

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL REVIEW PROCESS FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS THAT INVOLVE COLLECTIONS

The Trustee Council is appropriately sensitive to the collection (i.e., killing) of birds or mammals as part of any research project, for the Council's ultimate aim is to restore the health of the injured ecosystem. At the same time, it is recognized that in order for certain research projects to achieve their objectives, certain collections may be required to gather information that could not otherwise be obtained. As stated in the *Restoration Plan*, "... possible negative effects on resources and services must be assessed in considering restoration projects." (Policy #7)

Any scientific project that proposes a take of birds or mammals should be allowed to proceed only if the advantages of doing so outweigh the disadvantages. The general health of the population being sampled needs to be assessed and a finding made that proposed collection(s) would not result in further injury to the health of the population being investigated.

In order for the Science Director to recommend whether a proposed collection is necessary and appropriate to further restoration objectives, investigators should address each of the questions listed below. This information should be provided as a part of the project proposal.

1. How many individuals are proposed to be collected and at what approximate times and locations? How do these numbers compare with the total population in the general collecting area?
2. How is the general health of the population? Is the population increasing, decreasing or holding steady in the proposed sampling area? Is reproduction and young survival normal?
3. Is the proposed take likely to affect any population trends?
4. Is the proposed method of take humane? Are there any effective, alternative means to obtain the data?
5. What will be lost if there is no take allowed?
6. What can we realistically hope to learn that will justify this collection?
7. Have federal and/or state permits been secured? If not, why not?

The Science Director will review the proposed collection and consult with others with appropriate expertise. If appropriate, the Science Director could conduct this review concurrent with a federal and/or State permit review. The Science Director will then make a recommendation to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will inform the Program Advisory Committee and the Trustee Council of this recommendation in writing prior to final approval of a project proposal. All federal or State permits will be required prior to implementation of a project.