

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
Restoration Project Final Report

Community Involvement Project

Restoration Project 00052
Annual Report

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Habitat and Restoration Division
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Study History: This project effort was initiated under Restoration Project 95052. This is the fifth year of this project.

Abstract: Workshops were held to further develop the technical capacity of communities in the Chugach Region and spill area to better understand the scientific issues and the basis of many of the studies conducted in their areas. This increased capacity is a key component in their efforts to ensure the sustainability of subsistence resources. Community Facilitators were hired to facilitate the communication between the communities, Trustee Council, and Principal Investigators. A workshop was occurred wherein village corporations and Tribes discussed cooperative management options for village and corporation lands. Additionally, the corporations and Tribes in Prince William Sound have worked extensively with the Forest Service to ensure involvement in the Chugach National Forest Management Plan Revision. Cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources have been actively discussed and strategies for further developing a formal relationship are underway. Another important activity was that pilot community members, as well as Chenega Bay, Qutekcak, and Stevens Village Council, traveled to Wisconsin to observe the Tribal natural resource research and monitoring program conducted by the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Tribal members observed many important programs that would be useful in the development of their own Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs.

Key Words: Alaska Peninsula, Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC), Community facilitators, community involvement, Community Involvement Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak Island, lower Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, TEK Specialist, traditional ecological knowledge, traditional knowledge.

Project Data: (will be addressed in the final report)

Citation:

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Executive Summary

This years project was a very important transition into the development of the draft Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans as well as the beginnings of linkages and mechanisms to integrate more directly with the EVOS TC final restoration and new GEM project and program efforts. The Community Facilitators, Community Involvement Coordinator, TEK Specialist, Natural Resource Specialists, other CRRC staff, and Tribal Council representatives, attended the Tribal Natural Resource Management Resource Management Workshop and Field Trip held in Lac du Flambeau du Flambeau, Wisconsin. This trip proved to be quite beneficial to all involved.

The EVOS Annual Restoration Workshop was well attended and provided an important forum for a wide range of overall discussions from scientists, agency officials, Tribal and community representatives. Discussions specific to community and Tribal involvement in research and monitoring were conducted, especially in relation to future GEM program work.

CRRC staff and some Community Facilitators attended the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference near Reno Nevada which was very informative. CRRC's executive director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, gave a presentation on the Chugach Region Tribal Natural Resource Management program and plan development that was very well received.

CRRC, with the assistance of many of the Community Facilitators planned and hosted the Annual Gathering that was held on March 24, 2000. The Gathering focused on the oil spill and how it has and continues to affect the subsistence way of life among Alaska Native communities located in the spill areas.

The TEK portion of the FY 00 Community Involvement project was involved in several activities including the use of TEK in monitoring programs. The Community Involvement Coordinator traveled to the spill area communities and held meetings in Anchorage to inform them about the GEM Plan/Program progress. The Community Involvement Coordinator attended all the Trustee Council meetings in order to inform the Community Facilitators on the council activities as well as to update the council on community involvement issues and progress. The Community Facilitators, Community Involvement Coordinator and TEK Specialist all attended the EVOS Annual Workshop to ensure community involvement and TEK were integrated into discussions regarding the future of the EVOS restoration and GEM programs. During the Community Integration Plan Meeting that was held during the EVOS Annual Workshop, Community Facilitators, CRRC and EVOS Trustee Council senior staff and scientist reviewed issues and discussed various ways of improving the community involvement program and process with special attention placed on ways to increase and optimize community and Tribal involvement in research and monitoring.

FY 00 was the first year of the Natural Resource Management Program under the EVOS Restoration Program. The primary focus was on discussing issues and options for the best approach to use for TNRM in the spill impacted areas as well as how to integrate them with the new EVOS GEM program. CRRC organized and facilitated meetings in each of the pilot communities to educate the community members on the TNRM Plans/Programs, to explain why the plans are needed, the benefits of having a Tribal Natural Resource Management Plan, etc.

