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: 00273

Project Title: Scoter life history and ecology: Linking Satellite technology with traditional knowledge to conserve the resource.

PI Name: Dan Rosenberg

Time Period Covered by Report: October 1999 to April 15, 2001

Date of Report: September 15, 2003

1. **Work Performed:**

We captured and banded 93 white-winged scoters and 20 surf scoters in Orca Inlet, PWS from 11–16 April 2000 using floating mist nets. Of these, 18 surf scoters (14 male and 4 females) and 43 White-winged scoters (22 males and 21 females) were transported by small fixed-wing aircraft to the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) in Seward for telemetry studies. Satellite transmitters (PTT) were surgically implanted in 18 white-winged scoters (9 males, 9 females) and 8 surf scoters (4 male, 4 female). An equal number of birds of both species were fitted with backpack anchor and suture VHF transmitters. The remainder, control birds, did not receive any treatment. Birds were held in captivity at the ASLC for 5–9 days prior to surgery to acclimate and for 12–21 days post-surgery to recuperate. Eight male surf scoters died in captivity (5 VHF, 3 PTT) and 3 male (2 VHF, 1 PTT) and 2 female (1 VHF, 1 PTT) white-winged scoters died in captivity. No control birds died. We released all of the PTT birds, except one on 2 May in Orca Inlet. The one exception, a white-winged scoter male, was released on 22 May. Among the PTT birds one surf scoter male and one white-winged scoter male died within 24 hours of release. The remaining 15 white-winged scoters survived. Two female surf scoters died within one month of release and two females survived. All VHF birds that were relocated following release were alive through 15 May. Locations of all PTT birds were mapped using ArcView GIS. Composite maps of breeding, wintering, and molting locations for all birds marked in 1998-2000 are presented in Figures 1-3 (PDF file attached).

2. **Future Work:** Schedule of Final Report preparation has been delayed.

3. **Coordination/Collaboration:** Not applicable.

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

The TEK report was prepared as part of the 98273 annual report. Copies were submitted to all villages involved. Presentations were made in Chenega and Tatitlek.

5. **Information Transfer:**

a) Publications

Huntington, H.P., P.K. Brown-Schwalenberg, K.J. Frost, M. E. Fernandez-Gimenez, D. W. Norton and D.H. Rosenberg. 2002. Observations on the Workshop as a Means of Improving Communication Between Holders of Traditional and Scientific Knowledge. Environmental Management 30(6) 778-792.

Huntington, H.P., R.S. Suydam, and D.H. Rosenberg. In Review. Traditional ecological knowledge, satellites, and migratory species: complementary approaches to ecological understanding and conservation. Environmental Conservation.

b) Conference and workshop presentations

International Symposium on Biotelemetry, Juneau AK
North American Seaduck Conference and Workshop, Victoria, BC
Microwave Telemetry Implantable Satellite Telemetry Conference, Columbia, MD
North American Duck Symposium, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council Annual Workshop, Anchorage, AK
Wetlands International Seaduck Specialists Group, Denmark

c) Data and/or information products

ArcView GIS database of all location information.
Web page with maps illustrating seasonal movements of individual birds

6. **Budget:** No Changes

Report Prepared By: Dan Rosenberg
Project Web Site Address: http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/duck/scoter/surf.htm

