

1. **FY 22-31 PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Proposals requesting FY22 - 31 funding are due to shiwai.wang@alaska.gov and linda.kilbourne@alaska.gov by March 29, 2021. Please note that the information in your proposal and budget form will be used for funding review. Please refer to the Invitation for the specific proposal requirements for each Focus Area. The information requested in this form is in addition to the information requested in each Focus Area and by the Invitation. We may make inquiries regarding the project and proposer(s), including consulting with agencies or other parties. Project proposals may be submitted in response to only one current Invitation (FY 22-31 or FY 22-26). A project that is submitted under both Invitations may be disqualified from consideration. Please indicate below if your proposal contains confidential information.

Does this proposal contain confidential information? Yes No

Program Number* and Title

22220403 PWS Natural History Symposium

Primary Investigator(s) and Affiliation(s)

Paul Twardock, Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation

Date Proposal Submitted

March 29th, 2021

Program Abstract (maximum 300 words)

The abstract should provide a brief and concise overview of the overall goals of the program and provide sufficient information for a summary review as this is the text that will be used in the public work plan and may be relied upon by the EVOSTC Public Advisory Committee and other parties.

The Natural History Symposium has been the keystone event of the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation (PWSSF) since it began in 2018. The Symposium, which is free to the public and held in mid-May, provides the latest science, research and heritage news by experts from throughout the PWS region. The program responds to a need expressed by tour companies, outfitters and guides, and other educational interests to provide consistent, accurate, and professional training for the guides and other educators that interact with thousands of PWS visitors every year.

Topics include climate change, ocean conditions, impacts of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, and other complex and evolving issues. It is also an opportunity for the general public to gain knowledge on important topics affecting the region. In these ways, PWSSF sees the symposium as an investment in responsible use of the Sound, public education, community resilience, and area-wide stewardship, which all connect to the heart of the PWSSF mission. There is currently no other education or science center located in the Whittier harbor. The harbor has been experiencing a large increase in tourists, and recreational and commercial boaters. Hosting the NH Symposium in Whittier is a way for PWSSF to increase awareness of their various projects throughout the PWS and the community.

Educational programs like the Symposium can lead individuals to become citizen scientists; engaged, inspired and compelled. The presenters at the Symposium are selected to cover a wide range of topics, but the goal is to educate and advocate for reducing the negative impacts on the Prince William Sound. If the PWS is to continue recovering from the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the public need to be informed on ethical and sustainable ways of recreating. This program will explore and develop methods for encouraging low impact, responsible recreation.

EVOSTC Funding Requested (round to the nearest hundred, must include 9% GA)

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY22-26 Total
28,589	18,803	18,803	18,803	18,803	103,799
FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY27-31 Total
24,253	18,803	18,803	18,803	18,803	99,463
FY22-31 Total					203,261

Non-EVOSTC Funds to be used, (round to the nearest hundred) please include source and amount per source:

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY22-26 Total
0	0	0	0	0	0
FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY27-31 Total
0	0	0	0	0	0
FY22-31 Total					0

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please provide a summary of the program including overall goals and objectives.

Purpose and Need

PWSSF has coordinated the PWS Natural History Symposium since 2019. The event, which is free and open to the public, provides the latest science, research, and heritage news from top experts from throughout the PWS region. The program responds to a longstanding need expressed by tour companies, agencies, and other interests to provide consistent, accurate, and professional training for the guides and other educators who interact with thousands of PWS visitors every year. By investing in consistent and accurate messaging among educators, the symposium builds support and connection to the Sound among commercial interests, visitors, and residents.

Additionally, the symposium is an opportunity for PWS residents and others to gain knowledge of important topics affecting the region, including ocean health, climate change, subsistence resources, and the status of EVOS-affected species and resources. By simultaneously serving the needs of the recreation/tourism industry and the general public, the symposium represents an investment in community resilience, local economies, public education, awareness of EVOS-affected species and resources, and responsible enjoyment of the Sound.

Objectives

1. Continue offering an annual professional-level training opportunity for commercial, agency, and public interests across the PWS region. [t11]
2. Continue building access to the symposium for communities, students, Alaska Native audiences, underserved community members, and others in the PWS region.
3. Hire a paid symposium coordinator to add much-needed capacity to the organizing committee, enable greater energy for all facets of symposium design, planning, and outreach.
4. Have participants demonstrate an interest in PWS's long term sustainability by increasing their engagement in PWS stewardship, citizen science, and education.
5. Achieve robust participation across PWS user groups: i.e.: residents, private boaters, general public, guides, educators, scientists, fishermen, and others.
6. Steadily increase new participant ratio.
7. Facilitate new partnerships among agencies and other organizations, including PWS Science Center, PWS RCAC, PWSSF, state and federal agencies, and others.
8. Maintain consistently high evaluations of presentations, schedule and organization from participants.
9. After the pandemic, reestablish in-person networking and information sharing role for the symposium while maintaining remote access.
10. Work with partners who are already offering to expand the symposium to include field activities, programs for youth, and meetings among commercial operators and others focused on PWS issues.

