

EVOSTC ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

Project Number: 070801

Project Title: **Assessment of the Areal Distribution and Amount of Lingering Oil in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska**

PI Name: **Jacqueline Michel**

Time period covered:..... **March-September 2007**

Date of Report: **1 September 2007**

Report prepared by: **Jacqueline Michel**

Project website (if applicable):.....

Work Performed:

During this period, we completed the preliminary probability model and used it to develop a statistically rigorous sampling plan. Extensive logistics were arranged for three simultaneous cruises, with two crews working on separate vessels in Prince William Sound (PWS) between 13 May and 4 August and one vessel working the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) area from 27 May to 17 July. In PWS, 105 sites were surveyed, which exceeded our minimum target of 92. In Shelikof Strait, only 8 sites were sampled, out of a target of 10, because bad weather made the shoreline access unsafe for several days. In the Kenai region, 26 sites were surveyed out of a target of 24.

Future Work:

We anticipate revising the existing probability model with the data collected, and extending the statistical modeling framework to include expert opinion data collected via other methods. As part of the revision of the existing probability model, we will likely use additional predictor datasets. In particular, we believe that preliminary data collected by the ongoing ShoreZone data collection effort in PWS may provide synoptic, spatially complete shoreline data of particular relevance. Inclusion of these preliminary data in the revised probability model may require some modification to the project schedule.

Coordination/Collaboration:

We have had close coordination and collaboration with the government Principal Investigators assisting us on the project. Gail Irvine of the U.S. Geological Survey assisted in permitting issues and participated in the first leg of the field work in the Gulf of Alaska. She will assist with the gathering of anecdotal information on shoreline oiling in the Gulf of Alaska. Jeff Short of the Auke Bay Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service has guided us throughout the model development and Mandy Lindeberg provided guidance on the field methods and training to the field crews prior to the first surveys. The sediment samples have been sent to their laboratory for fingerprinting and weathering analysis.

Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:

The field crews included 1 person from a local village. We plan to solicit local villagers for their input on where they know oil is still present.

Information Transfer:

No publications or data products were produced. We did not attend or present at any conferences or workshops.

Budget:

We are slightly under budget at this time because we did not need any air charters, we were able to save some on commercial airfare, there were some savings in the final field personnel costs, and the preliminary model development had to be squeezed into a much shorter time period because of the late contract award. However, we anticipate needing these funds to refine and complete the final model.