

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:*..... 070853**

***Project Title:*..... Pigeon Guillemot Restoration Research in Prince William Sound**

***PI Name:* David Irons and Dan Roby**

***Time period covered:*..... September 2007-September 2008**

***Date of Report:*..... September 5, 2008**

***Report prepared by:*..... David Irons**

***Project website (if applicable):***

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.

We had two field seasons this year, one to finish the mink trapping and one to study Pigeon Guillemots.

In 2007 we obtained mink genetic samples from four locations in the Sound: northern Knight Island, Montague Island, southwestern mainland of PWS, and northwestern mainland of PWS. We collected 29 mink from northern Knight Island, 32 mink from Montague Island, 29 mink from southwestern mainland of PWS, and 18 mink from the northwestern mainland of PWS. In 2008 we finished our collections by taking 30 mink from the Naked Island Archipelago. The samples will undergo genetic analysis in the laboratory of Joseph Cook at the University of New Mexico.

Guillemots were censused at Naked, Peak, Storey, Smith, and Little Smith islands in late May to ascertain population size. We found that the Pigeon Guillemot population was similar to the 2007 counts which showed the population declined roughly 90%, from about 1000 to about 100, since our last survey in 1998. Also the populations of about 500 Tufted Puffins and 700 Parakeet Auklets were decimated, only a handful of each remains. The EVOS funded marine bird surveys of PWS showed a sound wide decline of Pigeon Guillemots, excluding the Naked Island complex and during the same time period of about only 20%., so we know the declines on Naked, Storey and Peak do not reflect the sound-wide population trends. We expect that recently introduced mink are responsible for these declines.

Active guillemot nest sites were identified on Naked, Storey, Peak and Fool Islands. About 20 were found on Fool Island and about 20 were found on Naked Storey and Peak Islands. In 1999, the last year that we worked there we found over 100 on Naked Storey and Peak Islands. Clutch sizes and body condition were determined for chicks. Diets of chicks were determined by observing adults bring fish to the nest site.

Additionally we surveyed several other areas for pigeon guillemot colonies to compare changes to the Naked Island archipelago. We also contracted with Dr. Brown to conduct aerial surveys for forage fish around Naked Island to compare to surveys done in the mid 1990's. Preliminary results suggest that there as many or more forage fish around Naked Island now as in the 1990's. Beach seines were also done to sample abundance of forage fish to compare to the 1990's and results supported the results of the aerial surveys.

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.*

We plan to analyze the data collected these past two years and write a report of the findings. Also the mink genetics data will be analyzed and a report will be written.

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

This project has been to date a stand alone project.

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.

We contacted people in Chenega, Tatitlek, Cordova, Valdez and Whittier looking for trappers to hire to trap the mink in PWS for us. We found no one who wanted to do the trapping for us. We have also contacted several people in these villages to help determine the history of mink

distribution in the sound. People were very helpful, we collected information that suggests that there were no mink on

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.*

Efforts to data include sample acquisition and management. Data management will compile with the Trustee Councils; data management policies.

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.

We have stayed within our budget to date. We stayed in an inexpensive boat while trapping mink. The money we saved on the charter allowed us to get aerial surveys and surveys of other guillemot colonies completed.

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!