EVOS ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

All recipients of funds from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council must submit an annual project report in the following format by September 1 of each fiscal year for which project funding is received, with the exception of the final funding year in which a final report must be submitted. Satisfactory review of the annual report is necessary for continuation of multi-year projects. Failure to submit an annual report by September 1 of each year, or unsatisfactory review of an annual report, will result in withholding of additional project funds and may result in cancellation of the project or denial of funding for future projects.

PLEASE NOTE: Significant changes in a project's objectives, methods, schedule, or budget require submittal of a new proposal that will be subject to the standard process of proposal submittal, technical review, and Trustee Council approval.

Project Number: 030210

Project Title: Youth Area Watch

PI Name: Rich DeLorenzo

Time Period Covered by Report: September 1, 2002 to August 30, 2003

Date of Report: November 7, 2003

1. ***Work Performed:***

All sites were contacted regarding interest in YAW in September via email and telephone. Recruitment visits were made in early October to the following schools: Port Graham, Nanwalek, Cordova, Valdez, Seward, Tatitlek and Whittier. Seldovia and Chenega Bay declined involvement this year. Ninety applications were received; thirty-two students were selected to participate.

Student / teacher orientation was held November 18-20 at the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) in Seward. Phil Marshall, of UAF SALMON Project trained students in physical oceanography concepts and data collection techniques. Michael Lilly of GW Scientific offered training in the use of data loggers and gathering weather and meteorological information. ASLC Staff gave students a behind the scenes tour of lab facilities to show them how research is conducted at the center.

A road trip to Fairbanks in February provided students with a tour of the UAF marine science facility and labs, the supercomputer and a discussion session with scientists. Michael Lilly of GWScientific guided us on a Central Tanana Watershed field trip to view environmental monitoring programs, realize applications for various types of data, and exchange ideas between students from various Alaskan communities. Training was obtained in using data from weather stations erected in the Tanana Basin and PWS communities.

Phil Marshall offered a 3-day session in Seward for 8 YAW students examining drifter technology and oceanographic circulation, especially as relates to Resurrection Bay. They built, deployed and tracked drifters, recording their positions using GPS. They also conducted CTD casts and plankton net tows to demonstrate a variety of oceanographic research techniques. Back in the lab, students plotted, analyzed and interpreted data.

Two orca observation trips were conducted in mid May with Craig Matkin and Eva Saulitus. Several days of bad weather prevented students from Valdez, Tatitlek, Port Graham and Cordova from participating.

Throughout the school year students worked on various restoration projects:

- ✓ Valdez students resurrected an old aquarium at the school, turning it into a river ecosystem. - ongoing
- ✓ Seward students mapped and sampled substrate at a possible site for restoring Little Neck clams to the head of Resurrection Bay for a future personal use fishery. - ongoing
- ✓ Tatitlek students worked with PWSSC in seeking herring biomass using infrared equipment aboard a local fishing vessel. - complete
- ✓ Cordova students collected water quality data for the "FishWatch" study conducted by the Copper River Watershed Project. The goal of this project is to gather and organize information useful in maintaining healthy salmon habitat in the Copper River. – ongoing
- ✓ Port Graham students participated in a community-based project monitoring Badarkies (Katharina tunicate, a traditional shellfish resource), and its near shore ecosystem. Students chose this project because bidarkies are a popular and traditional food among the Alutiq people of Port Graham and residents have observed a decline of this resource around their villages and consequently have had to move farther afield to harvest large individuals. - ongoing
- ✓ Nanwalek did not participate.
- ✓ Whittier students conducted a food drive for local residents. - complete

Inquiries made to past partners, Pat Harris of the Pristane Mussel Project at NMFS Auke Bay Labs, and Vicki Vanek from the ADFG Harbor Seal Biosampling Training Program indicated funding was either not available or much reduced this year.

A weekend harbor seal biosampling training was conducted in Anchorage, with 2 spaces for students from Chenega &/or Port Graham. Both sites declined to participate due to short notice.

2. ***Future Work:***

As the State of Alaska moves toward adding science to the Benchmark and High School Qualifying Exams, we continue to align YAW activities to the Alaska State Standards as well as Chugach School District standards and assessments.

With the high cost of travel, the great distances between YAW school sites and the logistics involved in planning, it becomes apparent the need to establish stricter criteria to ensure student commitment to the program. This criterion continues to be refined.

New educational opportunities are continually being sought for the enhancement of student learning and betterment of the community.

3. ***Coordination/Collaboration:***

Interaction with the various scientists from UAF and the SALMON project, GWScientific, the Copper River Watershed Project, and independent marine biologist Paul McCullum provided quality experiences for our rural students. They have been able to maintain ongoing relationships with scientists in their research facilities and in the field (Resurrection Bay, Cook Inlet, PWS and Tanana Basin).

4. ***Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:***

Involvement in the restoration projects offers students the opportunity to work with their communities. Projects are strongly encouraged to seek community input and offer resource enhancement where applicable. Past projects offer a platform for the continued monitoring of local resources. We continue to work with the Tatitlek Corporation, Chenega Bay Corporation, and Chugachmuit Corporation.

5. ***Information Transfer***

Students from Tatitlek were invited to the Joint Scientific Symposium in Anchorage January 13-17, 2003. They presented their findings from a survey they conducted among local residents regarding pre- and post-oil spill observations.

We continue to gather and house meteorologic and oceanographic data from all sites.

6. ***Budget:***

Several line item transfers were made during the year to better meet the needs of achieving the stated objectives. In order to cover increased travel costs, we did not receive our indirect rate originally budgeted in the proposal.

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SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY TO phil_mundy@oilspill.state.ak.us. THE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE TRUSTEE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE AND SHOULD ALSO BE POSTED ON THE PI'S WEB SITE. The subject line of the e-mail transmitting the report must include the project number and the words "annual report" (e.g., "035620 Annual Report"). Electronic reports must be submitted either as an Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) file or word processing document (Microsoft Word 2000 for Windows or lower or WordPerfect 9.0 or lower) with any figures and tables imbedded. Acrobat PDF 4.0 or above file format must be used, preferably in 'formatted text with graphics' (called "PDF normal" under Acrobat PDF 4.0) format. Minimally, "PDF searchable image" (called "PDF original image with hidden text" under Acrobat PDF 4.0) may be used if pre-approved by the Trustee Council Office. In either case, the PDF file must not be secured or locked from future editing, or contain a digital signature from the principal investigator.