Introduction: The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill caused severe disruption to the lives of many people living in the spill impact area. The spill also caused residents of the area to be concerned about the safety of their wild food sources and the integrity of the surrounding natural environment. While scientific studies aimed at restoring the resources and services damaged by the oil spill occurred throughout the spill area, most of the researchers worked for agencies or institutions based outside the spill area itself. Residents of the spill area felt that they were not adequately involved in the restoration process, either through regular communication with the researchers and the Trustee Council, or through participation in restoration activities, including the use of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of the region. This project was intended to involve Native communities through a network of Community Facilitators throughout the region and a Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator in the Anchorage Trustee Council office. This project began in 1995 after spill area communities, primarily Alaska Native villages, wanted to become more involved in the restoration process. The need for this project stemmed from concern by residents of spill-affected communities that their involvement was not adequately taken into consideration and that the information collected by scientists throughout the spill area was not reaching the communities. The project was specifically designed to address these and other related issues.

The cultural ties to subsistence, not only as the dependence on injured resources from the oil spill, but as the building blocks to the Alutiiq culture, motivated spill area residents to become involved in the activities that will assist in the recovery of subsistence resources. It was designed to provide information to communities regarding data and scientific research performed by the Trustee Council science program, facilitate a direct line of communication between spill area residents and the Trustee Council and its staff, and promote the inclusion of community-based projects, as well as community involvement in science projects throughout the life of the restoration effort.

Objectives: To increase the meaningful involvement of spill area communities in the restoration efforts of the Trustee Council, to improve the communication of findings and results of restoration efforts to spill area village councils and inhabitants and the appropriate regional organizations. To develop a means by which western science and traditional wisdom can be compiled and utilized in a cooperative manner with the intent of furthering the restoration process in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the affected communities. And to work with the formation of local natural resource management programs that will focus on the stewardship and management of injured resources and lands.

Methods: The Chugach Regional Resources Commission, through a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, coordinated this project. CRRC contracted with the Tribal Councils in ten communities within the spill area including to provide a Community Facilitator to work on the project. These included: Tatitlek, Cordova, Chenega Bay, Valdez, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Ouzinkie, Chignik Land, and Seward. CRRC also hired Sarah Ward in July 2000, to serve as the Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator for the project to replace Hugh Short, who left in May, 2000.

Community Facilitators were responsible for providing a quarterly report to the Community Involvement Coordinator identifying community issues or concerns, ideas for restoration

projects, or any other news regarding the restoration effort. They also assisted the Community Involvement Coordinator with increasing community involvement in the restoration effort through encouraging local hire and other outreach efforts. The Community Facilitators worked with the community Involvement Coordinator to coordinate community meetings as well as community visits by Principal Investigators and disseminated monthly updates to community members and organizations, including the local government. They also were to work with their Tribal Councils Tribal Natural Resource Management Program to coordinate all activities that have a direct impact on the local community resources and any research projects that complemented the Tribes traditional knowledge of the traditional use areas. The Community Facilitators also attended the EVOS Restoration Workshop, CRRC Annual Gathering, and other associated meetings. Furthermore, the Community Facilitators were to conduct interviews with local traditional wisdom holders and assist in identifying injured species on which TEK should be collected. Finally, the Pilot Project Community Facilitators and Tribal Natural Resource Specialists participated in a Tribal Natural Resource Educational Exchange program consisting of a workshop and a field trip to the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in northern Wisconsin. This trip occurred September 27 – October 3, 1999. The Pilot Project Community Facilitators also attended a meeting held prior to the EVOS Workshop which discussed the GEM Community Integration Plan, community interests in monitoring, research, community-based projects, and various ways that communities and the Trustee Council could develop a system by which meaningful participation in the GEM Program could occur.

The Community Involvement Coordinator was responsible for the following tasks: To increase involvement of community members and local tribal traditional natural resource programs in restoration projects, to serve as a contact point for the Community Facilitators and Natural Resource Specialists, through a monthly report, update each communities local resources list, coordinate the participation of the Community Facilitators in the Restoration Workshop, the Lac De Flambeau trip, and NRM meeting, review all restoration project proposals for TEK and community involvement. The Community Involvement Coordinator was also to attend the Restoration Workforce meetings, all the Trustee Council meetings, and Public Advisory Group meetings. Assist in organizing Trustee Council community meetings, distribute results of studies to the communities, and work with the Community Facilitators to develop a method for integrating community involvement into the draft GEM Plan.

The specific tasks of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Specialist were to: (a) assist in the preparation of the two NRM workshops and to provide technical assistance to the pilot project communities regarding the development and integration into the GEM through a draft GEM Community Integration Plan, and (b) be available as a resource to other EVOS PIs who were interested in advice on the inclusion of TEK in their projects.

