

Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program

Project Number: 03052
Restoration Category: General Restoration
Proposer: P. Brown-Schwalenberg/CRRC
Lead Trustee Agency: ADFG
Cooperating Agencies: None
Alaska SeaLife Center: No
New or Continued: New
Duration: Indefinite
Cost FY 03: \$165,700
Geographic Area: All
Injured Resource/Service: Subsistence

ABSTRACT

In FY 03, this project will transition into following up on the development the Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans (TNRMP) completed under EVOS TC project # 02052 with the development of core Action Plans for each TNRM plan. The core action plans are the principle instrument documents that will be developed and used to accomplish the goals and issues identified and specified in the TNRM plans and planning processes. CRRC will also develop an Action Plan for it's regional Integrated Tribal Natural Resource Management Plan as well as a Fisheries Management Plan to include as a major more focused segment of. CRRC will also work with each of the five Tribes whose Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans were developed in FY 01 and FY 02 to develop core TNRM Action Plans for each of the five TNRM's. These Action Plans will become the heart of the overall regional and Tribal TNRMP's. They will become the primary vehicle for accomplishing the goals identified and set forth in the planning process. The priority issues and action items identified in the workshops, gatherings and meetings, will provide the focus and tone of the core Action Plans. The Action Plans will be species and habitat specific and utilized

for identifying specific actions, timelines, responsible parties, agreements, needed policies or ordinances, laws and or decision or task oriented processes for accomplishing or otherwise addressing each of the priority issues, project and action items identified in the TNRMP's and or associated TNRM planning activities. In addition, the project will work in coordination with the regional and Tribal TNRM programs to explore and develop linkages between the priority TNRM issues and concerns, the Action Plans and management, research and education agencies/organizations to address the priority issues of each community. This project will strive for establishing, maintaining and optimizing community involvement with regard to the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program. In FY 03, this project will focus on four objectives: (a) Establishing core Action Plans for the regional and Tribal TNRMP's; (b) continuing the process, with a higher degree of specificity and focus, of identifying priority regional and community specific research and monitoring issues and concerns and fitting them to community-based research and monitoring program activities, especially those within and related to the GEM program, (c) establishing and conducting a "Wisdomkeeper Series" (see Appendix 1) for community and sub regional gatherings for discussing and sharing TNRM and research and monitoring issues with selected biologists, scientists, elders and traditional knowledge experts (d) developing and refining pilot community-based research and monitoring projects for potential implementation in FY 04.

INTRODUCTION

This proposal is designed to develop core Action Plans for the regional and each of the five pilot communities' Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans (TNRMP). A core Action Plan and a Fisheries Management Plan will be developed and implemented into CRRC's regional Integrated Tribal Natural Resource Management Plan. CRRC will also work with each of the five pilot community Tribe's Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans that were developed in FY 01 and FY 02 to develop core Action Plans. These core Action Plans will become the primary vehicles for accomplishing the goals identified and set forth in the TNRM planning process.

Priority issues and action items identified in the TNRM planning process and TNRMP's will be focused on, delineated, added to and developed into potential project concepts and action oriented tasks through Action Planning workshops, gatherings and meetings. These Action Plans will be utilized for identifying specific actions, timelines, responsible parties, agreements, needed policies or ordinances, laws and or decision or task oriented processes for accomplishing or otherwise addressing each of the priority action items identified in the TNRMP's and or associated TNRM planning activities.

The project will work in coordination with the regional and Tribal TNRM programs and the GEM program. Linkages will be developed and expanded upon between the priority TNRM issues and concerns, the Action Plans and management, GEM research, monitoring and community involvement planning, research and education agencies/organizations to address the priority issues of each community. This project will strive for establishing, maintaining and optimizing community involvement with regard to the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program.

This Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program project will focus on four objectives in FY 03 including:

- (a) Establishing core Action Plans for the regional and Tribal TNRMP's;
- (b) continuing the process, with a higher degree of specificity and focus, of identifying priority regional and community specific research and monitoring issues and concerns and fitting them to community-based research and monitoring program activities, especially those within and related to the GEM program;
- (c) establishing and conducting a community and sub regional gatherings/seminar process for discussing and sharing TNRM and nearshore research and monitoring issues with selected biologists, scientists, elders and traditional knowledge experts

(d) developing and refining pilot community-based research and monitoring projects for potential implementation in FY 04.

This year's project will enable CRRC and the pilot community Tribes to continue to develop and expand upon the stewardship capacity of these coastal Native communities. This proposed project will examine the communities' interests, priorities and activities through their Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs and how these will relate to the future GEM Program. Candidate community-based pilot and demonstration projects emerging from our planning effort will exhibit a blend of modern measurement science and traditional observation, which will be beneficial to both the GEM Program and the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs.

Efforts have been underway primarily in FY 01 and FY 02 to assist five pilot communities (Cordova, Nanwalek, Ouzinkie, Port Graham, and Tatitlek) in the development of their Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans. Draft TNRM plans were developed for each Tribal Community. These TNRM plans and their inherent planning process, are designed to assist these coastal pilot communities in identifying and addressing priority natural resource issues together will linking these priority issues with the appropriate and preferably community-based research and monitoring activities best suited to addressing each priority issue.

