14.2.2+

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

AGENDA

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
Public Advisory Group
Fourth floor conference room
645 G Street, Anchorage, Alaska

Wednesday, May 28, 1997
9:00 a.m.

DRAFT **DRAFT**
5/15/97

PURPOSE:

1. Election of chair and vice-chair.
2. Develop recommendations to Executive Director on FY 98 Project Proposals.

9:00 a.m.	Welcome Roll call Election of chair Approval of August 7, 1996 Meeting Summary Approval of March 4-5, 1997 Information Session Summary	Doug Mutter, Designated Federal Officer
9:15	Executive Director's Report on Recent Activities	Molly McCammon, Executive Director
9:45	Certificates of Appreciation	Molly McCammon
10:00	Set date for Kodiak field trip	
10:15	Discussion/Recommendation FY 98 Project Proposals	Dr. Robert Spies, Chief Scientist Stan Senner, Science Coordinator
12:00 p.m.	Working Lunch	
1:00	Public Comment	
1:30	Continue Discussion FY 98 Project Proposals	Dr. Robert Spies Stan Senner
5:00	**Adjourn**	

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Council Members

FROM: Sandra Schubert
Project Coordinator

THROUGH: Molly McCammon
Executive Director

DATE: May 21, 1997

RE: Quarterly Project Status Summary -- March 31, 1997

This memorandum summarizes the status of reports for the quarter ending March 31, 1997, for all projects funded by the Trustee Council during 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996. The memorandum also includes progress updates for FY 97 projects.

Attachment A summarizes the status of project reports by agency.
Attachment B lists the reports that are significantly behind schedule. Reports are considered significantly behind schedule if (1) they have not yet been submitted to the Chief Scientist or were reviewed by the Chief Scientist, returned to the PI for revision longer ago than six months, and have not been revised and resubmitted to the Chief Scientist and (2) an extended due date has not been approved by the Restoration Office.
Attachment C summarizes activities conducted during the January-March quarter for all projects underway in FY 97.

As of March 31, 1997, a total of 155 project reports had been peer reviewed and accepted by the Chief Scientist. Once accepted by the Chief Scientist, reports are submitted to the Oil Spill Public Information Center (OSPIC). As of March 31, 139 reports were available to the public through OSPIC and other libraries around the state. (A list of the reports currently available is available from the Restoration Office or OSPIC).

Status of 1992 Project Reports as of March 31, 1997

A total of 84 reports are being produced on projects funded in the 1992 Work Plan. These reports are considered "final" reports and are subject to peer review and approval by the Chief

Scientist. (NOTE: Reports "in progress" are in peer review, are under revision by the PI in response to peer reviewer comments, or have been revised and are undergoing a second review by the Chief Scientist.)

Reports Available to Public at OSPIC	Reports Accepted by Chief Scientist	Reports in Progress	No Report Yet Submitted
60	65	17	1

Status of 1993 Project Reports as of March 31, 1997

A total of 28 final reports are being produced on projects funded in the 1993 Work Plan.

Reports Available to Public at OSPIC	Reports Accepted by Chief Scientist	Reports in Progress	No Report Yet Submitted
19	22	4	2

Status of 1994 Project Reports as of March 31, 1997

A total of 37 final reports are being produced on projects funded in the FY 94 Work Plan.

Reports Available to Public at OSPIC	Reports Accepted by Chief Scientist	Reports in Progress	No Report Yet Submitted
28	35	2	0

Status of 1995 Project Reports as of March 31, 1997

A total of 51 reports are being produced on projects funded in the FY 95 Work Plan. Beginning with the FY 95 project year, "annual" reports are required for continuing projects. Annual reports, although peer reviewed, need not be rewritten in response to peer review comments. Rather, the peer review comments are to be used to guide future work on the project.

Reports Available to Public at OSPIC	Reports Accepted by Chief Scientist	Reports in Progress	No Report Yet Submitted
22	29	18	3

Status of 1996 Projects as of March 31, 1997

A total of 53 reports are being produced on projects funded in the FY 96 Work Plan. These reports were due April 15, 1997. Many arrived on schedule but some received extensions ranging from two to twelve weeks. As in previous years, my recommendation to you on FY 98 project funding will be that no funds be authorized for any PI who has an overdue report.

Reports Available to Public at OSPIC	Reports Accepted by Chief Scientist	Reports in Progress	No Report Yet Submitted
0	4	26	23

Status of 1997 Projects as of March 31, 1997

January-to-March 1997 activities for most projects consisted primarily of preparation (data analysis, synthesis, writing) for the Annual Restoration Workshop, annual reports on the FY 96 field season, and Detailed Project Descriptions for FY 98. Preparation for the upcoming field season also was a major activity.

A project-by-project summary of activities conducted during the January-March quarter is presented in **Attachment C**. Of interest: the Anchorage premier and general release of a video entitled "Alutiiq Pride: A Story of Subsistence" which depicts traditional knowledge about harbor seals (Project 97214); completion of the Environmental Assessment for construction of a fish pass at the Alaska SeaLife Center (Project 97196); and technical program reviews, conducted by the Chief Scientist, of the three ecosystem projects (SEA/97320, APEX/97163, and NVP/97025). In addition, OSPIC received 309 visitors, 745 requests for information, and 12,413 "hits" on its Web home page.

Status of NRDA Reports

As directed by the Trustee Council, staff is in the process of developing a recommendation

(and budget) for finalizing certain NRDA reports. This recommendation will be presented for your consideration in the near future.

Conclusion

In brief, steady progress continues to be made toward completion and public availability of project reports. Currently, 139 reports on studies funded by the Trustee Council are now available to the public through OSPIC and many more are in progress.

ATTACHMENT A

Summary of Project Report Status as of March 31, 1997

1992 WORK PLAN

AGENCY	NUMBER OF REPORTS	Not Yet Submitted to Chief Sci.	In Progress	Peer Rev'd/ Accepted by Chief Scientist	Available to Public at OSPIC
ADEC	2	0	0	2	2
ADFG	35	1	13	21	21
ADNR	1	0	0	1	1
DOI	33	0	4	29	26
NOAA	11	0	0	10	10
USFS	2	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	**84**	**1**	**17**	**65**	**60**

1993 WORK PLAN

AGENCY	NUMBER OF REPORTS	Not Yet Submitted to Chief Sci.	In Progress	Peer Rev'd/ Accepted by Chief Scientist	Available to Public at OSPIC
ADEC	2	0	1	1	1
ADFG	12	1	2	9	8
ADNR	0	0	0	0	0
DOI	9	1	1	7	6
NOAA	3	0	0	3	3
USFS	2	0	0	2	1
TOTAL	**28**	**2**	**4**	**22**	**19**

1994 WORK PLAN

AGENCY	NUMBER OF REPORTS	Not Yet Submitted to Chief Sci.	In Progress	Peer Rev'd/ Accepted by Chief Scientist	Available to Public at OSPIC
ADEC	1	0	0	1	0
ADFG	19	0	2	17	16
ADNR	2	0	0	2	2
DOI	6	0	0	6	3
NOAA	5	0	0	5	5
USFS	4	0	0	4	2
TOTAL	**37**	**0**	**2**	**35**	**28**

ATTACHMENT A

Summary of Project Report Status as of March 31, 1997

1995 WORK PLAN

AGENCY	NUMBER OF REPORTS	Not Yet Submitted to Chief Sci.	In Progress	Peer Rev'd/ Accepted by Chief Scientist	Available to Public at OSPIC
ADEC	4	1	1	2	1
ADFG	25	0	8	16	11
ADNR	1	0	0	1	1
DOI	7	0	4	3	3
NOAA	8	2	3	3	4
USFS	6	0	2	4	2
TOTAL	**51**	**3**	**18**	**29**	**22**

1996 WORK PLAN

AGENCY	NUMBER OF REPORTS	Not Yet Submitted to Chief Sci.	In Progress	Peer Rev'd/ Accepted by Chief Scientist	Available to Public at OSPIC
ADEC	0	0	0	0	0
ADFG	31	13	16	2	0
ADNR	3	2	1	0	0
DOI	5	2	2	1	0
NOAA	8	4	3	1	0
USFS	6	2	4	0	0
TOTAL	**53**	**23**	**26**	**4**	**0**

ATTACHMENT B
Overdue Reports

Agency	Project Number	PI	Final or Annual	Project Title	Status of Report
DOI	93006	Birkedahl	Final	Site specific archaeology	Never submitted
DOI	95029	Schempf	Final	Bald eagles	Peer reviewed; returned to PI for revision 4/8/96; redraft not received
ADFG	B11	Rothe	Final	Harlequin duck damage assessment	Peer reviewed; returned to PI for revision 2/13/96; redraft not received
ADFG	FS01	Fried, Bue	Final	Spawning area injury	Never submitted; PIs now say will submit by June 1, 1997
ADFG	93033-1	Rothe	Final	Harlequin duck - Afognak habitat assessment/PWS production	Peer reviewed; returned to PI for revision 11/14/95; redraft not received
ADFG	93033-2	Rothe	Final	Harlequin duck restoration	Never submitted; waiting for contractor's (Fry) analysis
ADFG	95166	Willette	Annual	Herring natal habitats	Peer reviewed; returned to PI for revision 6/10/96; redraft not received
ADFG	95320D	Seeb, J & L	Annual	Pink salmon genetics (PWS)	Peer reviewed; returned to PI for revision 7/1/96 (Spies asked for further statistical testing before accepting annual report); redraft not received
ADFG	96052A-2	Vlasoff	Annual	Community involvement	Never submitted; was due 4/15/97
DEC	93038	DEC	Final	Shoreline assessment	Peer reviewed; returned to PI for revision 1/26/96; redraft not received

ATTACHMENT B
Overdue Reports

NOAA	95090	Was Babcock; now who?	Final	Mussel bed monitoring	Never submitted; was due 9/30/96; not received
NOAA	95121	Worthy	Annual	Fatty acid signatures of forage fish	Report submitted was incomplete so returned to PI (2/97); now waiting for submittal of complete draft
NOAA	96048	Ruggerone	Annual	Sockeye historical analysis	Never submitted; was due 4/15/97
NOAA	96076	Wertheimer	Annual	Effects of oil on straying	Never submitted, was due 4/15/97
NOAA	96163	Duffy, et al	Annual	APEX	Never submitted, was due 4/15/97

Exxon Valdez Oil ll Project Status Summary

ATTACHMENT C

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97001	Recovery of Harbor Seals From EVOS: Condition and Health Status	M. Castellini/UAF	ADFG	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY-Analysis and statistical study of all blood samples. DONE-Collection of archived blubber samples. UNDERWAY-Analysis of blubber water content. Jan - March: DONE-Preparation of blubber samples for bomb calorimetry. DONE-Modeling of body morphometrics. DONE-Samples outside of PWS. April - June: -Analysis and statistical study of blood samples. -Collection of field samples outside of PWS. -Collection of field samples inside PWS. -Analysis of all blood samples. July - Sept: -Modeling of body morphometrics and blubber data. -Modeling of body condition indices. Also: - PI and PhD student present papers at FASEB Conference - Manuscript on plasma haptoglobin levels in threatened Alsakan pinniped populations submitted to *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* in January 1996; funds provided under 97001 for publication
97007A	Archaeological Index Site Monitoring	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	April - June: -Finalize arrangements for fieldwork. -Submit charcoal and sediment samples for analysis.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan

Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97007B-CLO	Site Specific Archaeological Restoration	L. Yarborough/USFS	USFS	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY -Prepare manuscript for peer-review professional journals. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Prepare presentations for Oil Spill communities. UNDERWAY -Presentations/discussions in Oil Spill communities. UNDERWAY - Submit for publication: Regional and theoretical archaeology questions using EVOS data (*American Antiquity, Archaeology)* April - June: DELAYED - Present paper at Society for American Archaeology annual meeting (scheduled for 4/6/97)
97009D-CLO	Survey of Octopuses in Intertidal Habitats	D. Scheel/Prince William Sound Science Center	USFS	Sept - Dec: DONE -Analyses from summer field work. Jan - Mar: UNDERWAY -Preparation of final report. UNDERWAY -Draft manuscripts for submission to professional journals. April 15: Submit draft final report. Submit manuscripts: (1) Remains of the prey: recognizing midden piles of octopus in PWS and Port Graham (*Veliger*) (2) Variation in midden composition of octopus by habitat, depth, and available prey (*Marine Ecology* or *Bulletin of Marine Science)* (3) Use of intertidal habitats by octopus (*Marine Ecology* or *Bulletin of Marine Science*) Distribute plain language summary to Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, and Port Graham. Also: Funds were provided to attend an unspecified conference

Exxon Valdez Oil l Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97012-BAA	Comprehensive Killer Whale Investigation in Prince William Sound	C. Matkin/North Gulf Oceanic Society	NOAA	Sept - Dec: UNDERWAY -Data analysis. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Convert prey data to geographic information system format. UNDERWAY - Begin draft of manuscript on area use. April - June: -Killer whale biopsy emphasis fieldwork. -Analyze correlations with prey. -Analyze winter recordings from remote hydrophone. July - Sept: -Arrange for Restoration and Personal Use licenses from Chenega Corporation. -Analyze previous year's recordings. -Replace hydrophone. -Begin draft of manuscript on geographic distributions of foraging behaviors. -Killer whale monitoring emphasis field work. -Killer whale biopsy emphasis field work. -Presentations and interviews with elders at Chenega, Cordova, and Tatitlek. -Set up receiving stations in Chenega and Port San Juan. -Train volunteers and technicians who will maintain batteries.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97025	Mechanisms of Impact and Potential Recovery of Nearshore Vertebrate Predators (NVP)	L. Holland-Bartels, et al/NBS-DOI	DOI	Sept - Dec: DONE -Sea otter: Aerial survey of western Prince William Sound. DONE -Harlequin: Continue survival monitoring, skiff surveys, and collections of Barrow's goldeneyes. DONE -Project meeting to discuss field season outcomes and develop/revise proposed approach. Jan - March: DONE -Invertebrate predator: Complete sampling of all study sites. UNDERWAY -Harlequin: Continue survival monitoring, skiff surveys, and collections of Barrow's goldeneyes. April - June: -Pigeon guillemot: Active nest surveys, blood sampling, prey sampling, and nest monitoring. -Sea otter: Prey selection and foraging success. -River otter: Live trapping for morphometrics and tissue sampling. -Sea otter: Beach-cast carcass survey. -Avian co-predators: Boat surveys, collections, and behavioral observations. July - Sept: -Pigeon guillemot: Active nest surveys, blood sampling, prey sampling, and nest monitoring. -Sea otter: Aerial survey of Prince William Sound, capture for morphometrics and tissue collection. Prey selection and foraging success. -Mussel/clam/urchin/fish/duck food and invertebrate predators: Vessel charter to sample study areas. -Avian co-predators: Boat surveys and behavioral observations.

Exxon Valdez Oil l Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97026-CLO	Report Writing: Integration of Microbial and Chemical Sediment Data	J. Braddock/UAF	ADEC	Oct - Dec: -Funding approved 12/6/96. Jan - March: UNDERWAY - Prepare final report. -Prepare manuscript for publication. May 31, 1997: Final report due to Chief Scientist.
97043B	Monitoring of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden Habitat Improvement Structures	D. Gillikin/USFS	USFS	August: -Inspect and measure effects of installed structures. -Conduct population estimates of primary units.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97052A	Community Involvement	P. Brown/Chugach Regional Resources Commission	ADFG	Oct - Dec: (Spill Area-Wide Coordinator) DONE -Prepare subcontracts with communities DONE -Conduct training/orientation for facilitators DELAYED -Send activity report to facilitators twice each month SOME -Receive report from each facilitator at end of each month UNDERWAY -Receive resource inventory from each facilitator UNDERWAY -Compile/distribute resource inventories to PIs DELAYED -Contact PIs who have community involvement component in FY 97 projects to assist in implementation DONE -Attend Trustee Council and RWF meetings Oct - Dec: (ADF&G/Subsistence Division) DONE -Renew cooperative agreement with CRRC Jan - Mar: (Spill Area-Wide Coordinator) DONE - Assist/coordinate assistance in preparing project proposals DELAYED - Send activity report to facilitators twice each month SOME - Receive report from each facilitator at end of each month DONE - Attend Trustee Council and RWF meeting Jan - Mar: (ADF&G/Subsistence Division) DONE - Assist communities in preparing project proposals April - June: (Spill Area-Wide Coordinator) Coordinate facilitators' review of FY 98 proposals Recommendations to Exec. Dir. regarding TEK and community involvement in FY 98 proposals FIRST REPORT SENT APRIL - Send activity report to facilitators twice each month Receive report from each facilitator at end of each month Attend Trustee Council and RWF meetings July - Sept: (Spill Area-Wide Coordinator) Send activity report to facilitators twice each month Receive report from each facilitator at end of each month

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97052B	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	P. Brown-Schwalenberg/CRRC	ADFG	Oct - Dec: (ADF&G/Subsistence Division) DONE - Renew cooperative agreement with CRRC Oct - Dec: (CRRC) DONE - Establish TEK Advisory Group DONE (HIRED 2) - Hire TEK Specialist DONE IN JANUARY - TEK Specialist contact PIs who have TEK components in their FY 97 projects regarding implementation Jan - March: (ADF&G/Subsistence Division) DELAYED-Complete preparation of reference guide to existing TEK Jan - March: (CRRC) TEK Specialist contact PIs regarding including TEK in FY 98 proposals April - June: (CRRC) TEK Specialist make recommendations to Executive Director regarding FY 98 proposals

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97064	Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor Seals in PWS	K. Frost/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: ONGOING -Analysis of fatty acid samples by Dalhousie. UNDERWAY -Analysis of aerial survey data. ONGOING -Analysis of genetic samples by SWFSC. DONE -Analysis of other data, modeling. UNDERWAY Analyze SLTDR data from previous year DONE -Meet with hunters about study results, distribute newsletter. -Meet with SWFSC regarding genetics analyses. Jan - March: DONE-Order SLTDRs for field season. DONE-Coordination meeting with other ADF&G harbor seal projects. -Arrange logistics (boats, airplanes, equipment, contracts, supplies). DONE-Reserve ARGOS satellite channels. DONE - Analyze 1996 aerial survey done UNDERWAY - Analyze satellite SDR data April - June: -Catch seals, collect samples; attach SLTDRS as decided. July - Sept: UNDERWAY-Analysis of fatty acid samples by Dalhousie. -Conduct aerial surveys during molting. -Attach 6 - 12 SLTDRs, sampling.

Exxon Valdez Oil . / Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97076	Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Straying and Survival of Wild Pink Salmon	A. Wertheimer/NOAA	NOAA	Oct - March: UNDERWAY -Complete contractual arrangements for labor, vessel support, fishery, and weir sampling. - Present paper on long-term effects of oil on pink salmon incubated in oiled gravel: Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry April - June: -Plumb, configure incubation matrix for breeding experiment progeny. July - Sept: -Set up weir, adult holding facility at LPW. -Evaluate survival in incubators to fry emigration. -Adult recovery operations at weired and unweired streams. -Collect and spawn pink salmon from P-1 and F-1 returns to LPW.
97090-CLO	Mussel Bed Restoration and Monitoring	M. Babcock/NOAA	NOAA	Oct - Dec: DELAYED; WRITING UNDERWAY -Submission of histopathology paper to journal. DONE -Presentation of Mussel Bed Restoration at the International Conference on Shellfish Restoration. DELAYED; WRITING UNDERWAY -Submission of survey paper to journal. DELAYED -Submission of restoration paper to journal.
97100	Administration, Science Management, and Public Information	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	ONGOING
97100(supp1)	Supplement: Administration, Science Management, and Public Information (Archaeology Planning)	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	
97100(supp2)	Supplement: Administration, Science Management, and Public Information (Video Production)	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97115	Implementation of the Sound Waste Management Plan: Environmental Operations and Used Oil Management System	J. Winchester/Prince William Sound Economic Development Council	ADEC	Oct - Dec: DONE -Select designer for EVOS stations. UNDERWAY -Complete EVOS station designs. Jan - March: UNDERWAY - Develop bid documents for construction and acquisition of used oil management equipment. Solicit bids. April - June: Bid opening and contract award. July - Sept: Construction of EVOS stations and purchase of used oil equipment.
97126	Habitat Protection and Acquisition Support	C. Fries/ADNR, D. Gibbons/USFS	ADNR	Oct - Dec: Work proceeding on Chenega, Tatitlek, Eyak, and numerous small parcels.
97127	Tatitlek Coho Salmon Release	G. Kompkoff/Tatitlek IRA Council	ADFG	April - June: -Smolt transported to Boulder Bay and placed in net pens. -Smolt released into Boulder Bay July - Sept: -Egg take.
97131	Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration	D. Daisy/Chugach Regional Resources Commission	ADFG	Sept - Dec: DONE -Continue to collect broodstock. DONE -Transport to hatchery. PLUS research underway to explain why clam larvae die prior to setting. Jan - Mar: DELAYED DUE TO PROBLEMS WITH LARVAL SURVIVAL-Transfer 5 mm seed to hatchery nursery and FLUPSY. Also: - Hatchery staff present paper on hatchery and nursery culture techniques: Pacific Northwest Shellfish Conference

Exxon Valdez Oil Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97139A1	Salmon Instream Habitat and Stock Restoration - Little Waterfall Barrier Bypass Improvement	S. Honnold/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: TERMINATED DUE TO HIGH WATER - Coho spawner abundance and distribution surveys DONE -Data summary. Jan - March: DONE -Egg-to-fry survival sampling. July - Sept: -Juvenile coho abundance sampling. -Spawner abundance and distribution surveys. Plus... modifications to entrance of bypass
97139A2	Port Dick Creek Tributary and Development	N. Dudiak/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Monitor and measure the extent of colonization by pink and chum salmon, hydrologic parameters (water level, water temperature, stream velocity, and salinity) and proposed sedimentologic stability parameters (bedload transport, accumulated sediments, and gravel/cobble transport rates). April - June: UNDERWAY -Prepare field equipment and arrange logistics. UNDERWAY -Enumerate pink and chum salmon fry emergence. July - Sept: -Monitor pink and chum salmon return and colonization. DETERMINED NOT TO BE NEEDED -Supplement colonization if natural colonization is not adequate.
97139C1-CLO	Montague Riparian Rehabilitation Monitoring	D. Schmid/USFS	USFS	April - June: UNDERWAY -Arrange logistics, hire personnel. UNDERWAY -Examine structures. UNDERWAY -Measure channel changes. UNDERWAY -Collect growth data. July - Sept: -Analyze data. -Write final report.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97142-BAA	Status and Ecology of Kittlitz's Murrelets in Prince William Sound	R. Day/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Arrange logistics (boats, equipment, etc.). April - June: -Conduct early-summer cruise. July - Sept: -Conduct late-summer cruise. -Analyze isotope ratios and stomach contents. -Keypunch data and OA/QC. -Digitize, measure, and QA/QC geographic data.
97144	Common Murre Population Monitoring	D. Roseneau/DOI-FWS	DOI	Oct - Dec: DONE -Analyze data. DELAYED UNTIL MID-FEBRUARY-Arrange for vessel contract. DONE -Begin coordinating logistics with APEX project 96163J. Jan - March: -Arrange for hiring of seasonal employee. -Check/repair equipment and other gear. April - June: -Finalize vessel contract. -Check and update census plot booklets for the colonies. -Purchase supplies. July - Sept: -Collect data in Barren Islands. -Enter data.

Exxon Valdez Oil .l Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97145	Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden: Relation Among and Within Populations of Anadromous and Resident Forms	G. Reeves/USFS, Pacific Northwest Research Station	USFS	Oct - Dec: DONE -Renew cooperative agreement with OSU. DONE -Evaluate FY96 collections and make appropriate changes in collection sites. DONE -Conduct genetic and meristic analysis of Dolly Varden. DONE -Begin otolith microchemistry analysis. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Complete genetic screening. UNDERWAY -Assemble required field gear. April - June: -Collect samples of anadromous cutthroat trout. -Genetic, meristic, and otolith microchemistry analysis. July - Sept: -Collect samples of resident cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden. -Collect samples of anadromous Dolly Varden at field sites. -Continue genetic and meristic analysis.
97149	Archaeological Site Stewardship	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	Jan - March: UNDERWAY; WAITING FOR SOME STEWARD REPORTS-Compile steward reports, process film. April - June: -Complete review of site selection from FY96. -New site selection. -Review and training of stewards. -Complete site visits. July - Sept: -Complete steward monitoring of sites for season.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97159-CLO	Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound During Winter and Summer: Report and Publication Writing	B. Agler/DOI-FWS	DOI	Sept - Dec: UNDERWAY - Work on papers Jan - March: SUBMITTED APRIL 7 - On January 15, submit draft of final report to Chief Scientist (5 mo. personnel time) CANCELED DUE TO ILLNESS -Attend Pacific Seabird Group Meeting to present paper on marine bird population trends DONE - Attend Annual Restoration Workshop SUBMITTED TO CONSERVATION BIOLOGY -Submit paper on long-term population trends (1972-96) to a journal (.5 mo. EVOS, .5 mo. USFWS) April - June: Complete (that is, revise per peer review) final report (1 mo.) D. Irons submit paper on populations of marine birds in PWS before and after EVOS July - Sept: CANCELED DUE TO PI ILLNESS; IRONS WILL INCORPORATE SOME OF THIS DATA INTO HIS REPORT -In July, submit paper on marine bird population trends since the oil spill (1.5 mo.) Additional papers to be prepared using USFWS funds: SUBMITTED TO CONDOR - Murrelet abundance and distribution (.5 mo.) UNDERWAY - Sea otter abundance and distribution (.5 mo.) CANCELED DUE TO PI ILLNESS - Comparison of marine bird populations among three areas (1.5 mo.) If time allows, the following papers will also be prepared: SUBMITTED TO CONDOR AND REJECTED; SUBMITTED TO JFO - Kittlitz's murrelet distribution in PWS (by S. Kendall) CANCELED; TECHNIQUES WILL BE DESCRIBED IN

Exxon Valdez Oil ...il Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97161	Differentiation and Interchange of Harlequin Duck Populations Within the North Pacific	B. Goatcher/Katmai National Park	DOI	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY -Laboratory analysis/report. DONE -Band re-sightings and recoveries at Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and Katmai National Park April - June: -Procure equipment and supplies. -Refine GIS database. -Rebuild capture pens. July - Sept: -Harlequin duck capture. -Genetic sample collection and banding.

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Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97162	Investigations of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound	G. Marty/UC Davis; R. Kocan/Univ. Wash., C. Kennedy & A. Farrell, Simon Fraser Univ.	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE IN PWS ONLY; UNABLE TO LOCATE FISH IN SITKA SOUND - Collect fish samples. DONE-Scale analysis (age). -Evaluate fitness criteria in herring under varying densities without stressors. DONE - Stress studies on 0-year and 2-year herring DONE - Data analysis for disease challenge of oil-exposed juveniles with Vibrio anguillarum; measurement and data analysis of immunological parameters DONE - Differential white blood cell counts UNDERWAY - Plasma chemistries for fall field samples Jan - March: DONE; ALL SAMPLES WERE NEGATIVE FOR VIRUS AND SIGNIFICANT BACTERIA -Virology and bacteriology. UNDERWAY-IgM assay. UNDERWAY-Histopathology and identification of *Ortholinea orientalis*. DONE - VEN analysis and leukocyte differential counts. April - June: -Statistical analysis. -Collect spring samples. -Scale analysis (age). -Plasma chemistries.. -Virology and bacteriology. -VEN analysis, leukocyte differential counts, and CPK isozyme analysis. -IgM assay. -Histopathology and identification of *Ortholinea orientalis*. -Begin reproductive tests. -Analysis of single stressor data. -Stress infected SPF herring with increased densities. July - Sept: Evaluate temperature modulation of fitness criteria.

Exxon Valdez Oil [illegible] Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97162(supp)	Supplement: Investigations of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in PWS	G. Marty/UC Davis R. Kocan/Univ. Washington	ADFG	Jan-Mar DONE - Purchase supplies and equipment for sampling

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97163	APEX: Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska	D. Duffy, et al/UAA	NOAA	Oct - May: UNDERWAY - Data analysis. Jan - Mar: DONE - Prepare for Restoration Workshop and APEX review April - June: - Arrange for summer vessels July - Sept: -Acoustic sampling in PWS and Lower Cook Inlet. - Other field activities. Publications listed in DPD for FY 97: /163E (Irons): Changes in marine bird demographics (*Auk*) Changes in black-legged kittiwak productivity (*Condor*) Kittiwakes in PWS before and after EVOS (*Condor*) Kittiwakes as indicators of food availability (*Condor*) Foraging trip length as indicator of food availability (*Jnl. Field Ornith)* Changes in colony attendance (*Jnl. Field Ornith.*) /163F (Hayes): Changes in pigeon guillemot diets in PWS, 1979-1995 (*Condor)* Changes in pigeon guillemot demographics (*Condor)* Relationship between diet specialists and prey availability in pigeon guillemots (*Condor*) /163G (Roby): Lipid content and energy density of forage fish used by breeding seabirds in northern GOA (*Comp. Biochem. Physiol.)* Professional conferences listed in DPD for FY 97: /163E (Irons): Pacific Seabird Group, Jan. 1997 /163F (Hayes): Pacific Seabird Group, Jan. 1997 /163G (Roby): Int'l. Forage Fish Symposium, Anchorage

Exxon Valdez Oil ...l Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97165	Genetic Discrimination of Prince William Sound Herring Populations	J. Seeb/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Evaluate 95165 contract results. DONE -Award contract for FY96 samples. DONE -Tissue sampling and archiving. Jan - March: DELAYED; mtDNA DTA FROM UW NOT COMPLETE-Evaluate final FY95 lab results. NO SAMPLING WILL OCCUR-Plan for 1997 sampling if needed. DELAYED-Initiate technology transfer. April - June: -Collection of samples if needed. -Complete technology transfer. - Present paper on nuclear DNA and evolutionary genetics of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles: American Society of Icthyologists and Herpetologists July - Sept: -Conclude laboratory analysis of remaining FY96 and FY97 samples.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97166	Herring Natal Habitats	M. Willette/ADFG	ADFG	Jan - March: DONE - 1996 biomass estimates - Dept. Forecast and Stock Assessment Reports. April - June: -BEFORE ONSET OF SPAWNING: DONE---Conduct acoustic survey (20 d). UNDERWAY---Collect AWL, fecundity, disease, genetic stock ID, and bioenergetics samples. -AFTER ONSET OF SPAWNING: ---Initiate dive surveys. ---Complete dive surveys. ---Begin lab processing of diver calibration and fecundity samples. ---Complete calibration sample processing samples. July - Sept: -Finalize estimate of spawning biomass. Also: $1,000 was provided for publication costs -- no title or journal specified
97167-BAA	Preparation and Curation of Seabirds Salvaged from the *Exxon Valdez* Spill	S. Rohwer/University of Washington Burke Museum	NOAA	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY -Complete all specimen preparation. UNDERWAY - Catalog all specimens and install them in the collection. Also: Attend SPINCH conference

Exxon Valdez Oil ..ll Project Status Summary

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Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97169	A Genetic Study to Aid in Restoration of Murres, Guillemots, and Murrelets to the Gulf of Alaska	V. Friesen/Queen's University, J. Piatt/DOI-FWS	DOI	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY -Develop amplification primers and protocols for first three new loci. UNDERWAY -Screen available samples from murres and guillemots for five loci previously developed in VLF's lab. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Develop protocols for three new genes. UNDERWAY -Screen available samples from murres and guillemots for five more loci. April - June: -Develop protocols for three new genes. -Screen available samples from murres and guillemots for five more loci. -Blood, feather and tissue samples collected from sites in Alaska. July - Sept: -Attend conferences. -Develop protocols for final four new genes. -Screen available samples from murres and guillemots for five more loci.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97170	Isotope Ratio Studies of Marine Mammals in Prince William Sound	D. Schell/UAF Institute of Marine Science	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Prepare and analyze isotope ratio samples collected in 1994-1996. FIRST EXPERIMENTS COMPLETED; NEW SET UNDERWAY -Collect vibrissae from isotopically labeled seals and sea lions. Jan - March: DONE-Synthesis and coordination for sampling in 1997. - PI and PhD student present project results: American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (Santa Fe, NM) April - June: -Field work and sampling. UNDERWAY AT MYSTIC AQUARIUM-Captive animal experiments. July - Sept: -Analysis of samples. -Data synthesis, identification of gaps. -Manuscript preparation.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97180	Kenai Habitat Restoration & Recreation Enhancement	M. Rutherford/ADNR, M. Kuwada/ADFG	ADNR	Oct - Dec: DONE -Solicit nominations for second round of projects. Jan - March: DONE -Review nominations and site assessments. DONE -Conduct evaluations with the IDT for second round nominations and EVOS parcels. UNDERWAY -Agency coordination on cooperative agreements. DONE; NOTICE POSTED -Prepare environmental compliance documents. UNDERWAY -Conduct public review process. UNDERWAY -Review detailed design plans. UNDERWAY -Design and produce educational materials and signs. WILL OCCUR AFTER PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - Establish cooperative agreements with public landowners for second round of EVOS projects. April - June: -Management and oversight of project construction. -Put up signs and information displays. -Establish monitoring plots. July - Sept: -Inspect all project sites to check for compliance with design parameters. -Monitor revegetation sites. -Monitor public use of completed project and proposed sites for next year.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97186	Coded Wire Tag Recoveries From Pink Salmon in Prince William Sound	T. Joyce/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - June: UNDERWAY-Hire personnel and order supplies UNDERWAY- Create and test computer programs and spreadsheets DONE - Data analysis UNDERWAY - Report writing June: DECIDED NOT TO APPLY-Apply tags to pink salmon fry at hatcheries July - Sept: -Scan catches -Recover tagged fish in harvests and brood stocks -Recover/decode tags -Provide in-season catch composition estimates by time and area
97188	Otolith Thermal Mass Marking of Hatchery Reared Pink Salmon In Prince William Sound	T. Joyce/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Apply thermal marks to FY96 embryos at four pink salmon hatcheries Jan - March: VOUCHER SAMPLES COLLECTED; SOME HAVE NOT YET BEEN SHIPPED TO JUNEAU OTOLITH LAB -Collect samples from incubators to evaluate thermal mark quality April - June: -Process and evaluate otoliths July - Sept: -Collect otoliths, process otoliths, analyze data, make recommendations

Exxon Valdez Oil ...il Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97190	Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome	F. Allendorf/Univ. Montana	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Screening of DNA polymorphisms in 1996 brood-year parents and progeny to confirm haploid families. Jan - Sept: UNDERWAY-Screen DNA polymorphisms to test for Mendelian inheritance and joint segregation in 1996 brood-year progeny. Also: Funds provided to attend two professional conferences -- DPD doesn't specify.
97191A	Field Examination of Oil-Related Embryo Mortalities that Persist in Pink Salmon Populations in PWS	M. Willette/ADFG J. Seeb/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Embryo deposition sampling. DONE -Analysis of brood year 1995 embryo data. DONE - Produce haploid and diploid families for the gene-mapping experiments to be conducted at Univ. Montana Jan - Sept: Prepare final report for this project Also: - Attend Pink and Chum Workshop - Submit for publication: (1) Straying component of 94191 (2) Flow cytometry component of 94191
97194	Pink Salmon Spawning Habitat Recovery	M. Murphy/NOAA	NOAA	Oct - Dec: DONE -Prioritize samples for fast screening and GCMS analysis. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Analyze samples for hydrocarbons. April - June: UNDERWAY - Data entry and statistical analysis. July - Sept: -Write final report on hydrocarbon concentrations.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97195	Pristane Monitoring in Mussels	J. Short/NOAA	NOAA	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY -Analyze 1996 hydrocarbon data. UNDERWAY -Revise brochure. Jan - March: DONE -Plan logistics for FY97 field season. UNDERWAY -Prepare report for public and high schools (94, 95 & 96 data). April - June: UNDERWAY -Collect mussel samples. July - Sept: -Analyze samples for pristane and collect mussel samples.
97196	Genetic Structure of Prince William Sound Pink Salmon	J. Seeb/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Acquire data from WDFW on 1995 collections. DONE -Finish mtDNA analysis of 1995 collections. Jan - March: DONE -Allozyme lab analyze 1995 collections. DONE -Statistically analyze 1995 mtDNA collections. April - June: -mtDNA analysis of 1995 collections. -Final report of FY96 results. UNDERWAY -Allozyme lab analyze experimental matings. -Statistically analyze 1996 collections and 1995 matings. -Field collections of 1997 samples. July - Sept: Attend American Fisheries Society national meeting Also: Submit for publication: (1) Allozymes and mtDNA describe population structure of even-year pnk salmon affected by EVOS (2) Variation in the mitochondrial ND5/6 region of even- and odd-year pink salmon

Exxon Valdez Oil ıl Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97197	Alaska SeaLife Center Fish Pass	J. Seeb/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Write amendment to the existing cooperative agreement with the City of Seward. DONE -Apply for appropriate permits. DONE - NEPA compliance. Jan - March: DONE -Review conceptual design of fish pass and research pool and DONE-produce construction drawings. April - June: UNDERWAY-Construct fish pass and research pool. July - Sept: -Write final report on construction and installation.
97210	Youth Area Watch	R. Sampson/Chugach School District	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Students selected for participation. DONE -Site teachers receive project training. DONE -Students receive protocol training. DONE -Sites selected for research and monitoring. Jan - March: -Students send information to PIs. April - June: -Students analyze data from projects. -Students conduct escapement counts. -Students visit Alaska SeaLife Center. -Students complete research reports for FY97. July - Sept: -Submission of Youth Area Watch to peer-review journal.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97214-CLO	Documentary on Subsistence Harbor Seal Hunting in PWS	B. Simeone/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE-Complete editing of draft documentary. DONE-Community review of video (in Tatitlek). DONE-Complete final editing. Jan - March: DONE-Public screening of documentary in Tatitlek (first) and Anchorage. DONE-Completion and distribution of documents. April - June: UNDERWAY -Submission of project final report.
97220	Eastern PWS Wildstock Salmon Habitat Restoration	D. Schmid/USFS	USFS	Oct - March: DONE -Compile and review existing information. UNDERWAY (1 HIRED) -Recruit student interns. April - June: -Arrange logistics. -Install restoration log structures on Eyak Native lands. July - Sept: -Analysis of field data.

Exxon Valdez Oil ...l Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97223-BAA	Analysis, Integration and Publication of Pre- and Post-Spill Data on Sea Otter Reproduction, Survival, Development, and Health	L. Rotterman and C. Monnett/Enhydra Research	NOAA	November 15: DELAYED BECAUSE CONTRACT NOT PREPARED UNTIL DECEMBER -Submit for publication: Health, development, and survival of sea otter pups and weanlings in Prince William Sound after the T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. January 15: DELAYED BECAUSE CONTRACT NOT PREPARED UNTIL DECEMBER -Submit for publication: Length-mass relationships in sea otters in Prince William Sound after the T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. March 15: -Submit survival and reproduction of female sea otters in Prince William Sound, AK after the T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. May 15: -Submit age-specific reproduction of female sea otters in Prince William Sound, AK. No reports received as of March 31, 1997. All must be submitted by January 1998. Payments to contractors contingent on report submittal.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan

Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97225	Port Graham Pink Salmon Subsistence Project	E. Anahonak, Port Graham IRA Council	ADFG	Oct. - Dec.: DONE (1.65 MILLION EGGS TO EYED STAGE; 1.42 MILLION EGGS INCUBATED WITH 86% SURVIVAL RATE) - 1.5 million eggs incubated UNDERWAY (OXYGEN PRODUCTION SYSTEM UPGRADED; WILL INSTALL SALTWATER PUMP IN SPRING) - Maintenance and upgrade at hatchery April - June: UNDERWAY-250,000 pink salmon fry from the Port Graham hatchery placed in net pens and reared to an average weight of 8 grams. UNDERWAY-2 million fry will be reared to an average weight of one gram. July - Sept: -Monitor pink salmon escapement into Port Graham. -Capture hatchery broodstock. -Egg take.
97230	Valdez Duck Flats Restoration Project	J. Winchester/PWS Economic Development Council	ADNR	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY - Prepare contract between ADNR and PWSEDC. Jan - April: ALL DELAYED TO MAY - SEPT.: -Acquire and review relevant environmental data. -Meet with Committee to assess community needs. -Develop alternatives for assessing Duck Flat. -Hold preliminary meeting with regulatory agencies to identify concerns. -Develop a conceptual plan that evaluates alternatives. -Identify a recommended plan and present to Valdez City council and community. -Refine alternatives as necessary and complete final draft of conceptual plan.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97231	Marbled Murrelet Productivity Relative to Forage Fish Availability and Environmental Parameters	K. Kuletz/FWS	DOI	Oct - Dec: SUBMITTED TO JNL. WILDLIFE MGT. - Manuscript on productivity index for marbled murrelets DONE - Prepare technical papers (marbled murrelet and Kittlitz's murrelet) for inclusion in PSG Tech. Pub. No. 1) DONE -Present paper at International Symposium on Forage Fish (Anchorage) DONE - Presentations at Murrelet-at-Sea workshop (Portland, OR) Jan - March: SUBMITTED TO CONDOR - Manuscript on marbled murrelet nesting habitat UNDERWAY - Manuscript on changes in breeding population of pigeon guillemots per decreased sand lance in chick diet UNDERWAY - Manuscript on foraging patterns and distances of marbled murrelets UNDERWAY - Manuscript on Kittlitz's murrelets DONE - Present paper: Pacific Seabird Group meeting (Portland, OR) April - June: -Conduct baseline surveys at study sites. July - Sept: -Enter data, prepare for late-summer surveys, APEX work. -Juvenile surveys. -Analysis of field data.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97244	Community-Based Harbor Seal Management and Biological Sampling	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	ADFG	Oct - Dec: DONE -Update contracts with the Alaska Native Harbor Seal commission and the Unviversity of Alaska. DONE -Hire technicians. DONE -Hold regional training session for biological sampling in Kodiak. DONE -Train new community technician in Valdez. DONE -Begin biological sample collection. Jan - March: DONE-Produce and distribute first proceedings report. DONE-Two-day Workshop (Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission): DONE-Demonstrate Traditional Knowledge Database. April - June: -Finalize harvest location site data base maps. July - Sept: -Evaluate second year of program.

Exxon Valdez Oil .l Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97247	Kametolook River Coho Salmon Subsistence Project	J. McCullough & L. Scarborough/ADFG	ADFG	Monthly: -Record temperatures. -Photograph area. Oct - Dec: DONE - Habitat survey DONE - Trap juvenile cohos DONE - Collect adult coho for tissue samples DONE - Talk with highschool students; involve them in field efforts Jan - March: DONE-Meet with village council to discuss the project. UNDERWAY-Revise Fish Transport Permit to allow for release of fry into the landlocked lakes or adjacent rivers. DONE-Review meeting in Anchorage with assessment team to evaluate project. OUT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT-Write EA. April - June: -Release fry from aquarium into landlocked lakes. -Release fry from stream side incubation box into stocking site. -Install large capacity incubation boxes. -Sample river and lake habitats for salmon and trout abundance, age and growth. July - Sept: -Perryville assistants work in Kodiak for two weeks with Pillar Creek Hatchery.
97250	Project Management	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	ONGOING

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97251-CLO	Akalura Lake Sockeye Salmon Restoration	C. Swanton/ADFG	ADFG	Oct- Dec: DONE: Plan for FY 97 field studies. April - June: UNDERWAY-Monitor sockeye smolt outmigration. July - Sept: -Monitor adult sockeye salmon escapement.
97254	Delight and Desire Lakes Restoration	N. Dudiak/ADFG	ADFG	April-June Prepare field camps Arrange logistics Install field camps
97255-CLO	Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Restoration	L. Seeb, J. Seeb, K. Tarbox/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: Submit publications: (1) Genetic diversity of sockeye populations (*Canadian Jnl. Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*) (2) Genetic variation in sockeye salmon injured by EVOS as revealed by mtDNA (*Transactions of AFS*) (3) Concordance of genetic divergence among sockeye for allozyme, nuclear DNA, and mtDNA markers (*Molecular Ecology*) DONE -Complete laboratory analyses of allozyme and DNA samples from 1996. Jan - March: DONE-Statistical analyses of mixtures. DONE-Refinement of technique. UNDERWAY-Archiving of tissues and data. April - June: -Submit draft final report for FY96 (April 15) July - Sept: - Attend American Fisheries Society national meeting - Submit for publication: Microsatellite markers reveal high heterogeneity among sockeye affected by EVOS (*Canadian Jnl. Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*)

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97256B	Sockeye Salmon Stocking at Solf Lake	D. Gillikin/USFS	USFS	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY -Determine appropriate brood stock and potential stocking levels. UNDERWAY -Coordinate with PWSAC and the PWSRPT for production planning. DONE -Complete laboratory analysis of water chemistry and plankton data. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Prepare for field season. DONE -Complete necessary NEPA. April - June: -Install irrigation-type control structure at fishway outlet. -Survey old fishway stream channel and new dam site at other outlet. -Obtain eggs for hatchery incubation.
97258A-CLO	Sockeye Salmon Overescapement Project	D. Schmidt/ADFG	ADFG	February 1: DELAYED-Submit peer manuscript. April 15: DELAYED; EXTENSION TO JULY 15-Complete draft final report for Kodiak Island. July 15: -Complete draft final report Kenai Peninsula.
97259-CLO	Restoration of Coghill Lake Sockeye Salmon	G. Kyle/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Jan: DONE -Process and analyze limnological (water and zooplankton) and smolt samples. April 15: DONE-Complete and submit final report.

Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97263	Assessment, Protection and Enhancement of Salmon Streams on Port Graham Corporation Lands	W. Meganack, Jr./Port Graham Corporation	ADFG	PROJECT DELAYED UNTIL CONTRACT NEGOTIONS, CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BETWEEN ADF&G, PORT GRAHAM CORPORATION, AND KENAI E.D.D., ARE COMPLETE. Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY-Assemble information, maps and photo data. UNDERWAY-Coordinate project with ADF&G. UNDERWAY-Coordinate with fisheries scientist. Jan - March: UNDERWAY-Develop final survey plan. UNDERWAY-Hire personnel. UNDERWAY-Develop maps, photos and data. UNDERWAY-Consult with users. DONE-Contracts between KPBEDD, ADFG, and PGC. April - June: -Train field crews. July - Sept: -Conduct habitat surveys in Port Graham, Rocky and Windy Bay.
97272-CLO	Chenega Chinook Release Program	J. Milton/Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation	ADFG	Oct - March: DONE -Smolt rearing (brood year 95). DONE - Incubate eggs. April - June: DONE-Outmigration of brood year 96 fry. UNDERWAY-Install netpen at Crab Bay. -Feed and imprint smolts. -Dismantle and remove netpen. July - Sept: -Take chinook eggs for incubation. -Final reporting.

Exxon Valdez Oil ...il Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97286	Elders/Youth Conference on Subsistence and the Oil Spill	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	NO STATUS REPORT RECEIVED.... Oct - Dec: -Develop PL-638 cooperative agreement. Jan - Sept: -Conference planning.
97290	Hydrocarbon Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Database Maintenance	B. Nelson/NOAA	NOAA	Ongoing: -Store samples. -Analyze data. - Incorporate additional EVOS hydrocarbon data (subsistence data). Also: - Attend National Institute for Standards and Technology conference in Washington, D.C.
97300	Synthesis of the Scientific Findings from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Restoration Program	R. Spies/Applied Marine Sciences	ADNR	Oct - Dec: DONE - Provide moderate-length synthesis outlines to the Executive Director. DONE -Outlines distributed to Principal Investigators. UNDERWAY -Written accounts due from Principal Investigators. Jan - March: UNDERWAY -Scientific editing complete on content of written accounts; distribute to Principal Investigators. DONE -Modeling workshop to be held in Anchorage. UNDERWAY -Principal Investigators to provide any further comments on edited contributions. UNDERWAY -Outline of modeling effort for FY98 provided to Executive Director.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97302	Prince William Sound Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden Char Inventory	K. Hodges/USFS	USFS	Oct - Dec: DONE -Contact ADF&G, Native groups, anglers for information on cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char locations. DONE -Use aerial photographs, maps, channel-type information to predict which streams may have documented populations. Jan - March: DONE -Arrange logistics, hire crews. April - June: -Begin surveys. July - Sept: -Complete surveys. -Compile results and write report.
97304	Kodiak Island Borough Master Waste Management Plan	J. Selby/Kodiak Island Borough	ADEC	Oct - Dec: DONE-Establish Waste Management Committee DONE -Write RFP. DONE -Award contract. Jan - March: DONE First Committee meeting. July - Sept: -Identify and prioritize the major sources of marine pollution and solid waste. -Establish a public participation program. -Develop waste management recycling and disposal alternatives.
97306	Ecology and Demographics of Pacific Sand Lance in Lower Cook Inlet	J. Piatt/DOI-NBS	DOI	Oct - March: DONE-Consolidate all information collected in 1995 and 1996 into electronic format. UNDERWAY -Establish areas where information on sandlance distribution and abundance is weak. UNDERWAY - Coordinate with USFS to combine similar bibliographies.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

1997 Work Plan
Quarter Ending March 31, 1997

Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97320T(supp)	SEA-Juvenile Herring: Documentation of Herring and Other Forage Fish Natural History through Local and Traditional Ecological Knowledge	J. Seitz and B. Norcross/UAF	ADFG	
97424	Restoration Reserve	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	
97427	Harlequin Duck Recovery Monitoring	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Oct - Dec: UNDERWAY - Data entry and analysis UNDERWAY - TEK investigation Jan - March: DONE-Arrange for permits. DONE-Plan logistics for winter surveys. DONE-Contract for fuel transport. Conduct winter surveys in PWS. - Attend North American Duck Symposium and Workshop (Baton Rouge) April - June: -Hire technicians. -Arrange field logistics for field camps. -Prepare field equipment. -Begin spring surveys. July - Sept: -End fall surveys. - Attend Society for Conservation Biology meeting (Victoria, B.C.)

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Status Summary

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Proj.No.	Project Title	Proposer	Lead Agency	Project Tasks to be Completed this Quarter
97320	Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA)	T. Cooney, et al.	ADFG	Oct - Dec: OCEAN STATE, NPZ, AND NEKTON MODELS ALL UPDATED WITH FY 96 DATA-Continue ongoing modeling and data analysis. HERRING FIELD WORK INITIATED FOR OVERWINTERING OBSERVATION-Continue herring program field work. INITIAL PLANS MADE FOR HERRING AND OCEANOGRAPHIC CRUISES IN THE SPRING -Refine remaining FY97 field plans. March - Sept: -Continue salmon and oceanographic field work. -Continue ongoing modeling and data analysis. Publications listed in DPD for FY 97: /320E (Willette): Relationships between daily foraging time of juvenile pink salmon in nearshore nursery habitats and predation risk Effects of size- and condition-dependent predation on mortality of wild and enhanced pink salmon /320G (McRoy): Seasonal cycle of phytoplankton in PWS (*Fisheries Oceanography)* /320I (Kline): Trophic relationships and carbon sources of PWS pelagic community Evidence for flow of zooplankton into PWS /320M (Vaughn): Seasonal changes in hydrography of embayments and fjords of PWS Interregnal variability of the water mass structure of PWS /320R (Eslinger): Biophysical modeling of interannual variability in phytoplankton and zooplankton in PWS (*Jnl. of Plankton Research*) Professional conferences listed in DPD for FY 97: /320G (McRoy): American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

Restoration Office
645 "G" Street, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 278-8012 Fax: (907) 276-7178

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Council

THROUGH: Molly McCammon
Executive Director

FROM: Traci Cramer
Administrative Officer

DATE: May 15, 1997

RE: Financial Report as of April 30, 1997

Attached is the Statement of Revenue, Disbursements and Fees, and accompanying notes for the *Exxon Valdez* Joint Trust Fund for the period ending April 30, 1997. The following is a summary of the information incorporated in the notes and contained on the statement.

Liquidity Account Balance	$47,042,203	
Less: Current Year Commitments (Note 5)	$17,795,600	
Plus: Adjustments (Note 6)	$5,001,315	
Uncommitted Fund Balance		$34,247,918
Plus: Future Exxon Payments (Note 1)	$350,000,000	
Less: Remaining Reimbursements (Note 3)	20,000,000	
Less: Remaining Commitments (Note 7)	$48,805,734	
Total Estimated Funds Available		$315,442,184
Restoration Reserve		$35,996,170

If you have any questions regarding the information provided please give me a call at 586-7238.

attachments

cc: Agency Liaisons
Bob Baldauf

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, DISBURSEMENTS AND FEES
FOR THE *EXXON VALDEZ* JOINT TRUST FUND
As of April 30, 1997

1. Contributions - Pursuant to the agreement Exxon is to pay a total of $900,000,000.

Received to Date	$550,000,000
Future Payments	$350,000,000

2. Interest Income - In accordance with the MOA, the funds are deposited in the United States District Court, Court Registry Investment System (CRIS). All deposits with CRIS are maintained in United States government treasury securities with maturities of 100 days or less. Total earned since the last report is $210,117.

3. Reimbursement of Past Costs - Under the terms of the agreement, the United States and the State are reimbursed for expenses associated with the spill. The remaining reimbursements represents that amount due the State of Alaska.

4. Fees - CRIS charges a fee of 7.5% for cash management services. Total paid since the last report is $15,759.

5. Current Year Commitments - Includes $1,745,600 for the Chenega-Area Shoreline Residual Oiling Project, $50,000 for KEN 1005 and the following land payments.

Seller	Amount	Due
Akhiok-Kaguyak	$7,500,000	September 1997
Koniag, Incorporated	$4,500,000	September 1997
Shuyak	$4,000,000	October 1997

6. Adjustments - Under terms of the Agreement, both interest earned on previous disbursements and prior years unobligated funding or lapse are deducted from future court requests. Unreported interest and lapse is summarized below.

