

## ***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:*** 10100750 and 10100750-Amendment

***Project Title:*** (1) Evaluation of Recovery and Restoration of Injured Nearshore Resources, and (2) Nearshore Synthesis - Knight Island Sampling Amendment

***PI Name:*** Jim Bodkin and Tom Dean

***Time period covered:*** Oct. 1, 2009 - Sept. 1, 2010

***Date of Report:*** *Sept. 1, 2010*

***Report prepared by:*** *James Bodkin, Thomas Dean*

***Project website (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.

Field work in western Prince William Sound (WPWS) was completed between April and August 2010. Tasks completed included:

Collection of sea otter carcasses for estimation of mortality rates - A total of 18 sea otter carcasses was recovered from WPWS in April 2010. Teeth from these animals are being processed and sent for lab analysis for estimation of age at death.

Sea otter foraging observations - Approximately 120 sea otter foraging bouts were observed and recorded in western Prince William Sound and around Knight Island.

Black oystercatcher nest density and productivity - A total of 15 active black oystercatcher nest sites were observed along 5 transects (each 20 km long) in WPWS in early May 2010. These sites were revisited in late May and again in late June to determine productivity and composition of prey provisioned to chicks.

Sampling of intertidal invertebrates and algae - Five sheltered rocky intertidal sites in WPWS were established in May and sampled in June 2010. A list of algal species present, percent cover of sessile intertidal invertebrates and algae, estimation of limpet density and size distribution, and

the density of selected larger invertebrates (Nucella snails and sea stars), were estimated at each site. In addition, the temperature recording devices were deployed at each site.

Sampling of mussels in mussel beds - Five selected mussel beds in WPWS were established in May and sampled in June 2010. Size distribution and density of mussels were estimated.

Estimation of eelgrass abundance - The percent cover of eelgrass was estimated at five selected eelgrass beds in WPWS.

Results from these surveys have not yet been analyzed.

Aerial surveys of sea otter abundance were not conducted in 2010 because of lack of availability of survey aircraft. The plane to be used for the survey crashed just prior to the planned survey date, and no other government-approved aircraft were available.

**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.*

Work in the upcoming year is to be carried out as described in our DPD, with the addition of the sea otter abundance aerial surveys that have been postponed from FY10 due to sudden unavailability of the aircraft.

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

Coordination with other nearshore, long-term monitoring efforts in the Gulf of Alaska continues. Monitoring similar to that conducted in PWS was completed at Katmai and Kenai Fjords National Parks in 2010 under support from the US National Park Service and the US Geological Survey. The US Fish and Wildlife Service conducted marine bird and mammal surveys in Prince William Sound (D. Irons, PI) and those data will be provided to this project. In addition, preliminary sampling was conducted in several Gulf of Alaska US Fish and Wildlife refuges in 2010 using protocols similar to ours. Coordination with Cook Inlet RCAC and NOAA (shorezone mapping and lingering oil projects) continues. Our project also coordinated with a USGS study investigating processes structuring nearshore marine communities from California to the Gulf of Alaska. Complementary data collection under the USGS study includes sea otter foraging and the capture of sea otters in western Prince William Sound. Coordination and data sharing with this study provided additional sites and increased sample sizes of sea otter diet for both projects. Health, condition and gene expression data resulting from sea otter capture will be made available to this project and should be useful in evaluating sea otter recovery from the EVOS.

**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 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.*  
No publications or presentations have resulted from the work to date.

**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.*

Due to an accident involving the US Fish and Wildlife Service aircraft scheduled for our use in June we were unable to complete the sea otter survey as planned. We will reserve the funds provided to support that survey in 2010 and apply those to completing the survey in 2011.

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](mailto: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.*