

A. Annual Project Report Content

1. **Project Number** – 14120112
2. **Project Title** – NOAA Harbor Protection – Project Management
3. **Principal Investigator’s Name(s)** – Laurel Jennings, Erika Ammann, Tom Barry
4. **Time Period Covered by the Report** – February 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014. This report will also include descriptions of work performed pre-grant beginning August 2012.
5. **Date of Report** – March 1, 2014
6. **Project Website** – Not Applicable at this time
7. **Summary of Work Performed** – On September 24, 2012, the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation posted a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) to the Grants.gov and NOAA Restoration Center websites that notified the public of the availability of financial assistance for marine habitat restoration, protection, planning and improvement projects in *Exxon Valdez* oil spill affected communities and environments. The NOAA Grants Management Division does not require the publication of this notice in the Federal Register as has been required in years past. NOAA received 5 applications, requesting almost \$965,000 in project funds, by the November 16, 2012 deadline.

NOAA Fisheries Regional and Headquarters personnel, along with Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (AK DEC) staff, evaluated all eligible applications through a competitive, merit-based process. All 7 participating reviewers received a briefing email and proposal review guidelines from the NOAA Fisheries Competition Manager containing information about the review event, which included review due dates and instructions on application review procedures. The Competition Manager and NOAA Fisheries Regional staff invited field reviewers to participate based on their relevant regional experience with local fisheries issues, water quality issues, and habitat restoration efforts within the spill affected area.

Reviewers scored applications on a 100-point scale according to four standard NOAA review criteria described in the FFO, and are as follows:

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| (1) Importance and Applicability of Proposal | - | 35 points |
| (2) Technical/Scientific Merit and Community Outreach | - | 40 points |
| (3) Project Costs | - | 15 points |
| (4) Overall Qualifications of Applicants | - | 10 points |

Each eligible application was reviewed by all seven reviewers. The average of those review scores determined an application’s overall ranking. After the NOAA technical review, the proposals and a ranked list of review results were submitted to the EVOSTC Science Panel,

Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and legal team in order to obtain an additional review. The coordinated results of these reviews were then presented to the EVOSTC Trustees for a recommendation for funding. The EVOSTC Meeting, at which that recommendation was made, was held on February 21, 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska. NOAA technical review staff attended either in person or via teleconference. The two projects that were recommended for funding were the two top-ranked proposals to come out of the NOAA technical review and EVOSTC review process. At this initial meeting, the proposals were conditionally approved by the EVOSTC, pending clarification on certain aspects of the proposals (e.g. modifying certain budget costs, clarifying the direct linkages to injured species and habitats, and refining certain restoration and monitoring activities to be more in line with what the EVOSTC is allowed to support). The EVOSTC requested that these clarifications be provided at a subsequent EVOSTC meeting that was held on October 28, 2013. During this most recent meeting, based on the clarifications made to the proposals, the two projects were officially approved for funding by the EVOSTC. This review and selection process was in accordance with that described in Section V.B. – “Review and Selection Process” of the competition’s published funding opportunity announcement.

During December 2013 and January 2014, the NOAA Restoration Center worked with the two successful applicants (the Native Village of Eyak and the Copper River Watershed Project) to finalize their funding and proposal paperwork for submittal to the NOAA Grants Management Division for final award, which is currently in the final stages of approval.

8. Information and Data Transfer –

- a. N/A
- b. A poster presentation was given at Alaska Forum on the Environment in February 2012. This conference was attended by over 1,500 individuals from the entire state of Alaska.
- c. N/A
- d. Information regarding this project can be found on the NOAA Restoration and Conservation Database.
(<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/restoration/restorationatlas/index.html>)

- 9. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments –** Over the past year, the NOAA Restoration Center has worked closely with EVOS Trustee staff and the Trustee Council. Evidence of this can be seen in the proposals submitted for funding from Copper River Watershed Project and the Eyak Village projects, which have been clarified through several rounds of edits and reviews from NOAA staff. Specifically, proposals were modified to demonstrate stronger links to herring habitat improvements and in following AK DEC guidance for water quality. Furthermore, the NOAA Restoration Center provided technical guidance for on the ground efforts in each of the proposals to move beyond project recommendations and into implementation. The NOAA Restoration Center will continue to work with the successful applicants to ensure that the projects proceed and will aid them by giving technical support and enabling the project coordinators to concentrate on their projects by lowering their administrative burden.

10. Budget –

**EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL
PROJECT BUDGET PROPOSAL AND REPORTING FORM**

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 12	Proposed FY 13	Proposed FY 14	Proposed FY 15	Proposed FY 16	TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Travel	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,000.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,000.0	\$0.0
Contractual	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Commodities	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Equipment	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
SUBTOTAL	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,000.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,000.0	\$0.0
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	N/A
PROJECT TOTAL	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,000.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6,000.0	
Other Resources (Cost Share Funds)	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	

COMMENTS:

In FY2013 the Restoration Center worked with applicants to develop proposals for EVOS funding under water quality and harbor improvement. Work included taking EVOS Trustee comments and working with applicants to improve their proposals, offering our own expertise as well organizing meetings with experts in DEC, using NOAA tools such as the programmatic EIS for NEPA compliance, and grants management division. NOAA Restoration Center has dedicated three primary employees to overseeing these restoration projects. Although no EVOSTC funds were spent during FY13, for the same timeframe it is estimated that over \$8,000 in in-kind employee time has been spent on this project.

FY12-16

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Primary Investigator: Laurel Jennings, Erika Ammann, Tom Barry
Agency: NOAA

**TRUSTEE AGENCY
SUMMARY PAGE**