

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: 070210

Project Title: Youth Area Watch-PWS

PI Name: S. SALASKY; B CRUMLEY

Time period covered: 9-1-06 TO 9-1-07

Date of Report: 8-27-07 (Updated 11-29-07)

Report prepared by: Sheryl Salasky/**Bob Crumley**

Project website (if applicable):

http://www.chugachschoools.com/youth_area_watch/index.html

Work Performed:

September - December 06:

The proposal to continue this YAW project was submitted August 4, 2006.

Schools within the YAW area began August 21, 2006.

Notification of EVOS proposal acceptance/decline was made November 2006 and YAW PI was asked to rewrite the YAW proposal at 40% of the original budget.

This timeline was atypical from years past.

If this had been a "typical" timeline (with no break in funding), the following tasks listed in the proposal would have begun in late August/early September 2006:

Site teacher orientation

School site orientations

Students selected for participation

Improve accountability

Site teacher training on protocol

Student orientation and training

Students design and conduct local restoration projects

Due to delayed funding decisions within the EVOS Trustee Council, tasks and activities did not occur as proposed. This, coupled with calendars that do not coincide (the school year operates on a different calendar than state fiscal year), caused the YAW program to operate on a limited scale with 'bridge' funding carried over from summer 06.

Submit this report via e-mail to mandy.migura@alaska.gov . Thank you!

Since future funding was uncertain at the beginning of the school year, there was no student recruitment. Rather, all students were encouraged to participate at their school sites and the actual timeline looked like this:

Sept 6-8, 2006—European Green Crab Monitoring training in Tatitlek with Dan Gilson of PWS RCAC

October 3, 2006 - Artificial Reef training in Whittier with Brain Lance of NOAA

September-November, 2006 - Valdez students continued

October 30-November 3, 2006 - YAW student training on monitoring projects and protocols at CSD Anchorage House

November 2006 - EVOS TC requests rewrite of YAW proposal budget

December 2006 - revised YAW budget submitted

January - April 07:

As proposed, students continued with research/restoration activities at their sites (see below, May 07, for specific lists of projects completed) and prepared for the Annual Marine Science Symposium poster presentation in January 07.

EVOS TC approved the 40% reduced budget revision on January 10, 2007. This year's reduced project funding is based on maintenance of the YAW program while we adjust to new guidelines forthcoming from EVOSTC.

Valdez YAW teacher Jenny Heckathorn and her students submitted a poster abstract for presentation at Marine Symposium. Two Valdez YAW students (already traveling to Anchorage for a ski meet) met Ms. Heckathorn and Ms. Salasky and at the Symposium to present their 3-year resource inventory of a newly designated State Marine Park. As the new budget did not include Symposium travel/lodging for YAW students or teachers, it should be noted that these participants were interested enough in attending this event that they arranged logistics on their own. While at the Symposium, both students made contact with various scientists, several of whom were impressed enough to invite the 2 students to join them on PWS sampling trips in March near Valdez. Both girls are planning careers in marine science and attribute much of their interest to opportunities provided them through YAW.

The remainder of the quarter was spent in updating the YAW website to reflect current information, adding links, and posting past student projects.

May - August 07:

When winter weather warmed (~April) a regular exchange of information resumed between students and the scientists supporting their projects. Students compiled their data and submitted their presentations in time to participate in the May 12-13 whale identification and monitoring trips with Craig Matkin and Eva Saulitis.

Two days were scheduled this year (rather than the usual 4 days) due to the cutback in student numbers, reflecting the revised budget cutback.

This year's restoration/monitoring projects were completed in May 07 and will be posted to the YAW and EVOS websites by year's end. They are:

Tatitlek Ocean monitoring project

Valdez marine park resource inventory

Whittier artificial reef monitoring project

Recruitment for next year's student program was not conducted in May (as in years past) due to unsure future funding.

Since students went on summer vacation from May 30 through August 20, 06, no program activity occurred beyond May. The program is in a holding pattern until the RFP is to be released in Feb 08.

July-Sept - Site-Based (Prince William Sound) Transition Training-All Chugach Staff participated in staff development to ensure we do not lose the knowledge, expertise, and learning opportunities we've developed with YAW program funding during the past 10 years.

Development of:

- Updated Science standards
- Aligned assessments in multiple formats
- Meaningful reporting tools and processes
- And training in “Application-Based” instructional delivery strategies

has proven essential to accomplish the carry-over of YAW momentum. In addition, YAW progress has been leveraged to identify and acquire new funding sources. These new resources will enable CSD to not only sustain our world-class field science program for Alaskan youth, but will allow us to build upon what has been achieved with YAW.