	Interest	Lapse
United States	$71,092	$1,056,801
State of Alaska	$567,736	$3,305,686

7. Remaining Commitments - Includes the following land payments.

Seller	Amount	Due
Shuyak	$16,000,000	October 1998 through 2001
Shuyak	$11,805,734	October 2002
Koniag, Incorporated	$4,500,000	September 1998
Koniag, Incorporated	$16,500,000	September 2002

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STATEMENT OF REVENUE, DISBURSEMENT, AND FEES
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL JOINT TRUST FUND
As of April 30, 1997

	1994	1995	1996	To Date 1997	Cumulative Total
REVENUE:					
Contributions: (Note 1)					
Contributions from Exxon Corporation	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	0	550,000,000
Less: Credit to Exxon Corporation for clean-up costs incurred					(39,913,688)
Total Contributions	70,000,000	70,000,000	70,000,000	0	510,086,312
Interest Income: (Note 2)					
Exxon Corporation escrow account					831,233
Joint Trust Fund Account	3,736,000	5,706,667	3,963,073	2,048,353	17,428,092
Total Interest	3,736,000	5,706,667	3,963,073	2,048,353	18,259,325
Total Revenue	**73,736,000**	**75,706,667**	**73,963,073**	**2,048,353**	**528,345,637**
DISBURSEMENTS:					
Reimbursement of Past Costs: (Note 3)					
State of Alaska	25,000,000		3,291,446		86,559,288
United States	6,271,600	2,697,000	0		69,812,045
Total Reimbursements	31,271,600	2,697,000	3,291,446	0	156,371,333
Disbursements from Liquidity Account:					
State of Alaska	44,546,266	41,969,669	43,340,950	4,048,458	158,993,656
United States	6,008,387	48,019,928	31,047,824	27,729,859	128,232,379
Transfer to the Restoration Reserve			35,996,231		35,996,231
Total Disbursements	50,554,653	89,989,597	110,385,004	31,778,317	323,222,265
FEES:					
U.S. Court Fees (Note 4)	364,000	586,857	396,307	185,671	1,709,835
Total Disbursements and Fees	**82,190,253**	**93,273,454**	**114,072,758**	**31,963,988**	**481,303,434**
Increase (decrease) in Liquidity Account	**(8,454,253)**	**(17,566,788)**	**(40,109,685)**	**(29,915,635)**	**47,042,203**
Liquidity Account Balance, beginning balance	143,088,564	134,634,311	117,067,523	76,957,839	
Liquidity Account Balance, end of period	134,634,311	117,067,523	76,957,839	47,042,203	
Current Year Commitments: (Note 5)					(17,795,600)
Adjustments: (Note 6)					5,001,315
Uncommitted Liquidity Account Balance					**34,247,918**
Remaining Reimbursements (Note 3)					(20,000,000)
emaining Commitments: (Note 7)					(48,805,734)
Total Estimated Funds Available					**315,442,184**
Restoration Reserve					**35,996,170**

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
Public Advisory Group

Resolution passed unanimously, May 28, 1997

The Public Advisory Group believes that the Chenega Beach Cleanup project has been thoroughly examined from the perspective of environmental and community concerns; that there has been a thorough process to listen to the concerns of the public and other groups; and that the project has strong local public support;

Therefore, the Public Advisory Group continues to support the Chenega Beach Cleanup project.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION / FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj. No.	Title	Lead Agency	Proposer	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	Executive Director's Recommendation	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01-02	Sum FY98-02
Pink Salmon					$966.3	$1,243.1		$1,109.1	$322.2	$234.0	$0.0	$1,665.3
98076	Effects of Oil on Straying and Survival	NOAA	A. Wertheimer/NOAA	Cont'd	$234.6	$272.2	Fund contingent	$257.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$257.2
98139A1	Little Waterfall Barrier Bypass Improvement	ADFG	S. Honnold/ADFG	Cont'd		$27.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98139A2	Port Dick Spawning Channel	ADFG	W. Bucher/ADFG	Cont'd	$49.7	$89.0	Fund contingent	$76.5	$76.5	$47.0	$0.0	$200.0
98139C1-CL	Montague Rehabilitation Monitoring	USFS	D. Schmid/USFS	Cont'd		$2.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98186-CLO	Coded Wire Tag Recoveries	ADFG	T. Joyce/ADFG	Cont'd	$279.4	$126.6	Fund contingent	$119.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$119.6
98188	Otolith Thermal Mass Marking	ADFG	T. Joyce/ADFG	Cont'd	$108.4	$141.1	Fund contingent	$108.4		$0.0	$0.0	$108.4
98190	Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome	ADFG	F. Allendorf/Univ. Montana	Cont'd		$211.6	Fund	$211.6	$187.0	$187.0	$0.0	$585.6
98191A	Oil-Related Embryo Mortalities	ADFG	M. Willette/ADFG	Cont'd	$164.2	$164.2	Fund contingent	$155.0	$58.7	$0.0	$0.0	$213.7
98194-CLO	Spawning Habitat Recovery	NOAA	M. Murphy, S. Rice/NOAA	Cont'd		$53.2	Fund contingent	$25.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$25.0
98196	Genetic Structure	ADFG	C. Habicht/ADFG	Cont'd	$130.0	$130.2	Defer decision	$130.2		$0.0	$0.0	$130.2
98329	Synthesis of Toxicological Impacts	NOAA	S. Rice/NOAA	New		$25.6	Fund contingent	$25.6		$0.0	$0.0	$25.6
Pacific Herring					$493.6	$1,070.8		$764.3	$72.4	$0.0	$0.0	$836.7
98162	Disease Factors Affecting Declines	ADFG	G. Marty/UC Davis; R. Kocan/Univ. Wash., C. Kennedy & A. Farrell, Simon	Cont'd	$437.6	$517.4	Fund cont/Defer	$484.0	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0	$534.0
98165-CLO	Genetic Discrimination	ADFG	J. Seeb, L. Seeb, S. Merkouris/ADFG	Cont'd	$56.0	$56.0	Fund contingent	$56.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$56.0
98166	Herring Natal Habitats	ADFG	M. Willette/ADFG	Cont'd		$189.7	Fund contingent	$75.0	$22.4	$0.0	$0.0	$97.4
98310	Distribution/Turnover in Juvenile Populations	ADFG	E. Brown, B. Norcross/UAF	New		$151.8	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98311	Productivity Dependencies: Stable Isotopes	ADFG	T. Kline/PWSSC	New		$119.3	Defer decision	$119.3		$0.0	$0.0	$119.3
98328	Synthesis of Toxicological Impacts	NOAA	M. Carls/NOAA	New		$36.6	Fund contingent	$30.0		$0.0	$0.0	$30.0
SEA and Related Projects					$2,062.2	$3,607.3		$2,592.6	$755.2	$0.0	$0.0	$3,347.8
98195	Pristane Monitoring in Mussels	NOAA	J. Short, P. Harris/NOAA	Cont'd	$115.0	$114.9	Fund	$114.9				$114.9
98292-BAA	Salmon Carcasses and Forest Productivity	NOAA	T. Vincent, T. Kline/PWSSC	New		$168.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98297-BAA	Oceanography of PWS Bays and Fjords	NOAA	S. Vaughan/PWSSC	New		$94.2	Fund contingent	$94.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$94.2

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION / FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj. No.	Title	Lead Agency	Proposer	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	Executive Director's Recommendation	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01-02	Sum FY98-02
)8308-BAA	Model Validation	NOAA	T. Kline/PWSSC	New		$368.9	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
)8312-BAA	Food Web Shifts: Time Series Approach	NOAA	T. Kline/PWSSC	New		$124.8	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
)8320	Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA)	ADFG	T. Cooney, et al/UAF	Cont'd	$1,947.2	$2,436.0	Fund/Defer TEK	$2,383.5	$755.2	$0.0	$0.0	$3,138.7
)8342-BAA	Pilot Monitoring for PWS	NOAA	G. Thomas, V. Patrick, K. Osgood/PWSSC	New		$300.2	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Sockeye Salmon						$533.3		$11.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.7
)8239	Salmon Carcasses and Production	ADFG	D. Schmidt/ADFG	New		$166.6	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
)8254-CLO	Delight and Desire Lakes Restoration	ADFG	G. Kyle/ADFG	Cont'd		$11.7	Fund	$11.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.7
)8270	Akalura Lake	ADFG	S. Honnold, C. Swanton/ADFG	New		$355.0	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden and Rockfish					$108.0	$967.6		$323.8	$8.0	$0.0	$0.0	$331.8
)8043B	Habitat Improvement Monitoring	USFS	D. Gillikin/USFS	Cont'd	$8.0	$24.0	Fund	$24.0	$8.0	$0.0	$0.0	$32.0
)8145-CLO	Cutthroat/Dolly Varden: Anadromous/Resident Form	USFS	G. Reeves/USFS, Pacific Northwest Research Station	Cont'd	$100.0	$222.7	Fund contingent	$120.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$120.7
)8252	Genetic Investigations of Rockfish and Pollock	ADFG	J. Seeb, L. Seeb, S. Merkouris/ADFG	New		$241.7	Fund contingent	$175.0				$175.0
)8269-BAA	Rockfish Recovery	NOAA	T. Kline/PWSSC	New		$475.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
)8302-CLO	Cutthroat/Dolly Varden Inventory	USFS	M. Schelske/USFS	Cont'd		$4.1	Fund	$4.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$4.1
Marine Mammals					$308.1	$987.2		$784.4	$355.1	$262.8	$91.4	$1,493.7
)8001-CLO	Harbor Seal Condition and Health Status	ADFG	M. Castellini/UAF	Cont'd	$48.1	$51.1	Fund	$51.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$51.1
)8012A-BAA	Killer Whale Investigation	NOAA	C. Matkin/North Gulf Oceanic Society	Cont'd		$166.8	Fund contingent	$154.9				$154.9
)8064	Harbor Seal Monitoring, Habitat, Trophics	ADFG	K. Frost/ADFG	Cont'd	$150.0	$307.5	Fund cont/Defer	$307.5	$230.0	$130.0	$0.0	$667.5
)8170-CLO	Isotope Ratio Studies of Marine Mammals	ADFG	D. Schell/UAF	Cont'd	$110.0	$110.2	Fund contingent	$108.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$108.8
)8294-BAA	Pinniped Response to Diet	NOAA	D. Duffy/UAA	New			See 98341	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
)8341	Harbor Seals: Health and Diet	ADFG	M. Castellini/UAF	New		$132.8	Fund cont/Defer	$162.1	$125.1	$132.8	$91.4	$511.4
)8351	Harbor Seals: Fate of Pups	ADFG	M. Castellini/UAF	New		$128.5	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
)8370	Harbor Seal Metabolism: Stable Isotopes	ADFG	D. Schell/UAF	New		$90.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION / FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj. No.	Title	Lead Agency	Proposer	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	Executive Director's Recommendation	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01-02	Sum FY98-02
Nearshore Ecosystem					$1,753.7	$3,320.8		$2,229.7	$450.0	$0.0	$0.0	$2,679.7
98025	Nearshore Vertebrate Predators (NVP)	DOI	L. Holland-Bartels, et al/USGS	Cont'd	$1,669.4	$1,689.2	Fund contingent	$1,679.3	$450.0	$0.0	$0.0	$2,129.3
98161-CLO	Differentiation/Interchange of Harlequins	DOI	B. Goatcher/NPS	Cont'd	$9.5	$36.1	Fund contingent	$16.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$16.5
98223-BAA	Publication of Sea Otter Data	NOAA	L. Rotterman/Enhydra Research	New		$71.4	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98288-BAA	Sea Otter Monitoring: Winter-killed Carcasses	NOAA	Garshelis & Johnson/ABR, Inc.	New		$131.7	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98289-BAA	Status of Black Oystercatchers	NOAA	S. Murphy/ABR, Inc.	New		$134.9	Defer	$80.0			$0.0	$80.0
98290	Hydrocarbon Database	NOAA	J. Short/NOAA	Cont'd	$74.8	$75.7	Fund	$75.7				$75.7
98319	Biology of Isopod and Lithodid Crab	NOAA	B. Stevens/NOAA	New		$47.9	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98325-BAA	Intertidal/Subtidal Manuscript Preparation	NOAA	T. Dean/Coastal Resources Associates, Inc.	New		$111.4	Fund contingent	$100.0		$0.0	$0.0	$100.0
98348	Response of River Otters to Oil Contamination	ADFG	M. Ben-David, T. Bowyer, L. Duffy/UAF	New		$236.3	Fund contingent	$200.0		$0.0	$0.0	$200.0
98349	Archiving of Intertidal Specimens	ADFG	N. Foster/UA Museum	New		$159.2	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98355	Clam Habitat Association Model/Field Investigation	DOI	P. Armato/DOI	New		$28.5	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98359	Investigation of Black Oystercatchers	DOI	R. Lanctot/USGS	New		$94.8	Defer/See98289				$0.0	$0.0
98390	Monitoring of Oiled Mussel Beds	NOAA	P. Harris, C. Brodersen/NOAA	New		$160.4	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98426	Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics	ADFG	D. Rosenberg/ADFG, D. Esler/DOI	New		$257.0	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98427-CLO	Harlequin Duck Monitoring	ADFG	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	Cont'd		$86.3	Fund contingent	$78.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$78.2
Seabird/Forage Fish and Related Projects					$1,958.1	$3,856.8		$3,014.9	$2,290.8	$1,244.1	$465.0	$7,014.8
98142-BAA	Status and Ecology of Kittlitz's Murrelets	NOAA	B. Day/ABR, Inc.	Cont'd		$331.7	Fund contingent	$269.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$269.0
98144A	Common Murre Population Monitoring	DOI	D. Roseneau/USFWS	Cont'd	$50.0	$50.5	Fund contingent	$57.4	$23.0	$0.0	$0.0	$80.4
98144B	Common Murre Manuscripts	DOI	D. Roseneau/USFWS	New		$12.2	Combine /144A	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98159	Marine Bird Surveys	DOI	S. Kendall and D. Irons/USFWS	Cont'd		$237.0	Fund	$237.0	$35.0	$230.0	$265.0	$767.0
98163	Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment-APEX	NOAA	D. Duffy/UAA	Cont'd	$1,800.0	$2,024.4	Fund cont/Defer	$2,018.5	$1,900.0	$900.0	$200.0	$5,018.5
98169	Genetics of Murres, Guillemots, Murrelets	DOI	V. Friesen/Queen's University, J. Piatt/USGS	Cont'd	$78.1	$88.3	Fund	$88.3	$86.2	$13.8	$0.0	$188.3

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION / FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj. No.	Title	Lead Agency	Proposer	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	Executive Director's Recommendation	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01-02	Sum FY98-02
8287-BAA	Seabird/Oceanographic Relationships	NOAA	B. Day/ABR, Inc.	New		$143.2	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8306	Ecology and Demographics of Sand Lance	DOI	J. Piatt/USGS	Cont'd	$30.0	$32.8	Fund contingent	$32.8	$30.0	$20.0	$0.0	$82.8
8327	Pigeon Guillemot Research	DOI	D. Roby/Oregon State Univ.	New		$119.7	Fund contingent	$119.7			$0.0	$119.7
8337	Archaeological Forage Fish	USFS	L. Yarborough/USFS	New		$143.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8338	Adult Murre/Kittiwake Survival	DOI	J. Piatt/USGS	New		$76.1	Defer decision	$76.1	$124.0	$45.0	$0.0	$245.1
8343-BAA	Descriptive Oceanography of Glacial Fjords	NOAA	S. Gay, K. Osgood/PWSSC	New		$165.2	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8346	Sand Lance Publication	USFS	R. Armstrong/UAA, M. Willson/USFS, M. Robards/DOI	New		$5.4	Fund	$5.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$5.4
8347	Fatty Acid Profile/Lipid Class Analysis	NOAA	R. Heintz/NOAA	New		$110.7	Fund	$110.7	$92.6	$35.3	$0.0	$238.6
8357-BAA	Ancient Salmonid Fish Bone/Bivalve Shells	NOAA	D. Love/U of S. Dakota	New		$78.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8358	Tree Rings	ADFG	G. Juday, V. Barber/UAF, G. Jacoby, R. D'Arrigo/Columbia University	New		$148.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8364	Effects of Food Stress	DOI	J. Piatt/USGS	New		$90.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Archaeological Resources					$201.3	$636.1		$206.9	$161.5	$0.0	$0.0	$368.4
8007A	Archaeological Index Site Monitoring	ADNR	D. Reger/ADNR	Cont'd	$135.0	$145.3	Fund contingent	$140.0	$151.5			$291.5
8007B	Site Specific Archaeological Restoration	USFS	L. Yarborough/USFS	Cont'd		$10.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8007C	New Habitat Areas	ADNR	D. Reger/ADNR	New		$80.0	Combine /007A	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8149	Archaeological Site Stewardship	ADNR	D. Reger/ADNR	Cont'd	$66.3	$66.9	Fund contingent	$66.9	$10.0	$0.0	$0.0	$76.9
8296	Exhibit-quality Catalog	DOI	B. Knight/NPS	New		$107.0	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8298-BAA	Public Brochure: SeaLife Center	DOI	M. Yarborough	New		$6.6	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
8323-BAA	Monitoring Differential Impacts of Oil	NOAA	M. Cassell/IMA Consulting, Inc.	New		$220.0	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Subsistence					$1,332.4	$4,512.8		$1,452.5	$112.5	$90.1	$31.1	$1,686.2
8052A	Community Involvement	ADFG	P. Brown/CRRC	Cont'd	$250.0	$255.3	Fund/defer	$175.0				$175.0
8052B	Traditional Knowledge	ADFG	P. Brown-Schwalenberg/CRRC	Cont'd		$98.8	Defer decision	$50.0				$50.0
8127	Tatitlek Coho Salmon Release	ADFG	Tatitlek IRA Council	Cont'd	$12.0	$10.5	Fund	$10.5	$10.7	$0.0	$0.0	$21.2

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION / FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj. No.	Title	Lead Agency	Proposer	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	Executive Director's Recommendation	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01-02	Sum FY98-02
98131	Clam Restoration	ADFG	P. Brown-Schwalenberg/CRRC	Cont'd	$365.0	$365.1	Defer decision	$280.0				$280.0
98210	Youth Area Watch	ADFG	R. Sampson/Chugach School District	Cont'd	$150.0	$150.2	Fund	$150.2				$150.2
98220-CLO	Eastern PWS Salmon Habitat Restoration	USFS	D. Schmid/USFS	Cont'd	$12.0	$11.9	Fund contingent	$11.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.9
98225	Port Graham Pink Salmon Project	ADFG	E. Anahonak, Port Graham IRA Council	Cont'd	$75.0	$76.5	Fund contingent	$73.5	$75.0	$75.0	$0.0	$223.5
98236	SeaLife Center Exhibit	ADFG	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	New		$84.6	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98244	Community Harbor Seal Sampling/Mgt.	ADFG	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	Cont'd	$85.0	$87.2	Fund contingent	$85.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$85.0
98247	Kametolook River Coho Salmon	ADFG	Perryville Village Council	Cont'd	$13.8	$14.9	Fund contingent	$14.9	$14.8	$15.1	$31.1	$75.9
98256B	Solf Lake Sockeye Salmon Stocking	USFS	D. Gillikin/USFS, P. Shields/ADFG	Cont'd	$143.5	$95.5	Fund	$95.5				$95.5
98263	Port Graham Salmon Stream Enhancement	ADFG	W. Meganack, Jr./Port Graham Corporation	Cont'd	$115.0	$153.1	Defer decision	$135.4	$12.0	$0.0	$0.0	$147.4
98273	Surf Scoter Life History and Ecology	ADFG	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	New		$179.4	Fund contingent	$170.0			$0.0	$170.0
98274	Herring/Nearshore Documentary	ADFG	Tatitlek Village Council	New		$116.1	Fund contingent	$89.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$89.5
98286	Elders/Youth Conference	DOI	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	Cont'd	$111.1	$111.1	Defer decision	$111.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$111.1
98293-BAA	Bidarki and Gumboot Chitons	NOAA	D. Scheel, T. Vincent/PWSSC	New		$196.8	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98315	Shellfish Conference: Qutekcak Tribe	ADFG	E. Blatchford/Qutekcak	New		$267.5	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98324-BAA	Community-Based Harbor Seal Research	NOAA	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	New		$300.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98331	Copper River Intertribal Fisheries Commission	DOI	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	New		$432.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98332	Eyak Subsistence Recovery Camp	DOI	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	New		$43.7	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98333	Sea Otter Population Monitoring	DOI	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	New		$287.5	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98334	Restoration of Pink Salmon through Test Fishery	DOI	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	New		$511.8	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98335	Nanwalek Hatchery	ADFG	V. Kvasnikoff, Nanwalek IRA Council	New		$86.7	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98336	Restoration through Community Participation	ADFG	M. Roberts/Kodiak Tribal Council	New		$107.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98353	Public Access and Education Program	ADFG	H. Tomingas/Ocean Explorers	New		$250.0	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98356	Sockeye Stocking at Chuck's Lake	USFS	D. Gillikin, P. Shields/USFS	New		$41.0	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98363	Ecosystem Analysis of Port Graham Corp. Lands	ADFG	W. Meganack/Port Graham Corp.	New		$178.1	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION / FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj. No.	Title	Lead Agency	Proposer	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	Executive Director's Recommendation	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01-02	Sum FY98-02
Habitat Improvement					$834.0	$1,456.3		$702.1	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0	$752.1
98180	Kenai Habitat Restoration	ADNR	M. Kuwada/ADFG, A. Weiner/ADNR	Cont'd	$834.0	$864.4	Defer decision	$500.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$500.0
98314	Homer Marine Park	ADNR	E. Bechtol/City of Homer	New		$102.1	Fund	$102.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$102.1
98339	Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	USFS	K. Murphy, L. Suring/USFS	New		$144.2	Fund contingent	$100.0	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0	$150.0
98344	Blowdown Effects on Salmon Habitat	NOAA	M. Murphy/NOAA	New		$203.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98380	Kenai River Restoration: Effects on Salmon Habitat	DOI	J. Dorova/USGS	New		$142.3	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
Habitat Protection					$770.0	$938.7						
98126	Habitat Protection/Acquisition Support	ADNR	C. Fries/ADNR, D. Gibbons/USFS, G. Elison/DOI	Cont'd	$770.0	$938.7	Outside WP					
Ecosystem Synthesis						$660.9		$346.7	$80.0	$0.0	$0.0	$426.7
98278	Kachemak Bay: Long-Term Monitoring	ADFG	G. Seaman/ADFG	New		$144.9	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98300	Synthesis of Scientific Findings	ADNR	R. Spies/Applied Marine Sciences	Cont'd		$81.3	Fund	$81.3	$80.0			$161.3
98307	Computer System	NOAA	R. Nuti	New			Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98309	Model Validation: Stable Isotope Tracers	ADFG	T. Kline/PWSSC	New		$122.2	Do not fund	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0
98330-BAA	Mass-Balance Model of Trophic Fluxes	NOAA	D. Pauly/UBC, S. Pimm/U. Tenn	New		$227.1	Fund contingent	$180.0		$0.0	$0.0	$180.0
98340	Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring	ADFG	T. Weingartner/UAF	New		$85.4	Defer decision	$85.4				$85.4
Administration, Science Management, and Public Information					$2,800.0							
98100	Admin./Sci. Mgt./Public Info.	ALL	All Trustee Council Agencies	Cont'd	$2,800.0		Outside WP					
Project Management					$560.0			$560.0	$480.0			$1,040.0
98250	Project Management	ALL	All Trustee Council Agencies	Cont'd	$560.0		Fund contingent	$560.0	$480.0			$1,040.0
				Total:	$14,147.7	$23,791.7		$14,098.7	$5,137.7	$1,831.0	$587.5	$21,654.9

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Pink Salmon					$966.3	$1,243.1	$1,109.1	$322.2	$234.0	$0.0	$1,665.3
98076	Effects of Oiled Incubation Substrate on Straying and Survival of Wild Pink Salmon	A. Wertheimer/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$234.6	$272.2	$257.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$257.2

Project Abstract

This project examines the effects of oil exposure during embryonic development on the straying, marine survival, and gamete viability of pink salmon. The objectives are to conduct a related series of controlled experiments on straying of pink salmon to determine the role of oil and other factors so that field studies of straying in Prince William Sound after the oil spill can be interpreted; to determine if the return rate of pink salmon to adult is reduced when they have been exposed to oiled gravel during embryonic development; and to continue investigations into whether such exposure causes heritable damage to reproductive fitness of pink salmon.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the 4th year of a continuing effort to estimate straying rates of pink salmon in Southeast Alaska. There is some concern regarding applying what is learned in Southeast Alaska to fisheries in Prince William Sound. It is possible that high variance in estimates of straying will limit the utility of the measurements, but this risk was known when the project was initiated. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on resolution of budget questions and submittal of a reduced budget. This is the final year of Trustee Council contribution to this project, which is improving understanding of the effects of oil on straying rates, reproduction, and early developmental stages of pink salmon. In addition, this project's information on marine survival of pink salmon will have broad application to salmon management. Funding includes preparation of a final report by September 30, 1998, which will include a synthesis of results with previous straying studies.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98139A1	Salmon Instream Habitat and Stock Restoration - Little Waterfall Barrier Bypass Improvement	S. Honnold/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project		$27.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This proposal will evaluate the barrier bypass improvement at Little Waterfall Creek, as indicated by pink and coho salmon use of the bypass. The renovation of the bypass (decreased grades and additional resting pools) was completed in FY 96 and is expected to facilitate increased spawning habitat use by pink and coho salmon populations, thus increasing salmon production to optimum levels in ensuing years. Studies in FY 97 will include bypass inspections to document salmon passage, spawner enumeration, and juvenile salmon abundance monitoring.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The Chief Scientist previously stated that FY98 funding for assessment effort should be contingent on considering impacts of introduction on resident species. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals indicated that the Trustee Council would consider additional monitoring in FY 98 if questions raised by the Chief Scientist concerning interspecific competition and interaction with other species were addressed. This proposal does not address those questions.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98139A2	Port Dick Creek Tributary Restoration and Development	W. Bucher/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 7 yr. project	$49.7	$89.0	$76.5	$76.5	$47.0	$0.0	$200.0

Project Abstract

This project will restore the native Port Dick Creek salmon stocks which were exposed to moderate to heavy oiling. Actual restoration of the spawning habitat took place in June 1996. Natural colonization rates were adequate to fully seed the newly restored spawning habitat. Water temperature, water level, salinity, and stream velocity will be monitored as these parameters are well correlated in the literature with spawning success and egg-to-fry survival. Additional sedimentologic parameters (bedload transport, accumulated sediments, and gravel/cobble transport rates) will also be analyzed. These activities as well as evaluation studies will be conducted annually from 1996 to 2000, with possible extension of minor monitoring through 2002 for streambed stability research.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The project appears to have been carefully executed and is likely to be successful. A well-concieved monitoring design will allow a valuable assessment of the performance of the project. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a reduced budget at the FY 97 level. This project will evaluate the effects of improvements on Port Dick Creek, which are intended to increase available spawning habitat and thus provide additional pink and chum salmon for harvest as a replacement for salmon lost in the oil spill. FY 97 will be the first year the number of fry produced by the project will be measured. Trustee Council funding is expected through the year 2000 (one chum salmon life cycle).

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98139C1-CL	Montague Riparian Rehabilitation Monitoring	D. Schmid/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 5th yr. 4 yr. project		$2.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide additional funds to close out Project /139C1. Closeout funds (final monitoring and preparation of final report) were provided in FY 97. This project seeks 10 days of additional funding in FY 98 to write the final report.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project duplicates funding provided in FY 97 under Project 97139C1-CLO for final report preparation. Submission of the final report by September 30, 1997 is one of the measurable project tasks in the 97139C1-CLO Detailed Project Description.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98186-CLO	Coded Wire Tag Recoveries From Pink Salmon in Prince William Sound	T. Joyce/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 10th yr. 10 yr. project	$279.4	$126.6	$119.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$119.6

Project Abstract

This project closes out the Trustee Council's support for coded wire tagging of hatchery released pink salmon fry in Prince William Sound. Originally scheduled to close out in FY 99, the second year of overlap (FY 98) between the coded wire tag and OMM methods of marking salmon has been canceled due to financial problems suffered by the private non-profit hatcheries in Prince William Suond, and the project is closing out one year early. Included in the closeout budget are funds to carry out two new objectives vital for a comprehensive final report: (1) determine the incidence of stray fish and the rate of adipose-clipped fish without tags in the brood stocks of Prince William Sound hatcheries and (2) determine the origin of adipose-clipped fish without tags recovered from Northern district catches.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is proposed for close-out one year early due to loss of joint funding from the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation and the Valdez Fisheries Development Association. Early closeout will result in only one year of overlap between coded wire tags and otolith thermal marks (project 98188), weakening the original two-year plan to intercalibrate these techniques. Early results from Project 97186 suggest that the otolith mass marking technique produces reliable results, and that one year of overlap of otolith mass marking with coded-wire tag will be sufficient to evaluate otolith mass marking. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout (data analysis and final report writing), including the two new objectives related to adipose-clipped fish without tags, contingent on submittal of a reduced budget. This project has provided information that allows fisheries managers to vary the timing and location of commercial harvest in order to direct fishing effort away from oil-damaged stocks.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98188	Otolith Thermal Mass Marking of Hatchery Reared Pink Salmon In Prince William Sound	T. Joyce/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$108.4	$141.1	$108.4		$0.0	$0.0	$108.4

Project Abstract

This project is developing otolith marking as a technology for identification of hatchery pink salmon returning to Prince William Sound. The otoliths of all pink salmon reared in Prince William Sound hatcheries will be thermally marked in the fall of 1998. A blind test will be conducted to determine the ability of otolith readers to successfully determine the origin of randomly selected otoliths. During the 1998 commercial fishery, approximately 100 otoliths will be processed from each fishery opening to estimate stock composition. A Bayesian approach will be used in the estimation of postseason contribution estimates, with a dynamic sample size allocation scheme being used to maximize sampling efficiency.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will begin routine implementation of a new in-season management technique utilizing thermal marking of hatchery-raised pink salmon. The requested budget increase for personnel, which was justified due to the loss of coordinated funding from Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation and Valdez Fisheries Development Association, should be authorized only after careful review of actual requirements. Fund at originally requested level, and defer personnel increment pending administrative review.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a reduced budget at the expected level of $108,400 and resolution of future year costs. Funding for the requested personnel increment will be reconsidered if appropriate justification is provided. This project provides information that allows fisheries managers to vary the timing and location of commercial harvest to protect injured wild stocks. Otolith marking is a more accurate and less expensive technology for providing the information previously obtained through coded wire tags.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98190	Construction of a Linkage Map for the Pink Salmon Genome	F. Allendorf/Univ. Montana	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 5 yr. project		$211.6	$211.6	$187.0	$187.0	$0.0	$585.6

Project Abstract

This project will construct a detailed genetic linkage map for pink salmon by analyzing the genetic transmission of several hundred DNA polymorphisms. The ability to genetically map the location of oil-induced lesions will allow the thorough identification, description, and understanding of oil-induced genetic damage. This research will also aid other recovery efforts with pink salmon, including estimation of straying rates, description of stock structure, and testing whether marine survival has a genetic basis. We will complete the linkage map ahead of schedule in this, the third year of Trustee Council support. We propose to begin efforts to achieve Objectives 5 and 6 of this project using Alaska SeaLife Center facilities.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a strong project with an excellent PI. The investigator has made significant progress toward project objectives and may be ahead of schedule. Detecting genetic lesions due to the oil spill is not too likely. However, the results from this project will be significant for the long-term management of pink salmon. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. Concerns raised by the Chief Scientist in FY 97 regarding link to restoration objectives, application to management, and cost sharing by non-EVOS sources have been addressed. In addition, the project is ahead of schedule and the budget has been reduced from the prior year. This project is designed to provide fundamental information which will likely aid restoration of wild stocks of pink salmon and benefit pink salmon management. It is a long-term project with national importance.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98191A	Field Examination of Oil-Related Embryo Mortalities in Pink Salmon Populations in PWS	M. Willette/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 7th yr. 8 yr. project	$164.2	$164.2	$155.0	$58.7	$0.0	$0.0	$213.7

Project Abstract

Elevated embryo mortalities were detected in populations of pink salmon inhabiting oiled streams following the oil spill. These increased rates of mortality persisted annually through the 1993 field season, suggesting that genetic damage may have occurred as a result of exposure to oil during early developmental life-stages. The consequences of this putative genetic damage include physiological dysfunction of individuals and reduced reproductive capacity of populations. The 1994, 1995, and 1996 field results show no statistical difference in embryo mortality between oil-contaminated and reference streams. This project will continue to monitor the recovery of pink salmon embryos in the field. If there is again no difference in embryo mortality between oil-contaminated and reference streams, this project will be closed out in FY 99.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal will complete the 4th year of field monitorirng and define the recovery of pink salmon embryo mortality. The proposed investigations are on track with previous recommendations made by peer reviewers. Closeout in FY 99 is appropriate, and must include integration of these investigations with laboratory studies of mechanisms for the observed effect.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of late report (95166) and resolution of budget issues. This project represents the major monitoring effort for the ongoing injury to and recovery of pink salmon. Funding in FY 98 will allow two even-year and two odd-year life cycles to be followed. Only closeout funds (final data analysis and report writing) are anticipated in FY 99.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98194-CLO	Pink Salmon Spawning Habitat Recovery	M. Murphy, S. Rice/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project		$53.2	$25.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$25.0

Project Abstract

This proposal requests funds to close out Project /194, allowing publication of results and participation at the 1998 Restoration Workshop. Project 97194 examined the level of oil contamination in pink salmon streams in 1989-90 and 1995 by analyzing sediment samples collected in 1989-90 by ADFG and similar samples collected in 1995 by the Auke Bay Laboratory. Approximately 500 samples from 200 streams were analyzed by the Auke Bay Laboratory in 1997. Results will help to complete the understanding of the injury to pink salmon by documenting the initial exposure level and subsequent habitat recovery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project needs to be closed out and the results synthesized and published. Fund, but at a reduced budget due to some overlap with synthesis products from related projects (98076, 98191A, 98329).

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description that clarifies the specific reports and manuscripts to be produced and a reduced budget that reflects additional funding for synthesis products being recommended through projects 98076, 98191A, and 98329. This project will close out studies conducted in FY 97 to illuminate the role of direct exposure to oil in potentially causing the observed multi-year effects in pink salmon embryos.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98196	Genetic Structure of Prince William Sound Pink Salmon	C. Habicht/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 6 yr. project	$130.0	$130.2	$130.2		$0.0	$0.0	$130.2

Project Abstract

Previous workers found that wild-stock pink salmon suffered direct lethal and sublethal injuries as a result of the oil spill. An understanding of the population structure of pink salmon in Prince William Sound is essential to assess the impact of these injuries on a population basis and to devise and implement management strategies for sustained conservation. Results to date from this study suggest gene flow between pink salmon spawning aggregates can be restricted both spatially (regional and upstream-tidal) and temporally (early-late) within the sound. This proposal increment covers the final year of laboratory analysis and the statistical analysis of year-three allozyme and mtDNA data.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The concern expressed in FY97 about whether this research will lead to actual management changes (e.g., habitat conservation, allocation decisions) continues. Although the scientific aspects of this work are satisfactory, the DPD lacks a synopsis of progress to date, which should be substantial at this point. The questions about whether this project is supplying information for real management needs must be resolved, and funding should therefore be deferred pending the outcome of an additional evaluation this summer (1997).

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision until a meeting of the science reviewers, the PIs, and ADFG fishery managers is held later this summer (1997) to address the Chief Scientist's concerns. If funded, funding will be contingent on submittal of late reports (95320D, 96196, 96255). This project is designed to determine the geographic extent of genetic differences in Prince William Sound pink salmon. Knowledge of the location of pink salmon stocks and genetic differences among the stocks in Prince William Sound could help refine pink salmon management areas and goals, aiding in the recovery of wild stocks.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98329	Synthesis of the Toxicological Impacts on Pink Salmon	S. Rice/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$25.6	$25.6		$0.0	$0.0	$25.6

Project Abstract

This project will synthesize results of all Trustee Council sponsored studies related to the toxicological damage to pink salmon. Since 1989, seven separate Trustee-sponsored projects have individually advanced our understanding of the effects of the oil spill on pink salmon: past and present potential for oil exposure (Project 194), effects on egg/embryo survival (Project 191), juvenile feeding and growth (NRDA Project 4), marine survival and straying of returning adults (Projects 076 and 209), and the possibility that effects are heritable (Project 228). We will draw on data from these studies to construct synthetic conclusions regarding the injury to and subsequent recovery of pink salmon. The results of contracted studies by Exxon will be compared with the Trustee studies.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will synthesize the research efforts on pink salmon toxicity, including review of the differences between the conclusions of Exxon and government scientists, providing a valuable contribution to the restoration program. Delivery to the Chief Scientist of draft paper titles, conceptual outlines, and proposed journals for submission should be added as an early project milestone. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on (1) submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description that includes manuscript titles and proposed journals for submission and identifies development of conceptual outlines as an early project milestone, (2) submittal of late reports (FS1/Bue, 95320D/Seeb, 96196/Seeb), and (3) justification of the budget projection for FY 99. This project, which will synthesize the results of seven separate studies funded by the Trustee Council to examine possible long-term damage to pink salmon populations (R4, /076, /191A, /191B, /194, /209, /228), will provide a valuable contribution to the restoration program. The synthesis will include an evaluation of relevant Exxon-funded results and an attempt to reconcile differences where possible. Products will be publications in peer reviewed journals and a presentation at the 10th Anniversary Symposium.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Pacific Herring					$493.6	$1,070.8	$764.3	$72.4	$0.0	$0.0	$836.7
98162	Investigations of Disease Factors Affecting Declines of Pacific Herring Populations in Prince William Sound	G. Marty/UC Davis; R. Kocan/Univ. Wash., C. Kennedy & A. Farrell, Simon Fraser Univ.	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$437.6	$517.4	$484.0	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0	$534.0

Project Abstract

Field and controlled laboratory studies will focus on viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHS) and *Ichthyophonus hoferi*, a pathogenic fungus, to determine their role in the disease(s) and mortality observed in Prince William Sound herring since 1993. Herring will be monitored for signs of disease and immune status, while specific pathogen-free herring will be used to determine the degree of mortality, blood chemical changes, and pathogenicity produced by these organisms alone and in combination with exposure to stressors such as petroleum hydrocarbons, temperature and crowding. Wild herring will be studied under laboratory conditions to determine the course of VHS infection associated with captivity and their immune status and susceptibility to reinfection.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the continuation of a program that has demonstrated excellent progress toward developing practical indicators of population health from earlier theoretical work. Although I recommend funding the project, there is concern about the increase in FY 98. I recommend deferring a decision on the budget as it pertains to the herring pound fishery pending evaluation of the FY 97 work on this fishery.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund all but herring pound component contingent on submittal of (1) a revised budget that delays until FY 99 funding for preparation of the final report and manuscripts ~~and (2) the 98162 annual report~~. Defer a decision on funding the herring pound component (roughly $34,000) pending evaluation of the FY 97 work on this fishery. This project investigates the potential link between oil exposure and disease in herring, and between disease and the herring population decline in Prince William Sound. Understanding the causes of the decline and the lack of recovery is important for restoration of the herring population in Prince William Sound.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98165-CLO	Genetic Discrimination of Prince William Sound Herring Populations	J. Seeb, L. Seeb, S. Merkouris/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$56.0	$56.0	$56.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$56.0

Project Abstract

Following the oil spill, the Prince William Sound herring fishery underwent a catastrophic decline beginning in 1992. Alaska Department of Fish and Game recovery effort includes incorporating a knowledge of genetically-derived population structure into harvest management. In this close-out project we delineate the structure of Prince William Sound population(s) and related North Pacific populations using both nuclear and mitochondrial DNA analyses. Results of year-one DNA analysis indicate very limited genetic exchange between the Bering Sea/Kodiak Island populations and the PWS populations, and there is evidence of significant levels of genetic divergence within PWS.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is on schedule to be closed-out in FY 98 and should be completed as proposed.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout contingent on receipt of reports due for 96196, 96255 (genetics component) and 95320D. This project addresses basic questions about the genetic composition of Prince William Sound herring in relation to other North Pacific populations. When setting harvest limits, it is important to know whether there exists one or more genetically distinct populations. Preliminary results indicate a significant level of genetic diversity within Prince William Sound herring and between Prince William Sound herring and other North Pacific populations.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98166	Herring Natal Habitats	M. Willette/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 6 yr. project		$189.7	$75.0	$22.4	$0.0	$0.0	$97.4

Project Abstract

The PWS herring spawning population has drastically declined since 1993, and pathology studies have implicated viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and *ichthyophonus* as potential sources of mortality as well as indicators of stress. The current project will monitor the abundance of the injured herring resource in PWS using spawn deposition techniques. Normal agency funding will be used to conduct acoustic biomass survey. In addition, we will evaluate the precision, accuracy, and cost of each technique with the intent to employ either spawn deposition or hydroacoustics using normal agency funding after FY 98.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the 5th year of a multi-year program to assess the relationship between herring spawn deposition and adult spawning biomass. Questions raised in FY 97 regarding the value of comparing spawn deposition and hydroacoustic estimates remain. The hydroacoustic survey methods appear to be the most promising for ongoing monitoring. This project should be funded at a reduced level that supports the hydroacoustic biomass estimates, but not the spawn deposition survey or the objective of methodological comparisons.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund a fourth and final year of herring biomass estimates contingent on submittal of (1) a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that reflect use of the hydroacoustic survey technique and eliminate the objective of methodological comparisons and (2) the report due on 95166. This project monitors the abundance of Pacific herring and supports fisheries management decisions that protect the recovery of the stock. In FY 99, ADFG will prepare a final report and continue to monitor the abundance of herring using normal agency funds.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98310	Distribution and Turnover in Juvenile Herring Populations	E. Brown, B. Norcross/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$151.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Estimates of pacific herring survival and population size are confounded by fish movement and migration. Results from this project will refine current EVOS research and the Prince William Sound stock definition. In FY98, a pilot study using herring collected in 1995-1997 by SEA (320T) will be completed. Samples will be processed for size, fatty acid composition, and isotopes. Otoliths will be extracted for pattern and chemical analysis. These results, when combined with appropriate distribution and habitat data, will be interpreted as tracers if distinctive for each area. In the future, seasonal investigations, including tagging, will be done within a defined nursery region of Prince William Sound in order to properly interpret tracer results.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Project addresses an important issue relative to understanding year-class strength of herring in PWS, but the scientific design is lacking. Sample sizes for some endpoints appear too low to detect differences. For others it is likely that differences will be found between sites, but it is unclear how these differences will be interpreted to provide useful information (e.g., temporal and spatial variability will be confounded). There is also inadequate integration of other information, such as physical differences between sites and data from 98320U (herring energetics) and 98165 (genetics), that should be used to refine hypotheses. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about scientific design of this project.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98311	Pacific Herring Productivity Dependencies in the Prince William Sound Ecosystem Determined With Natural Stable Isotope Tracers	T. Kline/PWSSC	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$119.3	$119.3		$0.0	$0.0	$119.3

Project Abstract

Research of the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) program has shown that Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasi*) have significant dependence on Gulf of Alaska (GOA) carbon. Accordingly, herring are subject to changes in carbon flow occurring between GOA and Prince William Sound (PWS). The first step in understanding of how this fundamental environmental process affects herring recruitment is to isotopically analyze a time series of herring for which energetic data have been collected. This will expand upon the data series available from SEA providing a total four-year time period corresponding to one period in the cyclicity of herring population abundance in PWS.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project addresses a very important issue, but it is unclear how this project will use related data being collected from existing projects. It appears that this program could be very tightly and effectively linked with SEA (Project /320), but the lack of *a priori* hypotheses to support the sampling plan makes it difficult to judge this linkage. A critical unanswered question remains how one differentiates between Gulf of Alaska carbon entering Prince William Sound and being consumed by herring versus herring feeding in the Gulf of Alaska and then migrating into the sound. Funding should be deferred pending clarification of these issues by the PI.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding until the proposer (1) demonstrates how this project would relate to the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (Project /320) and (2) addresses the questions raised by the Chief Scientist about the proposed methodology.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98328	Synthesis of the Toxicological Impacts of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill on Pacific Herring	M. Carls/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$36.6	$30.0		$0.0	$0.0	$30.0

Project Abstract

This project would synthesize results of Trustee-sponsored studies related to the toxicological damage to Pacific herring, and compare them to results published by Exxon contractors. State and federal researchers concluded that exposure to oil caused egg mortality, morphological and cytogenetic abnormalities, reduced growth, and immunosuppression in adults, but that the effects on the population level were unknown. These results would be compared to those reached by Exxon contractors, who concluded that the spill had a minor impact on herring eggs, and that the population biomass was not reduced (Pearson et al. 1996). A monograph for publication would be prepared, and presented at the 10th Anniversary *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Symposium.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will synthesize the Trustee Council's research efforts on herring toxicity, including review of the differences between the conclusions of Exxon and government scientists, providing a valuable contribution to the restoration program. Proposed FY 99 budget appears excessive and should be reduced. The FY 98 cost could be reduced by conducting the meeting of authors in conjunction with the FY 98 annual meeting. Delivery to the Chief Scientist of draft paper titles, conceptual outlines, and proposed journals for submission should be added as a project milestone after the meeting of authors. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on receipt of a reduced budget. The travel budget for FY 98 should be reduced by combining planning meetings with the annual workshop. The FY 99 estimate ($68.0) appears excessive and should also be reduced. This project will synthesize research on herring toxicity.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
SEA and Related Projects					$2,062.2	$3,607.3	$2,592.6	$755.2	$0.0	$0.0	$3,347.8
98195	Pristane Monitoring in Mussels	J. Short, P. Harris/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 3rd yr. 5 yr. project	$115.0	$114.9	$114.9				$114.9

Project Abstract

This project will continue to monitor pristane in mussels as an indirect index of potential year-class strength for pink salmon and herring and to identify critical juvenile pink salmon and herring marine habitat in Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is for the continuation of a very innovative application of natural tracer substance, and could develop into a valuable monitoring tool to provide a cost effective measure of spatial and temporal variation in the zooplankton bloom. Attention should be paid to the question of what other species (besides salmon juveniles) might be involved in transport of pristane to nearshore environment for uptake by mussels. Funding beyond FY98 should be considered only after review of the first 3 years of results.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund FY 98 only. Funding in future years will be contingent on a favorable review of the first three years' results. This project is collecting and measuring pristane in mussels, which may provide a relatively inexpensive measure of marine productivity, thus allowing predictions about future fisheries production and harvest levels.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98292-BAA	Sea-Land Link: Salmon Carcasses and Forest Productivity	T. Vincent, T. Kline/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$168.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Both pink and sockeye salmon and the services they provide were injured by the oil spill. Because these salmon are anadromous, they may supply an important marine-terrestrial link between production in both systems. While it has been shown that carcasses of salmon contribute significant nutrients to streams, it is not known to what extent these nutrients may also be important to terrestrial plants adjacent to these streams. Funding is requested to determine whether this link is important to the productivity and composition of adjacent forest in the EVOS-impacted area. Should a link be established, new management and EVOS settlement decisions might have to be made for forest plant species.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal addresses an interesting issue about the importance of marine nutrients carried into terrestrial ecosystems by returning adult salmon. The proposal does not adequately address the potential contributions to both stream and plant communities, and questions about the importance of an intertidal spawner to the upper watershed remain. The proposal would be strengthened if it focused on a stream with a substantiated upstream pink salmon spawning population where an effect would be considered very likely, and if mass balance calculations using literature values were presented to support the hypotheses. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review of project's technical merit.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98297-BAA	Oceanography of Prince William Sound Bays and Fjords	S. Vaughan/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$94.2	$94.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$94.2

Project Abstract

Eaglek Bay, Whale Bay, Simpson Bay, and Zaikof Bay are the focus of the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) Herring group (320T) because of historical observations of large numbers of juvenile Pacific herring. Hydrographic surveys and current velocity measurements from October 1995 to November 1996 show significant differences in water mass properties and circulation patterns between these four bays in Prince William Sound. SEA Physical Oceanography (320-M) has provided support for SEA Herring in the past, but support in FY98 will not be possible because of scheduled funding cuts. Without continued funding, physical data will not be available for the SEA Herring project in its third and final winter sampling period. The goal of this research is to identify physical factors that control the production of Pacific herring in Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would continue the physical oceanographic component of SEA (as funded in FY 97). These studies have the general objective of documenting the physical oceanography of PWS, the contrasts in which should reveal much about the importance of various physical and biological factors in the survival of juvenile herring. Administrative review of this proposal is necessary to verify that there is no duplication with work already proposed in the main SEA budget. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on resolution of questions pertaining to how this project relates to 98320/SEA and 98163/APEX. This project will study certain aspects of the water mass properties and circulation patterns in four bays in Prince William Sound that have historically been the focus of SEA's herring project (/320T). It will provide essential support for interpretation of the SEA/Herring hypotheses that would not otherwise be available. Funding in FY 98 includes funds for preparation of a final report by September 30, 1998.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98308-BAA	Salmon - Predator Interactions Model Validation Experiment	T. Kline/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$368.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will use closed-circuit rebreather scuba technology to conduct *in situ* model validation experiments in support of the SEA project Nekton Model. We will determine the occurrence and timing of movements and interactions of the model's principal prey and principal predator species, pink salmon fry and adult pollock, respectively, for comparison with that predicted in the model. Direct observation will be used to solve the pink salmon "predation gap" that presently exists because of limitations imposed by the conventional techniques used to date.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal addresses an important question regarding unknown sources of predation on pink salmon, and its basic approach using human observers is laudable. However, the methods proposed are unable to provide adequate quantification of the process under study. The methods do to provide adequate spatial and temporal coverage, and it is not clear that even with using rebreathers observers won't interfere with the process being measured. The cost to the restoration program is excessive without significant contribution by hatchery managers, and there appears to be a lack of adequate expertise in fish behavioral ecology on the research team. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review of project's technical merit. Although this proposal is responsive to peer reviewer comments regarding validation of SEA's (/320) nekton model, the methods proposed appear unable to provide adequate quantification of the process under study.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98312-BAA	Monitoring Shifts in Prince William Sound Food Webs Using Natural Isotope Tracers: A Time Series Approach	T. Kline/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$124.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Time-series measurements of natural stable isotopes of fishes and their forage when combined with pertinent data on fish populations and oceanographic measurements being collected in sibling projects will enable a new understanding of how fundamental environmental processes affect fish recruitment and interaction. The large herbivorous copepods of the genus *Neocalanus*, which have had distinctive 13C/12C signatures when sampled in the northern Gulf of Alaska compared to those from Prince William Sound, will be used as a carbon source proxy. Validation of the signature gradient will enable us to assess shifts in the source of carbon of fishes, as well as shifts in source signatures in the long-term. Shifts in Gulf of Alaska carbon affinity will be tracked with fish recruitment and oceanographic processes to assess the effects on fishes at interannal and decadal time scales.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Stable carbon isotopes appear to offer a good tracer of Gulf of Alaska carbon sources entering into PWS, therefore a time series monitoring of isotopes in PWS plankton and fish may be appropriate measures to incorporate into a future monitoring program. However, the commitment represented by funding this project in FY98 is premature given the lack of a coordinated assessment of long-term ecological monitoring requirements. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review. This project would conduct time series monitoring of carbon isotopes in Prince William Sound plankton and fish. It is premature to make a decision on the appropriateness of this monitoring parameter given the lack of a coordinated assessment of long-term ecological monitoring requirements.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98320	Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA)	T. Cooney, et al/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 6 yr. project	$1,947.2	$2,436.0	$2,383.5	$755.2	$0.0	$0.0	$3,138.7

Project Abstract

This project is an integrated, multi-component study of processes influencing the annual survival of juvenile pink salmon and herring rearing in Prince William Sound. An emerging understanding of mechanisms of loss at this life stage is being captured by linked numerical simulations of ocean state, plankton dynamics, fish energetics, and prey/predator relationships. This proposal requests funding for the final fully-funded year of SEA, a period of reduced field work but accelerated data analysis and application of results to management models.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is on track to close out in FY 99, and the performance of the program remains excellent. There are many FY 98 proposals in addition to 98320 by SEA investigators on topics related to SEA, and raise questions regarding how these projects are coordinated with the completion of the SEA program. It is essential that the program document the integration and initial application of oceanographic, plankton, and nekton models in FY 98.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund all components except the 98320T/Herring TEK component ($75,900), contingent on resolution of budget issues. Defer decision on the TEK component until FY 97 results are available for review (probably late summer 1997). This interdisciplinary ecosystem project, which is focused on issues relating to the survival and recruitment of pink salmon and herring, is entering the final year of a five-year study effort. The project has been the subject of numerous technical reviews, including recent review sessions on the SEA modeling efforts (February 1997) and the SEA herring effort (March 1997). Both reviews indicated strong progress toward meeting project objectives. The FY 98 recommended funding level includes $434,900 for PWSSC's FY 99 closeout costs. ADFG project management costs ($49,500) have been deducted from SEA's FY 98 request and added to Project 98250/Project Management. In FY 99, only closeout funds are expected; submittal of the draft final report is expected April 15, 1998.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98342-BAA	Pilot Monitoring Program for Prince William Sound: Marine Assessment of Resources	G. Thomas, V. Patrick, K. Osgood/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project	$300.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The complaint that pink salmon, herring and other pelagic resources in the spill-area suffered long-term impacts from the spill has been repeatedly voiced by residents of Prince William Sound. The SEA program (/320) has developed the first generation of models, a physical-biological model and a nekton model, for pink salmon to simulate population changes as a result of natural causes so that they can be separated from anthropogenic impacts. This pilot monitoring program will systematically measure weather conditions, physical conditions and plankton for input to the physical-biological model, and macrozooplankton and pelagic nekton as input to the nekton model.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would develop interim monitoring measures to be used while a long-term monitoring program is developed. The proposal includes purchase and application of new optical technology for a towed vehicle, which may have some merit, and the use of vessels of opportunity is laudable. However, the proposal is vague and what is going to be measured and its importance are not clear. Committing funding to this project in FY 98 is premature given the lack of a coordinated assessment of long-term ecological monitoring requirements. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review. This project would conduct interim monitoring during the period until SEA's (/320) physical-biological model and nekton model development is complete (FY 99). It is premature to make a decision on the appropriateness of this monitoring proposal until a coordinated assessment of long-term ecological monitoring requirements is undertaken.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Sockeye Salmon						$533.3	$11.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.7
98239	Salmon Carcasses and Juvenile Chinook Salmon Production in the Kenai River Ecosystem	D. Schmidt/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$166.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will investigate the role sockeye salmon carcasses play in primary and secondary production within the Kenai River and the potential symbiotic role sockeye salmon escapements have on nutrients and secondary productivity. An ecosystem approach to restoration of this system requires examination of the role salmon carcasses play in freshwater life history of other species. This project will focus on determining if measurable benefits to chinook salmon growth can be attributed to salmon carcasses in general, and more specifically, sockeye salmon. The question to be addressed the first year is whether there is a sufficient marine-derived nutrient component that can be measured in a large glacial river. An important feature of the project is to ascertain if there are significant benefits to chinook salmon juveniles with increased escapements.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This innovative proposal would illuminate the potential interactions between escapement of sockeye salmon and productivity of chinook salmon in the Kenai River system. This project could provide valuable information for multi-species management of one of the most important sport fisheries in Alaska. The linkage of this project to recovery objectives is limited, however, and, despite its scientific excellence, it does not appear to be a high enough priority. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project, which is designed to contribute to an ecosystem-level understanding of the Kenai River system by examining the benefits of sockeye escapement to other in-river processes, is technically sound. However, it has a weak link to the Trustee Council's recovery objectives and is largely a matter of normal agency management.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98254-CLO	Delight and Desire Lakes Restoration	G. Kyle/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project		$11.7	$11.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.7

Project Abstract

This project is evaluating the quality of the rearing habitat and the feasibility of lake fertilization in Delight and Desire Lakes. Limnological and fisheries data were collected during 1997; FY98 funds are for data analysis and preparation of a final report. Nutrient enrichment has increased the forage base for rearing sockeye salmon fry in other Alaskan lakes. The expected result of nutrient enrichment is larger/more numerous sockeye smolts and a corresponding increase in adult returns. An enrichment program in Delight and/or Desire lakes would increase lake fertility, which in turn should accelerate the recovery of the currently depressed sockeye salmon runs in these two lakes.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The Trustee Council paid for the initial feasibility study and needs the final report to complete this project. The PIs should pay special attention to the historical fisheries data, the treatment of which was rather weak in the FY 97 Detailed Project Description. Funding of this close-out project implies no commitment in regard to future lake fertilization.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project will fund data analysis and final report writing on the limnology study of Delight and Desire lakes funded by the Trustee Council in FY 97. The final report will make recommendations regarding restoration of sockeye salmon in these two lakes through stocking/nutrient enrichment. The Council's support of this project is not a commitment at this time to also support lake fertilization, should it be proposed at a later date.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98270	Akalura Lake Sockeye Salmon Restoration	S. Honnold, C. Swanton/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$355.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will restore natural production of Akalura Lake sockeye salmon through: 1) assessment of the lake rearing environment and determination of juvenile and adult life history parameters limiting sockeye salmon production; and 2) use of established restoration techniques to increase juvenile sockeye salmon abundance, survival, and adult production. This project will be contingent upon the estimated number of sockeye salmon smolt emigrating from Akalura Lake in 1997. Akalura Lake sockeye salmon stock will be considered in the natural recovery phase if approximately 200,000 or more sockeye smolt are estimated in 1997. We propose that this project proceed if less than 200,000 smolt are estimated in 1997.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a very expensive proposal to begin development of a sockeye supplementation program of highly uncertain need and benefit, with little apparent link to the oil spill. Variable smolt production is likely linked to trophic interactions with other fish species that are not amenable to human intervention. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Trustee Council chose not to fund this same proposal in FY 97 because of the Chief Scientist's concern that the current low escapements in Akalura Lake likely are not related to overescapements at the time of the spill. The Council funded smolt emigration studies at Akalura Lake in FY 97 and prior years as a means of determining the status of the sockeye salmon stock.

Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden and Rockfish					$108.0	$967.6	$323.8	$8.0	$0.0	$0.0	$331.8
98043B	Monitoring of Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden Habitat Improvement Structures	D. Gillikin/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 5th yr. 7 yr. project	$8.0	$24.0	$24.0	$8.0	$0.0	$0.0	$32.0

Project Abstract

This project monitors habitat improvement structures and their effects on cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden populations. These structures were installed in 1995. There has been concern raised that habitat structures may inadvertently increase coho salmon populations, and thereby increase competition stress on Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout populations. Preliminary data collected in 1995 and 1996 could be interpreted to support this assumption, with regard to cutthroat trout. Additional monitoring seeks to address these questions, and provide solid results to base our conclusions on the effectiveness of these types of improvements to benefit Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The low cost assessment of the performance of earlier habitat enhancement efforts provided by this project will be valuable information for the restoration program. Although there was a previous recommendation to end monitoring in FY 97, the opportunity to quantify the effects of this habitat enhancement effort with another year of monitoring deserves support. The project should be closed out in FY 99, and the results of this project should be published in the scientific literature.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund a third and final year of monitoring. This project monitors the effectiveness of cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden habitat improvement structures installed in FY 95. The structures were monitored in FY 96 and FY 97.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98145-CLO	Cutthroat Trout and Dolly Varden: Relation Among and Within Populations of Anadromous and Resident Forms	G. Reeves/USFS, Pacific Northwest Research Station	USFS	Cont'd 3rd yr. 4 yr. project	$100.0	$222.7	$120.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$120.7

Project Abstract

This project will determine the relation between resident and anadromous forms of Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout within the same watershed and between watersheds in Prince William Sound. We will conclude analysis of genetic, meristic, and life-history features of each group which were sampled in FY96 and FY97. Results from this study will allow development of a longterm, comprehensive and ecologically sound restoration strategy for these fish. Additionally, we are proposing to examine fish that we have collected to compare growth rates of those from oiled areas with those from unoiled areas. This proposed new objective increases the FY98 cost by $102,700 and the FY99 cost by $40,000.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a promising ongoing study, which has not yet delivered substantial results. The proposed new objective has merit in terms of enabling a reevaluation of prior NRDA results on growth differences in unoiled and oiled areas. However, at this time I can recommend funding only the existing program.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund final year of field work, lab work and closeout (data analysis and report writing) for the original study. This project defines relationships among stocks and life history forms (e.g., anadromous and resident). The results of this study will be used to develop a restoration strategy for cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden. This study has direct implications for management of sport fisheries in Prince William Sound and nationwide. The USFS is providing significant support for this project. Funding for the additional new objective to evaluate growth may be considered at a later date (FY 99 or beyond).

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98252	Investigations of Genetically Important Conservation Units of Rockfish and Walleye Pollock	J. Seeb, L. Seeb, S. Merkouris/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$241.7	$175.0				$175.0

Project Abstract

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

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would provide important information relative to stock structure of several fish species. Work on walleye pollock and rockfish would be valuable because there are exploited stocks. The work on Kodiak Island Pacific herring should be reevaluated after Project /166 has been completed. Fund at a reduced budget without a herring component.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of (1) a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that eliminate the herring component and (2) reports on projects 95320D and 96255. This project will obtain genetic stock structure information on rockfish and pollock, both of which have faced increased harvest pressure as replacement species following the oil spill. The project also will provide funding to consolidate ADFG's genetics wet-lab projects, including the rockfish and pollock work, at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98269-BAA	Prince William Sound Rockfish Recovery	T. Kline/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$475.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will assess recovery of rockfish species and communities in Prince William Sound occurring from natural recruitment using demographic data. The investigation will include a synthesis of local/traditional knowledge and published information. Non-destructive observation, measurement, and photographic recordings of rockfishes will avoid the limitations imposed by the conventional techniques that have a large-fish bias. Double sampling will be used to acquire length-age relations of rockfish with sampling emphasis on pre-recruits to the fisheries. We propose to use closed-circuit rebreather scuba technology to conduct an *in situ* investigation. Assessment of post-spill recruitment will indicate how or if natural restoration is taking place, which will enable resource managers to implement prudent conservation measures.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The initial injury to rockfish was not well established and no recovery objectives are identified. Although this proposal is technically good, the work proposed here is largely a matter of normal agency management. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Although this project has some scientific merit, an investigation of rockfish is a low priority and is largely normal agency management.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98302-CLO	Prince William Sound Cutthroat Trout, Dolly Varden Char Inventory	M. Schelske/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project		$4.1	$4.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$4.1

Project Abstract

This proposal requests funds for report writing to close out Project 97302. So far in FY97, the main researcher has interviewed local residents and other knowledgeable persons and conducted literature searches to document the locations of cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char populations. A number of previously undocumented populations have been discovered. Additional work and some field sampling will occur during the rest of FY97 to verify unsubstantiated reports.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This modest funding request is appropriate to close-out this program.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout (data analysis and report writing) of this project. Local knowledge will be used to determine which streams in Prince William Sound are known to have populations of cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden. The results of this project will be provided to ADFG for inclusion in the Anadromous Waters Catalog, a document used in the management of these species. The results of this project will also be provided to researchers on Project \145 for use in developing a restoration strategy for these species.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Marine Mammals					$308.1	$987.2	$784.4	$355.1	$262.8	$91.4	$1,493.7
98001-CLO	Recovery of Harbor Seals From EVOS: Condition and Health Status	M. Castellini/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project	$48.1	$51.1	$51.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$51.1

Project Abstract

Project 98001 will provide the final analysis for three years of field work that sampled harbor seals for condition and health status. It will close out 95-97001 and provide analysis of late arriving samples, completion of analytical and statistical tests, the production of final reports, and publication of research papers.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project has been a good one, and the species is important in the restoration program. This study should be properly closed out in FY 98.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. The proposed project will conclude a four-year study of harbor seal body condition and nutritional status and should produce a peer-reviewed publication. Results to date indicate that adult harbor seals in Prince William Sound are neither sick nor food stressed, but there are natural variations in health indices that reflect environmental, seasonal and geographic differences. In collaboration with 98064 and 98170, this project will help explain the long-term decline in harbor seals in Prince William Sound. The results of these studies will enable resource managers, subsistence hunters, and others to focus their concerns and efforts on the most probable causes of population decline.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98012A-BAA	Comprehensive Killer Whale Investigation in Prince William Sound, Alaska	C. Matkin/North Gulf Oceanic Society	NOAA	Cont'd 6th yr. 9 yr. project		$166.8	$154.9				$154.9

Project Abstract

This project continues to monitor the damaged AB pod and other Prince William Sound killer whales to analyze a GIS database on killer whales. We propose in FY 98 to identify critical habitats for transient whales in Prince William Sound using these data. Year round residency of killer whales will be assessed using a remote hydrophone system. Environmental contaminant levels in the blubber of specific whales will be determined and potential effects on recovery evaluated. An updated catalog of individual killer whales that use Prince William Sound will be constructed and incorporated in a popular book detailing research results (FY99).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This ongoing work has been developing valuable information regarding killer whale populations in Prince William Sound, including the first data sets on the genetics and contaminant body burdens in these populations. The long-term data set collected by this PI should expand our knowledge of the natural history of killer whales. The proposal is generally consistent with the results of the November 1996 killer whale review, including conclusion of biopsy sampling for contaminants and genetic analyses. However, the request for funding for the photo catalog is questionable since the Detailed Project Description does not contain a long-term plan or justification for this component. Overall, I recommend that the budget be reduced to $150,000, including deletion of the photo catalog.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that eliminate funding for a photographic catalog. The contract for continuation of this project should place special emphasis on producing the five manuscripts promised in the proposal. This project is providing valuable information about the long-term effects of the oil spill on resident and transient pods of killer whales in Prince William Sound.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98064	Monitoring, Habitat Use, and Trophic Interactions of Harbor Seals in PWS	K. Frost/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$150.0	$307.5	$307.5	$230.0	$130.0	$0.0	$667.5

Project Abstract

This project will monitor the status of harbor seals in Prince William Sound and investigate the hypothesis that food limitation to pups and juveniles is causing the ongoing decline. Aerial surveys will be conducted during molting to determine whether the population continues to decline, stabilizes, or increases. Seal pups will be satellite-tagged to describe and compare their movements, hauling out, and diving behavior to older seals and seals in other areas. Fatty acids analysis will be conducted on recent and archived blubber samples and mathematical models developed to estimate seal diets and whether they have changed since the 1970s. Special emphasis will be on pups and juveniles, the age groups most likely to be affected by food limitation.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

There continues to be great concern about the status of the harbor seal. The PI has done excellent work to date, and the reviewers strongly encourage the PI to produce a major ecological paper on her work. The monitoring component of this work is producing invaluable data and should be continued. The expanded research objectives that double the project cost deserve further consideration (e.g., should one have more evidence that pups are starving before embarking on major work on fatty acids in pups?), and the new research component needs to be reviewed in conjunction with other harbor seal work (e.g., 98001, 98170) prior to funding. Fund at original level requested, and conduct a review of the new research objective in the fall of 1997.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund continuation component of this project at the level projected in the FY 97 Work Plan ($150,000) contingent on submittal of 96064 annual report. Defer decision on funding new research components until a review session is conducted (probably Fall 1997) on the recovery status of harbor seals and the results of previously funded studies. In collaboration with 98001 and 98170, the continuation portion of this project will help explain the long-term decline in harbor seals in Prince William Sound. The results of the study will enable resource managers, subsistence users, and others to focus their efforts and concern on the most probable causes of harbor seal population decline.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98170-CLO	Isotope Ratio Studies of Marine Mammals in Prince William Sound	D. Schell/UAF	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$110.0	$110.2	$108.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$108.8

Project Abstract

This project uses natural stable isotope ratios to assess trophic structure and food webs in Prince William Sound and contributes to the studies by ADFG personnel to determine the reasons for the decline of harbor seal populations. Through a mix of captive animal studies and a comparison of isotope ratios in prey species and archived and current marine mammal tissues, insight into environmental changes causing the decline may be possible. Preliminary data point strongly toward a major decline in the carrying capacity of the northern Pacific Ocean in the past two decades. This decline is evident in the abundance and distribution of marine biota and is reflected in the carbon isotope ratios of marine mammals of the region.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the final year of a 3-year project examining trophic relationships for marine mammals in Prince William Sound. The PI has performed well, with excellent integration of results into broader ecological questions. We expect to see peer-reviewed publications in the coming year; the results should be interpreted in the context of oceanographic processes and marine mammal physiology.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund closeout contingent on submittal of a revised budget to reflect slightly reduced travel costs. The proposed project will conclude a three-year study of isotope ratios in harbor seals and their prey. This project provides technical support for 98064, which may help explain why harbor seal populations have declined. Project 98170 will also assist the SEA program (98320) by describing the food chains that support important commercial fisheries in Prince William Sound.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98294-BAA	Pinniped Response to Diet	D. Duffy/UAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project			$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project tests a hypothesis that high-lipid diets lead to greater mitochondrial functioning in muscle. Additional work will use fatty acids to assess diet and whether the metabolisms of juvenile pinnipeds handle lipids differently than do adults, or whether well-fed animals do so differently than do starving animals. Initial field work will involve samples from existing projects in the Pribilofs and in Prince William Sound, on fur seals and harbor seals. Analysis of these samples will test for differences in mitochondrial activity, diet, and lipid pathways. If these are found within species, reflecting age or body condition, then the second year of the study will use non-lethal sampling and controlled diets to measure the response of captive harbor seals and sealions at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Budget incomplete; FY98 cost would exceed $172.7.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a complicated project with multiple facets. There is a concern that the methods proposed here are not sufficient to meet project results. Do not fund, but consider whether the component on mitochondrial work on harbor seals can be integrated into Project 98341, which is recommended for funding.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund as a separate project, but consider whether the harbor seal/mitochondrial objective can be integrated into Project 98341.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98341	Harbor Seal Recovery: Controlled Studies of Health and Diet	M. Castellini/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$132.8	$162.1	$125.1	$132.8	$91.4	$511.4

Project Abstract

This program begins a long-term study that quantifies the impact of feeding controlled 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, the critical test on how each marker varies in an individual seal fed differing prey diets has not been conducted. The ability to test these markers directly, under controlled conditions, is now available at the Alaska SeaLife Center. This project proposes to conduct those experiments on harbor seals, but the approach would apply to any of the injured top predators, whether bird or mammal.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a sound proposal that takes the next step in validating indicators of health of harbor seals using captive animals at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Proposers should consider focusing the project on pups, as this appears to be the key life-stage affecting recruitment to adult populations. Also consider whether the mitochondrial work on harbor seals proposed in 98294 can be integrated into this project. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund original proposal contingent on submittal of revised budget reflecting slightly reduced travel costs. Defer decision on amending the proposal to incorporate mitochondrial techniques (roughly $30,000; see Project 98294) until integration of the two proposals has been further explored with the PIs. This project will investigate the health and diet of harbor seals under controlled conditions at the Alaska SeaLife Center and enable scientists to test the validity of results from field studies. The project should focus its research on harbor seal pups.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98351	Harbor Seal Recovery: Fate of Pups	M. Castellini/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$128.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

All previous work on the recovery of harbor seals after the oil spill focused on adult animals. Predictions of population decline, ecological relationships, and health and body condition in those adults suggest that a key factor in the poor recovery of the species is the fate of pups. This project begins a field and laboratory based examination on the biology of harbor seal pups. Field work will determine whether pups are born compromised and laboratory work at the Alaska SeaLife Center will focus on detailed health and survivorship studies.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project investigates the reason for the decline in harbor seals, but confounding factors in proposed health studies will prevent valuable conclusions from being drawn relative to recruitment of juveniles. Rescued animals may not be representative of the juvenile population, as important health problems could be at neonate stage or during winter when chances of rescue are minimal. Proposed satellite tagging program is unlikely to provide any meaningful comparison with existing ADFG program. A more modest project to collect basic health data on rescued animals would be worth funding, as it would be a cost effective way of identifying potential health problems in wild populations. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the scientific design of this project.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98370	Effects of Harbor Seal Metabolism on Stable Isotope Ratio Tracers	D. Schell/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$90.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Specific amino acids from food proteins will be compared in seals and to identify essential amino acids useful as habitat or prey markers. Specific amino acids labeled with 15N and 13C will be used to follow transamination and carbon relocation during metabolic processes in the seals. Year 1 will be used to establish laboratory and animal handling protocols and to analyze the amino acid composition and isotope ratios from prey species and existing marine mammal blood samples obtained from wild-caught seals and seals held at existing facilities. Years 2 and 3 will employ captive harbor seals at the Alaska SeaLife Center and will expand the compounds studied to include fatty acid composition and the isotope ratios in specific fatty acids.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is an interesting proposal to apply a novel set of new markers for diet determination of harbor seals. However, unlike the fatty acid analyses which have previously been applied in this context, we don't know that this method of using essential amino acids will discriminate among the prey and habitats. Further, the relationship of this project to harbor seal recovery objectives is not entirely clear. The investigator may wish to resubmit the proposal next year with a more fully developed biochemical justification citing the mammalian literature.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

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

Nearshore Ecosystem					$1,753.7	$3,320.8	$2,229.7	$450.0	$0.0	$0.0	$2,679.7
98025	Mechanisms of Impact and Potential Recovery of Nearshore Vertebrate Predators (NVP)	L. Holland-Bartels, et al/USGS	DOI	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$1,669.4	$1,689.2	$1,679.3	$450.0	$0.0	$0.0	$2,129.3

Project Abstract

The Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project (NVP) makes an integrated assessment of trophic, health, and demographic factors across a suite of apex predators injured by the spill to determine mechanisms constraining recovery and to improve knowledge of the status of recovery. Primary hypotheses are: 1) Recovery of nearshore resources injured by EVOS is limited by recruitment processes; 2) Initial and/or residual oil in benthic habitats and in or on benthic prey organisms has had a limiting effect on the recovery of benthic foraging predators; and 3) EVOS-induced changes in populations of benthic prey species have influenced the recovery of benthic foraging predators.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The FY 98 proposal covers the last field season, with FY 99 as the closeout year. This project was favorably reviewed in February 1997. This is a well-managed program that is reaching its objectives. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund all components except sea otter manuscripts, contingent on resolution of budget questions. Funding for additional sea otter manuscripts may be reconsidered if the sea otter manuscript funded in FY 97 is completed and submitted for publication. In general, the nearshore ecosystem, including intertidal habitat and organisms, was the area hardest hit by the oil spill. This project monitors recovery of intertidal organisms and closely linked vertebrate predators and addresses the question of whether continuing contamination is slowing recovery of vertebrate predators. FY 98 will be the final year of field work for this project, with only data analysis and final report writing funded in FY 99.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98161-CLO	Differentiation and Interchange of Harlequin Duck Populations Within the North Pacific	B. Goatcher/NPS	DOI	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$9.5	$36.1	$16.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$16.5

Project Abstract

This project will close out previous two years of field and laboratory work.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the closeout of a 3-year project. There is a large increase in the budget over what was expected for FY 98 that deserves review by administrative staff.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a reduced budget, including reduction in manuscript component to preparation of one manuscript only (on molecular genetics). This is the closeout of a three-year project designed to improve understanding of the population differentiation and movement among geographically separate groups of harlequin ducks in the northern Gulf of Alaska. This information will contribute to restoration and management goals in Prince William Sound and elsewhere in the spill area.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98223-BAA	Analysis, Integration, and Publication of Pre- and Post-Spill Data on Damage to and Response of Sea Otters and the Nearshore Community	L. Rotterman/Enhydra Research	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$71.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Extensive new analysis, integration, and publication of pre- and post-spill data on sea otter movements, rehabilitation, carcasses, and habitat use, as well as data from repeated pre- and post-oil multi-species marine mammal surveys, will be undertaken so as to: (1) understand EVOS damage to marine mammals and related natural communities, (2) evaluate sea otter population processes affecting recovery, (3) evaluate future response and restoration strategies, and (4) generate benchmarks of sea otter population status.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

There is interest in seeing more sea otter data analyzed and published, and the reviewers believe that this is important from the standpoint of interpreting the current NVP (Project /025) hypotheses and the overall recovery status of sea otters. The PI did not receive FY 97 funds until well after the start of the fiscal year, however, and the reviewers would like to see the results of the FY 97 effort before considering additional funding. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund this year. Consider funding in FY 99 once the four manuscripts currently in preparation (Project 97223) are completed, peer reviewed, and submitted for publication.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98288-BAA	Monitoring Population Status of Sea Otters from the Sex-age Structure of Winter-killed Carcasses	Garshelis & Johnson/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$131.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will assess the feasibility of monitoring the population status of sea otters from the sex-age structure of winter-killed carcasses collected on beaches. Monitoring of winter-killed carcasses currently is done at one site in western Prince William Sound, and from those results it appeared that otters had recovered from the oil spill by 1992; however, these results conflict with those from other studies of otters. We will attempt to reconcile these conflicts by investigating geographic and habitat-related variation in the sex-age structure of carcasses, factors that have not been accounted for in the current monitoring program. We will identify sources of variation, estimate the proportion of carcasses found, and recommend improvements of the monitoring effort.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Previous studies have documented that recovered carcasses may not come from the area in which they are recovered,and sex/age structure data derived from carcases is unlikely to provide adequate statistical power to make the interpretations proposed. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review of technical merit.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98289-BAA	Status of Black Oystercatchers in Prince William Sound	S. Murphy/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$134.9	$80.0			$0.0	$80.0

Project Abstract

Black oystercatchers currently are considered to be "injured with recovery unknown." Because most of the unresolved issues for this species pertain to impacts to the breeding population in Prince William Sound, this study is designed to assess phenology and productivity of the same population of breeding oystercatchers that was studied during 1989 - 1993. Year 1 will entail an examination of the reproductive parameters that were identified by previous researchers as having been negatively impacted by the oil spill and an evaluation of whether these birds have recovered from the previously identified impacts. Data analyses will focus on comparisons of previously oiled sites with unoiled sites and among-year analyses.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The recovery status of black oystercatchers is unknown. This project would reassess the status of this species in an initial year-1 phase and then, if needed, follow up with a more in-depth investigation. The details of the proposed methods are sketchy. Ideally the Trustee Council should support a reassessment of the status of black oystercatchers. I recommend that a decision be deferred on this proposal and 98359, which also addresses black oystercatchers, and that the proposers be invited to submit a revised Detailed Project Description that focuses on a reassessment of the original basis for injury at a cost not to exceed $80,000 (including agency administration costs).

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding pending submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description that focuses on a reassessment of the original basis for injury at a cost not to exceed $80,000 (including agency administration costs). The recovery status of black oystercatchers is unknown, and the Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals invited proposals for additional monitoring of black oystercatchers in FY 98.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98290	Hydrocarbon Data Analysis, Interpretation, and Database Maintenance	J. Short/NOAA	NOAA	Cont'd 7th yr. 11 yr. project	$74.8	$75.7	$75.7				$75.7

Project Abstract

This project is a continuation of the NRDA and restoration database management, sample storage, and interpretive service. New data will continue to be incorporated into the Trustee Council hydrocarbon database. Updated summary reports for investigators and managers will be produced along with an electronic copy of the data for all data queries.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This ongoing project has provided valuable archival and interpretive services to the restoration program, both with current research and preparation of final reports from past projects. A projection of workload for FY99 and beyond will be necessary to judge cost effectiveness of future efforts.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. Project is ongoing analysis and interpretation of hydrocarbon data for other Trustee Council funded studies. This project makes the data available to the scientific community and the public, including in an electronic format. Currently the database contains results of the analysis of more than 13,000 samples and collection information from more than 46,000 samples.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98319	Biology of Two Intertidal Crustaceans: An Isopod and a Lithodid Crab	B. Stevens/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$47.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Intertidal communities were heavily impacted by the oil spill. Lack of knowledge concerning the biology of intertidal organisms hampers assessment of their recovery from the EVOS or future disturbance. This project will study the biology of two common intertidal crustaceans (an isopod and a lithodid crab) which are good indicator species because they live in close association with understory substrates. Monthly sampling and selective videography will be used to determine size at maturity, fecundity, reproductive season, and a range of "normal" behaviors including mating and foraging. Results will enable assessment of population differences between impacted and non-impacted populations.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a technically competent study of two intertidal invertebrates. The investigator seems qualified and the project is feasible, but does not contribute to EVOS recovery objectives. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project, which would gather basic life history information on two intertidal species, has a weak link to the Trustee Council's recovery objectives. It is designed primarily to gather information useful in assessing the consequences of future spills or other human disturbances.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98325-BAA	Assessment of Injury to Intertidal and Nearshore Subtidal Communities: Preparation of Manuscripts	T. Dean/Coastal Resources Associates, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$111.4	$100.0		$0.0	$0.0	$100.0

Project Abstract

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

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project will address a major need of the restoration program to compile and publish in the peer reviewed literature the large volume of intertidal research and monitoring results. This project will produce 10 papers over two years. There are some questions regarding cost effectiveness that should be reviewed by the administrative staff. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised budget that reduces the project's indirect costs. This project will prepare six manuscripts for submittal to the peer reviewed literature in FY 98 on results of intertidal studies previously funded by the Trustee Council (Coastal Habitat 1, Herring Bay, eelgrass, and others). An additional four manuscripts are proposed for preparation in FY 99.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98348	Responses of River Otters to Oil Contamination: A Controlled Study of Biological Stress Markers and Foraging Success	M. Ben-David, T. Bowyer, L. Duffy/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$236.3	$200.0		$0.0	$0.0	$200.0

Project Abstract

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

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The controlled response to oil (biomarkers) is important work and should yield useful information. This work would be done at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Although the methods proposed for the behavioral aspects of the project are feasible, the reviewers doubt that this component of the project will yield significant insights into river otters in a wild situation. Fund only the biomarker portion of the project.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund laboratory component of project only, contingent on submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget that reflect this reduction in scope. This project will use facilities at the Alaska SeaLife Center to validate the effects of oil contamination on river otters, thus contributing to our understanding of the injury to and recovery status of this injured species.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98349	Permanent Archiving of Specimens Collected in Intertidal and Nearshore Habitats	N. Foster/UA Museum	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$159.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The large zoological and botanical collections resulting from various oil spill-related surveys in the Gulf of Alaska are a unique scientific resource, but no provision has been made for their final deposition. This project will incorporate these specimens into the aquatic collection of the University of Alaska Museum so that they will be available for further biological studies.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

An enormous number of specimens were obtained during the Trustee Council's intertidal and subtidal damage assessment studies. These materials have never been integrated into the UAF Museum or other institution where they are fully accessible to the scientific community. This project is costly, and there is not assurance that long-term funding is available to maintain the collections in a useful manner. Not high enough priority to fund at this time.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would permanently archive specimens from EVOS intertidal and subtidal damage assessment studies at the University of Alaska Museum. Although such archiving could make the specimens accessible to the scientific community and others, there is no assurance that funds are available for long-term maintenance of the specimens. In addition, the project is costly.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98355	Bivalve Clam Literature Review, Clam Habitat Association Model and Field Investigation	P. Armato/DOI	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$28.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The paucity of Trustee Council sponsored studies documenting the extent and persistence of injury to bivalve clams throughout the oil spill zone suggests that researchers may have: (1) overlooked the importance of documenting the injury to clams, (2) lacked the expertise to conduct such studies, or (3) had little interest in studying this area of injury and recovery. Because little work has been conducted in the area of clam injury and recovery, conducting a literature review, constructing a clam injury and recovery model, and conducting field studies are crucial for developing and understanding of EVOS-related clam injury and recovery in the spill zone.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal has technical weaknesses and lacks relevance to recovery objectives. The proposed model, based on literature review, does not take into account predator-prey interactions and other important factors.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review of project's technical merit.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98359	Status and Evaluation of Factors Limiting Recovery of Black Oystercatchers	R. Lanctot/USGS	DOI	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$94.8				$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Black oystercatcher populations were damaged both directly and indirectly by the oil spill and their recovery status is unknown. This proposal presents a plan of action for improved monitoring of the black oystercatcher and an investigation into several factors (e.g., demography, oil, toxicity, food, population sub-structuring) that may be limiting recovery. The species' unique role as an apex predator in the nearshore environment demands an ecosystem approach to our study that will reveal interactions among predator and prey.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Technically, this is a strong and ambitious proposal that tracks closely the NVP hypotheses (/025). I have some concern, however, that the PIs seem to presume that the black oystercatcher is still injured and that a full-scale multi-year investigation is required. Ideally the Trustee Council should support a reassessment of the status of black oystercatchers. I recommend that a decision be deferred on this proposal and 98289, which also addresses black oystercatchers, and that the proposers be invited to submit a revised Detailed Project Description that focuses on a reassessment of the original basis for injury at a cost not to exceed $80,000 (including agency administration costs).

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding pending submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description that focuses on a reassessment of the original basis for injury at a cost not to exceed $80,000 (including agency administration costs). The recovery status of black oystercatchers is unknown, and the Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals invited proposals for additional monitoring of black oystercatchers in FY 98.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98390	Monitoring of Oiled Mussel Beds in Prince William Sound	P. Harris, C. Brodersen/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$160.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Oiled mussel beds on soft substrates were the sites of the highest oil concentrations in sediment and in tissues in the years following the oil spill. This project will monitor the progress of natural restoration of 13 oiled mussel beds last sampled in 1995, and 12 cleaned mussel beds last sampled in 1996. Documentation of recovery is of interest to subsistence villagers in Prince William Sound, and to the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator project. Further monitoring in 1998 is needed to evaluate the long term effectiveness of natural cleaning and restoration in both sets of oiled mussel beds.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal addresses the need to revisit oiled mussel beds which were experimentally cleaned in 1994 and last monitored in 1995. It is important to revisit these sites and once again look at oil concentrations at both treated and untreated sites to determine the effectiveness of the clean-up technique and whether oil continues to be present at untreated sites. Late report and manuscript from earlier work should be completed, and the valuable additional field work conducted in FY 99. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund this year. Although it is important to revisit oiled mussel beds last monitored in 1995, it is not essential that they be visited in FY 98. The final report (95090, due September 30, 1996) on the experimental cleaning and subsequent monitoring of these mussel beds has not been submitted and the three manuscripts funded in FY 97 (97090) have not been completed and submitted to peer review journals for publication.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98426	Harlequin Duck Population Dynamics: Patterns and Processes	D. Rosenberg/ADFG, D. Esler/DOI	ADFG	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$257.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This program is designed to document patterns of harlequin duck population structure and numerical fluctuation in oiled and unoiled parts of Prince William Sound and determine the processes underlying population dynamics. Core data collection includes yearly assessment of population numbers, population structure, and annual survival rates. In addition, we propose a series of specific research objectives designed to fill in data gaps necessary to build a comprehensive population dynamics model of Prince William Sound harlequin ducks. Ultimately, we intend to understand the relationships between oiling history, individual variation, demographic parameters, and population dynamics.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The recovery status of harlequin ducks should be reassessed after review of final reports on the current work (/427). This proposal has technical merit and is responsive to prior review comments. The investigators have done excellent work to date. However, it is premature to commence a major, multi-year commitment until the status of this species is reassessed. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project is designed to address data gaps in understanding the effects of the oil spill on harlequin duck populations. However, it is premature to undertake a new multi-year effort on harlequins until work currently underway (Project /427) is completed and evaluated.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98427-CLO	Harlequin Duck Recovery Monitoring	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	Cont'd 5th yr. 5 yr. project		$86.3	$78.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$78.2

Project Abstract

This project will complete the harlequin duck recovery monitoring project (/427). A final report and manuscripts will be prepared, reporting on the findings of this four-year project.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The Trustee Council has made a major commitment to monitoring of and research on harlequin ducks dating back to 1989. It is appropriate to complete current efforts and integrate the data with prior results. There may be some opportunity for cost savings by using manuscripts to fulfill reporting requirements. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a reduced budget. This project provides funds for preparation of a final report and manuscripts on this multi-year effort to assess the recovery status of harlequin ducks in Prince William Sound. The final report will incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (working with the TEK Specialist under Project /052B).

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Seabird/Forage Fish and Related Projects					$1,958.1	$3,856.8	$3,014.9	$2,290.8	$1,244.1	$465.0	$7,014.8
98142-BAA	Status and Ecology of Kittlitz's Murrelets in Prince William Sound	B. Day/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project		$331.7	$269.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$269.0

Project Abstract

We propose to conduct a third (and final) year of investigations on the status and ecology of Kittlitz's murrelet, a rare seabird breeding in glaciated fjords of Prince William Sound. Our study will continue to evaluate the distribution and abundance, habitat use, productivity, and trophic position of this little-known seabird in northwestern Prince William Sound. Given uncertainty about the effects of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill on this species, a better understanding of its status and ecology is required to ensure its long-term conservation.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Kittlitz's murrelet is a rare, poorly-known seabird that was injured by the oil spill. This project would conclude a 3-year effort on its basic life history and ecology. The PI is strong and has done excellent work to date. This project should be funded, including the additional mid-summer cruise. However, the PI has requested support to produce a final report plus four manuscripts. Given limited funds, this should be reduced to a final report plus one manuscript or the final report should be comprised of the four manuscripts. Either way the budget should be reduced.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised budget reflecting funding for preparation of only one manuscript. This study will gather basic information on the Kittlitz's murrelet, which is a rare, poorly known seabird. According to one estimate, a substantial fraction of the world population of this species was killed in the spill. The results of this study may lead to identification of restoration measures.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98144A	Common Murre Population Monitoring	D. Roseneau/USFWS	DOI	Cont'd 3rd yr. 5 yr. project	$50.0	$50.5	$57.4	$23.0	$0.0	$0.0	$80.4

Project Abstract

This project will collect common murre population data at the Chiswell Islands nesting colonies, which have not been censused since 1992. Data will be statistically compared with counts made at these colonies during the 1989-1991 common murre damage assessment studies and counts obtained during the 1992 common murre restoration monitoring project. Results of the analyses (e.g., differences among years, presence/absence of trends) will be used in combination with 1989-1997 Barren Islands information to evaluate and refine the overall recovery status of the common murre.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The recovery of murres from EVOS injury appears to be underway, but a reevaluation of their recovery status requires obtaining some population data from colonies other than the Barren Islands. The Chiswell Islands are accessible from Seward and there are data from visits during 1989-92 as well as pre-spill. I recommend funding this field work in FY 98 with close-out funds only in FY 99. The PIs are very experienced and have performed well to date. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised budget reflecting the combination of Project 98144B with this project, as well as slightly reduced personnel and travel costs. In FY 98, common murres will be monitored on the Chiswell Islands. In conjunction with censuses of common murre populations at the Barren Islands, the data from the Chiswell Islands should help reassess and refine the recovery status of common murres. Also in FY 98, the PI will prepare a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The project will be closed out in FY 99.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98144B	Common Murre Population Monitoring: Manuscript Preparation	D. Roseneau/USFWS	DOI	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$12.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The proposed project consists of preparation of a scientific publication on the 1989-1997 postspill trends in murre population numbers, nesting chronology, and productivity at the Barren Islands colonies (the nesting location with the most complete data history in the spill area).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Thousands of common murres died in the spill, and the Trustee Council has focused considerable effort on this species. It is timely to reassess its status taking into account all of the Council's work, as well as work sponsored by Exxon and others. These studies should be integrated, interpreted, and published in a first-line journal. Fund, but combine with 98144A.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Combine with Project 98144A.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98159	Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in Prince William Sound during Winter and Summer 1998	S. Kendall and D. Irons/USFWS	DOI	Cont'd 5th yr. 9 yr. project		$237.0	$237.0	$35.0	$230.0	$265.0	$767.0

Project Abstract

We propose to conduct small boat surveys to monitor abundance of marine birds and sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) in Prince William Sound, Alaska during March and July 1998. Five previous surveys have monitored population trends for more than 65 bird and 8 marine mammal species in Prince William Sound. We will use data collected in 1998 to continue to examine trends from summer 1989-98 and from winter 1990-98 by determining whether populations in the oiled zone changed at the same rate as those in the unoiled zone. We will also examine overall population trends for the Sound from 1989-98. In addition to monitoring the status of injured species, continued monitoring would confirm possible oil spill effects on species not previously considered injured.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is a continuation of the biennial boat survey of marine mammals and birds that produces a critical data set for tracking recovery of injured species in Prince William Sound. This monitoring is going forward at a frequency based upon a statistical power analysis, and is expected in future years to provide conclusive trend analyses for the recovery of injured species. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. The abundance surveys provide basic information on the status and recovery of seabirds (and sea otters) in Prince William Sound and should be continued on a biennial basis. The FY 98 survey will be the sixth biennial survey conducted since the spill. A statistical analysis indicates that 10 surveys need to be completed to enable researchers to confidently detect trends in seabird populations.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98163	APEX: Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska	D. Duffy/UAA	NOAA	Cont'd 4th yr. 6 yr. project	$1,800.0	$2,024.4	$2,018.5	$1,900.0	$900.0	$200.0	$5,018.5

Project Abstract

This study uses seabirds as probes of the trophic (foraging) environment of Prince William Sound, comparing their reproductive and foraging biologies, including diet, with similar measurements from Cook Inlet, an area with apparently a more suitable food environment. These measurements are compared with hydroacoustic and net samples of fish to calibrate seabird performance with fish distribution and abundance to determine the extent to which food limits the recovery of seabirds from the spill. We sample fish to compare diet, energetics and reproductive parameters of the different forage-fish species, to determine whether competitive and predatory interactions or different responses to the environment may favor the abundance of one fish species over another. In FY98, a new sub-project (/163S-BAA) to study jellyfish is included.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Overall, the APEX project is yielding worthwhile and exciting results. However, expected changes in the project are not fully apparent in this FY 98 proposal, and there are some questions regarding the cohesiveness and coordination within this large project and in relation to other projects (e.g., SEA\320). There is a specific concern that the modeling component Q appears to be expecting certain field data, such as absolute estimates of fish abundance and energy density, which appear unlikely to be produced given the description of hydroacoustic methods presented here. In regard to specific project components, I have the following comments: (A) It is crucial that FY 97 hydroacoustic data on forage fish be analyzed and made advailable to all other APEX PIs in a timely manner in Fall 1997. Receiving these data in a timely manner is essential to faciliate progress on and review of the entire project. (C) No FY 98 funds should be provided for processing fish-stomach samples; (R) A decision on continuation of the murrelet component (added to APEX in FY 97) should be deferred pending review of FY 97 data relating the productivity index to hydroacoustic data on forage fish; (S) The inclusion here of a jellyfish proposal is responsive to the FY 98 Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals, and the reviewers continue to believe that this work will make an important contribution to understanding of the Prince William Sound ecosystem for benefit of the entire EVOS program. Since this subproject would rely on APEX platforms, it is appropriate to include in APEX. I recommend funding subproject S. Overall, I recommend funding APEX at the level of $1.9 million in FY 98.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund all components except the marbled murrelet component (98163R) contingent on submittal of (1) a revised Detailed Project Description that satisfactorily addresses the concerns expressed by the Chief Scientist, (2) a revised budget that reduces overall funding to $1,900,000, including a reduction in 98163C and elimination of funding at this time for 98163R, and (3) the late report for 96163. Defer a decision on funding the marbled murrelet component ($118,500) pending review, preferably in the fall, of FY 97 data relating the marbled murrelet productivity index to hydroacoustic data on forage fish. This level of funding includes funds for a study of jellyfish, 98163S-BAA, that was specifically encouraged in the Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals. The APEX project investigates the link between forage fish and seabird productivity. This work may yield results that will benefit the marine ecosystem in Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98169	A Genetic Study to Aid in Restoration of Murres, Guillemots, and Murrelets in the Gulf of Alaska	V. Friesen/Queen's University, J. Piatt/USGS	DOI	Cont'd 2nd yr. 4 yr. project	$78.1	$88.3	$88.3	$86.2	$13.8	$0.0	$188.3

Project Abstract

Populations of common murres, pigeon guillemots, and marbled and Kittlitz's murrelets from the Gulf of Alaska are failing to recover from the oil spill. We propose to continue our genetic analyses to aid in their restoration by 1) determining the geographic limits of the populations affected by the oil spill, 2) identifying sources and sinks, and 3) identifying appropriate reference or control sites for monitoring. As incidental results, this study will also reveal cryptic species and subspecies, indicate the role of inbreeding and small effective population sizes in restricting recovery, and suggest suitable source colonies for translocations.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the 2nd year of a project to use genetic techniques to identify separate seabird populations and to clarify the populations injured by the spill. Despite the obvious skill of the principal investigator, the reviewers have some concern that the project is perhaps too ambitious, given the methods and budget. However, there apparently is cost sharing from other sources. Inclusion of this project in the upcoming genetics review session is essential. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. The upcoming genetics review session will include this project and may recommend changes in the scope and budget of the project. This project has the potential to improve our understanding of the relationship among common murres, pigeon guillemots and marbled and Kittlitz's murrelets and thereby help us design effective strategies to restore these injured species.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98287-BAA	Seabird-Oceanographic Relationships in the Northern Gulf of Alaska: Integration with NSF Study "GLOBEC"	B. Day/ABR, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$143.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

We propose to conduct a 3-year study of seabirds in the Northern Gulf of Alaska (Resurrection Bay to Montague Island) by using a ship-of-opportunity sampling platform of the NSF project "GLOBEC" (Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics), which also will provide access to an extensive series of oceanographic data. This proposed study is designed to identify ecological processes affecting temporal and geographic variation in the distribution and abundance of seabirds, including species that were injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. It also will provide valuable information to the restoration program by providing data on the year-round status of seabird populations and the processes that influence their variation.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The proposal would take advantage of a "ship of opportunity" to obtain data on Gulf of Alaska seabird populations in relation to oceanographic features. This ship would be provided by GLOBEC, and the chance to establish a link with this major scientific initiative is attractive. The PI is well qualified and the sample design presented here has merit, but the link to restoration objectives and current seabird work (APEX/163) is weak. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would investigate the at-sea distribution and abundance of seabirds in the northern Gulf of Alaska from a research vessel for the GLOBEC project, a marine ecosystem research project sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The opportunity to establish a link with GLOBEC is appealing. However, the project's link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives and ongoing seabird work is not strong.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98306	Ecology and Demographics of Pacific Sand Lance in Lower Cook Inlet	J. Piatt/USGS	DOI	Cont'd 2nd yr. 4 yr. project	$30.0	$32.8	$32.8	$30.0	$20.0	$0.0	$82.8

Project Abstract

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

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The sand lance is a poorly understood species which is a key prey for marine birds and marine mammals. Having more basic knowledge about its life history and ecology is essential to interpreting the prospects for recovery of several injured species. This work involves the work of a quality graduate student and is rather inexpensive. The work is well coordinated with APEX and is highly commended by the reviewers.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on receipt of the report due on 96163D, L and M (integrated into an annual report for the APEX project). This project would study sand lance, an important forage fish in the Gulf of Alaska. Sand lance populations have been in decline in recent years and should be studied in order to understand marine ecosystems as they may affect injured seabirds and marine mammals.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98327	Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Research at the Alaska SeaLife Center	D. Roby/Oregon State Univ.	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$119.7	$119.7	-		$0.0	$119.7

Project Abstract

This project will test the feasibility of direct restoration techniques for pigeon guillemots (e.g., installation of artificial nest sites, use of social attractants, captive propagation and release). While raising young guillemots in captivity it will also be possible to conduct controlled experiments crucial to two other restoration objectives: (1) development of nondestructive biomarkers of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, and (2) understanding how dietary factors (prey species composition, prey size, lipid content, feeding frequency) constrain growth, development, and condition at fledging in guillemots.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project has two interconnected objectives: (1) conduct research on the growth and physiology of nesting guillemots in relation to nutrition and oil and (2) test the ability to establish a colony of wild guillemots attracted to artificial nest sites at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Fledglings from the experimental work could eventually return to nest at the SeaLife Center, though it is not certain that enough birds would return to provide a sample size for measurement of survival in relation to the original experimental treatments. This work is closely tied to NVP (Project /025) and APEX (Project /163) hypotheses and has strong possibilities for public education and student involvement. It is assumed that eggs would be taken outside of the spill-impacted region early in the season that would result in double clutching. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on receipt of a revised budget with estimates of future costs. This project will improve our knowledge of how nutrition and oil affect the growth and physiology of guillemots. This information will help us understand the marine and nearshore ecosystems in Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98337	Archaeological Forage Fish	L. Yarborough/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$143.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Funding is requested for processing bulk samples from archaeology site SEW-430 on Eleanor Island to separate, identify, and quantify forage fish skeletal remains. Preliminary processing of one such sample from this rock shelter has yielded over 150 well-preserved skeletal elements of sand lance, small greenling and small sculpin. The identification process will include preparing modern comparative skeletal specimens, to reduce the need to travel to other locations to use comparative collections. The project goal is to provide identified, dated skeletal specimens of a variety of forage fish, representing populations from 500 to 4000 years old, to biologists seeking baseline ecological and climatic data for Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The discovery of this archaeological site on Eleanor Island provides a remarkable opportunity to develop a historical estimate of abundance of forage fishes. It does not appear, however, that an unbiased estimate of forage fish abundance could be obtained, and the proposal does not clarify the potential temporal resolution of the archeological record at the site or describe how the data would be analyzed.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has expressed significant concerns about the methodology of the proposed study.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98338	Survival of Adult Murres and Kittiwakes in Relation to Forage Fish Abundance	J. Piatt/USGS	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$76.1	$76.1	$124.0	$45.0	$0.0	$245.1

Project Abstract

Some seabird populations damaged by the spill continue to decline or are not recovering. In order to understand the ultimate cause of seabird population fluctuations, we must measure productivity, recruitment, and adult survival. Current APEX studies are focused on measuring productivity only. Recruitment measurement demands an unrealistic study duration. We propose to augment current studies in lower Cook Inlet that relate breeding success and foraging effort to fluctuations in forage fish density by using radio telemetry (contingent on pilot work) and banding to quantify the survival of adult common murres and black-legged kittiwakes.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal responds to previous APEX (Project /163) critiques regarding the importance of obtaining data on adult seabird survival to understand population-level effects of food availability. Overwinter survival could be the result of factors during the winter or through poorer body condition at the end of the breeding season. To a degree, these differences can be controlled for by stratifying comparisons within colonies and obtaining large sample sizes. This study was highly rated by the reviewers. I recommend deferring a decision on FY 98 funds contingent upon (1) the demonstrated success of the FY 97 pilot study of subcutaneous radio tags which is being carried out with non-EVOS funds and (2) an analysis of the additional cost of doubling the number of radioed murres per colony in Year 1 of the project.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding until completion of the pilot study of subcutaneous radio tags. This project would explore adult overwinter survival as one mechanism by which forage fish availability may be affecting the recovery of seabirds.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98343-BAA	Descriptive Oceanography of Glacial Fjords in Prince William Sound Used as Habitat by Kittlitz's Murrelets	S. Gay, K. Osgood/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$165.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Descriptive oceanographic studies of glaciated fjords in Prince William Sound are limited mainly to research conducted in Port Valdez and Unakwik Inlet during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Recent work done under the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) Herring project in Unakwik Inlet and Icy Bay has confirmed previously measured patterns and has revealed the unique oceanographic characteristics that these fjords exhibit as habitats for marine fishes, birds, and mammals. The goal of this project is to describe the characteristics of four glaciated fjords used by Kittlitz's murrelets during the summer and to link these characteristics to the high biological productivity seen in these fjords.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The PIs are well qualified and would address some questions of scientific interest. However, this project would be stronger with inclusion of some important biological elements (e.g., gathering comparitive data on marbled murrelets and also data on forage fish) and does not appear to contribute directly to identification of recovery objectives for Kittlitz's murrelet. The Trustee Council is funding Project \142 to obtain basic life history and ecology data on Kittlitz's murrelet with the hope that this information would lead to development of Kittlitz's murrelet recovery objectives. That work needs to be completed before additional work is considered.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has expressed significant concerns about the methodology of the proposed study. Furthermore, Project \142 must be completed before the need for additional research on Kittlitz's murrelets can be determined.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98346	Publication of an Indexed Bibliography of the Genus Ammodytes (Sand Lance)	R. Armstrong/UAA, M. Willson/USFS, M. Robards/DOI	USFS	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$5.4	$5.4	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$5.4

Project Abstract

Pacific sand lance is important in the diet of birds, fish, and sea mammals. Little is known about this species in Alaska. Much of the information is found in agency reports and gray literature, which are usually not attainable by library electronic searching methods. This project will review all studies of Pacific sand lance in Alaska and recommend further research. Studies done outside of Alaska will be integrated where local knowledge is lacking. The bibliography will cover all published and unpublished references on the genus *Ammodytes*. Key words and a summary of information will be provided for each reference. All references will be incorporated into a taxonomic, geographic and subject index.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

For a very modest cost, this project would publish a review and bibliography of studies on sand lance, a key forage fish species. Much of the needed work will be generated in Project /306, and this project concerns only the publication in an appropriate technical series. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. The proposed project is an inexpensive way of sharing information about sand lance through publication of a bibliography of published and unpublished reports about this species This information will contribute to the APEX project (/163), which is investigating the link between forage fish (including sand lance) and seabird productivity. APEX is designed to yield results that will benefit the marine ecosystem in Prince William Sound and the northern Gulf of Alaska.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98347	Fatty Acid Profile and Lipid Class Analysis for Estimating Diet Composition and Quality at Different Trophic Levels	R. Heintz/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$110.7	$110.7	$92.6	$35.3	$0.0	$238.6

Project Abstract

This project begins the systematic development of fatty acid profiles and lipid class analysis to identify diet differences and quality in predators on several trophic levels. Specifically we propose to relate the spatial variability of fatty acid profiles in herring and sandlance to their prey, and examine the nutritional consequences of high and low lipid diets in sea lions. Results of the fish studies will benefit APEX investigators by demonstrating the utility of fatty acid analysis for establishing dietary and energetic differences between aggregates of forage fish. Results of the sea lion study will address recent hypotheses concerning their declines in population size. Combined, the results of these two studies will provide a basis for future examinations of wild sea lion diets.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is an ambitious attempt to apply a new technique to determine feeding behavior of sea lions in the wild. It is yet unclear how specific the resolution of diet can be using results of fatty acid analysis. Given the complexity of the factors influencing fatty acid content of prey and predators, the statistical model necessary to test the hypotheses proposed is extraordinarily complex and needs further development. The results of this project and current work being conducted by the Trustee Council on harbor seals will provide important data on the feasibility of applying these techniques to quantitative evaluation of diet composiion of marine mammals. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description that responds to the Chief Scientist's request for further development of the statistical model. This project will enhance the ability to quantitatively evaluate the diet composition of marine mammals, thus contributing to the Trustee Council's effort to determine the reason for the long-term decline in harbor seals.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98357-BAA	Ancient Salmonid Fish Bone and Bivalve Shells: Indicators of Oceanographic Conditions and Stock Abundances	D. Love/U of S. Dakota	NOAA	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$78.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

We propose to acquire paleoecological data from four Prince William Sound archeological midden sites in PWS. The research plan includes: 1) radiocarbon dating of stratigraphic units from each midden, 2) measuring annual growth increments of intact molluscan shells, 3) stable isotope analyses of molluscan shells to determine seasonal and annual temperature patterns, and 4) reconstruction of fish size and growth rates from preserved fish remains. Results will be used to reconstruct historic climate patterns in PWS, relate changes in those patterns to changes in fish and molluscan growth, and relate the historical variations in climate and species abundances to changes in growth and abundance of species impacted by the spill.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal attempts to recreate historic abundance of marine animals from archeaological remains, but it is uncertain if it can achieve its goals. The methods proposed can assess growth rates in past marine animals, but these data cannot be extrapolated to abundance, and the growth data are not independently valuable for assessing past ecological conditions. In addition, the issue of site contamination is not addressed in the proposal. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the methodology of this project.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98358	Tree-Rings in the Exxon Valdez Spill Area: Ecosystem Implications for Injured Resources	G. Juday, V. Barber/UAF, G. Jacoby, R. D'Arrigo/Columbia University	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$148.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

A new project is proposed to apply conventional ring-width and unconventional isotope and x-ray density techniques of tree-ring analysis to develop a long-term (at least 250-year) record of the climate of the spill area in relation to some of the key injured resources. Preliminary data indicate that tree-rings correlate well with temperature and Alaska salmon catch. Tree-ring techniques should help determine the likelihood of sustaining a given population of injured resources. This project would help overcome the lack of pre-spill monitoring data. The project is needed because not enough tree-ring sites have been sampled, not all the techniques have been used in the spill area, and correlation of tree-rings with injured resources has not been investigated.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Having a 200-year record of marine temperatures is very appealing, but this proposal appears too exploratory in nature without a demonstration of clear relevance to EVOS objectives. In addition, the limited data presented are not compelling in regard to the proposed relationship between tree-ring growth and the marine environment. The proposal would benefit from greater consideration of regional versus stand-level sources of variation. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the scientific design of this project.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98364	Effects of Food Stress on Survival and Reproductive Performance of Seabirds	J. Piatt/USGS	DOI	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$90.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Traditional field methods of assessing effects of food stress on the survival and reproductive performance of seabirds may give equivocal results. This project will apply an additional tool--the rise in blood levels of stress hormones such as corticosterone in response to a standardized stressor: capture, handling and restraint. This well known response provides a strong assessment of whether or not a free-living population is chronically stressed. Thus the "field endocrinology" approach provides additional information of current stress status and the potential for stress. We will investigate seabirds breeding in Lower Cook Inlet and also use captive birds for controlled experiments at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a creative, sophisticated study that proposes to use corticosterone (a hormone) levels in seabirds as indicators of food stress and, ultimately, as proxies of survival in adult birds. This experimental approach could contribute to interpretation and testing of APEX hypotheses. There is concern, however, that corticosterone can be induced in response to various stressors (i.e., it is nonspecific). In addition, this work relies on a small pilot effort in FY 96, which, though promising, was only a single season and has not been reviewed or published. Therefore, this approach has considerable risk of not succeeding. I would prefer to see more validation of the technique before considering a favorable recommendation to the Trustee Council. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has raised significant concerns about the scientific design of this project and the limited pilot effort that tested the experimental technique to be used in this study.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Archaeological Resources					$201.3	$636.1	$206.9	$161.5	$0.0	$0.0	$368.4
98007A	Archaeological Index Site Monitoring	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	Cont'd 4th yr. 8 yr. project	$135.0	$145.3	$140.0	$151.5			$291.5

Project Abstract

Monitoring of archaeological sites on public land injured by vandalism and oiling will concentrate on a sample of index sites in the three regions of the spill. Oiled sites will be tested for reintroduced oil. This project will end in FY 99 if monitoring shows no continued injury.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is an ongoing project that is continuing to document the rate of degradation (vandalism, erosion, etc.) at archaeological sites in the spill area. The purpose of the radiocarbon dating needs to be substantiated by the investigator. Proposed Project 98007C should be combined with this project. Annual visitation of the four index sites is unnecessary. The proposal should be revised to incorporate visits to a combination of new and existing sites. The budget should be reduced to eliminate the cost of the proposed program evaluation. Fund at level of $140,000.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of (1) a revised Detailed Project Description that addresses the Chief Scientist's recommendations, (2) a reduced budget that eliminates the proposed project evaluation, and (3) the 96007A annual report. This project monitors archaeological sites injured by vandalism and oiling. In FY 98, by combining the 98007C proposal with this project, the sites to be monitored will include sites on land recently acquired through the habitat protection program as well as index sites and other sites of concern on public land.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98007B	Site Specific Archaeological Restoration	L. Yarborough/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 4th yr. 4 yr. project		$10.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Funding is requested for an additional phase of the Forest Service's archaeological restoration at sites SEW-440 and SEW-488. Project 98007B is a continuation of projects 97007B, 96007B, 95007B, and 94007B. The final report on the restoration project having been completed in FY97, this phase of the project will present the results of additional analysis to the professional and general public. The Principal Investigator will prepare a professional paper for publication, and a shortened version for presentation at the Alaska Anthropological Association annual meeting.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

It is certainly appropriate to follow through and publish the results of prior EVOS work, and the Trustee Council previously funded participation in a professional meeting and one publication for this PI. However, both the agency and PI should have an interest in seeing this additional publication appear in print. There is no compelling reason for continued Trustee Council support. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. In FY 97, the Trustee Council funded preparation of a manuscript about the archaeological restoration efforts at SEW-440 and SEW-488 and presentation of a paper at a professional conference. This project would continue these efforts into FY 99 and does not appear to be a high priority for use of restoration funds.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98007C	Archaeological Documentation, New Habitat Areas	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$80.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Habitat acquisition by the Trustee Council brought into public ownership sites vandalized during EVOS related activities. These sites, not accessible to the site restoration process because they were in private ownership, now will be documented to determine restoration needs. These sites will also be included in the continuing site monitoring program as necessary. Five sites on Kodiak Island, five sites on Shuyak Island, and five sites in Prince William Sound will be examined.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a proposal to examine the extent of vandalism at archaeological sites that have become available for study due to the EVOS habitat acquisition program. It is unclear why the rate of vandalism at these sites cannot be estimated using the existing index monitoring program. Do not fund as a project separate from 98007A.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Combine with Project 98007A.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98149	Archaeological Site Stewardship	D. Reger/ADNR	ADNR	Cont'd 3rd yr. 4 yr. project	$66.3	$66.9	$66.9	$10.0	$0.0	$0.0	$76.9

Project Abstract

The archaeological site stewardship program provides training and coordination for a cadre of volunteers to monitor vandalized sites in the oil spill area beyond the ability of agency monitoring. Volunteer site stewards are protecting damaged sites on the Kenai Peninsula, Kachemak Bay, Uganik Bay, Uyak Bay and the Chignik area of the Alaska Peninsula. Further protection will come from increased local awareness of harm from site vandalism.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

FY 98 would be the final field season for this project. It is essential to continue this pilot effort and have a careful evaluation of what worked and what didn't.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of 96149 annual report. This is a pilot project that trains and coordinates volunteers to monitor vandalized archaeological sites in the spill area. This effort is currently beyond the ability of normal agency management. After FY 98, expenses will be assumed either by volunteer stewards or agency budgets. The final report for the project, which will be prepared in FY 99, will include a program assessment to help other organizations interested in establishing site stewardship programs elsewhere in the spill area. The report will also include a description of how site stewardship programs in these areas will be continued after EVOS funding terminates.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98296	Exhibit-quality Catalog of Spill-related Archaeological Artifacts	B. Knight/NPS	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$107.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project consists of publication of an exhibit-quality catalog that contains photographs of representative spill-related archaeological artifacts and an interpretation of their significance. Such a publication would give village residents, agencies, scholars, and the general public a sense of the entire spill-related artifact collection and what can be learned from the collection and also acknowledge villagers' heritage resources and ties to place.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal will not provide the public with valuable archaeological information as it does not appear that cataloged objects will be presented in the context from which they came. Archaeologists consider objects important only in the context found. A catalog reinforces the value of removing objects and may promote vandalism.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund as part of the annual work plan. Consider along with decisions on overall planning for archaeological repositories. Project should be reconfigured from a catalog of artifacts to a readable document that describes the cultural significance of spill-related archaeological damage assessment and restoration work that has occurred. Usefulness to spill area residents should be emphasized.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98298-BAA	Public Brochure on Archaeology at the Alaska SeaLife Center	M. Yarborough	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$6.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Funding is requested for the publication of a public brochure describing archaeological research undertaken during construction of the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward. The brochure will contain both historic photographs and maps of the Seward water front, and photographs and drawings from the archaeological investigations. It will focus on research at the Lowell Homestead, the earliest American settlement in Seward. This publication will give the general public a sense of what has been learned from archaeology at the SeaLife Center, and an understanding of the richness and importance of heritage resources in the oil spill area.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Project is an inexpensive way to communicate to the public some of what has been learned about injured archaeological resources, but it is not clear that the Alaska SeaLife Center is interested in and would use this brochure. An educational brochure could be viewed as an appropriate form of restoration for resources that cannot be restored in any physical sense. However, there should be a policy decision on whether this is an appropriate project for Trustee Council funding.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund as part of the annual work plan. Consider along with decisions on overall funding for archaeological repositories.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98323-BAA	Modeling Differential *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Petroleum Hydrocarbon Impacts to Archaeological Resources	M. Cassell/IMA Consulting, Inc.	NOAA	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$220.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The proposed project seeks to understand the nature of past, current, and future impacts of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and subsequent cleanup efforts on known and unknown archaeological resources in the spill area by assessing the potential for differential spill impacts based upon variability within and between locale-specific geomorphic settings. The proposed study integrates archaeology, geomorphology, geographic information systems, and geophysical techniques. The result will be a predictive model of impact severity useful for efficient allocation of resources in ongoing archaeological impact assessment and treatment.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Although there may be some merit to the concepts underlying this proposal, no specific sites are mentioned and it is not clear that the approach would be effective. Further, potential contribution to ongoing recovery objectives is unclear. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The Chief Scientist has expressed significant concerns about the methodology of the proposed study. Furthermore, it is unclear that the results of the proposed study would contribute to the restoration of archaeological sites injured by the spill.

