

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: 11100808.....

Project Title: Nearshore Synthesis: sea otters and sea ducks (amendment)

PI Name: Dan Esler

Time period covered: 1 Sept 2010 - 1 Sept 2011

Date of Report: 22 Aug 2011.....

Report prepared by: Dan Esler

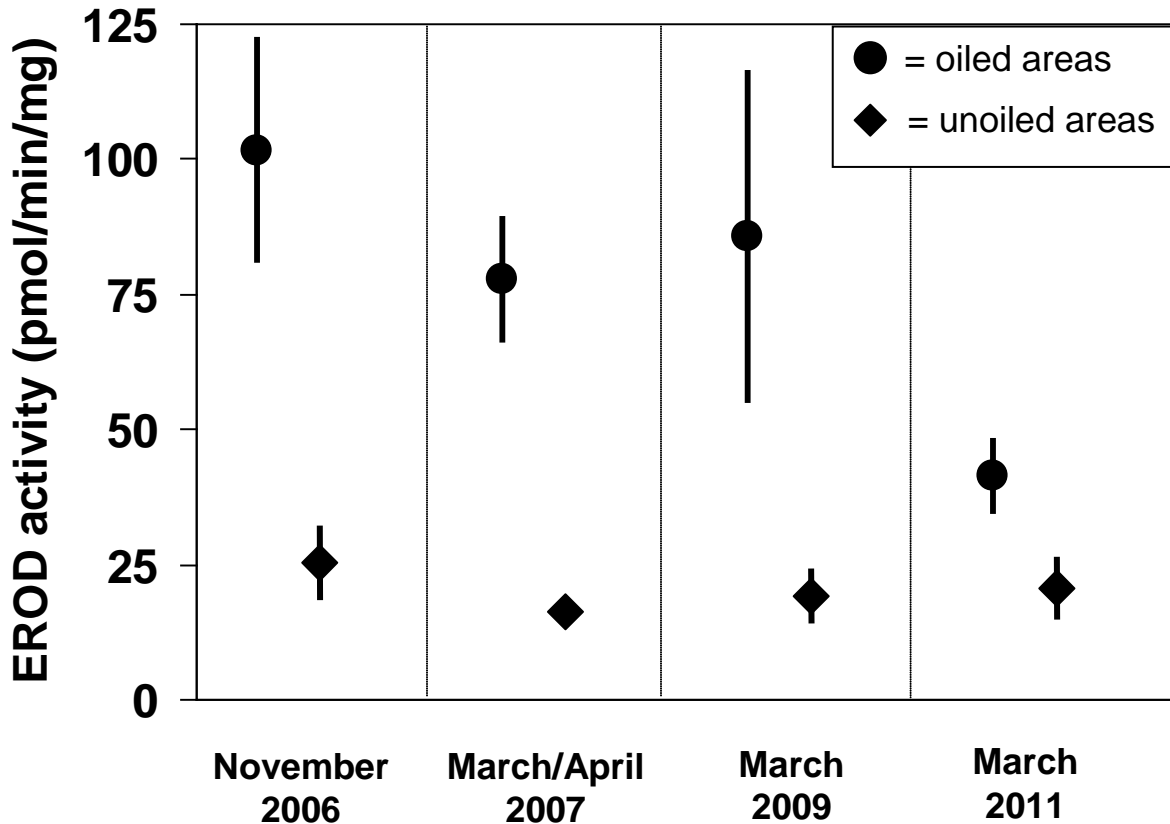
Project website (if applicable):

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.

The entirety of this amended project has been conducted within the past year, following the plan, schedule, and objectives laid out in the DPD for the amendment. Activities include: pre-planning and conduct of field work in March 2011 to collect liver biopsies from harlequin ducks; laboratory analysis (EROD activity) to evaluate hepatic cytochrome P4501A (CYP1A) induction; and data summaries and preliminary analysis.

A graph was prepared (see below) contrasting data collected as part of this project (2011) with those collected earlier and presented in a recent paper (Esler, D., K. A. Trust, B. E. Ballachey, S. A. Iverson, T. L. Lewis, D. J. Rizzolo, D. M. Mulcahy, A. K. Miles, B. R. Woodin, J. J. Stegeman, J. D. Henderson, and B. W. Wilson. 2010. Cytochrome P4501A biomarker indication of oil exposure in harlequin ducks up to 20 years after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 29:1138-1145.)

The data summary indicates that EROD activity (and by inference, oil exposure) in oiled areas is more similar to that in reference areas than in 2006 to 2009. However, it remains higher in oiled areas than unoiled, suggesting that some degree of exposure of harlequin ducks to lingering Exxon Valdez oil persists.



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.*

As per the DPD, final data analysis and preparation and submission of a Final Report will be conducted prior to 30 September 2011.

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

Successful completion of the project required coordination among a number of research collaborators, including Simon Fraser University, Pacific Wildlife Foundation, University of California Davis, and U.S. Geological Survey (Alaska Science Center and Western Ecological Science Center). All partners have completed their roles as expected.

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.

There was limited opportunity for community involvement or incorporation of TEK. However, the boat charter for field work support was conducted with a local vessel and crew.

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.*

No new products or presentations were created that incorporate data from the 2011 data. However, these data will be incorporated into future journal submissions, as well as collaborative projects proposed to the EVOSTC.

Note that final data and analyses will be submitted for archiving at the time of final report submission (30 September 2011).

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.*

The project was conducted within the originally proposed budget. Travel costs were slightly higher than anticipated and operational costs slightly lower, but overall the budget matched expenses.

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 catherine.boerner@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.*