Benchmarks for each goal are in Section 4C.

Symposium Planning

○ *Organizing Committee*

The symposium organizing committee consists of PWSSF volunteer Board members who are active university educators, Whittier government officials, PWS business owners, professional PWS guides, and others. All are long-time residents of the PWS region with expert knowledge of the area's environment, history, community dynamics, and business needs.

Each year the organizing committee also consists of specialists from the PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council and the Chugach National Forest, among others. See below Section 3 Program Personnel and Section 4 Program Management for more information on symposium organizing committee members, roles, reporting, and other responsibilities.

○ *Annual Agenda/Topics*

The organizing committee is dedicated to keeping the symposium dynamic and relevant year-to-year so that it remains an attractive source of professional training for PWS educators and provides residents with the latest updates on issues critical to community health and resilience. To achieve this, the committee consults and coordinates annually with experts, researchers, and organizations such as PWS Science Center and state and federal agencies, among others, to identify topics of greatest relevance, both to the target audience and from a natural resources perspective.

The committee has also adopted a planning strategy to ensure continued relevance for both new and returning audience members. It is centered around core topics, core institutions, recurring themes, and new topics, which are all outlined below:

- a. **Core Topics:** The committee believes a suite of core topics should be treated every year. These include Alaska Native culture, PWS land management (presented by Alaska Native corporations, State of Alaska, and Chugach National Forest), oil spill effects and prevention, climate change, and the work of the PWS Science Center, among select others.

While these core topics are specifically addressed in annual presentations, the committee works with speakers to ensure presentation material is unique from year to year. For example, in the case of climate change, annual presentations have addressed climate change public communication strategies (2019), a climate change 101 overview for educators (2020), and a discussion of updated 30-year climate normal (2021).

- b. **Core Institutions:** The committee believes certain institutions of regional importance should also be encouraged to present each year, including Chugach Regional Resources Commission, Chugach Alaska Corporation, PWS Science Center, PWS RCAC, Chugach National Forest, State of Alaska agencies, NOAA, and others. While these core institutions are invited annually, the committee works with speakers to ensure the information presented is updated and relevant. For example, while Chugach Alaska Corporation may present each year, the audience is always exposed to new information.

- c. **Core Themes:** The committee believes certain themes are important to emphasize each year from varying perspectives, including the status of EVOS-affected species and resources, Alaska Native heritage, climate change, and ocean health, among others. EVOS-affected species and resources provide an example. Each symposium includes stand-alone sessions on some aspects of this topic, but the committee encourages additional speakers to revisit the topic throughout the day (i.e. during talks on glacier research, seabirds, salmon, etc).

- d. **New Topics:** In an additional commitment to keeping symposium content fresh each year, the committee ensures a target of 30% of presentations address topics not offered at previous symposia. Decisions are informed by current events, partner input, and other factors. Examples include PWS aquaculture operations (2019), Columbia Glacier research (2019), terrestrial invasive species overview (2020), killer whale research (2020), black bear population dynamics/research (2021), trends in regional glacier dynamics (2021), the Barry Arm landslide (2021), among many others.

We believe our track record of consistently high attendance, even despite the challenges of the pandemic, demonstrates our commitment to a dynamic annual agenda is working. Evaluations from businesses and tourism operators from Valdez, Whittier, Palmer, and other locations show companies increasingly use the symposium as required training for their interpreters, jet-ski guides, kayak guides, boat captains, and other educators, while members of the public have also provided consistently positive feedback. Hiring a symposium coordinator would help PWSSF continue to refine all levels of symposium planning.

○ *Event Timing*

The symposium is held each year in May, usually the Monday before the Memorial Day weekend. This date was selected by canvassing leaders in the recreation/tourism industry, community leaders, agency leaders, and others with expert knowledge of business and community dynamics.

For commercial and agency audiences, the timing is designed to coincide with annual trainings occurring across the PWS region for guides, captains, interpreters, and other often seasonal staff who educate PWS visitors. For logistical and economic reasons, recreation/tourism companies and agencies often hold annual trainings a week or two before Memorial Day, just before the beginning of the busy summer season.

The committee has chosen Monday because in a normal year it is a day when cruise ships are not in Whittier, which is the intended physical location of the symposium. If the symposium was held concurrent with a cruise ship visit to Whittier, many commercial recreation/tourism employees would be too busy to attend.

For independent community members, the week or two prior to Memorial Day also appears to work well. Since it closely follows the end of the school year, many families have not yet left town for vacations, subsistence, or other summer travels. Since it also precedes the busy boating season in PWS, many private boaters, hunters, and fishers are available to attend. While it does coincide with the Copper River commercial fishing season and PWS commercial shrimping, it precedes the height of commercial salmon fishing in PWS, enabling involvement by the commercial fishing community. And while students are no longer in school, we are working with Chugach School District and other partners to increase our outreach to students, youth, and school teachers. This latter sector of the community is a vital group an EVOSTC-funded symposium coordinator could help us reach.

