

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
Restoration Project Annual Report

Community Involvement/Traditional Ecological Knowledge
Part 2

Restoration Project 96052-2
Annual Report

This annual report has been prepared for peer review as part of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council restoration program for the purpose of assessing project progress. Peer review comments have not been addressed in this annual report.

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Study History: The Community Involvement/Traditional Ecological Knowledge project was designed to increase the participation of local community members in the restoration process as well as providing a mechanism to share their traditional knowledge about the resources injured as a result of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. This project began in 1995 and is currently in its 3rd year of operation (FFY97). This report covers the FFY96 continuation of the Community Involvement/ Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project.

Abstract: The goal of this project is to facilitate communication between the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, researchers working on oil spill restoration projects, and residents of communities impacted by the spill. This project initiated a program to encourage, and facilitate such communication. The goal is to make optimal use of the complementary nature of scientific data and traditional knowledge.

Key Words: Alaska Peninsula, Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC), Community Involvement, Community Involvement Coordinator, Community Involvement Facilitators, Kodiak, Prince William Sound, Spill Area Wide Traditional Ecological Knowledge, subsistence, TEK, TEK Specialists, traditional knowledge.

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

Citation:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In FFY95, the Community Involvement Project was begun to facilitate communication between the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council, researchers working on spill related projects, and local community members who were affected by the oil spill. Initially, this project was managed and administered by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Subsistence Division. Three Community Facilitators were hired in Tatitlek, Port Graham, and Chenega Bay.

In FFY96, the ADF&G remained the lead agency, but signed a cooperative agreement with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (a native non-profit fish and wildlife commission serving the villages in the Chugach Region of Alaska) to serve as the entity responsible for achieving the project objectives. Also, the communities felt that more communities should be included in the project. As a result, the number of communities to be included in the project was increased to nine. The project was also expanded to include a component on traditional ecological knowledge to integrate western science and local traditional knowledge to further the restoration efforts. CRRC then hired a Community Involvement Coordinator and subcontracted with the nine village councils of Tatitlek, Eyak (Cordova), Valdez, Chenega Bay, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Qutekcak (Seward), Kodiak (for the Kodiak Island region), and Chignik Lake (for the Alaska Peninsula region) to provide community facilitators for each of their communities.

It should be noted that whenever the phrase "Community Involvement Project" is used in this report, specifically regarding activities conducted by the Community Involvement Project, this includes all those entities and individuals who have been integral to this project. Parties responsible for the success of this project include all of the Community Facilitators, the Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator, the Chugach Regional Resources Commission, National Park Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Subsistence Division.

INTRODUCTION

The *Exxon Valdez* oil spill caused severe disruption of 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 in Anchorage, Fairbanks or outside Alaska. Residents complained of a lack of involvement by spill area communities in the restoration efforts, and incomplete communication to spill area inhabitants of study proposals and results. At the same time, restoration researchers recognized that local residents have traditional knowledge that could help them answer questions they have not been able to answer through conventional scientific means. People living in the spill area have detailed knowledge about the condition of resources, which can significantly add to data collected as part of scientific studies, and even enhance the success of restoration efforts. Local people expressed a desire to be involved in all aspects of restoration projects, and a willingness to work with researchers. This project was intended to increase the involvement of spill area communities in the restoration efforts of the Trustee Council, and to improve the communication of findings and results of restoration efforts to spill area inhabitants.

Prior to 1995, there was no formal program in place to effectively facilitate communication between the Trustee Council, researchers working on oil spill restoration projects, and residents of communities impacted by the spill. This project initiated a program to encourage, and facilitate such communication. The goal was to make optimal use of the complementary nature of scientific data and traditional knowledge.

BACKGROUND:

The initial idea for the community involvement project was voiced by Martha Vlasoff at a restoration workshop held in Anchorage by the Trustee Council on April 13-15, 1994. Vlasoff felt it was important to bring traditional knowledge into decisions being made with regard to oil spill restoration. As a result of this discussion, a Community Involvement Working Group was formed by the Trustee Council staff. This Group held their first meeting on May 4, 1994, at the Trustee Council office in Anchorage. Participants included:

Molly McCammon, EVOS Trustee Council	Rita Miraglia, ADF&G
L.J. Evans, EVOS Trustee Council	Ted Birkedal, NPS
Judy Bittner, State Historic Pres. Office	Linda Yarborough, Forest Service
Karen Hosler, Independent Consultant who has participated in similar efforts in Canada	Elenore McMullen, Chief, Port Graham*
Gary Kompkoff, Chief of Tatitlek*	Fran Norman, Tribal Admin., Port Graham*
Pam Carter (VISTA volunteer in Tatitlek)*	Martha Vlasoff
Bud Antonelis, NMFS, Seattle*	Nancy Bird, Cordova (citizen involved in restoration issues)*
Kate Wynne, Kodiak (marine mammal bio.)	Bruce Wright, NOAA*
Bob Spies, California, (Chief Scientist to the Trustee Council)*	