Results: The community involvement staff assisted spill area communities with the submission of several project proposals for the Trustee Council FY 01 Workplan. The subsistence cluster was set for approximately \$724.6 thousand.

Project Number	Project Title	Approved Funding for FY 01
01052	Community Involvement	\$201.9
01131	Clam Restoration	10.5
01210	PWS/Cook Inlet Youth Area Watch	107.0
01245	Harbor Seal Biosampling	40.0
01247	Kametolook River	22.7
01256B	Solf Lake Stocking	24.4
01273	Surf Scoter Life History	50.1
01401	Spot Shrimp	94.4
01481	Intertidal Documentary	111.8
01610	Kodiak Youth Area Watch	61.8
Total		\$724.6

In addition to the above Trustee Council funded projects, the following CRRC projects were funded by other organizations.

Funding Source	Project Title	FY 01 Award Amount
ANA	Shellfish Restoration Project	\$57.5
BIA	Tribal Natural Resource Program Development	55.0
BIA	Project Development for Mariculture Restoration	60.0
BIA	Water Resources Grant	25.0
EPA	Wetlands/Watershed Protection Workshops	20.0
ANA	Nanwalek Sockeye Return Project	115.0
USF&WS	Migratory Bird Harvest Assessment	25.0
Total		\$357.5

During FY 00 the Community Facilitators, Community Involvement Coordinator, TEK Specialist, Natural Resource Specialists, other CRRC staff, and Tribal Council representatives, attended the Tribal Natural Resource Management Workshop and Field Trip held in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. The trip occurred from September 27 to October 3, 1999. The NRM trip proved to be quite beneficial to all involved. During the field trip the participants were able to do the following:

1. Meet with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission staff and tour their facilities. We discussed the history of the Commission and the Voigt decision, co-management and off-reservation management projects, funding considerations, and public information.
2. Tour the George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Cultural Center and Museum and meet with the staff to discuss the archive, archaeological repositories, museum management and operational costs.

3. Attend the Tribal Natural Resource Management Workshop to examine a case study of the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resource Program. We discussed the land and resources of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation, their Tribal NRM Program, Fish Culture, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management Programs along with their conservation law enforcement and Tribal Courts system.
4. Attended the Tribal Natural Resource Management Work Session and Discussion to explore how the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and Lac du Flambeau's programs apply to the developing programs in Alaska. We also discussed land ownership and how it affects Tribal natural resource management; community involvement and the GEM program; possible funding sources; and identification of our goals for the Tribal Natural Resource Management Programs.
5. Finally, we discussed the week's activities and developed an action plan for the individual communities to accomplish the goals they developed over the week.

On June 20, 2000 delegates from the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians traveled to Alaska to attend an Inter-Tribal Government-to-Government Meeting on Natural Resources. This was per the Alaska Native/Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Education Exchange Project for Traditional Natural Resource Management. During the delegation's stay in Alaska they had the opportunity to travel to Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Eyak (Cordova), Qutekcak (Seward) and Stevens Village to meet Tribal leaders, program personnel, and tour Tribal facilities and lands. The Tribal Council representatives also met to discuss opportunities for cooperative projects such as economic development, joint legislation for recognition of Indian Tribes in Alaska, and Trust Lands in Alaska. The Lac du Flambeau delegates also had the opportunity to tour the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

The EVOS Annual Restoration Workshop was well attended and provided an important forum for a wide range of overall discussions from scientists, agency officials, Tribal and community representatives. Many ideas were shared and discussed and it was a very good forum for allowing Tribal and community representatives to hear about the status and progress of many of the studies going on, and in turn, was a good interchange of concerns and ideas from the Tribal and community representatives perspectives so that the scientists themselves could hear the issues and concerns first hand. Community involvement was discussed at many levels, especially in areas concerning Tribal/citizen monitoring and associated involvement in research.

CRRC staff and some Community Facilitators attended the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference near Lincoln City, Oregon. The agenda included many technical workshops that were very helpful for the beginning Alaska programs. Many presentations were made on other Tribal natural resource management programs and associated research projects and activities.