Research by the committee indicates holding the symposium in fall, winter, or the peak of summer will not capitalize well on the schedules of both commercial and private interests. The committee will regularly assess optimal symposium timing. An EVOSTC-funded symposium coordinator could assist with further research into optimal symposium scheduling.

○ *Event Venue(s)*

We selected Whittier as the symposium's physical location to optimize attendance by the large number of companies and Alaska residents who access PWS from Whittier, Anchorage, and the Kenai Peninsula. The selection is also an investment in the Whittier economy, which does not enjoy some of the

economic opportunities afforded other communities by the Alaska Sea Life Center, PWS Science Center, and other resources.

When the symposium was first held in Whittier in 2019, attendance exceeded the city's population and resulted in ancillary spending on food and other services. With the help of an EVOSTC-funded symposium coordinator, we hope to grow the event further and continue building its support for the Whittier economy at a time of year when visitation is typically low. Growing the event may include expanding to multiple days with events and meetings hosted by partner organizations.

Selecting Whittier enables use of the 250-seat City Council Chambers in the new Whittier Public Safety Building and two additional conference rooms with combined seating for another 70 people. The Chugach School District has also offered use of classroom and administrative space at the Whittier School to support youth programs, meetings, or for a time when the symposium grows further. The buildings are equipped with the necessary technology to support recording and broadcasting the symposium online. In our inaugural year of 2019, we counted over 200 attendees with an average of 80 people in attendance at one time. Catering was sponsored and provided by the Inn at Whittier, Lazy Otter Café, PWS RCAC, and the City of Whittier.

In 2020 COVID presented challenges that nearly resulted in canceling the symposium. But the organizing committee successfully moved the symposium online via the Crowdcast platform and garnered an audience of 252 people. The committee had previously envisioned an online format as an aspirational goal for reaching a broader PWS audience, but 2020 forced early adoption of the approach and demonstrated its feasibility. In 2021 COVID required again using the online format, which garnered an audience of 269 people. Since many attendees are educators in PWS, this represents broad public outreach.

In 2020 and 2021 we had attendees from throughout the PWS region, Anchorage, the Mat-Su, and various states in the lower-48, plus Sweden. And several companies required the symposium as training for their employees. In 2022, if pandemic conditions allow, we plan to hold the symposium physically in Whittier while simultaneously broadcasting online. This will enable a return to in-person sharing of knowledge and networking among agencies, companies, residents, and others. At the same time, live-streaming the event and hosting its recordings on our website will continue to help us reach broader regional, national, and international audiences.

Support from EVOSTC will enable us to hire the symposium coordinator we need to handle this mounting array of logistics. It will also enable us to purchase video and audio equipment and hire personnel to record and live-stream. We anticipate replacing the equipment every five years as technology changes.

In addition to a physical location in Whittier and live-streaming of the symposium online, each year's event is also available for viewing at any time on our website. This enables us to continue reaching PWS audiences throughout the year. Website visitors can select individual presentations or watch the entire event.

The 2020 symposium can be viewed for free at: <https://www.princewilliamsound.org/copy-of-natural-history-symposium>.

The 2021 symposium can be viewed for free at: <https://www.princewilliamsound.org/2021-natural-history-symposium>.

Symposium Outreach

Our organizing committee includes a public outreach specialist. We use press releases, social media, our website, the PWSSF mailing list, Whittier Chamber mailing list, agency mailing lists, and other resources to advertise the event. Outreach begins in December and January so that commercial interests, agencies, and others can reserve the date as they plan their spring training efforts. Discussions in August 2021 with PWS Science Center indicate that organization can lend more assistance in outreach.

Members of the organizing committee are well connected to universities, chambers of commerce, business associations, state and federal agencies, and other entities with broad networks. Committee members work with our outreach coordinator to ensure announcements percolate through our networks. Additionally, each year's symposium agenda includes speakers from the PWS Science Center, PWS RCAC, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, NOAA, Chugach National Forest, and others with their own robust networks. The committee works with speakers to ensure continued outreach among their networks.

The Chugach School District is a sponsoring partner of the symposium. Our goal is to outreach further to PWS communities, youth, and educators through the school district and other means to increase community involvement and student access. An EVOSTC-funded coordinator could help us build these connections that to a large degree have so far exceeded the capacity of our all-volunteer committee.

Our outreach strategy is successful, but much more outreach can be done to engage students, communities, underserved groups, and others. An important role of a paid symposium coordinator will be to commit more resources to overall outreach.

○ *Evaluation of Symposium*

Each year the organizing committee meets following the event to debrief. This includes an evaluation of speakers and participant feedback. Minutes from the debrief are used the following fall when the committee discusses the upcoming year's "Agenda" (program). Please see Section 4C for full description of evaluation protocols and process.

An EVOSTC-funded coordinator will collect and summarize hard copy and online evaluations for fall planning. The group then identifies current topics that will benefit our target participant groups.