The corporations and Tribes in Prince William Sound have been working extensively with the United States Forest Service to ensure their involvement in the Chugach National Forest Management Plan Revision currently underway. Cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources have been actively discussed and strategies for further developing a formal relationship are underway.

In FY 01, the CRRC Board of Directors held a strategic Planning Session. During this meeting they identified Natural Resource Management Plan development along with the EVOS \$20 million Tribal Community Fund as top priorities of CRRC. The Board of Directors also prioritized the communities' involvement in GEM and community involvement/Traditional Ecological Knowledge, indicating their interest in remaining involved in the EVOS process. In October of 2000 the Community Facilitators, Natural Resource Specialists, Science Advisor, Principal Investigator, TEK Specialist, and Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator (currently the Community Development Director) all participated in the GEM Workshop, advocating for meaningful community involvement and TEK being incorporated into the GEM Plan/Program. In March 2001 the Principal Investigator and Community Development Director in cooperation with the Chugach Alaska Corporation, Chugachmiut, and the North Pacific Rim Housing Authority organized the Chugach Regional Summit on Natural Resources for participation by the Board of Directors of the Chugach Region Native corporations, Tribal Councils, and regional organizations. The Community Facilitators and Natural Resource Specialists also participated. During this Summit the communities identified barriers, and developed solutions, for the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs and discussed ways to assist in creating cooperative relationships

between the Tribes and Native corporations in the area of jurisdiction, enforcement and management of natural resources. Furthermore, community meetings were held in the villages of Port Graham, Nanwalek, Ouzinkie and Cordova in 2001 and 2002 to discuss their Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans and identify common objectives between their Management Plans and the GEM Plan.

In FY 03, specific tasks will be to accomplish the four primary objectives described briefly above and in more detail in the Project Design section below. CRRC will also participate in GEM planning and implementation. Additionally, the five pilot communities will work with project staff to identify common areas of interest between the Tribal Natural Resource Programs research and monitoring efforts and GEM Program's efforts. Once these common areas of interest are identified, the scientific staff and communities will develop methods by which communities can take on specific research and monitoring activities of GEM, while leveraging other funds to implement other aspects of their Management Plans.

In addition to the three primary objectives, CRRC will continue to coordinate and accomplish the following general goals and tasks:

1. Continue the involvement of community members and local Tribal Natural Resource Programs throughout the spill region in the GEM planning and implementation process, especially for nearshore and watershed/marine linkages.
2. Serve as contact point for the Tribes and Their Natural Resource Specialist in each of ten participating communities (Alaska Peninsula Region/Chignik Lake, Chenega Bay, Cordova, Kodiak Island Region/Ouzinkie Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seldovia, Seward, Tatitlek, and Valdez).
3. Additionally, the five pilot community TNRM programs and associated staff as well as the Tribal Environmental staff will work together with project staff to develop common areas of interest between the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs, their Management and associated Action Plans, and the GEM Program.

The specific tasks for the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Specialist will be to:

1. Assist the Tribe(s) in preparing for and launching CRRC's Wisdomkeeper Series first gathering (see Appendix 1).
2. Help facilitate community meetings and coordinate tribal member interviews to stimulate discussion and solicit input prior to the Wisdomkeeper Gatherings and to develop background material for the gatherings.

3. Assist scientists participating in the Wisdomkeeper Gathering by consulting on the preparation of background material and on the scope, style, and content of presentations to be given at the gathering.
4. Help facilitate the planning and implementation of the Wisdomkeeper Gathering.
5. Help the Tribe and CRRC develop plans to implement the recommendations of the Wisdomkeeper Gathering regarding training, monitoring, research, and communication."

The specific tasks for the Scientific Advisor will be to:

1. Work with the communities to identify GEM related research and monitoring Projects within their Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans and Associated Action Plans.
2. Assist in the development of a community involvement and community-based research and monitoring framework plan for GEM by participating in the project being proposed to the EVOS TC project by the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies in collaboration with CRRC.
3. Help coordinate the community-based research and monitoring with other research and monitoring activities planned under GEM and coordinate community input in the GEM program.
4. Help develop additional research and monitoring ideas for soliciting funding from sources other than GEM.
5. Serve as the liaison between the five Tribal pilot communities and biologists, scientists and managers to help insure effective and meaningful dialogue is being maintained.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

A. Statement of Problem

Tribal and other coastal people living in the Chugach Region and EVOS impacted area, have an innate sense of the marine, nearshore and shore interface areas that they depend on for their subsistence lifestyles as well as their cultural, spiritual and economic needs. There are vast amounts of all kinds of important natural resource information available within the traditional Tribal users, elders, commercial fishers and other resource experts that live and reside in these coastal communities. However, getting this information identified, documented,

communicated and, when appropriate, shared with other Tribes, state and federal research and management agencies is quite a challenge in these remote and semi remote coastal areas.

By developing and maintaining Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs and associated management Plans and Action Plans, provides a means by which Tribes and coastal communities can systematically identify and address many of their priority natural resource issues and concerns. The development of the core Action Plans for CRRC's regional and each of the pilot communities' TNRMP's, will help provide a useful and efficient mechanism for collecting and assembling priority Tribal and coastal community natural resource interests. These priorities, once assembled, compiled and documented, can then help assist Regional and Tribal Natural Resource Programs as well as State, Federal and non government research and management agencies and organizations in understanding what the most important research and monitoring needs are based on the Tribal and coastal communities interests and concerns.

