

Management Applications: Commercial Fishing

Project Number: 02636-BAA

Restoration Category: General Restoration

Proposer: Ken Adams & Ross Mullins, Cordova

Lead Trustee Agency: NOAA

Alaska SeaLife Center: No

Duration: 1st yr. (pilot project)

Cost FY 02: \$50,000

Cost FY 03:

Geographic Area: Prince William Sound

Injured Resource/Service: Commercial fishing

Abstract

This project is intended to build a bridge between the scientific community, which is describing and attempting to predict variation in biological production, and the commercial fishing community, which is attempting to find management applications for this new information. In addition, the project seeks to provide a fisheries community presence to participate in development of GEM. FY 02 is considered a pilot project, with additional funding anticipated from the Trustee Council in FY 03.

Introduction

From approximately 1992 the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council has funded a wide variety of projects most of which have been directed toward restoration of resources damaged during the EVOS event. Some of these projects have direct or indirect implications for commercial fisheries.

Throughout the oil spill impacted area, Prince William sound (PWS) was undoubtedly the most negatively affected. The lingering presence of oil, concerns about the recovery of a number of oiled species and the run failures of pink salmon in 1992 and '93 plus the herring failures in '93 and subsequent years, prompted the development of several ecosystem investigations in the PWS area: the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA), the Alaska Predator Experiment (APEX), and the Nearshore Vertebrate Predator Plan (NVPP)

For the most part, each of these plans sought to explain PWS ecosystem dynamics from their own particular perspectives but none of them have addressed the needs or means for application of the scientific results or knowledge gained in the research process. The predictive models developed in the SEA plan are exceptions to this generality.

We propose to begin the process for identification of fishery community issues and needs in P.W.S., to review the collection of the EVOS Trustee Council funded fisheries relevant projects and to help build a bridge between the accomplished fundamental research and management applications needed to address the identified fisheries issues. Further, we seek to provide a fisheries community presence that will participate in and help guide the development of the long term monitoring effort, the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) plan.

We see our proposal as being consistent with the mission statement of GEM. The fishing community desires to "sustain a healthy and diverse marine ecosystem and the human uses of those resources through greater understanding of ecosystem productivity and how that productivity is affected by natural and anthropogenic factors". We are logical partners with the EVOS Trustee Council in efforts to attain this mission statement. Further, this project's objectives are consistent with several goals identified within GEM: "to inform and solve problems relevant to resource managers" and "ultimately, to predict the status and trends of marine resources"

We feel this proposal will be the beginning of an important and valuable component within GEM and will establish the basis for long term collaboration between the fisheries community and the EVOS Trustee Council.

Objectives

1 Establish a Fisheries Management Application working group (FMA) that:

a) provides criteria and guidelines for making and keeping information gathered by the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) plan relevant to fisheries management and shore based communities.

b) provides a forum for developing fisheries management applications for all interested entities, including Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC), Valdez Fisheries Development Association (VFDA), Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council / Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) plan personnel, commercial fishers, and other groups.

#2 Under the auspices of the FMA, organize and convene a series of public workshops to develop the following products:

a) a statement of short-term and long-term fishery management issues and needs and what additional information resources could contribute to resolving the issues and needs.

b) a draft set of criteria and guidelines that can be used to identify information of use for constructing both short-term and long-term fisheries management applications that address the issues and meet the needs.

c) a final set of criteria and guidelines for identifying the information of use for constructing both short-term and long-term fisheries management applications that address the issues and meet the needs.

d) a fisheries management relevant subset of information selected from completed EVOS Restoration projects (SEA, APEX, NVPP, and others).

e) a plan that shows how the FMA will develop in FY04 a cycle that moves from basic scientific information , to fishery management application concepts, through public involvement , regulatory processes, fishery management applications, evaluation of efficacy of fishery management applications, back to inform the development of more useful scientific information.

Methods

#1 Organization of FMA group:

a) A formal letter of invitation requesting participation in the FMA group will be sent to a diverse array of local fishing community entities including management agencies, fishing and hatchery associations, fish processors, the native community and the local science center.

b) The FMA group will develop a mission statement and will proceed in accordance with the objectives and methods identified in this proposal. We anticipate that decisions of the group will be arrived at on a consensus basis and we will seek to avoid the development of a rigid set of rules of operation.

c) Meetings will be held, at least initially, at the public library meeting room on 1st. Ave. in Cordova.

d) Meeting dates will be scheduled to avoid conflicts for participants in the FMA group with meeting schedules of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF), and the annual meetings of the American fisheries Society (AFS), both Alaska chapter and the Western Division, as well as other potential conflicts. We will attempt to accommodate individual participant's schedules as nearly as possible but due to the array of interests and backgrounds, this may prove difficult.

e). It is anticipated that Dr. Phil Mundy, the EVOS Science Director, will participate in the general planning and scheduling of meetings of the Fisheries Management Application Group. Dr. Mundy will be provided with copies of correspondence and related working group materials.