Subsistence					$1,332.4	$4,512.8	$1,452.5	$112.5	$90.1	$31.1	$1,686.2
98052A	Community Involvement	P. Brown/CRRC	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 8 yr. project	$250.0	$255.3	$175.0				$175.0

Project Abstract

This project will increase community involvement in the restoration process. The Spill Area-Wide Coordinator 's work will continue through a contract with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC). Through direct communication with a network of local facilitators, the Spill Area-Wide Coordinator will continue to actively involve local residents in the restoration program, particularly ongoing scientific studies. (Local facilitators will be located in Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Cordova, Seward, Seldovia, Valdez, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula.)

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would be the 4th year of an effort to foster participation of spill-area residents in the EVOS restoration program. This is a very worthwhile effort, but there is a significant question about how well the project is meeting its goals, from the standpoints of both the communities and the Trustee Council. The project would benefit from a formal review of its objectives and the means of meeting those objectives, including development of more concrete deliverables and improved accountability. Defer funding pending such a review.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund, but defer decision on level of funding and scope of project until project's accomplishments and cost effectiveness are formally evaluated later this summer (1997) and FY 96 annual report (96052) is submitted. This project, which is designed to facilitate communication and interaction among the Trustee Council, scientists, and residents of communities impacted by the oil spill, responds to an important goal of the Trustee Council. The project is currently in its third year, and it is appropriate to evaluate how well it is meeting its objectives before a recommendation for future activity is developed.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98052B	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	P. Brown-Schwalenberg/CRRC	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr.		$98.8	$50.0				$50.0

Project Abstract

This project would fund two TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) specialists to (1) provide technical assistance to restoration project PIs who plan to use, or for whom it would be appropriate to use, TEK, (2) serve as a contact point for spill area communities, the community facilitators and spill-area-wide coordinator hired under Project /052A, and principal investigators on issues related to TEK, (3) based upon the results of the evaluation of the feasibility of developing a comprehensive TEK database conducted under 97052B, address this component, and (4) organize and coordinate synthesis workshops between PIs and community experts. The TEK specialist would work under the guidance of an advisory group.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project seeks the beneficial exchange of knowledge from traditional and local sources and from scientific studies. This is a highly desirable goal. It was funded on a pilot basis in FY 97; not enough progress has been made yet in FY 97 to judge whether the project should continue in FY 98. If the project is continued, I would recommend identifying more concrete objectives and products and restructuring the TEK Advisory Group (it seems too large to be workable in its current form). In addition, perhaps this should be wholly integrated with Project /052A.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding until project's results-to-date are formally evaluated later this summer (1997). This project, which is designed to explore and facilitate the use of traditional knowledge in the restoration of injured resources, responds to an important goal of the Trustee Council. It was funded on a pilot basis in FY 97, and a review of its accomplishments and cost effectiveness will be undertaken before a recommendation for future activity is developed. If funded, the overall costs of the project should be reduced.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98127	Tatitlek Coho Salmon Release	Tatitlek IRA Council	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$12.0	$10.5	$10.5	$10.7	$0.0	$0.0	$21.2

Project Abstract

This project will create a coho salmon return to Boulder Bay near Tatitlek village. Enough coho eggs to produce 20,000 smolt will be collected from an ADFG approved stream, incubated and reared to smolt at the Solomon Gulch Hatchery, transported, and held for two weeks in net pens in Boulder Bay before release. Release will produce a 2,000 to 3,000 adult return to Boulder Bay for harvest in a subsistence fishery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the fourth year of a five-year project, which is successfully returning 2,000-3,000 coho per year to Boulder Bay. This subsistence replacement project should be continued, but FY 99 should be the final year of Trustee Council support.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund through FY 99 (one coho life cycle). This project is creating a "put and take" coho salmon run near Tatitlek as a replacement resource for subsistence resources injured by the oil spill. Two to three thousand coho salmon are expected to return for each year in which the project is carried out.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98131	Chugach Native Region Clam Restoration	P. Brown-Schwalenberg/CRRC	ADFG	Cont'd 4th yr. 5 yr. project	$365.0	$365.1	$280.0				$280.0

Project Abstract

Cost effective procedures for establishing safe, easily accessible subsistence clam populations near Native villages in the oil spill region will be established. The Qutekcak hatchery in Seward will annually provide about 800,000 juvenile littleneck clams and cockles. Historical information, local and agency expertise, and research will be used to identify areas to seed and what method to use. Total seeded area during the project will not exceed five hectares. Follow-up research on success of seeding will be conducted. Development work will be confined to areas near the Native villages of Eyak, Tatitlek, Nanwalek, and Port Graham.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Previous recommendations have emphasized the need to develop appropriate standard procedures for larval rearing for littleneck clam only, rather than pursue all aspects of rearing and field growth for both littlenecks and cockles. Unfortunately, this project has now encountered technical problems in the initial phase that threaten the viability of the whole concept. It has been apparent since project inception that the present (old) hatchery facilities are inadequate. However, it is unclear that these technical dificulties can be overcome, even in new facilities. Unless it can be clearly demonstrated that a standard operating procedure for production of viable juveniles can be successfully implemented in the new hatchery, I recommend that this project be terminated.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding until CRRC's (Chugach Regional Resources Commission) business plan for operation of the hatchery is approved by ADFG and the necessary permits are in place. If funded, recommend funding in FY 98 be limited to development of standard operating procedures that produce viable juvenile littleneck clams at the new hatchery. This project is intended to establish subsistence clam populations as replacement for subsistence resources injured by the spill, but the significant production problems encountered in the hatchery stage have prevented it from meeting its objective.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98210	Youth Area Watch	R. Sampson/Chugach School District	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 7 yr. project	$150.0	$150.2	$150.2				$150.2

Project Abstract

Youth Area Watch links students in the oil spill impacted area with research and monitoring projects funded through the Trustee Council. The goal is to involve students in the restoration process, and give these individuals the skills to participate in oil spill restoration activities now and in the years to come. Youth conduct research identified by principal investigators who have indicated interest in working with students in oil spill impacted communities. Youth Area Watch serves as a positive example of community investment in the restoration process. Participating communities are: Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Cordova, Seward, Valdez, Whittier, and a remote site.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Presentations by student participants in the Youth Area Watch project at this year's Annual Restoration Workshop were very well received. The project is doing a good job of meeting its goal of involving youth in the restoration process and should be funded again in FY 98. The personnel and indirect costs seem high, however, and should be reviewed by administrative staff.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project is designed to involve local youth in ongoing restoration projects. In FY 98, 28 youth in Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Cordova, Whittier, Valdez, Hinchinbrook Island, and Seward will participate. In FY 98, with funding for the project coordinator (a Chugach School District employee) being increased from nine months to twelve months, it is expected that at least one article on the Youth Area Watch program will be prepared, peer reviewed by the Chief Scientist, and submitted to a journal for publication. In FY 99, funding will be contingent on presentation in the Detailed Project Description of a concrete plan to transition away from Trustee Council funding.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98220-CLO	Eastern PWS Wildstock Salmon Habitat Restoration	D. Schmid/USFS	USFS	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$12.0	$11.9	$11.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$11.9

Project Abstract

This project will close out Project /220. It consists of monitoring the instream habitat structures built in FY 97, an analysis of the utilization of the structures by juvenile fish, an escapement count of coho salmon in October 1997, and a final report by September 1998.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the closeout of a 3-year project, and the final report should quantitatively describe the amount of coho salmon produced by the project. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on (1) satisfactory completion of the Environmental Assessment currently underway and (2) successful completion of construction scheduled for this summer (1997). This project will monitor habitat improvements being constructed in Plateau Creek under Project 97220. Structures will be monitored to see how well they have withstood high flows, the amount of habitat created, and the utilization by juvenile coho salmon. This project is designed to replace subsistence services lost due to the oil spill by increasing wild salmon production near the Native Village of Eyak. Funding is included for preparation of the final report in FY 98; the final report should quantitatively describe the amount of coho produced by this project.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98225	Port Graham Pink Salmon Subsistence Project	E. Anahonak, Port Graham IRA Council	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 5 yr. project	$75.0	$76.5	$73.5	$75.0	$75.0	$0.0	$223.5

Project Abstract

This project will provide pink salmon for subsistence use in the Port Graham area while maintaining the Port Graham hatchery's broodstock development schedule. Because local runs of coho and sockeye salmon, the more traditional salmon subsistence resource, are at low levels, pink salmon are being heavily relied on for subsistence. This project will help ensure that pink salmon remain available for subsistence use until the more traditional species are rejuvenated. Two strategies are being employed; increased fisheries management surveillance to maximize use of adult pink salmon return and increasing marine survival of hatchery produced pink salmon.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is in its 3rd year and has a high probability of producing more salmon for subsistence users. I encourage a greater effort to share the results of this project in local communities, as well as with professional organizations. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised budget. This project is designed to increase the availability of pink salmon for subsistence use near the village of Port Graham, replacing runs of coho and sockeye salmon depleted since the oil spill.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98236	Exhibits on Human Uses of Marine Resources for the Alaska SeaLife Center	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$84.6	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Alaska Native residents of the oil spill impacted area have expressed the opinion that it is important that information on their harvest and use of marine resources, including marine mammals, seabirds, invertebrates and fish, be incorporated into the exhibits presented at the Alaska SeaLife Center. This project proposes to produce educational exhibits on the human uses of the various marine animals on display at the SeaLife Center.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

I agree that the Alaska SeaLife Center should work closely with Alaska Natives in the development of interpretive exhibits at the Center. However, these decisions seem appropriate for consideration by the board of the SeaLife Center, not the Trustee Council. In addition, consideration should be given to addressing the human uses of all marine resources, not just those in Prince William Sound.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project's goal is to involve Alaska Natives in the development of interpretive exhibits at the Alaska SeaLife Center. At its December 6, 1996 meeting the Trustee Council adopted a motion recommending that the Center work closely with the Native community in this regard. However, it is appropriate for the costs of the exhibits, including the planning for them, to be borne by the Alaska SeaLife Center rather than the Trustee Council.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98244	Community-Based Harbor Seal Management and Biological Sampling	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	ADFG	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$85.0	$87.2	$85.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$85.0

Project Abstract

This project funds a biological sample collection program, implemented in FY 96 and expanded in FY 97, in Prince William Sound, lower Cook Inlet, and the Kodiak area. Village-based technicians will be selected by the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission (ANHSC) and trained to collect samples and transport these samples to Anchorage or Kodiak for further sampling and analysis. In addition to coordinating the biological sampling program, the ANHSC will organize a two-day workshop and produce and distribute a newsletter.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is the 3rd year of a 3-year pilot project, and in many respects it seems to be a model of how subsistence hunters and the research community can cooperate. There are questions about how many samples are needed and whether harbor seal researchers are making use of the samples collected to date or that will be collected in FY 98. A thorough review of the results of the pilot project is essential before any decisions are made regarding continuation of the program. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund final year of this three-year pilot project contingent on submittal of a revised budget at the expected level of $85,000, including funds for preparation of a final report by September 30, 1997. This project is serving as a prototype for a long-term sampling program that would involve Native hunters in the management of harbor seals. In the near term, this project is enabling Native hunters to provide harbor seal samples to ongoing EVOS projects which seek to explain why harbor seals are not recovering. A formal review of the results of this pilot project (use of samples by harbor seal researchers, number of samples needed, etc.) will be scheduled prior to consideration of biosampling beyond FY 98.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98247	Kametolook River Coho Salmon Subsistence Project	Perryville Village Council	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 6 yr. project	$13.8	$14.9	$14.9	$14.8	$15.1	$31.1	$75.9

Project Abstract

Subsistence users from the Alaska Peninsula Native Village of Perryville have noted significant declines in the coho salmon run in the nearby Kametolook River since the oil spill. The criminal settlement funded the first year of the project (1996) to determine what method would best restore the river's coho salmon stock to historic levels. This project will provide funding through FY 2002 for ADFG to try conservative and safe restoration methods. Instream incubation boxes will be evaluated. Habitat improvements for spawning and rearing habitat will also be considered. Ultimately, some combination of both may be the best approach to restoring coho (or possibly chum) salmon as a subsistence resource.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The PIs have done a good job addressing previous scientific concerns, and this project has excellent local participation. There is some concern that mixed stock fisheries could reduce returns. This is a worthwhile project. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on (1) satisfactory completion of the Environmental Assessment underway in FY 97 and (2) revision of the Detailed Project Description to clarify whether instream incubation boxes will be installed in the summer of 1997 and to outline measurable project tasks for FY 98. This project is designed to enhance a small coho salmon run near the Alaska Peninsula village of Perryville as a replacement for subsistence resources injured by the oil spill. Trustee Council funding is anticipated through 2002, at which time the run is expected to be self-sustaining.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98256B	Sockeye Salmon Stocking at Solf Lake	D. Gillikin/USFS, P. Shields/ADFG	USFS	Cont'd 3rd yr. 7 yr. project	$143.5	$95.5	$95.5				$95.5

Project Abstract

This project is designed to benefit subsistence users of Prince William Sound and especially residents of Chenega Bay. Habitat improvements were made in 1978, 1980 and 1981 to provide access to Solf Lake for anadromous fish. Investigations suggest that the lake is fishless and has adequate zooplankton biomass to support a salmon population. There are two phases to this project. The feasibility phase, which began in FY 96, has verified the ability of Solf Lake to support a sustainable population of sockeye salmon. Phase 2 plans to initially stock the lake with 100,000 sockeye salmon fry in 1998 and ensure access to Solf Lake for returning adult sockeye salmon.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This would be the 3rd year of a 7-year project to establish a self-sustaining sockeye run at Solf Lake as a subsistence resource for Chenega Bay residents. The proposers are well qualified and have been responsive to previous questions raised by the reviewers. This project has a high probability of success. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project is intended to provide sockeye salmon as a replacement for subsistence fishing resources injured by the oil spill, particularly for the residents of Chenega Bay. The number of years of Trustee Council support for the stocking effort will be dependent on annual results.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98263	Assessment, Protection and Enhancement of Salmon Streams in Lower Cook Inlet	W. Meganack, Jr./Port Graham Corporation	ADFG	Cont'd 2nd yr. 3 yr. project	$115.0	$153.1	$135.4	$12.0	$0.0	$0.0	$147.4

Project Abstract

This project will replace lost subsistence services resulting from the oil spill by constructing enhancement projects on the major salmon streams in the Lower Cook Inlet spill area. Protection and enhancement will be implemented using instream fisheries habitat improvement techniques, primarily creation of spawning channels, removal of natural barriers to spawning, and construction of wall-based rearing structures. Local subsistence users will be employed as technical assistants during field surveys and construction.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project has been slow to get started in FY 97. Consideration of FY 98 funding should be deferred pending review of results following the FY 97 field work.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding the second year of this project until the FY 97 results have been reviewed. If funded, funding should be at the level expected for FY 98. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance salmon streams important to the restoration of subsistence in the Port Graham area. If successful, this project will serve as a model for protection of public salmon resources in other streams that cross land owned by the Port Graham Corporation.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98273	Surf Scoter Life History and Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with Traditional Knowledge to Conserve the Resource	D. Rosenberg/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$179.4	$170.0			$0.0	$170.0

Project Abstract

This project will study the life history and ecology of surf scoters wintering in Prince William Sound and lower Cook Inlet, and integrate this information with traditional ecological knowledge. Scoter populations in Alaska are declining for unknown reasons. Local residents harvest scoters for subsistence purposes. Scoters will be marked with surgically implanted satellite transmitters to define the breeding areas, molting areas, and wintering areas. Local participation will be solicited and information will be conveyed to local residents through the Youth Area Watch program (Project \210).

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Residents of rural villages in the spill area have repeatedly expressed concern that the Trustee Council is not sponsoring studies on waterfowl important to subsistence users. This is a rather expensive proposal, but it addresses a valuable subsistence resource, scoters, and has the potential to provide important data linking breeding and wintering locations that can contribute to long-term conservation. There is an excellent community involvement element, including an education component for school children. The budget should be reevaluated, especially labor costs, to determine if the overall project cost can be reduced to a more sustainable level. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a reduced budget (a maximum of $170,000; personnel costs should be reviewed for additional savings). This project will study the life history and ecology of surf scoters in Prince William Sound (and perhaps lower Cook Inlet in future years) 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 and welfare of the population. Concerns over the declining number of surf scoters were raised by subsistence users at the 1997 EVOS Annual Workshop. Surf scoters are not on the injured species list. However, the Trustee Council's Restoration Plan allows restoration actions to address resources not on the list if the action will benefit an injured resource or service; this project would benefit the service of subsistence. Traditional ecological knowledge will be integrated into the project (working with the TEK Specialist under Project /052B) and Youth Area Watch students (Project /210) will be asked to participate in the capture and monitoring of the scoters.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98274	Documentary Film on Subsistence Use of Herring, Herring Spawn, and Resources in the Nearshore Ecosystem in Prince William Sound	Tatitlek Village Council	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$116.1	$89.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$89.5

Project Abstract

This project would produce a 50 minute film on the subsistence use of herring, herring spawn, and nearshore ecosystem resources in Prince William Sound. Historically, the nearshore ecosystem produced critical resources for subsistence users including herring spawn, octopus, clams, mussels, sea otters, harlequin ducks, and chitons. In the harbor seal documentary (Project 96214) Tatitlek residents discussed their view of the relationship between the oil spill, Pacific herring populations, harbor seal populations, and their ability to pursue subsistence. This film will expand on this discussion by documenting all facets of herring and nearshore ecosystem resource use including the ecological and biological knowledge people use to harvest those resources.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project is patterned after the harbor seal video (/214), which was released in Spring 1997. The harbor seal video has proven to be popular among the rural residents of Alaska and should contribute to the restoration of subsistence services. A video on herring should be equally educational and useful. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a revised Detailed Project Description and budget which reduce the project's scope and cost to a level comparable to the harbor seal video (Project 96/97214). This project, which will produce a documentary through a competitive bid and involve the community of Tatitlek, is designed to contribute to the restoration of herring, nearshore resources, and subsistence uses by transmitting local knowledge about herring and nearshore resources to the scientific community.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98286	Elders/Youth Conference on Subsistence and the Oil Spill	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	Cont'd 2nd yr. 2 yr. project	$111.1	$111.1	$111.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$111.1

Project Abstract

Building on the recommendations from the Community Conference on Subsistence and the Oil Spill sponsored by the Trustee Council in October 1995, this project will bring together elders and youth from all of the oil spill-affected communities to focus on means of assisting in the recovery of injured resources. Funds were provided in FY 97 for preliminary planning. Funds requested in FY 98 will be for holding the conference itself, which is scheduled to be held in Cordova in March 1998. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as an idea; a DPD and detailed budget need to be prepared.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Because the Detailed Project Description for this project is still being developed, it is difficult at this time to assess the project's merits or potential contribution to restoration. However, bringing together subsistence users from throughout the spill region and EVOS researchers sounds like a good idea. Defer pending completion of the Detailed Project Description.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision until a Detailed Project Description and budget are submitted and reviewed. In preparing their Detailed Project Description, the proposers should consider working with the Kodiak Tribal Council, who through Project 98336 (which is not recommended for funding) expressed interest in bringing together affected parties to promote the recovery of subsistence. The Elders/Youth Conference, which would involve subsistence users from throughout the spill area and EVOS researchers, should focus on the status of recovery of the resources and services (including subsistence) injured by the spill as well as means of assisting in the recovery of injured resources. Initial planning money for the conference, which is scheduled for March 1998 in Cordova, was provided by the Trustee Council in FY 97 (97286). The Council sponsored a similar conference in October 1995.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98293-BAA	Bidarki and Gumboot Chitons: Recruitment and Habitat Selection	D. Scheel, T. Vincent/PWSSC	NOAA	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$196.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Bidarki (*Katharina tunicata*) and gumboot (*Cryptochiton stelleri*) chitons are important intertidal subsistence resources in spill-area villages. The complaint that chitons are harder to find following the oil spill has been repeatedly voiced by village residents over at least the past five years. No EVOS study has examined bidarki and gumboot populations with the goal of identifying whether densities are depressed on oiled/treated beaches or with the intent to design enhancement methods. This project will examine recruitment and retention of chitons in intertidal and nearshore subtidal habitats, experimentally test factors affecting chiton use of intertidal habitats, and design methods to enhance densities of these chitons in the intertidal.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would address whether there are remaining patterns of low chiton abundance on oiled shores and evaluate possible augmentation approaches. However, given limited baseline data, it seems unikely that such effects could be detected at this time. The PI did an excellent job on an octopus project (/009D) which has some similarities to what is proposed here. However, I cannot recommend funding this proposal.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review of project's feasibility. This project was designed to address the concern, raised by subsistence users in Port Graham, Tatitlek, and Chenega Bay, that chiton stocks were depleted by the oil spill and that subsistence uses are impaired. However, it is unlikely that eight years after the spill oiling effects will be detectable.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98315	Major Shellfish Conference: Qutekcak Tribe	E. Blatchford/Qutekcak	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$267.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide funding to the Qutekcak Native Tribe to facilitate a major shellfish conference (and related follow-up) to increase the potential for clam and oyster production and harvesting in the region.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The goal of this proposal is to share knowledge of local people involved in bivalve activities by inviting experts to Seward for a conference. A much more cost-effective approach would be to send local hatchery managers to the frequent mariculture conferences in other parts of the country, or possibly hiring a knowledgeable consultant. The stated lack of coordination as a problem among Alaskan mariculturists is not well established. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would bring together shellfish growers, hatchery experts, and academic and industry experts to discuss the shellfish growth and seeding process in support of the Qutekcak Native Tribe's shellfish hatchery operation. The Trustee Council has made a significant contribution to Qutekcak's effort (to date, $845,100 through Project /131). The problems being experienced by Qutekcak perhaps lend themselves to technical assistance, but such assistance could be obtained more cost effectively by sending local hatchery managers to mariculture conferences held in other parts of the country (funds for this purpose were provided under 97131 and are requested again in 98131).

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98324-BAA	Community-Based Harbor Seal Research	M. Reidel/Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	NOAA	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$300.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project aids restoration of harbor seals and subsistence by developing fundamental data sets needed to (1) evaluate factors affecting the harbor seal decline, (2) document potentially sensitive harbor seal habitats during fall-winter-spring, and (3) document local marine occurrences, such as concentrations of schooling fishes that may be associated with the decline or recovery of harbor seals. This project involves the knowledge and expertise of subsistence users and other community members to: survey seasonal changes in harbor seal distribution during fall-winter-spring; develop detailed annotated harbor seal distribution maps; and record observations of local marine occurrences and summarize observations in regional newsletters.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a very expensive proposal that will produce only generalized knowledge regarding harbor seals. The proposal contains no link to ongoing work addressing the decline of harbor seals, and may not provide information of importance to recovery objectives for this species. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Although the project would increase local involvement in harbor seal research, it would not contribute significantly to understanding why harbor seals are not recovering. Adding a local involvement element to other ongoing harbor seal work should be considered, and a representative of the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission should be invited to participate in the upcoming harbor seal review (probably Fall 1997).

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98331	Copper River Intertribal Fisheries Commission Development	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$432.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will assist with the formation of a Copper River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission to protect and enhance the salmon runs on the Copper River to replace the lost subsistence resources in Prince William Sound. The project will also install modern automated run-monitoring and data collection equipment on the Copper River tributaries and will develop a Tribal Fisheries Management Plan using data collected over a five year period. The Copper River fishery is at risk because of a shift in resource use from subsistence and commercial fishing to urban sport and personal use fishing. An inter-tribal fisheries commission is needed to protect the Copper River fishery.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal concerns a fisheries allocation issue that is a matter for the appropriate management agencies to address. There is no strong link to restoration objectives. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This proposal would fund an Intertribal Fisheries Commission to speak for Alaska Natives in support of the allocation of Copper River salmon to subsistence and commercial fishing rather than to sport and personal use fishing. Such allocation issues are under the purview of various management agencies and are not appropriate for the Trustee Council to address.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98332	Eyak Subsistence Recovery Camp	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$43.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will establish a subsistence recovery camp for Alaska Native substance abusers affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. As identified by Picou and Gill (1992), Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome is directly linked to the environmental damage done by the oil spill and the subsistence way of life that Alaska Native people have used for thousands of years. With the results of the oil spill still being felt by the communities through lack of or reduced abundance of specific species (i.e., harbor seal, herring, herring spawns) there has been an upsurge of addictive behaviors exhibited. As in the case of harbor seal, the research scientists have asked for a voluntary reduced harvest. This may be warranted from the scientific viewpoint, but is extremely frustrating to the subsistence user and increases the emotional and psychological trauma that they have experienced.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Establishing a recovery camp for Alaska Natives affected by the oil spill is an important idea. However, in FY 97 the Trustee Council decided not to fund this same proposal because it did not restore an injured natural resource, as required in the settlement agreement with Exxon. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project, which would establish a recovery camp for Alaska Natives affected by the oil spill, was considered by the Trustee Council in FY 96. Funding was denied because the project would not "restore, replace, enhance, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured as a result of the oil spill or the lost or reduced services provided by such resources," as required by the civil settlement with Exxon Corporation.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98333	Sea Otter Population Monitoring	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$287.5	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will involve the Native Village of Eyak in monitoring the sea otter population in Prince William Sound. While sea otters appear to have been recovering region wide, localized populations appear to be experiencing trouble. During the past two years, the sea otter population in the Cordova area has experienced reduced population viability. Initial inquiries by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicated Native hunting may be a cause. However, the Native hunters believe the sea otter population is likely experiencing problems because of reduced resource availability. This project will use regular boat surveys to assess population distribution and abundance.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The only evidence of ongoing injury to sea otters is in oiled parts of western Prince William Sound, and the recent decline in the Cordova area does not appear to have any connection to the oil spill. The methods proposed here are unclear, and there is no indication that the results of prior work on boat and aerial surveys have been considered. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. As proposed, this project would fund local residents to conduct boat surveys of sea otters in Orca Inlet near the Native Village of Eyak and establish a local sea otter commission to establish guidelines for the harvesting of sea otters. While co-management of resources is of interest to both the state and federal governments, in this case it does not meet a restoration objective of the Trustee Council. The sea otter population proposed for study and management is outside of the area that was directly oiled. Its decline appears to be related to the inability of prey populations to sustain such a large number of sea otters rather than an oil effect.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98334	Restoration of Prince William Sound Pink Salmon through Test Fishery Project	B. Henrichs/Native Village of Eyak	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$511.8	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Pink salmon egg mortality attributed to oiling of anadromous streams has contributed to a reduction in adult pink salmon returns. Natural populations of pink salmon are harvested with large numbers of hatchery pink salmon in mixed stock fisheries, which may limit escapement to damaged streams and thereby delay recovery. This project will evaluate the feasibility of changes in hatchery production to reduce exploitation of injured wild stocks. Specific projects will focus on changing the location and timing of hatchery returns in western Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would explore possible changes in hatchery production of pink salmon to reduce exploitation on injured wild stocks. However, other studies sponsored by the Trustee Council indicate that there no longer are differences in egg mortalities between oiled and unoiled streams. Further, the Trustee Council has made an enormous investment in improving pink salmon fisheries management through the otolith mass marking project. There is little justification for undertaking this project at this time. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project, which is designed to alleviate harvest pressure on wild stocks of pink salmon in western Prince William Sound by developing hatchery runs with altered location and timing, was considered by the Trustee Council in FY 97. Funding was denied based on concerns raised by the Chief Scientist regarding the appropriateness of altered run timing and remote releases. Furthermore, the Council has made a significant investment in otolith mass marking (Project /188) as a preferred means of improving pink salmon fisheries management.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98335	Nanwalek Hatchery	V. Kvasnikoff, Nanwalek IRA Council	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$86.7	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide construction funds to renovate a building in Nanwalek to be used as a hatchery for the incubation of sockeye salmon eggs. The hatchery would be able to hatch and care for up to 1.5 million sockeye salmon eggs taken from local stock. The English Bay River sockeye salmon has been depleted from approximately 45,000 returning adult salmon to a low of about 3,500.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The run of sockeye salmon to Nanwalek returned to prespill levels in 1997, so there seems to be minimal justification for funding hatchery construction by the Trustee Council. The existing arrangement between Nanwalek and the Port Graham hatchery has been successfully used to restablish the run. The proposal does not justify the establishment of a second hatchery so close to Port Graham.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

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

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98336	Subsistence Restoration through Community Participation	M. Roberts/Kodiak Tribal Council	ADFG	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$107.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide funds for instruction on responsible resource use and development of local management plans to protect and manage injured resources. The project has four phases: (1) hunting classes in each Kodiak Island community, (2) instruction in safe food preservation techniques, (3) instruction in the use of subsistence resource by-products by local traditional artists, and (4) a round table meeting to discuss co-management issues affecting subsistence resources. [NOTE: This proposal was submitted as a letter; a DPD and detailed budget need to be prepared.]

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Good proposal. Project objectives and means of achieving the objectives are clearly defined; budget seems reasonable. However, in the past proposals like this which do not restore an injured resource, as required in the settlement agreement with Exxon, have been considered inappropriate. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This proposal, which would provide funds for instruction in subsistence hunting, safe food preservation, and use of resource by-products in traditional art, is worthwhile but is not appropriate for Trustee Council funding. The proposal is designed to restore subsistence activities, but it does not do so through restoring an injured resource as the Trustee Council's Restoration Plan requires. Kodiak elders and youth will be invited to participate in the Conference on Subsistence and the Oil Spill to be sponsored by the Council in March 1998 (Project 98286), and can perhaps be part of the planning effort for the conference as well. The conference will focus on means of assisting in the recovery of injured resources.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98353	EVOS Restoration Public Access and Education Program	H. Tomingas/Ocean Explorers	ADFG	New 1st yr. 6 yr. project		$250.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project will provide a feasible, manageable, marine science research operation and input program for traditional knowledge holders, educators, coastal communities, and administrators and will develop an educational coastal environmental awareness program.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The goal of increasing community participation in the restoration program is important. However, this proposal is rather unclear in its specific objectives and methods. In addition, the Trustee Council already has invested in these goals through such projects as \052 and \210.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. In general, the project would pay for community members to be transported to and stay aboard research vessels under contract to EVOS projects. Participation of spill-area residents in ongoing research projects is a goal of the Trustee Council. However, the Council is pursuing this goal through its Community Involvement (/052) and Youth Area Watch (/210) projects.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98356	Sockeye Salmon Stocking Feasibility at Chucks Lake	D. Gillikin, P. Shields/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 5 yr. project		$41.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project is intended to benefit subsistence users of northern Prince William Sound by establishing a sustainable sockeye salmon run within close proximity to the Village of Tatitlek. Chucks and Larae Lakes are connected clear water lakes within 20 boating miles and 12 air miles of Tatitlek. This system is currently not accessible to anadromous fish due to barrier falls at the lakes' outlet stream. There are two phases to this project: Phase 1 will determine the ability of the Chucks and Larae lakes system to support a sustainable population of sockeye salmon and at what level initial stocking should occur. Phase 2 will initiate a sockeye salmon stocking program at the lake, if found to be feasible, and provide access to the system for returning fish.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal presents a feasible opportunity to create a sockeye salmon run in Chuck's Lake, but does not provide justification that additional sockeye replacement resources are necessary. It seems inappropriate to undertake yet another supplementation project without an overall assessment of whether additional salmon replacement resources are required to meet recovery objectives. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would conduct a feasibility study to determine if sockeye salmon can be stocked at Chucks Lake near Tatitlek. The project is designed to replace subsistence resources lost due to the oil spill by increasing sockeye salmon production in northern Prince William Sound. However, the Chief Scientist is concerned that an overall assessment of the need for additional supplementation efforts should be undertaken before new supplementation efforts are initiated.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98363	Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale on Port Graham Corporation Lands on the Kenai Peninsula	W. Meganack/Port Graham Corp.	ADFG	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$178.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This project consists of an ecosystem analysis at the watershed scale for all watersheds on Port Graham Corporation lands from the Ailalik Peninsula near Seward to the Port Graham drainage in Kachemak Bay. The project will characterize all human, aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial features, conditions, processes, and interactions within these watersheds. This analysis will enhance the ability of land managers to estimate direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of corporation management activities and guide the general type, location, and sequence of management activities within each watershed.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The concept of assessing resources on Port Graham Corporation lands is a good one, but the methods proposed here are vague. Moreover, this work seems the responsibility of the landowner and not the Trustee Council. The qualifications of the consultant who would conduct the project are not discussed. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. Proposed methods are vague. Other projects funded by the Trustee Council [e.g., 98225 (plnk salmon), 98263 (salmon), 98244 (harbor seals), and 98131 (clams)] have much greater potential to restore subsistence resources than does this proposed study.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Habitat Improvement					$834.0	$1,456.3	$702.1	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0	$752.1
98180	Kenai Habitat Restoration & Recreation Enhancement	M. Kuwada/ADFG, A. Weiner/ADNR	ADNR	Cont'd 3rd yr. 3 yr. project	$834.0	$864.4	$500.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$500.0

Project Abstract

Adverse impacts to the banks of the Kenai River total approximately 19 miles of the river's 166-mile shoreline, including 5.4 river miles of public land. Riparian habitats have been impacted by trampling, vegetation loss and structural development. The project's objectives are to restore injured fish habitat, protect fish and wildlife habitat, enhance and direct recreation, and preserve the values and biophysical functions that the riparian habitat contributes to the watershed. Restoration/enhancement techniques will include revegetation, streambank restoration, elevated boardwalks, floating docks, access stairs, fencing, signs, and educational interpretive displays.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This may be a worthwhile project that provides public demonstration of physical accomplishments by the restoration program and fulfills a key educational role at the same time. Given the scale and expense of the program, however, the proposal provides inadequate detail regarding methods, previous accomplishments, and proposed FY 98 activities. The annual report for this project was similarly lacking in detail. There also is concern about high personnel costs (2 FTEs), given that most of the work is contractual. I recommend deferring a decision on funding pending review of more substantial descriptions of what has been accomplished and proposed. In addition, I recommend that the Trustee Council consider spreading any remaining funding over two fiscal years to provide more flexibility in meeting other priorities in FY 98. Fund at a reduced level.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding until (1) a revised Detailed Project Description is submitted that provides more detail regarding proposed FY 98 activities, (2) a reduced budget is submitted, and (3) a formal evaluation of the project's methods and accomplishments is conducted later this summer (1997). Personnel costs (two full-time positions) are high for a project that is done primarily under contract. Phasing of project costs over two years (FY 98 and FY 99) should also be considered. This project is designed to aid restoration of habitat along the Kenai River for the benefit of sockeye salmon and other fish species of commercial and recreational importance.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98314	Homer Mariner Park Habitat Assessment and Restoration Design Project	E. Bechtol/City of Homer	ADNR	New 1st yr. 1 yr. project		$102.1	$102.1	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$102.1

Project Abstract

In its present state, Mariner Park is a highly stressed marine habitat in decline. The area is experiencing a dramatic reduction in marine biota and shorebird population while incompatible and environmentally destructive human uses flourish. From the results of a comprehensive feasibility study that includes botanical, biological, and hydrological field studies coupled to community information it is possible to develop a comprehensive habitat restoration and enhancement plan. This plan will establish the optimal hands-on restoration program to increase and diversify the intertidal fauna, which in turn will benefit migrating shorebirds and promote recreationally compatible use of the area by residents and tourists.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would develop a feasibility plan and environmental assessment for the restoration of tidelands in Mariner Park in Homer. This is one of the few meaningful opportunities to directly restore intertidal habitats, which were so severely affected by the oil spill. If the project proves feasible, there is no implied commitment on the part of Trustee Council for funding any subsequent construction.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This proposal will produce a feasibility study and NEPA compliance document for restoration of an intertidal area damaged as a result of spill response efforts. The restored area will improve habitat for seabirds injured by the spill. Funding of these efforts is not a commitment for Trustee Council funding for implementation of this project.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98339	Prince William Sound Human Use and Wildlife Disturbance Model	K. Murphy, L. Suring/USFS	USFS	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$144.2	$100.0	$50.0	$0.0	$0.0	$150.0

Project Abstract

This project will use geographic information system (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 (e.g., increased access). 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 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. This will provide a basis to identify areas where there may be existing and potential conflicts between human use and wildlife concentrations resulting in disturbance. Disturbance of injured wildlife may result in decreased productivity exacerbating the effects of the oil spill and prolonging the time to recover.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This project would assess and model impacts on injured resources and services associated with increased human uses in western Prince William Sound. The model would allow projections of future impacts from increased human access and provide a basis for evaluating and possibly changing agency management practices with respect to species injured by the oil spill. This work could be very valuable. I would like to see greater development of the work plan for the GIS work and model as well as more information about the qualifications of the senior PI. The participation of the Chenega Corporation is a strong plus. If cost in FY 98 is an issue, perhaps more of the year 1 costs can be shifted to year 2. Fund at a level reflecting greater cost sharing by USFS.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on (1) a revised Detailed Project Description that further develops the GIS work element and describes the qualifications of the PI and (2) a revised budget that shows greater agency cost sharing to reflect the benefit of this project to agency management responsibilities. This project will develop and test a model for projecting and managing impacts of human use on wildlife in Prince William Sound. The resulting management tool could help protect injured resources and services for many years into the future.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98344	Blowdown Effects on Salmon Habitat	M. Murphy/NOAA	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$203.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

High winds off the Gulf of Alaska in 1996 caused extensive blowdown in riparian buffer zones left for stream protection after timber harvest on Montague Island. Such large-scale blowdown is much greater than observed elsewhere, and effects on habitat of pink salmon, Dolly Varden, cutthroat trout, and other salmonids are unknown. This project will determine the distribution and amount of blowdown on Montague Island, evaluate its effects on habitat and fish populations, and use models to predict long-term trends in habitat condition. This information will help in evaluating current management of buffer zones, monitoring trends in habitat condition, and assessing the need for habitat restoration in streams in Prince William Sound.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal would examine the effects of a large blow-down of timber on fish populations and habitat on Montague Island with the aim of evaluating current management practices with respect to buffer zones in logged areas. While this project may have some merit, this is not a well developed proposal and its feasibility may be limited. There is little reference in the Detailed Project Description to other relevant work carried out by the Trustee Council and elsewhere, which is important in explaining and justifying the proposed work. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. The overall objective of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of current habitat (buffer zone) protection measures, which is a normal agency management responsibility. In addition, the proposal is not well developed.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98380	Effects of Restoration Projects Along the Kenai River on Juvenile Salmon Habitat	J. Dorova/USGS	DOI	New 1st yr. 3 yr. project		$142.3	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Following the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS), fishing was diverted from Prince William Sound to the Kenai River in south-central Alaska. The salmon habitat along the river was affected by this increased fishing pressure. Considerable investment has been made by the EVOS Trustee Council to restore and protect this salmon habitat along the river. These restoration projects use biodegradable or natural materials and are designed according to the local hydraulic conditions. The projects should protect the bank from erosion and provide juvenile salmon with valuable habitat. However, without quantifying the improvement to the habitat or a positive response in the fishery, a valid restoration of the injured resource cannot be determined.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a well thought out ecological study that would advance knowledge regarding habitat utilization by juvenile chinook on the Kenai River and provide information regarding the effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts. Information generated by this program would also be valuable in relation to proposed Project 98239. However, other restoration objectives are more compelling. Not high enough priority to fund at this time.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project would duplicate Project 98180. The Detailed Project Description for 98180 includes implementation of a monitoring program to assess the restoration and use of restored or enhanced sites.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Habitat Protection					$770.0	$938.7					
98126	Habitat Protection and Acquisition Support	C. Fries/ADNR, D. Gibbons/USFS, G. Elison/DOI	ADNR	Cont'd 5th yr.	$770.0	$938.7					

Project Abstract

This project provides negotiation support to the Trustee Council in order to reach closure on habitat protection priorities. This support includes title reports, appraisals, on-site inspections, hazardous materials surveys, surveys, timber cruises and reviews, and other services necessary for the successful completion of habitat protection negotiations.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Project not reviewed.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund, but defer decision on amount of funding until FY 98 protection efforts can be better projected. This project provides funds to support the habitat protection program, including negotiation staff, appraisals, closing costs, etc. *NOTE: Funds for this project are provided through the Trustee Council's habitat protection program, not through the regular FY 98 work plan of research, monitoring, and general restoration projects.*

Ecosystem Synthesis						$660.9	$346.7	$80.0	$0.0	$0.0	$426.7
98278	Development of an Ecological Characterization and Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program for Kachemak Bay	G. Seaman/ADFG	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$144.9	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

Using scientific information, local knowledge, and traditional ecological knowledge, this project will develop, synthesize, and document the available ecological knowledge and status of Kachemak Bay. Based on this information and other sources, ADFG will develop a highly integrated ecological characterization including information on human, physical, and biological elements of the ecosystem which will be published on a compact computer disk. This information will be used to identify restoration opportunities, gaps in our knowledge of the ecosystem, and provide background information for the monitoring program.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal is a relatively unfocused plan to develop an ecological characterization and long-term monitoring program in Kachemak Bay. There is excellent coordination with other funding sources, and a clear goal to build a stakeholder coalition to develop a monitoring program. The proposal appears mainly useful for small-scale land use planning decisions, with marginal relevance to restoration objectives. There is limited discussion of the objectives of the monitoring program, and the need for continuous water quality monitoring is unsubstantiated. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund. This project, which would develop an ecological characterization of the about-to-be-created National Estuarine Research Reserve in Kachemak Bay and develop a long-term monitoring program for the reserve, has little link to the Trustee Council's restoration objectives.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98300	Synthesis of the Scientific Findings from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Restoration Program	R. Spies/Applied Marine Sciences	ADNR	Cont'd 2nd. yr 3 yr. project		$81.3	$81.3	$80.0			$161.3

Project Abstract

Research sponsored by the Trustee Council has provided an astonishing amount of information on the ecology of the spill area and represents the largest single infusion of data on natural resources in the northern Gulf of Alaska. The goal of this project is to synthesize this information across projects to realize its maximum benefit to the public and management agencies. The specific objectives involve coordinating the work of principal investigators on synthesis products, facilitating the efforts to apply food-web models of the spill area ecosystem, and facilitating the translation of valuable scientific findings into new management tools for use by natural resource agencies in Alaska.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This proposal was submitted at the request of the core scientific reviewers and the Executive Director.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund. This project will continue the Chief Scientist's effort begun in FY 97 to work with principal investigators who have conducted restoration projects and with ecological modelers (see Project 98330) to facilitate synthesis of existing information into both mathematical and written descriptions of the spill area ecosystem and how it changes in response to anthropogenic and natural events.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98307	*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Recovery Computer System	R. Nuti	NOAA	New			$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

This proposal would build a computer simulation model for predicting future disasters and evaluating the excesses of damage. The Detailed Project Description is incomplete and a budget was not provided.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The objectives, methods, and endpoints of this proposal are unclear. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review of project's technical merit.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98309	Ecosystem Synthesis Model Validation Using Natural Stable Isotope Tracers	T. Kline/PWSSC	ADFG	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$122.2	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0	$0.0

Project Abstract

The output of the Ecopath mass-balance model (Project 98330) includes the trophic level (TL) of each modeled component. We will validate the model by using nitrogen stable isotope ratio as an independent method to assess TL. We seek to expand upon the number of taxa that have had their TL determined from 15N/14N which have been limited to the scope of the SEA project. We expect to include representatives of taxa and TLs that will facilitate model validation and which will fill significant data gaps.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

The use of stable isotope tracers as a means of gaining insights into the trophic structure of Prince William Sound and adjacent Gulf of Alaska is well established, though this method cannot determine exactly who eats whom. The PI is well qualified, but it is not clear how much of what is proposed here is work that has been or should be done through his work in the SEA (\320) project, nor is it clear what specific additional needs will arise if the project to develop a mass-balance model by Drs. Pauly and Pimm (98330) is funded. Thus, this project seems premature. Do not fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Do not fund based on Chief Scientist's review.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98330-BAA	Mass-Balance Model of Trophic Fluxes in Prince William Sound	D. Pauly/UBC, S. Pimm/U. Tenn	NOAA	New 1st yr. 2 yr. project		$227.1	$180.0		$0.0	$0.0	$180.0

Project Abstract

This project would construct, validate, and disseminate two models of trophic interactions among the organisms of Prince William Sound, as required to synthesize the vast amount of information gathered before and after the *Exxon Valdez* spill, and to evaluate its impact at the ecosystem level. Project components are: 1) an initial workshop devoted to model specification by researchers from the Gulf of Alaska region, 2) an extended study by project staff, and 3) a dissemination phase, in year two, consisting of a training workshop for potential users of the software implementing the model, and the production of a CD-ROM for the public domain, incorporating an interactive graphic version of the software, and an extensive database on the biology and local/traditional knowledge on fishes of PWS.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

This is a proposal by an internationally-recognized scientific team to apply food-web modeling techniques to (1) help synthesize existing research and monitoring, (2) develop predictive tools that may be used to examine the impacts of large-scale perturbations in the system, and (3) develop public information/education applications. The approaches utilized complement mechanistic models being funded as part of SEA (Project /320), although the food web models have important limitations that must be considered in interpretation of results. The project should be funded, although the costs appear high and administrative staff should carefully examine the budget. Fund.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of a reduced budget. This project is responsive to the Invitation to Submit Restoration Proposals, which invited proposals for development of a model to integrate the results of ecological studies sponsored by the Trustee Council. The project received a strong technical review.

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
98340	Toward Long-Term Oceanographic Monitoring of the Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem	T. Weingartner/UAF	ADFG	New 1st yr. 4 yr. project		$85.4	$85.4				$85.4

Project Abstract

The 27-year time series of temperature and salinity data from hydrographic station GAK1 near Seward shows substantial interannual and interdecadal variability that could influence the Gulf of Alaska shelf ecosystem. This program will continue this time series and quantify the interannual and interdecadal variability of this shelf. A related goal is to resolve better the time and vertical structure of this variability at periods ranging from the tidal to the interannual. This information will aid in assessing progress in the recovery and restoration of organisms and services affected by the oil spill, and will aid in designing a long-term, cost-effective ecosystem monitoring program for this shelf.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Long-term data sets such as the ocean physics data available at GAK1 are rare and valuable, and physical forcing of marine ecosystems appears vital for understanding variation of biological populations. Although the parameters of an overall long-term monitoring program have yet to be described, and the GAK1 site has no associated biological measurements, it seems extraordinarily likely that maintenance of this long-term data set would be part of an ecosystem monitoring strategy in the spill area. This project should be funded on an interim basis now, but every attempt should be made to obtain cost-sharing contributions from the agencies that have funded this site in the past. I understand that a complementary proposal has been submitted to the GLOBEC program. Trustee Council support of Project 98340 presents an opportunity for tangible cooperation with this international scientific initiative.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Defer decision on funding until the opportunity for some degree of support from prior funding sources is explored. This project would continue the existing 27-year time series of conductivity-temperature versus depth (CTD) data collected at hydrographic station GAK1 on the northcentral Gulf of Alaska shelf. In the Chief Scientist's view, it is highly likely that maintenance of this long-term data set would be part of an ecosystem monitoring strategy in the spill area.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION -- FY 98 WORK PLAN

Proj.No.	ProjectTitle	Proposer	Lead Agency	New or Cont'd	FY98 Expected	FY98 Request	FY98 Recom.	FY99 Recom.	FY00 Recom.	FY01-02 Recom.	Total FY98-02 Recom.
Administration, Science Management, and Public Information					$2,800.0						
98100	Administration, Science Management, and Public Information	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	Cont'd Annual	$2,800.0						

Project Abstract

This project provides overall support for administration and implementation of the restoration program through the Restoration Office. It includes funding for the Trustee Council's core staff working at the direction of the Executive Director, the Chief Scientist and the scientific peer review process, public involvement efforts including the 17-member Public Advisory Group (PAG), and support for Trustee agency participation in the restoration program as part of the Restoration Work Force.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Proposal not reviewed.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund, but continue budget review. This project provides overall support for administration and implementation of the restoration program. The budget has been reduced from the FY 97 authorization of $2,940,600. NOTE: The administration of the Trustee Council Is funded outside of the regular FY 98 work plan of research, monitoring, and general restoration projects.

Project Management					$560.0		$560.0	$480.0			$1,040.0
98250	Project Management	All Trustee Council Agencies	ALL	Cont'd Annual	$560.0		$560.0	$480.0			$1,040.0

Project Abstract

Project management represents those costs incurred by the state and federal trustee agencies in fulfilling their responsibility to ensure that individual projects are managed consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree, the Restoration Plan, and Trustee Council authorization.

Chief Scientist's Recommendation

Proposal not reviewed.

Executive Director's Preliminary Recommendation

Fund contingent on submittal of individual agency project management budgets. Project management provides essential accountability for the work plan process. The amount approved for project management in FY 98 will not exceed $560,000; however, the level of funding to be allocated to each Trustee agency is currently under discussion. The FY 98 funding level represents a reduction from the amount approved for FY 97 ($641,600). Future years' funding will decline further, consistent with the decline in the annual funding targets for the overall work plan.

Out of the disaster, hope appears

• Eight years later, what are captain and the ship doing?

Published:
May 19, 1997

Special to the Mercury News
The Kenai Fjords National Park near Seward will be expanded by more than 30,000 acres with money from the Exxon Valdez settlement.

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BY PAUL ROGERS
Mercury News Staff Writer

SEWARD, ALASKA -- In storms, the oily sheen still seeps from rocky beaches like a painful memory. Along 1,000 miles of rugged shoreline, the herring, otters and sea birds have yet to fully recover.

For Alaska's wild and stunningly beautiful southern coast, the Exxon Valdez oil spill hasn't gone away. But lately, after eight years of suffering, the disaster is beginning to deliver something surprisingly different: hope and the promise of environmental renewal.

With little public awareness outside the state itself, vast new areas of land across southern Alaska are being purchased for wildlife refuges and public parks with the $900 million that Exxon Corp. paid the state and federal government to settle civil claims from the devastating 1989 spill.

Last year, in fact, Exxon money bought more Alaskan land -- about $175 million in agreements and pending sales -- than Congress spent buying new parks, refuges and national forests in the other 49 states combined.

Monday, U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is scheduled to sign an agreement to buy 30,200 acres to expand Kenai Fjords National Park near Seward, a fishing town 130 miles south of Anchorage.

The fund also is helping illustrate another point: Buying parkland so wildlife can recover after a major oil spill appears to be a more effective way to spend money than devoting millions to cleaning oiled animals.

``If there is a silver lining to this spill, this is it," said Molly McCammon,

executive director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, based in Anchorage. ``It goes a long way toward making the wildlife and the general public whole."

Administered by that six-member trustee council, the fund has so far purchased 522,000 acres of scenic beaches, world-class salmon rivers, and vast, old-growth forests, many of which were threatened with clear-cut logging or development.

