

Commercial Fishing Management Applications, Submitted Under the BAA

Project Number: 03636-BAA, NOAA Contract # 50ABNF200060

Restoration Category: General Restoration

Proposer: Ken Adams & Ross Mullins, Cordova

Lead Trustee Agency: NOAA

Alaska SeaLife Center: No

Duration: 2nd yr. (pilot project continuation)

Cost FY 03: \$50,900

Cost FY 04:

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.

INTRODUCTION

The effort being proposed in FY 03 is a continuation of a project begun in FY 02 to aid the restoration of the commercial fishing industry in Prince William Sound. In FY 02 the process was started to bridge the gap from some of the fundamental ecosystem science supported by the EVOS Trustee Council to applications having potential benefit to the commercial fisheries community of Prince William Sound.

Unfortunately, the project was undertaken in FY 02 under severe time constraints which allowed only the initiation of the project. Due the PI's active involvement in the commercial fisheries until the fall of 2001, a deferment was requested and granted for further development of our proposal until December of 2001 since preliminary recommendations of both the Executive Director and Chief Scientist released in June 2001 encouraged development of this proposal. The applicants complied and subsequently developed iterations responsive to the requirements for both an increase in the focus and reduction in the budget requested. On February 20, 2002 notice was given of project approval by the Restoration Office. On March 4, 2002 approval was received from the NOAA Contracting Officer so that the project could begin to incur related expenditures.

In spite of the late start, two workshop meetings were conducted in Cordova in accord with the project objectives. The first meeting was on March 8, 2002 and the second meeting was conducted on April 2. Scheduling of additional meetings up to September 2002 is considered undesirable due to the direct involvement in the fisheries for many, conflicting responsibilities of resource management, and scientific field work for other participants. It is intended that the intensity of the Co-PI's involvement will be reduced during the time of active commercial fishing and resume full time in the fall when fishery activities conclude and community participants will again be available.

In addition to establishing a community fisheries forum through the workshop process the PI's have established an office in Cordova from which the ongoing business of this project are being conducted. The office will be staffed on a part time basis through out the year. This office will allow project continuity, a visible interface between the local fishing community and the Trustee Council and aid the development of a fisheries presence within the GEM plan.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

A. Statement of Problem

From approximately 1992 the 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 was undoubtedly the most negatively affected area. 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 1993, plus the herring failure in 1993 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.

The PI's propose in FY 03 to continue the process begun in FY 02 for the identification of the fishery community issues and needs in PWS, to review the collection of EVOS TC 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 and needs.

Prince William Sound has emerged, post EVOS event as one of the most intensively studied bodies of water in the United States. Unfortunately, neither hatchery operators, fishermen and processors, or research managers have benefited from the increase in knowledge derived from this research. From the perspective of many in the local fisheries community, publication of the descriptive fundamental science results is not the final step in the process. Utilization of research results or assets remains to be accomplished. The following are some examples of activities where research results might be utilized: improved salmon return forecast capabilities; possible improvement of hatchery operations from gaining a more comprehensive understanding of zooplankton dynamics during time of fry release as well as gaining population estimates and location of potential predators of salmon fry. Also, herring biomass assessments and Stellar lion interactions are two additional items of importance to the local fisheries community. These subjects could very well utilize acoustic assessment tools developed during the active research phase of the SEA. The attempt to utilize some of the ecosystem research assets for the benefit of the local fisheries community comprises the basis for this proposal.

B. Rational/Link to Restoration

The initial work undertaken in FY 02 should be continued in FY 03. The economies of individual fishermen, processors, and by extension, the economies of this region's fishery dependent communities are in a depressed state. It would be a benefit to nearly everyone in our fisheries community if expenses involved in fisheries production and planning could be reduced.

For example, if salmon return forecasting accuracy was improved, fishermen might be better able to decide whether to participate in a particular harvest or seek alternate employment. Likewise, processors could have better insights into the size of the work force and processing materials that might be required in a given year.