#2 Activities of the FMA group:

a) Minutes of meetings will be recorded and retained as the official record of the FMA group's activities.

b). The initial meeting of the group will be devoted, in part, to the organizational matters mentioned above and then to begin the process of identification of fishing community issues and needs. We foresee that utilization of a matrix format as a potentially valuable tool with which we can begin our work. . For example, a matrix format may be used to compare fishing community needs and issues to information assets that are available as well as information that yet needs to be developed.

c) Subsequent meetings of the group may require participation and presence of principal investigators from previously EVOS funded projects to help explain aspects of their work. This project will fund traveling expenses incurred for P.I.'s as well as expenses incurred by out of town area FMA group participants to the extent that is feasible within the projects budget.

d). Products developed during meetings of the FMA group will be reported to the EVOS Trustee Council and the Public Advisory Group (PAG) as required.

e). A presentation will be made to the greater local community (fishery industry, city government, chamber of commerce, etc.) concerning the intentions and progress of this project as well as an overview of the GEM plan including its mission and objectives

#3) Office establishment:

An office which will serve as the headquarters for the FMA group will be occupied at the Union Hall adjacent to the office of C.D.F.U. on 1st. Ave. in Cordova. An office site is currently vacant and would provide the best location for purposes of this project. That office would provide high visibility to members of the fishing fleet and easy access to the offices of P.W.S.A.C., C.D.F.U., A.D.F.& G. and also the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC).

Alternative options which have been explored for establishing an office elsewhere have been unsuccessful due to the unavailability of adequate space(ADF&G, PWSSC). This office will also provide a visible presence for EVOS within the community at a location wherein fishers, resource managers, and others can interact with project personnel and address their related concerns.

We anticipate the hiring of a part -time secretary / aide to help with a variety of duties related to this project and to occupy the office on an as needed basis for the duration of the project.

This proposal is considered a pilot project, with additional funding anticipated from the Trustee Council in FY03. If successful, we anticipate this project could become an ongoing component of the GEM program with funding from the Council in subsequent years.

Schedule (FY 02)

In view of the delayed start of this project in FY 02 and the involvement of both Mr. Adams and Mr. Mullins in the approaching 2002 commercial fishing seasons, we realize our time for direct involvement in this project is limited. We will be available for basically three months in FY 02: February, March and to the beginning of April 2002, intermittently during the summer, with resumption of our direct involvement in project activities by approximately mid September.

With respect to the above time limitations, we plan to convene the first meeting of the FMA group one day during the week of March 4th and a second meeting during the week of March 25 or another date yet to be determined. We anticipate that a third meeting will be held toward the end of September or in October. The focus of the third meeting will be to inform the greater local community of this project's objectives and work accomplished in FY02 and also to provide an overview of the GEM program.

FY 02 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

Budget Category:	Authorized FY 01	Proposed FY 02					
Personnel		\$32.2					
Travel		\$5.5					
Contractual		\$1.9					
Commodities		\$1.6					
Equipment		\$1.9	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS				
Subtotal	\$0.0	\$43.1	Estimated				
Indirect		\$3.6	FY 03				
Project Total	\$0.0	\$46.7					
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)		0.7					
Dollar amounts are shown in thousands of dollars.							
Other Resources							
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Indirect rate (8.5%) will cover office lease (\$360/mo. X 8 mo. = \$2.8) and utilities (\$100/mo. X 8 mo. = \$.8).</p> <p>NOAA GA of \$3.3 will need to be added to this budget, bringing total project cost for FY 03 to \$50.0.</p>							

FY02

Prepared: 2/25/02

Project Number: 02636-BAA
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: Ken Adams & Ross Mullins

FY 02 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

Personnel Costs:				Months Budgeted	Monthly Costs	Overtime		
Name	Position Description							
Ken Adams	Co-PI			2.3	4.8			
Ross Mullins	Co-PI			2.3	4.8			
Vacant	Tech/Admin			3.4	3.0			
			Subtotal	8.0	12.6	0.0		
							Personnel Total	
Travel Costs:				Ticket Price	Round Trips	Total Days	Daily Per Diem	
Description								
Workshop #1								
Workshop #2								
Workshop #3								
							Travel Total	

FY02

Prepared: 2/25/02

Project Number: 02636-BAA
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: K. Adams & R. Mullins

FY 02 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

Contractual Costs:		
Description		
Phones Internet Photocopying		
		Contractual Total
Commodities Costs:		
Description		
Computer disks Software Office supplies		
		Commodities Total

FY02

Prepared: 2/25/02

Project Number: 02636
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: K. Adams & R. Mullins

FY 02 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

New Equipment Purchases:		Number of Units	Unit Price	
Description				
	Computer Printer			
Those purchases associated with replacement equipment should be indicated by placement of an R.			New Equipment Total	
Existing Equipment Usage:		Number of Units		
Description				

FY02

Prepared:2/25/02

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