



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
Proposal Amendment Form

Dear Trustees

As we approach the end of the funding for the Gulf Watch Alaska program, the Program Management Team wants to close out in a logical and productive manner. After much thought and reviewing new program results, we determined that redirecting funds from LTRM-A is the only way to maintain all deliverables for funded projects and fulfill overall program objectives. No increase in funding is requested, reallocation would occur after NOAA receives funds, and NOAA will increase its in-kind contribution as needed to maintain program cohesiveness and ensure delivery of science synthesis products.

Attached is a proposal amendment requesting a budget reallocation of funds from Program Coordination and Science Synthesis (project 2222LTRM-A) to specific data collection and analyses within other projects that were compromised due to funding reductions in FY22-FY26, or loss of funding for FY27-FY31. Parts of one project that was fully funded (Monitoring Long-Term Changes of Forage Fish Populations) relied on data collected by parts of other projects that were not funded (Long-Term Monitoring of Marine Bird Abundance, Prince William Sound Aerial Juvenile Fish Surveys). Another project (Long-term killer whale monitoring) was funded for only two years, yet new results indicate the importance of this project running the full length of Gulf Watch Alaska, and allowing it to be included in our final synthesis of the effect of recent heatwaves on the recovery potential of EVOS injured resources.

This request is supported by the Gulf Watch Alaska Component Leads and Principal Investigators, the majority of the Gulf Watch Alaska Science Review Panel (Trustee agency members abstained), and we have requested a review of this proposal amendment by the EVOSTC Science Panel.



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Project Number: 2222LTRM-A

Project Title: Program Management A – Program Coordination and Science Synthesis

Principal Investigator(s):

Mandy Lindeberg, Rob Suryan, NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Katrina Hoffman, Donna Aderhold, Prince William Sound Science Center

Submission date: October 25, 2023

Please check all the boxes that apply to this request.

Changes to the original scope or objectives of the project.

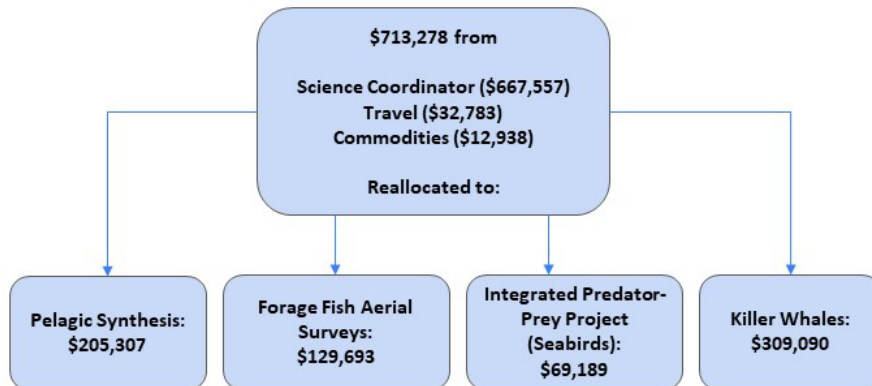
The scope of this project is to provide program leadership, scientific program oversight, produce required synthesis products and leverage funding from other partners and collaborators.

This request will not change the original objectives of this project.

Budget reallocation request.

We are requesting the reallocation of all Science Coordinator funds and partial travel and commodities from this project to specific data collection and analyses within other projects that were compromised due to funding reductions in FY22-FY26, or loss of funding for FY27-FY31.

Figure 1. Graphical depiction of the proposed reallocation of Science Coordinator funds.





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Justification:

Parts of one project that was fully funded (114-C Forage fish project) relied on data collected by parts of other projects that were not funded (114-E Marine bird project, 111-K Aerial juvenile fish surveys). Another project (114-N Killer whale monitoring) was funded for only two years, yet new results indicate the importance of this project running the full length of the Gulf Watch Alaska program and allowing it to be included in the final synthesis of the effect of recent heatwaves on the recovery potential of EVOS injured resources.

Details:

Table 1. 2222LTRM-A Program Coordination and Science Synthesis original authorized budget and proposed budget amendment in blue text. 9% GA is not included since reallocation occurs after funds are received by NOAA for distribution. No additional GA will be charged. The remaining funds in this project are sufficient for travel and commodities for the Science Lead and Program Lead. Science Lead in-kind will increase from 1 to 2.5 mo/year to ensure project deliverables are met.

<i>Budget Category</i>	<i>FY22</i>	<i>FY23</i>	<i>FY24</i>	<i>FY25</i>	<i>FY26</i>
Personnel (Science Coordinator)	\$126,331	\$130,369	\$133,606	\$136,925	\$140,326
<i>new amount</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$18,650	\$18,930	\$19,435	\$19,940	\$20,445
<i>new amount</i>	\$11,694	\$12,279	\$12,893	\$13,537	\$14,214
Contractual (no change)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>new amount</i>					
Commodities	\$18,000	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500
<i>new amount</i>	\$11,287	*\$37,675	\$4,684	\$3,395	\$2,021
Indirect (no change)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
(A) New 2222LTRM-A Total (no GA)	\$22,981	\$49,954	\$17,577	\$16,932	\$16,235
(B) Original Total	\$162,981	\$162,799	\$166,541	\$170,365	\$174,271
(C) Amount for reallocation (B – A)	\$140,000	\$112,845	\$148,964	\$153,433	\$158,036

*The total amount for Commodities is decreased (original total = \$72,000, new total = \$59,062). The increase in FY23 will be used for commodities including \$16,000 in page charges for a series of GWA magazine articles, page charges for manuscripts, and software updates.

