

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: 070782

Project Title: Herring Restoration in PWS: Identifying Natal and Nursery Habitats

PI Name(s):

Dr. Nate Bickford, University of Great Falls 1301 20th St South Great Falls, MT 59405,
nbickford01@ugf.edu

Dr Brenda Norcross: University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences,
PO Box 757220, Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7220

Time Period Covered by Report: December 2007 – September 2008

Date of Report: Sept 31, 2008

1. Summary of Work Performed:

Pacific herring were collected during two cruises this year in 2007 and two in 2008 (March and May). Both juvenile (~300) and adults (~300) herring were collected during the cruises. The herring were returned to the laboratory at the University of Alaska and frozen. Weight and length measurement were taken for all fish collected. Otoliths have been removed from all fish collected. Preparation of the otolith (i.e., cut and polishing) is complete. Otolith have been sent the University of Arkansas for Laser Ablation – Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectrometry.

2. Summary of Future Work to be Performed:

We have no proposed changes to the timeline. Samples analysis will be completed by December 2008. The sample data will then be amassed, data reduction and statistics performed by February.

3. Coordination/Collaboration:

This project relied heavily upon close coordination and collaboration with ADF&G and Prince William Sound Science Center research vessels conducting normal collections. By successfully coordinating with these agency's research vessels and staff, we were able to collect herring samples for this project at greatly reduced cost by not having to charter our own vessels.

4. Community Involvement/TEK & Resource Management Applications:

The PI's are working very closely with local fishermen and Prince William Sound Fisheries Research Applications and Planning (PWSFRAP). This study is part of the herring restoration plan that will work toward developing a sustainable herring fishery in the future. All results from this project will be shared with local communities (via PWSFRAP) especially those involved with the herring restoration planning.

5. Information Transfer:

During this grant period, the PI and Co-PI's attended and presented a poster at the Annual EVOS-GEM Marine Workshop (January 21-24, 2007), submitted the Annual Report for this project (September 1, 2007 and September 2008).

6. Budget:

We did not experience any budgetary problems and have no substantial differences to report between actual and budgeted expenditures.

Report Prepared By: Nate Bickford

SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY TO brenda_ramos@evostc.state.ak.us. THE REPORTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE TRUSTEE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE AND SHOULD ALSO BE POSTED ON THE PI'S WEB SITE. The subject line of the e-mail transmitting the report must include the project number and the words "annual report" (e.g., "035620 Annual Report"). Electronic reports must be submitted either as an Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) file or word processing document (Microsoft Word 2000 for Windows or lower or WordPerfect 9.0 or lower) with any figures and tables imbedded. Acrobat PDF 4.0 or above file format must be used, preferably in 'formatted text with graphics' (called "PDF normal" under Acrobat PDF 4.0) format. Minimally, "PDF searchable image" (called "PDF original image with hidden text" under Acrobat PDF 4.0) may be used if pre-approved by the Trustee Council Office. In either case, the PDF file must not be secured or locked from future editing, or contain a digital signature from the principal investigator.