*Indicates those who participated via teleconference

At this meeting, it was agreed that staff of the Division of Subsistence, ADF&G, and the State Historic Preservation Office, would work together to develop a project proposal. A brief project

proposal was written which called for the entire project to be contracted out under a competitive bid process, with the contractor in turn hiring local people to serve as community facilitators. As proposed, the first year of the project would be a pilot effort, only involving three communities. This brief project description was submitted to the Trustee Council under the FFY 95 restoration work plan.

This project was later redesigned for FFY96 by the EVOS Trustee Council staff to include funding for the Resource Abnormalities Study (95279). The activities of these projects were to be undertaken by the Community Involvement Coordinator, who would be funded within the Division of Subsistence. This project was approved by the Trustees on October 25, 1995.

After FFY95, the first year of the project, the communities felt this project would be better served under a regional organization and that more communities should be included in the project. As a result, the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) was approached to serve as this entity and the number of communities to be included in the project was increased to nine. The project was also expanded to include a component on traditional ecological knowledge to integrate western science and local traditional knowledge to further the restoration efforts. A Cooperative Agreement was then developed and signed between CRRC and the ADF&G. CRRC was assigned the responsibility of hiring a Community Involvement Coordinator and subcontracting with the nine village councils of Tatitlek, Eyak (Cordova), Valdez, Chenega Bay, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Qutekcak (Seward), Kodiak (for the Kodiak Island region), and Chignik Lake (for the Alaska Peninsula region) to provide communities facilitators. Work on the project objectives began in November of 1995, immediately following the signing of the cooperative agreement.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the project is to increase the 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 inhabitants, and to improve the communication of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) from local residents to scientists, which can significantly enhance the value of Trustee Council restoration efforts.

METHODS

This project was coordinated by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission through a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. CRRC contracted with a Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator to serve as the liaison between the communities affected by the oil spill and the existing network of scientists, agency personnel, restoration office personnel, and the Trustee Council. Through direct communications with a network of nine local Community Facilitators, the Community Involvement Coordinator actively involved local residents in the restoration program, particularly ongoing scientific studies. The second component, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) consisted of a pilot effort to integrate western science and traditional knowledge to further the Trustee Council's restoration program. The objective to be achieved utilized the following methods:

- 1) A contract was let by ADF&G Subsistence Division to CRRC for overall coordination of the facilitators and spill area wide coordinator. The contractor arranged for the hiring and

coordination of local facilitators in the communities of Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Cordova, Seward, Valdez, and regional coordinators of the Kodiak Island and Alaska Peninsula regions.

2) The Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator identified those projects funded by the Trustee Council for which a community outreach component was appropriate, and worked with the principal investigators of those projects to design and implement community outreach components. This goal of community outreach was to continue the informal partnership begun under 95052, between the people of the oil spill affected areas and scientific researchers. This outreach included communication of TEK and local interests, as well as research proposals and study results. The TEK portion of the project was integral to its success in that the project objectives could only be achieved through a cooperative working relationship between the participating agencies wherein guidelines/protocols were developed, people trained, and databases shared.

3) The effectiveness of the project will be evaluated on an annual basis, by the Trustee Council staff working in cooperation with the Spill Area Wide Coordinator, the communities in the oil spill region, and the Subsistence Division of the ADF&G.

RESULTS

CONTRACT FOR PROJECT COORDINATION:

A Cooperative Agreement was developed and signed between the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Chugach Regional Resources Commission for overall coordination of the project. CRRC, in turn, contracted with Martha Vlasoff to serve as the Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator. CRRC also subcontracted with the following entities to hire a community facilitator in each of their communities/regions:

Tatitlek IRA Council	Chenega Bay IRA Council
Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council	Nanwalek IRA Council
Port Graham Village Council	Qutekcak Native Tribe (Seward)
Valdez Native Tribe (Valdez)	Kodiak Tribal Council (Kodiak region)
Chignik Lake IRA Council (Alaska Peninsula region)	

These subcontracts allowed the local tribal governments to hire their respective Community Facilitator, provide guidance and supervision, and ensure their reports were submitted in a timely manner.

IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS REQUIRING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

One of the initial responsibilities of the Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator was to identify those projects that would require a community outreach component. This was accomplished with the help of the Community Facilitators and Village Councils. Community outreach components were designed and implemented in the following projects:

Clam Restoration Project
Youth Area Watch Project
Community Based Harbor Seal Management
Documentary on Harbor Seals
Archaeological Repositories Project
Redesigned Forestry Workshop
Eastern PWS Wildstock Salmon Habitat

Pink Salmon Enhancement Project
Tatitlek Coho Salmon Release
Inter-Tidal Habitats of Octopus
Chenega Chinook Release Program
Elders/Youth Conference
Sockeye Salmon Stocking at Solf Lake
Chenega Bay Salmon Restoration

In addition, the Community Involvement project also assisted the communities in successfully obtaining funds from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs Criminal Settlement Subsistence program for the following projects:

Tatitlek Mariculture Processing Facility
Tatitlek Mariculture Operations Project
Chenega Bay Subsistence Harvest Support
Chignik Lagoon Subsistence Ed./Trng. Center
Prince William Sound Regional Spirit Camp
Chignik River Weir Project
Kodiak Island Spirit Camp
Ivanoff Bay Subsistence Processing Facility

Tatitlek Subsistence Freezer
Chenega Bay Mariculture Project
Perryville Subsistence Ed./Trng. Center
Port Graham Coho Salmon Restoration
Nanwalek Sockeye Enhancement Project
Kametolook River Salmon Enhancement
Chignik Lake Subsistence Ed./Trng. Center
Perryville Subsistence Processing Facility

Another activity related to this objective was to assist the communities in identifying projects and developing proposals for the 4/15/96 EVOS Trustee Council deadline for FY97 projects. In addition to those projects listed above, the following new projects were submitted for funding by the communities affected by the oil spill with the assistance of the Community Involvement Project, or were projects submitted in cooperation with the communities:

Delight and Desire Lakes Restoration Project
Site Specific Archaeological Restoration
Survey of Octopuses in Intertidal Habitats
Community-Based Harbor Seal Research
Shoreline Inventory, and Protection
Enhancement of Shorelines
Assessment, Prot./Enh. of Wetlands
Port Graham Floating Skiff Dock
Status of Subsistence Marine Mammals in
Lower Cook Inlet
Sea Otter Population Monitoring
Eyak-Cordova Beach Cleanup
Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Archaeological Index Site Monitoring
Archaeological Site Stewardship
Chenega Bay Salmon Habitat Enhancement
Port Graham Landowners Resource Ethic
and Stewardship Subsistence
Assessment, Prot./Enh. of Salmon Streams
Subsistence Enh. on Port Graham Uplands
Educational Harvest Trips - Port Graham
Access Road to Donor Bay as Replacement
for Chignik Lagoon
Reduction/Cleanup of Marine Pollution-PGM
Archaeological Repository in Chenega Bay

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE:

The TEK portion of the project was a small, but important component. The main theme of the Restoration Workshop held in January, 1996, was the importance of TEK. This highlighting of TEK served to bring this issue to the forefront of research and we were thus able to garner support from many of the participating scientists who expressed an interest in either integrating this component into an existing project or to utilize TEK in a new research project. It became

quite clear by the spring of 1996, that this component would have to be expanded upon and submitted as a separate project in the FY97 closing.

DEVELOPMENT OF TEK PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES:

April, 1996 meeting held to develop TEK protocols and guidelines. Select Principal Investigators (PIs) were invited to give presentations to the community facilitators regarding their research. Henry Huntington facilitated the workshop and a draft set of protocols came out of the meeting as a result. This draft was sent to all the village councils in the oil spill affected region for their comment. After their comments were received, this second draft was sent to the PIs and Trustee Council staff for their comments. Comments were received and a teleconference was held to discuss the proposed changes. More changes were made as a result of this teleconference and a final version was then sent out to all interested parties, and this is the version that was finally approved by the Trustee Council.

More important, however, was the reluctance by the tribal governments to adopt these protocols. The tribes continue to express their dissatisfaction over the section regarding ownership of data and compensation for those individuals providing information to the PIs. Unfortunately federal and state regulations state that when public funds are utilized for a project, the information gathered as a result of that project is public information. Due to the perception of improprieties of the state government in the past over what the tribes felt was confidential information, they are very distrustful of the federal and state government as far as how this information will be used and how much of it will be disclosed to the public. CRRC is continuing to work with the village governments on this issue, hoping to address it to their satisfaction.

DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE FOR TEK:

This objective of the project was not addressed due to the fact that once it was investigated, it turned out to be much bigger and broader than anticipated. Therefore, it was decided that time would be better spent identifying the organizations that had databases on specific species of animals and to further investigate the actual feasibility developing a TEK database.

