



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:** 24220405

**Project Title:** Chugach Region Cultural Camps

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

**Reporting Period:** February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2024

**Submission Date (Due March 1 immediately following the reporting period):** 3-1-2025.

**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 6 of our communities. We will work to grow and strengthen our programs in FY25 focusing on program curriculum development and continue to expand the number of participants in attendance.

☐ **Project progress is delayed.**

☒ **Budget reallocation request.**

We are requesting a budget reallocation to FY25. 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.**

Katrina Berestoff and Emilie Swenning are the updated contacts for Nanwalek IRA council. Krisnan Weston is the updated contact for Qutekcak Native Tribe. Julie Smith and Diane Selanoff are the updated contacts for Valdez Native Tribe.



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

---

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

### **Nuuciq Spirit Camp**

Chugach Heritage Foundation (CHF) hosted Nuuciq Spirit Camp on Hinchinbrook Island from July 6<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The camp saw 44 youth participants (aged 12-17), 26 temporary camp staff hired, and 19 volunteers. The camp served participants from all over Prince William Sound. The classes offered at this year's camp included: kayaking, beading, dance, sewing, paddle making, Alaska Native dance, subsistence, and traditional halibut hook crafting.

### **Nuuciq Spirit Camp Construction**

From May-August, CHF hired two laborers to work on the construction of our new subsistence building. 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, instruct our students on traditional methods 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 subsistence building is complete, we are looking to start the construction of our new dock this coming year (FY25).

In addition to constructing the subsistence building, we were able to successfully purchase, transport and place shelving in our 20' freezer Connex and stainless-steel tables in our subsistence building. Now that the subsistence building and freezer Connex have been constructed and furnished, we will be able to provide a significant enhancement to our subsistence program. Our next focus for FY25 will be on the construction of our new dock.

### **Tatitlek**

The annual Peksulineq Festival (Tatitlek Cultural Heritage Week) was held May 6-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the community of Tatitlek. The festival hosted 60 participants and 25 volunteers this year. Classes offered to participants included: fish processing, skin sewing, drum making, mask making, basket weaving, beading, kayak building, traditional meal cooking, and traditional dance. Peksulineq was a successful week-long event that brought together people from all over the sound to celebrate the cultural heritage of the Tatitlek people.

### **Cordova**

Cultural Week occurred at Mt. Eccles Elementary School September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This annual event was 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. Students from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade learned about traditional dance & language, Native Youth Olympics, and craft classes. Their afternoons were filled with fun and interactive



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

---

stations. At the end of the week, students demonstrated the skills they learned at a school assembly with peers, teachers, parents and community members in attendance.

### **Chenega**

Chenega IRA Council held their annual youth fish camp from July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The camp hosted 9 youth participants (aged 13-18), 4 staff, and 2 volunteers. Activities during the camp included set-net fishing demonstrations, subsistence fishing, elder storytelling, fish processing and storage, and team building activities. 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.

### **Port Graham**

In partnership with the Port Graham Village Council, CHF helped plan and implement a culture week from December 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Port Graham. During the day, classes were held at the local school. Elementary students crafted “warrior shields” which helped demonstrate the importance of being a culture bearer. Middle and high school students participated in beading and sewing projects and discussed the cultural needs of their community. During the evening, activities continued at the community hall where sewing, beading, mask making, wood carving and subsistence food preparation took place. Approximately 40 students, community members, staff, and volunteers participated in the culture week. This was the first year CHF was able to travel to the community and assist in the planning of the event. CHF also coordinated the logistics of delivering a new commercial vacuum sealer to the community. This piece of equipment will be used to instruct students on how to properly preserve subsistence for the community.

### **Seward**

In partnership with the Qutekcak Native Tribe (QNT) in Seward, CHF hosted a community cultural event from August 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The event was held at the QNT office in Seward and saw approximately 52 youth and adult participants. Participants consisted of QNT tribal members, Chugach shareholders and descendants as well as Seward community members. Classes offered included fur sewing, beading, fish smoking, and fireweed jelly making. This was the second year that CHF partnered with QNT to hold a cultural event in the community of Seward. CHF assisted by hiring three contract workers, purchasing 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.