Budget Summary

The PWS Natural History Symposium has been organized and implemented primarily by volunteer members of the PWSSF Board of Directors and partners from the Chugach National Forest, PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council, and the commercial tourism sector. Costs have been kept low by in-

kind contributions from the City of Whittier, Chugach School District, and other donated time by our partners. Each year, the planning committee has attracted expert speakers from the PWS Science Center and agencies such as NOAA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and others at no cost.

This proposal, if funded, will enable the Foundation to broaden the reach and scope of the event as described in our goals and benchmarks. The Foundation will hire a contracted part time event coordinator (9 months, 20 hours/week @ \$20/hour) with responsibilities to grow the symposium's outreach, including increasing numbers and diversity of speakers, participants, and partners, and adoption of youth and other programs. We have had great success during the pandemic with our live streamed event with broad participation. However, in person sharing of knowledge is invaluable. Our goal is to have the best of both: an in person event that is live streamed (and recorded).

This grant will purchase video and audio equipment and hire personnel to enable live streaming and recording of the symposium, allowing remote access and access post event. We anticipate replacing the equipment every five years as technology changes. Though the event has proven to be sustainable through sponsorships, in kind donations, and volunteers, with EVOS support we anticipate increasing our outreach through combining the in person and online formats.

2. RELEVANCE TO THE INVITATION

Discuss how the project addresses the overall Program goals and objectives. Describe the results you expect to achieve, the benefits of success as they relate to the Education and Outreach Focus Area, and the potential recipients of these benefits.

This area is identified as an EVOS-affected geographic region. The project goal is to mitigate EVOS impacts by improving conditions for EVOS-affected and injured species and the people that depend upon these resources. PWSSF's mission is to foster stewardship in the Sound by educating and inspiring the public; empowering them with knowledge to become active citizen scientists.

The importance of the annual Natural History Symposium is that it responds to a need expressed by tour companies, outfitters and guides to provide consistent, accurate, and professional training for the guides and other educators that interact with thousands of PWS visitors every year. PWSSF plans to continue working with the PWS community, to widen the scope of this educational campaign and have measurable positive impacts on the EVOS injured and recovering natural resources of the Prince William Sound.

3. PROGRAM PERSONNEL

*Provide the names of key personnel involved and their role(s) in the program including their roles as they relate to the program and the percentage of their time that will be dedicated to the program. Attach CVs to the end of the proposal. Each CV is limited to **two** consecutively numbered pages and must include the following information:*

- *A list of professional and academic credentials, mailing address, and other contact information (including e-mail address)*
- *A list of up to 10 of your most recent publications most closely related to the proposed project and up to five other significant publications. Do not include additional lists of publications, lectures, etc.*
- *A list of all persons (including their organizational affiliations) in alphabetical order with whom you have collaborated on a project or publication within the last four years. If there have been no collaborators, this should be PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION*

Provide an administrative plan for overall program management including an organizational chart. At a minimum the plan should include a list of what services are covered by your indirect rate (clearly report what this rate is); a schedule for the production and implementation of data and reporting policies which must include a plan for addressing non-compliant PIs and programs; and a listing of any costs and staff time associated with meetings.

(see APPENDIX and Attachment A for resumes)

Team Leader: Paul Twardock (Alaska Pacific University)

Key staff: Betsi Oliver (PWS RCAC Outreach and Education Coordinator)

Victoria Vandersommen (PWSSF Board/professional guide/interpreter)

Kelly Bender (PWSSF Board/Whittier Chamber/owner/operator Lazy Otter Charters, Whittier)

Pete Denmark (PWSSF Board/Whittier City Council/owner Alaska Sea Kayakers, Whittier)

William Melton (professional guide and videographer)

Tim Lydon (Chugach National Forest)

Natural History Symposium Program Administration Chart:

Lead coordinator	Coordinator assistant/PI	Private sector contact	Alaska Native outreach coordinator	Public lands contact	Tech support & Environmental Ed contact	Budget/Admin assistant
Will hire for this position	Paul Twardock	Kelly Bender	Betsi Oliver	Tim Lydon	William Melton	Victoria Vandersommen

Data & Reporting Policy Schedule:

FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
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2021 Grant awardees are notified, work plan released	Integrate EVOSTC Work Plan comments into Symposium program plan	Evaluate program, post Symposium with email surveys, event comment boxes and follow up emails with presenters	Utilize social media and volunteer campaigns as potential survey candidates. Prepare for the annual report.
2022 Annual report due	Review past event evaluations. Send out requests for comments in the presenter solicitations.	Evaluate program, post Symposium	Document the NH Symposium expenses, evaluate and review with the team. Prepare for the annual report.
2023 Annual report due	Review past event evaluations	Evaluate program, post Symposium	Document the NH Symposium expenses, evaluate and review with the team. Prepare for the annual report.
2024-30 Annual reports due	Gather data from past Symposium events from participants and presenters, evaluate and share for review.	Evaluate program, post Symposium with email surveys, event comment boxes and follow up emails with presenters	Document the NH Symposium expenses, evaluate and review with the team. Prepare for the annual report.
2031 Final report due			

4. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT: DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Describe the plan for the management of projects. At a minimum, the plan should include:

A. Selection and implementation of an internal outreach steering committee

How will members be selected and to what degree will they be involved with the program?