And more acquisitions are on the way. Over the next three years, the council, made up of state and federal officials, plans to expand the purchases to 760,000 acres. Viewed another way, Exxon has been forced to buy an area the size of Yosemite National Park as penance for its environmental blunder.

``There are still effects up there from the spill," Babbitt said in an interview. ``But I'll tell you, getting some of these critical lands into public ownership has really been helpful with the eye toward the long range. It's enormously satisfying. Just remarkable."

The scattered lands are rich with grizzly bears, bald eagles and elk. They also contain harlequin ducks, marbled murrelets, sea otters and salmon -- the species harmed most when the 987-foot Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef March 24, 1989, dumping 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound, the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

The idea behind the purchases is basic: The best way to speed wildlife recovery in the area is to ensure that wild places stay wild.

After the spill, Exxon spent $80,000 per otter to clean, feed and release 222 sea otters, according to a 1991 study by Jim Estes, a biologist at the University of California-Santa Cruz. Although otters are still listed as endangered in California, in Alaska they are widespread, with a population of 150,000.

``I cleaned otters, I cleaned birds, and I would never do it again," said Pamela Brodie, a Sierra Club leader from Homer, Alaska. ``Very few of the animals survived. The $80,000 spent for one otter could have bought maybe 200 acres of estuary so that dozens of otters would be helped for years to come."

Unless an animal is threatened with extinction, Brodie said, the best thing to do is euthanize oil-fouled wildlife, fine the oil company heavily and spend the money on research and buying land to help bring back the remaining populations.

``This model of using fines from environmental damage to restore and protect areas should be copied across the nation," Brodie said.

Related Exxon money also has funded restoration work along Chesapeake Bay in Maryland this year and to provide $400,000 toward the public purchase of the Bolsa Chica wetlands in Orange County.

Alaskans aren't yet ready to describe the spill as an opportunity. But many concede that the disaster provided unprecedented funding that wouldn't have otherwise been available for parks and wildlife.

Under the terms of its October, 1991 settlement, Exxon agreed to pay $900 million for ``restoring, replacing, enhancing, rehabilitating or acquiring the equivalent of natural resources" harmed in the spill.

The company also paid fines of $125 million to state and federal governments, much of which has been spent on scientific research and purchasing other land.

In 1994, an Alaska jury also awarded $5 billion in punitive damages to 28,000 fishermen, native villagers and others harmed by the spill. Exxon has appealed that award to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, where it is pending.

``Right after the spill, they said they'd make us whole," said Cheri Shaw, executive director of Cordova District Fishermen United, based southeast of Valdez. ``Then they fought us tooth and nail. It's been eight years and we haven't seen a dime."

Exxon officials say the $5 billion is unwarranted.

``We're going to exercise our right to protect the interests of our shareholders and employees," said Ed Burwell, a spokesman for Exxon in Irving, Texas.

The trustee council charged with spending the $900 million settlement got off to a rocky start in the first two years. Its staff churned out mountains of paperwork. State and federal appointees squabbled.

Under public demands for more accountability, the council hired a permanent director and drew up a blueprint for spending the money in 1994.

Under that plan, about 40 percent, or $386 million, will buy land. Another $180 million is funding science projects. About $213 million went to repay cleanup costs; $108 million will go into an endowment to fund future land buying and long-term scientific studies of the spill's impact on the environment for decades to come.

``There are a lot of people who wanted to spend all the money on science," said McCammon. ``A lot want to spend all of it on buying land. How do you meld those two? We've ended up with a mix."

One hundred years from now, Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles said, the land purchases will stand as a positive legacy of the disaster.

``The incident remains a dark cloud over Alaska," Knowles said. ``But people want to know what we learned from it. I think we have done things right. We're standing tall again."

Three deals to buy 267,000 acres on Kodiak Island in 1994, for example, had the support of the National Rifle Association, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the Safari Club, scientific groups and native village leaders.

Some critics note that the early foot-dragging came with a heavy price.

Rick Steiner, a professor of fisheries biology at the University of Alaska,

said that at least 50,000 acres of forest around Prince William Sound were clear-cut during the council's early inaction.

Nearly all the land is being sold by corporations owned by native Alaskans. The native people were given 44 million acres of land by Congress in 1971. Searching for economic development, many did not want to log old-growth forests, or build hotels, but they needed income.

By selling the land or its timber rights, most native villages have created investment funds that now pay annual dividends of $2,000 to $8,000 per resident, as well as providing scholarships for college and trade schools.

In one such deal this March, the government paid $34 million for 59,000 acres of land along the western edge of Prince William Sound. Coated with oil 1 foot deep during the spill, the land includes 22 streams critical to pink and sockeye salmon as well as 100 miles of forested coastline. Half was added to Chugach National Forest, while the rest is now managed by the state of Alaska as a marine park.

The land's former owners, several hundred native Alaskans organized under the name the Chenega Corp., retained their original village site and several parcels of waterfront land on which they could one day build lodges or other tourist-type development.

``This exchange gives Chenega shareholders a chance to invest in our future without having to develop our land or cut our timber to do it.'' said Chuck Totemoff, president of the native group, during a Washington, D.C., signing ceremony.

In the land deal to be announced today, the trustee council will pay $14.1 million to English Bay Corp., a native Alaskan company representing several hundred Aleuts based at Nanwalek, a village 175 miles west of Seward. The native Alaskans will retain access to some lands for hunting and fishing.

In the days after the Valdez spill, oil washed up on nearly 20 miles of shoreline at Kenai Fjords, killing thousands of birds and other wildlife. Cleanup efforts lasted three years. Hundreds of people wiped rocks, sprayed water from high-pressure hoses and picked up tar balls. On the park's beaches, they picked up oiled carcasses of sea otters and bald eagles for weeks.

``The fact that this money is here is only right,'' said Anne Castellina, superintendent of Kenai Fjords park. ``You cannot imagine the agony of those days. We felt so helpless.''

Today, signs of the spill are hard for visitors to find on most days.

The park is populated by moose, bears and mountain goats. Stellar sea lions lounge on rocky islands at the entrances to its fjords, carved from retreating glaciers centuries ago. The waters teem with humpback whales, orcas and porpoises. Overhead, thick flocks of puffins, murres and other sea birds raise their young on the rocky cliffs.

Yet biologists note that around the region -- and at Prince William Sound, 100 miles to the east -- wildlife still struggles.

An estimated 8 to 16 percent of the crude oil remains trapped in gravel along 1,000 miles of shoreline where the slick spread -- an area as long as California's entire coast. Wave action is breaking it down -- slowly.

``Nature heals," said the Sierra Club's Brodie. ``As time goes by, the damage from the oil spill is fading. But the benefits of buying this land are permanent."

Whatever happened to Hazelwood and the Valdez?

Published: May 19, 1997

BY PAUL ROGERS
Mercury News Staff Writer

SEWARD, Alaska -- More than eight years after America's worst oil spill, the Exxon Valdez has a new name and its captain has a new career.

Capt. Joseph Hazelwood, 50, was fired by Exxon officials after his ship dumped 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989. Today, he works as a marine consultant in the New York City law offices of Michael Chalos, a former classmate who defended Hazelwood after the spill. The firm specializes in shipping cases.

Capt. Joseph Hazelwood now works as a marine consultant.

``He still has his sea license," said Thomas Russo, an attorney at the firm. ``He can go back to sailing, but he hasn't."

Hazelwood, who called the spill ``the worst nightmare I could imagine" in court, maintains a low profile, refusing interviews.

In 1990, an Alaska Superior Court jury found Hazelwood innocent of operating a vessel while intoxicated and two other charges because another officer had been at the wheel of the ship when it ran aground. Instead, Hazelwood, whose first act in the minutes after the spill was to throw up in horror, was convicted of a misdemeanor -- negligent discharge of oil -- fined $50,000 and ordered to perform 1,000 hours of community service. Last year, however, the Alaska Court of Appeals reversed that conviction, saying the jury had been given improper instructions. Prosecutors have appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, at the urging of Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, Congress in 1990 banned the Exxon Valdez from operating in Alaskan waters forever. Exxon spent $25 million repairing the super tanker, then renamed it ``Sea River Mediterranean." It currently operates in the Mediterranean Sea.

At the same time, the former Valdez's nearly identical sister ship, the Sea River Long Beach, regularly visits San Francisco Bay and Los Angeles Harbor carrying 50 million gallons of Alaskan crude oil bound for refineries. Arguing that the banishment was arbitrary and illegal, Exxon's shipping subsidiary recently filed a lawsuit seeking to return the former Valdez to Alaskan waters.

Some residents say the spill wasn't the ship's fault, but human error. Others argue that the symbolism matters.

``It's outrageous," said Rick Steiner, a professor of fisheries biology at the University of Alaska. ``It would be like telling the people of Hiroshima you want to bring the Enola Gay back to Japan for passenger service."

Shifting currents of doom

Chisik Island's bird colonies suffer as ocean temperatures warm

By CRAIG MEDRED
Daily News outdoors editor

As spring returns once more to the chill waters of Alaska's Cook Inlet, the last surviving murres and kittiwakes of Chisik Island begin their return to the ghost colonies.

Once this island in the mouth of Tuxedni Bay 55 miles southwest of Kenai supported one of the region's largest concentrations of nesting murres, kittiwakes and puffins. Back in 1909 President Theodore Roosevelt, noting the size of the then-massive bird colonies, declared Chisik one of the state's first bird sanctuaries.

Almost 70 years later, the 1978 "Catalog of Seabird Colonies" published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service still was crediting the island as the largest known colony in the Inlet, but by then [illegible] Chisik nesting sites had begun the [illegible]es that would eventually lead to t[illegible] decimation.

Today, according to biologists John Piatt of the Alaska Science Center at the U.S. Geological Survey and David Roseneau of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the common murre population at Chisik is down to 10 percent or 15 percent of what it was, while the black-legged kittiwake population struggles along at below 30 percent.

Where once there were 3,000 to 5,000 nesting murres each spring, there are now only hundreds.

The 18,000 to 20,000 nesting kittiwakes of the early 1970s have dwindled to less than 6,000.

And the populations continue to decline.

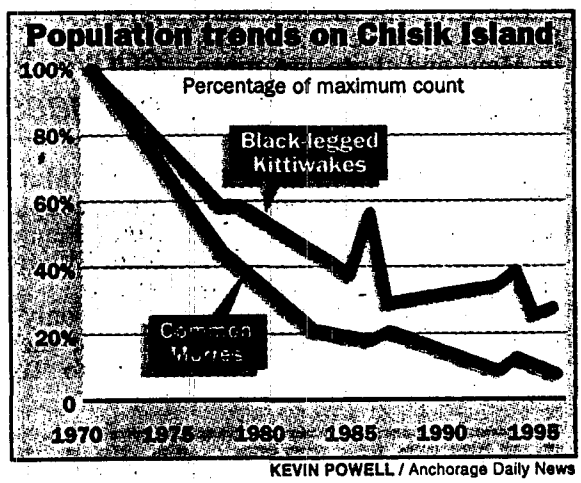
"It could just keep going down," Roseneau said.

"Time will tell. I'm sure that in a number of these cases, a few of these (bird) colonies may be very dynamic."

Piatt is somewhat surprised the Chisik seabird colonies have hung on this long. The decline, he said, has been under way for 25 years, and in some of those years there has been virtually no reproduction.

Since 1995, with biologists carefully monitoring the situation for the first time, almost none of the kittiwake chicks hatched on the island survived.

Even as their parents struggled to feed them, the chicks starved.



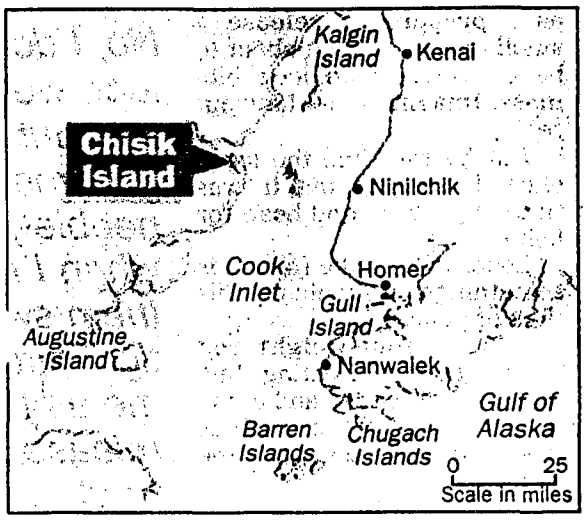
KEVIN POWELL / Anchorage Daily News

The reason for all this, Piatt said, is a subtle shift in the oceanography of the Gulf of Alaska. A change in water temperatures, currents and salinity levels has forced away from Chisik the capelin and sand lance on which kittiwakes and murres feed. Both are small fat-rich fish; capelin resemble smelt and the sand lance looks like an eel.

Adult birds are forced to spend more time foraging for fish or fly farther from the colony in search of good foraging areas and then haul large loads back to their chicks. For the kittiwakes, the vagaries of this environmental change have imposed a death sentence on the young.

"Chisik kittiwakes make long foraging trips, but deliver loads only slight bigger than those (at other seabird colonies)," Piatt and Roseneau wrote in a report summarizing last summer's studies at the bird sanctuary. "Apparently, the latter combination was inadequate to support chick production."

"In so many years, kittiwakes have failed to raise young," Roseneau said, "it's amazing that



there are still kittiwakes there. Kittiwakes apparently live longer than was believed."

Their estimated age used to be 10 years, but the work of Alaska biologists is changing that view.

"Now we've got a few records of 14-, 15-year-old birds," he said. "Another five years can mean a fair bit."

The long lifespan of aging kittiwakes might be all that is keeping the Chisik colony alive. Old survivors appear to be hanging on waiting for another environmental shift to bring enough food within range of the island so that they can finally reproduce before they die.

Small, relatively slow-flying birds, kittiwake adults are capable of venturing only 25 to 30 miles from their nests to collect food, and they are unable to find enough food within that range of Chisik these days.

Murre chicks, Piatt said, do better because their parents are able to range up to about 45 miles in the search for food.

"Despite the extra effort required at Chisik," biologists noted, "the murres there managed to maintain high chick production."

On the surface, that looks good.

But beneath the surface lurks a deadly problem for the murres, too. All the effort spent searching for food in the summer appears to profoundly affect the adult birds.

Either they are so stressed from the summer workload that they are unable to survive the winter at sea, Piatt said, or they are simply abandoning Chisik for more hospitable nesting colonies.

While the changing oceanography of the Inlet has decimated the Chisik Island seabird colonies, it has sparked a population explosion at Gull Island in Kachemak Bay.

Only about 2,000 to 5,000 murres were reported to be nesting there in the mid-1970s, said Leslie Slater, a biologist for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Today there are more than 5,000.

It is much the same for kittiwakes. Where only 3,200 were reported in 1976, there were more than 7,000 by 1990s, she said.

Over the years, Gull Island — a relatively small colony at one time — has surpassed Chisik Island as the largest colony in the region, and again the reason seems to be a minor climatic change.

Driving the change is the Alaska coastal current, which pushes north inshore along Southeast Alaska, swirls around the Gulf of Alaska and departs in the direction of Japan. This current brings cold, nutrient-rich waters up onto Alaska's coastal shelf and into Cook Inlet.

Off the mouth of Cook Inlet at the Barren Islands, write Piatt and Roseneau, the water "is completely mixed, cold and highly saline. Water in Kachemak Bay has a shallow layer of warm, low-salinity water overlaying cold, saline water like that observed at the Barrens. Water near Chisik Island, on the west side of Cook Inlet, is much warmer and less saline because south-flowing currents carry warm, fresh water from the head of Cook Inlet.

"The difference in oceanographic regimes between the east and west side of Cook Inlet has important implications for the forage fish and seabirds residing in each area."

The differences are, in fact, life or death changes operating at a temperature variation of 4 to 12 degrees Celsius — a shift of as much as 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

ERIK HILL / Daily News file photo

Murres are among many bird species commonly seen on Round Island in the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary in Bristol Bay.

Shareholders demand payout

Dissidents battle village corporation

By BRUCE MELZER
Daily News reporter

A group of shareholders is pressing their Kodiak Island village Native corporation to hand out about $100,000 per person, prompting Akhiok Kaguyak Inc. to go to court this week to stop them.

The once-impoverished village corporation landed a $46 million windfall when it sold about half of its land to the federal government in 1995. Dissidents want $15.4 million distributed among the shareholders, said their lawyer, Richard Jameson.

But Akhiok Kaguyak and a trio of board members charge that pulling out a huge chunk of money could make it insolvent. The dissidents are waging an illegal fight to take control of the company's board and force a massive payout, said company lawyer James Wilkens. At its heart, he said, the battle comes down to one thing: Money.

Akhiok's pay-me-now battle is the latest in a long series of fights within Alaska Native corporations waged by shareholders frustrated over what they say are meager returns from their companies. In recent years, shareholders have pressured the timber-rich villages of Southeast Alaska to hand out tens of thousands of dollars per shareholder. Shareholder revolts prompted Juneau's Goldbelt Inc. to distribute nearly half of its net worth.

The war between Akhiok and its dissident shareholders is expected to come to a head next week. The company's annual shareholder meeting is Friday, where dissidents are hoping to seat three board members who support their cause. The company is hoping a state judge on Wednesday prevents the dissidents from using, in the Friday meeting, the votes they've collected.

Alaska's Natives became shareholders under a 1971 federal law that settled the Native claims to virtually all of Alaska.

Akhiok and Kaguyak were separate village corporations that merged in 1979. The corporation now has 157 shareholders, according to the company's court filings.

Like many village corporations, Akhiok Kaguyak struggled financially for most of its early life. Most of the company land acquired under the federal law fell within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and was effectively blocked from development. Two years ago the federal government bought some company land, using part of the $1 billion in legal settlements paid by Exxon after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The land was considered prime habitat for a number of species injured by the spill, the council said.

Akhiok Kaguyak received $46 million for the land, pumping $37 million into a "permanent fund" invested to produce payments for shareholders in years to come, according to court documents. The company's other investments include Anchorage real estate, New Mexico apartments and a timber venture, the corporation financial report shows.

The company also handed out about $30,000 to each shareholder and this year expects to issue dividends worth about $6,000 to each shareholder, said Wilkens, the company lawyer.

But Clida Leger, one of the shareholders wanting more money, said she doesn't think much of the company's investment track record. After expenses are paid, "the shareholders aren't getting that much," she said.

She is collecting votes in support of a trio of candidates who pledge to distribute more cash to shareholders and change some of the company operations.

The group doesn't want to tap the company's permanent fund, but they expect to get money by selling most of the company's $23 million in other assets.

Leger said that if she gets more money from the company, she'll use it to send her two children to college and will invest the rest for retirement. Other shareholders have told her they want the money to buy houses, pay bills or get off welfare, she said.

But Akhiok Kaguyak charges that Leger and the candidates she backs are using misinformation to win votes. The candidates are making promises they can't legally deliver, the company said.

Jameson, the dissidents' lawyer, said the material they sent out to solicit proxy votes is "squeaky clean."

The corporation tried unsuccessfully this week to get a temporary restraining order to stop the dissident group and prevent them from voting their proxies during the May 23 annual meeting. A court hearing on the issue is scheduled for Wednesday before state Superior Court Judge Rene Gonzalez.

"We view this really as a last desperate attempt to void the ballot box," said Jameson. "We don't think they'll be successful, either in court or at the ballot box."

Anchorage Daily News
May 17, 1997

Cape Chiniak protection advocates organizing

Kodiak Daily Mirror

May 6, 1997

Friends of Cape Chiniak Park supports the nomination of land in Cape Chiniak area for purchase by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

They will be a monitoring group coordinated with the Kodiak State Park. They are encouraging support and public comment to EVOS for a successful negotiation with the Leisnoi Corp.

Cards, letters, faxes and phone calls are urgently needed. The address is: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Restoration, 645 G St, Suite 401, Anchorage, AK, 99501-3451; phone 907-278-8012, fax 907-276-7178, e-mail ericm@oilspill.state.ak.us.

A meeting is planned for Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m. in the Chiniak Public Library. People who use and enjoy the Cape Chiniak area are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Exxon trustees meet

Kodiak Daily Mirror

May 7, 1997

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council will meet at 8:30 a.m. Friday, May 9, at the Trustee Council Restoration Office, 645 G Street in Anchorage, to receive an update on the status of the large parcel habitat program.

The council is scheduled to meet in executive session to discuss negotiations and then in open session to discuss the Afognak Joint Venture parcels on Afognak Island.

A public comment period will follow the discussion of the AJV parcels.

For more information, call Molly McCammon or Joe Hunt at 1-907-278-8012.

Kenai refuge land finally in Native hands

After 17-year tussle, Babbitt signs deal allowing development of property

By DAVID WHITNEY
Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — An agreement removing more than 15,000 acres from the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge so they can be developed by the Kenai Native Association was signed Tuesday by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

The signing ceremony in the secretary's office ended a 17-year effort by the Native association to obtain use of land conveyed to it under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Under the deal, the association will sell more than 800 acres of prime Kenai River property and about 2,000 acres in the Moose River watershed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Both parcels are inside the refuge. The $4.4 million land sale will be paid for with money from the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement fund.

The Native association could not develop its land until now because it was inside the national refuge.

Efforts to obtain rights to the land for the association's 560 shareholders went nowhere until 1993, when Rep. Don Young proposed that the administration resolve the conflict with oil-spill settlement funds.

'This is a win-win for the environment and a win-win for KNA shareholders.'

— Deborah Williams

"This is a win-win for the environment and a win-win for KNA shareholders," Babbitt's Alaska aide Deborah Williams said Tuesday.

She said the association finally will get to develop its property with the $4.4 million seed money, and the federal government will get clear title to important land inside the refuge.

Of particular interest is the 803-acre Stephanka Tract along the Kenai River, which Williams called the "crown jewel" of the river basin.

The settlement was authorized last fall in an omnibus parks bill written by Young, chairman of the House Resources Committee, and Sen. Frank Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"For the first time KNA will have the ability to decide how best to use its resources," association president Diana Zirul said.

The association also is getting title to a 40-year-old log-cabin refuge headquarters building on five acres in the historic downtown area of Kenai. Zirul said it probably will be turned into a center celebrating Native history.

Babbitt praised the Alaska congressional delegation for coming up with a way to resolve the controversy, and urged Interior Department officials to use it as a model for resolving similar problems in the state.

To compensate for the refuge's lost acreage, the legislation authorized creation of a 57,000-acre special management area on Lake Todatonten in the Interior. The area is on land owned by the federal Bureau of Land Management and will be managed for fish and wildlife conservation while remaining open to subsistence hunting and fishing.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

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

Media Advisory

May 13, 1997

Agreement signed to protect habitat along the Kenai River and its drainage area

Attached is a press release put out today by the office of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt who signed an agreement this morning with Kenai Natives Association to protect 3,254 acres along the Kenai and Moose rivers.

The agreement is part of a package approved by Congress and signed by the president that 1) protects the Kenai and Moose river parcels; 2) changes the boundary of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to exclude some land owned by the Kenai Natives Association; and 3) transfers a 5-acre refuge headquarters site in Old Town Kenai to KNA.

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council provided $4 million to protect the riverfront property, which includes several miles of habitat vital for rearing red and king salmon. The package included 803 acres near the mouth of Skilak Lake on the Kenai River and 2,451 acres along the Moose River.

This is the latest in a series of habitat protection and restoration efforts focused on the Kenai River. In addition to the KNA property, the Trustee Council has protected or made offers to protect another 1,800 acres along the Kenai River.

In February, the Council agreed to purchase a popular fishing site under the Sterling Highway bridge in Soldotna to protect fishing opportunities and repair damaged habitat. The site includes a 178-foot fishing platform. It creates a nearly continuous stretch of publicly owned river front from the bridge to Soldotna's Centennial Park.

Collectively, these acquisitions provide a cornerstone for a larger comprehensive Kenai

-more-

River restoration effort that also includes bank stabilization and revegetation efforts; scientific research and monitoring to enhance the ability of resource managers to protect fishery resources; and improved management of human uses to reduce adverse impacts.

The Kenai River supports all five species of Pacific salmon and provides habitat for 23 other fish species. It's estimated that sport and commercial fish harvests of Kenai River salmon provide as much as $78 million annually to the state's economy. The river is accessible to over 70 percent of the state population and accounts for 19 percent of the total statewide sport fishing interest.

Although the Kenai River appears to have recovered from the effects of the oil spill, habitat protection and enhancement is considered essential for the long term health of the system and the resources.

- 30 -

Contact: Molly McCammon or Joe Hunt at 907/278-8012

General information concerning the oil spill and restoration efforts can be obtained from the Oil Spill Public Information Center at 645 G St., Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, ph: 278-8008 toll-free within Alaska at 1-800-478-7745.

NEWS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 1997

Stephanie Hanna (O) 202/208-6416
Dan Sakura (O) 202/208-4678

SECRETARY BABBITT SIGNS AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR ALASKA NATIVES AND PROTECT THE KENAI RIVER

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt today announced the successful implementation of bipartisan legislation to benefit the Kenai Natives Association, Inc., an Alaska Native urban corporation, and to protect the Kenai River through the use of settlement funds from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

Upon signing an agreement with the Kenai Natives Association (KNA) to implement the legislation, Secretary Babbitt said, "This agreement will both protect fish and wildlife habitat on the Kenai River and provide Alaska Natives with significant new opportunities for economic development on the Kenai Peninsula."

"This is a great day for Alaska Natives, wildlife, the Kenai River and the Bureau of Land Management. I commend Chairman Don Young and Congressman George Miller for their successful work to pass this important bipartisan legislation," he continued.

As part of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, Congress passed the 'Kenai Natives Association Equity Act Amendments of 1996,' which authorized the KNA land exchange. KNA is an Alaska Native urban corporation based in Kenai, Alaska, established in accordance with the Alaska Natives Claim Settlement Act of 1971.

In addition to resolving a long-standing land management issue involving the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the legislation authorizes the creation of the Lake Todatonten Special Management Area to protect fish and wildlife habitat and subsistence activities on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In accordance with the legislation, Secretary Babbitt today directed the BLM to begin planning to establish the 37,000 acre Special Management Area, immediately adjacent to the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, in the interior of Alaska, northwest of Fairbanks.

In 1980, Congress established the 1.4 million acre Kanuti Refuge to conserve fish and wildlife populations and to provide habitat for white-fronted geese, other waterfowl, migratory birds, moose, caribou and other species.

According to Diana Zirul, President of KNA, "the legislation will allow KNA greater flexibility to use our lands and will provide additional lands, including the Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters site in old town Kenai, important subsurface interests, and the necessary funding to promote the economic development of KNA's resources, while still respecting and preserving our heritage."

(more)

The agreement was reached in full partnership with the State of Alaska, with the support of Governor Tony Knowles. "Protecting the Kenai River is important to all Alaskans," Knowles said. "This is one of a series of gains to protect the Kenai River. A partnership of federal, state and local governments, along with the Kenai Natives Association, sport fishing groups, commercial fishing groups, businesses and private landowners has come together and, by putting the river first, we all benefit."

The agreement marks the conclusion of almost twenty years of discussions and negotiations between KNA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the federal agency responsible for managing the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. President Franklin D. Roosevelt set aside 1.7 million acres of land on the Kenai Peninsula to establish the Kenai National Moose Range in 1941. In 1980, Congress expanded the Moose Range to nearly 2 million acres and renamed it the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

In Alaska, the BLM manages 89 million acres of federal public land, including the White Mountains National Recreation Area and the Steese National Conservation Area, as well as 952 river miles protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Congress passed bi-partisan legislation in 1992 directing Secretary of the Interior to enter into expedited negotiations with KNA to reach an agreement to provide for the exchange or acquisition of lands. Negotiations conducted in accordance with the 1992 legislation led to the agreement that was codified in the 1996 legislation.

Under the terms of the 1996 legislation:

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would acquire 3,254 acres of land on the Kenai River and the Moose River, for inclusion in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, for $4.4 million. As part of the EVOS small parcel habitat protection process, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council has agreed to provide $4.0 million from the civil settlement fund. The three federal trustee agencies provided the balance of funding from the federal restitution fund.

- The land acquisition package includes the Stephanka Tract, an 803 acre tract which was ranked among the highest value small parcels for the benefit of species injured by the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill. To protect the important archeological and cultural values of the Stephanka Tract, the legislation directs the Interior Department to nominate the tract to the National Register of Historic Places.

- To provide KNA with additional opportunities for economic development, Congress authorized the federal government to convey to KNA a five acre refuge headquarters site from the FWS in old town Kenai as well as important subsurface rights, with the exception of coal, oil and gas rights, beneath KNA's retained lands. The legislation also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Kenai Refuge boundary to exclude privately-owned KNA lands from the Refuge and to lift development restrictions, which were imposed by the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act, from KNA's lands. KNA will retain a significant land base of approximately 20,000 acres following the implementation of the agreement.

- To compensate for the removal of restrictions on the private land currently in the refuge, Secretary Babbitt today directed the BLM to begin the initial planning for the new Lake Todatonten Special Management area and to establish an eleven-member committee. The committee will include individuals from the villages of Alatna, Allakaket, Hughes and Tanana, as well as representatives from the Doyon Corporation, the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the State of Alaska.

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VOL. 57 NO. 87 FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1997

Kodiak Daily Mirror

Log transfer facility appeal put on hold

By SUE JEFFREY
Mirror Writer

Debate over Leisnoi's proposed log transfer facility at Myrtle Creek will continue next Tuesday.

After nearly five hours of public testimony and deliberation last night, the borough assembly moved to reconvene the hearing May 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The discussion took a surprising twist when assembly member Tuck Bonney said he would vote to overturn P&Z's decision to deny Leisnoi a permit.

"Leisnoi should be granted a permit," he said. "I think the plan is a good one...logging and fishing can work together if everyone gave a little."

Bonney, who has close ties to Chiniak and with the fishing industry as a cannery manager, said he knew he would take the heat and "probably be crucified" for his opinion. But, he said, the borough needs to foster industry in Kodiak to remain a viable community.

Borough assembly member Wayne Stevens weighed in with Bonney, saying Kodiak needs to diversify the economy.

The five-member assembly later agreed with assembly Mike Milligan to postpone the decision since assembly members Dr. Bob Johnson and Gary Stevens were absent last night. Stevens will return by Tuesday and can enter the discussion after he listens to the hours-long testimony on tape.

Reconvening the board of adjustment hearing Tuesday, the assembly will pick up where it left off. That is, assembly members will continue deliberation on a motion left on the table which would deny Leisnoi's appeal and thereby uphold the P&Z decision to not grant Leisnoi a permit for the log facility.

From the discussion so far, assembly members Tom Abell, Robin Heinrichs and Milligan are leaning toward upholding P&Z's decision. Heinrichs and Milligan both say Leisnoi's project is not consistent with the borough's Coastal Management Program, the guiding document for coastal development in the Kodiak Island Borough.

The CMP requires that "maintenance and enhancement of fish, wildlife and vegetative resources shall be a priority of the Kodiak Island Borough."

The log transfer facility in Kalsin Bay conflicts with historically established commercial and subsistence fisheries habitat, Heinrichs, Milligan and many people last night pointed out.

Abell sided with Heinrichs and Milligan but for different reasons. After learning from Leisnoi president Bruce Roberts that the Native corporation has 340-some shareholders, Abell said, "Leisnoi only has two here speaking in favor of the project...346 don't support their own business plan."

Most of the 20-some people who testified last night acknowledged Leisnoi has a right to log its land.

"But, when it comes into the bay and disrupts livelihoods, it's time to draw the line," said Dave Odell, a Chiniak resident.

Others claimed that bark accumulation from logs transported from shore to ship would destroy the marine environment in highly productive Kalsin Bay.

"Kalsin Bay has deep holes where the fishing is good," Heinrichs said. "I understand that Kalsin Bay is a high-energy coastline and that the bark will get dispersed, but will the bark settle in those deep pockets?"

Marty Parsons of Parsons & Associates, which prepared a report reviewing the scientific evidence for Leisnoi, rebutted many of last night's arguments to deny the permit. He said bark accumulation will be very slight because Kalsin Bay is a high-energy bay and gets flushed frequently.

Many people testified that the logging ship will transport invasive species from foreign ports by exchanging ballast water near Kodiak.

Again, Parsons rebutted, saying many scientists assert that foreign vessels have the least chance of bringing non-indigenous species because the Coast Guard requires them to exchange ballast water in open waters.

"The largest threat comes from inner-coastal vessels because they are not required to document ballast exchange," Parsons said.

Both sides agreed on one point—selling Leisnoi's 18,000-acre parcel from Myrtle Creek to Sequel Point at Cape Chiniak to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (see related story in today's Kodiak Daily Mirror).

Roberts, Leisnoi's president, however, said it is a "long shot" that the EVOS will purchase it.

So the public and at least one state agency will continue to listen to the debate as the assembly decides the fate of Leisnoi's project.

"ADF&G is looking to the borough assembly for guidance and to take the lead on this issue before making its recommendations," said Mike Wiedmer, habitat biologist for Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game.

She hopes spill money can save Chiniak

By JEFF RICHARDSON
Mirror Writer

After years of feuding over the future of Cape Chiniak, the Leisnoi Corporation and an area resident may have found a compromise to make everyone happy.

After a suggestion from Judy Lucas, a vocal opponent of Leisnoi's logging practices, the Native corporation is offering to sell 18,000 acres of land to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trust Council.

If approved for purchase, Cape Chiniak would become a state park.

"It was kind of a coming together of the minds out in Chiniak," said Bruce Robertson, Leisnoi president. "It would benefit all of Kodiak's residents — not just Chiniak residents — if something like this went through."

Other Leisnoi property, such as Long Island, has also been submitted for purchase by the EVOS council.

But Lucas, a Chiniak resident, said a sale of the Cape would be particularly significant because it would halt extensive logging in the area. Robertson said Leisnoi is interested in the concept because it would generate revenue.

"Whether it would be a sale of the land out there or logging, it's just another avenue we have to explore in looking out for our shareholders," Robertson said.

The next step will be to convince the EVOS council Cape Chiniak is worth buying.

Eric Myers, director of the council, said five large parcels of land are now being considered for purchase, along with about 300 smaller areas.

No price proposals have been made for the Chiniak land.

For EVOS to buy an area, it must have good "restoration potential," Myers said. It also must be determined that protecting an area would help it recover from oil spill damage.

The Cape Chiniak land is being evaluated to see if it meets those requirements. Myers said the EVOS council may consider its nomination as early as May 29.

Land purchases have already secured 520,000 acres, with a total of about $380 million available for habitat protection.

Lucas said Cape Chiniak has plenty of selling points.

She said the area contains a sea lion rookery, 12 archaeological sites, stocked lakes, salmon streams, and some of the best whale watching areas on the island.

"That area always seemed like a park to me," she said. "You stand up on the hillside and it's just so spectacular. I always loved going there."

To help push the process along, Lucas is organizing a Friends of Chiniak group.

She said public comment is critical for the EVOS council to take the purchase request seriously. Other sites are farther along in the process than Cape Chiniak, and she does not want the proposal to be overlooked.

"They need to know this land is wanted and needed by the people who live around it," Lucas said. "Anybody I've talked to has shown enthusiasm and interest."

Lucas said there are still untouched, road accessible areas in Cape Chiniak, including Sequel Point and land around Roslyn Creek.

That factor could be a critical one in the EVOS evaluation. Myers said the area's logging history could affect how much restoration potential the area has, and how willing the council is to purchase the land.

To voice an opinion about the Cape Chiniak purchase, write to Eric Myers, EVOS, 645 G St., Suite 401, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3451 or by e-mail at ericm@oilspill.state.ak.us.

Overlook Park back into budget after agreement on maintenance

by J. Michael Lyons
Staff Writer

The piece of Homer land known as Overlook Park is back in the Senate budget following a compromise between state officials, a local conservation group and Sen. John Torgerson.

Torgerson introduced a budget amendment earlier this month that would give the required legislative approval for the purchase of the 97-acre coastal plot near Bluff Point on the Sterling Highway and turn it into a state park after the Department of Natural Resources convinced him that it would not cost the state anything to maintain.

"As far as I'm concerned this is a done deal."

-- Sen. John Torgerson

Torgerson was initially concerned that the land would add another burden on a financially stretched Division of Parks and Recreation, which submitted a list of 18 state parks closures last month after the House of Representatives threatened cuts to its budget.

But the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society has volunteered to provide park maintenance and litter removal and has indicated that it will monitor use, habitat and conduct bird counts.

The agreement will absolve the state of any additional operating costs, according to Jim Stratton, director of parks.

"Absolutely nothing," he said.

Most importantly, said Torgerson, the deal is in writing through correspondence between Natural Resources and the conservation society, and the budget amendment says just that.

"As far as I'm concerned this is a done deal," said Torgerson. "It's a good compromise and I'm happy."

A local group or individuals taking responsibility for a state park is not a new concept, he added. Under the state "Adopt-a-Park" program groups often sign agreements to handle maintenance and park monitoring.

Conservation society co-president Nina Faust said in a letter to Torgerson that the group would like to do just that.

The House has also included the Overlook Park project in its budget.

Five Homer residents bought the park land in 1985 to save it from development. The Exxon Valdez Trustees Council agreed to buy the land for $279,000 but had to wait for legislative approval because it would fall under state management.

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG
MAY 1, 1997

Students study Prince William Sound marine life

By Carlyn Walker
LOG Staff

This October a group of scientists from Seward boarded the Pacific Star and traveled to Prince William Sound to study growth trends among Pacific herring. When they reached the Sound they joined other scientists, boarded a small seining vessel, and began their search for schools of herring. The boat crept along at night, using only high-tech fish-finder equipment to search for herring and sonar to guide them, to prevent any lights from scaring the fish. At one point the boat ran onto a large span of sheet ice.

"It sounded like nails on a chalkboard" said Amy Lipinski, local student scientist.

Shortly after freeing themselves, the crew discovered a small school of herring, netted it, then transferred specimens to the Pacific Star for testing. Fish by fish the scientist tested, for age, weight and length of the herring. They hoped the collected data would help explain, why eight years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill herring stocks are still in decline.

Five of these dedicated scientists are locals students who attend Seward Elementary and High School. Lipinski, Tara DeRuwe, Brian Collier, Kari Schafer, Jonah Swiderski and Jacob Zimmerman are all selected participants of Youth Area Watch, a integrated scientific research program based in the Chugach School District and funded through the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

" Three years ago we decided our district needed a curriculum, especially science, that was more meaningful to the kids," said Roger Sampson, superintendent for Chugach School District.

Sampson felt that their proximity and accessibility to scientists working in the Prince William Sound area offered a unique opportunity for students to become involved with scientists in the field. He then presented a proposal to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to fund a cooperative effort in research, in which students and scientists could work together to study marine life and oceanography.

'We took float planes to nine different sites to collect mussels in Prince William Sound. To find out how much pristane was in the mussels and find the population density of the mussels.'

— Tara DeRuwe

"It benefited the kids, the scientist and the communities, and will hopefully help transfer ownership of the resources back to the communities surrounding the Sound," Sampson said.

The council agreed to fund the project. To insure that the students were motivated and dedicated, each student had to undergo rigorous selection conducted by people outside their school. The first year only 10 students from the Chugach School District were involved, but this year it was expanded to include 20-30 students from the Chugach district and six students from Seward schools.

Since last October, students have traveled to Prince William Sound three times, sometimes traveling by floatplane, other times by boat. They studied herring stocks, mussels, salmon and oceanography. Each trip was an authentic research project in which scientists and students worked together to gather and study specimens, then collect and analyze data.

"We took floatplanes to nine different sites to collect mussels in Prince William Sound," said DeRuwe. "To find out how much pristane was in the mussels and find the population density of the mussels."

Research scientist Pat Harris led the students' efforts to study pristane levels in the mussels. By studying this simple trace chemical the scientist could figure out how healthy herring stocks were and during what years. Students also worked with scientists in Auke Bay studying salmon parasites and "gel electrophoresis," a process by which scientists can discover the origin of caught salmon. For the fourth and final trip, the students boarded the Bering Explorer and traveled to Prince William Sound to study oceanography and plankton specimens. This data will help explain what marine life lives in the Sound in winter.

"We took readings of conductivity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen content from water samples, " said Collier, an 11th-grader.

Before the oil spill not much was known about the marine environments of Prince William Sound. It wasn't until recently that scientists began gathering data.

In addition to research trips, the students had to complete a local project. Collectively the elementary school participants — DeRuwe, Lipinski, Swiderski and their teacher, Marvin Tapsfield — produced a website discussing their role in Youth Area Watch. It can be accessed at www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/schools/Seward.elem/YAW.html.

"The kids also had to do a local project, which ended up being a project at (the Institute of Marine Science) with Judy McDonald," Tapsfield said.

McDonald, a local research biologist, volunteered her time and expertise to be a mentor for the students. Under her supervision, Zimmerman and Swiderski are studying brown king crab.

"Since Feb. 25 Jake (Zimmerman) and I have been working with baby brown king crab, called 'zoeae.' We've been tracking their weight loss ever since they were born," Swiderski said.

Twice a week the boys feed the crabs, change tank water, collect molts and look for deaths. Currently they are working to finish a paper discussing their findings. When the paper is completed the boys' work could be published in a scientific journal.

"Right now, there is no information about them (brown king crab); all the stuff is new. The boys and I are learning together in a real lab; doing real science," McDonald said.

Collier is working separately to determine the calorie content of juvenile herring. This data is obtained using a complicated and finicky machine called a calorimeter.

"It's a complicated process that takes days to learn," Collier said. "Mainly I use the calorimeter. I learned more with hands-on work, which is much better than the classroom."

For their project Lipinski and DeRuwe helped McDonald at IMS. They keep logs of all their experiences. Students must continue to participate in projects for the entire summer.

"Some of us have been going down to Lowell Point and collecting mussels and labeling them," DeRuwe said.

The samples are sent to Harris. These samples will be the first ever collected and recorded from Resurrection Bay.

"These kids are getting a taste of real science," McDonald said.

This was exactly what the Chugach School District was aiming for, a hand-ons, realistic application of science directly related to the students' surrounding environment. Another benefit of the project was a communication link between Alaska Native elders and young Natives.

"We found that in our Native communities it provided a common dialogue between elders and the youth about the loss of resources," Sampson said.

Native peoples of the Chugach School District area know that the resources are in decline, but they don't understand why. The students study why the stocks are in decline and explain to the elders why the herring and salmon catches aren't what they used to be. This helps give the young people ownership of the resources and a sense that they had earned something more meaningful than a report card from their scholastic studies.

When asked what was their favorite part of the experience, Zimmerman said, "Getting stranded in Chenega for a week; that was pretty cool. We watched 'Simpsons' for eight hours straight, watching two tapes straight beginning to end, without stopping."

Amy Danzl/Special to The LOG

Jacob Zimmerman works on his scientific report at the Institute of Marine Science.

SeaLife Center news

By Jim Pfeiffenberger

The Alaska SeaLife Center's new director of discovery education, Leslie Peart, is now on board. She is busily planning public education programs for the eventual opening of the SeaLife Center in May of '98. She brings with her 13 years of classroom experience in public schools and three years' experience in the Discovery Education Department at the Texas State Aquarium.

Lynn Aderholt has been arranging housing for some baby puffins and pigeon guillemots. The birds are due to arrive in Seward sometime next fall from the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The Institute of Marine Science has agreed to let her set up a temporary home for the birds outside of their lab building, where they will stay until the seabird habitat in the center is completed. Lynn said, "The neat thing about these birds is that their parents were originally collected right in this area, so they are from local genetic stock."

Look for a 20-foot by 35-foot tent to rise soon near the corner of Third and Railway. This will be the SeaLife Center's visitor contact tent for the summer season. Visitors will be able to get information, watch a SeaLife Center video, and sign up for hard-hat tours of the construction site here.

The local sea life grows more interesting with each lengthening day. Common mergansers are now conspicuous all around the harbor and lagoon. The first Arctic terns of the season have already been spotted. They fly north from the waters around Antarctica, making their migration the longest of any animal in the world. Humpback whales have also begun to arrive from their Hawaiian wintering grounds and gray whales continue to pass by the capes and islands at the mouth of the bay. Take a moment to get out and enjoy this remarkable time of year.

Jim Pfeiffenberger is an employee of the Alaska SeaLife Center.

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG
MAY 1, 1997

East Road park planning begins

If all goes as planned the sounds of engines are not likely to echo through the hills on the Homer side of Kachemak Bay State Park.

The Division of Parks and Recreation is consulting with residents near the 2,300 acre segment on East End Road known as the Cottonwood and Eastland units.

At a meeting two weeks ago at McNeil Canyon Elementary School, neighbors of the parklands met with staff of the parks division and talked about the possible range of options. Though no consensus for park development has been reached, most feel that it should be minimal.

"I think the main theme is very restricted uses limited to mainly trails with traditional uses," said District Ranger Roger MacCampbell.

Two pieces of the park were connected earlier this year when the parks division bought a 155-acre, privately owned section using Exxon Valdez oil spill criminal settlement funds.

It comprises mostly forested canyons and bluffs that slope to about 500 feet above the Bay.

One issue agreed upon by nearly all who participated in a planning workshop with the division earlier this month was fire. About 80 percent of the land's trees are dead from spruce bark beetles. The slope of the land and the number of dead trees are ideal ingredients for wildfire, says MacCampbell.

Consequently, it appears that camping and campfires would be prohibited.

MacCampbell is currently working on a summary that will include all the comments from the workshop. It will be presented to the Kachemak Bay State Park Advisory Committee and its suggestions will be incorporated into the division's management and work plans, said MacCampbell.

The division will use $150,000 from the state Marine Recreation Fund for park improvements, which could begin next year.

The division is also considering creating a parking area that could be used as a hiking or snowmachine staging area on a piece of state-owned land dissected by East End Road at about Mile 17.

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VOL. 57 NO. 86 THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1997

Sea lions listed endangered

By ALLEN BAKER
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE (AP) — The Steller sea lion in a broad sweep of Alaska waters has been listed as endangered. The move comes after years of population decline, but scientists aren't sure what's causing the problem and no new conservation measures have been ordered.

The marine mammal has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act since 1990. The long-expected endangered listing was announced by the National Marine Fisheries Service Wednesday. It covers waters west of Cape Suckling, which is about 75 miles southeast of Cordova.

Sea lions in the eastern part of the gulf, and down the coast to California, remain on the threatened list. That population has been stable, biologists say. Those sea lions are slightly different biologically from the western population.

Scientists have been trying for a decade to determine the cause of the population drop. Disease, killer whale predation, and incidental catch by commercial fishermen have been ruled out, said Tom Laughlin, a scientist for the marine fisheries service at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle.

"What we're now looking at are the possible effects of reduced prey availability," Laughlin said. "It could be caused by localized depletion of prey, or environmental changes." The sea lions mostly eat small to medium-size schooling groundfish, such as pollock, cod, sablefish, and herring.

Most of the Stellers, which grow as large as 10 feet long and 2,000 pounds, are in the Aleutians. It was in the eastern Aleutians that the population began declining in the 1970s, Laughlin said.

There were an estimated 140,000 Steller sea lions in the area from the Aleutians to Prince William Sound in the 1960s. Surveys last summer showed that population was just 44,000. After steep declines in the late 1980s, Laughlin said, numbers have continued to drop 5 to 7 percent a year.

The decline continues despite buffer zones around thirty-five Steller sea lion rookeries — the sites where the animals have their pups — in Alaska.

With rare exceptions, vessels are not allowed to approach within three miles or trawl within 10 miles of the rookeries. Some have 20-mile closures. That's the maximum distance a female sea lion goes to find food for her young pup, said Jon Lewis, the steller sea lion recovery coordinator for the marine fisheries service.

Commercial fishermen say it's unlikely the decline is related to the pollock fishery. Pollock numbers in the region peaked around 1987, said Paul MacGregor, executive director of the American Factory Trawler Association in Seattle, just when the sea lion numbers were in sharp decline.

"In the areas where we fish, the number of sea lions has stabilized in the last few years," MacGregor said.

Biologist Lewis, who works in Juneau, say researchers are moving away from trying to determine the cause of the decline and focusing on whether there's something that can be done to reverse it.

"We can't control sea temperatures, Lewis said. "But fish stocks and availability of food to the animals is something we can control."

Biologists are planning research on ways to boost sea lion populations. But it's hard to determine the impact of various measures in the short term, he said, because sea lions don't breed until they are four or five years old, and they have just one pup a year.

If current trends continue, though, fisheries biologists say it's nearly certain the western population will be extinct in 65 to 100 years.

Kodiak Daily Mirror
May 1, 1997

Overlook Park purchase back on track

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

The purchase of land near Homer known as Overlook Park is back on track with an amendment to a capital spending bill in the state Senate.

Sen. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof, said he introduced the amendment only after John Shively, commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, assured him that caring for the land wouldn't cost Alaska State Parks any additional money.

Shively didn't exactly say that caring for the land would cost nothing, Torgerson said. What he said was that the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society had agreed to do litter pick-up and maintenance. Torgerson said he included that in the Senate bill.

"It was a nice compromise," he said. "At lease now, we don't need to worry about shutting campgrounds because of the added cost."

Nina Faust, co-president of the conservation society, wrote Torgerson April 21 that Homer residents have worked for a decade to procure unique habitat at Overlook Park. The conservation society is extremely anxious to achieve that goal, especially since the Exxon trustees have funded the purchase.

"Overlook Park contains special undevelopable wetlands habitat, hosts a variety of waterfowl and other small mammals, and is an important part of Homer's viewshed, (and) of prime economic importance to Homer's tourism. Holding this land for protection will not cost state Parks additional money."

The conservation society will help with litter pick-up, she wrote, and with projects such as habitat monitoring and bird counts.

"We're willing to sign an agreement with state Parks making this our official 'Adopt a Park' unit for the future," she wrote.

Torgerson originally opposed the purchase, funded with $279,000 from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, after Jim Stratton, director of Parks, said he'd have to lay off 14 summer workers and close 18 parks statewide under budget cuts proposed in the House. Threatened parks included campgrounds at Stariski and Anchor Point, and two new boat ramps at The Pillars and at Cooper Landing on the Kenai River.

After the House added back $52,000, Stratton said he could afford to operate Anchor Point and Stariski campgrounds. But Stratton said he still couldn't afford to open the two new boat ramps if the House budget prevails. The Senate budget proposal gives Parks full funding. A conference committee is now working to resolve the differences.

While the House approved the Overlook Park purchase, the Senate originally dropped the idea. But the Overlook Park purchase is back with Torgerson's amendment to the Senate's main capital spending bill, Senate Bill 107. The Senate Finance Committee should pass that to the full Senate early in May, he said.

Torgerson said he doesn't think Stratton has the authority to close the new boat launch at Cooper Landing, which was funded partly with federal highway money.

"I think their reaction to budget cuts is unresponsive," Torgerson said. "He doesn't even have a cut in the Senate, and he's saying he can't do it."

What Parks needs is a director with some business sense, Torgerson said.

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR
4/28/97

Shuyak Park bill on its way to governor

JUNEAU (AP) — Shuyak Island State Park would more than triple in size under a bill that has passed the Legislature.

The bill by Sen. Jerry Mackie, D-Craig, expands the park to include all public lands on Shuyak, which is near Kodiak Island. It passed the House Friday 27-9 and next goes to Gov. Tony Knowles for consideration.

Mackie said the rights of hunters, anglers and subsistence users would be accommodated in the expanded park.

"In addition, people who have private land holding on the island will not be affected by the park expansion," Mackie said.

The new park lands would come from 26,665 acres purchased by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council from the Kodiak Island Borough last year and would also include other state lands on the island.

Shuyak was one of the islands that was hit by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound. Knowles' spokesman Bob King said the administration supported the legislation.

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS 4/27/97

Park near Kodiak will triple size

Knowles will sign bill for Shuyak Island Park

By NATALIE PHILLIPS
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — A bill that would turn an island at the north end of the Kodiak archipelago into a state park was sent Friday to the governor, who plans to sign it.

That means the 13,000-acre Shuyak Island State Park, which now covers only the northwestern fringe of Shuyak Island, will more than triple in size and become a 48,000-acre park covering the entire island.

"We are very supportive of the bill," said Bob King, the governor's spokesman. "We're glad to see it is coming up to us and the governor looks forward to signing it."

The mayor of the Kodiak Island Borough, Jerome Selby, said, "We have been working on this for about 10 years. It was great to see it pass this morning."

The island has long been a favorite fall silver salmon fishing and deer hunting spot. In recent years, sea kayakers have discovered the island, said Jim Stratton, director of the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

The island is very flat, but lush and green with skunk cabbage, duck ponds, inlets and bays, Stratton said. Four public cabins are available.

"It offers superb wildlife viewing and it's about an hour by air from either Homer or Kodiak," he said.

"We will be able to look at the whole island as a park and build a trail network," he said. "It's cool because it is an entire island ecosystem."

Stratton said it will not cost the state more than "a little more boat gas" to manage the park because a park ranger is already stationed there in the summer through early fall.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Jerry Mackie, D-Craig, passed in the House Friday with a 27-9 vote.

The bill consolidates all the public land on the island into a state park. The private land on the south end of the island will remain in the private owners' hands.

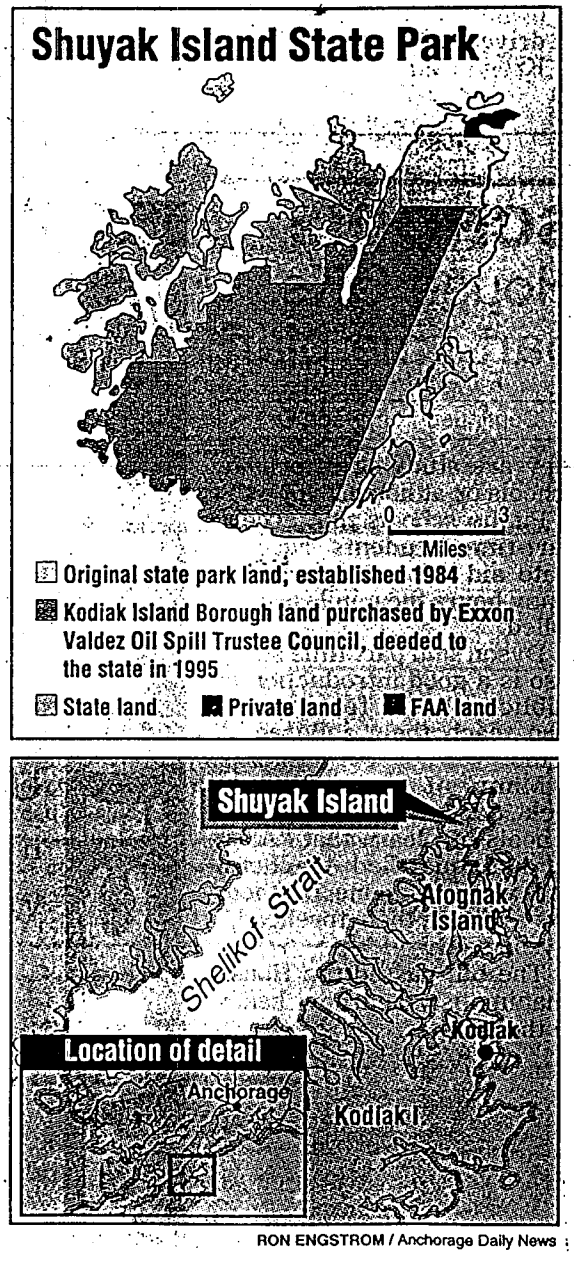
The original 13,000-acre Shuyak Island State Park was created by the Legislature in 1984.

