

## **EVOS ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**

**Project Number:** 030290

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

**PI Name:** Bonita Nelson and Jeff Short

**Time Period Covered by Report:** FY 2003

**Date of Report:** September, 2003

### **1. Work Performed:**

The Auke Bay Laboratory provides data and sample archiving services for all samples collected for hydrocarbon analysis in support of the *Exxon Valdez* Trustee Council projects. These data represent samples collected since the oil spill in 1989 to the present and include environmental and laboratory Response and Restoration data as well as subsistence information. During FY2003, 1500 new hydrocarbon samples were added to PWSOIL (the archival form of the Hydrocarbon Database). Five hundred samples were added to EVTHD (the public release version of the analyzed hydrocarbon data. The process of adding the exact GPS coordinates for the hydrocarbon samples taken from pits on the beach for projects 02534 and 03585 was initiated. This information is in addition to the general sampling site location of the beach. Additionally, we provide interpretive services for the hydrocarbon analyses designed specifically for investigators and managers and FOIA response which include: (1) identification of the probable sources of the hydrocarbons observed in the samples, (2) evaluation of new hydrocarbon data for evidence of systematic bias, (3) hydrocarbon data editing according to consistent criteria. We received a FOIA request for hydrocarbon data and collated that data for a response. Archived frozen hydrocarbon samples were surveyed. Analyzed samples from projects collected in 1989 – 1993 were disposed. A thorough inventory of frozen samples and their condition was completed.

A public version of the analyzed environmental samples was released in 1996 (Exxon Valdez Oil Spill of 1989: State/Federal Trustee Council Hydrocarbon Database 1989 – 1995 / EVTHD) and is updated annually. Maintaining the main database, PWSOIL, and the set of analyzed data is an on-going program. Although the number of volume of samples has decreased over the past few years, new samples are still being added to the database, usually during the same fiscal year they are collected depending on completion of laboratory analyses.

### **2. Future Work:**

Data from EVOS projects associated with hydrocarbon analyses will be added to the database as they are funded by the Trustee Council, including more analysis information from project We are expecting a continuation of FOIA requests and possible data verification efforts. Interpretation services will continue and samples and original custody sheets will be maintained.

3. **Coordination/Collaboration:** PWSOIL and EVTHD are dynamic structures that require periodic maintenance. This project provides a service that insures that the Trustee hydrocarbon data will be available to interested parties for as long as necessary. This project is designed to provide easy access to the Trustee hydrocarbon database and ensure the accuracy of the data. These data for the basis of all toxicological studies performed by the Trustees, and provide an important baseline against which future analyses can be compared We work with other entities with our FOIA requests and data interpretation services. Our information is available on our website or by contacting the Principal Investigators.

#### 4. **Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications**

##### 5. **Information Transfer:**

Data/Information Product:

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill of 1989: State/Federal Trustee Council Hydrocarbon Database 1989 – 1995 / EVTHD - version 2. This is a CD-ROM that contains hydrocarbon data in a stand-alone application.

Conference and workshop attendance: EVOS Trustee Council Workshop, Anchorage, AK.

6. **Budget:** The budget was spent according to plan.

**Report Prepared By:** Bonita Nelson\_\_\_\_\_

**Project Web Site Address:**

www.afsc.noaa.gov/abl/OilSpill/oilspill.htm\_\_\_\_\_