There is also a major need for developing and nurturing stronger alliances and networking between Tribal Natural Resource research, monitoring and management interests and personnel with those of scientists, educators, and non Tribal natural resource management or environmental professionals. Increasing meaningful Tribal Involvement in nearshore and shore based research and monitoring planning and activities will help facilitate ownership and support for building a better understanding of the natural resources and their associated marine ecosystems.

Marine bird, fish and mammal stocks are profoundly influenced by their hosting marine environment and the associated food-webs that support their production. Variations in annual production and species composition associated with cycles and shifts in ocean climate have been documented for many years now. To meet the mission of GEM, the physical condition of the northern Gulf of Alaska and selected target populations must be carefully tracked through time. The emerging "historical records" provide important insight about how the ecosystem responds to environmental fluctuations on scales from weeks and months to decades and ideally centuries. GEM monitoring will be strengthened significantly by the addition of coastal observations in the many sub-environments stretching from Prince William Sound to the Alaska Peninsula. There is a critical need to establish strong community-based research and monitoring programs that will help address many Tribal and community derived research questions and hypotheses. The community-based research and monitoring that will continue to be promoted and developed through this and other projects, will also help to support long-term observational and monitoring programs in coastal waters that can become the fingers and even sophisticated meters monitoring the pulse of the marine life blood they depend on.

It is important to reiterate what may seem obvious to some, yet completely overlooked by others. This is that the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill caused much more direct and severe disruption to the lives of the Tribal and other coastal citizens in these spill impacted coastal communities and surrounding areas than most other populations.

While scientific studies aimed at restoring the resources and services damaged by the oil spill have occurred throughout the spill area, most of the researchers work for agencies or institutions based in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or outside Alaska. Residents have voiced concern over a lack of involvement by spill area communities in the restoration efforts, and incomplete communication to spill area inhabitants of study proposals and results.

This project, over the past several years, has helped bring about an increasing amount of communication between the scientists and the communities. Yet there still exists a void for meaningful involvement in the GEM nearshore and watershed marine interface research and monitoring process by the Tribes at the grass roots level. At the same time, researchers have recognized that Native people have traditional knowledge that could help them answer questions they have not been able to answer through conventional scientific means. In addition, communities in the spill area are very concerned about the long-term stewardship and management of lands and resources important to their subsistence way of life.

These communities have been developing their Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs at the local level to ensure long-term health of injured oil spill species, important subsistence resources, and responsible management of lands in proximity to their villages and traditional use area. The Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Plan is also very concerned with the ecosystem and coordination between the communities and the Trustee Council regarding community-based monitoring and will be necessary to effectively monitor and document change in the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem. Furthermore, the EVOS Trustee Council has recognized the need to increase communication and community involvement in the restoration process.

The need for developing and maintaining meaningful community involvement in the GEM program was stressed throughout the GEM Workshop, held in Anchorage in October 2000 (Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 2001) as well as the GEM nearshore workshop in Anchorage held by the EVOS TC in January of 2002. The National Research Council also cited the need for meaningful community involvement in their Interim Report (National Research Council, 2001). During the Public Advisory Group's April 4, 2001 meeting, the integration of community involvement into the GEM Program was identified as a top priority (Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, 2001). Therefore, it is evident that the integration of Tribes, their Natural Resource Programs, community research and monitoring, and GEM must take place in order to ensure meaningful community involvement in the GEM Program. The specifics of how this will occur have yet to be determined, but it is evident that meaningful community involvement must be defined by the communities.

According to the NRC review comments of the GEM Draft Programmatic document, "The challenge then is not whether community involvement is warranted but how to build such involvement in a meaningful way." The NRC review comments go on to say "Community involvement needs a foundation (simple, robust, and adaptable) that permits the local issues to be addressed in a meaningful way from the very beginning of the program. . . . Communities must have a role in helping define what will be done and where it will be done. They must also be involved in actively conducting the research, analyzing data, and disseminating the results to members of the community."

The Community Involvement Project (052) is one of the EVOS TC's best efforts in striving for the development of meaningful community involvement in the GEM program. This proposed project will be a useful tool and process to help develop and actualize meaningful community involvement for these Tribes and take it to the next level.

B. Rationale/Link to Restoration

This project furthers the Trustee Council's goals of facilitating the involvement of spill area residents and resource users in the post restoration and GEM process. It also reaffirms the Trustee Council's dedication to the involvement of people living in the oil spill affected areas in the restoration process.