The Community Facilitators, Community Involvement Coordinator, TEK Specialist and other CRRC staff planned and coordinated the CRRC Annual Gathering that was held on March 24, 2000. The Gathering focused on the oil spill and how it has and continues to affect the subsistence way of life among Alaska Native communities located in the spill areas. There were panel discussions during the Gathering to address important issues. The following were the panels presented at the Gathering: Traditional Natural Resource Management Techniques, by

Steve Langdon, UAA; Elders Panel on Traditional Natural Resource Management, by Don Kompkoff, Sr. (moderator), John Totemoff, and Nick Pestrikoff; The Importance of Subsistence Management, Stewardship, by Patty Brown-Schwalenberg (moderator), Dewey Schwalenberg, Edgar Otis, Kenneth Anderson; State-Tribal Recognition Talks, by Gary Kompkoff (moderator), Dalee Sambo-Dorough, Will Mayo, Paul Panamarioff; Federal Assumption of Subsistence Management, by Tom Boyd (moderator), Ralph Lohse, Kenneth Vlasoff, Tony Urvina; Native youth Panel, by various regional youth discussing what subsistence and natural resources mean to their generation. CRRC had organized a traditional potluck, purchasing subsistence foods from various communities and businesses. The meal was a success, overall there were approximately 300 people served during the potluck.

During FY 00, the TEK portion of the Community Involvement project was involved in several activities. In community monitoring and the use of TEK in monitoring programs, TEK specialist Dr. Henry Huntington traveled with a CRRC delegation to Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, to learn about their Tribal efforts in fish and game management. Dr. Huntington also worked with project staff to review GEM's approach to community involvement, including traveling to Port Graham for a community presentation on GEM; helping organize a CRRC workshop on monitoring immediately following the EVOS Restoration Workshop in January 2000; working with Dr. Ted Cooney to prepare a paper on community monitoring (completed as a separate project) expanding on ideas he presented at the CRRC monitoring workshop; participating in the GEM focus group workshop in Anchorage in July 2000; and working with project staff and communities to develop proposal ideas for community involvement in monitoring, including the use of TEK. In project support, Dr. Huntington worked with Shannon Atkinson of the Alaska SeaLife Center on her proposal regarding harbor seals. Dr. Huntington also continued to work with Jody Seitz and Evelyn Brown on their project on TEK of herring and forage fishes, assisting in the preparation of a manuscript submitted to Alaska Fisheries Review and subsequent responses to reviewers' comments.

Discussion: The Community Involvement Coordinator and Community Facilitators continued to facilitate community involvement and the dissemination of data and research results to communities. Many of the EVOS TC projects from this year were launched with a much higher level of understanding and support from the communities. There has been a marked increase in the interest level by the communities in becoming more involved in the GEM Program and learning what its all about. Participation in the Restoration Workshops over the past few years has been a major attributing factor.

The Community Involvement Coordinator traveled to the spill area communities and held meetings in Anchorage to inform them about the GEM Plan/Program progress. The Community Involvement Coordinator attended all the Trustee Council meetings in order to inform the Community Facilitators on the council activities as well as to update the council on community involvement issues and progress. A few times during the year the Community Facilitators attended the Trustee Council meetings. The Community Facilitators, Community Involvement Coordinator and TEK Specialist all attended the EVOS Annual Workshop to ensure community involvement and TEK were integrated into discussions regarding the future of the EVOS restoration and GEM programs. During the Community Integration Plan Meeting that was held during the EVOS Annual Workshop, Community Facilitators, CRRC and EVOS Trustee Council

senior staff and scientist reviewed issues and discussed various ways of improving the community involvement program and process with special attention placed on ways to increase and optimize community and Tribal involvement in research and monitoring. Presentations were made by CRRC personnel and consultants presenting a briefing on the Tribal Natural Resource Management planning process, a report on integrating the Tribal Natural Resource Management Planning process, community involvement and GEM and a paper on community involvement and GEM.

FY 00 was the first year of the Natural Resource Management Program under the EVOS Restoration Program. The primary focus was on discussing issues and options for the best approach to use for TNRM in the spill impacted areas as well as how to integrate them with the new EVOS GEM program. This year's TNRM work was focused on the planning stages and draft plans were developed, Tribal use areas were defined and discussed, and priority issues were also considered and discussed. CRRC has worked with the pilot communities in the development of lists of priority injured species of interest to each community for population and monitoring programs. These lists have been assembled and are being included in the draft Tribal Natural Resource Management Plans for each of the five pilot communities.

Discussions were held between village councils/local Tribal governments and the private and corporate land owners surrounding the villages and bordering traditional resource use areas to talk with adjacent landowners about long-term stewardship of lands of village and traditional use. Various potential cooperative agreements and joint resolution and ordinances were discussed and reviewed.

