

EVOSTC ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

Recipients of funds from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council must submit an annual project report in the following format by **Sept. 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). **Please help ensure that continued support for your project will not be delayed by submitting your report by Sept. 1. Timely receipt of your report allows more time for court notice and transfer, report review and timely release of the following year's funds.**

Satisfactory review of the annual report is necessary for continuation of multi-year projects. Failure to submit an annual report by **Sept. 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: 040708

Project Title: Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska: Continued Investigation into Persistence and Process

PI Name: Drs. Gail Irvine, Dan Mann and Jeff Short

Time period covered by report: Oct. 2004- Sept. 2005

Date of Report: Sept. 30, 2005

Report prepared by: Dr. Gail Irvine

Project website address (if applicable):

Work Performed: Summarize work performed during the reporting period, including any results available to date and their relationship to the original project objectives. Explain deviations 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.

The major focus of this year's activities was field work to ascertain the persistence and status of residual oil at established sites along the Katmai and Kenai Fjords National Park coasts. These sites have been monitored periodically since 1992. Prior to this date, information on oiling condition came from coastal surveys.

The 2005 objectives for this project were to:

1. Monitor (a) surface and (b) subsurface oil at 6 previously established sites along the Gulf of Alaska coast.
2. Assess boulder movement at the sites.
3. Determine the physical extent and chemical weathering of the oil.

Field work to accomplish these objectives was conducted in August, 2005. All of the planned work was conducted at five of the sites, four along the Katmai coast and one along the Kenai Fjords coast. A series of significant storms in the Shelikof Strait and Gulf of Alaska affected our ability to work, and resulted in our having to skip visiting one of the sites. We chose to drop our visit to Kashvik Bay, as we have less data from that site, due to previous substrate movement there. What we missed was our ability to take oil samples there. At all of our other sites we have quadrat and boulder movement data coupled with the oil chemistry, so they were viewed as being more important sites. The nature of the storms and the lack of many good bays for shelter led us to make a long run from the central region of the Katmai coast up to Kenai Fjords, where we were able to sample our site there, but then had to hunker down. We were able to sample several previous oiled mussel sites along the outer Kenai coast (all of which were sampled in 1999, our last sampling visit for both oiled mussels and boulder-armored beaches) while we were there and will negotiate with the Auke Bay Lab to have them analyzed.

Oiled sediment and mussel samples will be transferred to the Auke Bay lab upon Jeff Short's return and we expect those to be analyzed this fall and winter. Residual oil was found at all of the boulder-armored beach sites and, in many cases, the oil was still mousse, closely resembling its state in previous years. Substrate movement had occurred to varying degrees at the sites; these boulder movement data are yet to be analyzed. At the Ninagiak Island site, there was considerable infilling of the site by gravel, which affected our ability to locate quadrats in some cases.

Surface oiling was assessed by examining oil within established quadrats. The percent coverages obtained will be compared to those found in previous years. Subsurface oiling was examined through the examination of "dipstones" and indicated persistent shallow, subsurface oil.

Future Work: Summarize work to be performed during the upcoming year, if different from the original proposal. Describe any proposed changes in objectives, procedural or statistical methods, study area or schedule. **NOTE:** Significant changes in a project's objectives, methods, schedule or budget require submittal of a new proposal subject to the standard process of proposal submittal, technical review and Trustee Council approval.

The work planned for the coming year has not deviated from the original proposal, with the exception of our now having some additional samples from previous oiled mussel sites. We will pursue analysis of those samples.

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

Not applicable.

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.

In preparing for our field work, we coordinated with both Kenai and Katmai National Parks. When we produce our manuscript and final report, we will be disseminating our results to these and other interested parties.

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. **NOTE:** *Lack of compliance with the Trustee Council's data policy and/or the project's data management plan will result in withholding of additional project funds, cancellation of the project, or denial of funding for future projects.*

We are not slated to present our findings publicly until this next year. Both Drs. Gail Irvine and Jeff Short attended the Marine Science Symposium this last January in Anchorage.

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.

NOTE: *Any request for an increased or supplemental budget must be submitted as a new proposal that will be subject to the standard process of proposal submittal, technical review, and Trustee Council approval.*

A supplemental budget had been submitted this last year and was approved, which enabled us to deal with higher costs associated with the previously approved delay (for medical reasons) in the scheduling of the project. We were very grateful to have gotten the additional funding, as boat contracts were, in fact, much higher than in previous years and than had been initially budgeted for.

We can accept your annual report as a digital file (Microsoft Word or WordPerfect), with all figures and tables embedded. Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files (version 4.x or later) are also acceptable; please do not lock PDF files or include digital signatures.

Please submit reports electronically to [Carolyn Rosner](mailto:Carolyn.Rosner@evostc.state.ak.us) at EVOSTC for posting to the EVOSTC website at www.evostc.state.ak.us/admin and uploading to the EVOSTC database. Also, please be sure to post your annual report on your own website, if you have one.



Thank you!

***We appreciate your prompt submission of your annual report
and thank you for your participation in and contribution.***