01. It is important that this project be completed. Satellite tag technology would contribute greatly to understanding more about important wide-ranging stocks of fish in the Gulf of Alaska and what is needed for their conservation. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund. This project was scheduled for full implementation in FY 00. However, due to delays in project start-up, a small amount of funding for technician salaries is needed in FY 01 to allow work to be completed; a like amount of funding (roughly $6,900) will be lapsed from the FY 00 project. This project, which is testing satellite tag technology for its utility in defining critical habitat, is intended to improve understanding of certain stocks of fish in the Gulf of Alaska. [NOTE: Funding includes Alaska SeaLife Center bench fees of $18,600 (plus $1,300 in GA for a total of $19,900).]

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

John F. Piatt, Ph.D.
Alaska Science Center NBS
1011 E Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Alexander S. Kitaysky, Ph.D.
University of Washington, Zoology Department
P.O. Box 351800
Seattle, WA 98195-0005

RE: Project 01479 / Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds

Dear Dr. Piatt and Dr. Kitaysky:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $129,600 for Project 01479/Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds. This includes $121,100 in direct project funds and $8,500 in DOI administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Projects approved for FY 01 are approved in the expectation that they will be funded to their completion. However, the Trustee Council will annually evaluate a project's future funding needs based on its progress or results to date, overall restoration needs, and restoration funding constraints. The future years' funding projection for your project (including agency administrative costs) is $75,000 in FY 02; this will be reviewed again next year.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Dede Bohn, DOI-USGS Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01479	Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds	J. Piatt/USGS-BRD, A. Kitaysky/Univ. of Washington	DOI	Cont'd 3rd yr. 4 yr. project	$129.6	$0.0	$75.0	$204.6

Project Abstract

Traditional field methods of assessing effects of fluctuations in food supply on the survival and reproductive performance of seabirds may give equivocal results. This project will apply an additional tool -- the measure of stress hormones in free-ranging seabirds. Food stress can be quantified by measuring base levels of stress hormones such as corticosterone in the blood of seabirds, or the rise in blood levels of corticosterone in response to a standardized stressor -- capture, handling and restraint. These techniques will be applied to seabirds breeding in lower Cook Inlet and captive birds will be used for controlled experiments. This project provides a unique opportunity for a concurrent field and captive study of stress in seabirds.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is testing using the level of corticosterone, an indicator of physiological stress, as a predictor of productivity and survival in seabirds. The principal investigators are highly qualified as the originators of this method, which is potentially an efficient and cost effective long-term monitoring tool. They have provided a memo that further describes methods for the hormone implant and post-fledging survival experiments, as requested by the reviewers. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund. This project is exploring the use of corticosterone, a biochemical indicator of stress, as a tool to monitor seabird populations.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Carol Kompkoff
Chenega Bay Village IRA Council
P.O. Box 8079
Chenega Bay, AK 99579-8079

Paul Panamarioff, President
Ouzinkie Tribal Council
P.O. Box 130
Ouzinkie, AK 99644-0130

Bill E. Simeone
Subsistence Resources Specialist II
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Subsistence
333 Raspberry Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99518

RE: Project 01481 / Documentary Film on the Oil Spill Impacts on Subsistence Use of Intertidal Resources

Dear Ms. Kompkoff, Mr. Panamarioff and Mr. Simeone:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $111,800 for Project 01481/Documentary Film on the Oil Spill Impacts on Subsistence Use of Intertidal Resources. This includes $104,000 in direct project funds and $7,800 for ADF&G's administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 will be the final year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01481	Documentary Film on the Oil Spill Impacts on Subsistence Use of Intertidal Resources	C. Kompkoff/Chenega Bay IRA Council, P. Panamarioff/ Ouzinkie Tribal Council	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$111.8	$0.0	$0.0	$111.8

Project Abstract

This project will produce a 28 minute documentary film on the impacts of the oil spill on the subsistence use of intertidal resources, including mussels, clams, chitons, and octopus, by residents of two predominantly Alaska Native communities: Chenega Bay in Prince William Sound and Ouzinkie on Kodiak Island. This project will build on two previous subsistence documentaries (projects 96214 and 98274) and will focus on the use of resources in the intertidal, the area hardest hit by oil, and broaden the discussion by bringing in the perspective of the residents of Chenega Bay, the first community directly in the path of the spilled oil, and Ouzinkie, the first Kodiak-area community to see the oil arrive. The documentary will compare the impact the spill has had on the use of intertidal resources in each community as well as the ongoing EVOS restoration efforts to help residents mitigate these impacts.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The Trustee Council has funded two videos on subsistence at another locality (Tatitlek). A similar video would be appropriate for Chenega Bay, where subsistence activities apparently have not recovered and which was the first community directly in the path of the spilled oil. The addition of Ouzinkie on Kodiak Island and comparing/ contrasting community spill impacts will address a range of impact responses. Furthermore, use of intertidal resources is central to Aluutiq culture. Linkages to restoration are plausible. However, this project should receive lower priority than projects with stronger linkages to restoration objectives. Fund, lower priority.