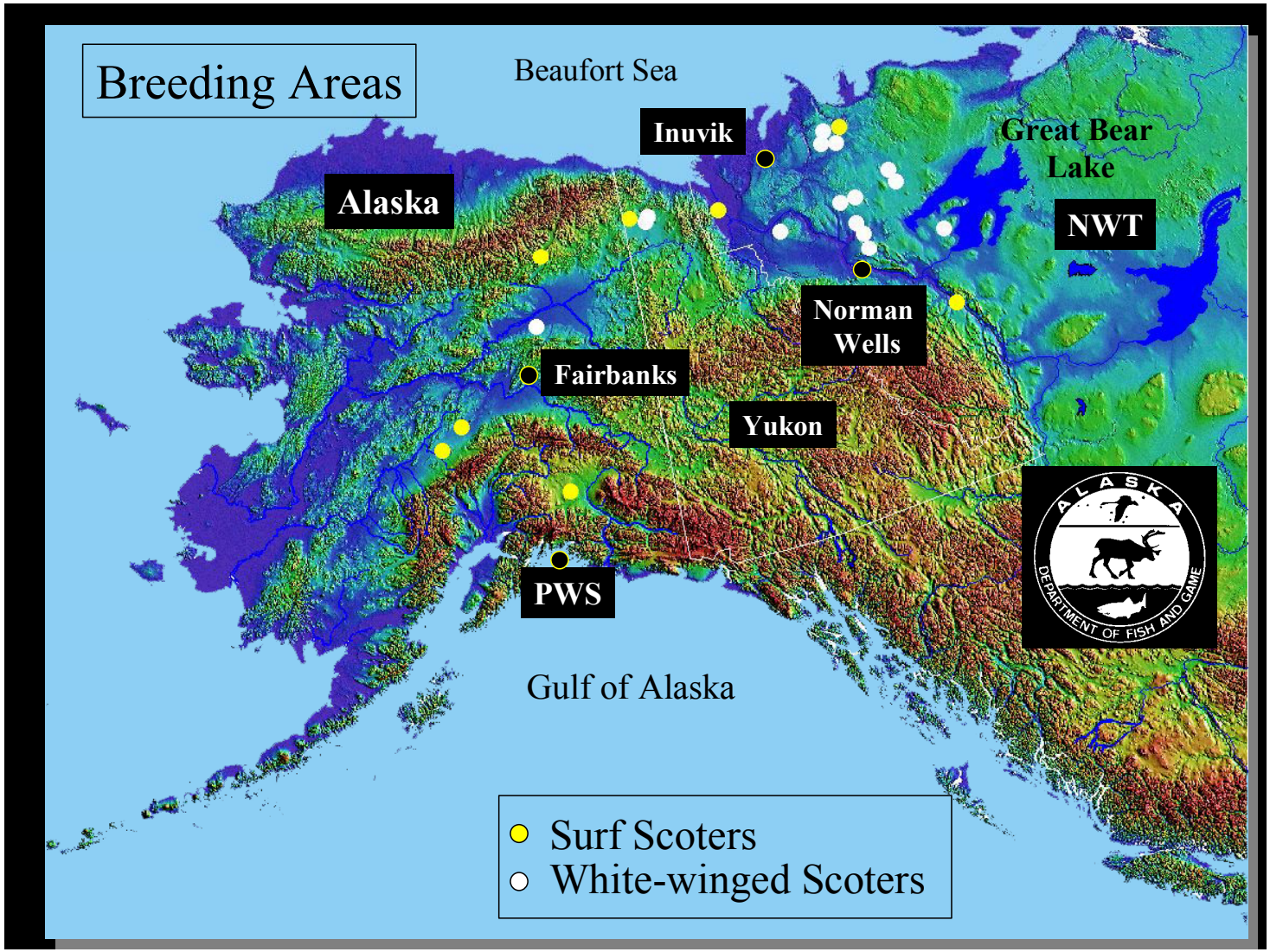

Figure 1. Map of Alaska and western Canada showing breeding locations for surf and white-winged scoters marked with internal satellite transmitters in Prince William Sound, Alaska from 1998-2000.