Conclusions: This year's project was very successful in attaining a much higher level of community involvement into the EVOS Trustee Council Restoration process. The Community Facilitators played a key role in the development of important new linkages with the EVOSTC Restoration program. This, in turn, helped to more clearly define community interests and concerns regarding both past and ongoing studies, as well as future study interests.

This project also helped to facilitate the initial development of the Tribal Natural Resource Management Planning process that is still underway. The new TNRM process will enable a much more sophisticated integration of the community interests and the GEM program.

APPENDIX A.

List of EVOS Projects that Incorporate TEK

- 95279: Subsistence Restoration Project: Resource Abnormalities Study (Miraglia)
- 97009: Survey of Octopuses in the Intertidal in Prince William Sound, Alaska (Scheel)
- 97427: Status of Harlequin Ducks in Prince William Sound, Alaska after the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, 1995-1997 (Rosenberg)
- 98274 Documentary film on the subsistence use of herring and herring spawn and resources in the nearshore ecosystem in PWS (Kompkoff/Simenone)
- 99210: Youth Area Watch (Childress)
- 99245: Community-based harbor seal management and biological sampling (Vanek/Riedel)
- 99247: Kametlook River Coho Salmon Subsistence Project (Scarborough/McCullough)
- 99273: Scoter & Goldeneye Life History & Ecology: Linking Satellite Technology with TEK (Rosenberg)
- 99320T Supplement: Ecology of herring and other forage fish as recorded by resource users of Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet (Seitz)
- 00610 Kodiak Youth Area Watch (Brown-Schwalenberg)
- 01481 Documentary film on the oil spill impacts on subsistence use of intertidal resources (Kompkoff/Simeone)

APPENDIX B.

Trip Reports

Trip Report 1

To: Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
From: Henry P. Huntington, TEK Specialist
Date: January 21, 1999
Subject: Trip Report: Nanwalek and Seldovia, January 18-20, 1999

On January 18, 1999, I flew to Nanwalek with Dan Rosenberg of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Hugh Short, Community Involvement Coordinator for CRRC. On January 19, we flew to Seldovia. Hugh came back to Anchorage that day, while Dan and I returned on the 20th. The purpose of the trip was to hold Information Workshops in each community to discuss Dan's research on scoters ("black ducks"), including the results of his work last year and his plans for this spring. These were the first information workshops for the TEK Project in FY99.

Upon arrival in Nanwalek, we met with Nancy Yeaton, the Community Facilitator. The community was finishing their Christmas and New Year's celebrations, with church services during the day. Nancy had arranged for several of the hunters in Nanwalek to meet with us. We talked with six persons in some detail, and with a few more in passing. We also met with Vincent Kvasnikoff Sr., the Chief of the village. In all, it was an informative visit. Dan gathered some of the local observations of scoters and changes that have been occurring in the area's marine environment. He also shared his findings from implanting satellite tags in scoters in Prince William Sound last summer, which were of great interest to the hunters. Dan plans to implant more satellite transmitters this spring, both in Prince William Sound and in the Kachemak Bay area. We discussed with the hunters where and how scoters could best be caught in Kachemak Bay, and this was helpful information for Dan as he plans his spring field work. Overall, it was a successful visit.

In Seldovia the next day, Lillian Elvsaa, the Community Facilitator, arranged an afternoon meeting with several of the local hunters. We met at the Seldovia Native Association building. Six hunters took part, and we had a lengthy discussion about sea ducks, the marine environment, and other matters similar to those we discussed in Nanwalek. The atmosphere of the meeting was very good. The hunters were very interested in the results of last year's tagging and in Dan's plans for this spring. They were helpful in suggesting places to work and ways to catch the scoters. As in Nanwalek, it was a successful visit and a good start to Dan's work in the region. His ability to communicate information to village residents and to listen to them in return is a solid foundation for future cooperative work and information sharing.

cc: Dan Rosenberg
Hugh Short
Nancy Yeaton
Lillian Elvsaa

Trip Report 2

To: Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
From: Henry P. Huntington, TEK Specialist
Date: February 12, 1999
Subject: Trip Report: Tatitlek, February 9-10, 1999

On February 9, 1999, I traveled to Tatitlek to assist Jody Seitz in the community review of her study on traditional ecological knowledge of herring. Jody made a presentation to the Tatitlek Tribal Council and to high school students at the school. She described her study, the reasons for doing it, the process and method she used, and the results and their significance. There was general interest in the project, and in the fact that her results documented for the first time areas of herring spawn in western Prince William Sound. Jody is in the process of analyzing her data and drawing more detailed conclusions regarding spawning locations and the ecology of juvenile herring in Prince William Sound and the outer Kenai Peninsula. She will present her findings at the EVOS Symposium in March.

