

## EVOS ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

All recipients of funds from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council must submit an annual project report in the following format by September 1 of each fiscal year for which project funding is received, with the exception of the final funding year in which a final report must be submitted. Satisfactory review of the annual report is necessary for continuation of multi-year projects. Failure to submit an annual report by September 1 of each year, or unsatisfactory review of an annual report, will result in withholding of additional project funds and may result in cancellation of the project or denial of funding for future projects.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Significant changes in a project's objectives, methods, schedule, or budget require submittal of a new proposal that will be subject to the standard process of proposal submittal, technical review, and Trustee Council approval.

**Project Number: 040620**

**Project Title: Lingering oil and sea otters: Pathways of exposure and recovery status (continuation of project 030620)**

**PI Names: Jim Bodkin and Brenda Ballachey**

**Time Period Covered by Report: October—August 2004**

**Date of Report: 26 August 2004**

1. **Work Performed:** During July 2003 we captured and instrumented 21 sea otters with VHF radio transmitters and Time Depth Recorders (TDR's). Beginning in August 2003, we began relocating and observing those individuals as well as sea otters that had been previously instrumented with VHF radios in July 2002. Relocations and observations were of two kinds, aerial and shore or skiff based. Aerial relocations included data on the individual's location, date, time, individual ID, behavior, and reproductive status (if determined). Aerial relocations took place at approximately 10-day intervals through 1 August 2004. Shore based observations took place during August 2003 and April-July 2004. Data collected from shore (or skiff) included date, time, individual ID, location, reproductive status, and behavior. In addition to relocation data, observations of foraging behavior were made on instrumented individuals. Foraging data included date, time, individual ID, location, dive and surface time, success, prey item and prey size. In July 2004, we recovered 9 of the 21 TDR's and implanted an additional 9 individuals with new TDR's. During the period of monitoring in FY 2004, two individuals died, two radio failures were confirmed, and 17 individuals survived. Monitoring of the active 2003 instrumented animals and the 2004 animals began in August 2004 and will continue through July 2005 (see Annual Report for Project 040775).

2. **Future Work:** Anticipated work under project 050620 includes monitoring the locations and survival of instrumented sea otters at bi-weekly intervals through July 2005 (funding for the monitoring in 2005 is through Project 040775). During April through July

2005 we will collect behavioral data on instrumented sea otters, primarily identifying dives of known types and dietary data. In July 2005, we will recapture as many instrumented sea otters as possible, and recover TDR's.

A revised schedule of work has been submitted and approved for this project following the approval in May 2004 of related additional lingering oil fieldwork (Projects 040774 and 040775). The revised schedule will allow results of the additional field studies to be included in the final report, which will be submitted September 30, 2006. Changes to the original schedule include extending the deadline for data analysis to April 2006, in conjunction with additional data to be collected under projects 050620, 040774 and 040775.

3. **Coordination/Collaboration:** Work under this project has been closely coordinated with scientists at the NOAA Auke Bay Laboratory who are investigating the presence and persistence of lingering *Exxon Valdez* oil in nearshore habitats. Collaborations with Purdue University (Dr. Paul Snyder) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium (Dr. Mike Murray) have been established for the sea otter studies.

4. **Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:** During the course of this project we have acquired services and supplies under contract or directly from businesses in Cordova, Whittier, Homer and Anchorage.

5. **Information Transfer:** Data collection continues as anticipated and data are managed in a manner consistent with the policies established by the Trustee Council. Results of work in progress will be presented at the Wildlife Society Annual Conference in Calgary (September 2004) and at the Norwegian Research Council's Annual Meeting in Norway (October 2004).

6. **Budget:** Work completed to date has been within the projected budget.

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SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY TO [brenda\\_hall@evostc.state.ak.us](mailto:brenda_hall@evostc.state.ak.us). THE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE TRUSTEE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE AND SHOULD ALSO BE POSTED ON THE PI'S WEB SITE. The subject line of the e-mail transmitting the report must include the project number and the words "annual report" (e.g., "035620 Annual Report"). Electronic reports must be submitted either as an Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) file or word processing document (Microsoft Word 2000 for Windows or lower or WordPerfect 9.0 or lower) with any figures and tables imbedded. Acrobat PDF 4.0 or above file format must be used, preferably in 'formatted text with graphics' (called "PDF normal" under Acrobat PDF 4.0) format. Minimally, "PDF searchable image" (called "PDF original image with hidden text" under Acrobat PDF 4.0) may be used if pre-approved by the Trustee Council Office. In either case, the PDF file must not be secured or locked from future editing, or contain a digital signature from the principal investigator.