People living in the spill area have a lot of extensive general and detailed knowledge about the condition and status of resources. This information can significantly add to other data collected as part of scientific studies. Local people have expressed a desire to be involved in all aspects of restoration, research and monitoring projects. The Tribes in the Chugach Region and the Ouzinkie Tribe have developed their Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans. These plans are leading the way for the creation of methods and projects that will ensure the continued abundance of subsistence resources important to their communities. Five of those TNRM draft plans were completed in FY 01 and FY02. These Plans form the basis for development of Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs. The Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans outline overall interests of the communities, including economic development, traditional use area management, and various other aspects of their Natural Resource Management Programs. The Chugach Tribes are also currently working with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission's region wide Integrated Tribal Natural Resource Management Plan. This project will also develop core Action Plans that will become the action mechanisms of the TNRM's to address species and habitat specific issues and concerns. CRRC's regional ITNRM plan and associated Action Plan will coordinate all the Tribal Action Plans to provide a format for the Tribes to work cooperatively to address issues related to management, monitoring and research of their traditional use areas. Both the Tribal and regional Integrated Natural Resource Management and associated Action Plans will be instrumental in planning for participation in the GEM community-based research and monitoring programs. GEM must integrate local Resource Management Plans and

Programs into the overall GEM Program to effectively monitor environmental conditions and indicator species. This project will continue to open communication lines and help facilitate the interaction between the different entities.

At present, the only systematic and year-round monitoring program of ocean conditions in the northern Gulf of Alaska is maintained in outer Resurrection Bay by the Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska Fairbanks (GAK-1 station) and the Barren Islands (National Data Buoy Center's Buoy # 46079) and in Cook Inlet at the Drift River Terminal, AK (National Data Buoy Center's Buoy # DRFA2) and AUGA2 - Augustine Island, AK and by Cook Inlet Keeper and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve in Kachemak Bay. Also, some seasonal records of temperature and plankton volumes have been made over the years by aquaculture corporations in Prince William Sound, lower Cook Inlet, and at Kodiak. These observations, coupled with those undertaken by several private organizations in the region provide evidence that citizen monitors can be important contributors to long-term programs, but also demonstrate that to be effective, these efforts must be standardized and coordinated over time, which can be accomplished through the GEM Program. Furthermore, resource managers will benefit greatly from any new information arising from GEM and other coastal monitoring programs, such as information and data generated by the Tribes.

C. Location

This project will be spill area wide. The five pilot project communities from FY01 and FY02 will continue with this Action Plan/research and monitoring issues identification phase of the project. The pilot project communities include Eyak, Nanwalek, Ouzinkie, Port Graham, and Tatitlek. Chenega Bay, Chignik Lake, Qutekcak, Seldovia, and Valdez will continue to be involved in the GEM process through EVOS TC sponsored workshops and meetings as resources and interest allow. The pilot communities will continue the process of developing their core Action Plans which will be used to identify areas of interest, priority issues and concerns. These core Action Plans and the associated planning will help build a stronger linkage between the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs and the GEM Program. Once these TNRMP and associated Action Plans are in place, the other communities will be integrated into the process. Other regional, Native, and community organizations will be encouraged to participate and mold the parameters for the monitoring programs.

The project's benefits will be realized both in meaningful involvement by the communities and through proactive action facilitated by the core Action Plans and their associated Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The core of this project is the incorporation of community involvement and traditional knowledge into the EVOS TC GEM Program. Communities will be informed of EVOS TC projects, more recent and new GEM related projects and programs, research findings,

and provide input into the Trustee Council process through a network of Tribes and their Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs, TNRM program planners and specialists, TEK Specialists, the projects Principal Investigator, and Science Advisor.

PROJECT DESIGN

A. Objectives

The objectives of the project will be to:

1. Develop CRRC's ITNRMP Action Plan and Regional Tribal Fisheries Management Plan.
2. Work with the five pilot project communities in establishing their Tribal Natural Resource Committees or similar and developing associated core Action Plans to address their priority issues.
3. Implement the CRRC Wisdomkeeper Series (see Appendix 1). This special Series of gatherings will provide a major resource for discussing and exploring potential means of addressing priority community issues.
4. Increase the meaningful community involvement of spill area communities in the research and monitoring efforts of the Trustee Council through community-based monitoring.
5. Improve the communication of research and monitoring findings and results of restoration efforts to spill area Village Councils, inhabitants and the appropriate regional organizations. It is expected that by doing so, this project will increase the effectiveness of the overall GEM efforts.
6. Provide community input into the plans for GEM, including review of drafts and suggestions for community-based activities such as research and monitoring, education, data sharing, and outreach. The Tribes will also work with the Trustee Council to help define and explain their view of meaningful community involvement. The communities' priority issues and the research and monitoring projects and programs needed to address them, can be developed in conjunction with their Tribal Natural Resource Management Action Plans. This activity will help promote close cooperation in the development of research and monitoring ideas under GEM and associated projects and programs, so that they benefit each other as much as possible.
7. Use the above in coordination and cooperation with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies proposed community involvement and community-based monitoring framework plan for GEM to help further the design of a useful community involvement and community-based monitoring plan and program for GEM. A

- community-based or citizen monitoring program requires mechanisms for (a) identifying and selecting monitoring activities, (b) developing appropriate methods for the various parameters to be monitored, (c) training monitors and ensuring the quality of data collected, (d) submitting, managing, archiving, and accessing the data generated, (e) providing results and other feedback to EVOS, and (f) jointly evaluating the approach and results of the monitoring effort on a regular basis with EVOS.
8. Compare the research parameters of the GEM Program to the Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans, to help identify where their interests in research and monitoring overlap. This information will then be used to identify ways that the EVOS Trustee Council and the Tribes can work together in order to meet their common objectives.
 9. Select possible monitoring activities for pilot projects in FY 03 and FY 04. After designing the program and identifying what can be monitored, we will select certain monitoring activities to carry out in FY 04 (i.e., to include in our proposal for FY 04) to test the system. These pilot projects will help us evaluate and refine our overall community-based program approach and aid in the selection of potential long-term monitoring activities under GEM as well as under other funding programs.

