

**EVOSTC FY17-FY21 INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
FY18 CONTINUING PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY PAGE**

Project Number and Title

Gulf Watch Alaska:

18120114-B—Program Management II – Administration, Science Review Panel, PI Meeting Logistics, Outreach and Community Involvement

Primary Investigator(s) and Affiliation(s)

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Project Abstract

This project is the administrative and outreach component of the integrated Long-term Monitoring of Marine Conditions and Injured Resources and Services program referred to as Gulf Watch Alaska (GWA). PWSSC serves as the fiscal agent for non-Trustee Agency recipients of GWA funds with Hoffman as Administrative Lead. This continues Hoffman’s role, as with GWA during FY12–16. Hoffman is also serving as Outreach and Community Involvement Lead for FY17-21, a new role as compared to the previous five years. As a Program Management Team member, Hoffman contributes to the coordination and management of over two dozen scientists generating monitoring data and synthetic information about the ecosystems and marine conditions within the spill area. PWSSC has extensive fiscal experience with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and is the party through which all non-Trustee Agency funds are distributed. PWSSC issues and manages contracts for subawards to the various non-Trustee Agencies participating in GWA, for whom we also coordinate semi-annual reporting to NOAA. PWSSC also works with Trustee Agency principal investigators, with whom we coordinate reporting to the EVOSTC. PWSSC ensures regular program engagement with EVOSTC staff, Trustees, and Public Advisory Committee members. We coordinate logistics for annual PI meetings for all GWA participants and make telecommunications available for remotely-connected meetings. We support travel and logistics for all GWA Science Review Panel members. We will convene the Outreach Steering Committee, which will guide the development of products to inform the public and managers about changes in the environment and the impact of said changes on injured resources and services. PWSSC is also the administrative lead agency for the Herring Research and Monitoring program, allowing for efficient fiscal management of and reporting for both programs. We are not proposing any major changes to this project for FY18.

EVOSTC Funding Requested* (must include 9% GA)

FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	TOTAL
\$277,100	\$282,400	\$303,900	\$300,600	\$312,900	\$1,476,900

Non-EVOSTC Funds to be used, please include source and amount per source:

FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	TOTAL
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FY 17-21 Gulf Watch Alaska (GWA) program encompasses a large interdisciplinary group of scientists representing a diverse suite of both Trustee and non-Trustee Agencies. They pursue over a dozen projects to monitor the recovery of injured resources from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill (EVOS), as well as how factors other than oil may negatively affect recovering resources. Long-term observations enable us to monitor the recovery of resources from the initial injury as well as describe ecosystem dynamics and shifts that could negatively impact recovering resources.

PWSSC effectively manages this group of highly performing marine scientists from universities, federal and state agencies, and non-profit organizations in a manner that demonstrates our ability to cross institutional boundaries and help maintain the generation of long term monitoring data sets in Alaska. By managing non-Trustee Agency awards, the administrative burden on EVOS Trustee Council (EVOSTC) staff is reduced. PWSSC is fully integrated into the Program Management Team (PMT), has strong relationships with GWA principal investigators (PIs), Science Review Panel (SRP) members, and lingering oil and data management entities, as well as the Herring Research and Monitoring (HRM) program (HRM administrative lead Scott Pegau is on the PWSSC staff).

The overall goals of Program Management II (PM II) are to:

- Award contracts, distribute, and manage funds to all non-Trustee Agency members of the consortium
- Demonstrate reliable fiscal management through the completion of an annual audit
- Convene a SRP to review work by the program PIs
- Provide guidance to the PMT on the program's design and implementation
- Oversee the completion of outreach activities and products, especially as they pertain to the natural resource management objectives of agencies that provide services in the spill area and the interests of spill-affected communities, including Alaska Native communities

In early FY17, PWSSC closely coordinated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to achieve the launch of this new cooperative agreement. We have filed the required SF425 federal financial report with NOAA's office of grants and contracts. We are compiling and will deliver the semi-annual report on all non-Trustee Agency spending to NOAA in August 2017. We have communicated information needs to PIs and are coordinating their input to the relevant reports. We established new contracts with all subawardees, including those from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Konar and Iken; Danielson and Weingartner); University of Alaska Anchorage (Doroff); Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (Batten); North Gulf Oceanic Society (Matkin); Alaska Ocean Observing System (Janzen—Data Management). We competed a multi-year RFP for audit services in FY16 and as a result, will re-engage the accounting firm Altman, Rogers & Co. this fall. We have held an outreach coordination kick-off meeting between all members of the PMT and Outreach Coordinator Stacey Buckelew, and have scheduled a website review meeting in September. In addition to targeted engagement, we will share the GWA newsletter, *Quarterly Currents*, with Trustee Agency outreach leads to increase their familiarity and engagement with the program. We have identified potential members of the Outreach Steering Committee and will be inviting OSC members accordingly. We have been in regular contact with PIs from all components of GWA as well as the publisher Elsevier, with whom we are coordinating the release of the special edition of *Deep Sea Research II*. We have identified Mandy Lindeberg (GWA Lead) and Scott Pegau (HRM Lead) as presenters on behalf of the programs at the fall 2017 Trustee Council meeting. We have hosted the spring and summer quarterly PI teleconferences. We have initiated logistical coordination of the fall annual PI meeting,

which is slated to be held in Cordova between November 15-17. PIs are being advised to make their travel reservations and PWSSC will assume coordination and fiscal responsibility for SRP member travel to Cordova.

2. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

A. Within an EVOSTC-funded Program

Gulf Watch Alaska

The Administrative Lead works closely with all other members of the PMT on a regular basis. The PMT ensures within-program coordination and collaboration through use of tools such as the Research Workspace (formerly Ocean Workspace) as well as by email and teleconference. In-person PI meetings twice per year (typically at an annual meeting in the fall and then at AMSS if most PIs attend) facilitate communication about scientific results, environmental discoveries, equipment issues, and methodological and analytical approaches. We coordinate with PIs around outreach needs, reporting requirements, and fiscal management of the program. We coordinate activities of the Outreach Steering Committee and Science Review Panel, as well.

Herring Research and Monitoring

Katrina Hoffman and Scott Pegau, the program leader for HRM, are co-located in Cordova. This supports cross-program information exchange. The GWA PMT copies Pegau on most communications about procedural activities and planning communications to ensure tight coordination.

Data Management

We have a strong connection to Data Management through our established working relationship with the Alaska Ocean Observing System and Axiom Data Sciences. The PMT works closely with the Data Management program to share and disseminate information, and to ensure that GWA PIs comply with data and metadata publication requirements on the Gulf of Alaska Data Portal and DataONE.

Lingering Oil

Based on our leadership role in GWA FY12-16, we maintain a strong connection to Lingering Oil PIs and we will maintain this connection as funding resumes for lingering oil projects.

B. With Other EVOSTC-funded Projects

The GWA program does not have specific goals or objectives to support EVOSTC-funded projects that are not part of a program. However, data, reports, and publications from GWA projects are available and the science and program coordinators are available to work with EVOSTC-funded projects where appropriate and applicable.

C. With Trustee or Management Agencies

PMT members represent GWA at an EVOSTC meeting every year. Additionally, this program will continue to gather input from agency managers who can use information or data products generated by the program. The input we gather will guide development of the outreach products and content. Further, the Outreach Steering Committee will include representatives of one or more Trustee Agencies.

3. PROJECT DESIGN – PLAN FOR FY18

A. Objectives for FY18

Objective 1: Fiscal management and reporting

PWSSC has extended funding to all non-Trustee Agency entities involved in the program with exceptions for two co-PIs who work under contract to Trustee agency projects. Work includes management of all contracts and subawards for non-Trustee Agency organizations involved in this program, timely submission of financial reports such as SF-425 to NOAA, timely submission of all narrative reports to both EVOSTC and NOAA, completion of an annual federal single audit and statement of financial position of PWSSC, and monitoring of project spending by non-Trustee Agency PIs.

Objective 2: Generate SRP input and oversight

All five members from the GWA Year 5 Science Review Panel are willing participants in Years 6-10. The program management budget maintains funds to support logistics and administration of this panel, such as travel and meeting expenses. The Science Review Panel is comprised of retired federal scientists/agency managers, a current state agency manager, and members of academe.

Staff from both PM I and PM II engage with the Science Review Panel. PM II's responsibilities are oriented around logistics while PM I is oriented towards science content. As the logistics lead, PWSSC ensures the Science Review Panel members have the opportunity to attend in-person meetings of PIs as well as participate in teleconferences and webinars as needed to improve connections between programs, provide scientific oversight, and ensure program priorities are met. We will support travel expenses and provide logistical support to make this possible.

Objective 3: Host GWA PI meetings

The administrative budget supports an annual meeting of GWA PIs. Meetings will be held in a spill-affected community or Anchorage. In addition to the annual PI meeting, we will also provide for engagement and collaboration between and among GWA, Herring Research and Monitoring, Outreach, and Data Management personnel at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, a second opportunity to advance program goals in person. PI teleconferences will round out the quarterly meeting schedule. Component meetings, Science Coordinating Committee meetings, meetings with the Science Review Panel, and PMT meetings will primarily be held by teleconference, but on occasion, in-person meetings may be necessary.

We will coordinate all meeting logistics including location, food, and hotel arrangements, as well as webinar and teleconference capabilities for remotely hosted meetings and presentations. Our intention is that the annual PI meeting will be inclusive of both GWA and Herring Research and Monitoring PIs to ensure transfer of information between programs.

Objective 4: Conduct GWA outreach and community involvement activities

We will engage Trustee Agency managers and community members with interests in the spill area, including those who can provide a perspective on traditional ecological knowledge, to learn how data and information products can best serve them. We will generate products to meet those needs and improve understanding of ecosystem processes affecting variation in spill-affected resources. We will work with the Herring Research and Monitoring lead to coordinate community involvement opportunities within the spill area. Listening to the input of community members and managers will be a key feature of these activities, as well as providing information and products that are easily accessible on the program web site. Outreach

Coordinator Stacey Buckelew will organize these efforts in a manner responsive to direction from PM II lead Katrina Hoffman as well as the Outreach Steering Committee.

