

*Please refer to the Reporting Policy for all reporting due dates and requirements.

1. Program Number: *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (1).

11100853

2. Project Title: *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (2).

Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Research in Prince William Sound, Alaska, FY11 Amendment

3. Principal Investigator(s) Names: *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (3).

David B. Irons and Daniel D. Roby

4. Time Period Covered by the Report: *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (4).

February 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015

5. Date of Report: *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (5).

February 27, 2015

6. Project Website (if applicable): *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (6).

N/A

7. Summary of Work Performed: *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (7).

Mink Work

We trapped on the Naked Island group from 30 March to 20 May. We trapped 76 mink (44 male, 32 female). Breakdown by island: Storey 11 (6 male, 5 female), Peak 11 (7 male, 4 female), Naked 54 (31 male, 23 female). Total traps set 372 for 7698 trap-nights (7656 trap-nights incorporating a sprung trap correction). Max traps set at one time was 213, average number of traps set was 157. Overall catch rate was 0.99 mink/100 trap-nights. The catch rate declined in early April, coincident with the onset of breeding, which was noted by females having the fur on the back of their necks torn up. The catch rate never really picked up again.

The mink's heads were cut off and sent to UAF Museum for archival of tissue samples and skulls. Prey samples were opportunistically collected and preserved.

Pigeon Guillemot Work

We did a survey and found an increase in PIGU, about 30%, (up from about 50 to 70 birds) so that got us excited, but we also surveyed 4 other control islands without mink and they went up a similar amount, so it seems it was a good year for PIGU nesting. From the data, we have to conclude that removing the mink had no effect this year, but that is what I expected.

We also did a PIGU nest search and found 11 nests. The last count was 16 or 17 in 2008 when there were about 40% more birds, so it is also about what we expected to see.

While we were doing the nest search we did another survey of Pigeon Guillemots and found about 115. This was exciting; it suggests that new birds are prospecting sites for next year. However, we have never done a survey this time of year before so we have no historical data to compare.

This will be the second year of field work for this project. This spring mink will be trapped on the Naked Island Group to reduce the numbers of mink and allow pigeon guillemots to breed successfully. Also a pigeon guillemot survey will be completed in May and guillemot nests will be located in July during the chick rearing season.

8. Coordination/Collaboration: *See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (8).*

The FWS has acquired permits from ADF&G to remove mink and from the USFS to work on their land.

9. Information and Data Transfer: *See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (9).*

None this year.

10. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments: *See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (10).*

N/A

11. Budget: *See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (11).*

No changes this year. However, in the future I would like to decrease personnel and increase contracts.



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