B. Methods

The objectives will be achieved using the following methods:

1. A Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner will be hired by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission. This position will work closely and in coordination with the Tribal Natural Resource Programs and their associated NR Specialists, other NR staff and Each Tribe's Natural Resource Committees and/or Tribal Council in developing and implementing TNRM Action Plans, developing linkages and communications between Tribal TNRM priority issues and concerns with the scientific and management community as well as addressing this projects other overall goals and objectives.
2. Working with the Tribes and their Tribal Natural Resource Management Program staff the Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner will strive to continue furthering the goal of community outreach. The goal of community outreach will be to continue the partnership, which began under 95052 between the people residing in the oil spill affected region and scientific researchers. Outreach will include communication of traditional knowledge and local interests, as well as communication of research proposals and study results.
3. Finalize and implement CRRC's Community WisdomKeeper Series. This annual rotating community gathering series which is described in detail in Appendix 1, will be used to promote the concept of Tribal communities getting together on top

- priority issues identified through their TNRM programs and planning activities and other formats. The concept will include a Tribe hosting a WisdomKeeper Gathering on a special research topic or concern that will then have invited experts from both the Tribal/traditional users and scientific realms. These gatherings will be held in the manner in which the hosting Tribe is most comfortable with and their culture and wisdom will be especially honored and respected during each particular WisdomKeeper Gathering.
4. Assist in collaborative efforts as a project partner with the Center for Alaska Coastal Studies proposed EVOS TC project to help produce a community involvement and community-based monitoring plan for GEM. CRRC will work closely with this project together with the other project partners and help coordinate interactions and input into this project to assemble a plan for community involvement in GEM from the Tribal natural resource and environmental staff in the region. CRRC will continue working with the native villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek that are partners with Ms. Solomon and the University of Washington in this community-based project it helped start up in FY 02. This Tribal Replicate Modeling program and pilot project was initiated in FY 02 working with the University of Washington's PhD graduate candidate Anne Solomon.
 5. Further work in FY 03. Once we have accomplished the above tasks, we will continue its work after submitting a proposal for FY 03. Depending on the outcome of the above activities, we may do one or more of the following: (a) identify other sources of funding for monitoring activities, (b) continue to refine the ideas presented in the monitoring program design and the specific monitoring activities, (c) explore closer ties with monitoring plans by scientists involved with GEM and others, and (d) explore closer ties with community-based research and monitoring programs, Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs, and citizen monitoring projects currently being developed.
 6. A contract will be renewed by ADF&G Subsistence Division to CRRC for overall coordination of the Tribal Natural Resource Program and associated TNRM programs. The contractor will develop subcontracts with each of the 5 pilot communities for involvement in the TNRM program.

C. Cooperating Agencies, Contracts, and Other Agency Assistance

A contract will be let to CRRC for overall coordination of this project. The contractor will be expected to arrange for the coordination of any TNRM staff in the communities of Chenega Bay, Cordova, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seward, Seldovia, Tatitlek, Valdez and communities in the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak Island regions. Additionally, CRRC will contract with Dr. Henry Huntington to serve as the TEK specialist and will develop separate contracts with local scientists to serve as science advisors as the needs arise.

SCHEDULE

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

October 1-31, 2002:	Contract with CRRC and ADF&G Renewed.
October 1-31, 2002:	CRRC's Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner begins and will be coordinating with each pilot community in the development of the Action plans and associated TNRM program planning and implementation.
October 1-31, 2002:	Contract with TEK Specialist renewed.
10/1 – 9/30, 2002:	Contract with Science Advisors developed as needed.
October 1-31, 2002:	MOU renewed between ADF&G & CRRC.
October – Jan. 2003:	CRRC Wisdomkeeper Series planning committee meetings held.
October – Jan. 2003:	CRRC and Tribal TNRM and environmental personnel prepare for the EVOS GEM Workshop by developing draft Action Plans based on priority community issues to be potentially addressed in the GEM program and associated projects.
November to Jan. 2003:	Project Staff to work with each pilot community and or Tribe to develop Action Plans to help identify and address priority issues.
November to Jan. 2003:	Review Pilot project season plans, help assemble project teams and finalize project work schedules.
November to Jan. 2003:	Review, model, identify activities, and provide further input to latest GEM draft with communities.
January 2003:	Meeting held with Project Staff and others to review GEM draft and provide input, refine list of community interests and objectives, prepare for EVOS GEM Workshop.
January 2003:	Participate in EVOS GEM Workshop, assisting in the development of community-based research and monitoring project ideas and needs potentially addressed by the GEM program.
Winter 2003:	List of activities compiled, organized, and evaluated.
February 2003:	Attend EPA Region 10 regional conference on the Env.
March 2003:	Attend Alaska Forum on the Environment Conference
March-April 2003:	Pilot project season work begins.
May 2003:	Attend the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Conference.
Spring-Summer 2003:	Pilot projects being worked on with community project teams.
Spring-Summer 2003:	Finalize TNRM core Action Plans for each pilot community's TNRMP and for CRRC's region wide ITNRMP.