The state also owns the land along the eastern coast of the island that is being incorporated into the larger park.

$42 million of the settlement money from the 1989 oil sp[illed] to purchase the land from t[he] borough.

The land was turned over to the state so the park could be expanded into the new, roughly 100-square-mile park.

The Kodiak Island Borough owned the 26,000 acres in the center of the island. In 1995, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council used



RON ENGSTROM / Anchorage Daily News

Homer Spit land may go for the birds

By JON LITTLE
Daily News Peninsula Bureau

SOLDOTNA — The city of Homer and two conservation groups have launched an effort to buy as many as 150 acres of intertidal land along the Homer Spit and Beluga Slough to preserve habitat key to birds and sealife.

Lands up for protection are the muddy saltwater shoreline along the Spit and the slough's wetlands, both known nationally as prime habitat for migratory birds.

"Obviously there has to be room for development, but some of the critical stuff needs to be protected," said Barbara Seaman, director of Kachemak Heritage Land Trust in Homer.

Kachemak land trust and the San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land are doing a lot of legwork to get the privately owned land into public hands, Homer Mayor Jack Cushing said.

Working with owners of small tracts is complex, Cushing said, which is why working with the Trust for Public Land is so helpful. So far, they've lined up a half-dozen landowners who are willing to sell 68 undeveloped acres on the Spit and 40 more acres near Beluga Slough.

"They're a national expert in this type of land transaction," he said. "They know the steps to go through, particularly where there's a funding source."

The source in this case could be the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's small parcel habitat protection program. That program targets parcels smaller than 1,000 acres that play a big role in restoring resources hurt by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Competition is fierce just to be considered for purchase by the oil spill trustees, said Chris Rogers, Alaska manager for the Trust for Public Land. The groups have argued that these parcels are ideal for purchase with oil spill settlement money because the land is in the intertidal zone and was directly affected by the spill.

"The Homer Spit is one of those places that everyone knows and cares about," Rogers said. Rogers, who works out of Seattle, said he's been called by bird enthusiasts nationwide wanting to weigh in on behalf of protecting the Spit.

More than 20 migratory bird species flock there each spring, making it a popular draw for tourists who attend events like the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival, May 8-10 this year, Seaman said.

The Spit also supports a major part of Homer's economy, with an increasing number of tourist stores, a resort, a boat harbor, a seafood processing plant and two huge storage yards for Peninsula raw lumber and wood chips waiting for shipment outside the state.

It's the rise in development there in recent years that has groups like Kachemak Heritage Land Trust concerned, Seaman said. She fears the popularity of the Spit is threatening the wildlife that makes the place such an asset.

If the Exxon Valdez trustees agree that the land is important enough to set aside for public ownership, it will offer a bid based on the land's appraised value, said Joe Hunt, Trustees spokesman.

So far, 303 parcels statewide have been submitted for review, he said. Of those, some 50 were judged to be worth pursuing. The Homer parcels still are under review.

Oil spill trustees don't become landowners if a sale is made. The group simply provides the money. The process needs a sponsoring public agency to take ownership. In this case, the state Department of Natural Resources is listed as a sponsor, Hunt said.

Hunt said the Trustees have received a lot of letters in support of buying the land.

The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit land conservation organization that has worked for the last 25 years to preserve lands with recreational, ecological and historical value. Since the mid-1980s, it has helped protect land in Denali National Park, the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and Admiralty Island National Monument in the Tongass National Forest.

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust's goal is to forge conservation easements, which are contracts with landowners that spell out the protection of the property's natural state in perpetuity.

Baycrest Hill excavation dirt to be trucked, not dumped

by Hal Spence
Staff Writer

No more dirt from the Sterling Highway reconstruction project will be pushed over the bluff on Baycrest Hill, an engineer with the Alaska Department of Transportation said this week.

Instead, the contractor, Quality Asphalt Paving Inc., will take whatever dirt it doesn't use within the right-of-way to an assortment of public and private locations, said Dave Eberle, director of design and construction for the transportation department's central region.

"We've been working with Quality's management to find alternative disposal sites," Eberle said. "Quality and DOT understand the concerns of the community. The issue was, could they contain it (the dirt pushed over the bluff)? Rather than face those lingering concerns, we cooperatively found alternative sites. We believe we have enough areas."

A large portion of the estimated 200,000 cubic yards of dirt still to be excavated will go to the Kenai Peninsula Borough landfill at Baycrest Hill. Some will be hauled to Homer Airport for use there. Quality also has arrangements with several private property owners who need fill. Eberle said he didn't know if those private owners are paying for the dirt or getting it for free.

"There is an extra expense in moving the dirt," he said.

Quality's president, Gordy Hayes, acknowledged the added costs. He said the company is continuing to look for other alternative dump sites, but to control costs, private property owners who want dirt will have to be fairly close to the project, he said.

Hayes said the public outcry over the dumping led to the decision to find other places for material excavated from the hill.

"What it boiled down to ... with all the bad notoriety, the risk was too great to continue dumping over the bluff," Hayes said. "So, we bit the bullet."

Bob Shavelson, head of the Homer watchdog organization Cook Inlet Keeper, said the decision was good news, but that only alleviates part of the environmental problems associated with the project.

"We are encouraged that DOT and the contractor have finally responded to citizen concerns here," Shavelson said. "But the waste fill over the bluff is only one of the issues. The other issue that still remains is surface-water quality and habitat destruction."

Those are the issues that led the federal Environmental Protection Agency to propose a $25,000 penalty against Quality and the transportation department, he said.

"We've recently taken samples to show that these Clean Water Act violations are ongoing," Shavelson said.

Water samples taken from Bidarka Creek and other unnamed creeks along the project route show normal background levels of turbidity above the road, but turbidity "many magnitudes higher" below the site, Shavelson said. "We will continue to watch the project very closely."

Hayes said he thinks the high turbidity will continue long after Quality is gone. Part of the excess silt is natural erosion, he said.

"The whole area is filled up with sand and silt that's washed off the bluff over years and years," he said. "We'll do whatever we can to mitigate whatever storm-water problems have been created by our job. Anything prudent and necessary, we're going to do."

As the road work continues along the upper reaches of the project, motorists may still see dirt being pushed around by heavy equipment, but none will be pushed over the bluff, Eberle said.

To complete the work, Quality will contour, pull back slopes a bit and plant seed. Along a small section, they may raise the bluff-side shoulder to contain some runoff, but that won't interfere with the magnificent view, Eberle said.

The project calls for an enhanced turnout at the bluff. Passing motorists still will have a wide view of Kachemak Bay as they pass the turnouts, he said.

Although the contract gives Quality until early next summer to complete the project, Hayes said he hopes to have the work substantially completed by August of this year.

"That certainly is the target," he said. "Barring an act of God, I can't see why we wouldn't beat that date."

The company may not have completed all the lighting, erected all the signs and guardrails, nor finished other special items at the turnout by that time, but traffic should be rolling freely along its full, four-lane width by late summer, he said.

Dudiak lauded for sport, commercial work

by J. Michael Lyons
Staff Writer

Despite a wall full of awards and commendations, retiring Department of Fish and Game biologist Nick Dudiak might miss the kids the most.

Dudiak has helped revolutionize salmon fishing in the region and spearheaded the Homer Spit's Fishing Hole, a nationally recognized salmon fishery enhancement project that will help change fishing in this part of Alaska for many years.

But all most kids know is that the lagoon is a cool place to fish. And that's good enough for Dudiak.

Fishing, he says, is more than plopping a lure in the water.

"I can't help but feel that it might help kids steer in the right direction," said Dudiak a little more than a week before he retires. "I made that a major mission in my work and I will miss that."

The Fishing Hole is the result of years of research on salmon enhancement.

Another is Chenik Lake, which supported an average run of 80,000 sockeye salmon and a major commercial fishery in the 1930s. But the runs faded and it was closed in 1952. In the late 1970s, a run of 500 was considered good.

Dudiak teamed up with the Cook Inlet Seiners Association and stocked the lake. By 1988, the run hit a record high of 188,000.

But his crowning moment remains the Fishing Hole, where early work with imprinting kings and silvers in salt water served as a catalyst for revolutionary fisheries management in this part of the world.

"We thought we would have to drop an artificial scent there," said Dudiak. "We did that for a couple of years and we found that they paid no attention to it."

But they came back. That led to others in Halibut Cove and around Kachemak Bay.

Now more than 90 percent of the sport salmon harvested by Bay anglers originated in enhancement projects.

The project earned him awards and recognition nationwide.

Fishing and Hunting News, a national outdoor newspaper, named him 1990 "Outdoor Personality of the Year in Alaska."

Despite the scientific value, the Fishing Hole did what Dudiak hoped it would do most — help fishermen.

"We've got a lot of people that end up on the Spit that may not be able to afford a charter boat or have a boat," he said. "Let's provide a fishery for the shore-based fisherman."

Dudiak started at Fish and Game in 1977 and since then has always included public opinion in his decision-making. A tough job for a man in an organization that often elicits more scorn than praise from Alaskans.

"I don't think in my experience that anybody has retired from Fish and Game with all the goodwill of everyone around him," said hunting and fishing guide and longtime friend Meryl Wolford. "I don't know how he got through all those years."

Wolford credited Dudiak with helping to save salmon trolling along the Kenai Peninsula coast by striking a compromise between trollers and river anglers. The result was the coastal "no fishing zone" around river mouths.

"It could have been a lot worse," said Wolford. "It could have closed us down."

An avid fishermen himself, Dudiak is praised by both the commercial and sport industries — a fence that few can sit on comfortably.

But despite his love of fishing, it hasn't always been a an easy ride. While doing regulation enforcement, Dudiak has had his share of run-ins.

"I've had people almost want to wrestle me on the banks of the Anchor River."

Near river-bank scuffles didn't deter him from helping to educate people about fishing.

"I have put a lot of emphasis on that over the years because I think it's a good investment," said Dudiak. "I have been rewarded by it many, many times over the years."

So have others.

Dudiak will also be remembered around the Peninsula and state for his slide shows and seminars on sportfishing and salmon. Many were sponsored by the South Peninsula Sportsman's Association, an organization he has been a part of since its inception.

"A lot of what I learned I learned at Nick Dudiak seminars," said Board of Fisheries member Ed Dersham.

Dersham credits Dudiak with raising the level of sport fishing on the Peninsula, which now accounts for 40 percent of all sport fishing in the state.

As a whole, sport fishing in the region has increased 33 percent in the last 10 years.

"I try to imagine if there had been no Nick Dudiak in Homer," he said. "It's tough. There's a lot of things we benefit from that he's been responsible for."

Dudiak will hang around the sport fishing industry as a guide on the Kenai River.

"It's time to move on to other challenges," he said simply.

A piece of Dudiak's legacy is available now for the taking. The kings are back in the Fishing Hole. Don't be surprised if the guy casting next to you is the man who got them there.

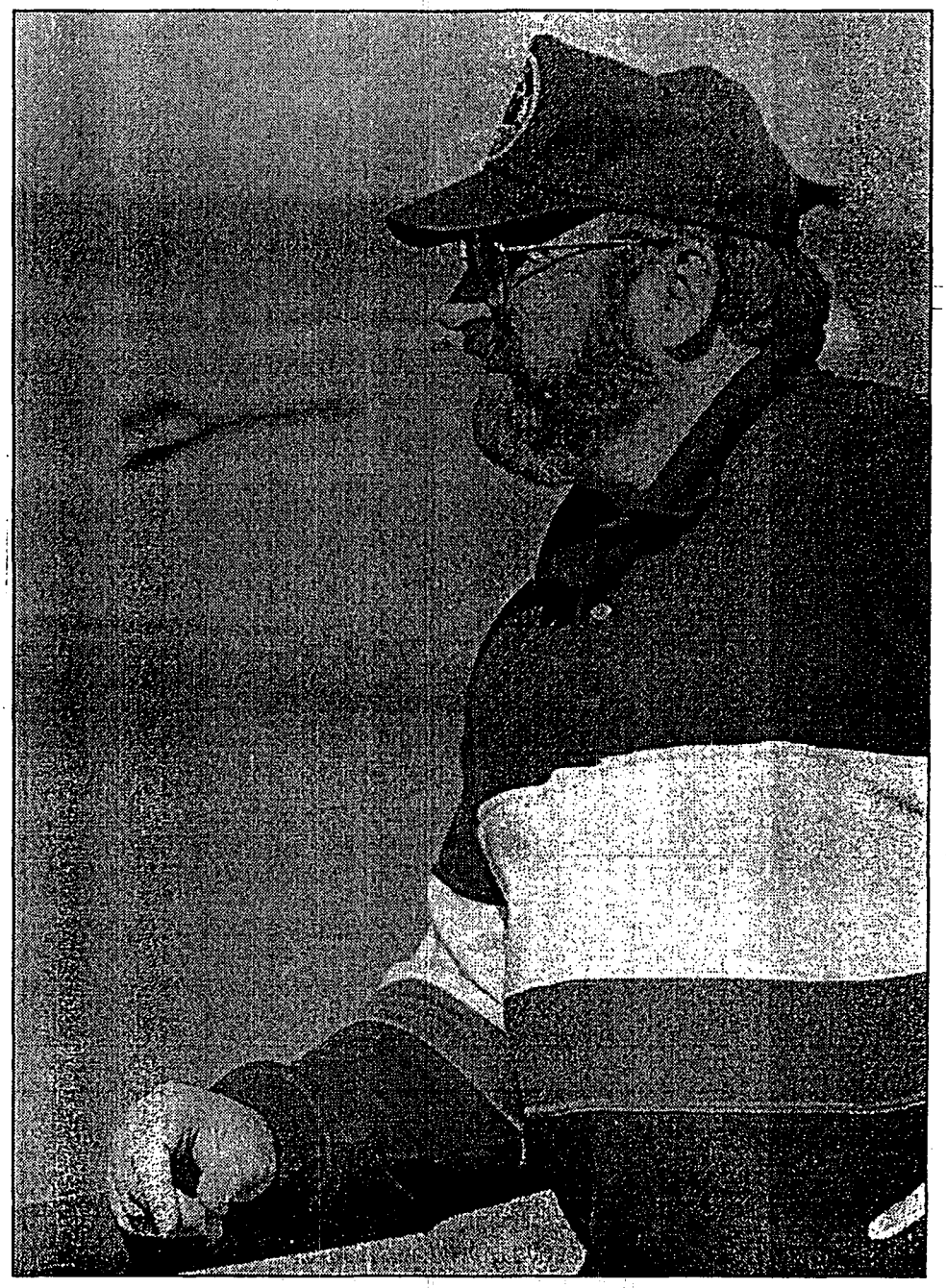


Photo by J. Michael Lyons, Homer News

Nick Dudiak takes a moment to reflect on the Fishing Hole before he retires May 1.

Migrating birds closely monitored as they wing about

By Sandy Frost

For The Times

The little buzz bombs of energy that we call shorebirds are converging on the vast wetlands of the Copper River Delta and while the shorebird migration is an unsurpassed wildlife viewing spectacle for many, it has also been a focus of intense study and research for the last six years.

From performing aerial shorebird counts to tracking migrating shorebirds through the use of radio transmitters, Dr. Mary Anne Bishop of the Copper River Delta Institute has been trying to uncover some of the mysteries of shorebird migration.

"Migration is a spring miracle," said Bishop. "These studies will help us understand the habitat needs of migrating shorebirds and help us make decisions about the use and conservation of these critical areas."

Bishop said that the studies help researchers get a better handle of who's going where.

"We don't know where all the birds are coming from, and we don't know where all the birds are stopping," said. "We know that the Copper River Delta is one of the most important, if not the most important, staging areas for shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere. Through these studies we're trying to identify other critical habitats."

Some shorebirds migrate thousands of miles between South America and the Arctic each spring and fall, said Bishop. Cordova's western sandpipers may begin their northbound journey from as far south as Peru or Panama, said Bishop.

Along their way, the birds stop to feed and rest at a few distantly separated, irreplaceable wetlands. Often they can be seen in the hundreds and thousands, even millions at one spot.

If any one site were lost due to an oil spill, pollution, development, or agricultural pressure, said Bishop, whole populations — even species — could be lost.

During 1995 and1996, an innovative shorebird tracking program was directed by Bishop and Dr. Nils Warnock, of the University of Nevada-Reno. Along the Pacific Coast, 70 western sandpipers were drafted into service. Minute radio transmitters, weighing less than 1 gram, were attached with waterproof epoxy to clipped feathers on the birds' lower backs. The tiny transmitters continued to broadcast their individual signals for 28-42 days.

Their signature beeps were monitored from land and air at 19 sites between San Francisco and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

This information helped Bishop estimate the length of stay at each stopover area, evaluate the relationships between spring stopover and form a theory about the spring migration strategy of western sandpipers along the Pacific Flyway.

After analyzing the data, Bishop discovered aspects of sandpiper migration that had never before been documented.

In her radio-tracking studies, Bishop found that over 70 percent of all tagged western sandpipers stopped at the Copper River Delta — significantly more than at any other stopover area. She also found that the sandpipers spent an average of 1-3 days at each stopover area.

Perhaps most surprisingly, she discovered that these small, 25 gram birds can fly nonstop at an average speed of 60 m.p.h., covering the 3,622-kilometer distance between San Francisco Bay and the Copper River Delta in 42 hours!

Since 1991, Bishop has been spearheading shorebird research on the Copper River Delta.

This year the Copper River Delta Institute is continuing research on the timing of shorebird migration and estimating population size and composition.

Airboat surveys started April 21 and recorded the first dunlins.

"Yellowlegs and black oystercatchers arrived last week and snipe are due any day," said Bishop. "In the coming days we expect to see black-bellied plovers and dowitchers and, of course, western sandpipers and dunlins on the Delta's mud flats.

Shorebird numbers will climb quickly in the next week, but we usually don't see sandpipers at Hartney Bay until after May 1."

Sandy Frost is an interpretive specialist for the U.S. Forest Service.

River area targeted as critical for wildlife

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

Homer News 4/18/97

State biologists say something like half the Kenai River's late-run sockeye salmon spawn just downstream of Skilak Lake. They've counted a tenth of the Kenai Peninsula's brown bears there on a single day. Bald eagles, waterfowl, mink and wolves use the area.

That's why the Legislature should set it aside as critical habitat, said Chuck Schwartz, a wildlife researcher with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Schwartz has been working with Sen. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof, to draft a bill restricting development on state land surrounding nine miles of the river below Skilak Lake.

A critical habit area would bring no changes in hunting or fishing rules, Schwartz said. It would bring no new restrictions on developing private land. But its creation would likely block new campgrounds or other development on state land crucial to fish and wildlife. It also might bring a ban on angling from the riverbank in October, when numerous brown bears come to eat spawned-out sockeyes.

Soldotna Mayor Ken Lancaster said designating a critical habitat area is a great idea.

"It's more good stewardship of the river and the land beside it," he said. "I hope they go forward with it in some fashion."

Torgerson said he hasn't yet decided whether to support the proposal.

"I've only heard one side," he said. "What they are trying to protect is very important. It's a very important spawning ground. If any area requires a critical habitat area designation, this one makes sense."

But the area includes state, federal and private land, Torgerson said, and that raises questions he wants answered. If the idea seems worth pursuing, he said, there will be public hearings this summer.

Schwartz said Fish and Game would ask the federal government to manage Kenai National Wildlife Refuge land within the critical habitat area for fish and wildlife. Refuge manager Robin West has said the federal government would be a willing partner.

As Schwartz sees it, the critical habitat area would cover more than 50 square miles from the west shore of Skilak Lake to Mile 41 on the river. The Sterling Highway and Skilak Lake Road would form the northern boundary. The southern boundary would lie roughly eight miles south of the highway. The proposed critical habitat area includes the lower Killey River — a major migration corridor for brown bears. Boundaries could change as the proposal takes shape.

Schwartz said the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is considering purchase of private land along the lower Killey. One private owner seems likely to donate 160 acres, he said. But no one would be forced to give up land. Acquisitions for the critical habitat area would be voluntary donations, or purchases from willing sellers at fair market value.

Bruce King, a research biologist with the Fish and Game in Soldotna, said the nine miles downstream of Skilak Lake is probably the most heavily used spawning area in the Kenai River. Co-worker Ken Tarbox said based on surveys in 1987, when the river was clear, half the late sockeye run may spawn there.

Schwartz said brown bears from the mountains between Tustumena and Skilak lakes come in late September and October to eat spawned-out carcasses. So do bears from north of the Sterling Highway. On a single day last fall, he counted 34 different brown bears there — 12 percent of the peninsula population. He knows of others that come.

Bears need salmon to build fat for winter, he said. A large fraction of the bears that visit the area are sows with cubs or yearlings.

"That's the goose that lays the golden egg," Schwartz said.

Radio-collar studies suggest that bears coming for salmon scrupulously avoid development around Sterling. Those coming from the Tustumena area follow the Killey River.

So, the proposed critical habitat area is a migration bottleneck, Schwartz said. Development there would mean for bears what dynamiting the Seward Highway would mean for Anchorage travelers to Kenai River.

Schwartz said the Kenai River supports more wintering bald eagles than any site in Alaska except the Chilkat River near Haines. In fall, the Kenai eagles eat spawned-out sockeyes. In January and February, they eat winter silvers. The only area of the lower river where winter silvers are known to spawn is the stretch below Skilak Lake, Schwartz said.

The eagles can fish because warm water from the lake keeps several miles of the river open for much of the winter, Schwartz said. The open water also draws migrating waterfowl, including trumpeter swans. Ducks eat salmon eggs not buried in the gravel, he said. King and pink salmon spawn there. Mink, river otters and black bears come for fish. Schwartz said he also has seen signs of wolves and coyotes.

Lawmaker fights Peninsula park purchase

The Associated Press

KENAI — A Republican state legislator from Kasilof says it's foolish to add new parkland if the state can't afford to operate existing parks.

State Sen. John Torgerson said he opposes buying a site called Overlook Park, on the Sterling Highway near Homer, until Parks Division officials prove it would cost nothing to maintain.

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council last month approved spending $279,000 to buy Overlook Park, but the purchase is contingent on legislative approval. The Senate voted against the purchase after Parks Division director Jim Stratton announced plans to close some park facilities because of legislative budget cuts. The House approved the purchase.

"I don't care if they buy it or not," Torgerson said. "But they're transferring it to the Department of Natural Resources, and Parks is to maintain it."

Stratton says it won't cost anything to maintain Overlook Park because there are no facilities there. The purchase simply protects habitat and provides public access, he said.

Stratton originally said he would lay off 14 summer workers and close 18 facilities statewide after a House Finance subcommittee cut $183,900 from his budget.

The proposed closures included two boat ramps under construction at the Pillars and Cooper Landing, plus campgrounds at Stariski and the Anchor River.

When the full House added back $52,500, Stratton said he would only lay off nine summer workers and close 14 facilities. That saves the Stariski and Anchor River campgrounds, he said.

However, Stratton said he would not open the two new boat ramps because it doesn't make sense to open new facilities when the Parks Division can't afford existing ones.

Stratton said the current Senate proposal, expected to reach the floor this week, gives his division full funding.

He's hoping for full funding when a House-Senate conference committee makes its decisions.

New boat ramps, Overlook Park still at risk

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

Money the House added back to the Alaska State Parks budget will save campgrounds at the Anchor River and Stariski, Parks officials said. But it's not enough to open two new boat ramps on the Kenai River.

And that's the sort of nonsense that led the state Senate to vote against spending $279,000 from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to buy new park land near Homer, said Sen. John Torgerson, R-Kasilof.

"I don't care if they buy it or not," Torgerson said of the parcel known as Overlook Park along the Sterling Highway just outside Homer. "But they're transferring it to the Department of Natural Resources, and Parks is to maintain it."


Torgerson

If the state can't afford to operate existing parks, he said, then it's foolish to add to them. Torgerson said he's against buying Overlook Park until Parks officials prove it would cost nothing to maintain.

"I haven't heard anything back," he said.

Parks Director Jim Stratton originally said he'd lay off 14 summer workers and close 18 facilities statewide after a House Finance subcommittee cut $183,900 from his budget. The proposed closures included two boat ramps under construction at the Pillars and Cooper Landing, plus campgrounds at Stariski and the Anchor River.

When the full House added back $52,500, Stratton said he'd only lay off nine summer workers and close 14 facilities. That saves the Stariski and the Anchor River campgrounds, he said. But it doesn't make sense to open new facilities when Parks can't afford existing ones. Stratton said he'd close the two new boat ramps.

Stratton said the current Senate proposal, expected to reach the floor this week, gives Parks full funding. He's hoping for full funding when a House-Senate conference committee reconciles differences.

The two boat ramps, plus associated restrooms and parking, cost nearly $1 million each, said Tom Young, Park's design and construction manager. The ramp, a floating dock and a second restroom were installed at the Pillars last year. Work this summer includes a new parking lot and access road. Funding is from federal taxes on sport-fishing gear, and from state hunting and fishing license fees.

The Cooper Landing project, now under construction, includes a ramp, restrooms and caretakers' cabin. Federal highway money, federal taxes on fishing gear, and state matching money pay the cost. State highway construction engineer Mike Tooley questioned whether the state could close the new facilities.

"If there's federal aid money, you can't build them and close them," he said.

Stratton said he can't open them if he can't afford toilet paper for the restrooms.

Torgerson accused Stratton of using scare tactics. He said there'd be an end to such nonsense under Senate Bill 35, which forbids Parks from closing access to traditional uses of state land or water without approval from the Legislature.

Meanwhile, the oil spill trustees agreed last month to fund the purchase of Overlook Park. But the purchase must still pass the Legislature, Stratton said. The House approved in passing its supplemental budget. The Senate passed its supplemental budget, but left out the Overlook Park money.

Torgerson said he learned the trustees had funded Overlook Park the same day he learned Stratton planned to close 18 facilities statewide. He told the Senate Finance Committee, where senators discussed Parks plans to close facilities even with limited budget cuts. He said senators questioned buying new land when Parks can't afford to operate present facilities. Closures wouldn't make sense, he said, because campgrounds generate revenue.

Torgerson said Parks needs a director with business sense.

Stratton said it won't cost anything to maintain Overlook Park, because there are no facilities there. The purchase simply protects habitat and provides public access.

And campgrounds do cost money, he said. The Anchor River and Stariski campgrounds cost $62,700 to operate last year, but earned just $22,000 in camping fees.

The two new ramps would probably pay for themselves, he said. But the House budget cuts Parks' spending of user fees, he said, putting ramp earnings out of reach.

Stratton said Torgerson has questioned why a $131,000 cut means so many closures and layoffs. The House specified roughly $44,000 in personnel cuts, he said, and the union contract bans Parks from laying off permanent workers while it still employs seasonals.

Seasonal workers earn $5,000 or $6,000 each during the summer, Stratton said. So he'd have to lay off about nine to make up the cuts.

REPORT

SeaLife Center in Seward leads list of construction projects in area

The Kenai Peninsula construction boom of the 1980s has declined this decade, tapering in 1997 to a few scattered housing permits and a sprinkling of multimillion-dollar projects currently under construction.

"Its a little early to say what construction will be like this year," said Bob Springer, building official for the City of Kenai. "My prediction is that construction will be pretty mediocre again this year."

According to Springer, Kenai has had only a handful of residential construction permit requests. Two permits were issued for reconstruction, two other permits were issued to rebuild a burned home and another for a burned four-plex. Only three home permits have been issued and construction is under way.

Springer said new home permits are down considerably since the city has very few lots available on developed land with utilities access. Undeveloped land is plentiful, but developers do not want to pay out of pocket to lay utilities — a price tag of $30,000 to $100,000 — for something the city already has but is trying to recover in litigation. The city has been battling a former developer of a 100-plot subdivision for 10 years now, but the end may be drawing near, Springer said. Approximately 60 to 70 developed lots remain, however, no houses can be built ! the litigation is over, Springer said. Once legal matters are resolved, Springer said he ,pects requests for housing permits to increase for residential construction on the already developed subdivision land.

"A lot of developers are waiting for what will happen with the litigation," Springer said.

Fire destroyed The Depot mall in Kenai April 1 and Springer said the owner, Kenai Mayor Mike Navarre, has indicated he will rebuild the three-business operation.

Continued from Page 11

Another retail business also has its eye on building in the Kenai area. Alaska Industrial Hardware has hinted at construction of a new 25,000-square-foot store in Kenai, Springer said, but no plans have been submitted and only landscape designs have been approved.

The $10 million Alaska Regional Aircraft Fire Training Center is tentatively scheduled to break ground this spring, with construction completed sometime in the fall. The center ultimately will provide training techniques to firefighters from Canada, Russia and the United States.

Kenai also hopes to see the Alaska Challenger Center for Space Science and Technol- become a reality, depending on whether the $5 million needed to build it is secured. The center will offer visitors a hands-on exhibit and Challenger simulator, as well as a classroom for education workshops. Challenger centers like the one Kenai hopes to build in the Barren Park subdivision are popping up around the country. The concept came from a foundation organized by family members of the astronauts who perished in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster.

Sandi Kass who handles permits for the city of Soldotna said permit requests are about average, however, 1996 saw 36 new homes constructed along with 12 remodeling projects — nearly three times what has been requested thus far for 1997. For the first quarter of 1997, Kass said she has issued only eight housing permits, one garage permit, and one sign permit for Tesoro Alaska. A commercial mini-mall will be remodeled for three new tenants — Credit Union One, a jewelry store and a therapy center.

"For new commercial building, it's awfully early to know," Kass said, and "requests for (housing) permits is slower than last year ... no real new subdivisions are available."

Ninilchik is busy with the reconstruction of the burned out wing of its elementary school, said Rob Robeson of Kenai Peninsula planning department. Robeson cited the slowdown of state money as the reason no other major projects have been planned.

Seward is undergoing a transformation through one of the largest construction projects in the state. The $52 million Alaska Sealife Center that is due for completion in October will begin visitor tours in May, and marine life and workers should be able to move in by November. The center will focus on scientific research of marine ecosystems and education for the general public.

SeaLife Center news

By Jim Pfeiffenberger

The Alaska SeaLife Center actually has "Windows to the Sea" now — several picture windows were recently installed in the exhibit areas on the second floor at the south end of the building providing stunning views of Resurrection Bay. Many rooms in the building have already been sheetrocked and much of the plumbing, water filtering and life support equipment for the various tanks and aquariums is on site and being set up.

Work on the naturalistic habitat in the sea lion enclosure is well underway. Workers are transforming what appears to be a tangle of twisted rebar into realistic looking rock which mimics the natural formations of coastal Gulf of Alaska.

Director of Aquatics Vic Aderholt just returned from a trip to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he met Woody, Kiska and Sugar, the three juvenile Steller sea lions that are scheduled to arrive in Seward when the SeaLife Center opens. He was very impressed with the care they are receiving and with their dispositions. According to Vic, these are well-behaved, generally cooperative animals that will work well with both researchers and visitors.

The SeaLife Center is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to guide "Hard Hat Tours" through the construction site this summer. For details, call Jim at 224-3080.

Jim Pfeiffenberger works for the SeaLife Center.

Groups seek to protect Kenai River

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has approved funding to purchase property along the Kenai River.

In February, council members voted to spend $698,000 to buy a 3.34 acre parcel in order to protect the area from overuse damage. The parcel is located near the Sterling Highway bridge and is a popular red salmon fishing location due to its highway access.

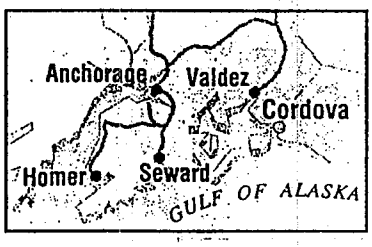
The Kenai River Sport Fishing Association has built a 178-foot fishing platform to permit continued fishing and protect the bank from erosion. If the proposed parcel is purchased, the platform could be extended another 463 feet farther downstream. It also would create a continuous stretch of publicly owned riverfront from the bridge to Soldotna's Centennial Park.

ADN

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1997

By SONYA SENKOWSKY
Daily News reporter

SHEEP BAY — The crack of a gun echoes through a snowy fiord on the edge of Prince William Sound. After nearly a full day of hunting, Jim Totemoff has bagged a harbor seal.



He maneuvers the floating animal through a pink cloud of blood into a rope harness, then hauls it from water to deck. Usually, Totemoff would skin and dress the seal right away, but this one he will bring in whole.

He cuts a 3-inch opening through the thick blubber at the abdomen, enough to allow gases to escape overnight. The seal's exposed white blubber feels like lip balm, smells like fresh-cut grass. Totemoff turns the boat toward home. In Cordova, he will share his prize in a centuries-old Alaska Native tradition.

But this seal will be shared in a new way.

A 5- or 6-pound shoulder of meat will go to the table of Cordova elders Fred and Rose Brizgaloff; they'll boil it with salt and eat it for dinner.

The seal's stomach will go to a scientist at the University of British Columbia to identify what's inside.

The flippers and other flesh, a couple of bags' worth, will go by plane to the hunter's mother and other relatives in Chenega.

The head, blubber and body tissue will travel on ice to scientists at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. They'll use some for a seal-tissue archive, and send other parts to scientists across the country.

Totemoff will keep the pelt, have it tanned and turned into a parka or vest. He also will save a small piece of skin from the back of the seal's neck so a scientist in La Jolla, Calif., can extract and analyze its DNA.

All this sharing is happening under the Harbor Seal Restoration Project, a three-year, statewide study meant to find out why harbor seal numbers are dropping. Some money came from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, but most funding — for this and similar projects in Prince William Sound — is from settlement funds distributed by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

While hunters and scientists have collaborated in Alaska before, this project is different. Now Native hunters like Totemoff are learning to take tissue and organ samples from their kills to share with researchers, whose access to the animals was limited after the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act.

In return, hunters are gaining influence in how and when research is conducted and how results are reported. Alaska Natives are establishing their own network of organizations, called commissions, which encourage — and sometimes even conduct — research.

This level of local involvement is "community-based" science, and it can be controversial. Opponents believe results could be inaccurate or even tainted by political agendas; proponents believe it will lead to better data that also respects residents affected by the research.

Everyone agrees the approach heralds a new standard in science: no longer will Native ways of knowing and Native concerns be secondary to research goals. This, many participants say, is revolutionary.

MODEL FROM THE PAST

Kathy Frost, a marine mammal biologist, has been a scientist in Alaska for more than 20 years. All this talk of revolution sounds a bit sweeping to her. She says the seeds of collaboration have been here for decades.

"As far as I'm concerned," she said, "the people who did it right have always worked with local people."

In fact, Alaska history reveals an old example of Native and scientific cooperation that resulted in more accurate bowhead whale counts. It happened 20 years ago and still offers lessons and a model for successful collaboration.

Outside researchers had descended on Barrow to count bowheads. Low numbers prompted them to send out a warning. They feared the population had plummeted to 2,000.

To counter the decline, the International Whaling Commission abruptly banned the traditional hunt. Later the hunt was reinstated but with a quota of 18 whales, a fraction of the usual harvest.

As it turned out, the count was wrong. Native hunters knew bowheads often swam under ice and thus could elude efforts to count them.

But by the time the quota was introduced, locals felt betrayed. No one had bothered to talk to them about whale behavior; and they had no idea their hunt had been at stake. The community of scientists and Native hunters were quickly at a volatile stalemate.

Two men reached across the divide to help solve the impasse.

Tom Albert was a researcher at the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory in Barrow. Before that, he had been a rural veterinarian in Pennsylvania. Hé was used to talking to farmers, "not discounting them, like many city folk do."

In Barrow he found the same kind of people. "It became clear they knew a whole lot about the ice and the animals they depended on ... I would have easily bet on Harry Brower Sr. in 1978 on being right (about the whale count), rather than some of my friends in the scientific community."

Harry Brower Sr. was an experienced hunter who worked at the arctic research lab as a carpenter. Albert describes him as "a very good observer of nature ... like a professor, explaining how the bowhead whale moves through the ice."

Albert applied for a grant to count the whales again, this time with the help of local hunters. While other scientists began their research by dangling microphones in the water and flying planes overhead, Albert began by talking with Brower.

The hunter told how he had seen whales push against the ice, cracking the thinner areas with their blowholes to breathe; Albert explained what facts they should gather to produce a more accurate count.

Their joint effort worked. By 1984, Native hunters and scientists had a revised count of at least 4,400 whales. Native residents regained their hunt, learned to work with scientists and formed two landmark organizations: the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and, after arctic research lab closed in 1980, the borough's own Department of Wildlife Management that now leads the bowhead counts.

The North Slope community also developed its own review board of national scientists who examine research proposals for the borough.

This early success gave North Slope residents a taste of the benefits of working hand-in-hand with science. "Many local people feel better about science because they've seen a very clear-cut example as to how science can ... come to your rescue," Albert said.

But the model depended on an unusual confluence of factors. It took crisis, collaboration and cash.

The crisis, the small hunting quota, mobilized the community. Cash, available from borough oil revenues, helped create the wildlife management department. Finally, the collaboration between scientists and hunters made a necessary link across cultures.

"It happened here, at the edge of the world," said Albert, who remains with the wildlife management department. Brower died more than five years ago.

"Part of the reason they're at least getting somewhere (in Cordova) and not being blown off is because somebody's already plowed that road — namely the people in the rural north — and proven beyond any doubt that local knowledge has scientific validity."

As much as any scientist, Cordova hunter Totemoff would like to know why the harbor seals are so hard to find. Like dozens of community members statewide, he has volunteered to gather tissue samples to determine if the seals' decline is a matter of disease, diet, or something else.

'Somewhere in the middle. You're going to need to have someone like me, who understands the science and who understands Fred and Rose.'

— Monica Riedel, Native skin sewer

LESSONS FROM THE SEAL

Scientists already have estimated that the statewide population of harbor seals is about 80,000, down from an estimated 275,000 in the early 1970s. Some 3,000 of the animals live in Prince William Sound.

This decline in harbor seals echoes a pattern scientists are seeing with some other marine mammals. They worry about a lost link in the food chain but don't know enough about eating habits to identify the culprit.

Annually, subsistence hunters statewide kill between 2,400 and 3,000 harbor seals. A growing number of oil-spill area hunters don't pursue seal at all. Some worry about contamination from the spill. Others have voluntarily reduced their take out of concern for the resource, said Alaska Department of Fish and Game subsistence specialist Jim Fall.

As recently as the 1960s and early 1970s, the state and federal government supported bounty programs to help thin a booming population that had become a nuisance to fishermen. Some Cordova hunters still remember the "$3-a-snout bounty" that ultimately killed tens of thousands of the seals statewide.

Totemoff's seal may hold clues to the current decline. The day after his hunt, its black-and-white spotted, 140-pound body hangs upside down in a Cordova warehouse. Teenagers from five Sound villages gather round for a closer look.

These students have been paired with hunters like Totemoff to gather organ and tissue samples for the statewide study.

"I can't open it," said one girl, her fingers curled around the seal's catlike teeth. "It's kind of — stiff."

Another stroked the seal's drooping head. They noted scars on the animal's fur-covered body and decided the seal was female, using skills they had learned in a slide show with scientists. Before the students got any further, a woman in a spotted seal jacket stepped forward.

Monica Riedel is a Native skin sewer and heads the harbor seal commission. She helped bring together hunters, students and scientists for this study.

Her interest: to ensure young Native people learn traditional uses at the same time they learn scientific method. She led

the group in prayer to thank hunter and seal. The room was hushed as five girls sang the "quyana" song. It wasn't the traditional seal hunt song, Riedel said, but it offered students a link back to a hunting tradition — giving respect to the harvested animal.

For a few moments, the cannery was a sacred place.

Then students measured the seal and bloodied their gloves as they learned to slice out vital tissues and organs. Afterward they watched Totemoff skin and butcher the seal.

Later that afternoon, Riedel descended a rough hewn stairway leading to Fred and Rose Brizgaloff's home to deliver an "arm" of the seal. Then she sat on an overturned bucket inside their tiny kitchen, listening to Fred Brizgaloff tell stories. This, too, is part of the tradition she seeks to sustain.

Even though the Exxon settlement supplied record amounts of money for efforts like the harbor seal project, until recently only a fraction was getting to rural communities like Cordova.

In 1994, 23 percent of subsistence restoration funds went to community and Alaska Native organizations. By last year, the amount was more like 79 percent.

At first, the trustee council refused community requests that centered on repairing subsistence traditions. The proposals failed to meet a core requirement: They didn't show how their projects would "restore a natural resource."

But Jim Fall and Craig Mishler, both subsistence specialists with Fish and Game, thought projects aimed at subsistence were reasonable.

Their research showed seal harvests were down in nearly every Alaska Native community in the spill area. If the last people to care about seals lost interest, Fall and Mishler reasoned, the fate of the seal was less secure. They could use Native interest to help save the resource.

Fish and Game staff helped community leaders write new grant proposals. As a result, the communities got funding for a "spirit camp," a seal-hunting video and other projects that combine science and subsistence.

The idea for a seal commission surfaced in meetings Fall organized. Within months, Monica Riedel stepped forward. She now makes sure hunters are invited to meetings with scientists and get regular reports on research.

Totemoff could travel to the University of Alaska Fairbanks and view the very skulls he has collected. Scientists have agreed to answer any questions he might have.

Some questions are proving difficult to answer. At a project meeting in Cordova, the first ones that hunters posed, scientists couldn't answer.

Concerned about oil spill contamination, a hunter asked about hydrocarbon and dioxin testing. Kate Wynne, a project scientist, said no new research had been done since the first year of the spill.

"It's too expensive," she said.

Later, Wynne expressed chagrin; failing to answer a critical question might make scientists look insincere. And a hunter leaving the meeting grumbled, "I still think there's plenty they're not telling us."

Scientists and Native groups don't always agree what "community-based" science means.

There are extremes: Does it simply involve asking for a community's approval, as many scientists already are accustomed to doing? Or does it mean taking research orders from the community, even allowing them to "own" the research results? That's an uncomfortable concept for scientists used to writing their own studies.

Another sticking point is accuracy. When Mishler first suggested community members be trusted to take tissue samples, some scientists balked. "They said hunters wouldn't know how to label samples — they didn't have enough education." Others worried traditional knowledge would be accepted without scientific proof.

Another concern is tangling politics and science. "I'm not saying there isn't something to learn," said Dick Bishop, executive director of the Alaska Outdoor Council. "But when you get into (creating commissions), then what you're talking about is politics, not science."

In fact, community leaders like Riedel often get involved because they do have an agenda. Riedel said anger over a restrictive federal law in the 1980s motivated her to step forward. She's also a proponent of co-management, an arrangement allowing Alaska Natives and government officials to share authority over natural resources.

Riedel calls her approach "stewardship" but says the intrusion of politics will not diminish the science.

Biologist Frost thinks the future needs compromise. She's part of a beluga whale committee on the North Slope that seats scientists and community members at the same table. She calls their efforts a "joint stewardship." Part of their responsibility is to deliver information that some may see as bad news. Their ability to do this, she said, helps define them as believable experts, not another special interest group.

Patricia Cochran of Anchorage heads the Alaska Native Science Commission, a newly developing body aimed at linking the Native world with science. She says Native communities need clout to protect their own interests in scientific research. Ultimately, she thinks the commission may need to take a role in policing science.

However this new affiliation between science and local communities progresses, no one disputes the benefits of Native activism. Commissions like the one Riedel sits on are a crucial link between remote communities and scientists. As the North Slope example demonstrates, success often comes down to individuals who can make the connection between subsistence hunter and scientist, people like Riedel, who can bring science into the kitchen of elders like Fred and Rose Brizgaloff.

"Somewhere in the middle," Riedel said, "You're going to need to have someone like me, who understands the science and who understands Fred and Rose."

Will Osborn, 15, Michelle Vlasoff and Molly Moore handle internal organs before enclosing them in plastic bags and tagging the samples for safekeeping.

Instructor Vicki Vanek watches Molly Moore and her classmates read a measurement of blubber thickness.

"Part of the reason they're at least getting somewhere (in Cordova) and not being blown off is because somebody's already plowed that road — namely the people in the rural north — and proven beyond any doubt that local knowledge has scientific validity."

— Tom Albert, veterinarian

Letters to the Editor

Peninsula Clarion
April 3, 1997

Most KNA shareholders do not support land deal

This letter is to address some misrepresentations in the article "Kenai Natives sign land deal" in your March 28 issue. The article infers that 62.6 percent of the 560 KNA shareholders voted in favor of the land deal. This is inaccurate. Only 51.5 percent of the shareholders returned their advisory vote on the issue. Of that 51.5 percent, 62.6 percent voted in favor. That is approximately 32 percent of the shareholders.

KNA President Zirul declined to release the vote to the press. She also refused to release the vote to the shareholder who worked hard to inform the shareholders on the land issue and who also solicited votes. His votes were counted and without his votes the board would not even have had a 50 percent shareholder response.

The KNA board of directors accepted the offer on the approval of one-third of the shareholders. They also approved it without all of the board members themselves having reviewed the actual land appraisals. Shareholders were promised a meeting before the offer was accepted, and with our annual meeting coming up in May, there was ample time to present the full picture to the shareholders.

Zirul also stated that the board hasn't yet decided what to do with the land that is freed up. At last years' annual meeting, 71 percent of the shareholders voted ballots in person and by proxy. Fifty-four percent of the 71 percent passed a resolution against continuing the land negotiations without a land-use policy in place. Fifty percent also voted against continuing the land negotiations.

Selling the land had been a major issue before the shareholders for the past three years. As a shareholder, I feel the real issue for this corporation has not been the restrictions on the land, but the fiscal irresponsibility of its management. This is a company that has no plans for what to do with unrestricted land, yet will sell of major assets under the cloak of those restrictions.

Selling shareholder equity without a plan is not good business. I have sent a survey out to the KNA shareholders and of the 25 percent response, 98 percent want to receive 100 percent of the land sale proceeds. This substantiates my belief that the shareholders do not have confidence in the board of directors or the management.

The real issue is what many of us shareholders have feared all along — the company is selling our land for operating costs. The acceptance of this deal with so few of the shareholders' approval further substantiates my fears. I am willing to predict that with the accepting of this offer, the shareholders will see a dramatic increase in annual corporate operating costs with little or no increase in income producing activity. Without major changes at the upcoming annual meeting, I can also predict that the shareholder will see little money in dividends in the future ... land sale proceeds or other.

Allan E. Baldwin
Kasilof

Seward Phoenix Log

Thursday, April 3, 1997

SeaLife news

By Jim Pfeiffenberger

Another highly experienced aquarium professional has joined the team at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Les Thomas was hired as aquatics operations manager and curator of fish. He has a 29-year history of working in aquariums around the world at places like Seaworld of San Diego and the Aquario de Genova in Genova, Italy.

Representatives of the SeaLife Center will be at the Sportman's Show this weekend at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage.

The Steller sea lion tank was filled with more than 50,000 gallons of water recently to test for water-tightness. It passed the test, clearing the way for work on the naturalistic rock habitats. That work will begin soon and continue

Soldotna plans big park projects

This spring, construction projects will sprout along the banks of the Kenai River in Soldotna.

The city of Soldotna plans riverside improvements to Centennial Park, Rotary Park and the Fishwalk at the Visitors Center, to join work already done at Swiftwater Park; and upgrades to inland city parks.

Government and private groups are cooperating to restore riverbanks and ensure the future of the river's salmon runs. They plan to build walkways, replace lost vegetation and stabilize eroding slopes early in the 1997 construction season.

Much of the riverbank work is scheduled for May, after the ground thaws and before the water flow rises to summer levels.

Proposed work at Centennial Park focuses on rehabilitating 550 feet of river bank, said Soldotna City Engineer Steve Bonebrake. The goal is to reestablish fish habitat and improve angler access, he said, by giving people ways to reach the river without trampling vegetation.

Gravel paths will lead from the boat launch area to the bluff overlooking the river. About 300 feet of walkways will run near the bluff and connect with four stairways leading down to the river. They will be anchored on pilings and probably be made of galvanized steel.

After descending the stairs, fishers will be free to walk up and down the river in the hip-boot fishing area, Bonebrake said.

The walkways and stairs will channel foot traffic away from areas the city wants to revegetate.

Bonebrake said they will use "root wads and geo-grids" — techniques that package plants into living bundles that simultaneously block erosion and replant denuded areas.

The plants, mostly felt-leaf and Barclay's willow, will be installed "in what we call the moon crater area," Bonebrake said. "They are areas the biologists tell us currently have a habitat value near zero."

Other areas will be augmented or left alone, depending on their condition.

As a bonus side-effect, the plantings are "moose food," he added.

The preliminary cost estimate is about $400,000. The city is working in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and has contracted with Wm. J. Nelson and Associates for design and inspection services. Funding is from the National Marine Fisheries Service and will be administered by Fish and Game.

Similar work is planned at Rotary Park near the Soldotna Airport.

The city plans to add 150 new feet of grate walkways along the shore upstream from 260 feet already in place. Picnic platforms, aluminum stairs into the river, storage bins and fish cleaning tables will go in also.

The walkways will be anchored on shore and cantilevered slightly over the river in spots. Plant material will be installed beneath the walkways along the water's edge for fish habitat improvements.

The revegetation component has two parts: "coir logs" and a "grass roll."

Bonebrake described the coir logs as rolls of coconut husks that serve as wicking agents and buffers and are designed to "go away eventually."

The grass rolls are wads of roots and turf that anchor and spread. The entire plant component will be seeded with local grasses.

At the Rotary Park site, the walk-

ocky area that Bonebrake said has never been popular with anglers. The city plans to fence that area off.

"We'll save it for habitat for the little guys," he said.

The Rotary project will cost $40,000 to $50,000, Bonebrake estimated. It is being funded by money from the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement.

Volunteer assistance from the park's namesake, Rotary International, keeps costs down. Contractors will install pilings, crossbeams and the revegetation component. Rotary volunteers, who have been working on the park for three years, will assemble the parts and do all the rest.

"They have been doing a super job," Bonebrake said.

This week, city staff and members of Kenai River Sportfishing Inc. will sit down for preliminary discussion about the Classic Fishwalk.

Last year was the first for the award-winning project. Now the city of Soldotna and the sport fishing group are looking at three possible summer projects at the Visitors Center site.

First, they may decide not to expand the project at the present time, but concentrate on evaluating and modifying the existing structure "so it will work better," Bonebrake said.

Second, they may add a "badly needed" restroom facility by the Soldotna Visitors Center, he said.

Third, they may install a tram. Bonebrake said a lift would help people of limited mobility reach the Fishwalk. The handicapped and elderly often have trouble negotiating the many stairs to reach the riverside now, he said.

Cost estimates on the three potential projects are not yet avail-

group helps fund Fishwalk projec.

Inland parks are also slated for upgrades.

The city's parks committee and the Master Gardeners Club recently met, Bonebrake said, and recommended more plantings in front of the current state Department of Transportation Soldotna maintenance yard.

Parker Park may be designed this year.

Sunrise Park will get new grass and a half-court basketball area to go with the baseball backstop installed in the fall.

The city plans to put a baseball backstop at Karen Street Park, too, and is looking at purchasing new playground equipment for Riverview Park.

The projects are in response to a demand for more open grassy areas where people can picnic, play Frisbee and play ball, Bonebrake said.

By SHANA LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

Kenai Native corporation OKs land sale

The Associated Press

KENAI — Shareholders and the board of the Kenai Natives Association Inc. have approved the sale of 3,253 acres of land lying primarily along the Moose and Kenai rivers for inclusion in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

The village Native corporation will be paid $4.4 million for the property by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

It also will get a five-acre site that housed the old U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters in old town Kenai. It has been appraised at $247,000.

Federal restrictions on development will be lifted from the 15,500 acres that the Kenai Natives Association retains in the Swanson River and Beaver Creek areas. The corporation also will get some extensive subsurface rights.

Diana Zirul, corporation president, said negotiations have been going on for nearly 16 years.

"The board feels very good about it," Zirul said. "It was nice to look around the table and see the sparkle in the eyes."

The corporation's entitlement under the 1971 Native Claims Settlement Act was 23,000 acres.

Its selections include 4,000 acres at the old Wildwood Air Force Base north of Kenai, 2,120 acres at Beaver Creek, 14,650 acres in the Swanson River-Moose River area and 803 acres where the Kenai River leaves Skilak Lake, known as the Stephanka tract.

But the Beaver Creek, Swanson River, Moose River and Stephanka tracts lie within the Kenai refuge, Zirul said, and were subject to refuge rules that made development nearly impossible.

The land deal sets the corporation's remaining lands outside the refuge and lifts restrictions on development.

"It's freed up the land," Zirul said. "It's a fair deal for the corporation. It allowed us to move beyond those restrictions and work on some other issues."

Refuge manager Robin West said the new properties are crucial to a variety of wildlife, which move through the area to feed on spawned-out salmon.

Springs keep the river from freezing there through much of the winter, making good habitat for such migratory birds as trumpeter swans and loons.

Kenai Natives sign land deal

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

Shareholders and the board of directors of Kenai Natives Association Inc. last week approved the sale of 3,253 acres, mainly on the Moose and Kenai rivers, for inclusion in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

For the land, KNA will receive $4.4 million from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

It will receive the five-acre site of the old U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters in old-town Kenai, appraised at $247,000. Federal restrictions on development will be lifted from 15,500 acres KNA retains in the Swanson River and Beaver Creek areas. KNA also gains extensive subsurface rights.

Diana Zirul, KNA president, said the corporation has been negotiating the deal for close to 16 years.

"The board feels very good about it," she said. "It was nice to look around the table and see the sparkle in the eyes."

It's a good way to end KNA's first 25 years as a corporation, she said.

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"It's freed up the land," Zirul said. "It's a fair deal for the corporation. It allowed us to move beyond those restrictions and work on some other issues."

KNA finished an advisory ballot of its 560 shareholders on March 21. Zirul said 62.6 percent voted in favor of the land deal, and 35.5 percent against. The remainder cast no votes.

KNA's board of directors approved the deal the same day, she said. She declined to release the vote, but said it was "nearly unanimous." Congress and President Bill Clinton approved the deal last fall. It will probably take two to four months to close, Zirul said.

The board hasn't yet decided what to do with the land, she said. It may address some preliminary issues before a May 16 shareholders' meeting. But making plans for the land will be a long-term project, she said.

The deal transfers 1,243 acres along the Moose River, 3,237 acres between the Moose and Swanson rivers, and the Stephanka tract to the Kenai refuge. KNA gives up rights to 753 acres in unconveyed selections by the Moose River, and gives up rights to select the remaining 454 acres of its entitlement.

Refuge manager Robin West said the Stephanka tract is crucial for brown bears. Bears moving between the northern peninsula and the Tustumena Lake area cross a narrow funnel of land by Stephanka. Gary Liepitz, a habitat biologist with the state Department of Fish and Game, said as many as a third of the peninsula's brown bears use the area.

In fall, large numbers of bears and eagles visit Stephanka to feed on spawned out salmon. Trumpeter swans and loons use the area, he said. Springs keep the river from freezing there through much of the winter, making good habitat for migratory birds.

West said state biologists are working on a proposal to the Legislature to designate land from the outlet of Skilak Lake to the Kenai Keys as a critical habitat area. The federal government would be a willing partner, he said.

"That doesn't mean you couldn't fish or picnic," West said. "It could reduce new development — boat ramps, campgrounds, oil and gas development."

Parts of the Stephanka tract receive heavy use by sockeye anglers, he said.