Table 2. Project deliverables that were proposed for FY22-FY26 and proposed reallocation of 2222LTRM-A funds. These deliverables will be compromised if the reallocation proposed is not approved.

<i>Deliverable</i>
<i>(1) Science synthesis and modeling: data analyses and manuscripts (project 2222LTRM-A).</i>
(a) Funding for a postdoc to conduct the pelagic component synthesis was included in this project for FY27-31 which was not approved and left the pelagic component without personnel to help with synthesis.



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Reallocating funds to an existing GWA-LTRM PI, Dan Cushing, whose work can contribute to the program synthesis reports will achieve this deliverable. LTRM-A will establish a cooperative agreement with UAF to support Dan Cushing for 2 years. If not funded, the pelagic component will be the only component without a dedicated person for synthesis and will be limited in their contribution to synthesis reports and publications.

(b) A primary focus of the FY22-FY26 GWA-LTRM science synthesis is characterizing recovery of the oil spill region and EVOS injured resources, with killer whales suffering the greatest loss in recovery during the heatwaves, and therefore, a complete dataset covering all GWA-LTRM years are a critical part of the analysis. Newly available mark-recapture population analysis suggests 30% mortality of AB pod individuals during recent heatwaves. To unequivocally document heatwave effects on this pod and fully incorporate one of the longest EVOSTC time series into GWA-LTRM synthesis efforts, the GWA-LTRM Program Management Team believes this project is critical to maintain. Funds will be reallocated to project 114-N.

Proposed work and reallocation	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<i>Funds are for Dan Cushing (2 years) to work on pelagic synthesis products. Funds will be reallocated to UAF through NOAA. Reporting will occur within project LTRM-A.</i>	\$140,000	\$65,307	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funds to support the continuation of scaled-back work for 114-N Killer whale project FY24-FY26. Funds will be reallocated to NGOS. Reporting will occur within project 114-N.</i>	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$103,000	\$106,090

Deliverable

(2) *Assess whale and marine bird interactions with and consumption of herring and other prey in PWS (project 114-C).*

The fall/winter marine bird survey project (114-E) was not funded for FY22-FY26 which left a gap in funding for project personnel to conduct bird surveys during the fall whale and forage fish surveys, in addition to data analysis and reporting. Reallocation of funds would support experienced personnel to participate in these annual surveys to collect marine bird data, conduct analyses of these data and report results in collaboration with the forage fish project (114-C) and humpback whale project (114-O). Including marine bird survey data will provide an integrated dataset that facilitates analyses of predator prey relationships within the sampled regions.

Proposed work and reallocation	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<i>Funds are for support for personnel for seabird observations, data analyses, reporting integrated with forage fish and humpback whale projects. Funds will be reallocated to PWSSC. Reporting will occur within the existing forage fish project 114-C.</i>	\$0	\$16,538	\$17,034	\$17,545	\$18,072



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Deliverable					
<i>(3) Ground-truth PWS aerial survey observations of forage fish schools (project 114-C)</i>					
<p>This project deliverable relies on the aerial survey data to validate forage fish survey observations with vessel-based sampling (project 111-K) which was not funded for FY22-FY26. These surveys were previously funded by the Council (project 111-R in FY12-FY16) and with non-Council funds (FY17-FY21) and survey data are also used in the herring Bayesian age-structure-assessment model for estimating herring population. Reallocation of funds would be used to contract a plane and pilot to conduct the surveys which are necessary to provide a complimentary nearshore index for forage fish.</p>					
Proposed work and reallocation	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
<i>Funds are to contract pilot and plane to conduct nearshore surveys to ground-truth vessel-based sampling. Funds will be reallocated to PWSSC. Reporting will occur within the existing forage fish project 114-C.</i>	\$0	\$31,000	\$31,930	\$32,888	\$33,875
Total reallocated to these projects (should match Table 1 (C))	\$140,000	\$112,845	\$148,964	\$153,433	\$158,036

Personnel changes.

If this request is approved, a Science Coordinator will not be hired. Their work will be completed by increased in-kind participation by the Science Lead (R. Suryan) and reallocating a portion of the Science Coordinator funding to allow increased participation by a current part-time GWA LTRM investigator (D. Cushing). R. Suryan and D. Cushing will collaborate with the two currently funded GWA-LTRM postdocs (or equivalent) who are funded for 3 years and embedded within the Nearshore Component and Environmental Drivers Component.

Milestone/task changes.

Milestones and tasks will not change.

Internal use only:

Fiscal Year of Request:

Approved by ED? No Yes

Requires TC review? No Yes

Copy sent to fiscal managing agency(yes)? No Yes