



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
Long-Term Research and Monitoring, Mariculture, Education and Outreach
Annual Project Reporting Form

**For Instructions for each section below, see Reporting Policy, II (B); the Reporting Policy can be found on the website, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

Project Number: 22220403

Project Title: PWS Natural History Symposium

Principal Investigator(s): Paul Twardock, Board Chair

Reporting Period: Feb 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

Submission Date (Due March 1 immediately following the reporting period): February 28, 2023

Project Website: princewilliamsound.org

Please check all the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.

Project progress is on schedule.

We started receiving funding for this project this past fall, thus our first EVOSTC funded symposium will be this coming May 16, 2023. The symposium will be held in Whittier and streamed online with recordings posted after the event. The organizing committee is confirming the program and speakers, in addition to publicizing the event.

Project progress is delayed.

Budget reallocation request.

Personnel changes.

1. Summary of Work Performed:

The fourth annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium took place on May 23, 2022. The 2022 Symposium was our first ever hybrid event and first in-person event since 2019. With both the in-person and online options for attendance, it also boasted our highest attendance. Following the event in May, we debriefed, identified our successes and lessons learned, and began planning our fifth annual Symposium. With funding from the Tatitlek Corporation and



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Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council supporting our 2022 event and the funding support from EVOSTC beginning after the 2022 Symposium, EVOSTC funding was primarily directed to planning our 2023 event.

Our planning committee has scheduled the date for the 2023 PWS Natural History Symposium—Tuesday, May 16th with pre-Symposium activities taking place on Monday, May 15th. This date is one week earlier than past symposia have been so that a greater number of agencies/companies may use the Symposium for their required summer training. The theme for this year's Symposium is "Resilience: Perseverance and Tenacity in Prince William Sound." We have created an agenda and begun reaching out to potential speakers, both new and returning.

Outreach and promotion are an ongoing process throughout the spring. We have circulated save-the-dates on our social platforms and via mass email. Outreach efforts also include tabling at the Anchorage Boat Show and a virtual booth at the upcoming Chugach Regional Resources Commission's Annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering. We continue learning from other conferences and similar events in Alaska, including the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Our outreach targets commercial, agency, and public interests across the PWS and greater southcentral Alaska region.

As we continue to promote the fifth annual PWS Natural History Symposium, we are tracking trends in Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation membership and interest in summer projects. At least one of our new 2023 memberships resulted from joining the PWSSF mailing list after attending the 2022 Symposium online.

2. Products:

Peer-reviewed publications:

Delta Sound Connections, Spring 2022

Reports:

n/a

Popular articles:

n/a



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Conferences and workshops:

Fourth annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium (May 2022)

Public presentations:

n/a

Data and/or information products developed during the reporting period:

Fourth annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium recordings, available on our website at princewilliamsound.org and on YouTube

Data sets and associated metadata:

n/a

Additional Products not listed above:

n/a

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

The Alaska SeaLife Center or Prince William Sound Science Center

We published a piece promoting the PWS Natural History Symposium in the Spring 2022 *Delta Sound Connections*, a publication of the Prince William Sound Science Center. We are currently developing an article for the Spring 2023 *Delta Sound Connections*.

Alysha Cypher of the Prince William Sound Science Center presented “Herring Patterns in Prince William Sound” at the fourth annual PWS Natural History Symposium. Her talk was a popular one at the in-person event and as an online recording.

We are exploring possibilities of a session on sea otters led by a speaker from the Alaska SeaLife Center at the 2023 Symposium.

EVOSTC Long-Term Research and Monitoring Projects

n/a



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EVOSTC Mariculture Projects

n/a

EVOSTC Education and Outreach Projects

PWS Regional Citizens' Advisory Council Education Coordinator Betsi Oliver's presentation "Community Resources in Case of a Big Spill" was a highlight of the 2022 event. We have an ongoing partnership with PWS RCAC and are so grateful for their education and planning expertise and their generosity with staff time. We look forward to Maia Draper-Reich's presentation, which will cover an overview of EVOS to now, at this year's symposium. Additionally, Maryann Fidel from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will present on "Marine Water Quality Monitoring and Lingering EVOS Oil."

Trustee or Management Agencies

The land management session presented by Chugach Alaska Corporation, the U.S. Forest Service, and Alaska State Parks is a staple of the annual Symposium. We work closely with the U.S. Forest Service Chugach National Forest in planning our annual Symposium as well. The event is well-attended by Forest Service staff, and it is used for summer training. Before the 2022 Symposium, the Forest Service coordinated an ancillary BioBlitz event, encouraging hands-on community engagement before the day-long event.

Native and Local Communities

Support from the Tatitlek Corporation made possible increased distance learning opportunities for the 2022 PWS Natural History Symposium. We are honored to partner with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission and the Chugach Alaska Corporation for sessions at our annual Symposium. CRRC Executive Director Willow Hetrick and scientist Allison Carl offered a land acknowledgment and introduction to the Chugach peoples to begin the day. CAC Executive Vice President, ANCSA and Community Affairs Josie Hickel led the talk on land management in Prince William Sound. Andrew Abyo's keynote talk on Indigenous Kayaks was a highlight of the day, particularly as audience members were able to talk with him over models and a full-size kayak.



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4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

In preparation for the 2023 Symposium, the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation has hired an Executive Director who is coordinating the Symposium alongside the long-standing organizing committee that includes representatives from our Board of Directors, the U.S Forest Service, the PWS Regional Citizens’ Advisory Committee, local charter boat operators, and outfitters. The committee regularly consults with the PWS Board with representation from local communities, schools, and land owners. As in the past, we have reached out to a variety of organizations to ensure a mix of new and returning speakers. These include the PWS Science Center, the Chugach Alaska Corporation, the Chugach Regional Resource Commission, the City of Whittier, Alaska State Parks, USGS, the National Tsunami Center, the Alaska Volcano Observatory, the PWS Aquaculture Corporation, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), Alaska Geographic, and more.

Outreach and promotion are critical to reaching audiences across a variety of locations. Last year’s attendees joined from Whittier, Valdez, Cordova, Chenega, Tatitlek, Girdwood, Kenai, Palmer, Seldovia, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Eagle River, Portage, Seward, Denali National Park, Talkeetna, Soldotna, Homer, and Hope. Out-of-state attendees joined us online from Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, New York, Delaware, Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, and Washington. Approximately 50% of last year’s attendees were first-time participants. We look forward to continuing to grow the Symposium audience by offering a mix of staple educational content and the latest in news and research.

5. Budget:

	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	\$10,199
Travel	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$163
Contractual	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$2,500	\$0
Commodities	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$3,750	\$50
Equipment	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Indirect Costs (2%)	\$445	\$345	\$345	\$345	\$345	\$1,825	\$208
SUBTOTAL	\$22,695	\$17,595	\$17,595	\$17,595	\$17,595	\$93,075	\$10,621
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	\$10,621
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000