Identification of fishery community issues and needs developed in workshops conducted under the auspices of this project establish a foundation from which we can explore the EVOS TC previously funded research for aid in resolving community issues and needs.

C. Location

This project is being undertaken in Cordova. In this community, offices of some of the most important organizations, agencies and businesses relevant to the fisheries of PWS are located. Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), one of the most active and influential commercial fishing organizations in the state as well as Copper River Seafood Producers Association (CRSPA), are both located here. The management and research office for Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Prince William Sound Science Center, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC), the largest hatchery PNP corporation in the United States, the office of the Native Village of Eyak, Chugach ranger district offices of the U.S. Forest Service, Ocean Beauty Seafood Corp, North Pacific Processors Inc., Norquest Inc, Prime Select Seafood and Copper River Fine seafood processors are located here as well. Although the project is headquartered in Cordova, all the communities with interests and dependencies upon the fishery resources of PWS may be affected. This includes the communities of Valdez, Seward, Homer, Anchorage, Tatitlek and New Chenega.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

This effort consists entirely of local community involvement. As previously mentioned, offices of a wide array of fisheries related businesses and agencies are located in Cordova and also the largest concentration of PWS commercial fishers reside here as well. The degree of knowledge regarding the PWS fisheries present in the community of Cordova is extensive.

The development of the PWSFRAP forum process allows discussion from the extended fisheries community and other regional entities such as city government, town meetings, native organization as well as conservation groups. Further, in person presentations by the project PI's are done periodically at the BOD meetings of local fishery and hatchery organizations as well as frequent email updates to interested parties.

It is intended that former investigators from previous restoration projects will be involved to discuss their work in person or by teleconference at PWSFRAP meetings. All PWSFRAP meetings are advertised and are open to the general public.

PROJECT DESIGN

A. Objectives

In FY 02 we have established PWS Fisheries Research Applications and Planning (PWSFRAP) group forum for achieving the objectives of this proposal. Under the auspices of PWSFRAP the PI's have initiated the process of identification of important fishery community issues and needs. The process to achieve the objectives listed below will continue in FY 03.

1 Under the auspices of the PWSFRAP group:

a) provide 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) provide 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 PWSFRAP group, continue 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 PWSFRAP group will develop in FY 03 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.

B. Methods

#1 Organization of PWSFRAP group:

- a) PWSFRAP will proceed in accordance with the objectives and methods identified in this proposal. Group meetings are conducted on a consensus basis and we seek to avoid the development of a rigid set of rules of operation.
- b) Meetings are held at the public library meeting room on 1st. Ave. in Cordova or other suitable locations.
- c) Meeting dates are scheduled to avoid conflicts for participants in the PWSFRAP 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 attempt to accommodate individual participant's schedules as nearly as possible.
- d). Dr. Phil Mundy, of the EVOS Restoration Office, will continue to participate in the general planning and scheduling of meetings of the PWSFRAP Group. Dr. Mundy is being provided with copies of correspondence and related working group materials.

#2 Activities of the PWSFRAP group:

- a) Minutes and transcripts of meetings will be recorded and retained as the official record of the PWSFRAP group's activities.
- b). We foresee that utilization of a matrix format as a potentially valuable tool with which we can continue 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 will benefit from participation and presence of principal investigators from previously EVOS funded projects to help explain aspects of their work. This project will fund teleconferencing or traveling expenses incurred for P.I.'s as well as expenses incurred by out of town area PWSFRAP group participants to the extent that is feasible within the projects budget.
- d). Products developed during meetings of the PWSFRAP group will be reported to the EVOS Trustee Council and the Public Advisory Group (PAG) as required.
- e). Presentations will continue to 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 has been established and will be maintained as the headquarters for the PWSFRAP group at the Union Hall adjacent to the office of CDFU on 1st. Ave. in Cordova. That office provides high visibility to members of the fishing fleet and easy access to the offices of PWSAC, CDFU, ADF& G, and also the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC). This office provides a visible presence for EVOS within the community at a location where fishers, resource managers, and others can interact with project personnel and address their related concerns.

