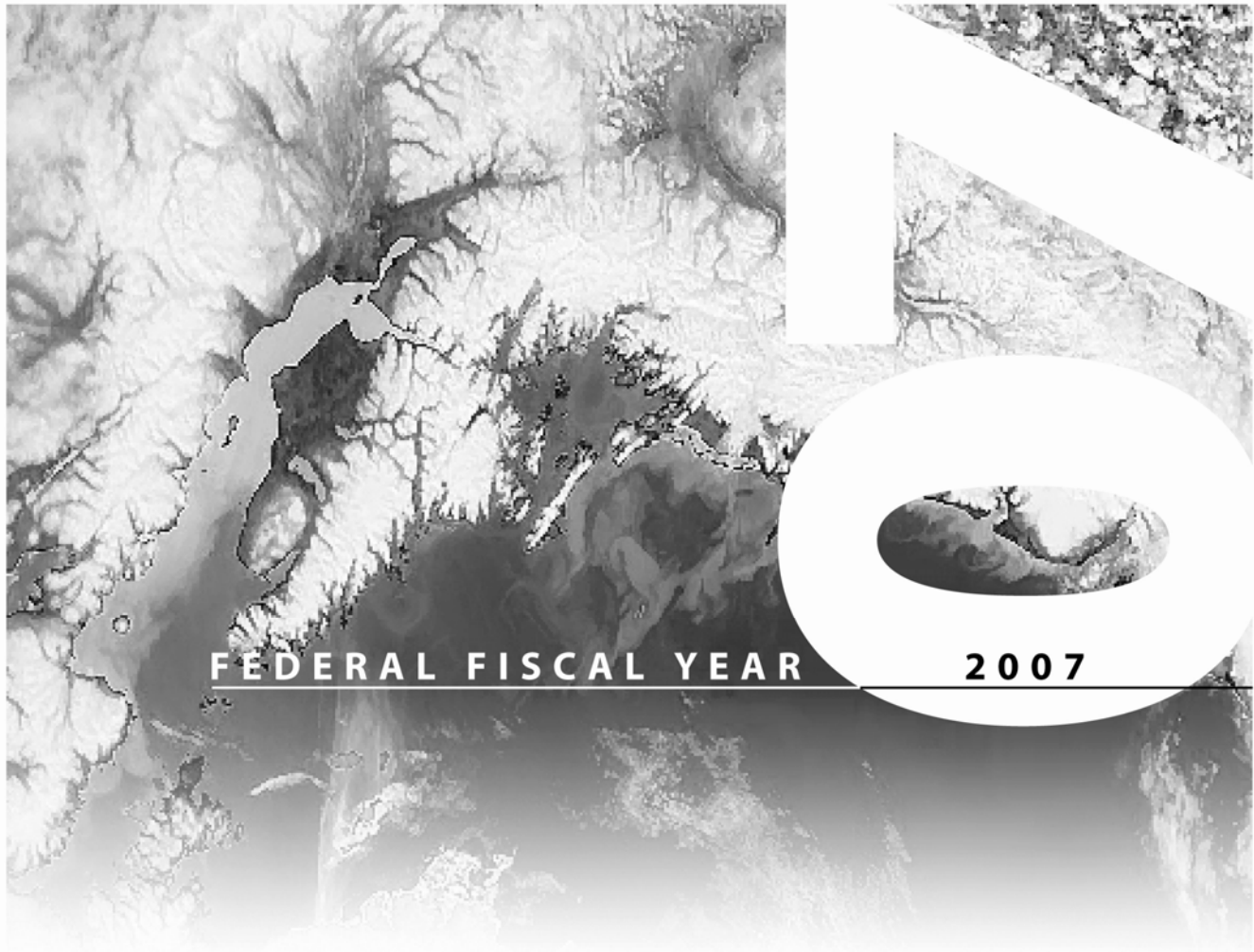


EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL



FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR

2007

FINAL WORK PLAN

Issued September 30, 2007



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FISCAL YEAR 2007

FINAL WORK PLAN

September 30, 2007

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Notice

The abstract of each proposal submitted in response to the FY07 Invitation for Proposals was written by the authors of the proposals to describe their projects. To the extent that the abstracts express opinions about the status of injured resources they do not represent the views of the Executive Director, the Science Director or other staff of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, nor do they reflect policies or positions of the Trustee Council.