Trustee Council Action

Fund. This project, which is patterned after two previous video projects funded by the Trustee Council (96214/Harbor Seals and 98274/Herring), is designed to contribute to the restoration of intertidal resources and subsistence uses by transmitting local knowledge about these resources to the scientific community and others. A small amount of start-up funding was provided in FY 00 for preproduction activities. Actual production of the video will take place in FY 01.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Joanne F. Jellett, Ph.D.
Jellett Biotek Limited
P.O. Box 790
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 3Z7
CANADA

RE: Project 01482-BAA / Establishment of a Biotoxin Monitoring Program in the Kodiak Island Area

Dear Dr. Jellett:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01482-BAA/Establishment of a Biotoxin Monitoring Program in the Kodiak Island Area. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in December following an evaluation of your FY 00 results, which are expected to be submitted in your final report due September 30, 2000.

As I mentioned in my June 15 letter to you, questions were raised during the review of your proposal about the optimization process and the application of the field test to unextracted samples. We discussed this somewhat during your visit to Anchorage, but these items should also be thoroughly addressed in the report, along with the results of the field trials and the effectiveness of your involvement with the Youth Area Watch program. The reviewers also raised concerns about the proposed expansion of project objectives and an increase in project cost well beyond what the Trustee Council had indicated it might fund for FY 01.

At the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects.

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Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison
Sharon Kent, NOAA Contracting

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01482-BAA	Establishment of a Biotoxin Monitoring Program in the Kodiak Island Area	J. Jellett/Jellett Biotek Limited	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

During FY 00, this project developed and optimized a rapid test for detecting paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) in shellfish samples from Kodiak Island. Funding in FY 01 will establish a beach-monitoring program for marine biotoxins in partnership with the Youth Area Watch (Project /610). The project will also adapt the rapid tests to detect toxic phytoplankton in water samples as an "early warning system" of toxic blooms. The relationship between toxic alga blooms and the contamination of shellfish will be researched. The data generated may identify beach areas that tend to be free of toxins over the year and help target areas for shellfish harvest or even aquaculture production.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal addresses an area of serious public health concern, the safety of eating shellfish. However, it goes well beyond the originally envisioned objectives. The Trustee Council was committed to the original objectives of the proposal to optimize the use of the PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning) test kit for mussels on Kodiak. The expansion of the program into testing of water does not meet Trustee Council needs. Defer pending review of FY 00 results.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending evaluation of FY 00 results. In FY 00, the Trustee Council funded optimization of a rapid test for PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning) and ASP (amnesiac shellfish poisoning) for both extracted and unextracted shellfish tissue from the Kodiak Island area, and agreed to consider funding field trails in FY 01 or FY 02 with Kodiak subsistence users to prove the efficacy of the test in a beach monitoring application. The FY 01 proposal goes well beyond the originally envisioned objectives (objectives to test water, establish a beach monitoring program, produce toxicity maps, and assess potential for economic development are added). In addition, questions are raised about the optimization itself, since samples from areas other than Kodiak were used in the optimization process. If funded, funding would be at a much reduced level, comparable to the Council's FY 00 contribution.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 7, 2000

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

RE: Project 01486-BAA / Links Between Persistent Oil in Mussel Beds and Predators

Dear Dr. Rice:

On August 3, 2000 the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted upon the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan. At that meeting, the Council voted to defer action on Project 01486-BAA/Links Between Persistent Oil in Mussel Beds and Predators. The Council is tentatively scheduled to reconsider the project in mid-December pending availability of funds.

At the August 3 meeting, the Trustee Council authorized projects totaling $4.7 million. In December, 16 deferred projects totaling approximately $1.7 million will be considered. The cap for the FY 01 Work Plan is $6 million, so it will not be possible to fund all deferred projects. While I cannot say for sure how the deferred list will shake out (we are waiting for FY 00 results on many of the projects), the peer reviewers consider Project 01486 to be a lower priority at this stage of the restoration program. As we get closer to December, we should have a better idea of what will be possible to fund.

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. A copy of the Trustee Council's action on your project is enclosed. If you have questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01486-BAA	Links Between Persistent Oil in Mussel Beds and Predators	S. Rice/NOAA, et. al.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$198.0	$130.0	$130.0

Project Abstract

Links between oil-contaminated mussel beds and impacts on infauna and vertebrate predators have been inferred, but have not been definitively demonstrated. Significant oil concentrations in some mussel beds have persisted to present, much longer than originally expected, and may explain contemporary observations of vertebrate predator exposure to oil. Oiled beds are long-term sources of vertebrate contamination, which has implications for future monitoring and response decisions in the event of future spills. In a more holistic approach than in the past, this project will examine evidence for links between persistence of *Exxon Valdez* oil in mussel beds, infauna, and nearshore vertebrate predators.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would attempt to link residual oil in mussel beds to exposure of invertebrate communities in mussel beds, nearby fish, and visiting birds and mammals in western Prince William Sound in a more direct way. Previous work has established probable oil exposure to a variety of fish, birds and mammals using P4501A biomarkers in the nearshore environment of western Prince William Sound. The invertebrate communities underlying oiled mussel beds have not been examined for effects. The possible more direct linkages between oiled mussel beds and injured bird and mammal species that could be established by addition of remote video technology in this proposed work are qualitative. This would be useful work for determining if local effects are occurring around mussel beds twelve years after the spill, but may not be a high priority at this stage in the restoration program. Defer pending availability of funding.