We have hired a tech/admin assistant 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 was considered a pilot project in FY 02 with additional funding anticipated from the Trustee Council in FY 03. We anticipate this project could become an ongoing component of the GEM program with funding from the Council in subsequent years.

C. Cooperating Agencies, Contracts and Other Agency Assistance

During the review of selected restoration plan results the PWSFRAP group will very likely need to confer with those in the agencies and those in the scientific and technical community who were responsible for the restoration plan results. Our budget includes funds for teleconferencing or travel when appropriate.

SCHEDULE

A. Measurable Project Tasks for FY 03 (October 1, 2002 - September 30, 2003)

- October: Present project results to date at open community meeting.
- November: Continue PWSFRAP workshop and subgroup meetings.
- December: Continue as in November.
- January: Continue as November. Attend annual EVOS Workshop (2 days)
- February: Begin preparation of annual report for FY 02.
Continue as November.
- March: Continue as in November
- April: Finish and submit annual report for FY 02.
- May: Resume fishing activities and part time project duties.
- June: Same as May.

July: Same as May.

August: Same as May.

September: Resume project activities, conclude project.

B. Project Milestones and End Points

October: Finalization of community issues and needs,

November: Develop draft of final criteria and guidelines.

December: Submit quarterly report to the Restoration office.
Begin development of fisheries relevant subset from EVOS projects.

January: Continue development of fisheries relevant subset from EVOS projects.
Attend EVOS workshop.

February: Finalize development of fisheries relevant subset.
Develop criteria and guidelines for making and keeping information gathered by GEM relevant for fisheries management and shore based communities.

March: Submit quarterly report to Restoration office.
Give presentation at PWSAC spring Board meeting.
Begin development of plan showing cycle of movement from basic science information to management application.

April: Continue development of plan for management applications.
Submit annual report for FY 02.

May: Resume fishing activity. Project work on part time basis.

June: Same as May.

July: Same as May.

August: Presentation of project accomplishment to date at CDFU annual meeting.

September: Conclude project and begin preparation of final report to Restoration office.

C. Completion Date

September 30, 2003

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

We do not plan to submit manuscripts for publication in FY 03. A final report comprised of a review of the fisheries relevant subset of PWS Restorations Plan results, along with meeting transcripts and work products of the PWSFRAP group meetings, will be provided to the Trustee Council by April 15, 2004.

COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF RESTORATION EFFORT

At present, we plan no coordination with other restoration efforts. This project is the only one which directly seeks to aid the restoration of commercial fishing, a damaged service in the spill impacted area.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES IN CONTINUING PROJECTS

There are several changes to be made with the project for FY 03 compared to initiating this effort late in the FY 02 cycle. The most important change is the prospect of conducting this project in accord with a normal restoration project timetable and the prospect of realistic achievement of milestones and project end date. In addition, there are the advantages of having formed PWSFRAP which is the basis for our fisheries forum in FY 02, we have the advantage of having met with various community organizations describing this project and it's objectives, and have established our office as headquarters for PWSFRAP.

In view of the progress since project inception on March 4, 2002, we believe that the accomplishment of the project objectives is realistic in FY 03. The experience gained from the FY 02 effort has been very positive and provides insight as to how best to proceed and to more fully involve the fisheries community in the project.

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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Brief Summaries of Professional Histories

Ken Adams has been a commercial fisherman for 25 years. During that time he has held permits and owned vessels in a number of fisheries in PWS. Currently Adams holds permits and is owner operator of vessels for the drift gillnet fishery and salmon purse seine fishery for PWS. He also hold IFQ halibut quota shares.

Adams obtained an MA degree in biology from San Francisco State College and a BA in Science from Trenton State College in Trenton, New Jersey. In addition Adams has completed approximately 30 credit hours toward a PHD degree in biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Adams has held an active membership in all of the fishery organizations of the region. He held seats on the Boards of Directors of PWSAC, CDFU and PWSSC. He is currently serving as a Board member of the American Seafood's community advisory board. During 1993 Adams was a participant in the four month planning process that created the Sound Ecosystem science plan. That plan was the guiding document for the SEA program. Adams served on the BOD of the PWSSC for nine years. During the period since the close of the SEA program Adams has remained involved in the review and assessment of the results and the technical assets and resources acquired through the SEA program. Adams has actively followed the progress of the overall restoration plan with the goal of identifying results which can now contribute to securing and sustaining the recovery of commercial fishing.

