



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

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*\*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:** 23220405

**Project Title:** Chugach Region Cultural Camps

**Principal Investigator(s):** Lauren Johnson, President, and Executive Director

**Reporting Period:** February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2023

**Submission Date (Due March 1 immediately following the reporting period):** 3-1-2024.

**Project Website:** We currently do not have a website for all the cultural camps however, the foundation's website is [Chugachheritagefoundation.org](http://Chugachheritagefoundation.org)

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

**Project progress is on schedule.**

We were able to successfully host and assist Cultural programs in all 7 of our communities. We will work to grow and strengthen our programs in FY24 focusing on sound program plans and expanding the number of participants in attendance.

**Project progress is delayed.**

**Budget reallocation request.**

We are requesting a budget reallocation to FY24. The reallocation does not alter the original scope or change the objectives of the project. We have submitted a No-Cost extension request form with our report.

**Personnel changes.**

Emilie Swenning is the updated Contact for Nanwalek IRA council.  
Trudy Valenza is the updated contact for Qutekcak Native Tribe.  
Julie Smith and Diane Selanoff are the updated contacts for Valdez Native Tribe.



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## **1. Summary of Work Performed:**

### **Nuuciq Spirit Camp**

Chugach Heritage Foundation (CHF) hosted Nuuciq Spirit Camp on Hinchinbrook Island for two-weeks in July. The camp saw 48 youth participants aged 12-17. The camp served participants from all over Prince William Sound. The classes offered at this year's camp included: kayaking, boat building traditional Alaska Native dance and language, beading, sewing, subsistence, salve making, and photography.

### **Nuuciq Spirt Camp Construction**

From May-September, CHF hired two laborers to work on the construction of our new smokehouse/subsistence drying house ("Smoke House 12x12"). We were able to successfully purchase, transport materials, and construct the structure. This new structure will be a significant improvement to our ability to further process subsistence foods and will provide a stable structure that will be able to withstand the harsh elements on Hinchinbrook Island throughout the year. Now that the construction of the Smokehouse is complete, we are looking to start the construction of our Subsistence Building this coming year (FY24).

In addition to the smokehouse, we were able to successfully purchase, transport and place our new 20' freezer Connex into its permanent location on Hinchinbrook Island. This new Connex will allow us to provide reliable cold storage for fish and seafood during camp. The sturdy construction of the Connex will be able to withstand Hinchinbrook's weather and serve the camp for many years.

### **Tatitlek**

The annual Peksulineq Festival was held May 8-13<sup>th</sup> in the community of Tatitlek. The festival hosted 75 participants and 30 volunteers this year. Classes offered to participants included fur sewing, kuspuk making, beading, traditional food preparation and traditional values. The festival was a successful event that brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate and preserve Tatitlek culture.

### **Cordova**

Cultural Week took place at Mt. Eccles Elementary School September 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is put on by Native Village of Eyak's (NVE) Cultural Department. NVE staff and many volunteers worked together to bring the young students of Cordova an immersive cultural experience. Kindergarten- 6<sup>th</sup> grade learned about traditional dance & language, Native Youth Olympics, traditional presentations, and craft classes. Their afternoons were filled with fun and interactive stations.



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### **Chenega**

Chenega IRA Council held their annual youth fish camp from July 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. The camp hosted 9 youth participants aged 13-18. Activities during the camp included set net fishing, fish cleaning and fileting, logistics of commercial fishing, observations of driving/ captaining a boat and community building. The Chenega Fish Camp is important for the community of Chenega because many of the descendants of Chenega live in the village, other parts of Alaska, and out of state. The ability to provide a program for descendants to gather and work together to learn cultural values and traditional subsistence skills is invaluable to the health of the community.

### **Nanwalek**

Nanwalek IRA and Nanwalek school hosted the 2023 Sea Week from May 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. Youth participants aged 11-17 engaged in a variety of activities including *bidarki* picking, seashell gathering, tidepool scavenger hunting, traditional dance, gathering subsistence food for community potluck, and attended classes to learn about their environment. Due to the remoteness of the community, CHF assisted the Nanwalek IRA in procuring important subsistence processing equipment including knives, sharpeners, 2 x 30 qt canners, pressure gauges, and personal protective equipment. Additionally, jelly jarring preservatives, fish pickling ingredients, and other food preparation commodities were purchased for the community by CHF.

