

Form Rev. 10.3.14

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

15120114-K

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

Long-term Monitoring: Pelagic Monitoring Component - Continuing the Legacy: Prince William Sound Marine Bird Population Trends

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

Kathy Kuletz and Robb Kaler (David Irons, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS])

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

1 February 2015-31 January 2016

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

March 1, 2016

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

www.gulfwatchalaska.org

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

This project had no field work scheduled in 2015. Progress was made on data analysis, data transfer, updating metadata, and summarizing of project results.

<b>Deliverable/Milestone</b>	<b>Status</b>
Gulf Watch PI annual meeting, AOOS office	Attended November 2015
Gulf Watch PI, AMSS meeting	Attended January 2016
PWS Marine Bird Survey synthesis report, 2012-2014	In progress, to be completed by June 2016
Historic data (1989-2010) submitted	Completed, November 2015

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

8A: Collaboration and coordination both within the pelagic program and between the two programs

- Kathy Kuletz and Robb Kaler have been participating in discussions and meeting on opportunities to integrate the pelagic components of the Long-Term Monitoring effort.

- Kathy Kuletz and Mary Ann Bishop (Prince William Sound [PWS] Science Center) continue to collaborate on marine bird and herring survey work in PWS.
- Collaboration within the pelagic program (forage fish, humpback whale, killer whale, and marine bird) and between the pelagic and herring programs will continue to discuss local areas where whales and seabirds have been determined to overlap in time and space.

8B: Collaboration and coordination with other EVOSTC funded projects

- Marine bird data from this study collected at the Naked Island group (Naked, Storey, & Peak islands) will be used to help evaluate the pigeon guillemot restoration effort.

8C: Coordination with trust agencies

- Kathy Kuletz completed forth season of marine bird and mammal survey in Lower Cook Inlet in cooperation with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. The survey contributes to the longer-term Gulf Watch Alaska monitoring program and provides information on the marine regions affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The funding for this effort was obtained via an intra-agency agreement between Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and USFWS-Migratory Bird Management.
- Kathy Kuletz, with funding from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB), to conducted marine bird and mammal surveys as part of the long-term monitoring program for the northern Gulf of Alaska (a.k.a. the 'Seward Line'), which is part of the multi-agency (University of Alaska Fairbanks, North Pacific Research Board, USFWS) program.

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

- Following extensive clean-up and reformatting, the 1989-2012 PWS marine bird survey data were uploaded to the Ocean Workspace in November 2015.
- November 2015, Kathy Kuletz and Robb Kaler participated in Gulf Watch Alaska Principal Investigators Meeting.
- January 2016, Kathy Kuletz and Robb Kaler participated in Gulf Watch Alaska Principal Investigators Meeting.
- Robb Kaler is working with Stacey Buckelew to finalize metadata on the Ocean Workspace, and will be completed by end of February 2016.

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

We are making the suggested edits as provided for our sampling protocol. A final revised protocol will be completed by March 2016.

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

Current expenditures are within planned budget. Please see provided program work book.