TRAINING FOR EVOS RESEARCHERS ON TEK:

The Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has been working on putting together a manual for this purpose. According to ADF&G, EVOS staff decided that this task should be deferred until the TEK specialists could be hired and consulted on its contents. This task is now being undertaken by ADF&G, Division of Subsistence staff as part of 97052B. The concept has now been expanded to a training and reference manual for both

EVOS researchers and community residents interested in working with Traditional Ecological Knowledge for the EVOS restoration process. A preliminary draft has been circulated under the title "Traditional Ecological Knowledge Handbook: A Training Manual and Reference Guide on Method and Theory in Research on Traditional Ecological Knowledge from Research Design through Collection of Information and Analysis to Report," and is currently under revision. The author expects to have a second draft ready for review by the TEK Advisory Group by the end of July, 1997, and the final version printed and ready for distribution by the end of August, 1997.

INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNITY ISSUES/QUESTIONS/CONCERNS:

A total of four meetings were held with the Spill Area Wide Community Involvement Coordinator and the Community Facilitators to discuss issues of concern to their respective communities, brainstorm on new projects the communities wanted to submit for funding, and develop strategies on how communities could be more involved in the restoration process. The Involvement Coordinator also provided a twice monthly update to the Community Facilitators detailing the most recent activities of the Trustee Council and staff, and research projects. Communities have also agreed to compile a resource inventory, which will list those individuals willing to work on or cooperate with the research projects, boat owners, hotels, restaurants, stores, etc.

OTHER:

CRRC identified and is in the process of perfecting a method to get funding directly to the communities. The Lead Trustee Agency will be the Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs. Funds will be transferred to the BIA Juneau Area Office, added on to CRRC P.L. 93-638 contract, and then passed through to the respective tribal government office. The guinea pig for the first experimental transfer of funds will be the Youth Elders project for the Eyak tribe. This is a \$15,000 planning grant for FY97. All parties are familiar with the process, so we are anxious to see how it turns out.

CONCLUSIONS

This project has become an institution in the villages and is an integral part of those EVOS Trustee Council funded projects with a community involvement component. This project has also provided a vital link to the communities in the restoration process, giving them a feeling of ownership in the projects conducted in their traditional use areas. This project has also served as a vehicle by which community members can express their opinions regarding any aspect of the Trustee Council's work. On many occasions, comments from the communities have been negative and oftentimes have identified problems or issues of concern that the Trustee Council has no control over. It is important to note, however, the value of listening to these concerns. The long term effects of the oil spill are not only seen in the damage to the natural resources, they are also seen, somewhat, in the comments by the facilitators and other community members. Ongoing problems associated with the decrease of the natural resources affects every aspect of community life and the frustration of this loss by the local community members is evident by some of their comments regarding the land sales, inability of the Trustee Council to fund many of the community projects that address the human element of the oil spill, and the level of funding going to researchers outside of the oil spill area with little or no benefit being seen at the community level, to name a few. The local grassroots people are going to be living in the oil spill affected area long after the money goes away and long after the researchers have packed up their bags and gone home. It is up to the communities to become involved now, to develop their capabilities to manage the resources in accordance with their traditional philosophies, and to ensure these resources continue to exist in a pristine condition for generations to come. That is why this project is important and that is why there has been such an increase in interest by the communities to become more integrally involved in the restoration process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors acknowledge the contribution of the local community residents who dedicated their time and energy to make this project a reality: Elenore McMullen, Chief, and Fran Norman, Tribal Admin., Port Graham Village Council; Gary Kompkoff, Chief of Tatitlek; Patrick Norman, President, Port Graham Corporation; Arnold Mesheimer, CRRC Chairman; Ken Blatchford, President, and Arne Hatch, Vice President, Qutekcak Native Tribe; Helmer Olson and John Boone, Valdez Native Trib; Bob Henrichs, President, Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council; Mike Eleshansky, Chenega Bay; Don Kompkoff, President, Chenega Bay IRA Council; Nancy Yeaton, Nanwalek; Hank Eaton, Kodiak; Mollie Burton, Qutekcak Native Tribe; Walter Meganack, Jr., Port Graham; Benna Hughey, President, Valdez Native Tribe; Carl Calugen, Valdez; Virginia Aleck, Chignik Lake; and Margaret Roberts, President, Kodiak Tribal Council.

We also thank the state and federal agency personnel who provided their expertise to the project: Jim Fall and Rita Miraglia, ADF&G Subsistence Division; Don Callaway and Ted Birkedal, National Park Service; Linda Yarborough, Forest Service; Judy Bittner, State Historic Preservation Office; Pam Carter, Tatitlek VISTA volunteer; Kate Wynne; and Bruce Wright, NOAA.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT (96052)

Quarterly Narrative Report

October - December, 1995

Activities conducted by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission in regards to the Community Involvement Project (96052) during the months of October, November, and December of 1995 are listed below to inform you as to the current status of the project in each of the communities and in the region as a whole.

