

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: 11100112

Project Title: *Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the Gulf of Alaska 22 Years after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill*

PI Name: G. Irvine, D. Mann, M. Carls

Time period covered: Feb.2011-Aug.2011

Date of Report: Aug. 24, 2011

Report prepared by: G. Irvine

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.

Our research activities in 2011 were negatively affected by severe bad weather. We were on a vessel in Cook Inlet/Shelikof Strait for 7 days and were only able to sample on 2 low tides. After five days of bad weather, when it became clear that we could not sample our suite of sites, we concentrated on accomplishing Objective 2 (determining if oil is leaking out of the sites), which involved placing passive samplers at just 2 sites and nearby controls. Since these samplers are extremely sensitive to waterborne hydrocarbons, by finishing Objective 2 we reduce the conflict between that sampling and some of our traditional sampling that can disrupt the oil at a site (e.g., taking oiled sediment samples, and assessing the depth of subsurface oil via dip stones). Thus, even though we visited two sites - and visually observed appreciable persistent oil at both, we could not do those disruptive forms of sampling which are extremely important components of the long-term monitoring. We submitted an amendment to our proposal which will allow the complete re-sampling of our 6 Gulf of Alaska long-term monitoring sites in 2012. Our overall objectives have not changed, but in our proposed amendment, we have modified the due dates for this study and have provided a budget that addresses the additional costs required.

We retrieved the passive samplers approximately one month after their placement, and sent the samplers (and mussel samples) to the Auke Bay Lab for analyses. Those analyses are being conducted.

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 have already submitted an amendment to Project 11100112 that requested funding to complete sampling that was detailed in the original proposal, but which could not be accomplished in 2011 because of extremely bad weather. In that amendment we modified the due dates for various objectives based on changes to the sampling plan.

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

We have been in close communication with staff, including our collaborator, Mark Carls, of the Auke Bay Labs and have sent samples collected in 2011 to them for analyses. We also invited and had NPS participation in our 2011 research cruise along the Katmai National Park and Preserve coast.

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 invite participation of the NPS because we want them to fully understand our project and its resource management implications.

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.*

None at this point.

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.*

As mentioned above, we have submitted an amendment to our project proposal to allow the original objectives to be met by additional sampling next year. Only costs that were incurred in 2011 sampling activities that would need to be repeated in 2012 were requested. These costs were primarily in logistics (contracts) and personnel time.

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.*