

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: G-040639

Project Title: Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern Gulf of Alaska

PI Name(s): Kenneth J. Goldman and Ted Otis (ADF&G-CF, Homer)

Time Period Covered by Report: October 1 – September 1, 2005

Date of Report: September 19, 2005

1. **Work Performed:** Summarize work performed during the reporting period, including any results available to date and their relationship to the original project objectives. Describe and explain any deviation from the original project objectives, procedural or statistical methods, study area, or schedule. Also describe any known problems or unusual developments, and whether and how they have been or can be overcome. Include any other significant information pertinent to the project.

A total of twenty-seven 1.0-nautical mile tows were made in Kachemak Bay, Lower Cook Inlet during April 19-May 4, 2005 with a small-mesh bottom trawl. Catch data from the 2005 survey is currently being entered and preliminary analysis is forthcoming. In 2004, the small-mesh trawl catch was dominated by the following species (% of total catch): flathead sole, *Hippoglossoides elassodon* (21.1%); walleye Pollock, *Theragra chalcogramma* (14.6%); starry flounder *Platichthys stellatus* 9.8%; and pink shrimp, *Pandalus borealis* 6.0%. The mean bottom temperature was 3.4° C and ranged from 3.2° C to 3.8° C for all stations in depths that ranged from 22 to 87 fathoms.

The original PI for this project, William R. Bechtol, retired in January 2005. Kenneth J. Goldman was hired into the Area Shellfish/Groundfish Research Biologist position in July 2005 and is currently in the process of taking over responsibility for this project from Ted Otis (Area Finfish Research Biologist), who acted as the interim PI until Bill's position was refilled.

2. **Future Work:** Summarize work to be performed during the upcoming year, if changed from the original proposal. Describe any proposed changes in objectives, procedural or statistical methods, study area, or schedule.

No proposed changes.

3. **Coordination/Collaboration:** Describe efforts undertaken during the reporting period to achieve the coordination and collaboration provisions of the proposal, if applicable.

Scott Pegau (ADF&G-Kachemak Bay Research Reserve) recorded physical oceanographic data from a CTD during the 2005 survey to complement the biological data collected using the trawl. Project results, when finalized into a survey report, will be distributed to other agencies and NGOs.

4. **Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:** Describe efforts undertaken during the reporting period to achieve the community involvement/TEK and resource management application provisions of the proposal, if applicable.

The spring timing and “day-trip” nature of this survey enabled approximately 30 Homer High School students to participate under the direction of Advanced Science Instructor Stan Eller. The students helped sort, identify, and sample specimens collected by the trawl. This survey provided an excellent platform for teaching community members about the marine ecology of Kachemak Bay. Project results, when finalized into a survey report, will be distributed to other agencies and NGOs.

5. **Information Transfer:** List (a) publications produced during the reporting period, (b) conference and workshop presentations and attendance during the reporting period, and (c) data and/or information products developed during the reporting period.

Richard Gustafson and Ted Otis attended the 2005 EVOS Workshop; Gustafson presented a poster.

Bechtol, W.R., and R.L. Gustafson. 2005. Small mesh trawl surveys in Kachemak Bay, Alaska. Poster Presentation at the 2005 Marine Sciences Symposium, 24-26 January 2005, Anchorage, Alaska.

Gustafson, R.L., and W.R. Bechtol. *In review*. Kachemak Bay small-mesh trawl survey, 2004. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Anchorage.

6. **Budget:** Explain any differences and/or problems between actual and budgeted expenditures, including any substantial changes in the allocation of funds among line items on the budget form. Also provide any new information regarding matching funds or funds from non-EVOS sources for the project.

No problems and no changes between actual and budgeted expenditures to report.

Report Prepared By: Ted Otis

Project Web Site Address: http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region2/pubs/evos/2005_04639.pdf