Ms. Martha Vlasoff has been hired as the Spill Area Wide Coordinator under the Community Involvement/Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project funded by the EVOS Trustee Council. She is currently working with seven communities and two regional organizations to get Community Facilitators hired. She is housed at the Restoration Office in order to serve as the communications link between the Restoration Office and the communities affected by the oil spill. We hope to have all Facilitators hired by January so that they will be available to attend the EVOS Trustee Council Workshop scheduled for January 16-18, 1996. Contracts with each of the village councils hiring a Community Facilitator were sent out in early November. The Community Facilitators will be selected by the village councils and supervised by them as well. They will also be responsible for setting their hours and rate of pay. In addition to the seven community facilitators in the Chugach Region, One will be hired for the Kodiak area and one to represent the Alaska Peninsula Region. Each community will be paid \$12,000 to hire the Facilitator and pay for other costs related to the project.

The deferred projects proposed to the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council were acted upon in December. Approved for funding was a second year of funding for the Clam Restoration Project. Although funding was cut, objectives of the project will still be met, but on a limited basis. The expansion of the project to additional communities was scaled back somewhat, but activities for the communities included in the FY95 project were not curtailed. The approval of this project was based on a site review held at the Qutekcak Tribal Shellfish Hatchery, Seward, in late October. Presentations were given by the CRRC Executive Director, Jeff Hetrick, Mariculture Specialist; and Carmen Young, Hatchery Manager. The site review included a tour of the hatchery facility and technical assistance was provided to Carmen by individuals working in the shellfish industry from North Carolina.

The Port Graham Village Council Coho Salmon Enhancement Project is currently underway. As reported in the last period, this project was funded through the Department of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) and is being administered by the Village Council, with CRRC providing all payroll and payroll tax related services.

The construction of the Mariculture Technical Center will hopefully be underway by the spring of 1996. This is the facility the Qutekcak Native Tribe will be utilizing for the shellfish hatchery. After many meetings in Anchorage, Juneau, and Washington, D.C., the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game has finally agreed to let the project out for bid next month, and plans are that we will be in the facility by the fall. The construction of this facility will allow the hatchery to expand their research and production into other species such as rock scallops and possibly mussels. We are currently negotiating a cooperative agreement with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District and the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game for the operation of the hatchery portion of this facility. Draft documents are enclosed for your review.

A meeting was held in December with Carol Kvasnikoff, Fisheries Project Director in Nanwalek; Paul McCollum, Fisheries Biologist on contract; Dave Daisy; and the CRRC Executive Director to discuss the year

to date accomplishments of the Sockeye project. Plans were also made for the upcoming year to assist Carol in laying out activities and objectives to be met, as well as the discussion of a staffing plan. Ms. Kvasnikoff's annual report is enclosed.

The processing facility in Tatitlek is moving forward. The foundation and floor were finished in late November. The building has been moved from Whittier to Tatitlek and erection of the building will take about a month. Due to the shortage of labor in the village, we have expanded our search for workers to the surrounding communities. I believe we have located two individuals from neighboring villages to work on the project beginning this month to alleviate the need to bring in non-Native workers from Anchorage. The power line was installed as well as a water line and telephone cable. Utilities will be ready for use as soon as the building is erected.

The Chugach Heritage Foundation is beginning work on EVOS Project 96154. This project is to develop a comprehensive community plan for restoring archeological resources in Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet, including strategies for storing and displaying artifacts at appropriate facilities within the spill area.

Work is currently underway to seek funds for the construction of a new hatchery in Port Graham. A meeting was held with CRRC, Gale Phillips, and the Port Graham Village Council to discuss the possibility of placing Port Graham's name on the Loan Fund list. If that is accomplished we will then have the ability to borrow funds from the State for the construction of the hatchery, if needed. Meanwhile, we continue to search for other federal sources of funds for this project.

Finally, the Chugach Regional Resources Commission has moved its offices to the floor above Chugachmiut. This was primarily due to the fact that Chugachmiut is quickly running out of office space in their efforts to hire additional staff to accommodate increased activities. We are now in Suite 300, with our telephone and telefax numbers remaining the same as before. In order to afford the additional space we have had to lease, we

have sublet a portion of the office space to the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council. The CRRC Board approved the sublease with the thinking that AI-TC could provide additional technical assistance to the member communities in the Chugach Region and would facilitate a closer working relationship between our Natural Resource Management Program and theirs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. As always, if you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the initiatives I've mentioned above, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg
Executive Director

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT (96052)

Quarterly Narrative Report

January - March, 1996

Activities conducted by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission in regards to the Community Involvement Project (96052) during the months of January, February and March of 1996 are listed below to inform you as to the current status of the project in each of the communities and in the region as a whole.