Trustee Council Action

Defer decision on funding this project pending availability of funds. If funded, funding will be contingent on submittal of Project 99090 final report due August 25, 2000; Project 00090 manuscripts due September 30, 2000; and Project 99379 final report due June 1, 2000. This project would study possible links between oiled mussel beds and predators, which were not anticipated, have not been studied directly, and may explain ongoing observations of vertebrate predator exposure to oil.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

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

Robert M. Suryan
USFWS-MBM
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Project 01490 / Can Kittiwakes Be Used to Predict Future Trends in Adult Herring Abundance?

Dear Dr. Irons and Mr. Suryan:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01490/Can Kittiwakes Be Used to Predict Future Trends in Adult Herring Abundance?. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program and hope you will consider submitting proposals in future years.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, DOI-USFWS Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01490	Can Kittiwakes Be Used to Predict Future Trends in Adult Herring Abundance?	D. Irons, R. Suryan/USFWS	DOI	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Because the population dynamics of many seabird species are strongly linked to marine productivity, seabirds are commonly promoted as indicators of change in the marine environment. A more proactive use of seabirds as indicators would be to predict future trends in prey populations. Such a predator-prey relationship with predictive potential may exist in Prince William Sound, between black-legged kittiwakes and Pacific herring. The reproductive success of kittiwakes nesting at the two most productive colonies in the sound appears to be regulated by the abundance of age-1 herring. If kittiwake reproductive parameters could be used as a proxy for the relative abundance of age-1 herring, could future trends in herring recruitment and adult population size then be predicted? Initial review of a 14-year data record of kittiwake reproductive success and age-three herring abundance provides evidence of such predictive power. This project will conduct a much more detailed analysis to evaluate this relationship and the possibility of including kittiwake data in herring stock recruitment models.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project has worthwhile goals but they do not appear achievable based on the information presented. The proposal does not specifically address how the differences in the apparent form of the relation between kittiwake reproductive success and future age-three herring abundance between the pre-1989 era and the 1990's would be reconciled. The exclusion of pre-1989 years, except for 1985, is unexplained. Without addressing this lack of correlation, it is unlikely that the tool can be made useful for management. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project is intended to evaluate the utility of using black-legged kittiwake data to monitor and predict herring recruitment trends. However, the Chief Scientist finds it unlikely that this approach could be made useful for management.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

John Thedinga
NMFS Auke Bay Lab
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801-8626

RE: Project 01492 / Were Pink Salmon Embryo Studies in Prince William Sound Biased?

Dear Mr. Thedinga:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $62,100 for Project 01492/Were Pink Salmon Embryo Studies in Prince William Sound Biased? This includes $58,400 in direct project funds and $3,700 in agency administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact the Trustee Council liaison for your agency.

Projects approved for FY 01 are approved in the expectation that they will be funded to their completion. However, the Trustee Council will annually evaluate a project's future funding needs based on its progress or results to date, overall restoration needs, and restoration funding constraints. The future years' funding projection for your project is unspecified at this time, pending a review of FY 01 results.

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

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

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Wright, NOAA Liaison

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01492	Were Pink Salmon Embryo Studies in Prince William Sound Biased?	J. Thedinga/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$62.1	$0.0		$62.1

Project Abstract

Effects of the oil spill on wild pink salmon embryo survival in Prince William Sound are disputed among government- and industry-sponsored researchers. Exxon contends that the government's conclusions that reduced embryo viability in oiled streams was caused by persistent oil contamination were biased because sampling times were earlier in oiled streams than in reference streams. This project will perform a combination of retrospective and experimental studies to determine if estimates of pink salmon embryo survival were accurate or biased by conducting a historical review of past sampling procedures and experimentally determining the ability to discriminate eggs killed by sampling (shock mortality) and previously dead eggs.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal addresses critiques of government-sponsored studies of pink salmon embryo mortality by investigating a possible source of bias: field assessments in oiled streams were earlier than in unoiled streams, increasing the likelihood of egg mortality caused by sampling. The amount of time after egg death necessary for observers to visually detect mortality is a key unknown. If the amount of time is a matter of seconds, the possibility of bias is very high. If the amount of time is a matter of hours, the possibility of bias is remote. The revised proposal will conduct the study in a phased manner. In FY 01, the experimental determination of the sensitivity of pink salmon eggs to sampling stress will be conducted, including determining the time between application of stress and evidence of death. A concurrent field study will be conducted to examine the relationship between run timing and sensitivity to mechanical shock. Based upon study results, further investigation (in FY 02 or beyond) may be warranted. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund revised proposal, which reduces the project's scope in FY 01 as recommended by the Chief Scientist . This project is designed to determine if estimates of pink salmon embryo survival following the oil spill were accurate. At present, Exxon contends that the governments' conclusion that reduced embryo viability in oiled streams was caused by persistent oil contamination were biased due to sampling timing.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Sarah Leonard, Executive Director
AWRTA
2207 Spenard Rd., #201
Anchorage, AK 99510-0080

Christopher Beck
1786 Forest Park Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

RE: Project 01494 / User Guidelines and Environmental Education to Reduce Impacts of Recreation and Tourism on Injured Species in Prince William Sound

