

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: ***10100132***

Project Title: ***PWS Herring Survey: Community Involvement, Outreach, Logistics, and Synthesis***

PI Name: ***W. Scott Pegau***

Time period covered: ***October 2009 thru August 2010***

Date of Report: ***August 13, 2010***

Report prepared by: ***W. Scott Pegau***

Project website (if applicable): ***Under construction***

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 project has gone as planned so far. Upon receiving funding we arranged for two vessels to conduct fall juvenile herring surveys. One vessel was dedicated to acoustic and bird predation surveys, the second for fish collection (energetics and disease) and oceanographic sampling. We sampled the four SEA bays (Simpson, Eaglik, Whale, and Zaikof) and added Lower Herring Bay as the fifth site. Based on that cruise we slightly modified the spring herring survey in that the oceanographic measurements were shifted to another vessel because of time constraints and we continue to modify our juvenile herring collection techniques to increase our capture rates. We also separated the two vessels by a day so the acoustic survey was completed before the capture vessel arrived, which allowed for less vessel interference and greater sampling focus for the capture vessel. A spring survey was arranged in early March and the same five bays were sampled. All juvenile herring were turned over to the energetic or disease programs for analysis. We continue to refine the juvenile fish sampling to increase capture rates as we only reached the desired sample size in one location (approximately 300 fish) although we collected enough fish for the two energetic studies in the other four locations. We also arranged vessel time for a summer juvenile

herring survey that was coordinated with the aerial surveys to try and provide additional information for both programs.

We contracted with Cordova District Fishermen United to use ten of their vessels to sample a larger number of bays in March 2010. They obtained gill nets similar to that being used by the scientific sampling. They were given basic instructions as to how to sample, however, we did not want to give too much direction so they had the flexibility to see if they could improve upon our technique. The ten boats sampled three locations each. One of those three locations duplicated that of another small boat or the scientific sampling. This was done to see if there was consistency in results. The overlap between the small boats and the scientific sampling showed that there was consistency between approaches, in that the most fish caught by the small vessels were in the same locations as the scientific vessels, although there was a difference in catch per effort, with the scientific sampling getting greater catches. In the post sampling debriefing we discussed a few things that probably led to the differences including identifying the fish on the sounder, and the use of lights to attract fish. The largest factor was most likely having the acoustic survey guiding the scientific sampling.

The investigators of the herring survey program met in Cordova in May to review results and plan for the next year. The meeting was open to the public to provide an outreach opportunity; however, there was no public participation. We will need to investigate additional means for advertising this meeting in the future.

The PWSSC education group was responsible for delivery of most of the outreach products. They produced three project profiles, one-page descriptions of specific projects. These profiles were then modified for inclusion in the PWSSC annual Delta-Sounds Connection paper that describes ongoing science in the Prince William Sound region. Three Field Notes radio programs were produced and aired on the PWS public radio station KCHU. There were also three community presentations in Cordova that were also available to be viewed in Valdez. A total of 49 people attended those presentations.

Materials from the herring program were also incorporated into the Discovery Room program, which involves 3rd through 6th graders in Cordova. The 5th grade oceanographic monitoring curriculum was modified to address how oceanographic conditions may affect herring growth and the students worked with herring scales collected by ADF&G to examine growth rates. Basic herring biology and monitoring have also been included in summer camps conducted by PWSSC. We had intended to be involved in the Spirit Camp, but did not get scheduled early enough so we included the programming in other summer efforts.

We are currently constructing a website that will host all of the information being generated by the PWS Herring Survey program.

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.*

We do not anticipate major changes to next year's work plan. The one issue that we might have is incorporation of the education programs with Spirit Camp. We may end up incorporating the effort into other PWSSC summer camps.

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

We are involved with the various projects to ensure boats are available and samples are collected. We brought together all of the PIs in May to update each other and plan the summer and next year's sampling. We maintain contact with all of the PIs to ensure sampling is coordinated. This includes the aerial and acoustic surveys, acoustic and capture surveys, energetic projects and disease sample collection, and oceanographic sampling programs. There have been a few bumps in the road as we learned how to optimize the coordination between efforts, but we have adapted quickly and do not anticipate any larger issues than we have already encountered.

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.

Local fishermen were contracted to assist with collection of juvenile herring. This allowed a much larger area to be sampled.

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.*

As this was the first year of the program and this project is not deriving new scientific information we have little to offer for information transfer. We had the coordination meeting that was attended by the principal investigators. We also began working on synthesis of existing information, which will be the basis of future presentations and manuscripts.

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.

Expenditures are following what we budgeted to date. We do not anticipate needing any revision to the budget as proposed. Since we have an early November cruise plan we will need to be able to get the next year's funding in place by then to ensure all sampling is able to follow the schedule in the proposals.

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 in [ProjectView](#) or by email to catherine.boerner@alaska.gov. Also, please be sure to post your annual report on your own website, if you have one.



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