Ms. Martha Vlasoff continues to move forward as the Spill Area Wide Community Facilitator under the Community Involvement/ Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project. All but one Community Facilitator has been hired in each of the communities, and contracts have been signed between CRRC and the village councils involved. Those facilitators were then able to attend the January EVOS Trustee Council Workshop and related meetings. Plans are underway to hold a working session with the community facilitators and village council representatives to draft the protocols and guidelines to be used by the researchers when conducting research activities which affect the subsistence resources in the traditional use areas of the communities. These plans came as a result of a number of requests to Martha by scientists interested in the benefits of TEK in the restoration projects.

Martha continues to submit bi-weekly reports to the communities regarding the latest activities of the Trustee Council and staff. Assistance was also provided to all the participating communities in the development of ideas and proposals to the Trustee Council for FY97 funding. This proves to be a challenging process as many of the projects the villages are interested in pursuing are not allowable under EVOS Trustee Council funding guidelines. The CRRC Executive Director is continuously searching for alternative funding sources of these types of projects.

The Pink Salmon project funded by the EVOS Trustee Council has undergone the final contract negotiations between the Port Graham Village Council, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Work started on the project during the month of March. The Coho Salmon project, which was funded with the criminal settlement monies, has begun. This project proposal was written by CRRC, but the entire project is being conducted and administered by the Port Graham Village Council and hatchery staff. Technical assistance continues to be provided by CRRC in both the biological and administrative aspects of the project.

The Executive Director traveled to Cordova in January to discuss new projects to submit to the EVOS Trustee Council for their FY97 work plan, as well as to discuss the EVOS Workshop which was held in mid January.

The Clam Restoration project was approved for FY96 funding, although the Council is still considering it a pilot project. Activities for additional communities were decreased due to lack of funding, but year two activities for the original villages and the Qutekcak Shellfish Hatchery will occur as scheduled. Specifically, beach site selection and surveys will be conducted in Chenega Bay and Ouzinkie, planting will occur in Port Graham in Nanwalek, and predator control methods will be employed in Tatitlek for Littleneck Clams and in Eyak for Razor Clams.

The construction of the Mariculture Technical Center is scheduled to begin in late March of 1996. The project has been let out for bid and we are currently in the 30 day waiting period to see who will get the construction contract. If all goes well, the Qutekcak Tribal Shellfish Hatchery will be in this new facility by late October, which will allow the hatchery to expand their research and production into other species such as rock scallops and possibly mussels. Negotiations are currently underway for the operations contract between the State of Alaska, Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District and CRRC in behalf of the Qutekcak Native Tribe.

The construction of the processing facility is continuing in Tatitlek. The roof is on the building and minor work is being done inside. The

project will be put on hold after this work is done until May, when the weather warms up, to finish the facility. When the building is finished and fully equipped, CRRC and the Tatitlek Village Council will hold an open house for Tatitlek and Chugach area residents.

The revised Detailed Project Description for the Clam Restoration Project was sent to all the participating village councils. A meeting was held with the Alaska Business Development Center regarding the smoked and dried fish operation in Valdez. The purpose of this meeting was to request technical assistance in developing a business plan and operational plan for this venture. They felt this project was a promising one and are anxious to get started on the project.

A report was provided to the Chenega Bay IRA Council at their meeting in February to discuss the clam, community involvement, and mariculture projects they are involved in. Also discussed was the traditional natural resource management program initiative. A resolution was passed supporting this project and requesting assistance from the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council to participate in their challenge grant program. CRRC will assist in facilitating this participation as well as provide training and assistance to the Natural Resource Specialist they hire to conduct the activities under this program.

Work continues on the identification of funds for the construction of a new hatchery in Port Graham. The meeting held in December with CRRC, Gale Phillips, and the Port Graham Village Council was successful in that the legislature agreed to place Port Graham's name on the Loan Fund list. We now have the ability to borrow funds from the State for the construction of the hatchery, if needed. We are continuing to search for other federal and private sources of funds for this project.

Technical assistance was provided to the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission in both the administrative and biological areas of the project. CRRC assisted in preparing Monica for her board meeting which was held in February, and is continuing to provide technical assistance in the fund raising area, including the new submission of the ANA grant.

Much of the work done by the CRRC Executive Director in March and early April was dedicated to preparing EVOS proposals for FY97. All continuing projects were submitted for consideration, as well as some new ideas submitted by the communities. We are looking forward to getting more of the local community driven projects funded this year, but it may take a more concerted effort by the villages to support these projects at the Trustee Council level. CRRC will continue to assist in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. As always, if you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the initiatives I've mentioned above, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg
Executive Director

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT (96052)

Quarterly Narrative Report

April - June, 1996

Activities conducted by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission in regards to the Community Involvement Project (96052) during the months of April, May and June of 1996 are listed below to inform you as to the current status of the project in each of the communities and in the region as a whole.