Dear Ms. Leonard and Mr. Beck:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01494/User Guidelines and Environmental Education to Reduce Impacts of Recreation and Tourism on Injured Species in Prince William Sound. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

Chris and Sarah, I appreciate your interest in the restoration program. Please give me a call if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Carol Fries, ADNR Liaison

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

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

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01494	User Guidelines and Environmental Education to Reduce Impacts of Recreation and Tourism on Injured Species in Prince William Sound	S. Leonard, C. Beck/AWRTA	ADNR	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will produce guidelines for responsible recreation in Prince William Sound. Guidelines will be based on solid scientific knowledge, and will include an explanation of the "whys" behind recommended behavior. The project also will present the user guidelines, and the stories behind the guidelines, in a detailed and entertaining format. This work will help create exhibits and other information so visitors, school kids, and adults better understand the sound's natural environment, helping to reinforce and magnify the impact of the guidelines on recreation behavior. This project will use scientific data collected through the EVOS process and other research initiatives to change the behavior of tourists and recreationists to support the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The goal of this proposal is to produce user guidelines for responsible recreation in Prince William Sound, with associated scientific rationale, and present the guidelines in a detailed and entertaining format for use at visitor information centers, museums, and other tourist venues. The rationale for Trustee Council involvement is that responsible recreation will protect natural recovery processes. Results from the human use modeling project (/339) should be considered prior to developing these guidelines. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The impacts of increasing tourism and recreational use in Prince William Sound are of growing concern to many, including the State of Alaska and the Chugach National Forest, the primary landowners/ managers in the sound. It is unclear how this proposal fits into any state or federal effort to address the impacts of increased use of the sound. In addition, results from the human use modeling project (/339) should be considered in designing a proposal such as this, and the modeling results have not yet been completed or submitted.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Jon Barlow
Power Alternative
P.O. Box 240565
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Project 01498 / Reinstating Restoration of Oil as Petrochemical

Dear Mr. Barlow:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01498/Reinstating Restoration of Oil as Petrochemical. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert
for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Marianee See, ADEC Liaison

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

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

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01498	Reinstating/Restoration of Oil as Petrochemical	J. Barlow/Power Alternative	ADEC	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will contribute to development of effective alternative energy systems applicable for power and/or propulsion in an effort to mitigate or terminate dependence on oil as fuel.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a research and development proposal to cogenerate electricity from waste heat using a heat pump based upon the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion technology tested in the late 1970's. While development of alternative energy sources to reduce the effects of fossil fuel use is a laudatory goal, its link to the restoration, replacement, or enhancement of resources injured by the spill is weak. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project, which would support development of an electric cogeneration system as an alternative to fossil fuel, has a weak 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

August 8, 2000

C.P. McRoy, Ph.D.
UAF/IMS
P.O. Box 757220
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7220

RE: Project 01499 / Worms in Oil: Overlooked Biota in the Restoration Processes of the Nearshore

Dear Dr. McRoy:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01499/Worms in Oil: Overlooked Biota in the Restoration Processes of the Nearshore. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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

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

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01499	Worms in Oil: Overlooked Biota in the Restoration Processes of the Nearshore	C. McRoy/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Marine oligochaetes occurred in high abundance in the coarse sediments of oiled beaches following the oil spill. In 1990, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation made a limited survey of oiled/unoiled intertidal areas in Prince William Sound with the specific objective of assessing this population. Preliminary results indicated these animals were the most abundant macrofauna on both treated and untreated oiled beaches with population densities reaching thousands square meter. The data have never been analyzed or published but contain documentation of a major pathway for moving oil into the nearshore food web and information on a control of the bioremediation process. This project will analyze the historical data, investigate the current status of populations in the oiled intertidal zone, and model the potential role of these animals in the nearshore.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The carbon food chain modeling proposed in this project would be interesting and supply added knowledge about the impacts of the spill. However, this project makes only a limited contribution to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This project, which would evaluate certain worms as an oil pathway to higher level predators, would make only a limited contribution 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

August 7, 2000

Bob Henrichs, President
Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574-1000

RE: Project 01333 / Sea Otter Monitoring
Project 01372 / Steller Sea Lion Monitoring
Project 01503 / Orca Inlet Restoration
Project 01507 / Nuchek Subsistence Camp
Project 01508 / Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure

Bob

Dear Mr. ~~Henrichs~~:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan, for which only $6 million in funding is available. Therefore, it was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund the projects listed above. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your projects for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

The Trustee Council is very committed to ensuring local Alaska Native participation in future monitoring efforts under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term research and monitoring program). I know that you and the other community facilitators, together with Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Henry Huntington, and Sarah Ward, will be closely involved in this effort. In addition, I have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep me apprised of the results of their additional surveys of sea otters in Orca Inlet. I will be sure to pass that information on to you and the Council.

