

EVOSTC ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

Recipients of funds from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council must submit an annual project report in the following format by **Sept. 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). Please help ensure that continued support for your project will not be delayed by submitting your report by **Sept. 1**. Timely receipt of your report allows more time for court notice and transfer, report review and timely release of the following year's funds.

Satisfactory review of the annual report is necessary for continuation of multi-year projects. Failure to submit an annual report by **Sept. 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: 070808
Project Title: Sea Otter Recovery and Nearshore Synthesis
PI Name: Brenda Ballachey & Jim Bodkin
Time period covered: 9/2006 - 8/2007
Date of Report: 31 August 2007
Report prepared by: Brenda Ballachey
Project website (if applicable): N/A

Work Performed: Summarize work performed during the reporting period, including any results available to date and their relationship to the original project objectives. Explain deviations 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.

Field work for this project, to support Objective 1 (Evaluate progress toward sea otter recovery through surveys of abundance and carcass deposition), was conducted in western Prince William Sound in April 2007 (carcass surveys) and July 2007 (aerial surveys). Sixteen sea otter carcasses were recovered; teeth from these have been submitted to a contract laboratory for age determination. Data from the aerial surveys have been entered and analyses are ongoing. For objectives 2 (Evaluate factors contributing to the status of sea otter populations through the synthesis of long-term data sets on individual exposure to oil, health, condition, behavior, and home range in the context of long-term survival) and 3 (Conduct spatial synthesis of elevated biomarkers in mammals, birds, and fishes), we have been acquiring the necessary data sets and in April 2007, we (Ballachey, Bodkin, Coletti) had a week work session with the statistical consultant to review and compile data sets and determine approaches for model development. There have been no deviations from the schedule of work outlined in the proposal for FY2007.

Future Work: Summarize work to be performed during the upcoming year, if different from the original proposal. Describe any proposed changes in objectives, procedural or statistical methods, study area or schedule. **NOTE:** Significant changes in a project's objectives, methods, schedule or budget require submittal of a new proposal subject to the standard process of proposal submittal, technical review and Trustee Council approval.

Work to be conducted in FY2008 is not anticipated to deviate from that outlined in the project proposal.

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

We have obtained necessary data sets and supporting information from cooperators (G. Blundell, D. Irons, G. Golet, D. Esler, S. Jewett, T. Dean, S. Rice, and M. Lindeberg) and have established a contract with WEST Inc. for statistical & modeling expertise, provided by Ms. S. Howlin.

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.

For carcass deposition surveys, we chartered a vessel through a small business operating in Prince William Sound, and aerial survey work supported other businesses in the community of Cordova.

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. *NOTE: Lack of compliance with the Trustee Council's data policy and/or the project's data management plan will result in withholding of additional project funds, cancellation of the project, or denial of funding for future projects.*

Presentations

Ballachey, B.E., Bodkin, J.L., Esler, D., Irons, D., and Snyder, P. Evaluating the long-term exposure of nearshore vertebrates to lingering oil from the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Presented at the 9th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference, Monterey, CA, June 25-29, 2007 (extended abstract included in Conference Proceedings).

Bodkin, J.L. and B.E. Ballachey. PAH exposure to nearshore vertebrates through 2005 resulting from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. Presented at Sea Otter Conservation Workshop V, Seattle Aquarium, March 16-18, 2007.

Bodkin, J.L. B.E. Ballachey, and D.H. Monson. Persistence of spilled oil in nearshore sediments and pathways of exposure to foraging sea otters. Invited presentation, Carnivores 2006, 11-15 Nov. 2006, St. Petersburg, FL.

Coletti, H.A. Sea otter density and distribution on habitat in Prince William Sound. Presented at Sea Otter Conservation Workshop V, Seattle Aquarium, March 16-18, 2007.

Monson, D.M. Evaluating body condition in more than 2,000 sea otters sampled throughout much of the species range over the past 50 years. Presented at Sea Otter Conservation Workshop V, Seattle Aquarium, March 16-18, 2007.

Monson, D.H., J.L. Bodkin, J.A. Estes, and T. Tinker. Patterns of body size, growth, and condition among sea otter populations: what can it tell us about population status? Carnivores 2006, 11-15 Nov. 2006, St. Petersburg, FL.

Publications

Coletti, H.A. 2006. Correlating sea otter density and behavior to habitat attributes in Prince William Sound, Alaska: A model for prediction. M.S. Thesis, University of New Hampshire. 86 pp.

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. *NOTE: Any request for an increased or supplemental budget must be submitted as a new proposal that will be subject to the standard process of proposal submittal, technical review, and Trustee Council approval.*

Work in FY2007 was conducted within budget and no modifications to the FY2008 budget are anticipated.

We can accept your annual report as a digital file (Microsoft Word or WordPerfect), with all figures and tables embedded. Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) files (version 4.x or later) are also acceptable; please do not lock PDF files or include digital signatures.

Please submit reports electronically in [ProjectView](#) or by email to mandy.migura@alaska.gov. Also, please be sure to post your annual report on your own website, if you have one.



*We appreciate your prompt submission of your annual report
and thank you for your participation.*

Submit this report via e-mail to mandy.migura@alaska.gov . Thank you!