August 2003: Model and list activities completed and refined, other resources and funding sought, links to community programs developed and scientific activities explored.

B. Project Milestone and Endpoints

October 2002: Contracts in place.
First CRRC Wisdomkeeper Gathering planning committee meeting held (see Appendix 1).

January 2003: Project Staff and others refine community involvement/monitoring parameters and attend the GEM Workshop.

March 2003: Pilot projects plans finalized and initiated.

August 2003: Pilot project case history draft reports submitted.

September 2003: Each pilot community and CRRC's regional TNRM Plan and associated Action Plans finalized and submitted

April 2004: Final report submitted to EVOS.

C. Completion Date

September 30, 2003.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Each of the five pilot community TNRM's and their associated Action Plans will be submitted as well as CRRC's region wide ITNRM and core Action Plan. A final report will be compiled in coordination with the ADF&G and provided by CRRC, describing and summarizing the progress and accomplishments of the Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program project. In addition, CRRC will provide a full report of the first CRRC Wisdomkeeper Series Gathering.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

The Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner, TEK Specialist, Science Advisor, and Principal Investigator will be attending the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Conference in May of 2003. This Conference will provide an excellent opportunity to examine other Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs and talk with people who are recognized as community involvement and community monitoring experts. Project personnel will also attend the Alaska Forum on the Environment, EPA's Region 10 conference and any EVOS TC GEM and nearshore workshops.

NORMAL AGENCY MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable.

COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF RESTORATION EFFORT

This community outreach effort is in fact a novel effort to coordinate the Restoration Program with the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs and builds on the established relationship between CRRC and the communities in Prince William Sound, lower Cook Inlet, Kodiak and the Alaska Peninsula. Other organizations may be included, such as the Cook Inlet Keepers, Regional Citizen Advisory Councils, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, and various other organizations.

CRRC is contributing a considerable amount of in-kind services to the project as well as the community involvement and community-based monitoring plan for GEM project being proposed by the Center for Alaska Coastal studies in which CRRC is a project partner. CRRC's Tribal Natural Resource Management Program development project has been operating for the past four years in four of the villages in the Chugach Region, and Ouzinkie. CRRC, through a BIA contract, is providing technical assistance to the villages in developing their natural resource management programs. The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society will be providing training and technical assistance through their Regional Conference and technical workshops. Part of the normal duties of the Natural Resource Specialists will be to collect traditional harvest and other baseline data (such as population assessments) on the resources in their traditional use areas.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES IN CONTINUING PROJECTS

This Project is a new project which will follow up on previous TNRM and community involvement work funded by the EVOS TC.

PROPOSED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg: Ms. Brown is the Executive Director of the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) since 1994. She assists the Chugach Region Tribes in developing their Tribal natural resource programs, developing projects that stimulate the local community economy, and addressing issues and concerns directly related to subsistence and natural resources. She has worked for the past 19 years in such positions as Tribal Administrator for her Tribe, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Society Administrator for the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, Office Manager of the Bering Sea Fisheries Development Fund, and as a private consultant, assisting Alaska Native Tribes in obtaining funding for natural resource management programs, and setting up their natural resource program administrative systems. CRRC and the previous organizations that Ms. Brown has operated have consistently met all standards of proper management, including annual program and financial audits.

OTHER KEY PERSONNEL

Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner: This position will be hired through this project and will be the principle position responsible for coordinating this project and assisting the Tribes and CRRC with the development of their Action Plans and associated TNRM programs and projects.

Dr. Henry Huntington: CRRC has contracted with Dr. Huntington to serve as the TEK Specialist. Dr. Huntington received his Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge (U.K.), Scott Polar Research Institute in Polar Studies. He has served as the Environmental Coordinator for the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), coordinating ICC policy regarding the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS), in cooperation with indigenous organizations in Russia and Scandinavia. He was also responsible for traditional ecological knowledge and other research projects under the auspices of the AEPS.

Paul McCollum: Mr. McCollum is CRRC's Fisheries and Natural Resource Biologist and will be providing in kind project support and assistance at all levels of this project. Mr. McCollum has been working in the Chugach Region for the past 22 years and has over 28 years of experience with Alaskan fisheries and natural resources research, enhancement and management programs and projects. He is very familiar with the villages and natural resource projects in the region. He holds a degree in marine biology and has assisted in the development and implementation of fisheries curriculum at the high school and college level both in the Chugach Region as well as the Yukon and Kuskokwim Region. He also works with the Port Graham Village Council on fisheries, natural resources and environmental issues and projects as well as the Nanwalek IRA Council including their salmon enhancement program. He has provided valuable work throughout the region, assisting the Tribes in the development of their Tribal natural resource management plans and associated projects and programs.

LITERATURE CITED

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, "FY 2001 Annual Workshop, October 12th & 13th, 2000 Work Group Notes". Unpublished.

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National Research Council, The Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program: First Steps Toward A Long-Term Research and Monitoring Plan. Interim Report. February 2001. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C..

Appendix I.