"The banks are getting trashed," West said. "We'll be responsible for maintaining the habitat. Whether that means intensive habitat restoration or areas closed to fishing, I don't know."

Fish and Wildlife also expects to nominate Stephanka to the National Registry of Historic Places.

"The site documents at least 3,000 years of Native history," said Debra Corbett, a Fish and Wildlife archeologist.

Riverine Kachemak people, a branch of the Eskimo culture that occupied Kachemak Bay and Kodiak, lived in the area from about 500 B.C. to about 1,000 A.D., she said. They were replaced by the Dena'ina, a branch of Athabaskan Indians. The Dena'ina occupied Stephanka until the 1940s.

Corbett said the state historic preservation officer and the National Park Service review nominations to the national registry. Final approval comes from the Keeper of the National Registry in Washington, D.C.

Management options for the new refuge lands will be part of the refuge's new public use and management plan, West said. A draft should be out this summer. The bill passed by Congress also reserves 37,000 acres the Bureau of Land Management owns by Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, near Bettles, to protect fish and wildlife.

Soldotna City Council OKs summer projects

PENINSULA CLARION
FRIDAY - SUNDAY,
MARCH 28 - 30, 1997

By SHANA LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

The Soldotna City Council authorized contracts and purchases to launch the 1997 construction season during its regular meeting Wednesday. On the drawing board are road improvements, park restoration projects and a new water tank.

The council approved seven resolutions with little discussion, moving rapidly through a brief agenda.

City Finance Director Joel Wilkins sat in as acting city manager; City Manager Tom Boedeker was out of town.

The largest item on the agenda was a resolution authorizing award of a contract for 1997 street improvement projects on North Fireweed Street from Redoubt Avenue to Marydale Avenue and West Riverview Avenue from Hillcrest Avenue to Fireweed Street.

City Engineer Steve Bonebrake commented that the project had attracted the most bids ever and that the apparent low bid, totaling about $685,000, was below the engineer's estimate of about $754,000, thus saving the city money.

The apparent low bidder was Peninsula Construction Inc. The council voted unanimously to approve the contract with Peninsula Construction.

Four of the resolutions dealt with city park restoration and improvements.

Centennial Park will see major work, partially funded by the Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement. The council authorized the city manager to seek bids on willow cuttings to revegetate the riverbank, to contract with Wm. J. Nelson and Associates for bidding and construction services and to negotiate a cooperative agreement with the state Department of Fish and Game for funding and construction at the park.

Council member Roger Laber was the sole dissenting vote on the Centennial Park resolutions. He said that revegetation would block angler access to the river and was just a way to use oil spill settlement money.

Mayor Ken Lancaster responded that fishing platforms are being built in the same area to improve angler access. All council members except Laber voted to approve the measures.

The council voted 4-2 to approve the purchase of $9,000 of new playground equipment for Riverview Park. The equipment will be purchased under a sole-source contract from Big Toy-Kompan distributors. The city's goal, according to Wilkins, is to improve safety. Laber and Larry Yocom were the dissenting votes.

Another parks project, riverbank improvements at Rotary Park, was the subject of an informational memo from Bonebrake. Oil spill funding has become available to pursue habitat improvements, elevated walkways, picnic tables, fish-cleaning tables, signs, trail improvements and fencing for the project. Volunteers from Rotary International will assist, he wrote. The city plans to advertise the project before the next council meeting.

In other council business:

N The Peninsula Steakhouse applied for a new liquor license and for a restaurant designation permitting them to serve and employ minors. The council unanimously approved the request.

N Proposed road improvements to Porcupine Court were discussed. The city asked the council for direction on how much of the road should be upgraded. Those present wanted to discuss the matter further with the city manager and the construction committee. Since work could not begin until the 1998 construction season, no action was taken at the meeting.

N The council approved a change order for the Karen Street reservoir project, adding design work on the main vault. The resolution passed unanimously.

N Mayor Lancaster said he had been discussing the move for the state Department of Transportation Soldotna maintenance shop with local legislators. A Soldotna delegation, including the city manager and mayor, plan to travel to Juneau next week, he said, to discuss the move and other issues of local concern with the state.

N The council approved the mayor's appointment of Doug Green to fill a vacancy on the airport commission.

N Police chief Walter Bonner reported that the Soldotna Police Department's home page on the Internet has won 18 awards through the end of February. Its address is http://members.tripod.com/~garjrs/spd.html. The city of Soldotna also is in the process of constructing a home page.

The next regular meeting of the Soldotna City Council is scheduled April 9 at 7:30 p.m. at city hall, 177 N. Birch St.

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1997

Herring fishery back in Prince William Sound

CORDOVA (AP) — For the first time in four years fishermen in Prince William Sound will get a chance to catch herring this spring.

Low spawning populations had closed the fishery since the last harvest in 1993. But sac roe herring is expected to return to the sound this year in numbers large enough to provide a 5,600-ton harvest, state fisheries biologist Slim Morestad said.

The herring appear to have recovered from two different diseases that killed many of the fish and left others with lesions on their skin, Morestad said.

It's not yet known when the fishery will open, but Morestad says it is not likely to open before April 1. Morestad expects the seine fishery to be open for less than an hour, while gillnetters should be able to catch their share of the quota in three or four hours.

There has been no definitive connection between the herring diseases and the Exxon Valdez oil spill. But stress from the spill could have contributed to the population decline, Morestad said.

Alaska SeaLife Center may be finished in November

The $50 million Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward was 57 percent complete by late February, and could be finished by November, significantly ahead of its anticipated May 1998 opening date.

"Being ahead of schedule will allow us to begin discovery, education and research programs early, possibly as early as February 1998," said John Hendricks, the center's executive director.

"The progress will also allow us to host visitors starting this summer, even before completion."

Construction of the 115,000-square-foot center began in May 1995 and is being funded by money from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and revenue bonds sold by the City of Seward.

A private fund-raising campaign is under way to help pay to operate the center.

This summer, while construction proceeds, visitors will be invited for hard-hat tours to see how artificial rockwork will be used to create habitats for Steller sea lions, marine birds, seals and fish.

Chinese sign deal to buy North Slope oil, more Afognak timber

KENAI (AP) — Members of the highest-ranking Chinese delegation ever to visit Alaska have signed a letter of intent to buy from $50 million to $100 million worth of North Slope crude oil from British Petroleum.

Chuck Kleeschulte, a spokesman for Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, said the first shipments under the new agreement should begin during the second half of this year.

The Chinese also expressed interest in buying Cook Inlet oil during a tour of area production facilities.

"We know the Cook Inlet area is very near Anchorage, and very convenient for tankers to ship crude oil to China," said Xu Suzhi, deputy director of production and management for SINOPEC, China's largest petrochemical company. "We'd like to find some opportunities here."

Xu, who spoke through a translator, was among several high-ranking officials from SINOPEC and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation who toured Alaska last week. The group also included representatives of China's largest timber import company.

The Chinese delegation met with Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre on Friday before touring Unocal's Steelhead Platform on Cook Inlet.

They returned to Nikiski to look at Unocal's fertilizer plant, Tesoro's refinery and the liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant owned by Phillips Petroleum and Marathon Oil Co.

Xu said China has been unable to meet a rising internal demand for oil and gas from its own stocks.

China has been looking at Alaska as a possible trade partner since last year, when a federal ban ended on the export of North Slope crude oil.

It imported two tanker-loads of Alaska crude earlier this year, and wants more, Xu said.

The door is open for the export of Cook Inlet crude. There has been no ban on exports from the inlet.

China has large reserves of natural gas, but lacks the means to bring domestic gas to market. Meanwhile, it must meet growing demand.

Xu said China is very interested in the proposed natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. Chinese officials met last week in Anchorage with Yukon Pacific Corp., the company trying to build the $15 billion gas line and related shipping facilities.

China realizes that Cook Inlet gas reserves already are committed, she said. But Navarre said that when the gas line from Prudhoe Bay is built, there almost certainly will be a spur to Kenai.

And while people usually talk of building an export facility at Valdez, there's also talk of building one on Cook Inlet, he said.

"That's something we're very interested in," Navarre told Xu.

Larry Porter, who oversees the lab and shipping from the Nikiski plant, said the plant already is near its production capacity of 1.3 million metric tons of LNG.

Phillips and Marathon would have to expand the plant to ship additional product to China, he said.

Xu said China needs LNG, but lacks the facilities to receive and store it. A primary purpose of the trip to Nikiski was to see LNG storage and shipping facilities, she said.

Jim Konst, incoming manager of the LNG plant, said Phillips is negotiating to supply LNG technology to China.

SINOPEC has formed joint venture agreements with several big U.S. petrochemical companies, she said. That includes a joint venture with Phillips in Shanghai to produce polyethylene. SINOPEC also has business relationships with Unocal, she said.

China also is interested in timber, minerals and seafood from Alaska.

The Chinese agreed last week to buy another 6 million board feet of timber from Afognak Native Corp., a company they've dealt with before, Kleeschulte said.

Group wants to save Afognak

The Alaska Rainforest Campaign will be at ComFish booth #907 this weekend collecting signatures to petition the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council to purchase land on Afognak Island.

Afognak Joint Venture Corporation, the landowners, and the council will soon begin negotiations for the purchase a 112,827 acres of forested land. The acreage includes parts of land surrounding Pauls and Laura Lakes, Discover, Delphin and Waterfall Bays, and Shuyak Strait along the north coast, Paramanoff and Malina bays and parts of Izhut and Tonki Bays.

Pamela Brodie, the group's organizer, says the north coast of Afognak Island will become protected fish and wildlife habitat only if the Kodiak residents urge the council to set aside more money to purchase the area.

Pauls and Laura Lakes are particularly at risk, Brodie says, because the Native corporation is planning to log the area this year.

Construction forecast to boost local economy this year

By SUE JEFFREY
Mirror Writer

Kodiak continues to right itself as the economy experiences a sea change.

In his state of the economy presentation at a Kodiak Chamber of Commerce Forum last week, John Pfeifer, Kodiak economic development specialist, discussed the factors which are keeping the community afloat.

Pink salmon harvests and prices were down last summer but industry predicts groundfish landings to increase more than 50 percent in 1997.

The Kodiak population decreased nine percent last year but jobs increased by 130 from 1994 to 1995.

Building permits remained flat —201 issued each of the past two years—but Pfeifer predicts construction will be a big player in the economy this year.

"Construction of the Kodiak Launch Complex, a $25 million project, should start this spring. That project will also create up to 140 new jobs, once it's operating at full capacity.

"Work has already begun on the Near Island Research Facility which will probably cost around $17 million. Several new high-paying research and administrative positions will result, probably not until 1998, however."

The borough will go out to bid on a $3 million rehab of the old hospital building, he said, and the Coast Guard Government Hill housing project also continues, eventually building 138 units, Pfeifer said.

"When you take into account the normal housing start-ups and new subdivisions going in, I think we'll see a very big year for construction."

Comparing 1994 to 1995—many of Pfeifer's statistics are from 1995 because the 1996 annual figures are not finalized—the construction sector grew from 154 jobs to 186; the retail and wholesale trade went from 769 jobs to 870; and transportation-communication-utilities increased from 301 to 343.

Overall, though, fishing remains the number one industry in Kodiak. Exvessel value should go up about $10 million as a result of increased groundfish landings, Pfeifer said.

"The fishing industy supplies more than half of the jobs in Kodiak, or about 53 percent—about 30 percent are commercial fishermen and 23 percent work in the processing plants."

Government is the next biggest employer. The Coast Guard employs 11 percent of the work force. Municipal, state and federal government employs another 11 percent.

The trade and services sectors each employ nine percent of the labor pool; transportation-communications-utilities sector, three percent; construction, two percent; forestry, one percent; and finance and real estate, one percent.

Since fishing continues to dominate the economy, Pfeifer said, Kodiak's labor figures are "fluid," as unemployment rates cycle with the fishing seasons.

Yearly earnings for all industries in the Kodiak Island Borough increased from about $150 million in 1994 to $158 million in 1995. When inflation was factored, the increase was negligible, however.

Bank deposits last year grew almost $10 million, perhaps because people wanted to save any disposable income, Pfeifer says. Adjusted for inflation, however, bank deposits have hovered around the $80 million mark for the past two years.

Total sales for the City of Kodiak dropped 10 percent in the third quarter of 1996 and 12 percent in the fourth quarter. The biggest change was in contracting, or construction company reportings, which was down 50 percent, Pfeifer said.

Gross sales includes groceries, boat charters, retail sales, anything that requires a sales tax or any business which does reports sales.

"The obvious conclusion would be the result of the poor salmon season," Pfeifer said. "However, no clear patterns emerged to offer a definitive explanation."

As Kodiak experiences changes in the economy, Pfeifer said many people frequently ask, "What is the ethnic distribution of Kodiak's population and how has it changed over the years?"

That data has not been tabulated since the 1990 census, he said, but the school district tracks ethnic distribution numbers every year. Since school figures reflected the borough's ethnic distribution in 1990 Pfeifer was confident that they are a fair indication of what is happening borough-wide.

"In 1990, Caucasians comprised 66 percent of the school distict population, compared to 57 percent in 1996. The Alaska Natives and American Indian population was 20 percent in 1990, 19 percent in 1996; Asian-Pacific Islanders, 11 percent in 1990 and 19 percent in 1996; Hispanics, two percent in 1990 and four percent in 1996; Blacks, one percent for both years.

Pfeifer says the key to coping with changes in the economy is to provide diversity in the fishing industry and in the general economy.

"Value-added processing will lead to more year-round employment... growth in other industries like tourism, transportation and aerospace will also help lessen the boom and bust effects of the fishing industry," he said.

Opinion

Bait and switch

The community of Seward is currently facing a crisis of leadership, a crisis which is altering the way of life for all its residents. Current city leaders have, time and time again, taken it upon themselves to ignore the will of the people who live here and of the commissions which it appoints. Instead, the current leadership appears to be answering to the desires of business and industry, particularly the Alaska SeaLife Center and Providence Health System.

Recently, the City Council acting as a board of adjustment continued this negative trend with their decision supporting the helistop. It is time for this ridiculousness to end and time for the city leaders to begin listening to the people that they supposedly represent. At the present time, their primary interest appears to be trying to make Seward a great place to do business. It is my belief that their primary interest should be trying to make Seward a great place to live.

The helistop decision is an excellent example of the leadership's determination to circumvent the will of the people. When Seward and Providence entered into an agreement to build the hospital, Providence stated publicly that they had no interest in flying helicopters to the site. Local people voted to support Providence at that time. Many of us might not have voted in the same way had we known that Providence would not keep its word, or that they would be flying helicopters over our houses. This is not what the people voted to support. This type of bait and switch technique is illegal in business and should be illegal here (a question of legality that may yet be tested).

Later, Providence changed their mind and came to the city asking for the helistop. This is the point where it should have ended, but instead the city management, in an apparent effort to appease Providence, supported Providence's application and helped bring it forth to the Planning and Zoning Commission. At the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, Providence representatives and City Manager Ron Garzini spoke in favor of the proposal. Then began a long procession of Seward residents testifying about the issue. Not one of these Seward residents spoke in favor of the helistop. Each one spoke of their concerns for neighborhood safety and the lack of need for such a facility. Local pilots and residents spoke about unpredictable winds in Lowell Canyon. Local emergency rescue technicians told how there were better ways to accomplish Providence's needs for a helistop. Not one Seward resident (except Ron Garzini) spoke in favor of the helistop. The Planning and Zoning Commission also did not favor the helistop. Their vote was unanimous against the helistop. They were careful to supply sound reasons and support for their decision. This was a slam-dunk issue for Seward citizens — overwhelmingly against the helistop.

Next, Providence appealed to the City Council, which, acting as a board of adjustment, heard only the city administration's and Providence's testimony before meeting in an executive session that took two months to complete. The result was their decision to ignore the wishes of Seward residents and of the Planning and Zoning Commission and to grant the Providence application. According to the Seward Phoenix LOG story, no new evidence was cited in their decision. A person might question whether the decision was that of a review function (board of adjustment), or of a political function (City Council). Apparently that determination is a matter for the court, should it be continued there.

Unfortunately the story gets even stranger. The board of adjustment (City Council) decided that changing the details of the application was a good idea. Apparently, they moved the helistop location and changed many of the requirements prior to approval. This means that Seward residents never had the opportunity to consider or have public hearing on the proposal (the new site is not what was discussed previously). The people not only had their opinions and testimony ignored regarding the old proposal, but also were denied their opportunity and right to express their opinions at all on this new proposal. Is this legal? Again, it is probably a matter for a court to decide. Is it right or ethical? Decide for yourself.

Unfortunately, this may indeed be a matter for a court to decide. If it comes to that, the city of Seward will be spending money to defend the actions of its leaders against its people. As a citizen, it is my opinion that this is a patent waste of the citizens' money. What is amounts to is spending money to defend a position (helistop approval), which the citizenry overwhelmingly opposed at public hearing. This has got to stop. The city leaders need to listen to the citizens and do the citizens' bidding, not defend the position of corporations that oppose the expressed will of the Seward people.

Finally, I think there is another concern here for Providence. While it is recognized that they have a profit to be made by flying medevac helicopters out of Seward, this is no way to begin a healthy relationship with the neighborhood and city that they are moving into. Alienating the neighbors is no way to develop the support and public relations that an organization such as Providence needs.

This letter is way long, but it cites an example of what is currently going wrong in Seward. Without city leaders who are concerned for the desires of the local people, we will continue to see the types of sweetheart business deals, lack of public input, and sneaky bait and switch techniques we have witnessed so far. It is time for Seward residents to say stop, before this community isn't the place we know and want to live in. I encourage you to let Seward leaders know that you are concerned, and that they need to begin once again to listen to the people they have been elected to represent.

Dave DeRuwe
Seward

Teacher wins grant to build Internet link with SeaLife Center

By Eric Fry
LOG Staff

A Seward Elementary teacher has received a $44,000 federal grant to integrate Seward schools with the Alaska SeaLife Center.

Jerry Dixon, the teacher of accelerated classes for eastern Kenai Peninsula schools, won the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Grant for his proposal to create the Alaska SeaNet Project.

"I'm looking for a way to tie the Seward schools to the SeaLife Center, where we can be involved in ongoing research," Dixon said. "I wrote the proposal to build a link with the SeaLife Center using the Internet as a connection."

The grant will pay for Dixon to take 12 students from six eastern Peninsula schools to the Texas State Aquarium, camp out there, and learn how they can be involved with an institution like that.

John Hendricks, executive director of the SeaLife Center, previously headed the Texas State Aquarium, where he instituted many educational programs, including a television program.

The grant "gets us started in one of our mission areas very quickly, and it gets us started with our likely partners here in town," Hendricks said.

He hopes the Peninsula kids can see the television show being made. "The kids would see what a really small world community we live in and they have some interesting things here that they can share with the world." Today, you can live in a small town and connect with the world, Hendricks said.

The grant will use the Internet to do that. Funds will help create an interactive home page on the World Wide Web about the SeaLife Center, plus buy state-of-the-art computers for Seward Elementary.

Seward Elementary already has a home page on the Internet about the SeaLife Center. It was up and running before the center had its own site.

"Now there is a need to create a working platform of instruction that will enable collaboration between several agencies, that is dynamic in scope, and that will continue well into the 21st century," Dixon said in his proposal.

special meeting could be called to review all of the recent proposals, he said.

If it's approved, Bay View Charter School will open in late August, probably with 20 students and one teacher in a spare classroom at Seward Jr./Sr. High. It will start considering student applications in June, Grogan said.

Bay View also has to look for about $18,000 in startup costs that aren't part of its district appropriation, Grogan said.

The state is administering about $2 million in federal grants over the next three years to help implement charter schools, Gamble said.

Seward Elementary teachers and some parents sent letters Monday to the borough school board asking it not to approve Bay View until they get answers about its effect on the existing public schools. Some people opposed it outright. Other Sewardites sent letters in support of having a choice in public education.

But only Doug Lowthian of the Bay View committee spoke at the school board meeting Monday night, and he merely asked board members to approve the committee's proposal.

Board member Dr. Nels Anderson advised the Bay View committee to change an admissions preference for the children of AVTEC

over →

students from a flat 25 percent of its openings to up to 25 percent.

He said the AVTEC preference would haunt the committee because Bay View plans on a year-round trimester schedule, and most AVTEC students are in Seward for the conventional school term of September to May.

The Bay View committee also changed an admission preference for their own children so that it would apply only for the first year.

The state attorney general's office has given an opinion that it's OK to have a preference for organizers' children, Gamble said in an interview. The law's intent is to provide parents with schooling options. "It would be unfair to exclude the children of proposers from attending, but it can't be only for their kids," he said.

School board member Debra Mullins said at the meeting that she has problems with the proposed school's structure but wouldn't oppose it. Mullins said she thinks the committee has some work to do in convincing the community.

There was no other discussion. The board took time to read the letters from Seward, but board members and administrators didn't address the concerns in them.

Thirty staff members at Seward Elementary signed a letter asking the school board why it was starting a new and potentially more costly parallel school when the district can't support the existing school system.

Public schools promise equality, they said, but Bay View will have a student-staff ratio of 10 to 1, while some classrooms at Seward Elementary are at 28 to 1.

Leslie Earl of Seward told the board in a letter: "It seems senseless to spread our educational dollars thinner than they already are. Why spend a great deal of the funds on a 'select' group of children, thus causing greater hardship on the vast majority that remain?"

The school district faces up to $2.2 million in cuts next year to balance its budget, although that could be halved if the Borough Assembly is willing to fund $1.17 million outside of the local cap on instructional funding.

The Assembly voted 7-2 Tuesday to support the district's request, which might cover its expenses in funding a retirement-incentive program for the next three years. That would free up an equal amount of funds for instruction.

The district has funded Bay View at $87,780 for 20 students. That would pay for one teacher and one aide, plus materials, equipment and utilities.

The charter school has to follow the district's negotiated agreements with teachers and other staff unless both parties agree to a waiver, said Sharon Radtke, the district's personnel director.

A big question is where the new students will come from. Some are likely to come from home schools, and they'll bring new state funds to the district. But some probably will come from Seward Elementary, and they'll take funds from that school and bring them to the charter school.

Seward Elementary faces the loss of one or two teachers next year depending on its enrollment. The school district projects a small kindergarten next year, while a larger sixth grade is graduating.

Seward Elementary has 462 students now, and would lose two teachers if its enrollment falls below 425. One teacher is retiring anyway, but the loss of two positions would force a current teacher to be laid off.

Teachers raised their concerns at a Seward School Council meeting last Thursday with the Bay View committee.

"All of us know that we have two very fine schools and a great staff," said committee member Anne Kesling. "That's just a fact. But no school meets the needs of every child that walks through its doors."

If kids don't fit in at the school, what should parents do? Kesling asked. "Kids acting out, getting poor grades, not liking themselves — what is the choice in this town?"

Home school, or move to another town that has a choice of schools, she said. But not all parents have time to home school. "Bay View would provide a choice of schools in this town," Kesling said.

Several parents stood up to say they wanted a choice. One woman said her son is slipping through the cracks. "My son wants and needs a small, intimate setting. He's not doing bad enough to be in special courses, and he's not doing well enough to keep up with his peers."

A copy of Bay View's proposal is in the community library.

Teacher Jerry Dixon poses with some of his Seward Elementary students to celebrate a $44,000 grant he received. Back row, from left: Jonah Swiderski, Jerry Dixon. Second row: Tara DeRuwe, Erin McDonald, Stephanie Overbeck. Front row: Lexie Hayes, Jennifer Perry.

Neighbors

SeaLife Center news

By Jim Pfeiffenberger

The waterfront view continues to change as SeaLife Center construction progresses. The large yellow-colored metal warehouse is scheduled to come down on April 15, opening up what will eventually become a landscaped parking and front plaza area.

Project Administrator Darryl Schaefermeyer recently completed the permitting process for the fish pass. Construction on this part of the project will begin soon.

Director John Hendricks is devoting much of his time these days to contacting marine researchers and encouraging them to come to Seward with their projects.

Representatives of the SeaLife Center were in Seattle last weekend making presentations and handing out information at the new downtown REI store there.

Vic Aderholt, the new director of aquatics, has been busy advising the construction team on finishing touches to the water and life-support systems. For example, he helped design a "food cannon" and an "air curtain" into the main exhibit tanks, additions which will provide enriching stimulus to the animals housed there. The food cannon allows food to be shot under pressure into the water column and the air curtain provides a wall of rising bubbles for the animals to play in.

Jim Pfeiffenberger works for the Alaska SeaLife Center.

THE VALDEZ STAR
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 1997

Sources Of Port Pollution Pin-Pointed... Port of Valdez Risks Are Rated

Eco Study Spares Alyeska BWT

CIVIC CENTER--The greatest risks to living things--plants and animals--of Port Valdez are contaminated run-off, accidental spills of toxic material, and shoreline activity.

That's the conclusion of a report prepared by a scientific team retained by the Regional Citizens' Advisory Council to conduct a risk assessment study of the port.

Issued Thursday at the Civic Center at the annual meeting of the RCAC, the eagerly-awaited report found that the Small Boat Harbor is the most polluted area of the port
--based on the polyaromatic hydrocarbons found in the sediment--while discharges from the Ballast Water Treatment Plant at the Alyeska marine terminal pose minimal pollution risk.

In one comparative, the scientists found that sediment samples from the Small Boat Harbor exceeded standards in 11 of 36 measurements.

Similar samples at the Ballast Water Treatment plant exceeded the standard in 4 out of 819 measurements.

But the review of the sediment samples was only one small part of the overall study which included evalutions of habitat sites and potential risks from all sources.

Environmental injury from multiple sources could include land clearing, toxic spills of any kind, discharges from passing vessels, contaminated run-off, discharge of seafood processing & sportsfishing waste, dumping of garbage and toilet waste directly into the Port, outfall from storm drains, etc.

The two-year study was conducted by Dr. Wayne Landis and Janice Wiegers of Western Washington University who were retained by the RCAC and Dr. David Shaw of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, representing Alyeska.

The study was intended to compare the environmental risk posed the Ballast Water Treatment Plant compared to risk from other sources in the Port. The ballast water plant recycles ballast water from inbound crude oil tankers. After treatment, the ballast water is released into the port.

The study was a paper exercise consisting of a review of previous federal, state and privately-funded studies of the environmental quality of the port. The overview did not include any field testing.

The study divided the port into 11 sub-areas to identify the shoreside uses of the port: Alyeska's sewage plant and ballast water system, Petro Star, City of Valdez sewer treatment plant, Container Dock, Old City Dock, Small Boat Harbor, etc.

In each of the 11 subareas, the scientific study sought to identify the relationship between "stressors"--sources of real or potential risk such as pollution--and the "receptors," or living things that could be impacted by any pollution or other environmental disruptions.

In ranking potential and real pollution sources, the scientists drew the following conclusions:

1. Contaminated run off, accidental spills and shoreline activity represent high relative risk.

2. Vessel traffic, construction and development posed moderate relative risk.

3. Treated discharges, seafood and fish wastes and salmon released from the (Solomon Gulch) hatchery present low relative risk to Port Valdez.

In the at-risk categories, the scientists concluded:

1. The highest relative environmental risk is to the Duck Flats/Old Valdez area.

2. Other shoreline areas in the eastern Port, including both the city of Valdez and Alyeska marine terminal are at moderate relative risk

3. The relatively undeveloped western shoreline and deep water environments are at low relative risk.

While introducing the scientists to the RCAC board of directors Thursday, RCAC staff member Joe Bridgman said, "Some of you will be interested--perhaps even shocked--to learn that according to the models used in the study, the Ballast Water Treatment Plant does not present the paramount threat to the Port despite the large volume of wastewater it discharges into the Port."

Bridgman went on to express "a fundamental hope that with this tool in hand, it will be easier for future environmental managers here to decide what to be most concerned about and where to direct their protection efforts."

comfish Alaska 1997

New $20 million research facility to open by the end of next year

By MARK BUCKLEY
Mirror Writer

The $20 million Near Island Research Facility (NIRF) should be ready for occupancy by October of next year, says Jerome Selby, Kodiak Island Borough mayor.

"The contractors will be completing the overburden removal by April and starting to put the building up on May 1," Selby says. "It should be complete by Sept. 1 of 1988 and ready for occupancy on Oct. 1."

The building, to be located next to the existing Fish Tech Center on Near Island, will house fisheries scientists who will be moving in from the Coast Guard Base and from other places on the Pacific Coast.

"Right now, NMFS's (National Marine Fisheries Service) Alaska Science Center headquarters are in Seattle," Selby points out. "The idea is to move everything in Seattle that has to do with Alaska to Alaska. The administrative group will move to Auke Bay, near Juneau. We want the researchers to move here."

Selby says more than NMFS scientists will occupy the building.

"The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game will be using lab space, and we have a letter of commitment from the National Park Service to lease office space," he says. "We also have a pre-lease agreement with the University of Alaska."

Besides government researchers, members of the public will also enjoy the building, Selby says.

"The center portion of the building will have a public display incorporating an interactive learning center," the mayor says. "There will be tanks with live fish and a tide pool. There will also be displays about fish, bears, salmon and seafood processing."

Although the borough is paying for the building, it will come at little cost to the taxpayers, Selby says.

"Of the $20 million it will cost, we got $3 million from the state's share of the Exxon Valdez criminal settlement, $6 million from the sale of Shuyak Island land to the Exxon Valdez Trustees Council and $500,000 from the federal government for design," Selby explains.

"The balance of about $10.5 million we'll raise through revenue bonds, which we anticipate selling at the end of March," he says. "However, the bonds will be sold against the lease with NMFS or its parent agency, NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration). The lease will pay for the building."

Selby says a little-noticed outbuilding will also be important.

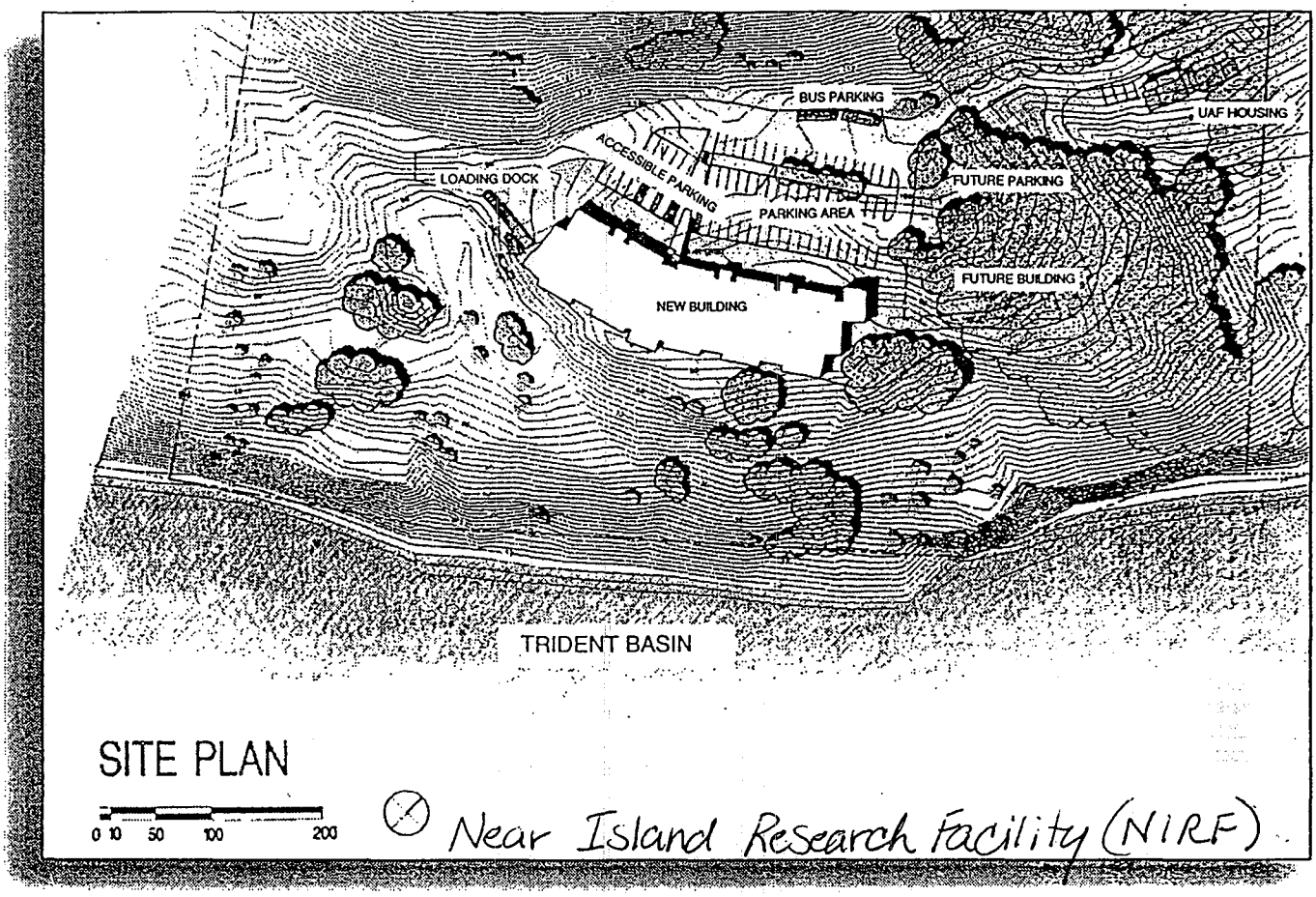
"There will be a dormitory building for graduate students working at the Fish Tech Center," he says. "A grad student's stipend is so low that they can't afford to live here.

"If we help with housing, we'll have more students. I think you'll see a growth in university staff and grad students," he predicts.

Selby believes the NIRF building and the scientists it will house are important to Kodiak.

"The type of research they will be doing there will be critical to the survival of the fishing industry," he says. "It will make a difference 20 years from now as to whether there is a fisheries future in Kodiak.

site plan diagram →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Near Island Research Facility (NIRF)

National Report

The New York Times

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1997

A Tanker Hauling Memories Is Shunned

Alaska Residents Oppose Exxon's Effort to Bring Back the Valdez

By CAREY GOLDBERG

ANCHORAGE, March 12 — Pete Kompkoff and the other villagers of Chenega know perfectly well that when the Exxon Valdez hemorrhaged oil onto their shores, it was the crew that was at fault, and not the ship.

But they are not about to sit back silently in the coming weeks as the Exxon Corporation seeks permission in Federal District Court here for the tanker, renamed the Mediterranean, to return to Prince William Sound, where she unleashed one of the worst environmental disasters.

"It's just like a slap in the face, even though the machine didn't do the damage," said Mr. Kompkoff, administrator of the 28-house village tucked onto an island that is one small puzzle piece in the white-and-blue jigsaw of the sparsely populated sound. "It's the people behind the wheel."

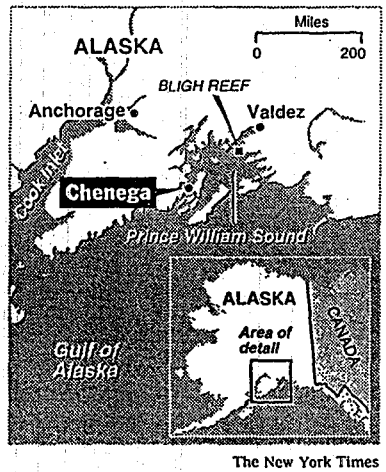
The suit, which will begin its court process here on March 24, "is an insult, just the idea of having the Exxon Valdez back on Prince William Sound," Mr. Kompkoff said.

That reaction reflects the deep damage, environmental and emotional, that remains nearly eight years after the tanker ran aground on Bligh Reef and leaked nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil.

The physical damage is easiest to measure. Though the bald eagles are back to their former numbers, experts say, researchers have found that the rest of the ecosystem is still hurting. From mussels to salmon to sea otters, the wildlife is either recovering or, like the populations of harbor seals, harlequin ducks and Pacific herring, still devastated.

Most of the oil is gone, said Molly McCammon, executive director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. "But there are beaches where, on a hot sunny day, you can still smell the oil, or you can scuff your foot in the sand and still get to fresh oil," Ms. McCammon said. "And what's there now is going to take a long time to go."

The council guides the spending of $900 million that Exxon, the nation's largest oil company, was required to pay in a 1991 civil settlement to finance restoration of the environment damaged by the spill.



The New York Times

Chenega is trying to insure that an infamous ship does not return.

Along with studying and trying to help the flora and fauna, the council has also begun trying to protect some of the damaged area in perpetuity by helping to buy swatches of land and manage them for the good of the wildlife. Last month, the council joined with the Federal Government to buy its first major parcel on the sound, 60,000 acres in the hardest-hit area.

But if villagers like those in Chenega remain furious about the spill, it is in part because the biggest part of the financial penalties imposed on Exxon, a $5 billion award by a state jury in 1994 for damage to the thousands of fishermen, landowners and other residents, is being appealed by the oil company. Lawyers expect the suit to be tied up in court so long that fishermen and scientists wonder aloud whether they will see it resolved in their lifetimes.

With that money held up, the fishermen of the spill area remain largely uncompensated for their still diminished catches. And Mr. Kompkoff and others contend that although scientists believe that there is no health threat from the remaining oil, gathering mussels and other food from the shore now is like shopping at a dirty grocery store where the food might be contaminated.

The trustee council plans to spend nearly $2 million this year to clean eight beaches in the Chenega area, partly to restore villagers' confidence and partly, Mr. Kompkoff said, because they need the work. It has been years since the cash bonanzas that they received from helping with the cleanup, which cost Exxon hundreds of millions of dollars.

In November, Exxon settled its insurance claims for the spill, receiving a total of $780 million against costs that it says totaled $2.5 billion.

With such lingering problems and Exxon's biggest bill left unpaid, one reader of The Anchorage Daily News suggested recently that the Mediterranean be allowed to return to Prince William Sound, if the company pays the $5 billion.

Exxon's view, needless to say, is different. The Exxon shipping subsidiary that is bringing the suit here, Seariver Maritime Financial Holdings, is challenging the provision in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 that is keeping the vessel out of the sound, saying the law acted retroactively.

Among other actions, the law, passed when horror about the spill was high, barred any vessel that had spilled more than one million gallons of oil after March 22, 1989 — the Valdez spill started on March 23 — from sailing in Prince William Sound again. Seariver, in Houston, protests that the provision was meant as punishment for Exxon and constitutes an unconstitutional taking of its property without providing redress.

"This is a pretty significant constitutional issue," a spokesman for Seariver, Arthur Stephen, said, "as to can you come along at some point and retroactively prohibit a vessel from operating where she was designed for, where she was certified by all the Government agencies for operating? And frankly, do you do it against a piece of equipment?"

Associated Press

The crippled tanker Exxon Valdez in a June 23, 1989, photograph. The ship was being towed from a bay in Prince William Sound three months after it struck Bligh Reef, causing the nation's worst oil spill.

Environmental and emotional damage remain in Prince William Sound.

The ship had no mechanical problems that led to the leak; the disaster was attributed mainly to poor judgment by the crew, which tried to rock the vessel free. In 1990, Capt. Joseph J. Hazelwood was acquitted of operating the ship while drunk; much of the blame was laid on the exhaustion of another ship's officer.

The vessel formerly known as the Valdez and her sister ship, the Long Beach, were constructed specifically for carrying oil from Alaska to the ports of California, Mr. Stephen said.

Because the Valdez has been barred from Prince William Sound she cannot reach Port Valdez, the loading station for all the oil piped from the North Slope. The tanker has had to operate in Europe and the Middle East, Mr. Stephen said, where she has faced far more competition and brought in far less profit than she would have in the American Pacific.

The targets of the suit are the Transportation Department, the Attorney General and the Justice Department. Transferred last month from a court in Washington, the suit is scheduled to begin here with status reports from both sides. Several groups of villagers like those in Chenega have filed friend-of-the-court briefs or letters of complaint against the suit.

Ripples from the spill are also being felt farther afield. In Washington State, environmentalists are fighting a move by the legislature to merge the Office of Marine Safety into the State Ecology Department. The office was created after the Valdez spill to prevent a similar problem from occurring in Puget Sound.

An environmental group, People for Puget Sound, plans a rally on March 24, the anniversary of the spill, beneath the slogan, "Remember the Exxon Valdez!" a spokesman for the group, Mike Sato, said.

Shipping and oil companies have been fighting the 5-cents-a-barrel state import tax on oil that finances the tough spill-prevention program. But environmentalists warn of the continuing danger of falling asleep at the switch, as Alaska did.

"One of the hardest things to maintain is vigilance on spill prevention," said Fred Felleman of Ocean Advocates, another group that opposes the merger of the Marine Safety Office into the Ecology Department. "Because when it's working you don't see anything happening. So in the competition for budgets it's the first thing to go."

VALDEZ, UNDER ANY NAME, NOT WELCOME IN ALASKA

Seattle Times [1/89]

09075118 VALDEZ, UNDER ANY NAME, NOT WELCOME IN ALASKA Seattle Times (SE) - Sunday March 16, 1997 By: CAREY GOLDBERG NEW YORK TIMES Edition: FINAL Section: NEWS Page: A1 Word Count: 1,054

TEXT: ANCHORAGE - Pete Kompkoff and the other villagers of Chenega know perfectly well that when the Exxon Valdez hemorrhaged oil onto their shores, it was the crew that was at fault, and not the ship.

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THE CORDOVA TIMES

Thursday, March 13, 1997 75 cents

Jennifer Strange/Times photo

Cordova Ikumat Dancers performed at the marine mammal workshop last week in Cordova.

Sound's marine life explored at conference

By Chaz Landaluce
Times Staff

Scientists, subsistence users, and students from the Youth Area Watch joined a meeting of the harbor seal and Sea otter commissions March 6-7 in Cordova.

The workshop was organized by Cordovan Monica Riedel, Chair of the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission (ANHSC). The purpose of the meeting, according to Riedel, was to give update and inform people on the latest information about seals and sea otters in Prince William Sound.

Two scientists, Dr. Brenden Kelly, and Dr. Mike Castellini, of the University of Alaska Fairbanks talked about pre-spill and current harbor seal populations and what the blubber samples from the biosampling program are showing.

One of the main projects the ANHSC has undertaken is the instruction of scientific sampling to Prince William Sound hunters and students in the Youth Area Watch. Scientists believe that harbor seals in Prince William Sound are declining by about six percent every year. But, because the harvest of marine mammals is restricted to Alaska Natives, scientists have been hard-pressed to get samples of seal tissue for research. That makes the ANHSC's biosampling program all the more critical to studies of the harbor seal decline, according to information presented at the meeting.

ANHSC held a biosampling training session in Cordova in January attended 13 students and 5 hunters. Kodiak veterinarian Vicki Vanek instructed everyone about taking blubber, skin, muscle, and internal organ samples. Everyone was given a chance to take samples and learn the proper way to fill out the sample forms.

Youth Area Watch students had a variety of reasons for participating in the training sessions. According to Michelle Vlasoff of Tatitlek, harbor seals are part of her heritage, so she wants to help keep seals in Prince William Sound. She also hopes the training will help her achieve her career goals.

"I'm gonna do a lot of the sampling," said Vlasoff. "I'm hoping it'll help me to get a job. I want to be a veterinarian, so this is really important to me."

Jim McDaniel of Cordova sees the biosampling program as a way to pass on traditions and join in the effort to understand the harbor seal decline. "I really want to get my son

See Conference, page 5

Jennifer Strange/Times photo

From left: Molly Moore, Rene Totenoaf and Michell Vlasoff of the Tatitlek Alutiiq Dancers take a break from the conference.

Conference

From page 1

involved," said McDaniel. "He's 9 years old. This is just a good opportunity to teach him everything there is to know about it. And also let him know that it's important that we get involved in taking the harvest data to help out and track the seal for the Sound."

So far samples of more than 100 harbor seals from around the state have been sent to scientists researching the decline. Kate Wynne, of the SEA Grant program in Kodiak, has been involved in getting the program off the ground. According to Wynne, it's working. "The program's rolling now. It's taking off. We're real optimistic. The hunters are enthusiastic. The researchers are just ecstatic with the samples they're getting," she said.

"The marine mammal commissions meeting went very well, we had a lot of local participation," Riedel said. "There was a lot of participation among the youth who are trained biosamplers and also a lot of hunter interest individuals. All in all it was definetly a success and we're even talking about making it an annual event with the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and the Alaska Sea Otter Commission."

Riedel said the subjects that were discussed included such things as the current population counts, trends and how the native community can participate in the research. According to Riedel, the meeting was very informative, and all in everyone learned about some of the things they can do to aid in the restoration of harbor seals. By participating in this biosampling program and discussing the results, they are able to make better management decisions, Riedel said.

"I was really proud of the girls from Tatitlik that joined and all the kids that were trained from the Sound, including Cordova. I think getting people to the point were they can be fully aware of all the research that's happening and all the Native organizations, that's a step in the right direction," Riedel said. "Meaning that all of the Native community is given the opportunity to come in as equal parties to the decision-making process in terms of co-management of our resources."

Participants came from as far away as Bristol Bay, Southeast Alaska, the Gulf, Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands. According to Riedel, presenters came to Cordova from Nome, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka.

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1997

Agency says fish pass won't harm environment

LOG Staff

The U.S. Interior Department has said there are no significant impacts from the proposed fish pass at the Alaska SeaLife Center.

That spares the center the expense of a full-blown environmental impact statement and paves the way for construction to begin soon.

The environmental assessment was done by Leif Selkregg Associates, a contractor to the center, and the state Department of Fish and Game.

The fish pass, which would conduct returning salmon to the SeaLife Center, will be paid for with $545,000 from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

The state Department of Fish and Game asked for the funds so its scientists can release into Resurrection Bay pink, silver and king salmon smolt reared at the center, and study the returning adults.

The fish pass consists of an enclosed concrete tube extending 45 feet into the bay from a concrete tank that would act like a canal lock, raising the water level and thus the fish to an upper pass attached to the bay side of the center and leading to its outdoor research pools.

It would be open May 1 to Sept. 15, the environmental assessment said. The fish lock would have an acrylic window for public viewing.

In public meetings in October some sport fishermen were concerned about a required fishing closure near the fish pass.

Fish and Game intends to close a rectangular area in front of the center starting at the east end of the old ferry dock and extending west to roughly the center's property line. It would be marked by buoys and signs. The restricted zone would be enforced, with $100 fines, only during returns of research fish.

Sport fishing still would be allowed east of the old ferry dock, along the wave barrier. Anglers would be entitled to catch research fish outside of the restricted zone. Nonresearch fish that stray into the pass would be returned to the bay, the environmental assessment said.

The research program isn't related to the state's salmon-stocking programs in Resurrection Bay and wouldn't reduce the number of silver and king smolt the state releases here, the assessment said.

If quotas of returning fish aren't met, scientists would increase the number of fish released rather than extending the restricted zone, the assessment said.

The center's general contractor, Strand Hunt Construction, will build it for $400,877, said Darryl Schaefermeyer of the Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science at a City Council meeting Monday.

Among other projects, researchers expect to be able to study fish brain structure as it relates to smoltification, the assessment said. As silvers go from their freshwater birth streams to their saltwater lives as adults, many changes occur in their bodies.

Dr. Sven Ebbesson of the University of Alaska Fairbanks is now studying chemical changes in the brain and how different rearing environments affect physiological changes. The results could be applied to culture methods in hatcheries.

Seward
Phoenix Log

Neighbors

SeaLife Center news

By Jim Pfeiffenberger

There are some new faces down at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Vic and Lynn Aderholt arrived in mid-February from Florida, where they both worked at Sea World. Vic is the new director of aquatics at the SeaLife Center, and Lynn will serve as lab support technician. Vic has more than 10 years' experience as the assistant superintendent of animals at Sea World, and Lynn worked there as the pelagic bird exhibit specialist. Their 4 1/2-year-old son, Nat, is also with them. "I loved this area from the first time I saw it," Vic said. "I can't tell you how happy we are to be here."

Jim Pfeiffenberger has been hired part-time to develop an interpretive "Hard Hat Tour" of the construction site. The tours will be offered to the public this summer beginning in mid-May and will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the unique materials and specialized equipment it takes to build and run a world-class aquarium.

Pat Albaugh, the SeaLife Center controller, recently returned from a visit to several West Coast aquariums, including the Seattle Aquarium and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. He received training in specialized software applications and interviewed employees about the pros and cons of operations at their respective aquariums.

Construction of the SeaLife Center continues to progress ahead of schedule. Several of the acrylic viewing panels that will allow underwater viewing of marine mammals and birds are already in place, including a nine-inch-thick panel that is part of the Steller sea lion exhibit. Work on the naturalistic habitats will begin soon.

Mixed wintering flocks of harlequin ducks, Barrow's goldeneyes and red-breasted mergansers continue to frequent the waters around the construction site. Many of the male birds are already in their full breeding plumage and are beginning to display some pairing and mating behavior.

Jim Pfeiffenberger works for the SeaLife Center.

Homer panel nixes proposals to kill crab, clam fisheries

by J. Michael Lyons
Staff Writer

The Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee last week voted down a proposal to the Board of Fisheries to permanently close Kachemak Bay commercial shellfish fisheries and another aimed directly at the commercial clamming industry.

A group of more than 100 Bear Cove property owners, known collectively as the Bear Cove Group, offered the proposal to the board because of fears that continued fishing would deplete the Bay's shellfish stock to dangerously low numbers, spokesperson Sharon Perry told the committee.

"We are very concerned that the levels are not depleted below naturally sustainable levels," Perry said.

The Department of Fish and Game in the 1980s and early 1990s closed many commercial shellfish fisheries, including Dungeness crab and shrimp, in the bay due to declining counts.

However, a permanent closure of all fisheries would shut down the small contingent of commercial clammers presently working the Bay — something that a different proposal aims to do.

Perry and Little Jakolof Bay resident Donald Fell voiced concerns that commercial clamming operations could eventually deplete the Bay's little neck clam population.

The commercial harvest of little necks has increased nearly every year since the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, according to Fish and Game statistics. Commercial clammers last year surpassed the department's 65,000-pound limit by about 1,700 pounds and so far this year have harvested about 17,000 pounds.

The clam fishery alternates open locations year-by-year in order for stocks to recover and Fish and Game shellfish biologist Charlie Trowbridge said that he has not seen any data that show adverse affects of commercial operations.

The Bear Cove area was split in half for commercial clamming two years ago, he told the committee, and the halves are harvested in alternating years.

"We have not seen a decline in average size in that area," said Trowbridge. "I'd say keep the cap where it is and get some data before we start crying wolf. From everything I have to go by, I don't see a resource problem here."

Fell's proposal is to close just commercial clamming.

Fell and others believe clams will go the way of Dungeness crab and shrimp and will be too scarce for even personal-use harvest, particularly in small bays like Little Jakolof.

"I believe it would be very easy for commercial clamming operations to wipe out the clams there and Fish and Game wouldn't even know it," Fell said.

Commercial clammer Doug Stewart told the committee that the alternating-year regulation is working as far as he and the other 15 or 20 commercial clammers can tell.

"I'm seeing a very positive side of the management plan that's in place," said Stewart.

As far as going into small bays, Stewart said he has clammed Little Jakolof but only once when a storm forced him in with a full crew that wanted to work.

"I'd be more than happy not to get in people's faces," he said.

The committee voted down both proposals.

However, it did approve proposals to require a personal-use and sport-clamming permit, which would provide better harvest data, according to Fish and Game. The permit process would use the same form as is used for personal-use and sport permits for crab.

The committee also approved a proposal that would set a statewide maximum-size limit on commercial Dungeness crab. Some biologists feel that harvesting the largest males leaves the population with small males that physically cannot impregnate larger females. A specific size was not agreed upon.

The Board of Fish begins a 13-day meeting Sunday where it will consider these and more than 500 other commercial and sportfishing proposals.

Oyster nursery should be boon to Kachemak Bay farmers

Construction should begin this month on the machine that is expected to lead the farmed oyster industry of Kachemak Bay out of its infancy and into adulthood.

Using more than $150,000 in state grants, the Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association is building a floating nursery to raise the oyster seedlings — called spat — that farmers buy by the thousands every year.

"I think this will be the pivotal point between the farms in Kachemak Bay being able to supply themselves and make enough money to survive, and not," said Mark Bradley, executive director of the association and designer and builder of the new contraption. "It paints a real optimistic picture for the future."

Oyster growers in Alaska have always been hobbled by a restriction meant to protect the pristine environment of the Last Frontier — a Department of Fish and Game prohibition against the introduction of any non-indigenous species, from Atlantic salmon to zebra mussels. Although Pacific oysters have been cultured in Alaska for nearly a century, it is against the law to import spat that doesn't meet certain specifications — it must come from a state-certified nursery, and the spat can be no longer than 20 millimeters.

By raising their own seed oysters in Halibut Cove, local farmers should enjoy multiple benefits, Bradley said. The local spat will be cheaper — $15,000 for the typical farm's demand of 100,000 per year, versus $18,000 to $25,000 for spat purchased Outside.

In addition to cost savings at the beginning of the season, the local spat will improve farmers' yield, Bradley said. "We know we'll be getting the highest quality seed available."

Kachemak Bay farmers have long suspected that the spat they import are the culls, the runts, the leftovers of the nurseries in which they were raised. Cultivating them locally will produce larger spat that is stronger and healthier, reducing mortality losses.

"The savings are just going to be phenomenal," he said.

The nursery will consist of a 20- by 30-foot aluminum raft, anchored just offshore at the southeast end of Ismailof Island in Halibut Cove, with eight culture chambers measuring 3 by 3 by 4 feet deep. Buried electric lines will bring power to a motorized paddlewheel. As it turns, the "upweller" will provide a constant flow of fresh seawater through the spat beds, Bradley said.

About twice a week someone will have to go aboard to clean screens and spat. Otherwise it will be quiet and relatively inconspicuous — no blue floats, no exposed styrofoam — Bradley said.

> ***"I think this will be the pivotal point between the farms in Kachemak Bay being able to supply themselves and make enough money to survive, and not."***
>
> **– Mark Bradley**

The Kachemak Bay nursery is a small portion of a bigger project stemming from the Exxon Valdez criminal settlement. The bulk of the project funding — $3.1 million — is currently building a new shellfish mariculture center in Seward that should become the foundation of the Alaska shellfish industry.

There, oyster broodstock is expected to turn out a steady stream of larvae that can be raised to spat size and sold to nurseries in Kachemak Bay and probably other sites, said Bob Piorkowski, the Department of Fish and Game's new mariculture program manager in Juneau. The facility will eventually be turned over to a nonprofit corporation.

The mariculture center funding also included $100,000 for a prototype nursery. The Alaska Science and Technology Foundation chipped in $68,000 more for two years of research. The grants are being administered by the mariculture association.

For the next two years the association will learn all about growing spat, starting with about 1.5 million seedlings 3 to 5 millimeters long. Natural mortality will take some, and some will be sent to the University of Alaska for analysis. But hopefully, Bradley said, there will be about 1 million spat in the 30- to 40-millimeter range available to local farmers.

Once the research project is over, however, the entire nursery will be turned over to the Kachemak Shellfish Growers Cooperative, along with a handbook on how to run the thing.

The short history of the Kachemak Bay mariculture industry is rife with learning experiences, Bradley said. "First it was permits, then the farming itself, now it's selling. Every time we rise to a new level we have to figure it out," and this nursery business is the same thing, he said.

But as with the other educational challenges, learning to grow spat is not impossible, Bradley said. "We're going to get it figured out."