The administrative lead will be responsive to the EVOSTC and PAC each autumn and engage with them to report on program activities and answer program questions, coordinate and participate in the annual PI meeting, update written and web-based materials describing overall program and individual components, and hold a PI meeting concurrent with the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage.

We plan to implement the following opportunities for GWA to receive input from key individuals and agencies by:

- Holding PI meetings in different spill-affected communities across the five years (e.g., from among Cordova, Seward, Homer, Valdez, Kodiak) as well as Anchorage, and having open time for input each day on the agenda.
- Having a local and traditional ecological roundtable-type symposium in spill-affected native communities in FY18 & FY20 where both scientists and native community members exchange information about different ways of knowing, as well as changes they have observed in the systems. Ideally, across the five-year program, the program will engage with communities in both PWS and the Kachemak Bay/Kenai Peninsula area; for example, Chenega Bay or Tatitlek in one year and Nanwalek in the alternate year, should those communities be open to such an experience. Residents of Port Graham will be invited to attend any events held with Nanwalek residents in order to strengthen the opportunity for information exchange.
- Take advantage of opportunities to attend board meetings of organizations that are interested in program information and data, especially environmental drivers data (such as Cordova District Fishermen United, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation, Valdez Fisheries Development Association, Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, and Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association).

B. Changes to Project Design

Regarding Objective 4, “Conduct GWA Outreach and Community Involvement activities”, we originally envisioned the Outreach Steering Committee being comprised largely of the same members as in Years 1-5, when it was populated by outreach and engagement specialists from professionals at non-profit and academic organizations in the spill-affected region. However, after reflecting more deeply on the charge in the Invitation to Proposals to directly serve the Trustee Agencies and their target audiences, we have decided to revise the membership of the Outreach Steering Committee to include some representatives of Trustee Agencies. This will allow us to be better informed of their needs and directly target our outreach to their needs and their target audiences. This steering committee will be active in FY18.

4. SCHEDULE

A. Project Milestones for FY18

Objective 1. Fiscal Management and Reporting

This is ongoing throughout each year of FY17-21 including sub-award administration, reporting, and annual audit.

Objective 2. Generate SRP input and oversight

This is ongoing throughout each year of FY17-21 via attendance at all PI meetings, the Joint Science Workshop, and as reviewers of report content and synthesis activities.

Objective 3. Host GWA PI meetings

This is ongoing during each year of FY17-21. Meetings are held approximately quarterly, with some meetings occurring by teleconference and others occurring in person.

Objective 4. Conduct GWA Outreach and Community Involvement activities

This is ongoing throughout FY17-21 through generation of program content for web, engagement of Trustee Agency outreach staff, and involvement of Alaska Native and other communities.

**B. Measurable Project Tasks for FY18
FY 2018 (Year 7)**

FY 18, 1st quarter (February 1, 2018 - April 31, 2018)

*February: Compile/edit FY17 annual report for EVOSTC and semi-annual NOAA report
Issue fiscal year subaward contracts*

March 1: *Submit Year FY17 annual report for EVOSTC and semi-annual NOAA report*

April: Plan and coordinate quarterly program teleconference

FY 18, 2nd quarter (May 1, 2018 - July 30, 2018)

May: Complete updates to program website and outreach materials

June-July: Plan and facilitate quarterly program teleconference

FY 18, 3rd quarter (August 1, 2018 - October 31, 2018)

August: Compile and edit semi-annual report for NOAA

August: *Submit annual program work plans and NOAA semi-annual report*

September: Plan and facilitate community involvement/TEK engagement

October: Plan annual PI meeting and workshops

Review EVOSTC work plan comments

FY 18, 4th quarter (November 1, 2018- January 31, 2019)

November: Annual PI meeting and workshops

Present to EVOSTC and PAC

December-January: Preparation for and attendance at AMSS

Plan and facilitate quarterly program meeting (at AMSS)

Complete annual audit

5. PROJECT PERSONNEL – CHANGES AND UPDATES

There have been no staffing changes at PWSSC that pertain to or affect our administration of GWA.

6. BUDGET

A. Budget Forms (See GWA FY18 Budget Workbook)

Please see project budget forms compiled for the program.

B. Changes from Original Proposal

There are no changes in funding from the original proposal.

C. Sources of Additional Funding

There are no other sources of funding being used for the administration of this program.

7. RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTS

Publications

Hoffman, K. C., and M. E. McCammon. 2017. Long term monitoring: program coordination and logistics & outreach. *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Restoration Project Final Report (Restoration Project 16120014-B)*, Prince William Sound Science Center, Cordova, Alaska.

Hoffman, K. C., 2017. Long-Term Monitoring and Herring Research and Monitoring programs: Semi-Annual Report to NOAA Grants (award number NA12NMF4720028), Aug. 1, 2016 to Jan. 31, 2017.

Outreach

Aderhold, D. 2017. Gulf Watch Alaska monitors ecosystem health. Delta Sound Connections 2017-18. 16 pp. <http://pwssc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DSC-2017-web2.pdf>