The first part of this quarter was spent writing and submitting project proposals to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council for FY97 funding. The villages submitted approximately 15 project proposals. The remainder of the quarter was spent soliciting support for these projects and meeting with the Trustee Council Executive Director to amend specific project descriptions.

One of the projects that was developed by the Trustee Council Executive Director is 97352 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This project was a component to the Community Involvement Project last year, but it was felt that it should be a separate project, anticipating increased activity as a result of the Restoration Workshop held in January. After writing a letter and having meetings with the Executive Director, she has agreed that CRRC will be the administrator of this project, and that the project activities will be conducted under the direction of the CRRC Board of Directors. We are hoping to advertise for a TEK Specialist prior to the start of the next fiscal year so that this person can start work on October 1, 1996. Many meetings were held this quarter regarding the scope of work for this project, and more work still needs to be done before it is finalized.

The Community Involvement project funding for FY97 was increased to accommodate an additional Community Facilitator (Seldovia), and more travel for the facilitators. We attempted to get some computers funded through this project, but was deleted from the budget due to the Trustee Council's shortage of funds.

The Clam project was written to include additional beach surveys and planting in Chenega Bay and Ouzinkie. No feedback has been received as of yet regarding the status of this project.

Informational meetings were conducted in the Kodiak Island villages in late March to listen to local concerns, possible project proposals, and to discuss the ongoing restoration programs. Previous meetings have been held in Kodiak, but these were the first meetings in the villages since 1993. The group traveling included Molly McCammon, Martha Vlasoff, Hank Eaton, Community Involvement Facilitator for Kodiak Island, Brenda Schwantes, Public Advisory Group member from Kodiak, Dan Moore, ADFYG Fisheries Specialist, and Alex Swiderski, Alaska Dept. of Law, who visited Akhiok and Karluk only. A detailed outline of this meeting can be found in Martha's Community Involvement Report dated April 25, 1996.

The construction of the Mariculture Technical Center has begun, although it looks like the crew is a bit behind schedule. I don't anticipate moving into the facility until the first of next year. We are currently undergoing negotiations with the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game for the operation of the hatchery in behalf of the Qutekcak Native Tribe. This too, has been a slow and lengthy process, but we continue to move forward.

The construction of the processing facility is continuing in Tatitlek. The electrical and mechanical work is being done at this time. We are in the process of looking for a carpenter to do the finish work. We are tentatively over budget on this project, so the search for additional funding sources has been occurring this quarter.

The Pink Salmon project funded by the EVOS Trustee Council has signed a contract between the Port Graham Village Council, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development District, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Pauline Allen, Contract Administrator, traveled to Port Graham to assist Fran Norman in setting up the administrative structure to manage this grant. The Coho Salmon project, which was funded with the criminal settlement monies, continues to do well. The Coho module has been constructed and is in the final stages of completion. Technical assistance continues to be provided by CRRC in both the biological and administrative aspects of the project.

The Executive Director traveled to Port Graham in May for the Hatchery Board Meeting. Travel in May also included attendance at the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society annual national conference, which was held in Minnesota. Pauline Allen, Contract Administrator, Don Kompkoff of Chenega Bay and Ron Totemoff of Tatitlek were also able to attend. Two other village residents were scheduled to attend, but unfortunately had to cancel out at the last minute. I am hoping to bring the Natural Resource Specialists to the next national conference, which is scheduled for the spring of 1997 in the Great Plains Region. This conference is very valuable in that it provides a forum by which we can see what other tribes are doing in the natural resource management arena, as well as exchange ideas and gain new insight on tribal management issues.

Technical assistance was provided during this quarter to the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission on an ANA grant and ADF&G billing under the biosampling project, to Native fishermen of the Eyak Tribe in the formation of a Native fishermen's association, the Qutekcak Native Tribe on their ANA grant, and Chugachmiut (Rose Ellis, Paul Jackson, Allison Nyholm, and Emily Read) regarding natural resource related employment opportunities and grant funding sources for specific projects.

A cost recovery permit was issued by the state to the Port Graham Village Council, and sockeye salmon will be sold for the first time this year. We are hoping to do the same with the pink salmon next year.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. As always, if you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the initiatives I've mentioned above, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg
Executive Director

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT (96052)

Quarterly Narrative Report

July - September, 1996

Activities conducted by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission in regards to the Community Involvement Project (96052) during the months of July, August, and September of 1996 are listed below to inform you as to the current status of the project in each of the communities and in the region as a whole.

