

## Maglaqui, Joy P (EVOSTC sponsored)

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**From:** George Matz <geomatz41@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** DFG, EVOS Restoration (EVOSTC sponsored)  
**Subject:** EVOSTC Projects Draft FY22 Work Plan  
**Attachments:** EVOS TC final letter.doc

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Below are comments that the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Community Council would like to submit regarding the EVOSTC Projects Draft FY22 Work Plan. Attached is a copy with our letterhead. Please distribute our comments to the Trustee Council members before their meeting Jan. 18.

George Matz  
Community Council Chair

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
4230 University Drive, Suite 220  
Anchorage, AK 99508-4650

January 4, 2022

Dear EVOS Trustee Council Members:

The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (KBRR) Community Council consists of appointed community members and agencies who support the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) research, training, and education programs. Typically, council members are or have been prominently involved with other organizations in the Kachemak Bay area and bring a wide perspective of backgrounds to the table. The primary purpose for the Community Council is to provide an organized structure for substantive and meaningful dialogue as well to facilitate recommendations from agencies, local governments, researchers, environmental educators, conservation groups, and others interested in natural science research and education. The mission of KBNERR is: Enhancing understanding and appreciation of the Kachemak Bay estuary and adjacent waters to ensure that these ecosystems remain healthy and productive.

At our December Council meeting we learned that the Gulf Watch program which KBRR has been participating in since 2012 has been defunded. This came as a surprise considering that the Scientific Panel said in its review "The proposal is well constructed, guiding the reader through general hypotheses subsequently linked to a list of detailed actions... The proposed statistical methods are well established and reasonable." We also learned that the administrative infrastructure which oversees the Gulf Watch Alaska research has been curtailed, which was also a surprise.

The Gulf Watch research is long term, vital science carried out to produce long enough datasets to better understand how oceanographic and climate changes are driving shifts in fish, shellfish, bird and marine

mammal populations. This data is used by decision-makers to inform their strategies for dealing with complex systems. Government and industry leaders use this information to base decisions which have long range economic impacts on local communities and the state. Given the accelerated changes we are experiencing in Alaskan waters, we believe that this successful long-term monitoring data will be even more valuable in the near future than what it has already demonstrated.

The Council wishes to go on record in support of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve's continued research with the Gulf Watch program. We are also disappointed that the Gulf Watch Alaska program management has been defunded. Please reconsider both of those decisions so that this important scientific research can continue so we may better understand marine ecosystem changes and manage marine resources.

Sincerely,

George Matz,

KBRR Community Council Chair



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Matz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

George Matz,

KBRR Community Council Chair