### **Port Graham**

In partnership with the Port Graham Village Council, CHF helped support the “*Snuikutem*” program. The program took place from January 11<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> in Port Graham. The program featured sewing and beading classes as well as traditional dance, language, and subsistence food preparation. CHF was able to assist the community in procuring a new vacuum sealer. This piece of equipment will be invaluable for the community as it will provide a means to teach and preserve subsistence foods for their cultural events and community members.

### **Seward**

In partnership with the Qutekcak Native Tribe (QNT) in Seward, CHF hosted a community cultural event from December 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at the QNT office in Seward and saw approximately 50 youth and adult participants. Classes offered included fish pickling, high-bush cranberry jelly making, beading, and sewing. This was the first year that CHF partnered with QNT to hold a cultural event in the community of Seward. Participants gave feedback and stated they are looking forward to events again in the future. In partnering with QNT, CHF assisted with hiring two contract workers, purchasing of supplies for the classes as well as transportation of materials to the event. QNT provided the space for the event and took a lead in advertising to the community. CHF assisted in procuring a vacuum sealer for QNT so that future cultural events can expand their class offerings and provide a means to preserve subsistence foods.



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## **Valdez**

In partnership with the Valdez Native Tribe (VNT) and the community of Valdez, CHF hosted a community cultural event from November 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. The event took place at the Valdez Native Tribe office in Valdez and had ~60 youth and adult participants. Classes offered included cedar bark rose crafting, fish pickling, high-bush cranberry jelly making, beading, sewing, and traditional foods cooking. This was the first year that CHF partnered with VNT and held a cultural event in Valdez. This event was significant for the community of Valdez as there is a need for more culturally focused events. In the partnership with VNT, CHF hired six contract workers to help organize the event, cook food for the event, and teach the traditional classes offered. CHF also assisted with the purchasing and shipping of commodities to Valdez as many of the needed supplies were unavailable in the community. CHF procured a vacuum sealer for VNT so that future cultural events can expand their class offerings and provide a means to preserve subsistence foods.

### **Steering Committee Meetings**

Chugach Heritage Foundation held two steering committee meetings. The FY23 kickoff meeting was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>. In this meeting we met with community leaders from Chenega, Tatitlek, Cordova, and Nanwalek and discussed the cultural camp grant requirements and qualifying program reimbursements. We also reviewed the grant goals and provided a question-and-answer period. We held our second steering committee meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>. In this meeting we discussed a brief history of the grant as well as the goals and intentions set to be accomplished by the funding. Next, we discussed possible program structures, and the ways CHF can collaborate with the community on developing their cultural programs. Finally, we reviewed deadlines for reimbursement submissions and important dates. For any of the communities that were unable to attend our steering committee meetings we met with them individually via Zoom. In Addition to our steering committee meetings, we shared our program information at the Chugach Regional summit located in Anchorage on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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## **2. Products:**

### Peer-reviewed publications:

NA

### Reports:

NA



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Popular articles:

NA

Conferences and workshops:

NA

Public presentations:

NA

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

NA

Data sets and associated metadata:

NA

*Additional Products not listed above:*

Please see attachments for photos from our events

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**3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

The Alaska SeaLife Center or Prince William Sound Science Center

NA

EVOSTC Long-Term Research and Monitoring Projects

NA

EVOSTC Mariculture Projects

NA

EVOSTC Education and Outreach Projects

NA



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Trustee or Management Agencies

NA

Native and Local Communities

Chugach Heritage Foundation collaborated with the following communities:

**Native Village of Chenega and the community of Chenega**

The Native Village of Chenega planned and administered the Chenega Fish Camp which is identified as one of the Chugach Regional Cultural Camps under the grant. CHF provided grant administrative support for the Native Village of Chenega.

