



**Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council**  
**General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects**  
**Quarterly Project Reporting Form**

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*\*Detailed instructions for each section below are given in Section II. Quarterly Project Reports in the Reporting Policy on the website, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

**Project Number:** 24220502

**Project Title:** Clean Water Act Assessment of Beaches with Lingering Oil

**Principal Investigator(s):** Terri Lomax, ADEC Water Quality Program Manager

**Reporting Periods and Due Dates:** November and December 2024, January 2025

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
February, March, April	June 1
May, June, July	September 1
August, September, October	December 1
November, December, January	March 1

**Submission Date:** February 24, 2025, corrected March 11, 2025

**Project Website:** <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/evos-lingering-oil/>

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

**Project progress is on schedule.**

**Project progress is delayed**

**Budget reallocation request for this reporting period.**

**Personnel changes.**

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**1. Summary of Work Performed:**



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DEC utilized the literature completed during the previous quarter to guide the development of a draft contract for the final stages of this grant project. The end result of the contract is to draft and finalize a listing methodology for lingering oil, associated technical support documents, gather data and conduct a Clean Water Act assessment of Exxon Valdez impacted beaches. DEC and its contractor worked in earnest on tiered approach to evaluate EVOS impacted beaches. A draft listing methodology and technical approach document was developed and reviewed this quarter. Additional work on both documents is planned for the next quarter.

**Objective #1 Identifying waters of concern.**

Task A. Identify Waters of Concern.

Status: Ongoing. DEC submitted and received approval for an amendment addressing the continuation of this task. Through the literature review, DEC recognized that the identification of waters of concern will continue to evolve throughout the life of this grant.

Task B. Develop a set of standards suitable to gauge recovery and compliance with water quality standards.

Status: Initiated. Utilizing information gained from the Literature Review, DEC determined the best course of action is the development of a standalone listing methodology (LM) rather than updating a current petroleum hydrocarbon LM. The contract was initiated on April 25, 2024, it outlined the following tasks:

**1. Identify Listing Methodology Options**

Completed- DEC reviewed multiple approaches and explored approaches employed nationally and internationally.

**2. Develop Draft LM and Technical Approach Document**

Ongoing: The initial draft of the listing methodology and technical approach document were developed and reviewed. Significant comments and direction were provided. Comments by the US Environmental Protection Agency and DEC Spill Prevention and Response Division were solicited. The contractor schedule was modified to allow for a second draft of both documents. DEC and its contractor reviewed comments and will incorporate those into the second draft. The second drafts are due in February.

**3. Finalize LM and Technical Approach**

Pending

**4. Data Analysis**

Pending

DEC finalized the definition of Listing Oil specific to our project. This definition will allow DEC to differentiate between beaches impacted by recent oil versus lingering oil. A tiered approach to reviewing data was developed, this tiered approach utilizes multiple lines of evidence. The tiers of data are:



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Tier	Data Type
1	Test Pit Data
2	Sediment Chemistry Data
3	Biological Data
4	Modeled Data
5	Overwhelming Evidence

Tier 1 will first be explored and if test pit data doesn't exist or is inadequate Tier 2 would be explored. This prioritizes direct measures (tiers 1 and 2), while including important indirect measures (tiers 3 and 4), and allows for multiple lines of evidence to be used in tier 5. Minimum data requirements for each tier have been drafted and are under review.

Task C. Compile available information regarding impaired waters  
Status: No work to report on this Objective/Task.

Task D. Develop GIS map

Status: Ongoing. Through the annotated bibliography contract, DEC began the process of compiling data with geolocations from several documents for use in the planned Clean Water Act assessment of impacted beaches. Initial work showed disagreement between DEC listed impaired beaches, field data, and model predictions of locations with lingering oil. This task has been extended in recognition of evolving list of waters of concern. Draft and final GIS maps will be created during several tasks outlined in the most recent contract.

**Objective #2 Updating Clean Water Act status of impaired beaches.**

Task A. Develop listing methodology.

Status: A contract was put in place to assist DEC in the development of a listing methodology and technical approach document on April 25, 2024. The contractor and DEC met several times to discuss technical and federal requirements of impairments listings and potential approaches that could be employed by DEC. The contractor provided three options for DEC consideration. These options considered the 1) best available data, ranked on age of data; 2) weight of evidence; and 3) preferred data. These approaches considered narrative criteria, sediment chemistry data, SCAT data, and model-based data.

DEC evaluated these suggested approaches and identified a preferred approach for the development of the LM. This approach prioritizes multiple lines of evidence (data). In this approach field observations are the highest tier of evidence, followed by sediment chemistry, biological data, modelling outputs, and an overwhelming evidence policy.



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The initial draft of the listing methodology was reviewed during this quarter. Significant comments and edits were generated. A second draft is due February 2025.

Task B. Evaluate Data.

Status: No work to report on this Objective/Task.

**Objective 3. Stakeholder Involvement during this reporting period.**

Task A. Communication Plan.

Status: Completed. DEC identified communities and opportunities to share resources and learn more about community concerns related to lingering oil.

Task B. Public Engagement.

Status: Ongoing. DEC will continue to investigate options to present to local communities or environmental managers from affected EVOS communities. A factsheet summarizing the project was prepared for the Alaska Forum on the Environment for February 2024.

DEC developed a listserv to reach out to interested members of the public. Project updates and opportunities for engagement will be noticed here in addition to the usual channels for public engagement. The Literature Review was shared with via our list serv.

The previous contractor, Geosyntec, was granted permission to share their work at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America conference in June 2024. The title of the proposed session is “Lingering Oil and Lasting Impacts: Prince William Sound 35 Years After Exxon Valdez”.

No additional communication or engagement occurred during this period.

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**2. Abstract:**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation initiated the Clean Water Act Assessment of Beaches with Lingering Oil grant in February 2023. During this quarter DEC, in conjunction with a contractor, developed a draft listing methodology and technical approach document. These documents were provided to partners for review and additional edits are underway. A second draft is due in February 2025. DEC proposed an integrated approach with multiple tiers of data to account for the variety and lack of complete datasets for any one beach location. Both documents will undergo a public comment period and final edits before any data evaluation occurs.

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**3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

ADEC Division of Water coordinated with the Division of Spill Prevention and Response to review the initial listing methodology and technical approach document to ensure state regulations regarding oil cleanup standards, contaminated sites, and impaired waters are adhered to. Additional comments from the United States Environmental Protection Agency were solicited to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act.

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

N/A

**5. Budget:**

Budget Category:		Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel		\$0	\$59,481	\$51,015	\$51,783	\$51,032	\$213,311	\$9,166	\$106,034.33
Travel		\$0	\$0	\$6,640	\$6,640	\$6,640	\$19,920	\$0	\$0.00
Contractual		\$0	\$38,978	\$93,426	\$76,574	\$0	\$208,978	\$38,201	\$118,884.40
Commodities		\$0	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0.00
Equipment		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Indirect Costs	Rate = 0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		\$0	\$98,459	\$151,831	\$135,747	\$57,672	\$443,709	\$47,367	\$224,918.73
General Administration (9% of subtotal)		\$0	\$8,861	\$13,665	\$12,217	\$5,191	\$39,934	\$825	\$12,976.51
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>		\$0	\$107,320	\$165,496	\$147,964	\$62,863	\$483,643	\$48,192	\$237,895.24
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)			\$6,624	\$6,823	\$7,027	\$7,238	\$27,712	\$0	\$915.00