

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: 040693 

Project Title: Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern Gulf of Alaska

PI Name: William R. Bechtol

Time Period Covered by Report: April 1 – September 1, 2004

Date of Report: August 23, 2004

1. **Work Performed:** Summarize work performed during the reporting period, including any results available to date and their relationship to the original project objectives. Describe and explain any deviation from the original project objectives, procedural or statistical methods, study area, or schedule. Also describe any known problems or unusual developments, and whether and how they have been or can be overcome. Include any other significant information pertinent to the project.

A total of 27 1.0-nautical mile tows were made in Kachemak Bay, Lower Cook Inlet during April 12-13 and 26-28, 2004 with a small-mesh bottom trawl. The survey was distributed over two sampling periods due to mechanical problems aboard the charter vessel. Catch data has been entered and preliminary analysis is ongoing. Staff continue to make arrangements for net repairs.

2. **Future Work:** Summarize work to be performed during the upcoming year, if changed from the original proposal. Describe any proposed changes in objectives, procedural or statistical methods, study area, or schedule.

No significant proposed changes.

3. **Coordination/Collaboration:** Describe efforts undertaken during the reporting period to achieve the coordination and collaboration provisions of the proposal, if applicable.

Information on the survey and the timing of fieldwork, along with a solicitation for additional survey participants, was distributed to other agencies and NGOs. Project results, when finalized into a survey report, will be distributed to other agencies and NGOs.

4. **Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:** Describe efforts undertaken during the reporting period to achieve the community involvement/TEK and resource management application provisions of the proposal, if applicable.

Information on the survey and the timing of fieldwork, along with a solicitation for additional survey participants, was distributed to other agencies, associations, and NGOs. Project results, when finalized into a survey report, will be distributed to other agencies and NGOs.

5. **Information Transfer:** List (a) publications produced during the reporting period, (b) conference and workshop presentations and attendance during the reporting period, and (c) data and/or information products developed during the reporting period.

Gustafson, R.L., and W.R. Bechtol. *In preparation*. Kachemak Bay small-mesh trawl survey, 2004. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Anchorage.

Oral Presentation at Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka - Approaches to fishery management and assessment, by William R. Bechtol

Oral Presentation to Hiram College Class, Homer - Approaches to fishery management and assessment, by William R. Bechtol

6. **Budget:** Explain any differences and/or problems between actual and budgeted expenditures, including any substantial changes in the allocation of funds among line items on the budget form. Also provide any new information regarding matching funds or funds from non-EVOS sources for the project.

The project budget includes funds for needed repair to the survey gear. Unfortunately, having the project approval deferred last winter meant the gear wasn't sent for repair prior to our April survey. Subsequent to the survey, staff have been involved with summer surveys, and available repair facilities have likewise been busy. We are continuing to pursue net repair options. However, if acceptable repair arrangements are not found prior to the September end of the federal fiscal, we request that the available FY04 funds be carried over into FY05 to allow multiple nets to be repaired.

Report Prepared By: William R. Bechtol

Project Web Site Address: <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/pubs/evos>