I appreciate your continued interest in the restoration program. If you would like to discuss the Trustee Council's decision, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, DOI-USFWS Liaison

Good to see you at the GEM and TC meeting, Bob.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01333	Sea Otter Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The sea otters in Orca Inlet have been dying and washing up on the beaches in the past few years. The problem is getting worse. Since January 2000, over 100 sea otters have been picked up between Hartney Bay and Nelson Bay. Necropsies show the cause of death to be parasites and bone impaction. These are picked up by sea otters feeding on cannery waste. This project calls for a study to find a way to prevent these needless deaths. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $100,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not a result of the oil spill. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Information collected through other Trustee Council-funded projects indicates that sea otters have recovered from the spill throughout Prince William Sound, except in the area of Knight Island. Any observed sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not related to the oil spill, and this project's link to the Council's restoration objectives is weak.

TRUSTEE UNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLA

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01372	Steller Sea Lion Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Steller sea lions are on the decline and have been placed on the endangered list by the National Marine Fisheries Service. If this trend continues, subsistence fishing for salmon, herring, and other marine life will be curtailed. Some traditional areas may be closed to all fishing and hunting. This project will monitor the interaction between Steller sea lions and the fishing fleets. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $250,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea lions were studied in 1989 following the spill, but no evidence of injury was obtained. This project's link to the restoration program is weak. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. There are no established injuries from the oil spill to sea lions and this project's link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives is weak.

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01503	Orca Inlet Restoration	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Orca Inlet has become barren over the years. While it used to supply many of the subsistence resources to the residents of Eyak/Cordova, in recent years it has supplied very little. As a result of the processors dumping their fish waste and the 1964 earthquake, the inlet is dying. This project will develop a plan to restore Orca Inlet to what it was when we were children. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $150,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is an abstract focused upon restoration of lost subsistence resources in Orca Inlet. There are many reasons for the observed changes, including the 1964 earthquake and discharge of fish waste from canneries, but the oil spill probably had little or no role in these changes. To the extent the changes stem from such events as the earthquake, they are likely irreversible, although discharge of fish waste should be regulated under the Clean Water Act. No explanation is provided for the $750,000 budget (over five years), nor is there a description of how the project would be carried out. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has surveyed sea otters in Orca Inlet. This summer, partly in response to concerns of local residents, USFWS will conduct more intensive aerial surveys in the area using non-EVOS funds. Long-term monitoring of sea otters in Orca Inlet may be considered as part of GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program).

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01507	Nuchek Subsistence Camp	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

As a result of the oil spill, the availability of subsistence foods has changed. The residents of the spill region are spending more time gathering traditional subsistence foods. A subsistence camp at Nuchek would allow the youth and elders to address these changes. Many of the people in the region trace their ancestry back to Nuchek. As Chugach Alaska Corporation has built a facility at Nuchek and holds annual spirit camps, this would be an appropriate location for this subsistence camp. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal does not elaborate on the benefit of youth and elders addressing changes in subsistence as a result of the oil spill and it does not establish how such benefits relate to recovery goals. An agenda for how the camp could achieve these goals is not presented. Methods for achieving the purposes intended are not presented. No budget information is presented. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The value and importance of subsistence camps and other activities that teach traditional methods of harvesting and other subsistence skills to youth is clear. However, proposals submitted to the Trustee Council in the past for subsistence camps were found not to be legally permissible. The Nuchek Spirit Camp was funded in 1995 and 1996 with EVOS criminal funds with the expectation that funding in future years would be provided by Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01508	Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will protect and enhance the salmon runs on the Copper River to replace the lost subsistence resources in Prince William Sound. The project will install modern automated run monitoring and data collection equipment on all significant Copper River tributaries and will develop a baseline data index to existing data systems over a five-year period (a test year with a five-year full data set over a full run cycle). The Copper River fishery is at risk because of a shift in resource use patterns. Harvest of salmon on or near spawning tributaries is increasing rapidly. This project will provide salmon count data systems on the Copper River that can distinguish between species, provide genetic separation, monitor tributaries, and transmit data in real time. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested funds for FY 03 ($893,100), FY 04 ($937,800), FY 05 ($984,700), and FY 06 ($1,033,900).]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project proposes to utilize sonar technology to count chinook salmon in the Copper River basin, but provides no evidence of understanding the complexities involved in effectively applying sonar technologies in such environments. The long history of difficulties in using this technology to enumerate chinook salmon on the Kenai River is not considered in the proposal. Moreover, the project contains no link to restoration objectives and would address an issue outside the spill area. Trustee Council funding is inappropriate because state law already provides for priority for subsistence use of resources, and proposers thus have recourse through other means to address the problem. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This proposal would address the allocation of Copper River salmon. Allocation issues are under the purview of various resource management agencies and are not appropriate for the Trustee Council to address.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 7, 2000

Bob Henrichs, President
Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574-1000

RE: Project 01333 / Sea Otter Monitoring
Project 01372 / Steller Sea Lion Monitoring
Project 01503 / Orca Inlet Restoration
Project 01507 / Nuchek Subsistence Camp
Project 01508 / Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure

Dear Mr. ~~Henrichs~~ Bob:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan, for which only $6 million in funding is available. Therefore, it was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund the projects listed above. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your projects for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

The Trustee Council is very committed to ensuring local Alaska Native participation in future monitoring efforts under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term research and monitoring program). I know that you and the other community facilitators, together with Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Henry Huntington, and Sarah Ward, will be closely involved in this effort. In addition, I have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep me apprised of the results of their additional surveys of sea otters in Orca Inlet. I will be sure to pass that information on to you and the Council.