The Symposium organizing committee is selected by the PWSSF board of directors and includes individuals who hold positions across the spectrum of industry, agencies, and education. They are members of Alaska Pacific University, Prince William Sound RCAC, Chugach National Forest, tour company owners, guides, and others and they have each volunteered and been selected to be equally participating members of the program. In the future, as others seek to join, and leave the administrative team, opportunities for review will be offered on a rolling basis so as to provide continuity in the planning. As changes will be made in the Natural History Symposium program organizing committee, all additions will be made to the necessary annual reports submitted to EVOSTC and provided for the public.

B. Distribution of and addressing program steering committee and EVOSTC work plan comments to the PIs

How will the steering committee and EVOSTC work plan comments be circulated to the PIs? How will you ensure that comments and recommendations will be addressed?

The comments of the EVOSTC work plan will be an important agenda item for the October board meeting. Once the grants have been awarded, and the EVOSTC Work Plan is posted, it will be evaluated by the Natural History Symposium organizing committee and comments will be noted, discussed, and addressed. In order to have this team remain accountable, a PWSSF board member will also be involved in this evaluation of the work plan process. Following the review of the EVOSTC Work Plan comments regarding the Natural History Symposium, the Symposium planning team will incorporate the content of these comments into their program, making necessary modifications as needed. We envision this as a smooth and value-added process since the symposium strategy described in Sec. 1 Executive Summary includes EVOS-affected species and resources as both a core topic and core theme for each year's program.

C. Evaluation of project progress and measuring program success

Describe a plan for the evaluation of program projects to ensure that they are meeting their milestones and are still relevant to the goals of the program. Describe a plan that will be used to evaluate and measure the success of the program.

There will be an annual evaluation process following the Symposium each year. The organizing committee sets milestones for the symposium which are approved by the Foundation Board. These milestones will then become part of the underlying inspiration for the work done by PWSSF and be a part of the overall vision of education, outreach and stewardship in the Sound.

The evaluation of the program will be both formative and summative.

Formative Evaluation:

The formative process began after the 2021 symposium when the organizing committee met and debriefed the '21 event. The group assessed a variety of topics such as number of participants, strength of speakers and presentations, participant satisfaction, budget, outreach, schedule flow, online organization, etc. They then started organizing for 2022 by identifying certain goals and benchmarks for planning:

September - November '21: Organizing committee reconvenes and assigns roles, determines event dates and assesses the venue based on status of the pandemic. Develop job description for coordinator. Evaluate budget and revise if needed. Confirm long standing sponsors and identify potential new ones. Propose budget, dates, and goals to PWS Stewardship Foundation Board. Hire coordinator if funded and approved.

January - March '22: Secure facility and streaming services, initial outreach to sponsors. First drafts of potential speakers and agenda. Initial outreach (i.e.: save the date) to past participants, social media, members, and partners. Open registration. Formative evaluation of the planning process: what new and relevant topics should we be including in the event? Are we meeting our deadlines? Are we staying on budget? Are we engaging partners in a timely and effective manner? Do we have at least 1/3 new speakers and topics from 2021?

April; Final draft of agenda, second round of outreach, develop online and hard copy event evaluation tools, reserve/arrange streaming services and equipment.

May: Final public outreach, speaker training, registration, and event implementation and evaluation.

Summative Evaluation:

At the beginning of each planning year goals and objectives will be developed, then after the symposium the planning committee will analyze and evaluate the event based on the goals and objectives.

For instance, in the fall of 2020, during the pandemic, the organization aimed to hold the event online and target the same number of participants we had in the 2020 event, with the assumption that 'Zoom Burnout' would lead to less interest in on line events. We also aimed to develop and release a promotional video. Both goals were met: we had 265 registrants and 70-80 attendees per online session and we premiered a new promotional video which is on our website: <https://www.princewilliamsound.org>.

For the 2022 event we developed the following draft goals and objectives

1. Continue offering an annual professional-level training opportunity for commercial, agency, and public interests across the PWS region. *Benchmark: A goal of six agencies/companies send employees to the symposium as required training. This represents 30% increase over 2021.*
2. Continue building access to the symposium for communities, students, Alaska Native audiences, underserved community members, and others in the PWS region. *Benchmark: audience members show diversity across PWS communities and include students and members of Alaska Native communities and organizations.*
3. Hire a paid symposium coordinator to add much-needed capacity to the organizing committee, enable greater energy for all facets of symposium design, planning, and outreach. *Benchmark: A symposium coordinators is in place to help the organizing committee reach its goals.*
4. Have participants demonstrate an interest in PWS's long term sustainability by increasing their engagement in PWS stewardship, citizen science, and education. *Benchmark: 20% of participants will engage in 2022 PWS volunteer project; 20% of attendees become new members of PWS Stewardship foundation and/or partner organization; Strengthen PWSSF citizen science program by adding 1-2 new citizen science programs.*
5. Have robust participation of each PWS user group: i.e.: general public, guides, educators, scientists, and fisherman. *Benchmark: 20% general public, 30% guides, 20% educators, 10% scientists, 10% land owners/managers and 10% commercial fishing/aquaculture.*
6. Increase our new participant ratio. *Benchmark: Have 20% of attendees as first time participants.*
7. Develop new partnerships for the PWSSF. *Benchmark: Add one to two new major sponsors of PWSSF.*
8. Maintain consistently high evaluations of presentations, schedule and organization from participants. *Benchmark: solicit and receive either hard copy or online evaluations from 70% of participants. Have average scores for presentations, organization, and schedule of 4/5.*
9. Reestablish in person networking and information sharing role for the Symposium while maintaining remote access. *Benchmark: Implement an in-person event in 2022 with live stream and recorded options for remote participants.*
10. Work with partners who are already offering to expand the symposium to include field activities, programs for youth, and meetings among commercial operators and others focused on PWS issues. *Benchmark: the 2022 symposium includes a minimum of one ancillary program hosted by a partner and coordinated through PWSSF.*

