



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.4210
Fax: 907.465.2604

5/1/2023

Shiway Wang
Executive Director
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
4230 University Drive
Ste 220
Anchorage, AK 99508

Hello Shiway,

I am writing to notify the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOSTC) that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has decided to terminate the ADF&G component of EVOSTC project 22220203 (Assessment of Prince William Sound walleye pollock with investigation into walleye pollock-Pacific herring interactions). We are unable to move this project forward due to the *R/V Pandalus* being decommissioned. Funding for a replacement vessel has not been obtained. Other alternatives to conduct the bottom trawl surveys were pursued, including retrofitting the existing ADF&G vessel *R/V Solstice* and chartering a vessel, but both options were cost prohibitive.

ADF&G is working with EVOSTC staff to return the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 funds and reimburse the Council for funds expended for this project.

I understand that the USGS principal investigator who was involved with project 22220203 is proposing to continue the pollock ovivory work from this project to determine if the parasite *Ichthyophonus* is transferred to Pacific herring through the consumption of pollock eggs. Jennifer Morella (ADF&G) is proposing to amend EVOSTC project 23120111-F (Herring surveys and age, sex, and size collection and processing) to include funds for collecting pollock samples for this work in FY24 and FY25, and we are in support.

Thank you,

Sam Rabung

Sam Rabung
Director, Division of Commercial Fisheries