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203
- Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

Dear Reader,

Each year, the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council funds activities to restore the resources and services injured by the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. In 2006, the Council recognized that a tremendous amount of work had been accomplished over 12 years of research, monitoring and specific activities directed at addressing the restoration and rehabilitation goals of the 1994 Restoration Plan (www.evostc.state.ak.us/Policies/restplan.htm). However, the Council determined that results of previous efforts needed synthesis in order to better understand the effects of lingering oil and to evaluate the status of injured resources and services. They decided to realign priorities and restorative activities, placing focus on critical work required to reach closure in areas of restoration related to lingering oil and injured resources.

In this Final Work Plan, the Trustee Council has endorsed a comprehensive, balanced approach to the restoration of injured resources and services which is reflected in this work plan. This approach recognizes the importance of research to determine why resources are not recovering, or are recovering slowly, and recognizes the need for monitoring to track the status of recovery. It provides for cost effective general restoration activities, especially those that help the resources upon which communities and industries depend.

Several resources in the Sound continue to be affected by the spill and have been monitored closely by the Council. While the 1994 Restoration Plan establishes a plan for the restoration of all injured resources and services in the Sound, the current critical status of the Pacific herring requires immediate attention. The Council identified the need for a comprehensive herring restoration program that will help re-establish the declining herring population in Prince William Sound for use by both the commercial fisheries and local subsistence communities.

Herring are an important component of the Sound ecosystem, both ecologically and commercially. Herring were initially impacted by the oil spill, and the Council has continued to classify them as a non-recovering injured resource. Pacific herring are an essential part of the marine food web in the Sound and provide food for birds, marine mammals and invertebrates. Moreover, herring have been fished commercially for food, bait, sac-roe and spawn-on-kelp. The fishery in the Sound collapsed in 1993, four years after the spill, and since then a consistent fishery has not been sustainable. Because herring are a forage fish for many other species, it is speculated that the decline of herring has also had deleterious effects on other animals that depend on them for food. The Council appreciates the dire situation of PWS herring and the ecological and human impact caused by their decline. Therefore, the Council has committed to develop a long-term Herring Recovery Plan and implement enhancement activities with the ultimate goal of assisting herring recovery in the Sound. A restoration planning effort will begin in late 2006. This collaborative planning process will include subsistence-resource users, government agency representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGO), commercial fishermen, scientists and other stakeholders. The Recovery Plan will define critical decision pathways needed to make progress in herring recovery and provide a structure for evaluating and assessing decisions and actions as the recovery effort progresses.

Also, the Trustee Council's commitment to community involvement in the restoration process remains strong. Projects that involve local youth in ongoing restoration and monitoring activities and projects that proposed to enhance subsistence resources injured by the spill were recommended for continued funding. An Environmental Education/Committee Outreach Committee has been formed to develop an inclusive educational outreach plan that will help bring together the EVOSTC scientists and the effected communities in the Oil Spill Region. The Committee consists of EVOSTC Public Advisory Committee (PAC) members, community outreach specialists, teachers, and administrators.

The goal of the committee is to craft an educational outreach program that compliments the science curriculum of schools in the Oil Spill Region and allows students of all ages to participate in ongoing research being conducted by EVOSTC researchers or to engage in their own projects relevant the injured resources and services of the EVOS Restoration program. Allowing students to participate in the research projects will strengthen their sense stewardship, scientific and ecological knowledge of their communities and give them the opportunity to see first hand how their daily decisions make an impact on their environment.

The following final work plan contains proposal information and funding recommendations for proposal received in response to the Trustee Council's FY07 Invitation for Proposals.

Sincerely,



Michael Baffrey
Executive Director

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Acknowledgements

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Michael Baffrey, Executive Director

Overview of the FY07 Work Plan

The Final Work Plan comprises multi-year projects submitted in previous years which have received continuous funding by the Trustee Council and new proposals received in response to the FY07 Invitation for Proposals. This document contains the final funding decisions for proposals received for FY07 funding. The Work Plan contains basic information about an individual proposal and its complete record of funding recommendations during the review process.

The Trustee Council received 56 proposals for FY07, of which 31 were funded. Final funding recommendations and decisions for all proposals and descriptions of funded proposals are contained in this document.

Total funding approved for FY07 including continuing projects and new projects was **\$8,759,764**.

The Trustee Council has an open, competitive contracting process that is designed to allow proposals from any source to be considered for funding as an external project. The system works well for this purpose as demonstrated by the fairly even distribution of funding across the home institutions of the principal investigators of external projects.