Future Work:

As per the revised YAW DPD (Nov 06), a decrease to the 40% funding level required cutting participant numbers in an effort to reduce program costs. At this time the future plans are to await the RFP release in Feb 08, maintain the YAW website, post student work to YAW and EVOS websites, continue communication with scientists and support local site investigations (Whittier, Tatitlek and Valdez plan to resume their restoration and monitoring projects).

As always, the Chugach School District Science (and YAW) coordinator is in constant communication with various research agencies, seeking new and continued training opportunities for students and staff.

The partnership that began Fall 06 with National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientist Brian Lance will continue with Whittier students assisting him in his data collection and monitoring project that examines an artificial reef recently installed in Passage Canal near Whittier. The goal is to find ways of restoring lost habitat in Alaska marine waters.

This project includes an education outreach component: now that the Whittier project is established, plans are to install artificial reefs throughout PWS, involving other PWS students in monitoring those sites nearest them; i.e. Cordova, Chenega Bay, Tatitlek & Valdez. Students will collect data and monitor the site(s) for accuracy. Brian has agreed to train and mentor students and teachers in the scientific endeavors necessary for their participation.

Another partnership developed with the multi-agency sponsored Invasive Species Program (ISP). Bob Piorkowski, ADFG biologist, coordinates a network of federal and state agency Personnel charged with monitoring the presence of European green crabs in near-coastal waters of PWS. Dan Gilson, program coordinator with the PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) and Denny Lassuy, invasive species program manager for US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) are actively seeking opportunities to involve students and community members in establishing long-term data sets. Specific tasks include the deployment of fouling plates in June and removal for inspection in the fall. This works well with the school calendar schedule. Baited fish traps are also set once a month during a 24-hour tidal period from July through September. Student participation is slated to continue in Tatitlek, Chenega, Valdez and Cordova.

The YAW Waves (conducted in 04, 05, and 06) were very successful with both students and teachers, however current funding constraints require a pause on any future plans. These weeklong workshops not only enhanced students’ scientific awareness, students gained more confidence in their ability to work alongside researchers in the field.

Coordination/Collaboration:

In addition to the various agencies that assisted past students in their training and data collection, YAW coordinated with new and continuing scientists and agencies interested in science education.

Both Brian Lance of (NOAA) and Dan Gilson of PWS RCAC sought out and contacted the YAW program about involving students in their projects. These scientists visited school sites several time throughout the year to share their expertise and support to YAW participants. They introduced students to their research projects, design process, data collection schedules and sampling protocol.

Craig Matkin and Eva Saulitis continue to work tirelessly with YAW students and planners, to give students the most comprehensive, real-life science experience possible. If more scientists were this accessible and willing to spend time bringing students into their research world, more students would jump into science with both feet, gladly!

Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:

One of the standard content areas necessary for Chugach School District students to address prior to graduation is "Service Learning". This can translate as participating in community improvement projects, volunteering for a local agency, or involving local elders in educational endeavors. YAW students are encouraged to include local community members in their environmental monitoring projects, thus addressing several criteria: the need for a service learning project, and garnering community involvement/input in management of local resources.

Most community members in the villages of Tatitlek and Chenega Bay are long-term residents possessing a wealth of traditional ecological knowledge. While addressing various CSD education targets, students are regularly encouraged to dialogue with their families and then write about those discussions.

Valdez YAW students finished their third year of a natural resources survey within the Mineral Creek State Park under the guidance of a state park ranger. The resource survey is a required step prior to designating the use of those resources. The YAW teacher in Valdez involved her marine biology class in collecting baseline data requested by state park personnel. These same YAW students were also the first to assist in the invasive green crab monitoring project, with direction from Dan Gilson of PWSRCAC (see "Collaboration & Future Work" above for more details on this project).

Information Transfer:

YAW Valdez students and teacher attended the 07 Annual Marine Symposium and presented findings from their third year of a natural resources survey within the Mineral Creek State Park. As described above (in Work Performed), this experience was valuable for the YAW students as well as for scientists they met. This two-way communication forum fostered several mentor/apprenticeships.

The YAW website continues to be a central information gathering and collection point for YAW-related activities. It has been updated with the current YAW application, past and present student projects and links to involved agencies. Improvements are ongoing.

Budget:

Due to the delay in funding for FY07, it was requested that leftover funds be carried into a no-cost extension, thereby funding the beginning of the YAW school year 06/07, which overlapped the remaining field season. Several scientists agreed to field train our students for their upcoming YAW projects while we awaited notification of the proposal review process. The YAW schedule was revised so that only existing funds were necessary to keep the program operational during this interim period. Once a revised proposal with a 60% budget reduction was approved in January 07, the program continued functioning at the site level (no travel other than May whale trips) for the duration of the 06/07 school year.

Please submit reports electronically in [ProjectView](#) or by email to mandy.migura@alaska.gov. Also, please be sure to post your annual report on your own website, if you have one.

Submit this report via e-mail to mandy.migura@alaska.gov . Thank you!



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

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