The course of Jody's research and her results suggest a number of things to me. First, although there has been much talk about the significance of TEK, we still need examples like this to show exactly what we are talking about and why it matters. We need to show this both to scientists who might collaborate with local experts and to area residents who may not be aware of how much they know and how valuable it is. Jody's experience adds to the work of Dave Scheel on octopus, but we obviously need more examples of how TEK can be used for the benefit of researchers and community residents. Jody's project is a big step in the right direction, but we need to follow it up.

Second, documentation projects such as this are a first step towards collaboration and productive interaction between researchers and community members. With some understanding of what each group knows and what they are interested in, both can benefit from continuing their discussion about observations of the environment and what those observations tell us. Furthermore, this can lead the way to longer-term monitoring efforts that make use of the expertise of people who spend a great deal of time on the waters and lands of the region.

Third, documentation can serve local needs by providing a record of their observations, expertise, and understanding. When it comes to making local rules about natural resources or advocating certain regulations with state or federal agencies, such records can help substantiate the points made in oral testimony. By focusing community thoughts on a particular topic, the process of documentation can also help a community determine what its needs are and they can best be achieved.

These points are not new ones, but I think they are pertinent especially in light of our plans for next week's workshop for community facilitators and natural resource specialists. Documentation projects are not the only option available to us, but they are a useful tool for community-based stewardship when directed appropriately and when the

community is fully involved. The question is how to go about putting these ideas into practice.

After Jody's presentations, we spent time visiting several people in the village. I returned to Anchorage on February 10.

cc: Jody Seitz
Gary Kompkoff
Hugh Short
Rita Miraglia

Trip Report 3

To: Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
From: Henry P. Huntington, TEK Specialist
Date: August 4, 1999
Subject: Trip Report: Cordova and Tatitlek, August 2-3, 1999

On August 2, I traveled to Cordova with Hugh Short and on to Tatitlek with Hugh and Evelyn Brown to hold an Information Workshop on herring. Evelyn is a PI in the Sound Ecosystem Assessment (SEA) project, and has done extensive aerial surveys of herring and other forage fishes in Prince William Sound. Evelyn has also helped Jody Seitz on Jody's project on traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of herring.

It was a beautiful day in Tatitlek, so many people were outside enjoying the weather. Three people attended the workshop: Gary Kompkoff, Roy Totemoff, and Jerry Totemoff. Hugh gave a brief introduction to the workshop. Evelyn gave a presentation on her work, including aerial and underwater photographs and video that were stunning. She and the workshop participants talked about some of the changes in the Sound, including the decline in herring and possible causes such as zooplankton declines. The role of disease—in this case, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)—was also a concern, but unfortunately the results of the disease work and of the SEA work cannot be easily combined because the studies looked at different areas.

Later in the workshop, we also discussed the potential for community monitoring activities. Gary was particularly interested in monitoring and research on herring and plankton, since both are so crucial for the rest of the species in the Sound that are of interest to the communities. Evelyn had a number of ideas for community monitoring, such as zooplankton monitoring from the ferry dock or herring trawls in the area from a boat. From the workshop and from later discussions with Evelyn, it seems to me that there are a number of interesting and important monitoring programs that could be done in one or more villages that would add significantly to the science being done in the region. To set up and run such monitoring programs, however, will take time and effort, which in turn require money. Specifically, we need to be sure that we can provide adequate training for community monitors, that we can provide solid scientific guidance to the overall monitoring effort, that we can get and keep good monitors, and that we can hold review sessions on a regular basis.

Training: For community members to get involved in monitoring, they will need training in the tasks they are to undertake. For example, zooplankton trawls from the ferry dock will require the right kind of nets, training in the way the samples are taken, and training in identifying and counting what is caught. Some samples may also be saved for analysis in a lab somewhere else, and the techniques of preserving and documenting such samples must be taught. Gary suggested that some of these tasks could be carried out through the high school. Evelyn suggested that an annual training session could be held, if there was money to bring in the trainer.