KODIAK DAILY MIRROR
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

Long Island—
Group urges trustees to buy

By SUE JEFFREY
Mirror Writer

Leisnoi wants to sell Long Island to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council and at least 300 people in Kodiak applaud the idea.

David Kubiak launched a petition-signing campaign recently to encourage the council to purchase the island. So far, he has collected more than 300 signatures in two weeks at Harborside Coffee, Cactus Flats, Sutliff's and Withrow's clinic (the Kodiak Island Medical Associates.)

"I recently took a group of friends to Long Island. We contemplated that Long Island belongs to Leisnoi and what a shame it would be to see the island logged or developed," Kubiak says.

"The island is a high priority public recreation area, a favorite spot for people in Kodiak to get away, because most of the time the weather allows people to scoot over to the island. You have to go around Spruce Cape and Cape Chiniak to get to other off-road areas."

Leisnoi asked the EVOS Council in November to consider purchasing Long Island, saying it is an area that has many of the damaged resources and services being sought for restoration.

Kodiak resident Hank Eaton, who served on the Alaska Federation of Natives from 1970-75, opposes the sale, however.

"They're supposed to be the protectors of the land for the children and their children's children," said Eaton, a member of the Ouzinkie Native Corp.

"We worked hard during the land claims settlement to get land for us and for future generations, not for somebody to sit at a desk and put a price on it. Now they're undoing everything."

Indeed, Long Island is a treasure, home to a variety of land and marine animals, some of them on the threatened species list and others considered at risk due to the oil spill. The four-mile long island is covered with a forest of Sitka Spruce which provides habitat for deer, beaver, fox, rabbits, land otter, squirrel, weasel, a few cattle, numerous song bird species, bald eagles, northern goshawks and marbled murrelets.

Rainbow trout, land-locked silver salmon and Dolly Varden swim in its lakes. A dense population of harbor seals dwell in its coastal waters and 50 to 75 resident Steller sea lions inhabit the rocky outcroppings on its northeastern shore.

The Department of Natural Resources says islets in Cook Bay, an all-weather harbor on the northwestern shore of Long Island, provide seabird rookeries for more than 2,000 birds including the only Kodiak breeding site for the rhinoceros auklet.

But Long Island is much more than a wildlife sanctuary. When the DNR report describes the terrain, the island sounds more like a scene from a fairytale:

"The pastoral setting of Long Island is rich in scenic beauty. The grassy slopes, black rock cliffs, brilliant wildlife flowers and quiet secluded lakes...is contrasted by the open exposure of Long Island to the pounding surf."

Ironically, the park-like island has also served as a commercial hub and a military site throughout its history. The island supported several Native village sites before contact with the Russians in the 1700s. During the 1800s the Russian American Company ran a brick-making operation at a site on Long Island, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

A century later, the U.S. Army used Long Island as a coastal defense site called Fort Tidball during WWII.

"It was similar to Fort Abercrombie and the defense site at Chiniak, all three of which served as outposts for Fort Greeley at the Buskin River," said Claire Holland, district ranger for Alaska State Parks Kodiak.

"It had gun emplacements with two six-inch guns and a radar receiving station, the radar tower which is still intact. Troops lived in quonset huts located around a main mess hall with shower and laundry facilities. The quonset huts and bunks are still there. Long Island is the most well-preserved WWII site in Kodiak and possibly the most intact coastal defense site in Alaska."

The Army Corp of Engineers will clean up Long Island and other WWII sites in Kodiak this summer, Holland says.

Using established evaluation criteria, the EVOS Trustee Council currently ranks Long Island "moderate" and is considering it for acquisition. Kubiak, who has been enjoying Long Island since 1966, hopes people who also consider Long Island a treasure, will contact the EVOS Trustee Council using one of the following methods:

- ospic@muskox.alaska.edu for email messages.
- 1-800-478-7745 for recording public comments.
- EVOS Trustee Council, 645 G St., Suite 401, Anchorage, AK 99501-3451 for writing and sending photos.

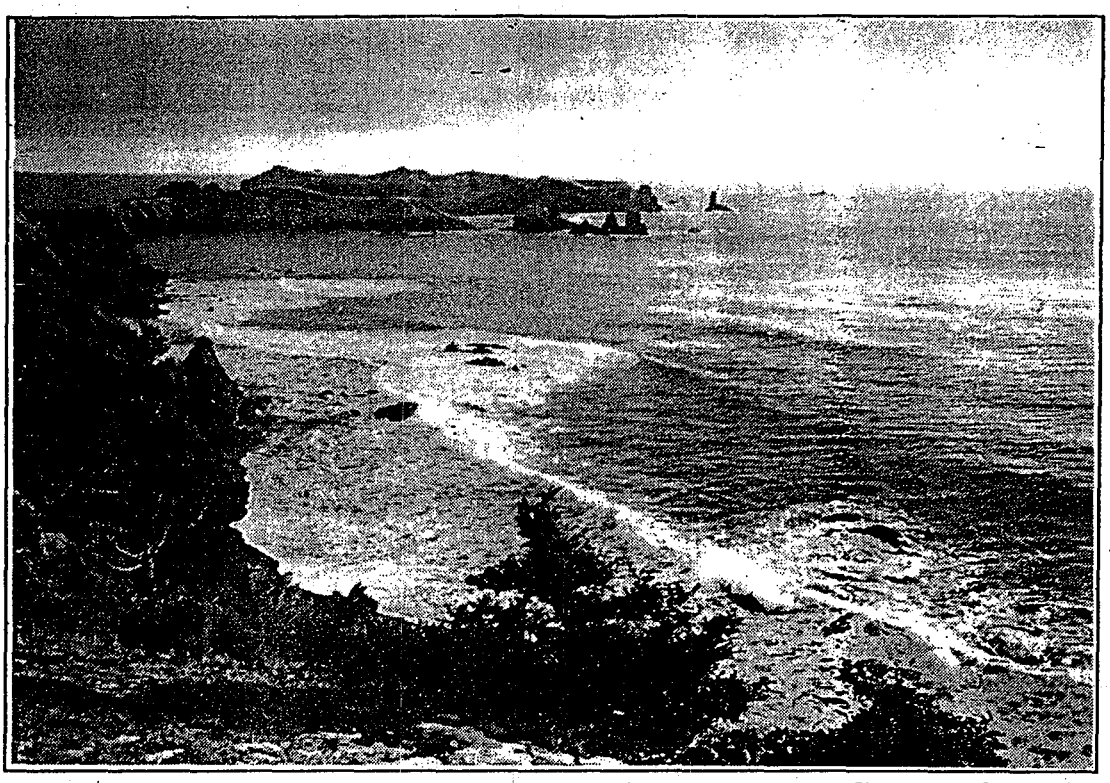


Photo courtesy David Kubiak

Long Island, a pastoral setting of grassy slopes, wildflower meadows, Sitka Spruce forest and black rock cliffs, could become a public park if the Exxon Valdez Trustee Oil Spill Trustee Council buys it from Leisnoi.

THE VALDEZ STAR
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1997

Where Have All The Birds Gone? Study To Find Out

ANCHORAGE, AP--Eight years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, several bird species have not returned to Prince William Sound and a University of Alaska Anchorage professor has been given $7 million to find out why.

The money comes from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, set up after the $900 million out-of-court settlement between the state and federal governments and the Exxon Corp.

David Duffy of the Alaska Natural Heritage Program--part of the UAA's Environmental and Natural Resources Institute--was given a four-year grant to organize more than 70 researchers to study birds, plants and animals in the Sound and how they affect each other.

Duffy is in charge of doling out $1.8 million a year for the next four years to the researchers.

He also has to make sure the scientists aren't duplicating each other's work.

"I don't think anyone has done a study over such a large area where everyone is talking to everyone else," he said.

"This is one of the biggest projects of its type," Duffy said. "By putting 16 projects together, we think we're beginning to see a pattern."

Data collected during the past 40 years is leading scientists to suspect the decline may have begun before the spill occurred," Duffy said.

Research form the 1970s indicates the numbers of shrimp and capelin in the Sound's food chain were replaced by species such as cod and pollock.

These lean foods were not fatty enough for the birds to survive and reproduce. It may have caused the drop in bird numbers, he said.

They went from Big Macs to Lean Cuisine," Duffy said. "We're trying to find out what might be limiting their recovery in terms of food."

Birds, a such as the pigeon guillemot and the marbled murrelet have not reproduced in the Sound in several years, and the spill only compounded the problems the birds are facing, he said.

*****

celebrations. Several downtown bars are connected by the free "Magic Bus," offering a warm, safe, fun way to bar-hop for those 21 and older. Don't forget to pick up playing cards at each stop for the poker game — the top seven hands win prizes.
When: 7-10:30 p.m.
Where: Glacier BrewHouse, Railway Brewing Co., Humpy's, Rumrunner's, Darwin's Theory, Pioneer Bar and downtown La Mex
How Much: Free
Info: 786-3764 (Pub Crawl hot line)

KRISHNAMURTI DISCUSSION

Pick up a flier at the cafe or stop in early to study for this month's discussion of short works by J. Krishnamurti, who taught that only a transformation in the human psyche can stop the violence and suffering in the world.
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Qupqugiaq Cafe & School, 640 W. 36th Ave.
How Much: Free
Info: 563-5634

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BASH

'Koots, KWHL and Budweiser offer a party package with an all-day food buffet, face-painters and various games such as a Lucky Charms/nonalcoholic O'Douls eating contest and leprechaun shuffleboard. Music is provided by bagpiper Mark Ryan and local acts including Gael Force, Jubilee, Nervis Rex and Atomic Red Sled.
When: 11:30 a.m. Monday-closing
Where: Chilkoot Charlie's, 2435 Spenard
How Much: $1.06
Info: 272-1010

TUESDAY
MARCH 18

'ENDANGERED PEOPLES' SLIDE SHOW

Alaska author Art Davidson discusses his

How Much: $32.50-$38.50
Info: 263-2787

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

See ON STAGE chart, Page 16

SUBSISTENCE HUNTING FILM

In cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's subsistence division and the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council, the Tatitlek Village Council presents a 30-minute documentary on subsistence hunting of harbor seals. While the technology of the hunt has changed, the need for seals and the knowledge required to perform a successful hunt has not.
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Anchorage Museum of History and Art
How Much: Free
Info: 343-4326

TEA SALON

The Women's Community Cooperative hosts a salon and "Alaska Women Authors Night" featuring tea, coffee and stories by authors Sue Henry, Susan Johnson and Gretchen Legler. Bring goodies to share.
When: 7-9 p.m.
Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3201 Turnagain St.
How Much: Free, donations accepted
Info: 666-3242

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 19

JAZZ ATTACK!

The first of two performances aimed at introducing the public to the jazz abilities of UAA's music department faculty and students features the UAA Jazz Ensemble. The group will perform swing, bossa nova and funk tunes. Also appearing is guitarist Clon Von Fitz and guests.

vinifera grape in California, cabernet s
gnon. Dr. Robert Warren is the host, a
Sorella's Cafe provides the dinner. Sea
is limited to the first 30 paid reservati
When: 7 p.m.
Where: Trader Jim's Side Door Cafe, 5520 Lake Otis Parkway
How Much: $40
Info: 562-7131

THURSDAY
MARCH 20

CIGAR SOCIAL AND DINNER

The Hilton hosts its first cigar social, v
food and wine complementing each fe
tured smoke. R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, Marcl
Cigars provided by Great Alaska Tobac
Co.; wine by Alaska Distributors.
When: 5:30 reception, 7 p.m. dinner
Where: Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 W. Third Ave.
How Much: $50
Info: 265-7168

MINING ON THE KENAI

Cook Inlet Historical Society continu
Gold Rush lecture series with this sli
lecture hosted by lifelong Alaskan Ma
Berry, the author of several books on
history of Seward and Kenai mining.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Anchorage Museum of Histc
and Art
How Much: Free
Info: 343-4326

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWOI

See ON STAGE chart, Page 16

THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE FI

Seven bouts of three rounds each c
as amateur boxers go head-to-head
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Egan Center

WANT AN EVENT LISTED IN THE 8 CALENDAR? SEND INFORMATION A WEEK BEFORE DESIRED PUBLICATION DATE TO ASHLEY GODDARD, 8 DESK, ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS, P.O. BOX 149001, ANCHORAGE AK 99514.

PHONE
FAX
ON-LIN

SeaLife Center creates a new window on wildlife

Wildlife has always attracted visitors to Seward. Tens of thousands come from around the world every year to see fjords and glaciers, eagles and puffins, whales and sea lions.

In the summer of 1998 visitors will have an exciting new way to learn about marine wildlife at close range — the Alaska SeaLife Center. Its mission: research, rehabilitation and public education.

The $50.5 million facility is partly funded with a settlement that Exxon paid to the state and federal governments for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in nearby Prince William Sound.

As a result, a lot of the research and rehabilitation work on fish, marine mammals and seabirds will be aimed at restoring species harmed in the oil spill.

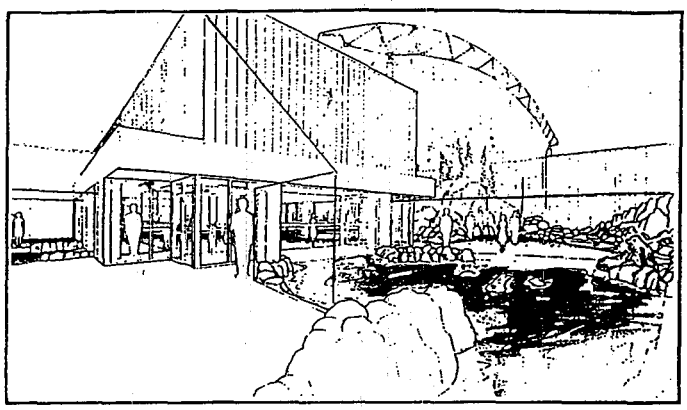
Scientists will study declines in marine mammal and bird populations, genetic damage to herring and pink salmon, and how to treat sick and injured wildlife.

Besides the usual laboratories, the center will have outdoor rocky habitats for marine mammals and a covered area for seabirds.

Visitors to the Alaska SeaLife Center will be immersed in the wildlife and natural habitats of the Northern Gulf of Alaska coastal region. The hope is that research will help the environment and public education will lead to support for environmental stewardship.

The visitor's experience will begin outside with a bayside park landscaped with native flora.

Visitors can explore artificial rocky habitats that imitate coastal places where sea lions, seals and seabirds live and breed. You'll be able to watch, through underwater windows, seabirds diving into pools for food. You'll be able to walk outside among the habitats and get closer to the wildlife.



The Alaska SeaLife Center, scheduled to open in spring 1998, will feature outdoor habitats for marine mammals and birds as well as indoor exhibits and research facilities.

The animals will be at the SeaLife Center for research and rehabilitation, not merely display. Part of the visitor experience will be to watch researchers and learn about what they're doing.

"There will be a wide range of birds in the habitat," said John Fulford, general manager of Jolly Miller Construction, the company that is building the habitats. "We'll create nesting opportunities for them like ledges for kittiwakes, ramps for common murres, a talus slope and nest boxes."

The seabirds will dive into a 16-foot-deep pool for their food. And the sea lions will have a big rock as a haul-out. "They like to heave themselves out of the water and flop up to rocks up to 15 feet," Fulford said.

The habitats contain a storyline for people to discover as well, he said. Visitors can enter two simulated caves that were carved by the tides, with built-up sand and even animal tracks. "So that perhaps a small child will find river otter tracks leading out of the beach," Fulford said.

Inside the center, visitors also will see exhibits on freshwater streams and their invertebrates, reptiles and insects; tidal pools and kelp forests; the Exxon Valdez oil spill and its cleanup; and angling and commercial fishing.

For the people of Seward, the Alaska SeaLife Center is a dream they made come true. Local citizens formed the Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science. For years they've worked to advance their vision of a research and visitor center.

Visitors can explore artificial rocky habitats that imitate coastal places where sea lions, seals and seabirds live and breed. You'll be able to watch, through underwater windows, seabirds diving into pools for food.

They garnered $37.5 million from the oil spill settlement, another $12.5 million from the state oil spill settlement, and now they're raising another $12 million privately. Forty-seven businesses and individuals from Seward have donated a combined $1 million. Seward volunteers have donated thousands of hours of labor.

"Not only are we an innovative and proud community, but we continue to amaze even ourselves," SAAMS board chairman Willard Dunham said of Seward's donations at a celebration in 1995.

The Alaska SeaLife Center is aiming at a summer 1998 opening. If you want to learn more about the Alaska SeaLife Center, or contribute to it, please call 224-3080, or write the center at P.O. Box 1329, Seward AK. 99664.

Hard-hat tours are available daily May through August. Call the center at the above number to make your reservation.

Fjords carved by ice over thousands of years

Seward is the gateway to one of the most spectacular national parks in the country.

Kenai Fjords National Park offers a wide spectrum of natural environments and ecosystems. The park boasts an icefield wilderness, unnamed waterfalls in unnamed canyons, glaciers that sweep down narrow mountain valleys, and a coastline along which thousands of seabirds and mammals raise their young.

The fjords are teaming with marine life. Steller sea lions haul out on rock islands at the entrances to Aialik and Nuka Bays. Dall porpoise, sea otter, and grey, humpback, killer and minke whales ply the waters, and harbor seals ride the icebergs.

Halibut, lingcod and black bass (rockfish) lurk deep in these waters. And salmon return for inland spawning.

Thousands of kittiwakes, common murres and a variety of gulls seasonally inhabit steep cliffs and rocky shores.

The park gets its name from the long, steep-sided valleys carved by glaciers and now filled with ocean waters. These fjords (pronounced "f-yord") were once alpine valleys filled with glacial ice, but as the glaciers retreated the valleys became submerged in ocean waters.

The geologic forces causing this land to submerge are still active. In 1964, the Good Friday earthquake dropped the shoreline six feet in just one day. As the land sinks into the ocean, glacier-carved cirques are turned into half-moon bays, and mountain peaks are reduced to wave-beaten islands.

Though the land is dropping, a mile-high mountain platform backdrops the coastline and contains the 300-square-mile Harding Icefield. The icefield is the park's dominant feature and is one of the largest in North America, but remained undiscovered until a mapping team early this century realized that several coastal glaciers belonged to the same massive system.

When you travel to the park, scan the coast for mountain sheep, goats and bears.

Today, the icefield is approximately 35 miles long and 20 miles wide. Only isolated nunataks (an Eskimo word meaning lonely peaks) rise from the frozen clutches of the Ice Age.

Moisture-laden clouds from the ocean meet the coastal mountains, are forced up into colder air, and result in heavy precipitation — 400-800 inches of snow annually. The huge mass of snow builds up tremendous weight and compresses underlying layers into ice.

The forces of gravity and the relentless pressure of new snows push the ice into motion. Rivers of moving ice (glaciers) slide and grind their way down the mountains, sculpting the fjords and valleys of the park. Eight glaciers reach the sea along the coast. Sometimes the boom of calving ice from these tidewater glaciers can be heard 20 miles away.

The park's wildlife is as varied as its landscape. Mountain goats, moose, bears, wolverine, marmots and other land mammals have re-established themselves on a thin life zone between marine waters and the ice field's frozen edges.

Bald eagles nest in the tops of spruce and hemlock trees.

Exit Glacier, remnant of a larger glacier once extending into Resurrection Bay, is one of several rivers of ice flowing off the ice field. Active, yet receding, Exit Glacier provides the perfect setting to explore.

Here are found newly exposed, scoured and polished bedrock, and a regime of plant succession from the earliest pioneer plants to a mature forest of Sitka spruce and western hemlock.

The Exit Glacier area of the park is accessible by car from Mile 3.5 of the Seward Highway. A paved trail leads from the parking area to within a quarter mile of the glacier. Additional trails take visitors along the riverbed to the face of the glacier or up a steeper path to several overlooks.

Ranger-led nature walks and treks to the Harding Icefield are also scheduled during the summer months at Exit Glacier. A tent campground, ranger station, picnic shelter, and restroom facilities are located near the Exit Glacier parking areas.

The Kenai Fjords Visitor Center is open seven days a weeks during the summer, located next to the harbormaster's office in the small-boat harbor.

Photo exhibits, slide programs, maps, natural history publications and information services are available. Charter boat tours, kayaking expeditions, fishing charters, and overflights of the fjords are available. Visitors interested in coastal trips are advised to book in

Continued on Page 17

Continued from Page 16

advance.

Four rustic public-use cabins along the park coast provide opportunities for exploration, wildlife viewing and relaxation during the summer months, and a fifth, at Exit Glacier, is available during the winter.

Wildlife is abundant at each of the cabins, and all are frequented by bears. Spectacular views abound. The coastal cabins, open early June through September, are accessible by floatplane, private vessel or charter boat. Kayakers with advanced skills can reach the cabins from Seward or Homer; most kayakers are dropped off by charter boats. The winter Exit Glacier cabin is open as soon as snowfall closes the road, and is accessible by ski, dog sled and snowmachine.

Cabin use is by reservation only. You must obtain a permit in advance. The cost is $30 a night, with a three-night limit for parties up to eight people. Reservations may be obtained in person through the Alaska Public Lands Information Center, 605 W. Fourth Ave., Suite 105, Anchorage, AK 99501 after Jan. 1. Call (907) 271-2737 for information only. No reservations will be taken over the telephone.

In the recent years, some of the parkland has been conveyed to two Alaska Native village corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The corporations of Port Graham and Nanwalek, located on the southwestern coast of the Kenai Peninsula, ultimately will receive a combined 75,000 acres of the park's 670,000 acres. But the Native selections include about 40 percent of the coast. The Native land is now private property. Be sure to check in with the Park Service if you plan to land on the coast. You need to know where the public parkland is, where any easements are through Native land to publicly owned uplands, and any rules or fees the Native corporations may choose to impose for use of their land.

Spill funds to aid research on Sound bird population

By MELISSA EICHHOLZ
The Associated Press

Eight years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill, several bird species have not returned to Prince William Sound, and a University of Alaska Anchorage professor has been given $7 million to find out why.

The money comes from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees, set up after the $900 million out-of-court settlement between the state and federal governments and Exxon Corp.

David Duffy of the Alaska Natural Heritage Program — part of UAA's Environmental and Natural Resources Institute — was given a four-year grant to organize more than 70 researchers to study birds, plants and animals in the Sound and how they affect each other.

Duffy is in charge of doling out $1.8 million a year for the next four years to the researchers. He also has to make sure the scientists aren't duplicating each other's work.

"I don't think anyone has done a study over such a large area where everyone is talking to everyone else," he said.

"We think it's cutting-edge research," said Stan Senner, science coordinator and adviser for the trustee council. Duffy will be working with at least 16 research projects, together called the Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment.

"This is one of the biggest projects of its type," Duffy said. "By putting 16 projects together, we think we're beginning to see a pattern."

Data collected during the past 40 years is leading scientists to suspect the decline may have begun before the spill occurred, Duffy said.

Research from the 1970s indicates the numbers of shrimp and capelin in the Sound's food chain began to decline and were replaced by species such as cod and pollock.

These leaner foods were not fatty enough for the birds to survive and reproduce. It may have caused the drop in bird numbers, he said.

"They went from Big Macs to Lean Cuisine," Duffy said. "We're trying to find out what might be limiting their recovery in terms of food."

Birds such as the pigeon guillemot and the marbled murrelet have not reproduced in the Sound in several years, and the spill only compounded the problem the birds were facing, he said.

Senner said this research will help to discover why bird populations still are dropping and what humans can do to avoid a similar problem in the future.

"(The spill) effects were superimposed on whatever else was going on down there," he said. "Right now, there's nothing people can do but watch and learn."

> *"This is one of the biggest projects of its type. By putting 16 projects together, we think we're beginning to see a pattern."*
>
> **— David Duffy, Alaska Natural Heritage Program**

METRO
ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS FRIDAY, February 28, 1997 ☆ SECTION

Projects protect river habitat

Crews build catwalk, stairway to limit human impact on Kenai shorelin

By JON LITTLE
Daily News Peninsula Bureau

SOLDOTNA — Welders at a natural gas plant in Nikiski have been transferred temporarily to the Kenai River, where they're installing a stairway and catwalk at one of the river's hottest red salmon fishing holes.

A crew of six has been donated by Phillips Petroleum Co. for the next few weeks to build habitat-friendly river access at Soldotna's Swiftwater Campground.

"It's different," said Johnnie Bea, main welder for Phillips. "It's enjoyable to be out here where it's quiet."

Right now the welders work alone at the campground, which is blanketed by and locked in ice. But by summer, the trees are green and the river and fish are running, there should be sturdy access down to the river, planners say.

Already the welders have punched metal posts six feet into the frozen ground and have begun installing two stairways that lead about 20 feet down a steep bluff to a 4-foot-wide catwalk spanning 200 feet of shoreline.

It's one of a dozen public — and 60 private — river habitat projects in the works this year as new laws, tax breaks, government coordination and concerned fishing groups combine to encourage rehabilitation of the Kenai River shoreline.

Rehabilitation work already has been done at Jim's Landing near Skilak Lake, and improvements are planned at Bing's Landing in Sterling, said Gary Liepitz, a state Fish and Game habitat biologist working at the Kenai River Center, a joint office of state and borough agencies that regulates the river.

"If you get people off the bank and let the vegetation grow, it works," Liepitz said. "We're trying to get things onto elevated structures and floating docks."

JON LITTLE / Anchorage Daily News

Johnnie Bea, head welder at Phillips Petroleum Co.'s Nikiski natural gas facility, assembles parts Thursday for a stairway and catwalk being installed on the Kenai River at Swiftwater Park.

The River Center has issued 220 permits for river work since it first opened in May 1996.

It took a few of those permits to get clearance for the Swiftwater project. Fish and Game, State Parks and the Kenai Peninsula Borough had to sign off before the welders and fabricators could begin work.

They picked winter for a couple of reasons. The frozen Kenai makes a handy temporary road for trucking materials from a nearby boat launch. It means crew members aren't disrupting the habitat they are trying to protect. Also, they won't be getting in the way of anglers.

Bea, the head welder, expected the steelwork to be completed by mid-March.

Plans call for damaged areas eventually to be refilled, stabilized and planted with erosion-controlling vegeta-

tion. But how and when th can take place has not bee established. "This wou make a great Eagle Sco project," said Lori Lan strom, State Parks ranger.

Phillips first approache the city of Soldotna and tl Division of State Parks 1995, looking for something could do to help river habita

Landstrom led Phillips c ficials over to Swiftwate steep banks and suggest the project, which would tal the kind of technical kno how the company has.

"We're accustomed working with steel, wi heavy equipment," said Jol Landrum, Phillips' Alas manager.

Even with snow blanketin the area, evidence of las year's anglers can be seen i trenches scoured down th bluff. There were at least tw unofficial trails at the camp ground, and that's exactl where the new metal stai ways are going.

"The way the bank is, th would take some engineerin and design, and we felt w had the technical ability pull it off," said Peter Mic che, project coordinator f Phillips.

Phillips got help from ot er companies: Veco, Eppe heimer Inc., Alaska Steel ar Kimco Inc. have either dona ed materials or offered the at cost, Landrum said.

"I think it's a model of hc one can construct this type access, and a model of how private company can wo with agencies and cities work through the permitti process," he said. "We'll looking for other things to in the future."

A spring dedication planned.

Area update

USDA officially accepts 60,000 acres of Native land

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman officially accepted nearly 60,000 acres of damaged wildlife habitat in Alaska Feb. 5 from the Chenega Corp. an Alaskan Native village corporation. This land acquisition is a part of the effort to restore Prince William Sound habitat using Exxon Valdez oil spill settlement funds.

HOMER N 2/27/97

Point of View

Oil spill funding better spent on accident prevention

by Larry Smith

Our spill-response program is expensive nonsense. Millions of dollars are squandered every year on complex and often well-coordinated and impressive scramblings of equipment and manpower, which aren't worth a nickel in terms of results. Full of sound and fury, signifying foolishness.

The capsizing of the urea barge Oregon at Cape Ninilchik was not much of an incident. It did provide another review of the methods now being used to design and coordinate spill and/or spill-prevention response.

Once again, the big lesson is: response efforts will not be able to contain any spill. Prevention of spills is where the focus should be, and that worked very well with the overturned barge (after the urea horse was out of the barn). Crowley Marine prevented the loss of the fuel carried aboard for the generators that powered the auxiliary systems. The barge was not self-propelled and had no need to carry large quantities of fuel.

If Crowley responded well (after capsizing its own barge and losing its customer's cargo), how did the other participants in the response perform? Chadux, the response action co-op for non-crude operations, also did very well. And with the usual exception of company lawyers and fact spinners, the individuals from the various agencies and companies with roles in the incident command system also did a good job.

However, the behavior of Unocal and Cook Inlet Spill Response Inc. raises some questions. CISPRI is a cooperative made up of Cook Inlet oil producers and shippers, who provide and control the co-op's budget. In secondary roles it includes the Coast Guard, the state, the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage.

A major limiting factor in this incident response was the Unocal/Coast Guard/state demand for having large ocean boom on standby. This was only readily available from CISPRI, which billed Crowley $125,000 rent per day for parking four-knot boom on the end of the Homer Spit. (Where the barge was headed, in Puget Sound, the same boom is available for 10 percent of that cost, even if it had been deployed and oiled.) For a defense mechanism that was very unlikely to work, that's a big waste of money. This money could be much better invested in a tug capable of going to the rescue of distressed vessels in and around Cook Inlet.

As a member of CISPRI, Unocal might have assumed some responsibility for the shipment of its urea and procured the use of this boom for a nominal cost. As it was, three days of renting useless boom added up to more than the cost of replacing the materials. This, together with the very large expenses of keeping federal, state and private spill responders in a local resort and hiring local aircraft and vessels for response work, played a major role in Crowley's choice to go to an area with better weather, better equipment, and lower costs. Intense pressure from Unocal and the Coast Guard led to CISPRI reducing boom charges to the Puget Sound rate, but only after refusing adjustment of the original billing which had contributed to the decision to send the barge south for salvage.

Now I know that some people think a local woman who loves Kachemak Bay to distraction drove a profitable salvage effort out of the Inlet when she publicly said, "Get that thing out of here!" But it seems more like an obvious business decision to me. Those providing equipment and services at inflated costs to the response effort should be thanked by those who wanted the wreck removed.

And those of us that have long experience with Union Oil of California (Unocal) have good reasons to believe the community is right to be grateful to the Cook Inlet Keeper for using its resources to provide a factual check on the assertions of a company whose tradition is pollution.

Another local resource, the Seldovia-based SOS team, also deserves our support. Without pay, this group stayed on alert status, ready for call-out, and provided a wealth of local knowledge to the response action group.

Unfortunately, because high response costs are the rule, CISPRI wanted Crowley's money to offset its own expenses. CISPRI went so far as to tell Crowley that it served them right for signing up with another non-profit response co-op, Chadux. And, since no more than 1 percent of a significant spill has ever been contained and recovered in Alaska, I don't believe that running up the cost of accidents for response activities that look good but produce no results is in anybody's interest.

The easy way to get real protection would be to take the industry money now funding CISPRI and the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council and give it to the SOS team to lease or buy and operate an ocean-going tug with full capability to tie onto vessels in distress and bring them to a safe port like Kachemak Bay to be repaired.

The state and the Coast Guard could mandate the same level of protection in place in Prince William Sound, provide a vessel traffic control system and allocate state "470 funds" collected in the Inlet to protection in the Inlet.

The Cook Inlet oil and shipping business is full of capable people working hard to keep their products out of the water and in the marketplace. Without the expertise of our neighbors working in industry, we'd really have dirty water. Supporting them in using professional skills to prevent accidents can pay great dividends. We do need the cooperation of companies like Unocal, which are sometimes pretty hard on employees who discuss defects in industry operations that can lead to environmental degradation or risks to human health.

It would also help for agencies and companies to develop a database from which important history is retrievable. We now know that such barges have capsized, spilled and been righted before in our waters. In Resurrection Bay it was the barge Alaska which is replacing the Oregon on the Nikiski run. The details of such events should have been immediately available.

Abandoning the pretense that there is such a thing as effective spill response in favor of a simple accident prevention program can be cheaper and provide better environmental protection.

Larry Smith is a longtime local resident and former member of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Letters

Under local supervision, I am now able to continue treatment at home after chemotherapy treatments. There will be two more sessions and then it is planned to send me

the refrain, "We can serve you as well from Anchorage." Over a 35-year time span, our observation and experience have verified that such an approach is not correct, and fails

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Adult, 4 youths charged with SeaLife vandalism

LOG Staff

An adult and four juveniles, all local, have been charged with trespassing and criminal mischief for allegedly spray painting obscenities inside the Alaska SeaLife Center.

William O'Brien, 18, was charged with Class A misdemeanors first-degree criminal trespass and third-degree criminal mischief, and with a Class B misdemeanor, sixth-degree misconduct with a controlled substance. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment last week.

Four male juveniles, ages 14 to 16, were charged with first-degree criminal trespass and third-degree criminal mischief, both Class A misdemeanors. They were released to their parents.

The youths were observed in the unfinished building with a spray-paint can on Feb. 18, said police investigator Dale Eaton. Several panels of sheetrock were painted with obscenities and other words, he said.

The actions have no connection with a union dispute that electricians have had with a subcontractor at the site, Eaton said.

Juneau Empire 2/26/97

UAA gets grant to study bird population decline

■ *Several species haven't returned to Prince William Sound after oil spill*

By MELISSA EICHHOLZ
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE – Eight years after the Exxon Valdez Oil spill, several bird species have not returned to Prince William Sound, and a University of Alaska Anchorage professor has been given $7 million to find out why.

The money comes from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees, set up after the $900 million out-of-court settlement between the state and federal governments and Exxon Corp.

David Duffy of the Alaska Natural Heritage Program – part of the university's Environmental and Natural Resources Institute – was given a four-year grant to organize more than 70 researchers to study birds, plants and animals in the sound and how they affect each other.

Duffy is in charge of doling out $1.8 million a year for the next four years to the researchers. He also has to make sure the scientists aren't duplicating each other's work.

"I don't think anyone has done a study over such a large area where everyone is talking to everyone else," he said.

"We think it's cutting-edge research," said Stan Senner, science coordinator and advisor for the trustee council. "Through better understanding, we can do a better job of managing and protecting our natural resources."

Duffy will be working with at least 16 research projects, together called the Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment (APEX).

"This is one of the biggest projects of its type," Duffy said. "By putting 16 projects together, we think we're beginning to see a pattern."

Data collected during the past 40 years is leading scientists to suspect the decline may have begun before the spill occurred, Duffy said.

Research from the 1970s indicates the numbers of shrimp and capelin in the sound's food chain began to decline and were replaced by leaner foods such as cod and pollock.

PENINSULA CLARION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1997

Researchers to study bird population decline

By MELISSA EICHHOLZ
The Associated Press

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See BIRDS, back page

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These leaner foods were not fatty enough for the birds to survive and reproduce. It may have caused the drop in bird numbers, he said.

"They went from Big Macs to Lean Cuisine," Duffy said. "We're trying to find out what might be limiting their recovery in terms of food."

Birds such as the pigeon guillemot and the marbled murrelet have not reproduced in the sound in several years, and the spill only compounded the problem the birds were facing, he said.

Senner said this research will help to discover why bird populations still are dropping and what humans can do to avoid a similar problem in the future.

"(The spill) effects were superimposed on whatever else was going on down there," he said. "Right now, there's nothing people can do but watch and learn."

Spill trustees fund bird study

By MELISSA EICHHOLZ
For The Associated Press

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See BIRD STUDY, Page 3

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KODIAK DAILY MIRROR
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1997

Juneau Empire 2/26/97

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KNA deal meets with opposition

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

Kenai Natives Association Inc. shareholders are expected to get advisory ballots this week which will ask whether the corporation should sell 3,253 acres, mainly on the Moose and Kenai rivers, to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for $4.4 million.

Congress has sweetened the deal since the oil spill trustees first offered $4.4 million for the land two years ago, said KNA president Diana Zirul.

Now, KNA would also receive 5 acres in downtown Kenai, appraised at $247,000. KNA would retain 15,500 acres in the Swanson River and Beaver Creek areas, and the deal would put that land outside the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, removing restrictions on development. KNA would also gain extensive subsurface rights.

Zirul said she's excited about the deal, which would allow the corporation finally to develop land selected under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Without it, close to 80 percent of KNA's land is subject to refuge rules that make development nearly impossible.

"The issue is, our lands have been tied up for so long," she said. The corporation is "not able to use them to the economic benefit of the shareholders."

Zirul said that although most shareholders seem pleased with the proposal, Emil Dolchok of Kenai is campaigning to block it. The 73-year-old Dolchok said he grew up using the land KNA would give up.

"I've trapped there. I've fished there. I went there by dog sled in winter," he said of the 803-acre Stephanka tract on the Kenai River near Skilak Lake. "I know the value of that land to my Native people."

Dolchok said he can't understand how the oil spill trustees can offer KNA less than $2,000 an acre, when they just offered $698,000 for the 3.3-acre Roberts parcel by Soldotna's Centennial Park. That's more than $211,000 an acre.

"Knowing how much land along the Kenai River is selling for, why is our board willing to get rid of our land so cheap?" he wrote in a Feb. 20 letter to shareholders.

In a letter printed in Monday's Clarion, Dolchok cited the trustees' offer to buy English Bay Corp. land inside Kenai Fjords National Park and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

"... I am saddened that we Native people are being put into positions where the federal government is coercing lands out of Native ownership," he wrote.

Molly McCammon, executive director of the trustee council, said $4.4 million is the appraised value of the KNA land.

"The real answer is location, location, location," she said.

The Roberts parcel is by the highway and is among the most heavily used areas of Soldotna, officials said. Its purchase would allow extension of the riverside boardwalk.

The KNA tracts have no road access, and large tracts generally bring less per acre than small ones, McCammon said.

The oil spill trustees have paid more than appraised value for tracts of 50,000 acres or more, she said, because large tracts generally appraise at about $100 an acre. No owner will sell for that, she said.

For small parcels, McCammon said, the trustees have a policy to offer appraised value only. The appraised value of the Roberts parcel was $698,000.

Zirul said KNA didn't accept when the oil spill trustees first offered $4.4 million for the land alone, but she said Congress has added considerable value — the five acres in Kenai, subsurface rights, and the removal of development restrictions.

Even without those extras, Zirul said, she's convinced the $4.4 million is fair market value.

"We had an independent appraisal done," she said. "The federal government had an appraisal. It's location. It's the type of land."

Much of the KNA land is marshy, she said.

Dolchok wrote to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on Feb. 15, saying the majority of KNA shareholders voted against a land deal last year and against continued negotiations to work one out. He cited statutes he believes require a vote of shareholders to sell KNA land.

Zirul said the February 1996 proxy votes Dolchok cited were advisory. The votes were close, she said, and included little more than half of KNA's 48,000 shares.

"The board has a fiduciary responsibility to take those into consideration, compare with Alaska statutes and consult with legal counsel. We did that."

She said KNA has done extensive legal research.

"We're not violating state statutes," Zirul said.

Negotiations ended a month before the ballot, she said. By the time of the vote, the deal had moved to Congress. The board hasn't ignored shareholders, she said.

"We've had four informational meetings since December," she said.

"I've talked to any number of shareholders, and the response is very positive. They want to see the offer. They want to vote on it."

PENINSULA CLARION
FEBRUARY 25, 1997

Proposed deal would give KNA $4.4 million, site in old town

Staff report

Kenai Natives Association Inc. president Diana Zirul said she expects to mail ballots to shareholders this week for an advisory vote on whether or not the corporation should accept a land deal that passed Congress last fall.

Under the proposal, KNA would give the Stephanka tract, an 803-acre parcel which spans the Kenai River near Skilak Lake, to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. It would give the refuge 1,243 acres along the Moose River and relinquish rights to 753 acres not yet conveyed there. KNA also would give up rights to select the remaining 454 acres of its entitlement.

The federal government would give KNA $4.4 million, the appraised market value of the Stephanka and Moose River lands. It also would give KNA the five-acre site of the old U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Kenai, appraised in 1995 at $247,000.

KNA would retain roughly 15,500 acres at Beaver Creek and Swanson River. The deal would move the refuge boundary to exclude those lands, removing restrictions on development.

At Beaver Creek, KNA would trade several hundred acres with the federal government to avoid creating an isolated island of wildlife refuge. KNA president Diana Zirul said that nets KNA an additional 180 acres.

KNA would gain subsurface rights on roughly 13,651 acres at Beaver Creek and Swanson River, excluding oil, gas and coal rights already owned by Cook Inlet Region Inc.

The federal government would keep subsurface ownership on 1,738 acres in the Swanson River area, but Kenai Natives would have access to sand and gravel for on-site development.

At Swanson River, CIRI would keep 1,207 acres in subsurface rights and have access to federal sand and gravel required to develop its subsurface interests. Finally, to protect fish and wildlife, the federal government would reserve 37,000 acres owned by the Bureau of Land Management near Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge by Bettles.

KNA has until June 3 to decide whether to accept.

English Bay Corp. likely to accept trustees' offer

PENINSULA CLARION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1997

By DOUG LOSHBAUGH
Peninsula Clarion

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council recently offered $14.1 million to buy more than 32,000 acres of English Bay Corp. land within Kenai Fjords National Park, and up to $1.1 million more to buy subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

English Bay Corp. has not yet formally accepted the offer, said Molly McCammon, executive director of the trustee council. But she said the corporation's leadership has said the offer would be acceptable.

Don Emmal, president of English Bay Corp., could not be reached Friday.

English Bay Corp. recently received the Kenai Fjords land to satisfy its entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The corporation's Kenai Fjords holdings are a patchwork of tracts from Nuka Bay to Resurrection Bay, on the Gulf of Alaska coast of the Kenai Peninsula.

Presuming the corporation accepts the offer, 30,200 acres would go to Kenai Fjords National Park, McCammon said. About 2,270 acres, mostly on Ragged Island, would go to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge already owns part of Ragged Island, plus most of the other islands in the area, trustees officials said.

McCammon said the English Bay Corp. land is highly valuable to many of the species injured in the 1989 Exxon spill. The coastal tracts are used by harlequin ducks, black oystercatchers, harbor seals, sea otters and herring. Upland tracts support river otters, marbled murrelets, spawning salmon and other species injured by the spill. Six of seven parcels to be protected were oiled during the spill.

Hunting is banned inside Kenai Fjords National Park. The negotiated deal includes the buyback of hunting, fishing and gathering rights on much of the land to be bought for the park. Up to $1.1 million to acquire those rights will come from Exxon's $50 million criminal settlement with the federal government, McCammon said. Money to buy the land itself comes from the $900 million Exxon civil settlement with state and federal governments.

English Bay Corp. would retain hunting, fishing and gathering rights on about 9,000 acres in the southwest corner of the park. That's the area closest to the village of Nanwalek, formerly known as English Bay.

McCammon said the oil spill trustees were particularly interested in buying land to benefit Kenai Peninsula fish and wildlife injured in the spill. They have already made land deals in Prince William Sound and the Kodiak-Afognak area, she said.

"The English Bay Corp. land is primary habitat within Kenai Fjords," she said. "We had a willing seller. There was tremendous public support. We received more comment on that proposal than on any other purchase the Exxon Valdez oil spill trustees have worked on."

The trustees have received 600 or 800 comments from the public in the last several years, she said, including 130 or 140 comments in the last few weeks before Feb. 14, the day the issue came before the trustees.

McCammon said the oil spill trustees are still negotiating to buy back some of roughly 52,000 acres in selections Port Graham Corp. received last year from within Kenai Fjords National Park. Port Graham Corp. hasn't been as interested in selling, she said. Lydia Robart, chair of Port Graham Corp., recently said her board is still discussing how to use its Kenai Fjords selections.

Natives, Interior conclude land deal

By DAVID WHITNEY
Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Robert Kvasnikoff, whom Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt simply called Bobby, was in many people's thoughts Monday as leaders of Native-owned English Bay Corp. signed papers transferring more than 32,000 acres of their land to the federal government.

Most of the land, for which the Native village corporation will receive nearly $15.4 million from Exxon Valdez oil-spill settlement proceeds, will be made part of the Kenai Fjords National Park. About 2,280 acres will be added to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Kvasnikoff, who died of AIDS in January at the age of 45, was the longtime chairman of the village corporation's board and an early and persistent advocate of the sale.

"Bobby was a very special person," corporation president Donald Emmal said at the signing ceremony in an Interior Department conference room. "Without his wisdom, his determination and his love for his people, this could not have taken place."

The land purchase is part of a continuing effort by the state and federal governments to buy sensitive lands in the vicinity of the 11-million-gallon disaster to help the area recover by ending the threat of development. More than 500,000 acres have been bought or protected through conservation easements.

English Bay Corp. is the village corporation for Nanwalek, located on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula. English Bay was the village's former name.

The land in Monday's sale was part of the English Bay Corp.'s entitlement under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Most of it is along the shoreline of Nuka Bay, Two Arm Bay and Harris Bay — described as extraordinary wildlife habitat that now will be permanently protected as if it were wilderness.

"This agreement is a monument to Bobby," Babbitt said. "I've instructed the National Park Service that his name be out there on the landscape as a monument to him."

Molly McCammon, executive director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council charged with spending $900 million in proceeds from Exxon Corp.'s settlement of criminal and civil actions arising from the spill, said the Park Service wants to have a scenic waterfall renamed after the Native leader.

Under the deal, English Bay Corp. will use about $500,000 of the proceeds to fund archaeological and cultural protection work on lands transferred to the park. The remainder of the money will be placed in a trust fund and invested to earn dividends for the Native corporation's 70 shareholders.

Emmal said the corporation still retains ownership of about 45,000 acres outside the park and refuge. The land-sale agreement preserves the Natives' rights to subsistence hunting in the park.

After the ceremony, Emmal described Kvasnikoff as "a visionary."

"He was instrumental in wanting to see this happen," he said.

In addition to his work for the village corporation, Kvasnikoff was the lead guitarist and vocalist for a rock 'n' roll group called the English Bay Band. Two of his brothers, Wally and John, also played in the group and John succeeded Bobby as village corporation chairman.

During a reception after the signing ceremony, one of English Bay's lobbyists, Tim Mahoney, passed out copies of the band's only album — "Some Nights It Works."

Dissident Akhiok shareholders want $100,000 payout

ANCHORAGE (AP) — A Kodiak-based Native village corporation with a $46 million windfall has turned to the courts to stop dissident shareholders demanding a $100,000-a-person payout.

Akhiok Kaguyak Inc. and three of its board members say that agreeing to the payment would put the once-impoverished corporation at financial risk. Akhiok realized the windfall in 1995, when it sold about half of its lands to the federal government.

Dissidents want a dispersal of more than $15 million, said their lawyer, Richard Jameson. The company says shareholder demands amount to an illegal fight to wrest control of the company's board.

Akhiok's trouble is the latest in a series of fights within Alaska Native corporations waged by shareholders frustrated over what they say are meager returns from their companies.

In recent years, shareholders have pressured the timber-rich villages of Southeast Alaska to hand out tens of thousands of dollars to each shareholder. Shareholder revolts prompted Juneau's Goldbelt Inc. to distribute nearly half of its net worth.

Akhiok's dispute will be highlighted Friday when dissidents at the annual shareholder meeting hope to seat three board members favorable to their views.

The company meanwhile has turned to a state court, which on Wednesday is scheduled to decide if votes collected by the dissidents may be used.

Alaska Natives were enrolled as corporation shareholders under federal law in 1971 that settled Native land claims to virtually all of Alaska.

Akhiok and Kaguyak were separate village corporations that merged in 1979. The corporation now has 157 shareholders, company documents show.

Like many village corporations, Akhiok Kaguyak struggled financially for most of its early life.

Most of the company land acquired under the federal law fell within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and was effectively blocked from development. Two years ago the federal government bought some company land, using part of the $1 billion in legal settlements paid by Exxon after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Akhiok Kaguyak received $46 million for the land, pumping $37 million into a "permanent fund" investment to produce payments for shareholders in years to come, court documents say.

The company's other investments include Anchorage real estate, New Mexico apartments and a timber venture, a corporation financial report shows.

The company also handed out about $30,000 to each shareholder and this year expects to issue dividends worth about $6,000 to each shareholder, Akhiok lawyer James Wilkens said.

But Clida Leger, a shareholder critical of past dividends, said she collected votes to support the opposition board candidates because she believes "the shareholders aren't getting that much."

She said a new slate also would change some company operations.

The group doesn't want to tap the company's permanent fund but it expects to get money by selling most of the company's $23 million in other assets.

Kodiak Daily Mirror May 19, 1997

EVOS offers to buy Afognak land

By MARK BUCKLEY
Mirror Writer

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has offered $70 million to Afognak Joint Venture to protect lands on northern Afognak Island.

At its meeting on Friday, the council, which oversees spending of the $900 million Exxon Valdez civil settlement, offered to buy 20,000 acres around Pauls and Laura Lakes from the Native owners. Additionally, the group voted to work with the landowners to develop a limited timber harvest plan on another 27,000 acres on northwest Afognak.

The council's action was a renewal of a $70 million offer it made in 1994. However, this offer has a reduced scope to reflect recent appraisals.

"We originally hoped to be able to protect more habitat," said Craig Tillery, the trustee council representative for the Alaska Dept. of Law. "But the appraisal values came in higher than we expected. It turned out there was more harvestable timber on the land than we thought."

Several years ago, the council set aside $386 million to buy or otherwise protect habitat affected by the 1989 oil spill. To date, it has spent or committed to spend $225 million.

The north Afognak area has been identified as some of the most valuable habitat in the oil spill region. Tidal and upland areas are important for salmon, marine mammals and some rare birds.

The land is currently managed by Afognak Joint Venture, a consortium of landowners Koniag, Inc., Afognak Natives, and other smaller Native corporations.

Legislative report

JUNEAU (AP) — Here's a list of key action taken in the first session of the 20th Alaska Legislature and some proposals that will have to wait until next year.

TOBACCO TAX — Lawmakers passed legislation raising the state's tobacco tax by 71 cents to a dollar a pack of cigarettes. Gov. Tony Knowles, a big booster of the tax, promised to sign the measure. The tax takes effect Oct. 1.

TORT REFORM — Legislation to set limits on how much juries can award in certain civil lawsuits has been kicking around the Legislature for years. Last year, Knowles vetoed a civil liability reform measure. This time, Knowles and Rep. Brian Porter, R-Anchorage, compromised on legislation and the governor signed it into law.

FARM LAND — Farmers can get title to state agricultural lands under a bill signed by Knowles. Farmers have to keep the land for agricultural use and can only subdivide it into large parcels. Knowles had rejected similar legislation last year.

SHUYAK PARK — This state park on Shuyak Island near Kodiak Island tripled in size with the addition of lands purchased by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Lawmakers and Knowles approved expanding the park.

Kodiak Daily Mirror
May 13, 1997
(Both articles)

EVOS trustee council offers to buy Native land

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council voted on May 9 to offer $70 million to purchase 47,350 acres (about $1,480 an acre) on Afognak Island from Afognak Joint Venture, a partnership of several Native corporations with interests on Afognak Island.

The council's proposal seeks the outright purchase and protection of 20,000 acres; the state and federal governments will work with the landowners (EVOS) to develop a limited timber harvest plan for the remaining 27,000 acres. The state will take title to that land after the agreed-upon harvest takes place.

The offer includes some of the most highly valued habitat in the oil spill region, housing old growth forest, estuaries and salmon streams. Lands included in the offer are adjacent to Afognak State Park and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and are across the strait from Shuyak Island State Park. Numerous species injured by the oil spill use the area for nesting, feeding, molting and wintering. Tidal, jubtidal and upland areas are important for pink salmon, black oystercatchers, harbor seals, harlequin ducks, bald eagles, marbled murrelets, pigeon guillemots, sea otters and river otters.

Here's what they did:

JUNEAU (AP) — Here's a list of key action taken in the first session of the 20th Alaska Legislature and some proposals that will have to wait until next year.

TOBACCO TAX: Lawmakers passed legislation raising the state's tobacco tax by 71 cents to a dollar a pack of cigarettes. Gov. Tony Knowles, a big booster of the tax, promised to sign the measure. The tax takes effect Oct. 1.

TORT REFORM: Legislation to set limits on how much juries can award in certain civil lawsuits has been kicking around the Legislature for years. Last year, Knowles vetoed a civil liability reform measure. This time, Knowles and Rep. Brian Porter, R-Anchorage, compromised on legislation and the governor signed it into law.

FARM LAND: Farmers can get title to state agricultural lands under a bill signed by Knowles. Farmers have to keep the land for agricultural use and can only subdivide it into large parcels. Knowles had rejected similar legislation last year.

SHUYAK PARK: This state park on Shuyak Island near Kodiak Island tripled in size with the addition of lands purchased by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Lawmakers and Knowles approved expanding the park.

PARKS ACCESS: The Legislature would have a hand in making decisions on restricting access by snowmachiners, hikers, or other users into state park areas under a bill Knowles allowed to become law without his signature. Similar legislation was vetoed last year.

TEACHER TESTING: New

Peninsula Clarion 5/13/97

Kenai Natives' land deal gets Babbitt's signature

Peninsula Clarion
5/14/97

By PHIL STEWART
States News Service

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt inked a deal Tuesday giving the Kenai Natives Association $4.4 million in exchange for thousands of acres of tribal lands along the Kenai and Moose rivers.

The landmark agreement, the culmination of 20 years of negotiations, also separates nearly 20,000 acres of KNA lands from the Kenai Refuge — effectively lifting environmental restrictions that have prevented logging and other development activities.

"This agreement will both protect fish and wildlife habitat on the Kenai River and provide Alaska Nativess with significant new opportunities for economic development," Babbitt said upon signing the agreement.

Although the deal was approved as part of the 1996 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act, the celebration was postponed until Tuesday, when Babbitt officially enacted the agreement.

It was one of the few instances in Alaska politics where environmental groups and state and federal officials could claim victory. All sides applauded the agreement's careful balance between conservation and economic development.

"The legislation will allow KNA greater flexibility to use our lands," said KNA President Diana Zirul. "We now have the necessary funding to promote the economic development of KNA's resources, while still respecting and preserving our heritage."

Since the 1971 Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act, the KNA had not been permitted to develop lands within the protected Kenai refuge — a longstanding source of contention between the KNA, Alaska's Republican lawmakers and conservationists.

While the new agreement allows the KNA to develop 20,000 acres of former Kenai refuge lands, the Interior Department will simultaneously transfer 37,000 acres northwest of Fairbanks into the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge — a compromise hailed by the Sierra Club and other environmental groups in Alaska.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, who is largely responsible for passing the land exchange bill, originally opposed the extension of Kanuti lands, but reversed his position under threat of a presidential veto.

Although Murkowski, R-Alaska, pointed to the final act as a victory, he made one final stab at environmentalists and administration officials who he said delayed the agreement.

"I have worked with the Kenai Natives Association leadership in their pursuit of justice since I arrived in the Senate in 1981," he said. "Foot dragging by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and opposition by the environmental community has frustrated us at every turn.

"Finally this chapter has come to a just conclusion for the Kenai Natives Association."

Besides ideological dilemmas, budgetary issues also further postponed the land swap. As the White House aimed for a balanced federal budget, funding for the project became increasingly scarce.

It wasn't until the Interior Department eyed the Exxon Valdez settlement funds — which contributed 91 percent of the $4.4 million for the land swap — that the project became viable.

The Kenai Natives Association also will receive five acres in old town Kenai. But KNA representatives contacted Tuesday were uncertain about planned development projects.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

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May 1997

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