

APPENDIX I

APEX: 96163I

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APEX Project Leader

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This project was created to provide scientific oversight and coordination among the subprojects of the Alaska Predator Ecosystem Experiment or APEX Project. The past year was spent working with the P.I.'s to undertake our first full season of field work, primarily by shifting effort to the nearshore for sampling and fine-tuning projects' goals in response to our initial year of work. We also brought in two new projects, 96163 H and 96136 Q, to undertake analysis of fish samples and to provide initial modelling of the relation between forage fish and seabird reproduction, and we greatly increased support to 96163 M, in Cook Inlet.

Within the project, we supported a graduate student to work with K. Frost of ADF&G and with APEX PI's, to examine the relation between harbor seal diving and fish distribution. To date most of effort has been expended on preparing the data for ArcView and INFOCAD.

In addition, we have undertaken a project with USFWS's seabird atlas to examine whether the distribution of seabird colonies in Prince William Sound may be determined by food, with the predictions that bigger colonies should be farther apart and that colonies with less demand for food within their exclusive foraging zones should do better than colonies with overlap. Data layers have been acquired and brought into ARCINFO. Analysis is underway.

Some time has also been devoted to planning for a symposium on change in Pacific seabirds to be held in 1998. This will allow for the first time a comparison of events in the Sound with those of the rest of the Pacific.

Finally, much of the project is involved in the generation of reports, coordinating research efforts and methods, and in discussions of future needs that appear as the APEX project matures.

The results of the APEX research are discussed in the abstracts for projects 96163 A, B, C, E, F, G, J, K, L, M, N, O, and P.