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

---

## **Valdez**

In partnership with the Valdez Native Tribe (VNT) and the community of Valdez, CHF hosted a community cultural event from September 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The event took place at the Valdez Native Tribe office in Valdez and had ~75 youth and adult participants. Classes offered included beading, sewing, fur flowers, fish drying, cranberry jelly jarring and traditional foods cooking. This was the second 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 partnership with VNT, CHF hired four 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 coordinated the logistics of delivering a vacuum sealer from Anchorage to Valdez previously procured by VNT.

### **Steering Committee Meetings**

Chugach Heritage Foundation held two steering committee meetings. The FY24 kickoff meeting was held on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In this meeting we met with community leaders from Chenega, Tatitlek, Cordova, and Valdez and reviewed the available funding for FY24 and qualifying program reimbursements. Additionally, we discussed program management plans and provided a question-and-answer period. We held our second steering committee meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. In this meeting we discussed program report deadlines and submission requirements. For any of the communities that were unable to attend our steering committee meetings we met with them individually via Zoom and by telephone. 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>, 2024.

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## **2. Products:**

*Additional Products not listed above:*

Please see attachments for photos from our events

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## **3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

### *Native and Local Communities*

Chugach Heritage Foundation collaborated with the following communities:

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



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

---

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.

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

CHF assisted Port Graham Village Council with the planning and implementation of their cultural week. 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 a 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 and transported commodities and equipment, contracted three 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 a 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 four 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.

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

---

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

##### **Science Panel Comments**

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**Date: September 2024**

The program (cultural camps) goal is to help EVOS-affected communities to continue teaching the Alaska Native subsistence and cultural lifestyle in the Chugach Region, which is vital for future generations of Alaska Natives and the economy in the Chugach Region to come. Typical core programs at regional cultural camps include subsistence activities; traditional boat building; kayaking; plant lore; traditional dance; language; drum making; beading; fur sewing; wood carving; mask making; basket weaving; traditional games; traditional knowledge programs, and more.

After funding delays in the first year, this project successfully convened culture camps in all planned communities in the second year. We are pleased to see that the PIs intend “to work to grow and strengthen our programs in FY24 focusing on sound program plans and expanding the number of participants in attendance.” Attendance in some camps was quite high (e.g., 90-105 participants and volunteers in Tatitlek), but low in some others (e.g., 9 youth in Chenega in FY23) where increasing participation is challenging as many descendants live in other parts of Alaska or out-of-state. As culture camps have occurred prior to EVOSTC funding, it would be informative to clarify the added value to these camps from the new funding. Tracking of the numbers of participants, their ages, numbers of volunteers, and educational topics covered all help to document success of these culture camps. The Science Panel has no concerns about this project.

##### **Executive Director Comments**

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**Date: October 2024**

This project is progressing as planned. Annual reports are submitted on time and are well-organized and comprehensive. The PI is responsive to staff communications and requests. Funding for this project is co-managed by ADF&G and the EVOSTC Office. Invoices and supporting documents are easy to review. The Fiscal Manager is responsive to budget and/or invoice questions. Staff do not have concerns at this time.

##### **PAC Comments**

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**Date: October 2024**

Stephens asked about species, such as herring and salmon, that would benefit from additional restoration efforts. Cutrell suggested salmon and herring are at the forefront of restoration needs. Whissel asked about fisheries closures and education or engagement on state and federal fisheries regulations. Cutrell noted they go through a permitting process as a foundation and touch on that in their classrooms, but they focus more on subsistence skills.



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

Whissel introduced a motion to proceed with no concerns. Borer seconded, and there was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

## 5. Budget:

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	\$168,715
Travel	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$220,000	\$132,000
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commodities	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$82,500	\$42,489
Equipment	\$433,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$509,000	\$164,345
Indirect Costs (rate will vary by project)	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$14,050	\$70,250	\$34,320
<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>\$541,869</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>\$541,869</b>
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,000,000	



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



Figure 1.1: Nuuciq Spirit Camp 2024 Group photo



Figure 1.2: Nuuciq Spirit Camp 2024 Logo



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

---



2.1 Seward Community Cultural Event group



2.2 Seward Community Cultural Event QNT



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

---



3.1 Valdez Cultural Event Project Photo



3.2 Valdez Cultural Event Group Photo



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

---



4.1 Port Graham Group Photo



4.2 Port Graham Carving Workshop



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

---



5.1 Cordova Culture Week Assembly



5.2 Cordova Culture Week Banner



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

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6.1 NSC Subsistence Construction



6.2 NSC Subsistence Construction 2