An example may include a migratory bird field day or special event hosted by the Chugach National Forest or another entity on the day prior to the symposium.

5. PROGRAM DATA MANAGEMENT

All information related to the symposium is organized and documented for future reference. Number of attendees, presenters, collaborative partners, are stored in PWSSF and Crowdcast databases. Future presenters with data to share can post materials online on the PWSSF website in conjunction with that year's recorded symposium. There will also be "user experience data " that PWSSF hopes to gather from surveys, possibly in partnership with Alaska Pacific University, that can be analyzed and presented at future symposia.

As described above in Section 1 Executive Summary, each year's symposium is recorded and made available through the PWSSF website (see Sec. 2 for website links).

6. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

A. With the Alaska Sea Life Center or Prince William Sound Science Center

A preferred requirement for all proposals is to partner with the ASLC, PWSSC, or both Centers. If not collaborating with either of these Centers, please provide information as to the inquiries and efforts extended to ASLC and PWSSC researchers and/or administrators.

Every year the organizing committee has invited PWS Science Center staff to present at the symposium. The committee's planning strategy, outlined in Sec. 2 Executive Summary, also includes the PWS Science Center as a core institution to invite to present each year. ASLC staff have also been invited to present and invitations will continue. PWSSF reached out to both organizations for a letter of support for the Sustaining Our Sound project proposal and were in turn invited to join their new network, rather than receive a letter.

Each organization invited PWSSF to join their Community Organized Restoration and Learning [CORaL] Network program, which offers mini grants within the PWS. This was discussed as a good potential option, but ultimately the PWSSF board members chose to go forward in an effort to focus specifically on the need expressed by tour companies, outfitters and guides, and other educational interests to provide consistent, accurate, and professional training for the guides and other educators that interact with thousands of PWS visitors every year.

The City of Whittier has been a great supporter and advocate for the work PWSSF has done, and with the abundance of public education outreach that is needed, PWSSF is confident that the work warrants growing the organization, making new goals, and having a broader impact. At this time the PWSSF greatly appreciates the offer to join CORaL and may consider it if our proposals are not chosen.

B. With the EVOSTC LTRM Program

A requirement for education and outreach projects is the coordination with projects and programs in Focus Areas 1 (Long-term Research and Monitoring Program) and Focus area 2 (Mariculture). Provide a list and clearly describe how this project will coordinate with EVOSTC proposed projects in the LTRM Program. This includes any coordination that has taken or will take place and what form the coordination will take (project guidance, shared field sites or researchers, data and information sharing, etc.).

As described above in Section 1 Executive Summary, our planning strategy ensures inclusion of EVOSTC LTRM in each year's symposium agenda. This occurs in three ways. First, presentations are offered each year on specific EVOS-affected species and resources, which often include EVOSTC LTRM projects. Second, the oil spill, its effects, and monitoring are an annual theme revisited by multiple speakers each year. Third, each year's symposium includes participation from core institutions such as the PWS Science Center and others involved in the LTRM program. Partners presenting on these topics have included PWS Science Center, PWS RCAC, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, North Gulf Oceanic Society, Chugach National Forest, NOAA, USFWS, USGS, ADFG, and others.

C. With Proposed EVOSTC Mariculture Focus Area Projects

A requirement for education and outreach projects is the coordination with projects and programs in Focus Areas 1 (Long-term Research and Monitoring Program) and Focus area 2 (Mariculture). Provide a list and clearly describe how this project will coordinate with EVOSTC proposed mariculture projects. This includes any coordination that has taken or will take place and what form the coordination will take (project guidance, shared field sites or researchers, data and information sharing, etc.).

Currently no projects are chosen, however, upon being awarded the grant, the PWSSF board will choose to research and collaborate with related and relevant EVOSTC funded projects in the Mariculture Focus Area.

D. With Other EVOSTC-funded Projects (not within any of the Focus Areas)

Indicate how your proposed project may coordinate with and utilize data from the existing projects funded by the EVOSTC that are not part of an EVOSTC-funded program. Anticipated continuing individual projects for FY22 include project numbers 21210128, 21200127, and 21110853. Use the [project search function](#) for project details.