CRRC's Community WisdomKeeper Series: An approach to exchanging information

Introduction

This Community WisdomKeeper Gathering format has been developed by Dr. Henry Huntington for CRRC to utilize in this EVOS Project # 03052 to gain and share valuable information across cultural boundaries and jurisdictions. The name WisdomKeeper is borrowed from the Bering Sea Coalition which held a conference in 1999 entitled Wisdomkeepers of the North. We prefer this type of Tribal description to Symposia which could be considered the logical western alternative. While this CRRC's Community WisdomKeeper Series has been developed solely by Dr. Huntington for CRRC and specifically as a tool for this EVOS project #03052, the title WisdomKeeper has been borrowed **with permission from the Bering Sea Coalition**, out of respect for the type of Tribal and community process they used for the above mentioned conference. CRRC's Community WisdomKeeper series will be finalized before implementation and event planning take place and the Bering Sea Coalition will be consulted with in order to learn more about their very successful "Wisdomkeepers of the North; Vision, Healing and Stewardship for the New Millennia" conference held in Anchorage.

Background

The EVOS Restoration Program gave considerable attention to the question of involving spill-area communities in the effort to assess the recovery of the region from the oil spill. The effort focused on the previous CRRC/EVOS TC Community Involvement Project and associated TEK Project(s), with additional community outreach work in several other projects throughout the duration of the Restoration Program. Despite this attention, however, meaningful community involvement remained elusive. In part, perhaps, this was because "meaningful involvement" was difficult to define and harder still to measure. "Community involvement" came to stand for many things, from involvement in specific research projects, to having a political voice at the level of the Trustee Council, to finding a way to acknowledge the human cost of the spill despite the Justice Department's stance that humans were not among the injured resources. Satisfying the many aims and motives captured by "community involvement" may not have been realistic, and the absence of more specific targets meant that evaluating the success of the overall effort was impossible.

Despite the difficulties experienced in the Restoration Program, the EVOS Trustee Council and others have emphasized the importance of community involvement in the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring Program (GEM). Certainly, the

long-term success of GEM, both in its own monitoring and in its broader goal of establishing a healthy Gulf of Alaska, depends on public support and the shared commitment of those who live and work in the region. Building that support and establishing cooperative ties with the region's residents will best be done through a variety of approaches, each of which is likely to require considerable effort. This paper describes one such approach, with the goal of promoting substantive exchanges of information between the region's Tribes and those involved in GEM.

The Need

Sound stewardship of natural resources requires having and having timely access to good information. This is especially true as our understanding of a natural system evolves, for example through the anticipated findings of GEM over the coming decades. In a system such as the Gulf of Alaska, where the many residents and users have considerable experience and expertise with the system, promoting effective exchanges between scientists, managers, and users is vital to the development of a shared commitment to both the principles and the practices of sound stewardship. If the various groups do not have the opportunity to develop a common understanding of the system, it is highly unlikely that they will agree on the steps needed to protect the health of the system. This common understanding cannot happen by accident. Instead, the mechanism for promoting its development should be an integral part of GEM.

The Approach

There are several examples of effective information exchanges between and resource users and scientists and managers. These include the Barrow Symposium on Sea Ice, the Marine Mammal Commission's workshop on the Impacts of Changes in Sea Ice and Other Environmental Parameters in the Arctic, and co-management groups such as the Alaska Beluga Whale Committee. These examples have several things in common:

- *A clear focus.* Each meeting had clear objectives and a well-defined topic. While the topic may have been broad, it was coherent (e.g., "sea ice," or "beluga whales") and provided a useful means of engaging a diverse group of participants.
- *Extensive preparation.* The participants were given time to think over the topics to be discussed, and in some cases were able to do additional research prior to the meeting.
- *Diverse and knowledgeable participation.* Participation in the meetings was well distributed among the different groups taking part (e.g., users, scientists, etc.), and the individual participants were selected for their expertise and their commitment to the objectives of the meeting.

- *Adequate support.* The meetings were well planned, well organized, and allowed for follow-up work to complete the goals of the meeting.

In addition, the most successful cases are those that allow for a continued effort instead of a one-time event. The co-management groups typically meet annually to discuss research and management plans, and are able to build relationships over time that lead to greater collaboration and mutual understanding. The Alaska Beluga Whale Committee, for example, has helped Alaska Native hunters become certified as satellite taggers, while at the same time promoting acceptance of traditional ecological knowledge as a vital part of their research program.

Drawing on these examples, CRRC will establish a Community WisdomKeeper Series. Each WisdomKeeper Gathering (perhaps to be held annually) would address a topic broad enough to encompass several actual or potential research projects, but specific enough to allow discussions to remain focused and productive. Selection of topics could be done jointly by community representatives and scientists involved in GEM. The format of the workshops should promote discussions and interactions rather than lectures, and the number of participants should be limited. An example of how a WisdomKeeper Gathering might be organized is as follows:

Preparation: (3-6 months, by WisdomKeeper Organizing Committee)
 Select topic and specific WisdomKeeper Gathering objectives
 Identify participants, date, location
 Prepare scientific reviews of the topic(s) (by contract with scientists)
 Prepare community reviews of the topic(s) (by contract with tribes or researchers)

WisdomKeeper Gathering: (3-4 days)
 Review the topic and the objectives
 Give overview reports of the scientific reviews
 Give overview reports of the community reviews
 Discuss, leading to conclusions/recommendations/findings
 Assign follow-up tasks

Post-WisdomKeeper Gathering: (2 months or more, by Organizing Committee & others)
 Prepare written report
 Other tasks as identified at the WisdomKeeper Gathering

The outcomes of the WisdomKeeper Gathering include (a) progress towards a shared understanding of current knowledge about the WisdomKeeper topic; (b) development of a research or monitoring agenda; and (c) identification of opportunities for collaboration or further exchanges between communities and scientists and managers. Realizing these outcomes may take some time, but as the WisdomKeeper Series continues, the process of collaboration and the development of cooperative activities should become increasingly common and efficient.