Scientific guidance: As we have discussed before, community monitoring programs should not be set up separately from other research and monitoring in the region. There is no point in running a community program that produces data of little interest to anyone. Instead, the program should be set up to address topics of interest and importance to the community in a way that contributes directly to other research and monitoring. Likewise, the other research and monitoring efforts should be set up to address community interests and involvement as much as possible. One way of making that link stronger is to have a small group of researchers who can help set up local monitoring efforts, provide training, and work with the community monitors on a regular basis. Evelyn noted that data sets collected consistently over time, even in only one or two places, can be extremely valuable. There is a great deal of potential, but we need to design the program intelligently to get the most out of it, both for the communities and for the researchers.

Monitors: A community-based monitoring program depends on having people in the community to carry out the tasks reliably. One way to help do this is to pay them appropriately. The person or persons can be hired for the job, or can do these tasks as part of their other duties if they are already employed. Working with the school, as Gary suggested, is an excellent idea, so long as teacher turnover doesn't hinder the continuity of the project. Annual training and the continued involvement of some of the researchers would also help with continuity from year to year.

Reviews: Another key element in sustaining a community-based program is the interaction that stimulates the participants. If the community monitors are sending data forms off each week and get nothing in return, they are likely to lose interest. The communities have more to offer than that, and the researchers have more to gain if there is an opportunity for interactions on a regular basis. Some ideas are a monitoring workshop each year or two, community visits by some of the researchers, or visits by community monitors to some of the other research facilities. These are not cheap events, but I think they or similar events are essential for a long-term program to succeed. By giving the community monitors and the researchers a chance to meet, get to know each other, and work together over time, we can establish a strong, locally based and run monitoring program that will reflect community interests while contributing to the overall effort to better understand and manage the region and its resources.

After the workshop in Tatitlek, we returned to Cordova. Hugh flew back to Anchorage that evening, and I stayed overnight. In the morning, I worked with Jody and Evelyn on the manuscript from Jody's project. We had met briefly on the previous morning before going to Tatitlek, and carried on our discussions the second morning. Jody is planning to submit the paper to Alaska Fisheries Bulletin, and it will be a great addition to the published literature. Evelyn has done a great deal of work on the manuscript as well, and I have reviewed it and helped with some sections. The difficulty in writing up the results of a traditional ecological knowledge project is that it is a hybrid of social science methods and natural science results. Consequently, a lot more needs to be explained than in a paper that was within one academic discipline. Having Evelyn provide the perspective of a natural scientist and Jody provide the social sciences details makes for a much stronger paper than if only one person were to try to write it. I've been able to help,

having been through the process before with my papers on TEK of beluga whales. Jody and Evelyn were planning to spend some more time working on the paper together. They'll send me a copy to review soon, and we should be able to submit it before long, which will be a good feeling! There are likely to be some more revisions to make after we get review comments from the journal, and we will address those when the time comes.

I returned to Anchorage in the afternoon of August 3.

cc: Evelyn Brown
Jody Seitz
Gary Kompkoff
Hugh Short

Trip Report 4

To: Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
From: Henry P. Huntington, TEK Specialist
Date: August 12, 1999
Subject: Trip Report: Chignik Lake (attempted), August 11, 1999

I was already thinking I wanted to be somewhere else when my head hit the roof of the plane. After that jolt and amid continuing violent turbulence, we turned back from Chignik Lake, which was in sight about four miles ahead, and landed at Port Heiden. No one complained, and no one wanted to try again. So we returned to King Salmon and caught the evening flight back to Anchorage.

We had been trying to go to Chignik Lake to hold an information workshop on harbor seals. Bob Small and Vicki Vanek of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game accompanied Hugh Short and me. Bob and Vicki were to talk about their work with harbor seal research and biosampling, and to see what community members were interested in learning more about. Hugh and I were to facilitate the workshop and try to learn what community members might be interested in regarding long-term monitoring opportunities.

I spoke this morning with Virginia Aleck, the Community Facilitator in Chignik Lake and for the Peninsula communities. She suggested that we try to reschedule for the fall sometime, perhaps when the students are in school. Hugh and I can discuss that with Bob and Vicki and with Monica Riedel of the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission. For the moment, all of us are happy to be safely on the ground again.

cc: Hugh Short