I appreciate your continued interest in the restoration program. If you would like to discuss the Trustee Council's decision, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, DOI-USFWS Liaison

Good to see you at the GEM and TC meeting, Bob.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01333	Sea Otter Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The sea otters in Orca Inlet have been dying and washing up on the beaches in the past few years. The problem is getting worse. Since January 2000, over 100 sea otters have been picked up between Hartney Bay and Nelson Bay. Necropsies show the cause of death to be parasites and bone impaction. These are picked up by sea otters feeding on cannery waste. This project calls for a study to find a way to prevent these needless deaths. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $100,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not a result of the oil spill. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Information collected through other Trustee Council-funded projects indicates that sea otters have recovered from the spill throughout Prince William Sound, except in the area of Knight Island. Any observed sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not related to the oil spill, and this project's link to the Council's restoration objectives is weak.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01372	Steller Sea Lion Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Steller sea lions are on the decline and have been placed on the endangered list by the National Marine Fisheries Service. If this trend continues, subsistence fishing for salmon, herring, and other marine life will be curtailed. Some traditional areas may be closed to all fishing and hunting. This project will monitor the interaction between Steller sea lions and the fishing fleets. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $250,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea lions were studied in 1989 following the spill, but no evidence of injury was obtained. This project's link to the restoration program is weak. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. There are no established injuries from the oil spill to sea lions and this project's link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives is weak.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01503	Orca Inlet Restoration	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Orca Inlet has become barren over the years. While it used to supply many of the subsistence resources to the residents of Eyak/Cordova, in recent years it has supplied very little. As a result of the processors dumping their fish waste and the 1964 earthquake, the inlet is dying. This project will develop a plan to restore Orca Inlet to what it was when we were children. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $150,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is an abstract focused upon restoration of lost subsistence resources in Orca Inlet. There are many reasons for the observed changes, including the 1964 earthquake and discharge of fish waste from canneries, but the oil spill probably had little or no role in these changes. To the extent the changes stem from such events as the earthquake, they are likely irreversible, although discharge of fish waste should be regulated under the Clean Water Act. No explanation is provided for the $750,000 budget (over five years), nor is there a description of how the project would be carried out. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has surveyed sea otters in Orca Inlet. This summer, partly in response to concerns of local residents, USFWS will conduct more intensive aerial surveys in the area using non-EVOS funds. Long-term monitoring of sea otters in Orca Inlet may be considered as part of GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program).

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01507	Nuchek Subsistence Camp	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract	Chief Scientist's Recommendation	Trustee Council Action
As a result of the oil spill, the availability of subsistence foods has changed. The residents of the spill region are spending more time gathering traditional subsistence foods. A subsistence camp at Nuchek would allow the youth and elders to address these changes. Many of the people in the region trace their ancestry back to Nuchek. As Chugach Alaska Corporation has built a facility at Nuchek and holds annual spirit camps, this would be an appropriate location for this subsistence camp. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared.]	This proposal does not elaborate on the benefit of youth and elders addressing changes in subsistence as a result of the oil spill and it does not establish how such benefits relate to recovery goals. An agenda for how the camp could achieve these goals is not presented. Methods for achieving the purposes intended are not presented. No budget information is presented. Do not fund.	Do not fund. The value and importance of subsistence camps and other activities that teach traditional methods of harvesting and other subsistence skills to youth is clear. However, proposals submitted to the Trustee Council in the past for subsistence camps were found not to be legally permissible. The Nuchek Spirit Camp was funded in 1995 and 1996 with EVOS criminal funds with the expectation that funding in future years would be provided by Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01508	Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will protect and enhance the salmon runs on the Copper River to replace the lost subsistence resources in Prince William Sound. The project will install modern automated run monitoring and data collection equipment on all significant Copper River tributaries and will develop a baseline data index to existing data systems over a five-year period (a test year with a five-year full data set over a full run cycle). The Copper River fishery is at risk because of a shift in resource use patterns. Harvest of salmon on or near spawning tributaries is increasing rapidly. This project will provide salmon count data systems on the Copper River that can distinguish between species, provide genetic separation, monitor tributaries, and transmit data in real time. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested funds for FY 03 ($893,100), FY 04 ($937,800), FY 05 ($984,700), and FY 06 ($1,033,900).]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project proposes to utilize sonar technology to count chinook salmon in the Copper River basin, but provides no evidence of understanding the complexities involved in effectively applying sonar technologies in such environments. The long history of difficulties in using this technology to enumerate chinook salmon on the Kenai River is not considered in the proposal. Moreover, the project contains no link to restoration objectives and would address an issue outside the spill area. Trustee Council funding is inappropriate because state law already provides for priority for subsistence use of resources, and proposers thus have recourse through other means to address the problem. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This proposal would address the allocation of Copper River salmon. Allocation issues are under the purview of various resource management agencies and are not appropriate for the Trustee Council to address.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 7, 2000

Bob Henrichs, President
Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1388
Cordova, AK 99574-1000

RE: Project 01333 / Sea Otter Monitoring
Project 01372 / Steller Sea Lion Monitoring
Project 01503 / Orca Inlet Restoration
Project 01507 / Nuchek Subsistence Camp
Project 01508 / Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure

Dear Mr. ~~Henrichs~~ Bob:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan, for which only $6 million in funding is available. Therefore, it was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund the projects listed above. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your projects for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your projects is enclosed.