Ross Mullins has resided in Cordova since 1963 where he has pursued an active career in the varied commercial fisheries of the area, both as owner operator of various vessels and as a business man involved in export of herring products to Japan.

Mr. Mullins has been active in various fishery related organizations. He has served on the BOD and Executive Committee of PWSAC for many years since that organizations inception. Mullins has been a member of the BOD of CDFU and the former Cordova Aquatic Marketing Assn. He is also a member of the Copper River Salmon Producers Assn. Mullins served on the BOD of the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agriculture Bank for 13 years. Mr. Mullins is the founder and chairman of the PWS Fishermen Plaintiffs Committee an organization that serves to provide an interface for information to the local community relating to the EVOS oil spill litigation. Mullins was a participant in the planning process that created the Sound Ecosystem science plan. That plan was the foundation document for the SEA program. During the period since the close of the SEA program Mullins has remained involved in attempting to understand the results of the technical assets and resources acquired through the SEA program.

Mr. Mullins attended the University of New Hampshire, the University of Michigan and obtained a BFA degree from the San Francisco Art Institute where he graduated in 1962.

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

Budget Category:	Authorized FY 02	Proposed FY 03					
Personnel	\$32.2	\$32.2					
Travel	\$5.5	\$3.6					
Contractual	\$1.9	\$4.7					
Commodities	\$1.6	\$0.9					
Equipment	\$1.9	\$0.0	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS				
Subtotal	\$43.1	\$41.4	Estimated				
Indirect	\$3.6	\$5.3	FY 04				
Project Total	\$46.7	\$46.7					
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)		0.7					
Dollar amounts are shown in thousands of dollars.							
Other Resources							
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Indirect rate (13%) will cover office lease (\$360/mo. X 12 mo. = \$3.3) and utilities (\$100/mo. X 12 mo. = \$1.2) and liability Ins [12 mo. policy = \$0.8]</p> <p>NOAA GA (9%) of \$4.2 will need to be added to this budget, bringing total project cost for FY 03 to \$50.9.</p>							

FY03

Prepared:4/11/02

Project Number: 030636-BAA
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: Ken Adams & Ross Mullins

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

Personnel Costs:			Months	Monthly	Overtime	
Name	Position Description		Budgeted	Costs		
Ken Adams	Co-PI		2.3	4.8		
Ross Mullins	Co-PI		2.3	4.8		
Liz Senear	Tech/Admin		3.4	3.0		
Subtotal			8.0	12.6	0.0	
Personnel Total						
Travel Costs:			Ticket	Round	Total	Daily
Description			Price	Trips	Days	Per Diem
Community workshops Co-PI's attend EVOS January 03 Anchorage workshop						
Travel Total						

FY03

Project Number: 03636-BAA
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: K. Adams & R. Mullins

Prepared: 4/11/02

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

Contractual Costs:	
Description	
Phones Internet Photocopying Conference calls Catering for meetings	
Contractual Total	
Commodities Costs:	
Description	
Computer disks Office supplies	
Commodities Total	

FY03

Prepared: 4/11/02

Project Number: 03636-BAA
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: K. Adams & R. Mullins

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

New Equipment Purchases:		Number of Units	Unit Price	
Description				
Those purchases associated with replacement equipment should be indicated by placement of an R.		New Equipment Total		
Existing Equipment Usage:		Number of Units		
Description				
Computer equipment purchased in Mar. 02 will be utilized in this continuation project		2		

FY03

Prepared: 4/11/02

Project Number: 03636-BAA
 Project Title: Management Applications: Commercial Fishing
 Name: K. Adams & R. Mullins