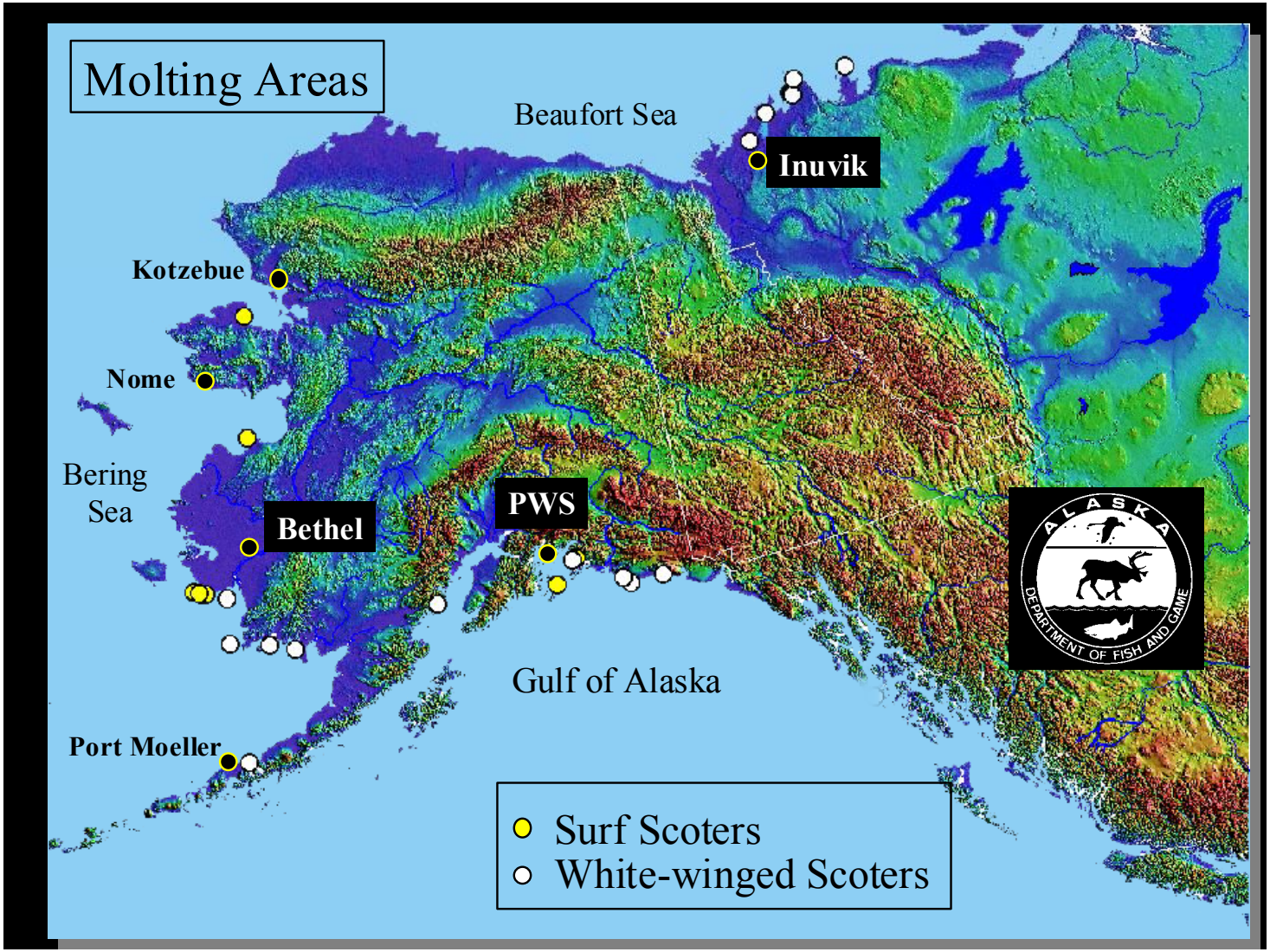

Figure 2. Map of Alaska and western Canada showing molting locations for surf and white-winged scoters marked with internal satellite transmitters in Prince William Sound, Alaska from 1998-2000.

