

## **EVOS FY 04 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT**

**Project Number: 040636**

**Project title: Fisheries Management Applications**

**Co P.I. Names: Kenneth Adams  
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**Time Period Covered by Report: January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 with Project Performance  
Extension to January 15, 2005**

**Date of Report: April 22, 2005**

### **Summary of Work Performed:**

In view of the EVOS Trustee Council request for additional time to review proposals, made at their November '03 meeting, the performance schedule for our project was subsequently delayed until January of 2004. However, the time lost at the project's beginning was compensated by a NOAA contract modification which granted a performance extension to January 15, 2005. This late start in FY04 resulted in an unusual overlap of FY04 and 05 projects from October to the end of December of '04. The proposal we had submitted in response to the FY05 GEM invitation was successfully funded and that project's activities commenced October 1, 2004, following the normal EVOS schedules for proposals. Needless to say, the fall quarter of '04 was quite busy for us.

After our attendance at the annual Marine Symposium in January '04, we began the organization and planning effort for the three day Pink Salmon Predictive Workshop held in Cordova from March 16-18, 2004. Marine scientists and resource managers with knowledge of the Prince William Sound (PWS) marine ecosystem and the pink salmon fishery plus out of town guests experienced in salmon return forecasting were invited to attend. With the addition of members of the public, more than twenty five people participated in this workshop, the intent of which was to investigate the best means to improve pink salmon return forecasting. This topic was identified as a priority by the fisheries community through a series of needs identification workshops held in FY02 and '03. Products of the Predictive Workshop included two inter-related companion proposals submitted in response to the GEM FY 05 Invitation; one from the PWSFRAP collaborative team, the other from ADF&G. In effect, we were addressing the objective of our FY 04 proposal calling for resolution of a community identified need. In this case, that need was to find the means to improve pink salmon forecasting.

Another accomplishment in FY 04 was our travel to the cities of Seward and Homer to encourage public participation in GEM and to help aid that developing program's responsiveness to the ecosystem based needs identified by those communities. Due to our project's late start, as previously mentioned and other project responsibilities, we delayed our travel until early December of '04. Presentations were given at the Seward Sea Life Center and the Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitors Center in Homer and we were surprised that attendance

at the meetings was somewhat low in spite of advertisements we provided in newspapers, T.V. scanners, and direct phone contacts. Seasonal touring and sport fishing charter offices were boarded up for the winter and there was no participation by representatives from these businesses. Presumably, people affiliated with seasonal chartering activities are out of town this time of year. On the other hand, individuals and representatives of groups interested in environmental quality, such as the Cook Inlet Keeper program and Alaska Center for Coastal Studies expressed a strong interest in GEM. However, the question of whether or not to seek further public participation in GEM in these communities, at least at this time, is moot because the Trustee Council at their December '04 meeting revealed other priorities and actually de-emphasized their GEM program. Perhaps at some later date encouragement of public participation in GEM should be re-visited.

Another accomplishment in FY04 was the development of the PWSFRAP website. This occurred during the fall of '04 project overlap period and provided the means for collaboration by restricted access for project participants. It is practically impossible to define where one project ended and another began but suffice it to say, project continuity was maintained with a logical sequence and tempo of accomplishments.

The PWSFRAP office was maintained and provided the physical presence and communication hub for this essential community involvement project.

### **Summary of Future Work**

The Pink Salmon Predictive Workshop previously mentioned, resulted in the submittal and approval of a proposal in response to the GEM FY 05 Invitation. That project began the planning phase for implementation of the Pink Salmon Survival Model produced during the EVOSTC supported Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) program conducted in PWS during the mid to late '90's. Another three day workshop was held in Cordova during October '04 to develop a three year science plan to guide the implementation of this model. We are currently refining this model and have prepared access for the public to view our collaborative efforts at our website ( [www.pwsfrap.org](http://www.pwsfrap.org)). We anticipate model implementation in FY07.

### **Coordination / Collaboration**

Our project continuum by its very nature is collaborative. We have involved the participation from PWS fishermen, processors, resource managers, salmon enhancement program personnel, marine scientists and others in this PWS community project.

This collaborative process must be maintained if we are ever to bridge the gap between science and the resource dependent community and achieve application of science for improved resource management. The EVOS Trustee Council, through their GEM program, provides the funding opportunity to achieve this goal and in so doing, offers the oil spill impacted commercial fishing service the ability to improve ecosystem understanding and resource management improvements.

### **Community Involvement / TEK and Resource Management Application**

Our project continuum was initiated by members of the PWS fishing community. We are in the protracted process of resolving community identified needs by application of science for improved fisheries management. Our current goal is to aid and improve the forecasting of pink salmon returns to PWS and is directly responsive to this community identified need.

### **Information Transfer**

Bound copies of the Proceedings from the March '04 Pink Salmon Predictive Workshop have been distributed to participants, the EVOS TC, and members of the public.

Presentations regarding this project's progress have been made at board meetings of Cordova District Fishermen United, PWS Aquaculture Corporation, PWS Science Center, Oil Spill Recovery Institute and the city council of Cordova.

In January of '05, we attended the annual Marine Symposium and made an impromptu verbal presentation of our project at the beginning of the Fisheries Oceanography section. An administrative scheduling error prevented presentation of a more comprehensive report.

Finally, we anticipate the further development of our public access website will greatly improve information transfer relative to our project for those interested in our progress and the PWS marine ecosystem.

### **Budget**

The FY'04 budget expenditures reflect no significant changes from the budget submitted for the proposal at inception. There was a small carry forward from FY'04 to the FY'05 budget of approximately \$1.8k.that was approved by the NOAA administrator.

A grant of \$3.0 K from OSRI plus an additional (unbudgeted) \$9.0 K from EVOS administration were received for support of the Pink Salmon Predictive Workshop held in March of 2004. These additional funds allowed us to compensate workshop participants for travel, meals and lodging expenses.

### **Project Co-Principal Investigators**

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**Project Website Address:** [www.pwsfrap.org](http://www.pwsfrap.org)