Reports by Martha Vlasoff have been submitted to the villages on a monthly basis. This change in the frequency of these reports came as a result of an increased workload and the amount of activities surrounding the FY97 workplan. Community Facilitators have been submitting their quarterly reports to the CRRC office. A detailed report on specific projects this quarter can be obtained from Martha Vlasoff's July 30, 1996 report, a copy of which is attached.

The CRRC Executive Director spent part of this quarter investigating ways in which to provide funding directly to village councils from the EVOS Trustee Council. Up until now, we have had to go through an economic development district or the project goes out for bid and we are faced with bidding on our own projects, or a contract is negotiated between the village or CRRC and the state agency, which is also a lengthy process. I spoke with the contracting people and Area Director at the BIA in Juneau and they agreed to accept the EVOS funds if they are identified as the lead agency. They would simply add the money on to our 638 contract and we would then pass the funds through to the village. This is great news, and we are currently fine tuning the mechanism for this to happen. I must point out, though, that BIA has not been the most expedient agency to work with as far as providing funds at the beginning of the fiscal year. This, too, must be worked on and improved before final plans are made.

The EVOS Trustee Council FY97 Work Plan has been distributed, and there are a few new projects recommended for funding, which were submitted by the villages in April. We have continually been monitoring their progress and continue to support them at the Trustee Council level. The FY97 Work Plan was approved by the Trustee Council in its entirety at their meeting held in late August.

Funding for the clam project has tentatively been provided for an additional year. The Trustee Council is still considering this project a pilot project, so they have not committed funds beyond FY97. Due to the "pilot" nature of this project, they have also recommended not planting clams in any more beaches than we have already and not to conduct any more beach surveys, until we can prove that this will be a successful project. The work plan for FY97 includes planting more clams in the existing beaches in Tatitlek, Nanwalek and Port Graham, and continuing the studies on the predator control methods in Tatitlek and Eyak.

After many meetings and re-writes separating the Community Involvement Project from the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project (TEK) at the request of Trustee Council staff, it is back to its original format. The TEK portion is back in as part of the Community Involvement project, but is being called 97052A and 97052B. Funding will provide for Martha Vlasoff's position, as well as a TEK Specialist, who will be responsible for working with the scientists in assisting them in incorporating TEK into the western science knowledge base of the research. As mentioned in an earlier report, this position has been advertised in the region, and will hopefully start November 1, 1996. Deadline for submission of resumes is October 4, 1996, and interviews will be conducted during the week of October 14th or October 21st.

The construction of the processing facility is continuing in Tatitlek. The electrical and mechanical work is finished and the carpentry work was started. The search for additional funding sources has been ongoing this quarter, but we are hopeful in obtaining the funds necessary to finish the project by the end of the year.

The cost recovery permit issued by the state to the Port Graham Village Council was used for the first time this year for the sockeye salmon. Approximately \$30,000 was raised, which will assist in offsetting expenses at the hatchery. We are hoping to do the same with the pink salmon next year. We have contracted with Dr. John Sproul to assist us in obtaining markets for the salmon, possibly directly to Japan. He traveled to Port Graham for their hatchery board meeting in late August and informed them that the sockeye salmon he took to Seattle high end markets was very well received and believes that is the best strategy to utilize rather than selling directly to the tenders. Dewey Schwalenberg of the Bering Sea Commercial Fisheries Development Fund was also at the meeting and mentioned that he traveled to Denver, Colorado to a trade show of the National Indian Gaming Association to provide samples of salmon to the tribes with gaming facilities. He is optimistic that this could be a very promising market for Port Graham and Nanwalek as the tribes from the Lower 48 would be buying salmon from the Alaska Native village councils rather than retail or wholesale markets, and they seemed very receptive to that concept.

As mentioned above, the Executive Director traveled to Port Graham in August for the Hatchery Board Meeting, and to Seward for a meeting with the shellfish hatchery staff. We are continuing to assist them in formulating some type of benefit plan for their employees. Pauline Allen, Contract Administrator, provided technical assistance to Fran Norman, at the Port Graham Village Council on the DCRA and ÉVOS funded projects.

Technical assistance was provided during this quarter to the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission on ADF&G billing for the EVOS biosampling project, to Qutekcak Native Tribe on budget planning for the shellfish hatchery, Eyak Tribal Council on their new ANA grant, and to Port Graham and Nanwalek in the marketing arena. Technical assistance was also provided to the Chugachmiut's Environmental Protection Consortium program in developing the natural resource section of their declaration of intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. As always, if you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the initiatives I've mentioned above, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg
Executive Director