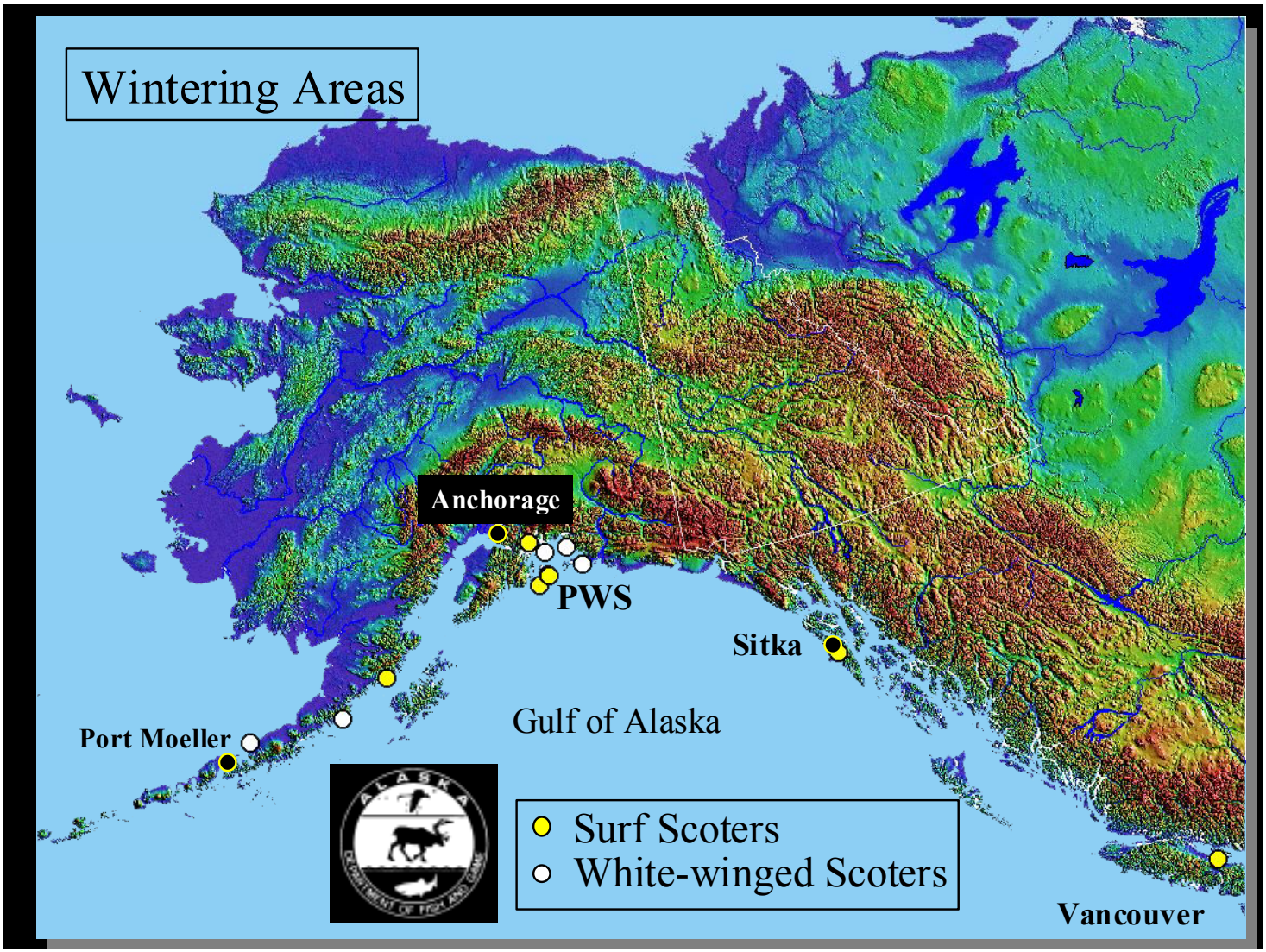

Figure 3. Map of Alaska and western Canada showing wintering locations for surf and white-winged scoters marked with internal satellite transmitters in Prince William Sound, Alaska from 1998-2000.