As described in Section 1 Executive Summary, the symposium organizing committee regards EVOS-affected species and resources as both a core topic and a core theme to be addressed each year. Additionally, the PWS Science Center, NOAA, USFWS, and others working on EVOSTC-funded projects are considered core institutions to participate in each year's symposium. At multiple levels (core topics, themes, and institutions), this strategy ensures coordination and use of data from EVOSTC-funded projects.

In another example, the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) operates the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery (APSH) and the Alaska Ocean Acidification Lab in Seward. PWSSF currently works with CRRC on harmful algal bloom issues and testing of PWS shellfish. We have established new shellfish sampling sites in remote areas of PWS and submit monthly samples from each site to the Seward lab for testing. We have also offered to include ocean acidification sampling from the three sites. This work relates to the Gulf Watch Ocean Acidification Sampling project (21200127), which has collected important data that can be presented at the symposium by CRRC or others.

E. With Trustee or Management Agencies

Please discuss if there are any areas which may support EVOSTC trust or other agency work or which have received EVOSTC trust or other agency feedback or direction, including the contact name of the agency staff. Please include specific information as to how the subject area may assist EVOSTC trust or other agency work.

If the proposed project requires or includes collaboration with other agencies, organizations, or scientists to accomplish the work, such arrangements should be fully explained, and the names of agency or organization representatives involved in the project should be provided. If your proposal is in conflict with another project or program, note this and explain why.

One of the strengths of PWSSF is our working relationship with the Chugach National Forest and other state and federal agencies in PWS. We interact with the Forest on marine debris clean-up, site restoration, trail maintenance, public education, invasive species treatment, citizen science, and more. Each project is related to EVOS-affected species and resources in myriad ways. Each year's symposium includes a summary of these projects and information on how the public can get involved through volunteer participation. Additionally, Chugach NF Wilderness Study Area planner and specialist Tim Lydon participates in the organizing committee each year, and several Forest biologists and specialists present each year on topics that include seabirds, songbirds, invasive species, subsistence resources, black bears, and more.

Similarly, each year's symposium includes presentations from NOAA, USGS, ADFG, and other state and federal agencies working on projects related to or funded by EVOSTC funds. The symposium represents an annual conduit for data and information from these agencies and projects to reach commercial guides, interpreters, and other educators, who in turn pass the information along to the visiting public. The symposium also delivers this information to the PWS community. In each way, the symposium builds awareness and support for EVOSTC-funded projects and the agencies and other entities involved in the work. An EVOS-funded coordinator would help us strengthen these community connections and perform the outreach and planning that would heighten awareness that symposium resources are available all year through the PWSSF website.

F. With Native and Local Communities

*Provide a detailed plan for local and Alaska Native community involvement in the project. **This is a mandatory requirement for all proposals.***

As described in Section 1 Executive Summary, the organizing committee's planning strategy ensures annual invitations to Alaska Native community leaders and organizations. It does this in three ways. First, Alaska Native culture is listed as a core topic to be addressed each year. Second, it is listed as a core theme present in each symposium. Third, Chugach Regional Resources Commission and Chugach Alaska Corporation are both listed as core institutions to be invited to present at each year's event.

The 2021 symposium, along with earlier events, reflected the success of this strategy. CRRC was the first presenter of the day and was given one of the longest session periods of the day, which is consistent with earlier years. They provided a land acknowledgement and description of region, mission, projects, and resources. Shortly after, Chugach Alaska Corporation was the first presenter in the PWS Land Management session, which included equal time from CAC, State of Alaska, and Chugach National Forest as the three largest land managers in PWS.

The organizing committee invites CRRC, CAC, and other Alaska Native interests to participate and leaves presentation content in the hands of the interests themselves, so the messages they regard as most relevant are presented in the manner they deem appropriate.

Additionally, the Chugach School District is a sponsor of the symposium. We strategize with the district to seek greater involvement and access to the symposium by residents, students, and teachers in Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, and other communities. An EVOSTC-funded symposium coordinator would greatly help the organizing committee bring this work to greater fruition. A coordinator could work directly with CRRC, CAC, the school district, village corporations, and others throughout the year to ensure greater inclusion of the Alaska Native community.

Through interactions with CRRC and CAC at the symposium, PWSSF has entered into other work with the organizations. Each month, CRRC provides educational content for a weekly education program called Fun Fact Friday that is hosted across PWSSF social media platforms. We also work with CRRC on shellfish testing at remote locations in PWS. This work can be reported at the symposium, and are examples of how the symposium fosters partnerships and greater connections across the PWS community. PWSSF hopes to continue working with these and other Alaska Native organizations, as well as other partners, to broaden opportunities for youth and others in the PWS region.

The PWSSF board will use TEK as an important resource to guide staff decisions. The Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Handbook was created by an EVOSTC funded project over a decade ago, and it remains useful today. It is imperative to have a culturally sensitive approach to interactions with Native Alaskan communities, in order to accurately assess concerns and issues and make plans for collaboration.