Rationale

The WisdomKeeper Series has no guarantee of success. Nonetheless, separating the function of information exchange from the multitude of explicit and implicit goals of the Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program project should help. Furthermore, the successful examples cited above show that this approach has worked in other settings, and that GEM can apply the lessons learned.

Under the TEK Project, several Information Workshops were held, each of which was in some ways a smaller version of the symposia proposed here. The Symposium Series, however, differs from the Information Workshops in several key ways. First, the communities would have a greater role in selecting the topic to be addressed. The Information Workshops were limited to existing projects. Second, each symposium would cover more than the one or two projects addressed in the information workshops. The broader scope would allow for wider discussion instead of just reaction to the efforts of a particular researcher. Third, more thorough preparation, especially on the community side, would give community members time to consider the topic in some detail, which again is an improvement over reacting to a researcher's presentation. Fourth, the objectives of each symposium would encompass more than the next steps of a particular project, giving greater range to the potential outcomes as well as a longer time horizon to achieve them. In sum, the symposia would be far more thorough than the Information Workshops and would have more explicit objectives.

The Symposium Series should not try to find topics of equal interest throughout the spill area, but should choose topics on their merit and suitability to the symposium format. The frequency of the symposia will be limited by funds and personnel available to prepare them. While the idea could eventually be copied by different organizations, it would be best to begin with one organization coordinating the symposia to establish the pattern and provide continuity.

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

Budget Category:	Authorized FY 2002	Proposed FY 2003					
Personnel		\$60.0					
Travel		\$22.1					
Contractual		\$60.0					
Commodities		\$2.0					
Equipment		\$0.0	LONG RANGE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS				
Subtotal		\$144.1	Estimated				
Indirect		\$21.6	FY 2004				
Project Total		\$165.7	\$180.0				
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)		1.0					
Other Resources							
Dollar amounts are shown in thousands of dollars.							
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Indirect - CRRC's indirect amount is 15%. This includes costs related to general office operation. NEPA Compliance - Not Applicable to this Project. Annual Restoration Attendance - Not Applicable to this Project. Report Writing - Not Applicable to this Project. Publications - Not Applicable to this Project. Professional Conferences - 6% of the Project Budget will go towards the Project Personnel's attendance at the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Conference in May 2003. Community Involvement - 100% of the Project Budget.</p>							

FY03

Prepared: 4/9/2002

Project Number: 030052
 Project Title: Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program
 Name: Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Personnel Costs:			Months	Monthly	Overtime	1 of 4
Name	Position Description		Budgeted	Costs		

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

To Be Hired	Tribal Natural Resource Program Planner		12.0	5.0	0.0
		Subtotal	12.0	5.0	0.0
Personnel Total					
Travel Costs:					
	Description	Ticket Price	Round Trips	Total Days	Daily Per Diem
	Port Graham - Anchorage	0.2	2	8	0.1
	Tatitlek - Anchorage	0.5	2	8	0.1
	Chenega Bay - Anchorage	0.5	2	8	0.1
	Seldovia - Anchorage	0.3	2	8	0.1
	Nanwalek - Anchorage	0.2	2	8	0.1
	Seward - Anchorage	0.2	2	8	0.1
	Cordova - Anchorage	0.3	2	8	0.1
	Valdez - Anchorage	0.2	2	8	0.1
	Ouzinkie - Anchorage	0.7	2	8	0.1
	Chignik Lake - Anchorage	0.7	2	8	0.1
	Fisheries and Natural Resource Biologist/TEK Specialist/Science Advisor/ Principle Investigator's travel throughout spill area				
Travel Total					

FY03

Project Number:
 Project Title: Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and
 Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program
 Name: Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Prepared: 4/9/2002

Contractual Costs:	
Description	
TEK Specialist & Science Advisor	
Sub-contracts with Tribal Councils in spill Area (5 @ \$2,000) to participate in GEM planning and implementation	2 of 4

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

Sub-contracts with Tribal Councils in spill Area (5 @ \$4,000) for Natural Resouce Management Plan integration with GEM		
		Contractual Total
Commodities Costs:		
Description		
Incidental costs for workshops (meeting space rental, supplies, food, etc.)		
		Commodities Total

FY03

Prepared: 4/9/2002

Project Number:
 Project Title: Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and
 Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program
 Name: Chugach Regional Resources Commission

New Equipment Purchases:		Number of Units	Unit Price
Description			

FY 03 EXXON VALDEZ TRUSTEE COUNCIL PROJECT BUDGET

October 1, 2002- September 30, 2003

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

FY03

Project Number:
 Project Title: Tribal Natural Resource Stewardship and
 Meaningful Tribal Involvement in the GEM Program
 Name: Chugach Regional Resources Commission

Prepared: 4/9/2002