The Trustee Council is very committed to ensuring local Alaska Native participation in future monitoring efforts under GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Council's long-term research and monitoring program). I know that you and the other community facilitators, together with Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Henry Huntington, and Sarah Ward, will be closely involved in this effort. In addition, I have asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep me apprised of the results of their additional surveys of sea otters in Orca Inlet. I will be sure to pass that information on to you and the Council.

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I appreciate your continued interest in the restoration program. If you would like to discuss the Trustee Council's decision, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Catherine Berg, DOI-USFWS Liaison

Good to see you at the GEM and TC meeting, Bob.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01333	Sea Otter Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The sea otters in Orca Inlet have been dying and washing up on the beaches in the past few years. The problem is getting worse. Since January 2000, over 100 sea otters have been picked up between Hartney Bay and Nelson Bay. Necropsies show the cause of death to be parasites and bone impaction. These are picked up by sea otters feeding on cannery waste. This project calls for a study to find a way to prevent these needless deaths. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $100,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not a result of the oil spill. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Information collected through other Trustee Council-funded projects indicates that sea otters have recovered from the spill throughout Prince William Sound, except in the area of Knight Island. Any observed sea otter mortality in Orca Inlet is likely not related to the oil spill, and this project's link to the Council's restoration objectives is weak.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01372	Steller Sea Lion Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract	Chief Scientist's Recommendation	Trustee Council Action
Steller sea lions are on the decline and have been placed on the endangered list by the National Marine Fisheries Service. If this trend continues, subsistence fishing for salmon, herring, and other marine life will be curtailed. Some traditional areas may be closed to all fishing and hunting. This project will monitor the interaction between Steller sea lions and the fishing fleets. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $250,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]	Sea lions were studied in 1989 following the spill, but no evidence of injury was obtained. This project's link to the restoration program is weak. Do not fund.	Do not fund. There are no established injuries from the oil spill to sea lions and this project's link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives is weak.

TRUSTEE COUNCIL ACTION (8/3/00) / FY 01 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01503	Orca Inlet Restoration	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Orca Inlet has become barren over the years. While it used to supply many of the subsistence resources to the residents of Eyak/Cordova, in recent years it has supplied very little. As a result of the processors dumping their fish waste and the 1964 earthquake, the inlet is dying. This project will develop a plan to restore Orca Inlet to what it was when we were children. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested $150,000 for FY 03, for FY 04, and for FY 05.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is an abstract focused upon restoration of lost subsistence resources in Orca Inlet. There are many reasons for the observed changes, including the 1964 earthquake and discharge of fish waste from canneries, but the oil spill probably had little or no role in these changes. To the extent the changes stem from such events as the earthquake, they are likely irreversible, although discharge of fish waste should be regulated under the Clean Water Act. No explanation is provided for the $750,000 budget (over five years), nor is there a description of how the project would be carried out. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has surveyed sea otters in Orca Inlet. This summer, partly in response to concerns of local residents, USFWS will conduct more intensive aerial surveys in the area using non-EVOS funds. Long-term monitoring of sea otters in Orca Inlet may be considered as part of GEM (Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring, the Trustee Council's long-term monitoring program).

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01507	Nuchek Subsistence Camp	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

As a result of the oil spill, the availability of subsistence foods has changed. The residents of the spill region are spending more time gathering traditional subsistence foods. A subsistence camp at Nuchek would allow the youth and elders to address these changes. Many of the people in the region trace their ancestry back to Nuchek. As Chugach Alaska Corporation has built a facility at Nuchek and holds annual spirit camps, this would be an appropriate location for this subsistence camp. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal does not elaborate on the benefit of youth and elders addressing changes in subsistence as a result of the oil spill and it does not establish how such benefits relate to recovery goals. An agenda for how the camp could achieve these goals is not presented. Methods for achieving the purposes intended are not presented. No budget information is presented. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. The value and importance of subsistence camps and other activities that teach traditional methods of harvesting and other subsistence skills to youth is clear. However, proposals submitted to the Trustee Council in the past for subsistence camps were found not to be legally permissible. The Nuchek Spirit Camp was funded in 1995 and 1996 with EVOS criminal funds with the expectation that funding in future years would be provided by Chugach Alaska Corporation.

