



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council  
Proposal Amendment Form

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**Project Number:** 22220201/23-019

**Project Title:** Chugach Regional Ocean Monitoring Program (CROM)

**Principal Investigator(s):** Maile Branson

**Submission date:** January 8, 2025

Please check all the boxes that apply to this request.

**Changes to the original scope or objectives of the project.**

State the original scope or objectives of the project and describe the changes and provide justification.

**Personnel changes.**

**Describe the personnel changes and reasons for the changes. Attach CVs for any new personnel.**

We would like to inform the EVOSTC that Dr. Branson has elected to step down from her position with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC). However, CRRC has a highly qualified team in place to continue the important work of the program. The personnel who are familiar with the program and its objectives will ensure a seamless transition and successful completion of the project.

All CVs for the current personnel were submitted to EVOSTC on December 27, 2024. The following employees are retained for the program:

- Allison (Alli) Carl is a Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC) shareholder and Eyak Tribal member, and was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. Alli holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) and is currently enrolled in the UAA Biology Graduate Program. Her thesis focuses on intertidal eukaryotic diversity in Resurrection Bay using environmental DNA (eDNA) and is also working to validate sampling methods that may be used to support monitoring efforts in rural areas of Alaska. She has been a key member of the CROM project, and since moving to Seward in 2023, has handled all the coordinating, processing, and storage of biological samples. Alli joined CRRC in February 2021 as an intern through the CAC Internship Program and was hired on full time in August 2023 as the Biology Lab Manager. While in her internship, she regularly traveled to Seward to assist in the initial CROM laboratory set up. During this time, she worked with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to



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validate laboratory equipment for domoic acid and saxitoxin detection in blue mussels. She also participated in a training with NOAA for the detection of total saxitoxin concentration levels in shellfish tissues; Alli has since implemented these methods at the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute as part of the CROM Program. This past year Alli has begun to participate in various training and working groups regarding eDNA and the molecular detection of phytoplankton using CROM shellfish samples and filtered marine water samples. She is currently working to process 2023 and 2024 samples as the initial steps of integrating molecular detection methods into the CROM program. Alli also regularly participates in regional, state and national events regarding environmental monitoring, food safety and security, and data sovereignty and management (e.g., state and federal regulatory meetings, Native American Fish and Wildlife Society conferences, Pacific Northwest Indigenous Aquaculture Summit, Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Indigidata, Alaska Forum on the Environment, etc.). Alli has successfully worked on both federal and private grants and has demonstrated strong leadership skills and expertise in the field. Alli has a deep connection with the region, is dedicated to the CROM program and is well-suited to assume the Co-PI position for this EVOSTC award.

- Sierra Lloyd is the newest member of the CRRC team, having started on January 6, 2025. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Marine Sciences with a concentration in Oceanography, earned in December 2024. During her studies at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Sierra worked with the Northern Gulf of Alaska Long Term Ecological Research group to monitor nutrient concentrations in the Gulf and conducted a senior thesis studying distributions and desorption of phosphorus at the mouth of the Copper River and in Aialik Bay. Sierra will serve as the Chemistry Lab Manager, overseeing all water sample processing as part of the CROM project.
- Jana Wheat is in the final stages of negotiation to join the team as a Biological Lab Technician, with an anticipated start date of January 27, 2025. Jana holds a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Ohio State University and a minor in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Jana's laboratory background is well-suited for the Biology Lab as she is comfortable with all assays currently performed at CRRC's Seward facility.

With these key staff members in place, along with advisors from SEATOR, NCCOS, UAS, and other partner organizations, CRRC is confident it has the right team to successfully complete the deliverables for the CROM program.

**Budget reallocation request.**

**Milestone/task changes.**



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Internal use only:

Fiscal Year of Request:

Approved by ED?  No  Yes

Requires TC review?  No  Yes

Copy sent to fiscal managing agency(yes)?  No  Yes