**Native Village of Eyak and the community of Cordova**

The Native Village of Eyak (NVE) planned and administered their Cultural Week in partnership with Mt. Eccles Elementary School in Cordova. NVE is identified as one of the Chugach Regional Cultural Camps under the grant. CHF provided grant administrative support for the Native Village of Eyak.

**Nanwalek IRA and the community of Nanwalek**

Nanwalek IRA planned and administered their Sea Week in partnership with Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Nanwalek is identified as one of the Chugach Regional Cultural Camps under the grant. CHF provided grant administrative support for Nanwalek IRA as well as assistance purchasing and shipping commodities and equipment to the community. Due to the remote nature of the community, certain supplies and equipment are difficult to obtain therefore CHF assisted the community in procuring the items.

**Port Graham Village Council and the community of Port Graham**

CHF assisted Port Graham Village Council with the planning and implementation of their Snuikutem Cultural event and traditional new year celebration. Additionally, CHF provided grant administrative support for Port Graham as well as assistance purchasing and shipping commodities and equipment to the community. Due to the remote nature of the community, certain supplies and equipment are difficult to obtain therefore CHF assisted the community in procuring the items.

**Qutekcak Native Tribe and the community of Seward**

In partnership with the Qutekcak Native Tribe (QNT), CHF took a lead role in planning and implementing an inaugural cultural camp in Seward. QNT provided their tribal office location to host the event and assisted with outreach and marketing the event on Facebook. CHF purchased



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and transported commodities and equipment, contracted two temporary contractors, and provided grant administrative support.

**Valdez Native Tribe and the community of Valdez**

In partnership with the Valdez Native Tribe (VNT) and the community of Valdez, CHF took a lead role in planning and implementing an inaugural cultural camp in Valdez. VNT provided their tribal office location to host the event and assisted with outreach and marketing the event on Facebook. CHF purchased and transported commodities and equipment, contracted six temporary contractors, and provided grant administrative support.

**Copper Mountain Foundation, Tatitlek IRA, and the community of Tatitlek.**

The Copper Mountain Foundation planned and administered the *Peksulineq* Cultural Heritage Week which is identified as one of the Chugach Regional Cultural Camps under the grant. CHF provided grant administrative support for the Copper Mountain Foundation.

**4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:**

N/a

**5. Budget:**

EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL TRUSTEE COUNCIL  
PROGRAM BUDGET PROPOSAL AND REPORTING FORM

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$400,000	\$114,826
Travel	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$220,000	\$88,000
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commodities	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$82,500	\$27,683
Equipment	\$433,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$509,000	\$104,605
Indirect Costs (rate will vary by project)	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$70,250	\$23,051
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$587,550</b>	<b>\$173,550</b>	<b>\$173,550</b>	<b>\$173,550</b>	<b>\$173,550</b>	<b>\$1,281,750</b>	<b>\$358,165</b>
General Administration (9%)	\$52,880	\$15,620	\$15,620	\$15,620	\$15,620	\$115,358	N/A
<b>PROGRAM TOTAL</b>	<b>\$640,430</b>	<b>\$189,170</b>	<b>\$189,170</b>	<b>\$189,170</b>	<b>\$189,170</b>	<b>\$1,397,108</b>	<b>\$358,165</b>



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Figure 1.1: Nuuciq Spirit Camp 2023 Group photo



Figure 1.2: Nuuciq Spirit Camp 2023 Logo





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1.3 Nuuciq Spirit Camp 2023 Traditional Dance Performance



1.4 Nuuciq Spirit Camp 2023 Subsistence Class Jarred Salmon



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2.1 Seward Community Cultural Event group



2.2 Seward Community Cultural Event QNT



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3.1 Valdez Cultural Event Group Photo 1



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4.1 Port Graham Snui-kutem



4.2 Port Graham Snui-kutem workshop



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5.1 Nanwalek Sea Week



5.2 Nanwalek Sea Week scavenger hunt



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6.1 NSC Smokehouse Construction



6.2 NSC Smokehouse Construction 2