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01508	Copper River Salmon Run Data Infrastructure	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will protect and enhance the salmon runs on the Copper River to replace the lost subsistence resources in Prince William Sound. The project will install modern automated run monitoring and data collection equipment on all significant Copper River tributaries and will develop a baseline data index to existing data systems over a five-year period (a test year with a five-year full data set over a full run cycle). The Copper River fishery is at risk because of a shift in resource use patterns. Harvest of salmon on or near spawning tributaries is increasing rapidly. This project will provide salmon count data systems on the Copper River that can distinguish between species, provide genetic separation, monitor tributaries, and transmit data in real time. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; if recommended for funding, a Detailed Project Description and budget will need to be prepared. This project also requested funds for FY 03 ($893,100), FY 04 ($937,800), FY 05 ($984,700), and FY 06 ($1,033,900).]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project proposes to utilize sonar technology to count chinook salmon in the Copper River basin, but provides no evidence of understanding the complexities involved in effectively applying sonar technologies in such environments. The long history of difficulties in using this technology to enumerate chinook salmon on the Kenai River is not considered in the proposal. Moreover, the project contains no link to restoration objectives and would address an issue outside the spill area. Trustee Council funding is inappropriate because state law already provides for priority for subsistence use of resources, and proposers thus have recourse through other means to address the problem. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. This proposal would address the allocation of Copper River salmon. Allocation issues are under the purview of various resource management agencies and are not appropriate for the Trustee Council to address.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 8, 2000

Robert J. Small, Ph.D.
ADF&G
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1565

RE: Project 01509 / Monitoring Harbor Seal Population Condition to Assess Changes in Carrying Capacity in Prince William Sound

Dear Dr. Small:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council received more than $13.4 million in proposals for a Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan of $6 million. It was not possible to fund all projects that were submitted.

In June I notified you of my recommendation that the Trustee Council not fund Project 01509/Monitoring Harbor Seal Populati n Condition to Assess Changes in Carrying Capacity in Prince William Sound. The Council acted on the FY 2001 Work Plan on August 3, 2000. This letter is to inform you that the Council accepted my recommendation and did not fund your project for FY 01. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed.

I appreciate your interest in the restoration program.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01509	Monitoring Harbor Seal Population Condition to Assess Changes in Carrying Capacity in Prince William Sound	R. Small/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The production and survival of young harbor seals is critical to reversal of the long-term decline of seals in Prince William Sound, and to ultimate recovery of the population from damage due to the oil spill. Significant inter-annual differences in diet and body condition of young seals were documented in 1997-99. This project will obtain additional information on the population condition (e.g., diet and percent body fat) of pup, yearling, and sub-adult harbor seals, the age classes most likely to be limited by food availability. Data obtained on harbor seal population condition from this project and from 1997-99 will be compared with concurrent population abundance data to assess the status of harbor seals relative to carrying capacity, and subsequently derive more comprehensive and realistic expectations for population recovery. [NOTE: This project also requested funds ($65,000) for FY 03.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The continued monitoring of harbor seals in Prince William Sound may be appropriate once the results of an evaluation of long-term monitoring strategies (Project 00509) are available. Do not fund.

Trustee Council Action

Do not fund. Continued monitoring of harbor seals may be considered for FY 02, once the experimental design for long-term population monitoring, which is being developed under Project 00509, is submitted and evaluated (draft design is due September 30, 2000).

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

August 9, 2000

Jim Pfeiffenberger
Alaska SeaLife Center
P.O. Box 1329
Seward, AK 99664

RE: Project 01513 / *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Exhibit: The Continuing Legacy

Dear Mr. Pfeiffenberger:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council acted on the Fiscal Year 2001 Work Plan at its meeting on August 3, 2000. I am pleased to inform you that the Council approved funding in the amount of $50,300 for Project 01513/*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Exhibit: The Continuing Legacy. This includes $47,000 in direct project funds and $3,300 in ADF&G administrative costs. A copy of the Council's action on your project is enclosed. Please note that FY 01 is expected to be the only year of Council contribution to this project.

Before a project may begin, the lead agency for the project (ADF&G) must provide documentation to the Executive Director showing that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met. ADF&G must also execute a contract or Reimbursable Services Agreement with you. We hope that for most projects this will occur before October 1, 2000. If so, you may receive authorization from the Executive Director to begin the FY 01 project on that date. Any delay in documenting compliance will delay start of the project. If you have any questions, please contact Claudia Slater, the Trustee Council liaison for ADF&G (in Anchorage, 267-2336).

Thank you for your participation in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill restoration program. We appreciate your continued interest, and look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Sandra Schubert for

Molly McCammon
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Claudia Slater, ADF&G Liaison

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	TC Approve 8/3/00	Deferred to December	FY02 Recom.	Total FY01-02
01513	*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Exhibit: The Continuing Legacy	J. Pfeiffenberger/Alaska SeaLife Center	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$50.3	$0.0	$0.0	$50.3

Project Abstract

This project will develop an interactive exhibit "*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill: The Continuing Legacy" to inform the public about the current status of wildlife species injured by the spill. It will combine pieces of the existing exhibit "Legacy of an Oil Spill, 10 Years After" with new audio and visual components that will allow easy updating of information as the status of injured species changes over time. This exhibit will be a permanent installation at the Alaska SeaLife Center and will serve as a source of public dissemination to hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will revise and expand the existing public education exhibit regarding the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill into a permanent display at the Alaska SeaLife Center. The project appears feasible, the proposer is qualified, and the display has the potential to reach large numbers of people with current information about the spill. Fund.

Trustee Council Action

Fund. Funding commitment is for FY 01 only -- annual operation and maintenance costs of the exhibit should be the responsibility of the Alaska SeaLife Center. This project will provide a permanent exhibit at the heavily visited Alaska SeaLife Center on the resources injured by the oil spill, and will serve the Trustee Council's goal of disseminating information on restoration to the broadest audience possible.