An example of relationship building occurred after the 2021 Symposium when Chugach Alaska Corporation became a PWSSF partner in part based on their involvement in the Symposium.

7. PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Specify when critical program tasks will be completed including field sampling, data management, meetings, and reporting. C = completed, X = planned or not completed. For multi-year projects, reviewers will use this information in conjunction with project reports to assess whether the project is meeting its objectives and is suitable for continued funding.

Project milestone and task progress by fiscal year and quarter, beginning February 1, 2022. C = completed, X = planned or not completed. Fiscal Year Quarters: 1= Feb. 1-April 30; 2= May 1-July 31; 3= Aug. 1-Oct. 31; 4= Nov. 1-Jan 31. *Annual review and reporting policy will be discussed at the January 2020 Council meeting. Any changes will be posted on the website.

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Milestone																				
Coordinate speakers for Symposium	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X
Evaluate past Symposium and respond	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X
Milestone																				
Evaluate survey info and respond	X		X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X
Research EVOSTC funded projects and incorporate into speaker invitations	X			X	X					X			X	X			X	X		
Reporting																				

*Annual reports					X				X				X				X			
FY work plan				X				X				X				X				X
Final report				X				X				X				X				X
Deliverables																				
Host Natural History Symposium		X						X						X					X	
Post Symposium on PWSSF website			X					X					X			X				X

Milestone/Task	FY27				FY28				FY29				FY30				FY31			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Milestone																				
Evaluate survey info and respond	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Research EVOSTC funded projects and incorporate into speaker invitations	X			X				X	X			X	X			X	X			X
Milestone																				
Coordinate speakers for Symposium	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X
Evaluate past Symposium and respond	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X	X			X
Reporting																				
*Annual reports	X				X				X				X				X			
FY work plan				X				X				X				X				X
Final report				X				X				X				X				X
Deliverables																				
Host Natural History Symposium		X				X				X				X					X	
Post Symposium on PWSSF website			X				X				X				X					X

8. Budget

A. Budget Forms (Attach)

Please provide completed budget forms (Excel workbook). Please note that costs associated with international travel for meetings, symposia, or presentations will not be considered for funding. Include a screen shot of the "Summary" worksheet (example below).

	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$75,000	\$0
Travel	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$0
Contractual	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$2,500	\$0
Commodities	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$3,750	\$0
Equipment	\$5,000					\$5,000	\$0
Indirect Costs (2%)	\$445	\$345	\$345	\$345	\$345	\$1,825	\$0
SUBTOTAL	\$22,695	\$17,595	\$17,595	\$17,595	\$17,595	\$93,075	\$186,150
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$2,043	\$1,584	\$1,584	\$1,584	\$1,584	\$8,377	N/A
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$24,738	\$19,179	\$19,179	\$19,179	\$19,179	\$101,452	\$0
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 27	Proposed FY 28	Proposed FY 29	Proposed FY 30	Proposed FY 31	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE	TEN YEAR TOTAL
Personnel	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$82,500	\$0	\$157,500
Travel	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000
Contractual	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$2,500	\$0	\$5,000
Commodities	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$3,750	\$0	\$7,500
Equipment	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000
Indirect Costs (report rate here)	\$475	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$1,975	\$0	\$3,800
SUBTOTAL	\$24,225	\$19,125	\$19,125	\$19,125	\$19,125	\$100,725	\$201,450	\$193,800
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	\$2,180	\$1,721	\$1,721	\$1,721	\$1,721	\$9,065	N/A	\$17,442
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$26,405	\$20,846	\$20,846	\$20,846	\$20,846	\$109,790	\$211,242	\$211,242
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

B. Sources of Additional Funding

Fill out the summary table below (should match the table on page 2). Provide a narrative that identifies non-EVOSTC funds or in-kind contributions used as cost-share for the work in this proposal. List the amount of funds, the source of funds, and the purpose for which the funds will be used. Do not include funds that are not directly and specifically related to the work being proposed in this proposal. Please attach documentation from additional project funding sources which confirms and describes matching funds, including date(s) the matching funds are/will be authorized.

Non-EVOSTC Funds to be used, please include source and amount per source:

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY22-26 Total
0	0	0	0	0	0
FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY27-31 Total
0	0	0	0	0	0
FY22-31 Total					0

9. LITERATURE CITED

Provide literature cited in the proposal.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge Handbook, Rita A. Miraglia, AK Dept of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence

10. SUGGESTED REVIEWERS (for new program proposals only)

Please identify person(s) not associated with individuals or institutions submitting this proposal, but with sufficient expertise and credentials to review the proposal in an unbiased and objective manner. Full contact information is required for a minimum of 5 people. These individuals may be asked to conduct a peer review of your proposal. It is suggested that you contact your proposed reviewers to confirm that they are willing to provide a review. Peer review may also be conducted by others not identified here.

Gino Graziano, gagraziano@alaska.edu. (907) 504-5143. Expert in Invasive Species and "Leave No Trace."

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